

# **The Messenger**



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



**June - July 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?**

<i>Other West Hill Clergy</i>	Revd. Mac Dick macdick1@aol.com Revd. Ann Turner jandaturner@btinternet.com	371064  813476
<i>Pastoral Care Coordinator</i>	<i>vacant - contact Team Vicar or Churchwardens</i>	
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Pam Johns ( <i>also Sacristan</i> ) pam-johns1@hotmail.co.uk Fiona Rimmer fionahrimmer@me.com	814096  815057
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>vacant - contact Churchwardens</i>	
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	Joanna Bromley joannambromley@hotmail.com	07879 220011
<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>	Sue Ritchie Suepaul.ritchie@btinternet.com	814811
<i>Verger</i>	<i>vacant - contact Churchwardens</i>	
<i>Church Hall Bookings</i>	Sue Lock or	812947 07984 881398
<i>Website</i>	<b><a href="http://www.ottervalechurches.org">www.ottervalechurches.org</a></b>	
<i>Church address</i>	Bendarroch Road, West Hill, EX11 1UW	
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Contacts: **Mac Dick**      **01404 371064**  
**Rosemary Hudson (for Advertising)**

MacDick1@aol.com  
hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com

**PLEASE NOTE** The last date for copy for the August/September edition is  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 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



In a conversation I was having with someone a few weeks ago, we found ourselves talking about King Charles and his cancer. Back in April, the King had spoken quite openly about his experience of having cancer and receiving treatment. As our King, he probably has access to the very best treatment available, but nevertheless, cancer is no respecter of human status. As we talked about this, we agreed that the

King's openness about his own illness and vulnerability made him more like the rest of us—more relatable (if you will forgive me that ugly word). We can probably relate to a man struggling with his health more easily than a crowned King enthroned in his palace.

If you have ever stood at the railings outside Buckingham Palace, looking up to see whether the Royal Standard is flying, you will know that the King in his palace seems a very remote figure. The railings stop us from getting anywhere near the palace building. And even though we can see the façade of the palace, we have no idea where the King might be behind the rows and rows of windows.

If that is how it feels staring through the railings in London, how much more do we feel that sense of remoteness when we think of God? We cannot even find the railings around heaven let alone catch a glimpse of God's heavenly home. We may stare up into a blue sky and imagine, but we know we are just looking at refracted sunlight. We may stare with wonder at a starry sky and get a sense of its vastness, but we know that we are looking at a big galaxy. God is very remote. To use a fancier term, he is transcendent.

King Charles' willingness to let his vulnerability show helped to build a bridge between his world and ours. A king with human frailty seems less remote. And in doing this, Charles was being very God-like.

God knew that he was too transcendent for us to ever reach him, so he came down to us. Not only did God step down from heaven in the person of Jesus Christ, but he willingly made himself completely vulnerable. It is hard to imagine a more vulnerable scene than a person stripped naked and literally pinned to a piece of wood.

God chose to become a vulnerable, frail human-being because what he wanted more than anything is not to be remote but to be known by us and for us to be known by him.

**Mark**

## Children's Page



In June and July, the days get longer and warmer, which means we can spend more time outside. Flowers and shrubs have 'woken up' after their winter sleep and our gardens and hedgerows are looking colourful again providing food for insects and wildlife. Gardens can also be used to grow food for ourselves.

The photo shows part of last year's harvest from a West Hill garden. Do you grow fruit and vegetables in your garden? If not, why not have a go?! Some are easy to grow from seed such as lettuce and herbs. But there are also lots of young starter plants to choose from in garden centres. Just pick your favourites. Enjoy looking after them over the summer and then eating them to keep you healthy. Yum!

### Dates for Your Diary

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June – (3.45 – 5.15pm) – Messy Church.** Weather permitting, we'll be outside in the churchyard looking at the plants, insects and wildlife. Games, picnic tea and guitar-led songs too!

**NB No Messy Church meetings in July & August as we take a summer break**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Family Barn Dance at Royal British Legion**

Following the success of last year's Barn Dance, Messy Church will be organising a repeat event. More details to come but put the date in your diary now!



## Children's 'Veggie Face' Tortilla Recipe



### Ingredients

Tortilla wrap  
 Topping sauce e.g. hummus,  
 cream cheese, yoghurt  
 Fresh vegetables such as:  
 Carrot (makes good hair if grated!)  
 Tomatoes  
 Cucumber  
 Peppers  
 In fact, anything you like!

### Instructions

Spread your topping sauce all over the tortilla  
 Chop, slice or grate the vegetables (get an adult to help you)  
 Use the vegetables to make a 'face', then eat! Yum!!

## Vegetable Jokes

**Q.** What do you call an onion that laughs?

**A.** A tickled onion!

**Q.** Which vegetable did Noah not take on the ark?

**A.** The leek!

**Q.** What's the quickest vegetable?

**A.** A runner bean!

## Welcome Café

My sincere apologies for cancelling the Welcome Cafés in March and April. The cancellation in March was due to problems with the water supply to the Narthex, now fixed. The cancellation in April was due to the installation of new windows as part of the eco-upgrade and having to schedule the work in between Easter and other activities in the church. In future I will try and get the information out to customers via the St Michael's website or the West Hill Facebook page.

There is another change - the **Welcome Café on May 30<sup>th</sup> will be held at the vicarage** by kind permission of Revd. and Mrs. Ward. This is while the Narthex is being decorated. Everyone is most welcome.

The Cafés in June and July will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> July. We hope all will be back to normal by then. It's been a bit of a rough ride but I'm sure you will all understand and help support us. **Christine Smith**





## Three Peaks Challenge

Recently, one of our Messy Church families set themselves quite a challenge – as Cathy Armstrong describes:

Over the Easter period, we completed the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge as a family. This involves climbing the three highest mountains in Wales: Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa), Cadair Idris, and Pen y Fan and included a total walking distance of 17 miles (27.4km) and an ascent of 2334 metres (7657ft).

The children loved it and said the following about their experience:

Abbie: "When I did the three peaks, I had to go up three mountains. I was tired at the end but I didn't give up"

Daniel: "I loved my journey up the three peaks. It was sometimes hard but I

learned a lot, especially not to give up and to take lots of jelly babies!"

