

The Messenger



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



**December 2024 – January 2025
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?

Other West Hill Clergy Revd. Mac Dick 371064

macdick1@aol.com

Revd. Ann Turner 813476

jandaturner@btinternet.com

Reader (also Asst. Warden) Ann Yates 813886

anniates12@btinternet.com

Pastoral Care Coordinator vacant - contact Team Vicar or
Churchwardens

Church Wardens Pam Johns (also Sacristan) 814096

pam-johns1@hotmail.co.uk

Fiona Rimmer 815057

fionahrimmer@me.com

PCC Secretary vacant - contact Churchwardens

PCC Treasurer Joanna Bromley 07879 220011

joannambromley@hotmail.com

Safeguarding Officer Sue Ritchie 814811

Suepaul.ritchie@btinternet.com

Verger vacant - contact Churchwardens

Website **www.ottervalechurches.org**

Church address Bendarroch Road, West Hill, EX11 1UW

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 February/March edition is
Mon 6th January 2025.

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



The last two or three months have been a mixed time for the congregation at St Michael's Church. I hope that you were aware of the 'St Michael's Goes Green' fundraising campaign, which proved to be both enjoyable and financially successful, thanks to a great team of organisers and the generosity of many people. But this autumn has also been a time of great sadness. Some dearly loved members of the

congregation have died and others are suffering illness, in some cases very serious illness.

The Bible talks about Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. There is a real sense in which Christians share a close bond, and a congregation is not like an audience or even passing acquaintances—a congregation is a family. And in a family illness and death affect everyone.

So we enter this season of Advent and Christmas with some sadness, knowing that some people will be facing their first Christmas without a loved-one, and others will be wondering whether this might be their last.

Like many people, I crave the warm glow of a cosy, safe Christmas. I have in mind the picture of someone, preferably me, sitting in an armchair by an open fire, with a glass of mulled wine in one hand and a mince pie in the other, listening to 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', and looking at the cards on the mantelpiece with their pictures of the baby sleeping in the arms of his beautiful and beautifully clothed mother. What could be nicer?

But of course, Christmas is rarely, if ever, like that. The noise and messiness of the world and our own lives crowds in. And there is something right and proper about that, because the first Christmas, the time when Jesus was born, was not cosy, safe or clean. God chose to come to this earth and into the human race with all the messiness and insecurity that we face.

Jesus grew in the womb of an unmarried young woman who faced the possibility of being abandoned by her fiancé. Whilst pregnant, she had to make a potentially hazardous journey. When the birth came, she had to lay her baby in a manger, a feeding trough. And if you have had the privilege of being present at a birth, you will know that it is pretty messy and involves quite a few bodily fluids!

If your Christmas is coming at the end of a sad or painful year, you may feel a bit alienated from the fun and festivity that others might be enjoying. But don't give up on Christmas. The real Christmas is the God of light coming into the mess and confusion, the sadness and fear of our real lives.

I hope that for you and yours it will be a happy Christmas.

Mark

Children's Page

The Christmas Star



At Christmas time, stars appear everywhere as decorations in sparkling lights, on Christmas trees, in shop windows and along the roads.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem at the first Christmas, Wise Men followed a star so they could come to worship him and bring gifts. The star is seen as a symbol of Light, Peace and Hope.

We hope you are able to come to one or more of the services to be held at St Michael's.



Dates for Your Diary

Friday 13th December – Messy Church (3.45 - 5.30pm)

Thursday 19th December – Christingle Service (4.30pm)

Tuesday 24th December – Crib Service (4.30pm)

Wednesday 25th December – All-age Service (10am) Bring along one of your Christmas gifts to show everyone!

Friday 17th January – Messy Church (3.45 - 5.30pm)

As we move into 2025, we wish you, and all your family and friends, 'Light, Peace and Hope' for Christmas and the New Year.

Lite Nite at St Michael's

St Michael's holds our alternative to Halloween each year on 31st October. As you can see, it was huge fun with glow sticks, worship, a glow stick disco, hot dogs or pizza and hot chocolate.

Thanks to everyone who organised and supported the event.

More fun next year. Why not join us?



Children's Craft

A Christmas Star decoration

You will need:

Card (3 different colours)
A button
String/ribbon
Scissors, hole punch & glue



Instructions:

1. Cut 3 star shapes out of coloured card (one of each colour).
2. Make the stars three different sizes (large, medium & small).
3. Glue the medium star on to the largest one (at a slight angle so you can see the points of the star underneath).
4. Glue the small star on top in the same way.
5. Glue a button onto the centre of the star.
6. Make a hole at the top of the star, thread through a piece of string/ribbon.
7. Hang the star on your Christmas tree.



Christmas jokes

Q. What do elves do after school?

A. Gnome work!

Q. How did Joseph get into the stable with Mary?

A. He used his don-key!

Devon Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

Grateful thanks are due to everyone who helped with this year's cycle ride - the six cyclists who participated and everyone who donated so generously to our sponsorship.

We did it! The overall sponsorship was £1,025.00, which must be our record. St Michael's received £512 from the Trust, there was an anonymous donation of £1,250 (including Gift Aid) with a further £1,000 received from the Give to Go Green initiative.

Thank you everyone so much for your support! As we always say, we couldn't have done it without you.

Richard and Sue



Two of our ride participants

St Michael's Goes Green and Beyond

Target reached! With grateful thanks to individuals, local organisations and businesses for their support, £10,000 has been raised through the Give to Go Green scheme. This amount will be matched by the Church of England.



Over a six-week period, events were held, starting with an energetic Family Barn Dance! This was followed by a beautiful Flower Festival for Harvest, two wonderful Music Evenings, an entertaining Auction Evening and Community Lunches with craft stalls. Also, many people have added to the funds raised with generous personal donations. Thank you!

