

The Messenger



**The bi-monthly magazine from
St Michael's, West Hill**



**October - November 2024
delivered FREE
to every home in the village**

St Michael the Archangel

part of the Otter Vale Mission Community

Bringing Jesus Christ to our Community

We are here to help in any way we can – so please contact us.

Getting Married? ... Considering Baptism?

Please contact our Team Vicar, Revd. Mark Ward 01404 814282
 revmarkward@btinternet.com

Could someone else from the Church help you?

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Magazine website **www.whmessenger.info**

Delivery Volunteers Wanted

Could you help with delivery of The Messenger? We are desperate for more volunteers. The rounds normally can be done in 30mins to an hour, and all are in West Hill. If you can help, please email Keith and Linda:
kelimalinda65@gmail.com

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PLEASE NOTE The last date for copy for the December/January edition is
Mon 4th November 2024.

An online version of this magazine is available to download from our website.

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of St Michael's Church. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, we can accept no liability for errors. The Editors' decisions are final.

A Letter from our Team Vicar



Like many people, I love the long, light evenings of the late Spring and early Summer. If you do too, you will know that this is a difficult time of year. By the end of August the evenings are noticeably shorter, and the change accelerates through September. Even so, as October begins we still have some really bright days. My birthday is early October, and over the years I have had many beautiful sunny birthdays. But then we get to the end of October and

the clocks change. In an instant we are plunged into properly dark evenings.

One of God's key characteristics is that he is light. Most people have heard of The Gospel according to John. What you may not know is that the New Testament also includes three letters written by John. The second and third are very short personal letters from John to individual friends. The first letter is longer, although still the little brother to the much longer and more famous gospel. This first letter of John includes this verse:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. [1 John 1:5b NIV]

In a wonderful piece of alliteration—in English at least—three major characteristics of God are Life, Love and Light. And in our English Bibles God's name in the Old Testament is translated 'the LORD', and in the New Testament Jesus is called 'Lord'. So we have:

the Lord of Life and Love and Light.

These are three things that he is; they are also three things that he gives. He gives us life; he gives us love; he gives us light. And as we go along day by day, we can choose to receive these three things from him. We can choose to receive his life; we can choose to be loved by him and to love him; we can choose to walk in the light.

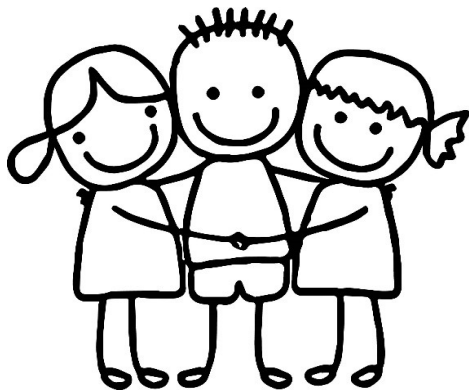
This is why, on the last day of October—a day that has become associated with dark things—at St Michael's Church we choose light. All Hallows Day is another name for All Saints Day, a day celebrating people who are full of God's life, love and light. What better then, on All Hallows Eve—a.k.a. Hallow-e'en, to have a Lite Nite (details on the next page).

I hope that you might come along. But whether or not you can come, I invite you to step into the Lord's light.

Mark

Children's Page

Friends



A picture for you to colour

In September, many of you will have moved into a new class, a new school – or started school for the first time! It's a big change, isn't it? A new start with a new teacher, although you probably still have some of your old friends with you.

Sometimes we can get a bit worried when we have to change what we're used to. Sometimes, it can be exciting too! It's a time when we can chat with our best friends and rely on them when we're sad. Jesus told us not to

worry but rely on him to look after us. He is one of our best friends.

Remember, that you can be a good friend too!

Dates for Your Diary

This term, Messy Church will be using Psalm 104 and its reference to the wonders of creation.



Friday 18th October (3.45 – 5.30pm)

Messy Church (Water)

Thursday 31st October (5.00pm – 6.30pm)

Lite Nite Party with BBQ food, laser lights and sparklers

Friday 15th November (3.45 – 5.30pm)

Messy Church (Animal Habitats & Food)

Friday 13th December (3.45 – 5.30pm)

Messy Church (God's Greatest Gift/Christmas)

Messy Church is generally for the 3 – 11 years age group but everyone is welcome. At each meeting, we provide tea for the children. We then have lots of fun with storytelling, crafts, games and songs. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For more information email Rosemary hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com

St Michael's Church Project: NACRE



NACRE is the acronym chosen by St Michael's to identify its project for the **N**arthex **A**nd **C**hurch **RE**-visioning. A plan for renewal. The work, which has been approved by the church authorities, will transform the area into a more welcoming space, which can be used by the whole community. It will involve new LED lighting throughout.

The Narthex (church hall) will be insulated and double-glazed windows upgraded together with new flooring and chairs.

Give To Go Green

These changes obviously come at a cost, some of which can be raised through grants, especially for the energy-saving aspects of the project such as the LED lights, insulation and double-glazed windows. The Church of England's 'Give To Go Green' initiative will



match any monies raised, up to a maximum of £10,000, during a set 6-weeks period.

St Michael's Goes Green

The good news is that St Michael's has successfully applied to be part of this initiative. Our fundraising period will be from 20th September to 31st October. By the time you read this, the first event, a Family Barn Dance, will have taken place at RBL. This will be followed by:

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th September – St Michael's will hold **A Flower Festival for Harvest**. Entry is free, but donations will be appreciated. Refreshments will be served from 10am to 3.30pm on Friday and Saturday. At the Friday **Welcome Café**, there will also be New2U and Willow Craft stalls. A **Harvest Lunch** is planned from midday after the Sunday service. All welcome.

On **Saturday 28th September**, **Music in a Quiet Place** (7pm-9pm) at St Michael's will offer an evening of classical music by Joel Munday, a young international violinist accompanied by pianist, Alex Wilson. Tickets £10 including interval drinks. Children have free entry, but this event is recommended for over 12 years only.

Saturday 5th October (7pm-9pm) at St Michael's, sees the **Sing Out Community Singers** treating us to an evening of contemporary songs.

Interval drinks. Tickets £10 Children Free.

The choir is a group of likeminded people who love to get together, sing, have fun, make friends and laugh a lot!



If you are interested in joining, please contact Sharon:

Email: Sjamusic@mail.com or Mob: 07988 452451

On **Friday 11th October** you are invited to come along from 12 noon for a sociable two-course lunch. There are no tickets but a donation, if you enjoy your lunch, will be much appreciated, and every £1 donated will be doubled under the G2GG scheme which will support St Michael's drive to be more eco-friendly.