We're all looking forward to Scafell Pike in May!

**The Armstrong family**



# MEN'S HEALTH MATTERS

IT'S OKAY TO  
ASK FOR HELP

Join us at  
**Coleridge Medical Centre**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
**11 – 2pm**

*Guest speaker*  
**Dr Crundwell,**  
*Consultant Urologist*  
*at 12 noon on all*  
*things prostate*  
*cancer*

Find out advice & support on a whole range of men's health topics such as:

- Mental health
- General health & wellbeing
- Cardiovascular prevention
- Carers
- Low income / Debt / Benefits

*This event has been brought to you by the 'Ottery & District Health Matters' group*

Topsham Friends of Hospiscare present

**Sun 20th July 2025**  
**4-7 pm**  
**21 Victoria Rd**  
**Topsham**  
**EX3 0EU**

# JAZZ & OTHER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

**Tickets £10**

Available from  
**Topsham Book Shop, Topsham Hospiscare, at the gate or via [Hospiscare.co.uk](http://Hospiscare.co.uk)**

Bring your own picnic, refreshment, blanket, chairs and tables.  
Wine available by the bottle.

Scan here to buy tickets

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[www.hospiscare.co.uk](http://www.hospiscare.co.uk)  
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## And can it be

Hymns help us express deep thoughts about a wide range of themes – the nature of God, Jesus' life, the Holy Spirit, worship, confession and so on. One very powerful group are the ones based on the author's own spiritual journey. And of these, this edition's hymn is arguably one of the best – Charles Wesley's 'And can it be'.

Wesley was born in 1707 (one of 19 children!). His father was a Church of England rector. In 1735 Charles entered the Anglican ministry but he was unsure of his faith. In 1738 he had a conversion experience where he 'gave myself to Christ, assured that I was safe... I had the continual experience of His power ... I now found myself at peace with God'. It was this joyful experience that inspired Charles to immediately write his now-famous hymn 'And can it be'. Wesley was a prolific composer, writing at least 8000 hymns!

The hymn takes us through his experience of becoming a Christian. The first two verses pose a series of questions: 'And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?, Died he for me who caused His pain?' and verse two 'The immortal dies: Who can explore His strange design?'. The words express the wonder of God's redemptive power.

Verse three speaks of Jesus' incarnation and death 'He left His Father's throne ... and bled for Adam's helpless race', based on Philippians 2:6-8.

In the fourth verse Wesley recounts Peter and Paul's miraculous release from prison (told in Acts) – 'I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off...' to reflect salvation. The final verse opens with a statement from Romans 8:1 'No condemnation now I dread' is a confirmation of the Christian faith. The hymn is now commonly sung to the tune Sagina, composed in 1826 by Thomas Campbell.

*And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?*

*'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies: Who can explore His strange design? In vain the first-born seraph tries To sound the depths of love divine! 'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, Let angel minds enquire no more.*

*He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race; 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.*

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

*No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

**Geoff Green**

## A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

It was good to see so many folk at the VE Day Service on May 8<sup>th</sup> held at the Village War Memorial.

It was made extra special as we had our West Hill Councillor Trevor Ingram playing the Last Post and Reveille on his cornet together with Sid Brissenden, Vice President of the Royal British Legion reminiscing his childhood years during WWII. He painted a wonderfully nostalgic picture to the school council children from West Hill Primary School who read a beautiful set of wartime poems. It would be wonderful if we can involve the children again at the Remembrance event on November 11<sup>th</sup> later this year.

I felt it was sad and really disappointing that I had very little response about the possibility of a Youth Club in the village. I can recall myself benefiting hugely from being in a Youth Club when I was a teenager and research clearly shows the huge benefits to be gained through having a well functioning Youth Club or Group in our communities. So if it just slipped your mind why not send in something now to me at **MacDick1@aol.com**. I strongly believe that a well run Youth Club would be a real blessing to the village and more importantly to its young people!

Over the years much has been written about the decline in the number of people attending church. So I was pleasantly surprised to hear about a report called 'The Quiet Revival' produced by the Bible Society. This report paints a very different picture in 2024 compared to just 6 years before in 2018. Some of its key findings were:

- In 2018, just 4% of 18 to 24-year-olds said they attended church at least monthly. Today, this has risen to 16%, with young men increasing more than young women.
- Men are more likely to attend church than women.
- The churches in England and Wales are becoming more ethnically diverse, with one in five people coming from an ethnic minority.
- Around half of young black people aged 18 to 34 are now attending church at least monthly.

It goes on to say that young adults:

- show greater warmth and openness towards spirituality
- are the most likely group to pray regularly
- show the most interest in learning more about the Bible

These findings show a national picture and may not reflect what happens in small villages like West Hill. I encourage readers to google the report as it may include something that touches you.

I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy summer.

With every good wish **Mac Dick**

## West Hill Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 1160370

We have finally reached the summer months when we can all look forward to spending more time outdoors. Nevertheless there are many interesting activities taking place indoors, at the Village Hall.

Bookings by our Regular Users remain strong and we have a number of other bookings and events which include:

28 <sup>th</sup> June 25	West Hill Fete
4 <sup>th</sup> July 25	Force Charity Fashion Show (no staging)
12 <sup>th</sup> July 25	SW Quilters Convention (staging)
19 <sup>th</sup> July 25	West Hill Conservatives – Summer Lunch
8 <sup>th</sup> Aug 25	Blood Donation
26 <sup>th</sup> Sep 25	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

As part of our defibrillator contract, we receive a free annual community CPR/Defibrillator training session delivered by NHS SWAST; this year we are planning to run the session towards the Autumn period. Regular users of the hall will be notified when the event date is set but all residents are welcome to come to this training session. If you are interested in receiving valuable training which might, at some time in the future, save the life of a friend, family member or another resident please contact Sarah Woolfries to register your interest and find out more details about the session.

In the last publication of the Messenger we advised that Sarah will be standing down in 2025 as our Finance and Administration Officer. After the publication we received several expressions of interest and I am delighted to say we have appointed Lynda Creegan to the position.