Capitalising on the Give to Go Green match-funding from the Church of England enables St Michael's to start work on the 'eco' parts of the overall project. In the new year, the plan is to replace all lighting with LED fittings, insulate the hall roof and install double glazing in the Narthex (church hall).

Of course, in 2025, more fundraising events and grant applications will be needed to complete the NACRE project. The hall will be redecorated, new flooring laid and replacement chairs purchased. Access for wheelchairs and pushchairs through the main church door will also be improved. The result will be a fresh-looking and more welcoming West Hill community space for this generation and generations to come!

Opera Nights



Opera Nights, 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 with an interval, when the bar will again be open. If the operas are given in the original language there are subtitles in English.

Thursday 19th December: Rossini's "La Cenerentola". We end the year with this delightful Glyndebourne production. Rossini's take on a traditional fairy tale known better to us as "Cinderella".

Thursday 30th January: Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro". This is still, I think, the best production of Mozart's most popular opera. Recorded live with Iliana Cotrobus, Kiri Te Kanawa, Benjamin Luxon, Knut Skram and Frederica von Stade, directed by Peter Hall.


Further information from opconpeterclarke@gmail.com

A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

It is good to be back doing a bit more of the editorial role together with my colleagues.

I have recently been struck by a number of the regular articles mentioning the need for more folk to help out in their organisations.

Some of the older members of our community may well remember the WW1 poster from Lord Kitchener saying 'Your Country Needs YOU!'. 

I have a few examples of where help is urgently needed.

Our wonderful Primary School is seeking new governors. As an ex-governor myself for many years at Tipton School, I can only strongly recommend that you think about whether this might be something for you. I am sure that the school will be able to give you any information about what is involved. Our children are precious to us all and serving in this way can make a real difference.

I am one of the Trustees at the West Hill Village Hall where we are also looking for local residents to consider whether this might be something for them. The hall is such a vital part of our village life, it seems such a shame that we cannot attract more people to come forward. We meet just 4 or 5

times a year. Do ask Colin Veale, the Chair, for details on 01404 813830 or e-mail: colinveale@btinternet.com.

I believe a similar situation applies to the School PTFA who raise much needed funds for our school.

I know how much the residents of West Hill value the Messenger magazine. A survey indicated that this was the main source of information to those living in our village. We are seriously short of deliverers. For most of the delivery areas it means that 6 times a year you have the opportunity to see even more of your lovely village as you deliver the magazine to grateful homes. If you think you could help in this way, please contact Keith Marchant at folding2camper@gmail.com.

And finally, your local West Hill Parish Council is seeking additional councillors as it is struggling sometimes to meet the quorum requirements. Please look at the WHPC page in this edition for more details. If we want to have a truly representative and active local government for our community, we do need local people willing to be involved.

I really believe that **YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!** We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful part of the world with so many wonderful organisations supporting people of all ages to get the best possible environment in which to live and prosper. So, if I might have touched a chord with you, please consider what you might be able to do to make our community even more pleasant and fulfilling to be a part of.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Joyful Christmas.

Mac Dick

Welcome Café

There will be a Welcome Café in the Church Hall on Friday 27th December. By then, you will be taking a break after the Christmas festivities earlier in the week, so please do come along and join us for a cup of coffee and homemade cake.

Since the end of Covid, the Café has grown from strength to strength and has become a regular monthly village feature. Very many thanks to all of our willing team of volunteers who make delicious cakes and help in the kitchen. If you are able to join in with either of these to share the tasks, please let me know.

After four years of organising the Cafés, we really need someone to take over the role now to help them to continue into 2025. If you are interested, either on your own, or with another volunteer, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me as soon as you can.

Many thanks,

Sue Bonnie (westhillpcc@gmail.com)

A Ridiculous Story?

There was a farmer who did not believe the Christmas Story. The idea that God would become a human being was absurd.

The farmer's wife was a committed Christian. He sometimes gave her a hard time, mocking her faith and her belief in the incarnation of God in the baby of Bethlehem. "It's all nonsense" he said. "Why would God lower himself to become a human being like us? It's a ridiculous story".

One snowy December Sunday evening, his wife went to a Carol Service while he relaxed at home. After she had left, the weather deteriorated into a blinding snowstorm. As he sat listening to the howling wind, he heard a loud thump against the window, then another. He ventured outside to see what had caused it, and there, in the field was the strangest sight: A flock of geese! They had been migrating south but had become disorientated by the storm. They were stranded on his farm, unable to fly or to see their way.

The farmer had compassion on them. He wanted to help them and thought that the barn would give them shelter. He opened the barn doors hoping that they would make their way in, but they didn't. He tried to shoo them in but they ran in all directions. Nothing that he did could get them into the safety of the barn. Frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me? Can't they see that this is the only place where they can survive?"

He thought for a moment, and then realised that they wouldn't follow a human being. "If only I could become like one of them they would follow me, and I could lead them to safety" he said. Suddenly he realised what he had just said: "If only I could become like one of them they would follow me, and I could lead them to safety".

At last he understood God's love for mankind. He fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped Him.

Ann Turner

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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).

Ottery Help Scheme

For anyone new to the locality, Ottery Help Scheme is a registered charity which serves the communities within the Coleridge Medical Centre boundary. Our remit is to offer a wide range of services to support residents whether it be transport to and from medical appointments, joining one of our groups which include: Friendship Group, Memory Cafe, Seated Exercise, Music Group, Board Games Group and Creative Workshops. We also manage the Hospital League of Friends minibus, so Wellbeing trips out to the coast and our beautiful countryside are a regular feature. Other support is available through our Home Help service, a monthly free legal advice clinic and befriending face to face or over the phone. In order for all of these activities to take place we are always eager to recruit new volunteers to support our wide range of activities.