To help with numbers for catering, please let us know if you are planning to come – ring Sue on 01404 812 370. or e-mail westhillpcc@gmail.com.

On Saturday 19th October (7pm-9pm), Duncan Wills will host an Auction Evening. Whilst his audience sit at tables enjoying wine and canapés, he will entertain them with an interesting talk followed by an auction of a variety of lots, including Exeter Chiefs tickets and merchandise; a day at the races; a round of golf for 4; a pottery lesson; and many more! Tickets £10. Children have free entry, but this event is recommended for over 12 years only. If you're unable to attend this event, commission bids can be taken. More details soon.



To book for any of these events, go to:

buytickets.at/stmichaelsgoesgreen, use the link on our website whmessenger.info or click on the QR code above for more information.

These are largescale events, but we encourage everyone to hold smaller fundraising events, such as afternoon teas. Also, individual donations from members of the community would be gratefully received. You can do this **between 20th September and 31st October** by using the card reader in the church or online through the above QR code, which will direct you to the giving page.

But it doesn't stop there.....

The lighting, windows and insulation are just the beginning. The hall will be redecorated, carpet laid, and new chairs purchased. Access for wheelchairs and pushchairs through the main church door will also be improved.

Some of this work can be achieved through grants but the majority will require further fundraising in 2025. Look out for more events coming next year!

There are lots of opportunities for people of all ages to be involved, to be part of the vision, and to help make sure that St Michael's continues to play a major part in the West Hill community for this generation and for generations to come.

Opera Nights



Opera Nights, on the big screen at the Royal British Legion, are informal and free of charge. The bar will be open at 7.00pm and there is a short introduction to the work at 7.20pm. The Opera commences at 7.30pm and there is an interval, when the bar will again be open. If the operas are given in the original language there are subtitles.

Thursday 26th September: Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus"

We start the season with this bubbling production from Covent Garden conducted by Placido Domingo with Kiri Te Kanawa, Hermann Prey and Benjamin Luxon, and some big surprises in the cabaret scene!

Thursday 24th October: Mozart's "Don Giovanni"

From the Metropolitan Opera, New York, this acclaimed Zeffirelli production, with Bryn Terfel, Renee Fleming and Ferruccio Furlanetto is conducted by James Levine.

Thursday 21st November: Giuseppe Verdi's "Aida"

A spectacular production from San Francisco Opera starring Luciano Pavarotti as Radames and Margaret Price as Aida.

Further information from opconpeterclarke@gmail.com

Classics Galore Concert

Save the date! Saturday November 9 at 7.30 pm. Classics Galore! is back for 2024. The concert in aid of FORCE Cancer Charity will be held at the University of Exeter's Great Hall.

Tickets are now on sale. Ticket prices range from £12 to £30 and can be booked online through Ticketsource - www.ticketsource.co.uk/classics-galore-exeter - or via the FORCE website -

<https://forcecancercharity.co.uk/classicsgalore/>

Classics Galore! is Exeter's very own Last Night of the Proms. It was established in 2007 and has raised £130,000 for FORCE. The compere for this year's show is Victoria Graham, presenter of BBC Spotlight. More than 200 musicians and singers will again fill the stage this autumn to delight the audience with a wonderful mix of pieces that will be familiar to many. There will be everything from the Hallelujah Chorus to the theme from Superman with a rousing singalong finale in true Proms tradition, featuring Pomp and Circumstance and Rule Britannia! The specially chosen Classics Galore! orchestra, Ottery St Mary Choral Society, St David's Players and the Lympstone Band will all be performing alongside stunning soprano soloist Cheryl Enever.

A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

As I intimated in the last issue of the Messenger, I have now begun helping out in putting this issue together albeit in quite a small way. It would be remiss of me not to thank again all those involved in keeping the Messenger going so brilliantly over the past 18 months or so.

One of the regular contributors to the Messenger has been Dave Hopwood, a very talented writer and poet. I was very struck by a recent piece I saw on his website entitled '*Let there be.....*' which is shown below.

Let there be.....

(A confession of sorts)

Then God said, "Let there be pets and holidays and work and phones and TVs and homes and cars and gadgets and fashion and commerce and film and art and books and dancing and music and inventing and energy and colour and wonder and laughter and conversation and rest and honour and dignity and respect and creativity and science and sport..." (feel free to add others)...and as with everything, the people had a choice with the gifts God had given them.

Lord, we are so grateful for all the good things you have given us. Sorry for the times when we use these things in the wrong way for the wrong things at the wrong time.

Help us this coming week to live your way, Amen

Dave Hopwood

I thought it was incredibly insightful about how many of us live out our lives today. The first part sums up so well all the wonders available to us in the 21st century. How would we cope without our plethora of electric and electronic appliances and devices? A week ago, our much loved dishwasher finally gave up the ghost but this was only finally confirmed after the dishwasher had been completely filled up with several days of washing up which Jan and I then had to spend washing and wiping up for what seemed like an age. We take so much for granted.

And then imagine the unanimous household horror when the internet goes down for a prolonged period. How will our children and probably quite a few adults handle the stress and more importantly what will we all do in the time that suddenly becomes free. We might have to talk with each other, perhaps leading to fun and laughter with each other. And heaven forbid we might even write a letter or two to a distant loved one.

I felt particularly challenged by the last couple of lines where we say '*Sorry for the times when we use these things in the wrong way for the wrong things at the wrong time*'.

I don't know about you, but I must plead guilty at least to the last one, namely 'at the wrong time'. When human contact should be the order of the day, a statement like 'I have just got a few emails to catch up on' might not be the best retort to hear.

The real beauty of face-to-face time with our children, our grandchildren and with each other, cannot be compared with another 5 per cent usage on our iPad.

By the time you read this article school will have returned, our summer holiday beginning to fade into our memory banks and autumn is almost upon us. As the nights draw in, let us think about concentrating on *'laughter and conversation and rest and honour and dignity and respect'*. Living out our lives with those ingredients can only help in building each other up and seeing indeed the very best of each other.

I wish you all a very joyful autumn tide.

Mac Dick

Hospiscare News

Hospiscare is a local independent charity looking after local people in Exeter, Mid and East Devon. We are not part of the NHS - we receive 18% funding from the government, the rest is raised by the generous support of the local community THANK YOU! We don't just look after people with cancer diagnosis, we look after anyone over the age of 18 with a terminal diagnosis that needs specialist end of life care. At Hospiscare, our ethos is that every day matters. And we don't just mean for patients, helping families to make everlasting memories really counts

The Hospiscare Firewalk - Brave the blaze for your local hospice: Take on the Firewalk Challenge this October

Looking for your next big adventure or a chance to check off a bucket list item? Why not take on a challenge that pushes your limits without the need for training? This October 17th, Hospiscare invites you to "brave the blaze" and walk on hot coals, all in support of their essential services across Exeter Mid and East Devon.