Lynda is a qualified accountant with years of experience including being a trainer of the SAGE accounting system, which we use. We believe you will find her to be a competent and pleasant successor to Sarah.

Over the next 3 to 4 months Sarah and Lynda will work together to ensure when Sarah leaves we are still in the position to offer a first class service to all users of West Hill Village Hall.

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July we will hold our Annual General Meeting, starting at 7.00 pm.

Please visit our website [www.whmessenger.info/west-hill-village-hall](http://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 am and 5.30 pm.

You may also contact Sarah by e-mail on:

**[bookings@westhillvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@westhillvillagehall.co.uk)**

**Colin Veale, Chairman, Village Hall Trustees**

## The Jewish Roots of our faith: 50 days

We escaped from Egypt, or so we thought. They begged us to go. They gave us silver and jewellery so we could barter for food and water on our way. We trekked from Rameses, pitched camp at Succoth and then again at Etham on the edge of the wilderness. A pillar of cloud before us by day and a pillar of fire to give us light by night. It all seemed like a dream, a miracle. We headed for the southern tip of the Negev desert, when Moses told us to go a different way. We headed down the side of the Red Sea, to Pi-HaHiroth - the place where sedge grows - and camped between Migdol - a fortified Egyptian city - and the Sea. We were opposite the place called Baal-Zephon, the Lord of the North. Then we heard it. Horses and chariots behind us. We were trapped! We shouted at Moses! "Weren't there sufficient graves in Egypt that you brought us here to die?". "Didn't we tell you we were better off there?". Moses stayed outwardly calm. "Don't be afraid," he said, "Stand still and see how the LORD will save you". We knew that he was talking about the God whose name he had said was "I AM".

You all know the story, the Sea parted and the sticky mud dried up. We walked across dry land between walls of water and when the Egyptians tried to follow, the mud became wet, their chariot wheels stuck and the walls of water crashed down over them. We had trekked for 43 days before we came to the mountain where Moses had met "I AM" in a bush that was burning but was not destroyed. Every time we had a need, this God came up trumps. We had food raining down at night - quail and a sweet bread-like stuff. "Ma nah?". We asked "What is this, pray". We got no answer, so that is what we called it, manna. It was fresh each day, but with a double portion every six days so we could rest on the seventh day. He brought water out of a rock when we were thirsty. He kept us safe when the ancient people of the valley, Amalek, tried to destroy us. He led us to an oasis when we needed rest.

We arrived at the mountain region in Midian, as the third new moon of the year was rising. A week later, on the 50th day after we left Egypt, God showed Himself to us in great power: there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud on the mountain; the mountain shook and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder - we were very afraid. But Moses went up the mountain and God gave him instructions of how we could live differently from the ways of other nations.

He said He was the One true God and we should always trust in Him alone.

That was the first Pentecost (Greek for 50), known to us as Shavu'ot - the Feast of Weeks.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent 40 days with us and, as God had commanded, we were counting the 50 days from Passover to Pentecost.

We saw Him ascend to heaven but He had promised that God would send His Holy Spirit to guide us, bring to mind all that Jesus had taught us and give us power to tell others of Him.

On the 50<sup>th</sup> day, in an echo of that first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to us in power. There was the noise of a rushing wind, we saw flames of fire resting on each other's heads. Then there was an increasing noise as we all began babbling in a variety of languages we didn't understand.

A crowd gathered outside the place where we were; Jews from all the countries around who had come to Jerusalem for the Feast. Each one heard us proclaiming the wonderful works of God in his own language. We were no longer afraid. That day 3,000 people were baptised.

That same Holy Spirit is available to us today. Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive".

**Ann Pangbourne**

*from Exodus 14-20 and Acts 2.*

## **OSM Heritage Society and Museum**

Registered charity CIO no. 1179598

Our Museum is now open for the Summer Season on Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week until September. Please check our website **[www.otteryheritage.org.uk](http://www.otteryheritage.org.uk)** for exact opening times as we regularly keep this up to date.

The museum's new exhibition this year shows the impact of the Second World War on Ottery St Mary and its townsfolk.

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

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm**

**Fairlynch – the Making of a Museum** by Trevor Waddington

A story of the Grade 2 listed Regency cottage 'Fairlynch' and how it became Budleigh Salterton's museum in 1967.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm**

**Romans in Britain** by Bryan Short

This talk covers the evolution of Roman Britain over nearly 4 centuries from invasion to withdrawal. Aspects include conflict, co-operation, construction and culture, highlighting dramatic events with their causes and effects along the way. Suitably illustrated, with a look at current archaeological finds and the prospect of future discoveries.

All enquiries, including annual membership (£20 single, £27.50 joint), to **Lynda Murlewski**, Hon. Secretary: **[otteryheritage@gmail.com](mailto:otteryheritage@gmail.com)**

## Birds of West Hill

By June all our birds will have laid their eggs and most eggs will have hatched. Our smaller birds will probably be raising a second brood. The table below gives the breeding statistics for a sample of local birds – illustrating the hard work required to raise the next generation:

<b>Bird</b>	<b>Clutch size</b>	<b>Egg weight</b>	<b>Days to hatch</b>	<b>Days to fledge</b>
Blue Tit	8 / 10	1.1g	14	18
Robin	4 / 5	2.4g	15	15
Chaffinch	4 / 5	2.2g	12	14
Blackbird	3 / 4	7.2g	13	15
Crow	3 / 4	20g	19	29
Raven	4 / 6	29g	21	40

Once hatched some chicks are virtually ready to face the world immediately (like duck chicks), others are born helpless and need parental care for some time after hatching.

For 80% of species hatchlings require intensive parental care. After hatching the growth rate of fledglings is slow and then increases rapidly. Feeding rates are highest around dawn, after a night with no food followed by a dip around mid-day and then increase towards dusk before hunkering down for the night.

During the early period of growth some organs grow quicker than others. The gizzard and liver grow quickly in the early phases to enable the chick to digest food. The gizzard is a digestive organ used to crunch food into an easily digested pulp. Chicks ingest grit into their gizzard to help masticate food. The chick must then develop the ability to thermoregulate followed by developing flight muscles and feathers, ready to face the outside world. Some chicks, like the Herring Gull, grow heavier than their parents. The chicks will swop to another parent if they think the new parents might be better at feeding them!