Volunteering is a great way to support your community as well as give yourself a sense of purpose and pride. Being a volunteer should not feel like an onerous task, it's for you to do as much or as little as you choose and it's a great opportunity to meet new people and have fun along the way. From making phone calls to making cakes, every skill is equally valued. We know that the approach of Autumn and Winter can be a difficult time for people and having a routine can be very beneficial, if you would like to build volunteering into your weekly or monthly routine, please give us a call on 01404 813041 or drop into to see us at 11, Silver Street, Ottery. We are open from 8.30 to 4.00 and are always happy to welcome people in for a friendly chat.

We'd also like to warmly welcome Andrea to our staff team. Andrea has started as our Admin Assistant, with a particular focus on our transport service. Our staff member Rachel has moved to the new role of Community Connector with us, with more information about this role to appear in the Ottery Gazette.

Emily Lezzeri Chief Officer

Hospiscare News

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Hospiscare, your local and independent adult Hospice charity.

Special thanks and mention to all those who have kindly donated raffle prizes. These wonderful gifts have now been allocated to various fundraising activities. This helps us continue to raise vital funds ensuring we are there for our patients and their families when needed during the most difficult time. Your generosity supports not only our patients, but also those around them, as they face this difficult time together.

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Join Hospiscare's Open Gardens Programme 2025 – Be part of something special!

Following the incredible success of Hospiscare's Open Garden programme in 2024, where together we raised over £70,000 to support our essential end-of-life care services, we are excited to invite you to take part in our 2025 campaign. We'll provide all the support you need, from promotional materials (included our printed Open Gardens booklet) to guidance on making your day a success. If you are interested in opening your garden, please let us know by contacting fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk or Tel 01392 688020. We would love to hear from you and answer any questions you may have.

Christmas Tree Recycling: volunteer opportunity. Are you able to help? - Do you have a vehicle that could be used to pick up Christmas trees?

No matter how big or small your van is, we really need your help. Hospiscare are seeking volunteers willing to collect trees and bring them to Otter Garden Centre for disposal on Thursday 9, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 January 2025.

Please note: helping with our Christmas tree collections will involve lifting and carrying, so you will need to be physically fit. If you think you could help and give up your time to make a difference, please email treecollection@hospiscare.co.uk or Tel 01392 688020.

Why not take on a challenge for Hospiscare?

We have a number of challenges for you to consider. Do you fancy taking part in the Grizzly, Great West Run 2025, Lands' End to John O'Groats cycle ride or even the 3 Peaks Challenge? Sign up today and be a Hospiscare Hero. If you would like to know more about our challenges or have any questions, email Alice at Events@hospiscare.co.uk or telephone 01392 688052.

Recycle your unwanted gifts

Do you have any new or unwanted Christmas gifts that Hospiscare could recycle and use at their upcoming fundraising events? We need items such as Toys, Perfume, Gift Sets, Candles, Games and Wine. If so, please contact Toni on the number below.

Calling all crafters & makers

Can you sew, knit or crochet, make good quality homemade craft items to sell at our fundraising events? We have lots of Fundraising activities in the pipeline, so we really need your wares.

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.

Thank you for being by our side for the last 40 years caring for those in your community. If you are interested in the work of Hospiscare, or can help with any of the above requests please contact Area Fundraiser Toni Hiscocks 01392 688067/07921 845 615 or email t.hiscocks@hospiscare.co.uk

Your generosity truly makes a difference to local people.

May you all experience the light of laughter, the warmth of love and the joy of gratitude this festive season. Wishing you all a peaceful holiday hoping 2025 brings you much happiness, from all the staff at Hospiscare and our wonderful volunteers.

Toni Hiscocks

OSM Heritage Society and Museum

Registered charity CIO no. 1179598

Our Museum is now shut for the Winter and will reopen at Easter next year. Please check our website www.otteryheritage.org.uk for opening times as we regularly keep this up to date. We were, however, open for the Ottery St Mary 'Festive Cheer' Event on Friday 29th November. This was very popular, as it was last year.

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:

December – no meeting

Tuesday 21st January 7.30 – 8.30pm at The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary EX11 1HD. 'A Peculiar Victorian Enterprise – The Weston, Clevedon & Portishead Railway' with Brian Margetson.

The railway age saw many fledgling enterprises start up with a view to capitalising on the new technology of the "iron horse". Although many were based upon slender business cases, the WC & PR railway was in a league of its own. Discover how The Weston, Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway Company accomplished the dubious honour of being in receivership the longest. Brian will take you down the line of fragile optimism upon which the enterprise was promoted and the desperate measures taken to survive - and survive it did for 43 years.

Along the way, he'll introduce you to Colonel Stephens, undisputed king of Britain's small and quirky railways. Creaking infrastructure from the start, hand-me-down equipment, you just couldn't make up this story.

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

West Hill Parish Council

There is an old saying that time flies when you are enjoying yourself. Well, I am clearly having a wonderful time as it seems only a couple of weeks since I wrote my previous article for The Messenger.

I have certainly been having a busy time with a lot of activity involving the Parish Council. In my last article I wrote about the work that East Devon District Council is doing to develop a new local plan with provision for many more houses than were originally anticipated. Clearly West Hill is included in their consideration for new housing sites and as a Parish Council we are doing our best to protect the best interests of the village whilst recognising that we all have a duty to help with the provision of houses for people to live in.

We recently attended a meeting of the EDDC Planning Committee to express our views about the planning application to develop the site near Windmill Lane for new housing. It was really good to see that a number of residents from that area were also there to exercise their democratic right to address the committee. After a lot of serious discussion, the committee decided to defer the decision and request the developer to review their plans to prevent over-development of the site. This really demonstrates that even when faced with huge pressure to find sites for more and more houses the District Council still takes into account the views of our Parish Council and the residents. This really reinforced my personal belief that local democracy is important and we must continue to make sure that our voice is heard by the decision makers.