This event is designed to test your courage and determination as you step onto a bed of glowing embers. With the expert guidance of certified Firewalk trainers, you'll learn the techniques needed to conquer the coals safely, focusing on the power of the mind, channelling energy, and overcoming self-doubt.

Open to participants aged 18 and over, regardless of fitness level, the Firewalk offers an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone while making a significant impact. The registration fee is £30, and participants are encouraged to raise £200 in sponsorship, which will help fund over five hours of specialised bereavement support for local families - your bravery

will go a long way for those that need it most.

Every participant will receive a finisher's t-shirt and certificate, a "Mind Over Matter" masterclass, a bespoke fundraising poster, and access to collection tins for fundraising in your community.

Sign up today – www.hospiscare.co.uk/firewalk or call 01392 688020.

Bereavement Teas – Can you help?

Our volunteer-led monthly bereavement teas offer a sense of normality and a safe space to talk over a cuppa and are offered across the heart of Devon.

The volunteering team are looking for volunteers in the Honiton area to run bereavement teas in our Kings House clinical hub. Full information and training will be provided and you'll be providing a valuable service to local people when they really need it. Please email

volunteering@hospiscare.co.uk or call 01392 688005.

Why we need your help more than ever!

At Hospiscare, we firmly believe that every individual deserves to experience love, comfort, and dignity in their final days. We strive to provide the best possible care and support to those facing life-limiting illnesses, and we couldn't achieve this without the support of our local community. Every day our specialist Doctors, Nurses and healthcare professionals are caring for over 700 patients across Exeter, Mid and East Devon. Thank you.

If you are interested in the work of Hospiscare, please contact Area Fundraiser Toni Hiscocks 01392 688067 / 07921 845 615 or email t.hiscocks@hospiscare.co.uk.

West Hill Men's Supper Club

The club meets in the church hall attached to St Michael's Church in Bendarroch Road, EX11 1UW. The evening starts around 6.45 p.m. and ends around 9.30 p.m.

We have wonderful caterers providing a superb 2 course meal with wine or non-alcoholic drinks for a cost of £25 per head. If you wish to attend, please call Peter Keith on 07840 835788 or send an e-mail to peterkeith29@btinternet.com as early as possible prior to the date of the supper.

The West Hill Men's Supper Club looks forward to welcoming you to the next supper.

Please note in your diary the speakers for the remainder of this year are:

14th October Harbour Master Exeter Port Authority – Grahame Forshaw

11th November Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team – Alan Pewsey

9th December 48 years in Aerospace – Richard Spencer

Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

We were delighted to be invited to participate in the “Flower Festival for Harvest” held at St. Michaels Church from 27th to 29th September. A lot of hard work always goes on behind the scenes when arranging a Flower Festival and all the contributors’ arrangements looked fabulous - we hope that those of you that went along enjoyed it.

Our AGM this year will be on Tuesday 15th October. After the formalities we will enjoy a Bring and Share supper along with Christmas Bauble exchange. For any members reading this, there will be a competition with the title being “Warm & Woolly”.

In the lead up to Christmas we have a busy time. In November, we have our biggest evening of the year; our Christmas Open Meeting - “Open” because it is open to anyone who would like to come along!

Taking place on **Tuesday 19th November at 7.30 pm at West Hill Village Hall**, British Master Florist and NAFAS Area Demonstrator, Kathryn Delve from Somerset will be bringing us her Christmas Demonstration entitled “**Seasonal Inspiration**”. Kathryn lives and works near the Mendip Hills and her designs are often influenced by watching the seasons change in the countryside near her home. Having both studied with, and taught for, The British Academy of Floral Art, Kathryn has had the opportunity to compete and exhibit not only in this country but also abroad.

Tickets for “**Seasonal Inspiration**” are £12 in advance from the Curious Otter Bookshop in Mill Street, Ottery St Mary, or £15 on the door (cash only on the door) and this includes tea/coffee and a mince pie. There will also be a sales table and raffle. If you are unable to get to the Curious Otter for your tickets, please contact me (Karen) on (01404) 811807. Tickets are limited so do buy in advance to avoid disappointment. We hope that all West Hill flower lovers will come along not only because you will have the chance of taking home one of the arrangements, but also because you will almost certainly go away filled with inspiration for decorating your home ready for Christmas!

Our other Christmas event will be on **Saturday 7th December** when, **together with Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare**, we will be running a **Christmas Wreath making workshop** at West Hill Village Hall.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with 20 spaces on each. The cost is £45 per person, which includes all materials, tea/coffee and cake/mince pies. Book your space now! Perhaps come with a friend or get together a group of you and let your Christmas creative side go wild! Contact me on (01404) 811807 for further information on booking places on the first **Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare/Ottery Floral Art Club joint Christmas Wreath making workshop**.

Karen Taverner, Club Secretary – 01404 811807.

Inspirational Hymns

Music and singing are a vital part of our lives. Both convey messages, meaning and emotion far better than mere words can. When we sing hymns, songs and the liturgy in church we are able, through music and singing, to express so much more about God, faith and our lives. Music and singing add so much to our everyday lives. In this occasional series of articles I'd like to re-tell the story of how specific hymns came to be written. Authors tell the Christian message, offer praise to God and relate different aspects of faith through words and music to such great effect. When we sing these hymns we engage at a very deep and meaningful spiritual level.

This edition's hymn is an American, Victorian hymn that has such a powerful back story – 'When peace like a river attendeth my way', written by Horatio Spafford. Spafford, born in 1828, was a wealthy Chicago businessman and an active evangelical Christian. He was married with 4 daughters. In 1871 a serious fire destroyed all his business premises, and he lost all his wealth. In 1873 he planned a trip to England and Europe. His wife Anna and their 4 daughters went ahead. Whilst at sea their ship was involved in a collision and all 4 daughters were drowned, but Anna survived.

A little time later Horatio set sail for Liverpool, to join his wife. During the sailing the captain stopped the ship mid-ocean and called Horatio to the bridge, to tell him that they were over the spot where his daughters had drowned. It was here that he had the inspiration to write his well-known hymn. The words of the first verse are "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot thou hast taught me to know, it is well with my soul, it is well with my soul." After such a tragedy he was able to take solace and comfort from his deep faith in God. He finished the hymn in 1876.

Tragedy struck again. In 1875 the Spafford's son died, aged 3. In 1881 Horatio and Anna moved to Jerusalem and spent their time in charitable work. Horatio died in 1888, but Anna continued her charitable work, including setting up a children's hospital and helping wounded soldiers in WW1. Anna died in 1923.