The fledging period ends when a bird can fly. For some species parental care does not end there. In some species such as birds of prey, owls and kingfishers, the young must learn survival skills, especially predation and feeding skills. Juveniles must watch their parents and then practise the observed skills until they are sufficiently proficient to live an independent life. In some species of songbird the junior males need to learn their species' song by listening to their fathers sing and then go off to practise. In some species of bird, close members of the same family will help raise young, such as members of the crow family and Long-tailed Tits.



Swifts fly considerable distances from their nest sites to feed. Mysteriously, adults can detect a cold weather front (which has a concentration of flies ahead of it) a considerable distance away and will fly there to feed. Unusually the chicks can slip into a state of torpor and survive for up to 5 days waiting for the returning parents.

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 Pre-School

West Hill Pre-School is expanding wraparound care for the breakfast club and after school club. It is currently a popular service provided for children from 3 years old up to 11 years. The expansion will ensure the service is available each day of the week and will increase capacity for the after school club.

We are therefore looking for two kind and caring individuals to join our team to help support this expansion.

Our busy and popular Pre-School is open Monday to Friday during term time. You would be working under the supervision of our Pre-School Manager and Wraparound Provision Leads to provide the highest quality early years provision for children of pre-school age.

We provide outstanding standards of childcare and education by providing a safe, caring and stimulating environment to enable the emotional, social and educational development of children, through individual attention and group activities.

To be successful in this role you will have experience within a childcare setting, and you will readily be able to show your energy, aptitude and enthusiasm for this.

We offer a competitive salary and pension contributions.

Please email **Natalie.Taylor@westhillpreschool.com** for a job description and application form. (Also available on **devonjobs.co.uk**).

## West Hill Parish Council

As I sit here on a lovely Sunday afternoon, writing this article, I can't help but feel grateful for the beautiful weather outside. The trees are starting to bud, and it's such a lovely time of year. It underlines all the things we have to be thankful for.

One of the ambitions of WHPC is to acquire some open land for the village residents to use for recreational activities. It would be great to have a place where the West Hill Wasps junior football team can practise, and where we can host community events like Fetes and Sports Days. We could also set

up a dog walking area and a picnic spot. It would be so nice to have something like that close to the village, but it's not easy to find.

Recently a field at Higher Metcombe came onto the market which wasn't perfect but would have worked. The vendor was asking for bids at very short notice and the Council worked hard to get a formal valuation of the land and submit a bid. Unfortunately, we were outbid by the successful buyer, but we did our best. We'll keep looking, and who knows, maybe one day we'll find something even better.

Being involved in a Parish Council can sometimes be frustrating. No matter how hard we work, things seem to move at a snail's pace. We've taken another step along the Village Hall Footpath project by placing an order for the flashing amber warning lights to be moved to a new location. This simple task still takes 12 weeks before the National Grid electricians can come and connect some wires. In the meantime, we're still waiting for permission from the Highways Department to paint some yellow lines on the road, even though they're the ones who want us to do it. It can all get a bit overwhelming!

We're working on another crucial project: the Emergency Plan. Recently, two of us tested some two-way radios to ensure they'd cover the village. Guess what? The trial was a success, even with the hills and dips that could've blocked the signal.

With more and more people needing homes, our Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is under even more pressure to develop a plan that will help to guide responsible and sustainable planning decisions affecting West Hill. They're working hard on a tough and complex task, and I can't thank them enough for their efforts. We can only develop a Neighbourhood Plan because we are a Parish Council, but we're facing some serious challenges. We still have three vacancies out of seven, and I'm worried that we might not be able to continue to function as a Council if things don't change.

I know I've asked for your support a lot lately, but we're really close to the edge. If we don't get more people on board and the Council collapses, we'll lose any chance to influence decisions about the future of our village. And that would be a huge shame.

So, I'm asking you again, if you're willing to join the Council, please let me know. We'd really appreciate it. And if you're not, I understand. But please, let's 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](mailto:clerk@westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

# The Royal British Legion West Hill

## Movie Nights

Doors open at 7.00 pm, Film starts at 7.30 pm, Admission free. All welcome!

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Conclave, 2024
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Where the Crawdads sing, 2022
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Wicked little letters, 2023
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	It snows in Benidorm, 2020
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Mississippi Burning, 1988
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Holland, 2025
14 <sup>th</sup> July	A simple favour, 2018
21 <sup>st</sup> July	A man called Ove, 2015

## Bingo Nights (Doors open 6.30 pm)

Sundays 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July

## Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 8<sup>th</sup> June & 13<sup>th</sup> July (7.30 pm to 10.00 pm)

**Crafters' Evenings:** Tuesdays 3<sup>rd</sup> June & 1<sup>st</sup> July (from 7.00 pm)

## Dads' Nights

Fridays 13<sup>th</sup> June &  
11<sup>th</sup> July from 8.00 pm

## Mums' Nights

Fridays 27<sup>th</sup> June &  
25<sup>th</sup> July

## Opera Nights

Opera Nights on holiday until September

## Other Events

**Ladies Probus**, 10<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30 pm

**West Hill Women's Group**, 5<sup>th</sup> June & 1<sup>st</sup> July

**Band Night**, 6<sup>th</sup> June – 'Plum Jam' from 7.00 pm

**Quiz & Ploughman's** 20<sup>th</sup> June from 7.00 pm

## Ottery St Mary Choral Society



We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who came to our Easter concert on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. We hope you enjoyed an evening of beautiful music.

We opened the programme, appropriately enough, with the "Easter Hymn" from Mascagni's popular opera "Cavalleria Rusticana". Our very own Pip Gascoigne-Pees

led with the soprano solo, her voice soaring over the choir to bring this beautiful music's message of redemption and hope for the future.

From this dramatic start we moved into "Voi Che Sapete" from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro", sung by our guest soloist Alison Kettlewell. We were so lucky to have Alison with us, amid her busy professional schedule, to give us a stunning performance of this light-hearted song that pokes gentle fun at the intensity and confusion of adolescent love.