Other projects like the Village Hall footpath are progressing although at times it feels as though some malign force is continually erecting new barriers for us to overcome. With all of the extraordinary challenges that have been thrown in our path (no pun intended) I sometimes think that we are building a West Hill by-pass rather than a short footpath to the Village Hall! In my past life I have built a new airport terminal, an airport control tower and an airport railway station and they all seemed quite simple by comparison. Nevertheless, we are pressing on and making progress.

We all appreciate the beauty of living in a woodland village even when, during the autumn, we are almost swamped by a tide of fallen leaves. My dog thinks it is wonderful fun to wait until we have raked up a big pile of leaves so she can jump into it and scatter the leaves over the garden again. It is however things like that that remind me just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place and why it is important to protect our village.

I mentioned a little earlier that I strongly believe in the importance of local democracy. That is why I joined the Parish Council. In order to be fully effective however we do need your help and support. We currently have only 4 councillors rather than the 7 that we should have. This means that we are

very stretched to do all that we want to do to make West Hill an even better place to live. There are many people in West Hill who have a wealth of knowledge and experience and who could help the Parish Council to do so much. If you would be prepared to give some of your time to join us, we would love to hear from you and would welcome your help to support our village.

Francis Pullman, Chairman, West Hill Parish Council

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

Email: clerk@westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

West Hill Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 1160370

By the time this article is in circulation we will be entering the festive Christmas and New Year season so we will ensure the Christmas tree is erected in the reception area, early in December.

West Hill Village Hall is heavily booked throughout this period with a combination of community events, regular Christmas events and a number of children's birthday parties.

Future Major Events and Marquee Bookings

7 th Dec	OSM Flower Art Club Wreath Making Workshop
8 th Dec	Preschool Christmas Bazaar
24 th Dec	NHS Blood Donation Session
31 st Dec	Sheryl and Jon Lawrence New Year's Eve Dance

On 23rd November 2024 the PTFA held their Annual Ball at the Village Hall. As always, we provided use of the Village Hall, complete with a full marquee, free of charge. We do this because the PTFA is one of our largest users and in this way we can give significant support to West Hill Primary School which is at the heart of our community.

Once again, we are appealing to all community minded residents to consider joining the Village Hall committee as a Trustee. The Village Hall is a precious asset in West Hill, but it can only continue to operate with the support of the community. If you are interested, please contact me on 01404 813830 or e-mail: colinveale@btinternet.com

All routine checks and annual checks at the hall have now been completed for this year with much of it being undertaken by outside contractors. We are now considering low cost but effective upgrades to the hall such as replacing all old light fittings with LED units.

We have experienced several failures of the gas boiler in the store room which is only used to heat Oak Hall. The boiler in the kitchen which heats the front of the building and the hot water is now about 10 years old. We

believe we should now be considering a single boiler to service the entire hall.

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. You may also contact Sarah by e-mail on

bookings@westhillvillagehall.co.uk

Colin Veale, Chairman, Village Hall Trustees

Myth Buster Part 1

Myth	Reference	Reality
God only loves you if you are a Christian	1 John 4, 7-10	Not true. God loves us all now.
You are not good enough to be a Christian	1 Peter 1, 3-5 John 3,16-18 Rom 3,21-24	Not true. God loves us totally even before we become a Christian.
To be a Christian you must be perfect and be able to touch your toes.	1 Corinthians 13, 9-10	Not true. We must acknowledge and repent of our failings and believe in Jesus as saviour and son of God.
All Christians must go to church	Hebrews 10, 23-25	Not true. Salvation comes through Jesus alone. But you will want to meet and enjoy your family and learn from each other.
The Church is a building	1 Timothy 3, 14-15	Not true. The church are the Christians who follow Jesus
Only Christians are allowed in a church service	Romans 3, 10-18. Romans 5, 6-11	Not true. The church service is open to all people to help them grow in faith or find God for the first time.
All church services are the same.	1 Corinthians 14,40	Not true. A service is simply to provide structure to facilitate fellowship, prayer and worship of God. There are many styles of service.

The Royal British Legion West Hill

Movie Nights

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

2 nd Dec	A Single Man (2009)
9 th Dec	Beaches (1988)
16 th Dec	National Treasure (2004)
23 rd Dec	Last Christmas (2019)
30 th Dec	Enigma (2001)
6 th Jan	Chocolat (2000)
13 th Jan	Last Orders (2001)
20 th Jan	The Fall Guy (2024)
27 th Jan	Salmon fishing in the Yemen (2011)

Bingo Nights

Sundays 1st & 15th December and 5th & 19th January

Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 8th December & 12th January (3.00 pm to 5.30 pm)

Crafters' Evenings

Tuesdays 3rd December & 7th January (from 7.00 pm)

Dads' Nights

Fridays 13th December &
10th January

Mums' Nights

Fridays 27th November &
31st January

Opera Nights

(7.00 pm for 7.30 pm)

Thursday 19th December - "La Cenerentola"
& 30th January - "The Marriage of Figaro"

Codfather – Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Other Events

Sharon Andrews Singers Sat 7th Dec from 5.00 pm
Rotary Christmas Carols Sat 14th Dec from 6.00 pm
New Year's Eve Party from 7.00 pm
Band Night with "Plum Jam" Sat 18th Jan from 7.00 pm

A Brief History of Carols

Carols are strongly associated with being sung in church at Christmas, but it was not always so. Carols were first sung in Europe millennia ago as songs sung at winter solstice celebrations. Carols were originally communal songs sung during celebrations like harvest as well as Christmas, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has survived. Some carols still bear the hallmarks of the secular. For example, why are three ships sailing into Bethlehem, a land-locked place? Probably they were camels. What links holly and ivy to the nativity? Possibly they are metaphors for Jesus' crown of thorns. Christmas started to be celebrated at the time of the winter solstice, so Christians started singing Christian songs instead of secular ones. Initially there was no place for carols in the formal liturgy of the medieval Church.