YouTube has many versions of the hymn plus a superb narration of this story by Hugh Bonneville.

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot thou hast taught me to know, it is well with my soul, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

For me be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live! If Jordan above me shall roll,

No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life, thou wilt whisper thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for thee, for thy coming we wait, the sky not the grave, is our goal; oh, trump of the angel! O voice of the Lord! Blessed hope! Blessed rest of my soul.

Geoff Green

Season of Creation

The theme for Season of Creation 2024 is 'hope and act with creation'. In Romans 8, Paul writes "22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time".

As people of faith, the state of our world should grieve us. In the UK we live in one of the most nature depleted countries on earth, and currently the decline continues. Across the world extreme weather is increasing frequency and intensity. The Climate Crisis isn't a future issue, it's here now.

But there is reason to hope. In 2015 the emissions gap report predicted warming of over 4°C with the policies of the time. Since then, progress has been made, the 2023 report now predicts (if current policies remain) that we are expecting around 3°C. It's not good enough but it shows that change is possible.

Recently I met the Archbishop of Melanesia. He shared powerfully that Melanesian communities don't need reminding of the climate crisis, they are living with the effects daily. In our privileged world we don't feel the effects as often. We need reminding; we need to remember that as one of the world's wealthiest nations we are responsible for the effects our consumerism has had and is having on some of the poorest people in the world.

In Matthew 25 Jesus says, "I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me." 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' When we see record breaking storms, sea level rises, drought and desertification do we stop and think, Jesus is there. Do we stop and ask, in what small way have we contributed to this chaos?

We can do better; we are called to do better. The faithful servant was told "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." Let's start by being faithful with what we have.

Let's act together in hope for creation.

Sarah Charker – Diocese of Exeter - Creation Care Engagement Officer

OSM Heritage Society and Museum

Our Museum is now closed until Easter next year, please check our website www.otteryheritage.org.uk for opening times. We will, however, be open for the Ottery St Mary 'Festive Cheer' Event on the evening of Friday 29th November. This was very popular last year and attracted over 50 people to the museum.

Our monthly members' talks take place at The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary EX11 1HD on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Guests are welcome at £3 payable at the door. Please check our website for any changes, but the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm

'The Origins of Pixie Day' by Pheobe Smith

Pheobe Smith tells the story of the origins of Ottery's Pixie Day and its subsequent evolution over the next 70 years.

Tuesday 19th November at 7.30pm

'St Martin's Island and the Royal Clarence Hotel Fire' by Todd Gray

Todd Gray, highly esteemed Exeter historian, tells the stories of the ancient buildings on Exeter's High Street and Cathedral Close.

(Todd usually brings along a selection of his many books for purchase if you are interested)

All enquiries, including membership (£20 single, £27.50 joint), stewarding and participation in archiving to Lynda Murlewski, Hon. Secretary: otteryheritage@gmail.com

West Hill Garden Club

As the seasons change and we begin to prepare for winter it's time to put the garden to bed and cut down plants that have gone to seed, split up those that have taken over more than their share of space, and empty the garden pots and containers in readiness for bulbs and plants that will overwinter. Then of course there is all the heavy work like cutting the boundaries, trimming the shrubs, and mulching and manuring the soil ready for another year.

In **October** our meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall** when **Paul Rendell** will be speaking about **Wild Flower Plants in Devon**. Paul is a well-known Dartmoor Guide and will be including all the moorland plants and flowers, as well as those growing in the hedgerows and meadows of Devon, in his presentation. No doubt he will also speak about the Devon Banks we all enjoy.

Details about our Christmas Lunch will also be announced.

November is the month of our **AGM** and this will be held on **Thursday 14th**

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The meeting will be followed by a **Bring & Share Finger Food Supper** with wine supplied by the Club. There will be a raffle with proceeds going to Club Funds, to conclude the evening.

The daffodil bulbs have been chosen for next spring's competition – this year our bulbs will be a double and scented variety named Sir Winston Churchill. They will be available for members to purchase for £1 each at the autumn meetings ready to be planted promptly to flower in March.

We welcome visitors to all our meetings and if you have any query please contact our Chairman Sheila Gillam (01404 814074) or Secretary Pauline Wade (01404 813191) who will be pleased to help you.

Monica Highnam

Ottery Help Scheme

For anyone new to the locality, Ottery Help Scheme serves the communities covered by The Coleridge Medical Centre. Our remit is to offer a wide range of services to support residents whether it be transport to and from a medical appointment or joining one of the groups such as Friendship Group, Memory Cafe, Seated Exercise, Music Group, Board Games Group and some occasional creative workshops. We have access to the League of Friends minibus, so wellbeing trips are a regular feature and recently a group thoroughly enjoyed a trip to the theatre. Other support is available through the Home Help service, a monthly free legal advice clinic with a local solicitor and befriending face to face or over the phone.

In order that all these activities can take place we are always eager to recruit new volunteers to support activities, as well as drivers to enable us to take approx. 110 journeys a week to medical appointments.

Being a volunteer is not an onerous task: it's for you to do as much or as little as you choose. Drivers are invited to share with the office a week in advance their availability for the following week, all are reimbursed their fuel expenses.

Our Chief Officer chairs the Ottery and District Health Matters group. At a recent meeting with representatives from the Coleridge Medical Centre it was agreed we would hold an event on Saturday 23rd November in the surgery to inform residents about practice changes, the many professionals now based at the surgery and the different routes to access all your health needs which may not necessitate an appointment with your GP.

Please call (01404 813041) or pop into the office (11, Silver Street) if you are looking for help or would consider being a volunteer.

www.otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

Jill Dudding Chair of Trustees

The Royal British Legion West Hill

Movie Nights

Doors open at 7pm, Film starts at 7.30pm, Admission free. All welcome!

7 th Oct	The World's Fastest Indian (2005)
14 th Oct	Catch Me if you Can (2002)
21 st Oct	Waking Ned (1998)
28 th Oct	Find Me Falling (2024)
4 th Nov	It's Complicated (2009)
11 th Nov	A Family Affair (2024)
18 th Nov	And then come the Nightjars (2023)
25 th Nov	One Night in Miami (2020)

Bingo Nights

Sundays 6th, 20th October and 3rd & 17th November

Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 13th October & 10th November (7pm for 7.30pm)

Crafters Evenings

Tuesdays 1st October & 5th November

Dads' Nights

Fridays 11th October & 8th
November

Mums' Nights

Fridays 25th October & 29th
November

Opera Nights

(7pm for 7.30pm)

Thursday 24th October "Don Giovanni"
& 21st November "Aida"

Codfather – Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 1700-1900

Christmas Cards

We are planning to have a 2024 St Michael's Christmas card for sale in the run up to Christmas. Keep an eye out for more information on www.whmessenger.info and Morrisons notice board.