Not to be outdone, it was the lads' turn next. Our guests Leslie Baker (Tenor) and Philip Lancaster (Baritone) gave an incredible performance of the Pearl Fishers' Duet "Au Fond du Temple Saint" from Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers". This duet tells of the bond of friendship between two men who had fallen in love with the same beautiful priestess. This bond caused them both to renounce that love to preserve their lifelong brotherhood. Leslie and Philip's voices were perfectly matched as they built up to the final thrilling declaration of lifelong brotherly love.

We then opened our headline piece, the Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle. Pip Gascoigne-Pees, with our guest soloists, gave us the dazzling solos and duets that delivered Rossini's heartfelt and emotional meaning. This was an outwardly religious piece of music, perfect for Easter, but with a very operatic heart. The centrepiece of the work, a long building crescendo layered around the words of the Mass affirming the story of the resurrection, allowed the choir to open full throttle and fill the church with gorgeous bold harmonies. The echoes of the final stirring chord, a call to "Grant us peace", closed the concert.

We would like to thank our guest soloists Alison, Philip and Leslie for their time and generosity and hard work, and Pip for her incredible performance. Special mention must also go to our superb orchestra, made up of local musicians who give their time and talents to help us stage these events. We could not do this without you. To all those who've helped us or been to see us perform this year, thank you; your support is vital to us.

The choir goes quiet now until we start rehearsing our Christmas programme. If you would like to join us for this, you would be very welcome.

We do not audition - all are welcome to sing with us. Our entry requirements are very straightforward: would you like to learn and sing some of the most beautiful choral music in the world? We meet at the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary, on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm. Our 2025-26 term starts on Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

**Peter Hudson** hudsonpc674@gmail.com

## **NACRE update**

Firstly, we want to say again, 'Thank you' to everyone who has helped us in any way to raise the money that is enabling us to do what we can to reduce the carbon footprint at St Michael's. (Nacre stands for Narthex and Church Refurbishment.)

By the time you read this, the Narthex refurbishment will be almost complete. This includes new windows, upgraded insulation, better lighting and improved IT and we hope a much brighter and more welcoming feel to the place. As with any project, there might be items like new furniture and furnishings to complete this part of our project, but we are excited to see the finished work and look forward to welcoming you, so you can see where the money generously given by the community and matched by the diocese, has been used.

So that is Part One of the project, watch this space for notice of the next phase.

**Pam Johns Churchwarden**

## **West Hill Arboretum Group**

On 12<sup>th</sup> April 10 of us walked along the Budleigh Nature Reserve; although it was a slightly overcast day, we had a lovely morning spotting Egrets, Reed Buntings, Canada Geese, Moorhen, Shelduck and Mallards amongst others, all while accompanied by music from an assembly overhead including chiff chaffs, wrens and goldfinch.

### **Highlight on Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)**

Hazel trees have been a friend of mankind since prehistoric times. The straight wood was coppiced (and still is by some for their bean sticks ) every seven years in rotation giving a continuous supply of hazel poles for wattle and daub panels, roofing material, hurdles, fencing and flower and bean poles etc. If you have the room, an area of hazel, cut in rotation will give you a supply of poles for your garden and gives ideal conditions for bluebells, primroses, wood anemones, red campions and many other plants in between. It's a shame this tradition has almost died out. It's so good for wildlife.

The Hazel is a small deciduous tree with irregular, toothed and rounded leaves of 2" – 3" long. They are downy on the surface. The male catkins, known in Devon as lamb's tails, are produced in January; the female flowers

are tiny upright greenish buds tipped with red. The nuts form in groups, green at first and ripening to brown.

I have fond memories of going into the woods in September to gather the ripe nuts with my grandmother. They were stored in the 'chimney corner' in paper bags and were much enjoyed at Christmas time. Nuts can only be stored when ripe, but the squirrels and mice may beat you to it !

Our next walk will be a **Bug Safari on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July**. Our walk will be led by an expert and there will be a free bug hunting kit for each child/couple who sign up in advance. We will be meeting at 11am at the entrance to the Devon Woodland Trust woodland on Lower Broad Oak Road. Please bring a picnic if you would like for after the walk/safari. If you would like to sign up for the walk and bug kit – please email Celina Herbert on **celina@herbert.mx** or call 07912061530 by 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Please could we also remind you that cutting hedges/ trees is restricted by law in the nesting season between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August each year. Please help protect our bird population.

Celina Herbert - Chairman Tel 07912061530

Eileen Perkins - Tree Warden Tel 01404 815905

## Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

Members and visitors thoroughly enjoyed our May demonstration when Carole Norman from near Bournemouth entertained us with her demonstration "Surprise Surprise".

We now turn our minds to June and July. Despite all the superstitions about "Friday 13<sup>th</sup>", it will be a good day this year as it is the date that our members are encouraged to take part in "The Lonely Bouquet"! Small bouquets will be left in random places around the local area for the finder to take home and enjoy (or perhaps pass on to someone else), underlining the NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) theme of "Friendship through Flowers". Hopefully some readers of The Messenger will come across a "Lonely Bouquet" on the 13<sup>th</sup> June while out on your travels – if you do, we hope that it makes you smile and brightens your day.

Our June Club night on June 17<sup>th</sup> is our annual garden visit, which is a members' only evening. This year several of us are off to visit the gardens at Sand Farmhouse on the outskirts of Sidmouth. A new garden to the National Open Garden Scheme, we are looking forward to enjoying a sociable evening together in wonderful surroundings and hope that the weather will be kind to us!

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July we welcome Barbara Clatworthy with her demonstration "Showtime". Barbara travels from Combe Martin to be with us and, as she is a NAFAS Area Demonstrator, we are sure to enjoy a



wonderful evening with Barbara inspiring us with her floral designs. As always, Barbara's arrangements will all be raffled at the end of the evening. For any members reading this, the July competition is "Sea Treasures" – please take part if you can.