The word carol probably derives from the French 'carole' meaning a dance or a song of praise and joy. Geoffrey Chaucer used 'carole' to mean a dance with a song. By the 15th century carol was understood to mean just a song, the most common subject being Christmas. The earliest record of a Christmas carol in English appears in 1426 when a chaplain listed 25 "caroles of Cristemas". Before carol singing in churches became popular, carols were sung by revellers going from door to door. Some were official carol singers called waits, because they sang on Christmas Eve, known as watchnight or waitnight. It was only later that carols began to be sung in church, and to be specifically associated with Christmas.

In the 15th century the church allowed carols to be sung in English although services were conducted in Latin. Carols were designed to teach the Christian faith and offer a lively method of devotion. After the reformation carols gained in popularity in protestant churches. Reformers like Martin Luther authored carols and encouraged their use in worship. When the Puritans came to power in the 1640's, the celebration of Christmas and singing carols was stopped. Thankfully, carols continued to be sung in secret and were revived after the fall of the republic.

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) wrote several carols including "Hark how all the Welkin Rings" which became "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". Today's tune was written by Mendelssohn in 1840. In 1880 Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro, devised a new type of service: the service of nine lessons and carols. Many well-known carols are recent compositions. "Once in Royal David's City" was written by Cecil Frances Alexander in the mid-19th century. "Away in a Manger", written by the American William Kirkpatrick, first appeared in 1885. "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" was composed in 1906 by Gustav Holst with lyrics by Christina Georgina Rossetti.

Geoff Green

West Hill Men's Supper Club

Our extremely interesting talk in October covered the responsibilities of the Harbour Master for the Exeter Port Authority, duties which extend along the river and canal waters reaching out to the last buoy opposite Exmouth Sea front. It is a busy and extensive role that keeps the way safe for all waterborne traffic. The November talk was all about the dramas experienced by the Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team.

Meeting on the second Monday of each month at 6.45pm in St Michael's Church Hall, our Men's Supper Club enjoys comradeship and an evening meal followed by a talk of general interest. The next talks are:

9th December: "48 years in Aerospace and no chance of parole".

13th January: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newcomers are most welcome. Come and join us and enjoy a relaxed friendly evening.

John Rowland: j.v.rowland@btinternet.com

Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

Christmas seems to have sneaked up on us again and we can't believe that our 2024 Club year is nearly over.

Once again, we have had a great year. We've welcomed several very talented demonstrators who have travelled from near and far to inspire us, enjoyed our "Pot Luck" workshop and AGM with bring and share supper along with Christmas bauble exchange. The members' competitions were well supported during the year, and we hope that everyone will continue to have fun with this in 2025.

It was good to see so many come along to enjoy our Christmas Open Meeting in West Hill Village Hall on 19th November, when British Master Florist Kathryn Delve got us all in the festive spirit with her demonstration "Seasonal Inspiration". Hopefully it will have inspired everyone to go away and start thinking about how to decorate their own homes with seasonal foliage and flowers for Christmas.

Jointly with Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare, we are excited to be running our first ever **Christmas Wreath making workshop on 7th December 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. It would be lovely to see some of you there so if you would like to join us, please visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/events (take care to ensure you book the Ottery workshop). I'm certain that following the workshop some of the best dressed front doors will be in our area!

After the Christmas Wreath workshop, we will have just one more date in the Club diary for 2024, our Christmas dinner, which will be enjoyed by several members in mid-December. The Club then takes a break until March 2025, although it's now a bit of a tradition that some members still meet up informally for a coffee at Otter Nurseries in January and February!

Angie, our Programme Secretary, already has our 2025 Club year mapped out for us with a fabulous selection of demonstrators booked, and would you believe that she has already got some demonstrators in place for our 2026 Programme!

As we say goodbye to 2024, we would just like to thank all those behind the scenes at 'The Messenger' for their hard work in bringing this great publication to us all and wish all Messenger readers a very floral Christmas and happy and healthy 2025.

Enquiries: Karen Taverner, Club Secretary – 01404 811807

West Hill Pre-School

We have had a very busy start to the new year here at West Hill Pre-School! The children have been busy preparing for Halloween and getting in the autumnal spirit. This term they have been focusing on using natural resources in their learning and play, including conkers, leaves, twigs and apples to make some beautiful prints.

The children have had great fun making potions, slime, digging up carrots and generally having a great time getting very messy indeed! One day they even went on a 'bear hunt', sloshing through mud, splashing in water, stumbling over grass and wood and the best bit was the swirling snow-storm at the end. They eventually found a very cuddly and friendly bear at the end! The wonderful staff at Pre-School continue to provide high quality care to all the children and make it a warm and fun place to be.

The Pre-School parents are busy behind the scenes organising various fund-raising events this term, raising much needed funds for improvements to the children's learning experience and environment at Pre-School.

A date for your diaries: **Sunday 8th December, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm.** West Hill Pre-School **Christmas Bazaar**. Join us for crafts, games, raffle, face painting, hot and cold refreshments and the 'Elfridges' Christmas Store (just for kids!). We also have performances from JW Dance, Sing Out Community Choir and Father Christmas in his grotto. This event is free entry – we hope to see you there.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone well for the coming festive season and thank everyone from the local community who have supported West Hill Pre-School.

Christmas with The Chosen

I wonder how many people have watched the series “The Chosen” by Dallas Jenkins?

It all began with a 20-minute Christmas film, “The Shepherd” which was followed by a second one, 40 minutes long: “Christmas with the Chosen: The Messengers”, which would be a good place to start. A synopsis of “Christmas with the Chosen: The Messengers” says:

“Experience the first Christmas through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. Follow the young couple as they take the long road to Bethlehem and prepare for Jesus’ birth. Plus, enjoy an extraordinary lineup of musicians performing both new and classic Christmas songs from the set of The Chosen.”