Remembering and Celebrating the Lives of Loved Ones

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27th at 3pm

Many people whose relatives' funerals have taken place at St Michael's, or have been conducted at the Crematorium by one of our Clergy team, will receive invitations to this service; but anyone who wishes to come along to remember a loved one who has died, however long ago, will be very welcome.

The service will last for about forty-five minutes. In it there will be readings, prayers, and a time for quiet reflection. The names of those we are remembering will be read out, and candles will be lit as a mark of our gratitude for their special place in our lives.

Following the service you are warmly invited to stay for afternoon tea.

Ann Turner

Ottery Choral Society



The Choral Society began rehearsals again for the Autumn Season on **Wednesday 4th September**. Have you thought of taking up, or returning to, singing as a pastime? It's a great way to make music in a group. Whilst age has its effects on the joints and muscles, the voice is usually good for many years. Singing is good for body and soul, and being part of a chorus,

learning new music, gives you a buzz – you feel uplifted and a sense of achievement. If you wish to join us to sing, you would be welcome. We do not audition, but it is useful if you know something of reading music. You can find out more at our website: <https://otterystmarychoral.org/> or email us at osmcs@hotmail.co.uk or just come along to one of our rehearsals and introduce yourself (7.30pm on Wednesdays in September at the URC in Jesu Street, Ottery). It might be a bit late to participate in this season's concerts, but you can still sing in rehearsals.

This season we are preparing for two concerts. The first is the event that takes place in Exeter Great Hall: **Classics Galore**. Lots of rousing music, and the choir is joined by a brass band and an orchestra. That's on **9th November**. Then we have our annual Christmas concert on **December 14th** with Christmas carols, and this year we will be singing **Poulenc's Gloria**.

We have a revitalised MD in Malcolm Matthews who is now repaired with a new hip, and our rehearsal pianist will be Richard Burdett, from Sidmouth, with Kath Sugden from Chard filling in when Richard is not available.
David Wade, Chairman

Finding God in Troubled Times

The news can batter us
 It can threaten our resolve,
 Steal our hope and depress us.
 The wicked seem to prosper and thrive,
 The powerful weave destructive webs,
 That ensnare and hurt those who are weaker.
 Our song, our cries, our prayers rise up for justice.
 For peace and a better way.
 And so... there is other news,
 News that cuts across the grain,
 A road less travelled, a different worldview,
 One etched in the dust with the finger of God.
 A call to trust in the one greater than our troubles,
 To commit our worried and faltering steps to him,
 To find wisdom in his ways,
 To place our desires in him,
 And to find peace and purpose in the one
 Who invites us into his ever-expanding life.
 To settle our hearts and minds on him,
 And when they wander away, again and again,
 To bring them back and settle them on him once more.
 We have wisdom, we have love, we have kindness and strength,
 But not enough, so let us bring our resources
 To the one who is himself a well of life,
 A living spring that never runs dry,
 Rich in truth and love and goodness,
 And on our side.

Psalm 37

With thanks to Dave Hopwood davehopwood.com. Used with permission.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

By the time you read this, the DHCT Cycle Ride will all be over! Thank you very much to everyone who kindly sponsored Team West Hill. As I write, the sponsorship is increasing, which is wonderful news. The amount collected from sponsors will be doubled by a local benefactor, up to £1,000, to add to the St Michael's Give To Go Green appeal.

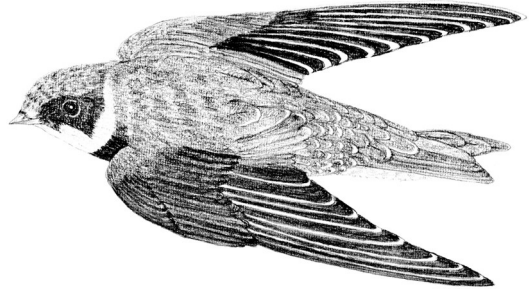
Two riders from Team West Hill had to complete their ride in July, as they were likely to be out of action in September. It was a lovely ride all around the Otter Valley. Meanwhile, we know other riders are planning to join in on 14th September. We hope they enjoy it as much as we did and have a great day visiting some of East Devon's beautiful churches.

Sue and Richard

The Birds of West Hill

Whilst walking alongside the River Otter you may well have noticed several small birds flitting around, twisting and turning in the air. These birds look like Swallows but lack tail streamers and are a light brown colour. If you have, then you have spotted Sand Martin. The river is attractive as the sandy banks provide an ideal location for nesting and there is plenty of their aerial fly food above the water. The birds nest colonially in holes in sandy banks that can be up to 1 m in length, excavating about 10 cm a day. Parents can pick out the distinctive call of their own young in a noisy colony. At Seaton Wetlands reserve an artificial bank has been constructed where Sand Martins are now breeding successfully (alongside bats!). The birds were initially attracted to the site by playing the Sand Martin's call.

Sand Martins are summer migrants. A tale taken seriously at one time was that in winter the birds hibernated under mud and revived in spring. Birds gather in huge flocks in the autumn, migrating to Spain and then down the African coast to Senegal.



Birds return to the UK in spring by a more easterly route over the Sahara and north through Italy, returning to the exact same breeding location. A marvelous feat of avian navigation (without Google Maps!).

Martin in the bird's name is from the Norman man's name of Martin, associated with the god of war, Mars. Local names for the Sand Martin include bank swallow, an apt name; bitter bank, meaning bite the bank, as in nest making; land swallow; pit martin; sandy swallow and witchuck.

Extracted from "British birds – their fascinating stories " published by Geoff Green, available from him (813127), on Amazon (search for the title) or The Curious Otter bookshop.

West Hill Parish Council

We all know that West Hill is a lovely place to live so we should not be surprised that there is a continuing stream of planning applications to build new properties in this area. This may well increase in the coming months as Councils are faced with new, increased targets for house building set by the Government. In East Devon the District Council may have to find space for up to 28% more houses than previously planned, which will be a huge challenge. I am sure that we all appreciate that people need houses to live in, but sustainable communities need more than just houses. There also has

to be proper provision for schools, medical and dental services, recreation facilities, public transport and shops amongst other things so your Parish Council is constantly trying to protect the sustainability of our community whilst recognising that people need somewhere to live. We know that the facilities in West Hill are very stretched already so we anticipate some difficult times ahead on the planning front.

As a part of the long term planning process East Devon District Council is working to produce an updated Local Plan. WHPC was invited to participate in one of the Working Group sessions so we could have our say in the process and we await to see the proposed new plan when it goes out for consultation in the near future.