Visitors are always welcome to come and enjoy our Club nights with us, so why not join us for Barbara's demonstration at **West Hill Village Hall, Beech Park, West Hill, EX11 1UQ – 7.30 pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Any enquiries: Karen Taverner, Club Secretary – 01404 811807**

## **West Hill Garden Club**

The year seems to be going along so quickly or is it because I'm writing this in April to report on Garden Club matters for June and July! After a month of dry weather we have now had rain with all the shrubs and plants starting the growing season well, but who knows what weather the summer has in store for all our carefully laid gardening plans.

June looks very exciting as firstly on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm** we are having an escorted **Walk on Dartmoor to see the Wild Flowers**. Following a Talk last year by Dartmoor Guide Paul Rendle we have arranged for him to lead us that day. Names and travelling arrangements will be taken at the regular Club meetings before that date.

On **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June** we will be meeting in the Village Hall at **7.30 pm** to hear **Roy Cheek speaking about Planting for Butterflies**. There should be several species to look out for in the countryside at that time of the year so we can learn about how to lure them into our gardens and be able to identify them.

Then on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June from 12 noon** we shall be holding our usual **Plant Stall at the School Fete on the Playing Field**. This is our major fund raiser each year and we are busy preparing already and hope we have a sunny day and lots of customers. Our prices are always very competitive, with a good range of plants, and we enjoy doing it.

In July we will be meeting in a **Member's Garden for our annual Picnic Lunch**. Venue, date and time will be announced to members at the previous meeting. We start with a glass of Pimms and then everyone tucks into their own picnic and tours the host's garden and we conclude with a cup of tea.

We welcome new members and visitors to our regular meetings held on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall (upstairs) at 7.30 pm. If you have an enquiry please contact our Chairman (Sheila Gillam 01404 814074) or Secretary (Pauline Wade 01404 813191) who will be happy to help you.

**Monica Highnam**

## Monday Afternoon Bible Study

.....will be moving to Monday mornings for the next series of studies. The course that we will follow is "Life Explored". It looks at the big questions of life and the answers that the Gospel offers. The films and the general presentation have been commended, by churches which have already done the course, for their high quality, clear presentation and engaging storylines.

Everyone is welcome to come along to St Michael's on these dates:

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> all at 9.30am

**Ann Turner**

## Volunteer with Tipton Scouts

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? Volunteering with Tipton Scouts offers a fantastic opportunity to make a lasting impact, while also gaining valuable skills and experiences.

Tipton Scouts is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It conducts weekly sessions with approximately 75 boys and girls from Tipton, West Hill, Aylesbeare and other nearby villages. It has use of a wonderful outdoor area located by the River Otter plus an ageing scout hut. The Trustees and Leaders see the development of additional and/or replacement buildings to enhance the use of the plot as being a key priority for the coming years (subject to planning, obviously!). Without the support of volunteers, the organisation would not be able to continue.

Whether you're an experienced leader or new to volunteering, there's a place for you.

- You might be 18-25 and looking to bolster your skills and CV.
- You might be recently retired with more time on your hands.
- You might be a stay-at-home parent, looking for more adult interaction a few evenings a year.
- You might be long since retired and remember fondly what scouting did for you, and decide to give something back.
- You might have recently moved to the area, and be looking to meet new people.
- You might be really busy with a career and/or family, but be the sort of person that can always fit something else in.
- Your employer might provide time off in lieu to help the local community.
- You might have planning, construction, project management or fundraising experience that would be invaluable to the current trustees

### Why Volunteer?

- ✿ Personal Growth and Skill Development
- ✿ Positive impact on youth and the community

- ✿ Build meaningful relationships
- ✿ Flexibility and convenience
- ✿ Making a real difference

### Other information:

No previous experience with Scouts or as a trustee is necessary. Training is provided and depending on the role, trustees typically meet 4-5 times per year and commit from just a few hours per month. This flexible schedule makes it easy to fit volunteering into your life.

How to Get Involved: we'd love to discuss our opportunities with you.

Please contact **Tipton Scouts** via email:  
**tiptonstjohnscoutgroup@gmail.com**

## West Hill Men's Supper Club

We meet on the second Monday of each month in the Narthex hall, which is attached to St Michael's Church in Bendarroch Road. We invite a wide variety of speakers with subjects encompassing science, the arts, history, sport and a range of life experiences.

Our evenings start at 6.45pm for drinks followed by a two-course dinner provided by a local caterer. The meal is then followed by a talk. The current charge is £25 per person which includes drinks, meal and speaker costs.

The talks arranged for the next few months:

9<sup>th</sup> June: Master Wheelwrights by Appointment to the King

Jul/Aug: Summer Break

8<sup>th</sup> Sep: Topic to be announced

Visitors or prospective members are welcome. If you are interested in coming for a taster evening or finding out more about us, please contact **John Rowland** at **j.v.rowland@btinternet.com** or 01404 813027.

## 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 'church 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.

**Note for Welcome Pack contributors** - have there been any changes to the details for your organisation/group? If so, please send an updated note to **hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com**

**Rosemary Hudson**

## Hospiscare News

We are incredibly grateful for our local community who continue to support Hospiscare. Every step taken, every penny raised, and helping hand makes a real difference. Your continued support helps us provide care, comfort and dignity to those who need it most.

From donating themed fleece throws for our patients staying on our inpatient ward, cheering people on, donating to individuals, offering raffle prizes, helping at our fundraising activities, growing plants, baking cakes, honestly we are overwhelmed with the gratitude for the incredible ongoing support to Hospiscare, thank you to our community, you are the heart of everything we do!!

Farewell from me!! I want to take this opportunity to thank all my supporters in and around West Hill and the surrounding areas for your amazing support. I'm still working for Hospiscare and my role as a fundraiser won't change but my area will. From mid July I will be looking after our supporters in Exmouth, Budleigh, Sidmouth, Topsham, Lympstone, Woodbury, Axminster and Seaton. Your new Area Fundraiser Sharon Collins can be contacted on 01392 424960 or email [s.collins@hospiscare.co.uk](mailto:s.collins@hospiscare.co.uk)

**Hospiscare New Service** – Rapid Response goes from strength to strength.

We launched our rapid response service in October 2024. After its first few months of operation, it is on track to increase support to patients experiencing acute symptoms or deteriorating health, with positive feedback from patients and family members, and from colleagues in our other clinical teams. Operating across our full geographical area, the service provides at-home care, for up to 72 hours at a time, for patients who are experiencing acute symptoms or whose health is rapidly deteriorating.