But there is much, much more! Since that small beginning, a crowd- funded series took flight and 4 series have vividly brought to life the gospel stories of Jesus and his disciples.

Starting in Galilee, it fills the gaps in the Biblical narrative as each disciple, called to follow Jesus, is given a true to life personality and back story. For example, Thomas (who constantly doubts himself) and his girlfriend are the caterer and wine merchant for the wedding at Cana where Jesus’ first miracle took place. However, the basic story remains true to the Bible.

The four “seasons” cover Jesus’ 3-year ministry - the fourth season ending with the raising of Lazarus just six days before Palm Sunday. A fifth season is currently being made.

I would highly recommend the whole series for adults but suggest you watch the episodes first to check which are suitable for children. Mostly ratings suggest age 12+.

“Christmas with the Chosen: The Messengers” is available as a DVD for £15.61 from <http://eden.co.uk>, and from other sellers, or watch for free on The Chosen app. The later seasons are also available on DVD from <http://eden.co.uk> and other sellers (I have just bought seasons 1-3 from eBay!) but they can also all be viewed for free on The Chosen app.

A review by Ann Pangbourne

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

Ottery St Mary Food Bank

I have not reported progress for some time so, gently nudged, here is an update. We see a small but steady stream of individuals and families referred by social and health agencies for food support. We also see a continuing supply of groceries donated via the various boxes without which the Food Bank could not exist. We are so grateful for the generosity of local folk. Occasionally we are able to help other food banks as they have helped us when certain items run short.

For several years now we have supplied vouchers to be redeemed at the greengrocer's shop in Ottery so clients have access to fresh fruit and vegetables. This has been funded by some monthly financial gifts, but mostly by several substantial grants which are, unfortunately, no longer available. We can only continue to fund this until the end of this year unless there are more folk willing to give regularly. If you would like to help, please contact osmfoodbank@gmail.com

The main work of the Food Bank, supplying a wide range of non-perishable food supplies, is in good order thanks to the many who fill up the donation boxes.

Chris l'Anson

West Hill Arboretum Group

Autumn is the time to prune hedges/shrubs and any essential tree work. Our lanes are safer for all of us when the hedges do not overhang. Cuttings can be put in the chipper and used as a mulch. Do you have a favourite or unusual tree in the village? Please send us a photo and brief description.

Common Beech

The Common Beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) has been called the 'Queen of the Forest'. It can grow to 130 feet tall, and has a large domed crown. An easy way to recognise it in winter, when without leaves, is to observe the base of the large silver grey trunk - it looks like an elephant's foot! Grown as a hedge and pruned back lightly in late July, beech gives a beautiful green in spring and golden foliage all winter.

In the spring the slender, long pointed brown/red buds open to reveal a fresh green leaf which has delicate fine hairs on the edges. They are obovate with well-defined veins, and wavy edges. Flowers occur in May, and the beech nuts are known as mast. I am sure you will have seen a woodland floor covered in mast, all shiny brown. They used to be used to fatten pigs before winter.

The wood is valued for making furniture - especially chairs, flooring, turnery, and veneers. The wood is pinkish brown, speckled with small dark brown flecks.

Beech grows well on limestone soils, though any reasonable soil will do but

avoid heavy clay.

An interesting, unusual species with a fern like leaf is called *Fagus sylvatica* 'Heterophylla', a handsome, graceful tree. Has anyone got one of these? It would be interesting to know! West Hill has a beautiful avenue of beech trees along Oak Road. A delight to wander down especially in spring and autumn. Our walk on Sunday 13th October led by Ed Dolphin of Sidmouth Arboretum Group was very enjoyable and informative especially identifying various fungi.

Contacts: Eileen Perkins eileen555@hotmail.co.uk Village Tree Warden & Alan Cook alan.b.cook@btinternet.com

Otter Vale Men's Probus Club

We are a friendly club whose aim is to promote fellowship among professional and business men aged 60 and over. Our next talks are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 11 th December | Christmas Lunch at the Belmont Hotel in Sidmouth
(need to prebook) |
| 8 th January | RNLI |
| 12 th February | Lynmouth Flood Disaster |
| 26 th February | River Otter Beavers |

All talks are at the Blue Ball Inn, in Sidford.

If you are interested in attending an event as a guest, please contact **John Pulsford**, Chairman, Otter Vale Probus Club 01404 815994.

West Hill Garden Club

This year the unseasonal weather has diminished the pleasure to be found in cultivating a garden, but as all gardeners know the challenges change year on year, so we are hopeful for better results in 2025. In short, less rain and more sunshine!

Our AGM took place in November with very appreciative thanks recorded to those who have now stepped down from office and a warm. welcome to their replacements.

In early December we shall be gathering for our Christmas Lunch at the Red Lion Inn at Broadclyst. This is always a very happy occasion where we enjoy good food and fellowship as we cover every topic as well as swapping gardening ideas and anecdotes.

The New Year starts with our annual Fun Quiz on **Thursday January 9th in the Village Hall (upstairs) at 7.30pm.** Light-hearted questions cover all aspects of gardening where tables of four/five people compete as a team to outwit their opponents on other tables and carry home the prizes. This is followed by a Bring & Share finger food buffet accompanied by wine supplied by the Club and also a raffle. Annual subs will be payable that evening as we start our programme for 2025.

Looking ahead to February.....

We are very excited to have booked an Illustrated Talk by Garden Designer Hugo Bugg who is the youngest ever Chelsea Gold Medallist. This will be in the Main Hall at the Village Hall on **Thursday February 13th at 7.30pm.** Tickets are £5 each for non-members with no charge for members. This promises to be a very special opportunity to hear what it takes to aspire to becoming a Chelsea Gold Medallist and to glean lots of ideas, so we do hope that lots of visitors will join us. To secure your ticket please contact our Secretary (Pauline Wade on 01404 813191).