One of our Parish Council objectives for this year is to develop an Emergency Plan for West Hill. I am delighted that a number of residents have joined our working group to help develop this plan and I am very grateful to them for the time and effort that they have devoted to this project.

Those who are regular visitors to the playpark may have noticed that some new benches have been installed to replace the old ones that were well past their sell-by date. This is a first step in a developing programme to upgrade the play park equipment and make sure that we can maintain everything to keep users safe and also provide for the needs of different ages in the park.

We are moving closer to the construction of the long proposed public footpath between West Hill Road and the Village Hall and School. The legal terms of the lease agreement between The Village Hall trustees and West Hill Parish Council have been agreed, contractors and specialist advisers have been selected and we are nearly ready to start work. One final hurdle is an agreement with the Council Highways Department about painting some safety markings on West Hill Road. This is an extraordinarily bureaucratic process, but we are working our way through it and are very keen to set a date for construction to begin.

On a final and very personal note, my wife and I have just passed the milestone of having lived in West Hill for 1 year. When we moved in our very first visitors delivered a copy of The Messenger and a wonderful Welcome Pack. Apart from being very informative and useful it also sent us a strong message that West Hill is, as I remarked in my opening paragraph, a lovely place to live. It is not just the environment but also the people who make it so and long may that continue.

Francis Pullman, Chairman

Contact: Clerk: Anne Oliver 01404 232 100 or 07450 388198

Email: clerk@westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

New to West Hill?

With generous support from West Hill Parish Council, St Michael's Church has produced a Welcome Pack for new residents. It contains information about many of the organisations within the village plus the very useful village map - and a free 'website' pen!

So, if you've moved into the village within the last couple of months and haven't yet received a Welcome Pack, please contact:

Rosemary Hudson

Email: hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com

West Hill Village Hall

I wish to start this article by saying how terribly sad we were to hear of the death of Margaret Piper in August this year. Margaret joined the Village Hall committee in July 2024 when she was elected as a new Trustee. We were delighted to have her join us as she is well known to many local people, due to the service she has provided, for many years, within the community. Margaret would have been a very effective Trustee who could have contributed considerably to the management of West Hill Village Hall.

Margaret will be very sadly missed.

At the time of writing this article West Hill Primary School and West Hill Preschool are still enjoying their summer holiday, however by the time you read The Messenger the school and preschool will have returned, and the village hall will, once again, be very busy.

Future Major Events and Marquee Bookings

09 th Nov	SW Quilters Meeting with staging
16 th Nov	West Hill Conservatives Curry Lunch
19 th Nov	OSM Flower Art Club Christmas Display with staging
23 rd Nov	PTFA Ball with marquee
30 th Nov	Hospiscare Christmas Fayre
07 th Dec	OSM Flower Art Club Wreath Making Workshop
08 th Dec	Preschool Christmas Bazaar
24 th Dec	NHS Blood Donation Session

In the last edition of The Messenger, we reported that five youths were recorded by our CCTV system entering the Village Hall; they were not attending a formal booking. The youths proceeded to Beech room where they caused considerable damage to the ceiling tiles. We passed a recording of the youths, inside the building, to our local PCSO. With assistance he was able to identify one youth as living in Awliscombe, three living in Ottery St Mary and one living in West Hill.

Each of the youths has received a Community Order Letter.

During the Primary School and Preschool summer holiday we were able to undertake some much needed decoration to the reception area, stairs and landing. The walls, skirting boards and architraves were painted, and the doors were re-varnished. Our three air conditioning units will be serviced during the half term break.

Please visit our new website www.whmessenger.info/west-hill-village-hall for details of the full range of clubs and activities on offer at the hall, or call Sarah Woolfries on 01404 814216 between the hours of 9.00 and 17.30.

Or contact Sarah by e-mail on: bookings@westhillvillagehall.co.uk

Colin Veale, Chairman, Village Hall Trustees

Tea & Toast & Toys on Fridays

We continue to meet every Friday at 8.45 am at the Village Hall during school term time. We are really looking forward to welcoming some new faces: Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers, Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Nannies, who can enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or fresh milk, and some toast and marmalade (or jam); and you don't have to have a small person in tow!

If you have enjoyed coming along, do bring your friends and neighbours, old and young alike.

Give us a ring if you want to know more: **Ann** (813886) **Pam** (814096).

Sidmouth National Trust Supporters

We have enjoyed some successful meetings this year including our 50th Anniversary Lunch at The Kingswood Hotel. 24 members gathered to celebrate the occasion and the fact that we have contributed over £150,000 to the NT over this period. Sidmouth was the first supporters group in Devon. We also enjoyed outings to Lanhydrock and Caerhays Castle at St Austell. We were well looked after at both properties and had the opportunity for guided tours and to speak to the staff and volunteers about the buildings and their histories.

Our meetings are at All Saints Hall at 2.30 on the first Wednesday of the month. On 2nd October we will hear from Reverend Canon Brian Pearson who will present "Confessions of an Archbishop's bag-carrier" and on 9th October, in partnership with Sidmouth Science Festival, we will be welcoming Dr Valentina Marincioni who is a Lecturer in Building Physics at University College London and technical director of the UK Centre for Moisture in Buildings. On 6th November Stephen Powles will be talking about local Wildlife. Our Autumn outing this year will be to Dyrham Park, near Bath on Tuesday 8th October.

If you are interested in joining our group or attending any of our meetings, please contact Sue Stanbury: sue.stanbury@googlemail.com
Tel. **01395 579816**

Living Life to the Full

Jesus, speaking of Himself as a shepherd of a flock, said: "I am come that they might have life: and have it to the full". So, in these times, when much around us may seem dark, uncertain and sometimes quite insane, what is it that Jesus offers? Just a study of the word 'life' in John's gospel is a good start to answering that question. But, currently attempting to translate the book of Deuteronomy from the original Hebrew, I have been struck by the common sense of some of the Old Testament teaching which gives guidelines for life.

The food laws initially seem quite random, and difficult to understand, but when explained by the late Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, suddenly become clearer. He explains them in the context of God's conversation with Job. "Where were you, when". And suddenly it all falls into place:- not everything was made for man; something perhaps we are now beginning to understand afresh as we look at conservation, going "green" and caring for creation.

<https://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation/shemini/food-for-thought/>

And the laws about lending and giving. How bizarre to be told that when you lend something to a member of your wider family, that in the seventh year you should write off the debt. And that if you are considering giving a loan in the sixth year, not to think twice about it just because the seventh year is near. Surely that thought would be human nature? But no, God says, if you have been blessed by God, then you will be blessed by blessing others with the same generosity with which God has blessed you. In all this and much more there is the underlying principle of generosity.