In the first three months of this new service, our rapid response team saw 85 patients in 45 different locations across the heart of Devon. The team provided specialist support to patients and their families, including fitting syringe drivers to provide a steady flow of medication and administering seven 'just in case' medicines.

Syringe drivers are small battery-powered pumps that help to keep patients comfortable and manage symptoms by delivering medicines through a small tube just under the skin. 'Just in case' medicines are medicines that can be given quickly if a patient has sudden distressing symptoms, such as nausea, breathlessness, pain or agitation.

Thank you for being by our side for the last 40 years caring for those in your community.

**Toni Hiscocks** Area Fundraiser – East Devon 01392 688067

## West Hill Art Group

### Tigers around West Hill !!!!!

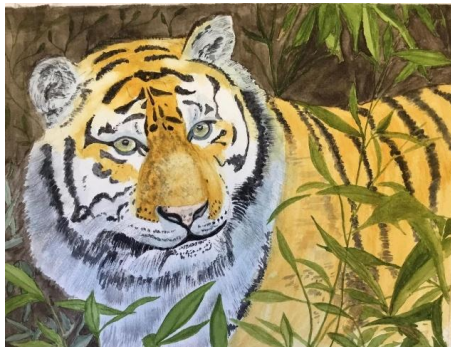
There has been a glut of tigers produced by the Art Group showing different styles. We have been working hard on lots of subjects and new techniques. At the moment we are working on beached old boats which is proving a good subject. I send a few reference photos to the members and they choose their favourite to paint and as you can see Tigers proved a very popular choice.



*Painted by Mick Uttley*



*Painted by Graham Evans*



*Painted by Terry Butler*



*Painted by Emma Wilkinson*

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

## West Hill Women's Group



I'm writing this during the Easter weekend and I do hope that Good Friday's monsoon is a long distant memory by the time 'The Messenger' drops onto your doormat!

It was, however, a lovely sunny day when the speaker for our April meeting, Lottie Dale, regaled us with fun tales of

her nursing training and early years in the profession at St Bart's hospital in London. In her words, "They worked hard and they played hard!"

May was our AGM and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. A buffet lunch provided by the Hospiscare team followed the AGM and the second part of the celebrations will be the planting of a flowering tree in the grounds of the RBL Club garden.

Our talks for the next two months are:

**Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>** Hugh Sutherland will tell us about Coast Watch, which provides safeguarding nationally along our coastline, and keeps an eye on the safety of those using Exmouth Estuary.

**Tuesday July 1<sup>st</sup>** is a talk from Dave Underwood about West Hill Royal British Legion Club which is to be our charity of the year for 2025/26 and is, of course, where we hold our meetings.

If you are new to West Hill or would like to give the group another try, come as a guest for just £3 which includes coffee/tea and cake – we'd love to see you.

For further details please contact: **Pam Bartlett** on **07816 919142** or **pamela.bartlett1@btinternet.com**



## Tea & Toast & Toys on Fridays



Recently, Tea & Toast & Toys said a fond farewell to Ann Yates. She was one of the leaders who started the venture 20 years ago, together with Pam Johns and Rev. John Pangbourne. Ann has now moved to Somerset to be nearer to her family.

We meet every Friday from 8.45 -10am, upstairs in the Village Hall, **during term time only.**

**NB No T&T&T on 25<sup>th</sup> July or during August.**

Toddlers, Pre-schoolers, Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers can enjoy a chat and a cup of tea or coffee, whilst the little ones play with the toys. For the children, there is squash, milk and toast with jam/marmalade/Marmite.

Do come along – you don't have to have a small person in tow! All welcome!

If you want to know more, please contact: **Pam** (814096) or **Rosemary** (234578).



## Councillor's Column



I would like to thank the residents of West Hill for re-electing me to Devon County Council at the elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. I am delighted to have been re-elected and to have secured 2997 votes. Reform secured 983 votes, Conservatives 486 votes, Liberal Democrats 197 votes and Labour 70 votes.

The election has brought about significant change to the political make-up of Devon County Council, which had been led by the Conservative Group since 2009.

Prior to the election on 1<sup>st</sup> May, thirty nine out of the sixty Councillors were Conservative. However, the largest political group is now the Liberal Democrats with twenty seven councillors. The Labour Party lost all their six seats. Reform has eighteen councillors, the Greens six and I am one of two Independents.

At the time of writing, the Annual Meeting of Devon County Council has not yet taken place. It is at that meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May the Council will formally appoint the Leader (expected to be a Liberal Democrat) who then appoints his/her cabinet, and all the chairs of committees are appointed.

### **Planning applications**

I am really concerned that the lack of a 5 year land supply at EDDC is resulting in the approval of planning applications which would otherwise be refused. We have seen this most recently with a Permission in Principle application for two houses on Lower Broad Oak Road (ref 25/0173). This had previously been refused, with the refusal being upheld at appeal. However, at the planning committee meeting in April, EDDC approved the very same application. This was on the basis that the lack of 5 year land supply meant the 'tilted balance' now applied so the settlement boundary carried less weight. The settlement boundary is really important for West Hill because it prevents development sprawling into the open countryside and I am strongly opposed to its erosion. I made this point both in my objection and at the committee, but the application was nevertheless approved.

We are still waiting for the appeal decision on the application for 5 houses on Lower Broad Oak Road (ref 23/2612). I submitted my objection to this appeal, along with many residents, back in February but as yet there is no outcome.

### **Swift boxes now up at EDDC's HQ in Honiton**

Last October I tabled a notice of motion that required EDDC to install swift boxes at its HQ at Blackdown House, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton. Swifts have seen a sharp decline in numbers in recent years which has

been caused in part by the lack of nesting sites.

I was delighted that last week ten swift boxes were installed by EDDC. I know that it can take some years for swifts to adopt new boxes so I am urging the Council to use taped calls to alert the swifts to these new nesting opportunities. Fingers crossed the swifts find the new boxes this season.