We look forward to welcoming visitors at all of our meetings – for any enquiry please contact our Chairman (Sheila Gillam 01404 814074) or Secretary (Pauline Wade 01404 813191).

Monica Highnam

The Birds of Christmas

Our deep-rooted connection with birds is well illustrated in the popular seasonal song *The twelve days of Christmas*. Of the 12 lines in the song, 6 refer to birds - “Seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree”. The duration of 12 days derives from the time between Jesus’ birth and the visit of the 3 wise men. The 12th day is Epiphany in the church calendar.

Many versions of the song exist from the 18th century onwards and similar songs are found in other countries such as France and Sweden. Some sources suggest that the 5 gold rings are also birds – pheasants, but the rings could be jewellery. Others suggest the gold rings are five goldspinks, an old name for the Goldfinch. The four calling birds in some older versions use the words colly birds, which means black, referring to the Blackbird. Three French hens might mean foreign birds or hens, possibly a French breed of the domestic hen. The partridge is the Red-legged Partridge introduced from France, a bird which perches in trees. The song’s words were published in 1780 and the familiar tune became popular at the start of the 20th century.

The song was also used by various Christian denominations to help its members to memorise aspects of the church’s teachings. For example:

- The partridge symbolises Jesus who died for us, as the partridge will, to protect its young.
- The dove is widely used to represent peace and in the New Testament the Holy Spirit.
- Three could refer to the Trinity or to Paul’s list of the virtues of faith, hope and love.
- Four calling birds refer to the 4 gospels.
- Five gold rings refer to the first 5 books of the Bible i.e. the Pentateuch.
- Six geese-a-laying refer to the six days of creation in Genesis.
- Seven swans probably refer to the gifts of the Holy Spirit **Geoff Green**

West Hill Art Group

We have been working on snow scenes. You may wonder how you paint snow? Well, the answer is, you don't.

In watercolour painting you leave the white. This is called negative painting. The painting of the surroundings is the positive painting that indicates the snow. You would paint blue or lilac shadows on the snow to make a sunny day or, on a dull day, shades of grey. These make the depth or undulations in the picture. We hope you enjoy our work.



Ottery St Mary by Terry Butler



Winter on the Moors by Rosemary Seymour



Bicton Park by Mick Uttley



Snowy Farmyard by Graham Evans

Contact: Rosemary Seymour Tel: 01404 234122

West Hill Women's Group



Tomorrow will be a Good Day

Now that the season of candles, cobwebs and charity shop Christmas cards has finally arrived, that cosy warmth and all things the Scandinavians call Hygge beckon us to retreat inside until Spring. However, in the meantime, the members of the WHWG still have plenty to enjoy.

November saw a welcome return from Showgirl, Sheila Parker. Part two of her career 'The Rock 'n' Roll Years', treading the boards of the London theatres and the Six Five Special. We look forward to hearing part three next year.

December gathers us all together in the majestic dining room of Sidmouth's Victoria Hotel for our Annual Christmas Lunch. Much merriment will be had over memories of our outings, speakers, raffles and fund raising.

In January, we welcome Stewart Raine who will give us a talk about the 'Merry Wives of Saxe Coburg'. These are the daughters of Queen Victoria who married into the European monarchies.

January also brings us our first outing. Open to non-members, we still have places on the coach trip to Cribbs Mall, Bristol on January 22nd at £18 return. It could be a shopping day, a meeting place for you and old friends from further afield; or even a drop off point for you to travel onwards. Tricia Heard (tricia.heard@outlook.com) is taking names until the end of December, with payment by January 7th.

February has an old-fashioned Beetle Drive to gather friends together and raise funds for our charity 'The Ottery Help Scheme'.

David Pugsley will be giving a talk with an intriguing title. 'Was Jane Austen's Aunt a Shoplifter.' We await.....

Held at the RBL in School Lane, membership is open to West Hill women with an annual fee of £15. Starting 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 discover that tomorrow can always be a good day.

Happy Christmas from all the members of WHWG

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

Councillor's Column



Local Plan Update

It's been an incredibly busy time as a member of EDDC's strategic planning committee. The committee is doing everything possible to get to the final consultation stage of the local plan so that the annual housing targets do not increase by more than 200 houses as set by the new government. There are two sites going forward within the draft local plan for West Hill (Eastfield and Windmill Lane) which I have

consistently opposed. Whilst a planning application for 30 houses at Eastfield has been approved, the application for 34 houses at Windmill Lane has been deferred so that the applicant could produce a lower density scheme more in keeping with the character of the area. I'm pleased that all other sites put forward through the local plan have been rejected including another site behind Windmill Lane for 5 houses which was re-considered at the eleventh hour.

Sewage issues

My research shows that the Fluxton sewage treatment works (which serve West Hill and Ottery St Mary) is operating beyond capacity. I have been advised in response to a freedom of information request that capacity of the treatment works is 8428 people, excluding tourists visiting the area. However, the population data which I obtained from Devon County Council shows the population in the catchment of the sewage treatment works is over 9000. Therefore, Fluxton sewage treatment works are already stretched beyond breaking point and the regular discharges of untreated sewage into the River Otter are a reflection of this. Planning permissions for yet more houses will worsen the sewage situation and whilst EDDC try to deal with this by way of conditions imposed on South West Water, it is difficult to have any confidence in SWW based on its track record. The lack of joined up thinking across the planning process and wider infrastructure (including sewage) is infuriating.