Jesus came not to replace God's law or to do away with it, but to fulfil it. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.", he taught. And that applies not just to the giving but the thought process behind it. Never give grudgingly or counting the cost, but give freely and joyfully of time, talents and possessions, and in giving this way know that God will bless you.

Jesus' teaching was underpinned by the supreme picture of selfless giving, seen in His birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension into heaven and sending of His Holy Spirit. As St Paul wrote, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift".

Ann Pangbourne

For further reading, an article on giving also by Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: **<https://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation/terumah/what-do-we-receive-when-we-give/>**

West Hill Art Group Went to the Zoo ...



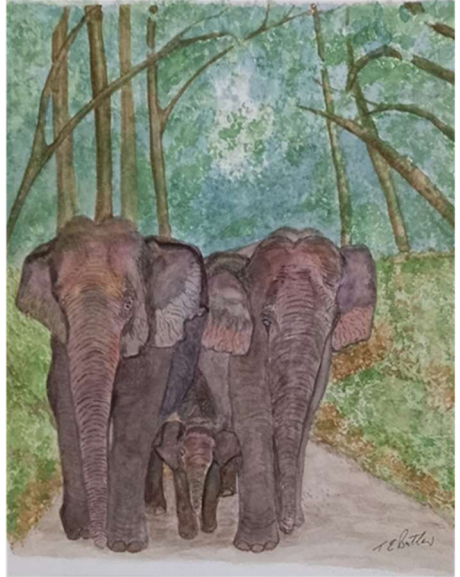
Liz Shorrock



Emma Wilkinson



Hazel Wheeler



Terry Butler



Graham Seymour

**Contact: Rosemary Seymour
Tel: 01404 234122**

West Hill Women's Group



Smile and the whole world smiles with you.....

I think all of us agree that the absent summer didn't give us much to smile about, but the ladies of the West Hill Women's Group certainly enjoyed the companionship and activities during those months. Late August saw several of

us bending the knee in an attempt to learn bowls. Kindly hosted by the thriving Ottery Bowls Club, this was a fund raising event in support of our current charity - The Ottery Care Scheme. Getting up from the bended knee was another matter!



Our September speaker was a return visit from Mark Fox, historian for the Andrew Lloyd Webber Theatres. Recently seen on Channel 5's 'Jay Blades History of the West End', Mark enthralled us with his talk about The London Palladium.

Scam Fraud will be the subject of October's talk. Presented by Mark McGlade from 'Home Instead', it will include helpful tips on how to stay safe on the internet and other scams.

On Wednesday, November 6th, we have ex-showgirl Sheila Parker regaling us with the second part of her fun and fabulous career. Sheila's first visit, talking to us about being a Tiller to Vernon Girl, was a huge success, we look forward to hearing more.

Held at the RBL in School Lane, membership is open to West Hill women with an annual fee of £15. Meetings start at 10.00am with refreshments, for a 10.30 talk. You are most welcome to come along as a guest to sample three meetings, at a cost of £3 per meeting - this also includes refreshments.

So, come along and you will find yourself surrounded by welcoming smiles.

For further details please contact Jane Overthrow, Chair, WHWG on toverthrow@aol.com

Councillor's Column



I'm writing at the start of September. There is a whole series of East Devon District Council meetings coming up this month to discuss housing allocations for the local plan. The pressure to deliver houses is greater than ever due to the new government's housing targets. EDDC is trying to deliver its local plan under transitional arrangements which would mean delivering 946 houses per year (already a very high number) rather than new incoming government figures which would see this figure uplifted by 28%. This new figure is just impossible. Whether EDDC can

rely on the transitional arrangements or will be forced to accept a 28% uplift will depend on the exact timing of the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework, which is not yet known. If EDDC can publish its final version of the draft local plan within one month of the publication of the new NPPF then EDDC will be able to rely on the transitional arrangements.

Our district has massively over-delivered housing over the past decade when compared with the national average, but the infrastructure has really fallen behind. One of the things that concerns me is whether East Devon District Council and Devon County Council have been ensuring that developers have been making all the contributions to services they should have been and that the councils have been allocating the money in an appropriate way.

That's why I am raising a formal question at Devon County Council about their annual Infrastructure statements which don't appear on the website, and I have asked whether Devon residents are missing out as a result. I'm also urging East Devon District Council to actually allocate the estimated £10 million it has collected from developers, which remains on its bank account but unspent.

I also think it's very important that new buildings support wildlife and in particular address the decline of species. The swift population for example has rapidly declined, falling by almost 60% in the last thirty years. It is estimated that there will be fewer than 40,000 pairs of swifts remaining in the UK by 2025. One of the biggest causes of decline of swifts is the lack of nest sites. I have tabled a notice of motion calling for Devon County Council to urge the government to make swift bricks mandatory in all new houses.

In other planning news, I have no update to share about the Potters site since the planning application was withdrawn earlier this year. However, it may be the case that the owner/developer is working behind the scenes on a revised scheme.

Finally, I hope that community groups will bear in mind that as the Devon County Councillor for the Otter Valley I have a Locality Budget that enables me to make grants. Please see all the details on DCC's website for the terms of the grant scheme.

Cllr Jess Bailey

Tel: 01404 814056

Email: Jessica.Bailey@devon.gov.uk

Devon County Councillor (Otter Valley) and East Devon District Councillor (West Hill and Aylesbeare)

OSM Hospital League of Friends

It has been an exciting year for the Friends with completion of the urology investigation unit and the relocation of the clinical measurement service to Ottery. This marks a great new chapter in how our local hospital is being used to deliver care to local people.

OSM Hospital is busier than it has ever been, typically almost 500 people are seen each week. One additional benefit is that patients are now able to have investigations, discussion with medical and nursing teams and definitive treatment all in a single appointment. One patient had the equivalent of 6 separate visits combined. This saves time, uncertainty, worry (and parking spaces). Feedback has been extremely positive. Due to the vision of the local clinical leaders and managers we now have a service of national reputation which is being used as an example for others to follow.

We hosted an open afternoon in November 2023 - celebrating the developments and showing how busy the hospital is with its new services, procedure areas and clinic rooms. The Friends also had the privilege of being invited to the formal opening in April. Since these events many have said they would appreciate another chance to look around.

We are pleased to continue supporting Liz, our Admiral dementia nurse, and have recently reached a three-way funding agreement together with RDUH and Dementia UK to secure her role for another 2 years. We've given grants to Hospiscare, the minibus service through Ottery Help Scheme, education bursaries, music therapy sessions, hospital furnishing improvements and equipment purchases to reduce hair loss resulting from cancer treatments.