**Cllr Jess Bailey** Tel: 01404 814056 Email: [Jessica.Bailey@devon.org.uk](mailto:Jessica.Bailey@devon.org.uk)

## West Hill Primary School

The summer term is well under way, and is typically a busy one as the school year builds to a conclusion. Before then, there is Sports Day, the Year 5 and 6 Summer Show ('Oliver with a Twist' this year), SATs tests, Times Tables Checks and much more. It never fails to surprise and impress just how much children change and develop over the course of a school year: our Reception intake are now roughly 20% older than when they started, while our year 6 pupils will be soon be spending time in their new secondary schools before they leave us for the next stage in their education.

The summer term (normally!) brings an improvement in the weather, meaning better use of the school field, with all year groups able to enjoy the space at lunchtimes and breaktimes, while Year 5 and 6 enjoy cricket coaching from Alex Clements. Sports Day is always a highlight of the year, and this year it took place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On a separate matter, representatives of the school council were present at the war memorial in the village for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, while the entire school came to a pause at 1.15 pm when two minutes' silence was held to honour those who suffered in the Second World War so that we can enjoy peace and freedom.

If any members of the local community would like to help in school, we are always keen for volunteers to come and hear our wonderful children read: please contact the school office at

**admin@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk** if you would be willing to give any of your time.

**Rob Pantling - Acting Headteacher, West Hill Primary School**

## West Hill Summer Fête



The 2025 West Hill Summer Fête is due to be held on **Saturday 28th June**. Plans are underway for another exciting afternoon. Save the date! Interested in having a stall? Individuals or groups welcome.

Please contact [Ptfawh@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Ptfawh@west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk)

## Otter Valley Rotary

Rotary have been delighted to have been able to make several presentations this Spring, firstly a cheque for £500 to the Air Ambulance, by Sir John Evans and Barrie Jones (see left below), following a very uplifting talk from air ambulance volunteer Peter at the end of last year.

We've also made a donation of £200 to Ottery Foodbank, with Julia Pithers and Barrie Jones (see right below) doing the honours this time on behalf of Rotary.



Once again we supported the bi-annual Dawlish Water Rotary Quiz in our area with several pubs taking part including the London Inn (Ottery) and the Nog Inn (Feniton). Many thanks to all those people that supported this event, making valuable money for Rotary causes.

Newton Abbot Rotary gave us a very interesting talk on how successful they have been in an initiative to attract Corporate members from businesses in their area to become Rotary members. This certainly gave us some food for thought as Rotary is not only an excellent way of networking but it's also about raising money for local organisations and charities which can be as part of a company's corporate social responsibility objectives.

On a fabulous sunny evening in April members enjoyed a guided tour of Exeter Racecourse, hosted by Clerk of the Course Jason. He enlightened us on how the Jockey Club operates and all that Exeter Racecourse does to ensure racing is as safe as possible for horses and jockeys and enjoyable for race goers too. We got to walk part of the course, and all agreed the jumps looked pretty big from ground level! The tour was followed by a tasty meal at the Devon Motel.

Once again Rotary will be running their bumper Community Raffle, details to follow in the next edition of the Messenger. It's a great way of securing funds for your organisation as 90% of all ticket sales are retained by you, and there are some attractive cash prizes.

Otter Valley Rotary meet every Tuesday at 7.00 pm at the Tumbling Weir Hotel for a meal, fellowship and often a talk from a speaker. If you would like to consider joining us please contact our Secretary **David Incoll** at **d.incoll@live.co.uk**



## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB, West Hill

### Appeal for Volunteer Committee Members

We are a small team of friendly and committed volunteers who run your local club, providing many services to the community and great facilities for all types of events.

To help run, grow and improve the club we are looking for new members to join our committee including a Club Treasurer and Club Secretary.

These roles are not arduous and with the gift of a few hours of your time each month then you could make a big difference to our community in West Hill.

Although useful, no particular experience or qualifications are required. Our meetings are once monthly in the evenings.

If you can help then please call Dave Underwood on 07766 928048



## Welcome Café

West Hill's village café



Last Friday of  
every month

See you there from 10.30 am onwards

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
at the Vicarage

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
and

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
in St Michael's Church Hall

**All welcome!**

Contact us via the form at:  
[www.whmessenger.info/contact](http://www.whmessenger.info/contact)

## West Hill

### Men's Supper Club



St Michael's Church Hall  
Bendarroch Road  
West Hill  
6.45 pm – 9.00 pm

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
Master Wheelwrights by  
Appointment to the King

**June/July**  
Summer Break

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**  
Topic to be announced

New members warmly welcomed  
Contact: John Rowland 01404 813027  
[www.whmessenger.info](http://www.whmessenger.info)

Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare presents

# SUMMER FETE

@  
Cadhay  
EX11 1QT

**Saturday 23 August**  
**12 - 4pm**

Beautiful gardens & house tour available  
Entertainment, BBQ, refreshments in the tea  
room, bouncy castle, side stalls, crafts, raffle  
and so much more!

**Entry - donation to Hospiscare**  
Well behaved dogs on short leads welcome

**GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!**

With thanks to Mr R Thistlethwaite of Cadhay

Because every day matters  
[www.hospiscare.co.uk](http://www.hospiscare.co.uk)  
Hospiscare  
Your local hospice

## West Hill Garden Club



**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.00 pm

Dartmoor Wildflower walk  
Paul Rendle

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

West Hill Village Hall  
Beech Park

7.30 pm – 9.30 pm  
Planting for Butterflies  
Roy Cheek

**For further information contact:**  
**01404 813191**

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



*Over two days, 120 children from West Hill Primary School visited St Michael's Church for an 'Experience Easter' event. Amongst other activities, they created this Palm Sunday 'road'.*

## Services in Church

Jun 1	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Jun 8	10.30	Joint OVMC service at Ottery St Mary
Jun 15	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jun 19	19.00	Simply Worship
Jun 20	15.45	Messy Church
Jun 22	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jun 29	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jul 6	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Jul 13	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jul 20	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jul 27	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)

## Zoom Services

On the first and third Sunday of each month at 9.30am for the whole Mission Community.

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