EDDC is not complying with its own planning conditions

East Devon District Council as the planning authority should be beyond reproach when it comes to its own planning applications. So, you can imagine my extreme disappointment to discover that the Council had not implemented its own ecology conditions which it was required to do as part of its planning permission for its new headquarters at Blackdown House Honiton, which it completed in 2018. In October this year I brought forward a notice of motion requiring the Council to introduce the bat and bird boxes as per its original planning consent, and also to introduce swift boxes.

Swifts are on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern with numbers dropping by 62% between 1995 and 2021 and a really significant factor in this decline has been the loss of nesting sites. I was really pleased that the notice of motion was approved and I am now waiting to see the boxes installed and, hopefully used by some of the estimated 50 pairs of swifts in Honiton.

Cllr Jess Bailey Tel: 01404 814056 Email: Jessica.Bailey@devon.gov.uk

Otter Valley Rotary

Rotary members had a busy night on November 5th selling tar barrel programmes and staffing the very popular bar at the bottom of Mill St. Profits from the drinks sales and programme sales go towards supporting local organisations.

At a recent meeting our Secretary organised a picture treasure hunt featuring his own photos of East Devon, which was challenging and fun, but sadly nobody got them all correct. I'm not quite sure whether it was due to David's clever photography or our lack of knowledge!

The following week we were delighted to welcome Ottery St Mary Town Crier, Laurie Palmer, to one of our meetings. He entertained everyone by enthusiastically explaining his role and how he has 'oh yai'd' for the residents of Ottery for a number of years.

Our final event last month was a nostalgic one, with Chris Highnam presenting Mike Huxtable's videos of the steam train railway network in East Devon, which existed up until 1967 when the sad demise of most of the East Devon branch lines occurred. It brought back many memories for all of us who lived in this area back then and had travelled on the trains, or watched them go by as a regular sight. The videos also included some up to date footage of what has become of various disused stations and platforms, including the one at Ottery. Pleasingly, many are still standing and being usefully employed.



We have recently sponsored the King's School Barrel Bots team who are entering the national Tech Challenge competition once again. President

Richard Thomas presented team member Tom with a cheque for £518 which came from donations made in memory of one of our former Presidents, Henry Dudding, who sadly passed away recently. Emma Bradshaw-Smith and Richard visited the students in their 'tech lab' to learn more about how they go about constructing their Robot and the challenges it must achieve.

We have also sponsored Ottery Cricket Club with a donation of £250 towards the setting up of a girls' U13 cricket team, and we look forward to hearing how they progress.

Otter Valley Rotary meet on a Tuesday evening at 7.00 pm at the Tumbling Weir Hotel for a meal, often followed by a speaker and fellowship. If you'd like to find out more about joining us please contact our Secretary, **David Incoll**, at d.incoll@live.co.uk

Ottery St Mary Bowling Club

The final few matches of the Bowling Season saw Shaftesbury Bowling Club visit Strawberry Lane and a close match ensued, which was greatly enjoyed by both teams. Lunch was provided to the visiting team, another superb meal created by our excellent catering team.

The Chairman's Day took place a few days later, organised by new Chairman, Carl Gilleard. On this occasion two teams were created, one representing 'North and East England' and the other the 'South and West.' 48 members dressed accordingly and a fierce, but fun, battle of the regions ensued on the rink with the winners being declared as those born more locally! A very good cream tea was enjoyed by all players after the match with the usual debate about 'cream or jam first,' (cream obviously!!).

We then welcomed Brendon Bowling Club (known as the BBC), who travelled down from Worcestershire for their annual tour. Following a delicious lunch the visitors gave Ottery bowlers an enjoyable afternoon of bowls but left with a substantial defeat.

The Club Finals weekend was hotly contested with the many different competitions having run throughout the summer. The two 'Champion of Champions' singles winners, who now go forward to the regional finals, are Shirley Fewtrell and Tony Panzeri. All the winners and runners up will receive their trophies at the annual dinner.

The green is now closed until April 2025 so members will spend the winter playing skittles in the Clubhouse and enjoying other indoor sports and events. Meanwhile the greens team are hard at work all winter ensuring the green will be in prime condition ready for next season.



OTTERY ST MARY
CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CAROLS FOR CHOIR & AUDIENCE

plus "GLORIA" - POULENC and an orchestral
piece by VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

**7:30 pm Saturday,
14th December, 2024**
OTTERY ST. MARY PARISH CHURCH

TICKETS £16, including refreshments (*accompanied children free*)

Available from: CURIOUS OTTER BOOK SHOP

MILL STREET (Mon. - Sat. 9:15am - 4:00pm)

Tel. 01404 814 469

and online via:

TicketSource

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Morning Coffee



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Friday January 31st

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Do You Qualify?

Are you over State Pension age, or know someone who is?

With the removal of the winter fuel payment, it is worth checking you are getting all the welfare benefits you are entitled to. If you are over state pension age, you may be eligible to claim **Pension Credit**.

People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get:

- The **Winter Fuel Payment** and other help with heating costs
- Housing Benefit for help with rent and/or Council Tax Reduction to help with Council Tax. You can apply on the EDDC website for this - <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/housing-benefit-forms/apply-for-housing-benefit-council-tax-reduction/>
- A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments

You could be eligible for Pension Credit if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner that lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income levels may be higher in some circumstances.

Pension Credit and Council Tax Reduction can be claimed even if someone owns their own home or has some savings (capital limit may apply)

You can check your eligibility by using the online calculator <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator> or by calling 0800 99 1234. If eligible, you can apply online - <https://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/apply-citizen-ui/start>.

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

Dec 1	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Dec 8	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Dec 13	15.45	Messy Church
Dec 15	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Dec 19	16.30	Christingle service
Dec 22	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
	18.30	Carols
Dec 24	16.30	Crib Service
	23.30	Holy Communion (sung)
Dec 25	9.00	Holy Communion (said)
	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Dec 29	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jan 5	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Jan 12	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jan 17	15.45	Messy Church
Jan 19	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jan 26	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)