All our activities come at a cost, and over the last couple of years we have given out far more in grants than we have brought in by donations, so we are exploring new ways to raise funds. Do encourage your friends to join us. If you are interested in supporting our work, by joining as a member or by making a donation, please contact Sue and Paul Ritchie (our membership secretary and treasurer) on suepaul.ritchie@btinternet.com / 01404 814811. A large thank you from all the committee to everyone who's been involved over the last year.

Dr Alastair Martin. Chair of Trustees

Otter Valley Rotary

Recently members and their partners enjoyed an excellent President's night when the new President for 2024/25, Richard Thomas, took up office. A big thank you to our joint Presidents from last year, Ken Chun and Barrie Jones. A delicious three course meal was enjoyed by all at the Tumbling Weir Hotel, and three members gave light-hearted accounts of their childhood memories which entertained the attendees.

Otter Valley Rotary sponsored the King's School Barrel Bot team, who visited us and demonstrated their incredible robot which had won through to the National Tech Challenge finals. Members were fascinated as the remote controlled robot picked up pixels and put them on a wall, lifted itself up by a hook, and threw a paper airplane across the room. A very inspirational group of students talked us through their robot building journey, very impressive!

We were delighted to host Dawlish Water Rotary for the annual pétanque match at Ottery Pétanque Club. The competition was fierce, and the standard of play was excellent (on occasions!) but sadly OVR were just defeated. We then all retired to the Tumbling Weir Hotel for a meal and lots of friendly chat, a very enjoyable evening.

The Club were very pleased to receive a Bronze Partner Certificate from Shelterbox for raising £2,126 for the charity in 2023/4. It's a charity that helps so many people around the world, and one we are very pleased to support.



Otter Valley Rotary meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm for a meal, usually followed by a speaker or activity. Please contact our Secretary David Incoll on d.incoll@live.co.uk if you are interested in joining us.

West Hill Preschool



At West Hill Preschool, we prioritise children's wellbeing and development, creating a fun, language-rich environment that ignites imagination.

West Hill Preschool and After School Club have opened their registers for September 2025 and have a few spaces left to start from

September 2024. Please email the Preschool Manager for more information Natalie.Taylor@westhillpreschool.com

Ottery St Mary Bowling Club

As I sit down to write this article, suddenly it feels that the Summer is over! The trees are just beginning to turn brown, the acorns are already dropping off the oak trees, and the bowling season is drawing to its close.



Perhaps the best way to sum up this season is to say "Nearly, but not quite". The ladies section entered the Devon County competition. They fought their way through the opening rounds to reach the final stage at the South Molton Club. With the excellent quality of our ladies play they reached the final with a concession by Culm Vale.

A magnificent effort in the final against Tiverton West End was sadly not quite enough with the match eventually lost on the last shot of the final end.

Earlier in the season, the men's section reached the finals of the TopClub competition at Plymouth. Regrettably, becoming championship winners eluded them. The club is extremely proud of both sections having progressed so far in both competitions.

It is not all a case of just missing out on trophies! A team comprising of Carl Guillard, Grant Hawes and Brian Hammond competed in an invitation event organised by Budleigh Bowling Club and returned home holding the Victory Cup.



Ottery St Mary Bowling Club also organises an invitational event, which is sponsored and supported by Redferns of Ottery. This year competitors came from Budleigh, Chardstock, Lyme Regis and Sidmouth. Following an afternoon of fierce competition, an Ottery team consisting of Gail Hawke, Brian Salter, Charlie Griffin and Emma Bradshaw-Smith were declared the winners. May thanks to Redferns of Ottery for their continued support and sponsorship of this popular event. No doubt a quality high tea is part of the attraction!

As the season ends, the finals of the internal competitions will soon be taking place, with the awards at the annual dinner. Friendly matches have taken place throughout the season, and these have been competitively played with a sprinkling of laughter, banter, good humour and respect for the opposition. It has been particularly gratifying to see people new to the game proudly wearing the Ottery colours, and enjoying a new sport, coupled with a great social experience.

Disappointment is difficult to accept, so next year, I hope I can head up my report by saying "Ottery done good!".

Clive Russell

Welcome Café

Coffee, home-made cake & a warm welcome



Friday 25th October
Friday 29th November
+ Winter Market

Open from 10.30am
in the Church Hall

Take a break!

www.whmessenger.info



Raffle prizes are gratefully received

Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare invite you to their

BINGO EVENING

Ottery St Mary Football Club
Washbrook Meadows, Butts Rd, EX11 1EL

Sunday 13 October

Doors open at 6.30 - Eyes down at 7.45

Transport available - contact Steve Percy 01404 811335

Because every day matters
www.hospiscare.co.uk
registered charity no. 222921

Proceeds in aid of
Hospiscare
Your local hospice



All day refreshments available

GRAND CHRISTMAS FAIR

West Hill Village Hall, EX11 1UQ

Saturday 30 November
10.00am - 3.00pm

£2 entry fee, children under 12 free

Unique artisan Christmas gifts & bespoke presents
Christmas cakes * Jewellery * Toys... plus so much more!

Because every day matters
www.hospiscare.co.uk
registered charity no. 222921

Proceeds in aid of
Hospiscare
Your local hospice



RAFFLE
QUALITY BOOKS
JIGSAWS
BARGAIN TABLES
&
HOMEMADE CAKES

Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare presents:

Soup and Pudding Lunch

Saturday 12 October 12 noon - 2pm

£8 per person

Vegetarian and gluten free catered for

The Institute, Ottery St Mary EX11 2HH
No need to book

Contact - Pam Joy - 01404 813820

Because every day matters
www.hospiscare.co.uk
registered charity no. 222921

Proceeds in aid of
Hospiscare
Your local hospice

West Hill Garden Club



Thursday 10th October
Devon's wild flowers by Paul Rendell
Thursday 14th November
AGM, Supper & Raffle

www.whgardenclub.weebly.com

We are happy to take up to 3 text-only small ads per issue. Please contact Rosemary Hudson the Advertising Manager see p3.

Services at St Michael's



Continuation of Zoom Services

On the first and third Sunday of each month at 10am for the whole Mission Community.

See <https://ottervalechurches.org/ministry/ovmc-services/> and search for **online** to find service details, including the Zoom link.

Services in Church

Oct 6	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Oct 13	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Oct 18	15.45	Messy Church
Oct 20	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Oct 27	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
	15.00	All Souls Service
Nov 3	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Nov 10	9.30	Holy Communion (sung)
	10.50	Service of Remembrance
Nov 15	15.45	Messy Church
Nov 17	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Nov 24	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)