# The Messenger



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



October - November 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?

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macdick1@aol.com

Revd. Ann Turner 813476

jandaturner@btinternet.com

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pam-johns1@hotmail.co.uk

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Sue Lock 812947

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PCC Treasurer Joanna Bromley 07879 220011

joannambromley@hotmail.com

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Verger vacant - contact Churchwardens

Church Hall Bookings Sue Lock 812947

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PLEASE NOTE The last date for copy for the December/January edition is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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



At this time of year many churches, including our own here in West Hill, celebrate harvest thanksgiving. The practice of giving thanks to God for the provision of food from cultivated land goes back all the way to when the Hebrews left their slavery in Egypt and moved into the promised land, over three thousand years ago! So we, in our generation, give thanks to God for the crops from our cultivated land. But what will

that harvest be like this year? As I write this at the end of August, we are still in an extremely dry period and farmers are warning that the harvest of some crops will be poor this year.

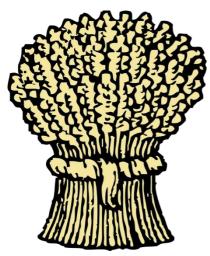
For those of faith it feels right to pray for rain. Some of us did this together a few weeks ago. Every Saturday, at 9am, people from across the Otter Vale Mission Community gather online through a Zoom link on the Otter Vale Churches website (look for OVMC Morning Prayer for Creation on the homepage) to pray for God's creation. On 16<sup>th</sup> August we were praying for rain. Team Rector Lydia was not available that day so I not only joined in but led these prayers. We need rain to make the crops grow; we need crops to live.

However, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August was also my daughter's birthday, and in the afternoon we were going to be a party of seven adults and five children. I really wanted it to be dry so that we—especially the children—could be outside in the garden. Although I had prayed for rain in the morning, I would have been disappointed if it had rained that afternoon. I was praying for rain and praying that it would not rain! What do we do with that? Perhaps a better question is: What does God do with that? Does God answer our prayers?

Farmers and gardeners were praying for rain. All of us who want to eat should have been praying for rain. And yet, on every day there is someone having a special occasion. I have often prayed with couples on the eve of their wedding day that it would be dry on their special day. If the weather has been really dry and sunny for a long period, you do understandably feel disappointed if it rains on the one day that is most important to you. "Why today?" you cry, "Why me?"

How does our good, loving God respond when he receives multiple but contradictory prayer requests from his children? The answer is, He does what is best. It may be what we want, but it may be someone else's prayer. Because in the background of every prayer we whisper, "Thy will be done."

# Children's Page 1



#### **Autumn Harvest**

The word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word 'haerfest' meaning 'autumn', the season for gathering the fruit of the land. It was a very important time of the year when success was a matter of life and death. A prosperous harvest made sure that a community would be fed during the barren winter months.

Today, while we still celebrate the gathering of the harvest, the focus is more on helping those in need, often through food banks. Ottery Food Bank is always in need of donations. If you are able to

donate dried or tinned foods, there is a collection box in St Michael's Church. Thank you!

This year, St Michael's Harvest Service will be held at Café Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October (9.30am). This will be an informal all-age celebration in the Church Hall – with coffee, croissants and bacon butties! All welcome.

#### **Dates for Your Diary**

**Sunday 5**th **October** – Harvest Service/Café Church (9.30am)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Messy Church (3.45 – 5.15pm)

**Friday 31st October** – Lite Nite (5 – 6.30pm) BBQ & Light Disco! See

advert on page 28

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Messy Church (3.45 – 5.15pm) Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Messy Church (3.45 – 5.15pm)



Messy Church is generally for the 3 – 11 years age group but everyone is welcome. We provide tea for the children, which is followed by stories, songs and crafts! Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For more information, please contact Rosemary

hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com

# Children's Page 2

Name:	Date:	



# AUTUMN WORD SEARCH



Find the words below in the word search.

S	А	S	Р	D	В	F	G	С	Е	А	Н
С	S	Q	U	Ĩ	R	R	Е	L	J	С	Ĭ
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SQUIRREL ACORN PUMPKIN LEAF CHESTNUT HARVEST RAIN HEDGEHOG SCARECROW RAKE SQUASH JACKET

# **Monday Afternoon Bible Study**

It's not difficult to make a list of what Christians do. We go to church, read the Bible, sing hymns, pray, and more, but that doesn't tell us much about what the experience of being a Christian is like. DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED is an eight-week course of meetings that aims to fill that space.

The series is based on the New Testament book of Philippians, and each week's video presentation is full of human stories about people's experience of being Christians in the world that they live in. The experience for example of being a Christian in a country where Islam is the prime faith, is very different from what we know. The structure of each meeting will be as in previous "Explore" courses that we've done: following the video, a short Bible study and then discussion in small groups, over tea or coffee.

Do note that this course is not designed only for people who are new to faith. It will be particularly helpful to those of us who have been Christians for a long time and could benefit from a refresher.

The meetings are free and will be held in the Narthex room in the church, beginning on October 6<sup>th</sup> and ending on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We normally meet on Monday afternoons, but if Monday mornings would enable more people to come, that can easily be arranged.

Ann Turner 813476

## **Book Review**

Former Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev'd Robert Atwell, has released a new book dedicated to the people of the Diocese of Exeter. The book, entitled 'Bewilderment: A Spiritual Companion', was inspired by one of his Quiet Days that he regularly held for clergy. In his final year, before retiring in 2023, Bishop Robert focused one of these Quiet Days on the prophet Jonah, developing a theological reflection he described as the "Spirituality of Bewilderment."

Bishop Robert said, "Of all my Quiet Days, it was this theme that resonated the most strongly with the clergy. So in retirement I decided to turn it into a book which has just been published." In the book, Bishop Robert uncovers how the book of Jonah offers a strikingly relevant theology for our time - one that grapples with isolation, protest, anger, fear and depression, all under the shadow of divine presence during personal turmoil. Bishop Robert said, "Chapters about Jonah are interleaved with reflections on where we are at as a society. As a generation, we have become profoundly anxious - and not without reason. How do we live without anxiety in an anxious world?" In the book, Bishop Robert explores how Jonah still speaks to us, offering insight and hope to an anxious generation.

Available from Canterbury Press

# Ottery St. Mary Choral Society – We're Back!

We are a non-auditioning community choir with a shared love of choral music. We exist for the enjoyment that singing together brings us, as well of course to entertain our audiences. Our members come from Ottery and the surrounding towns and villages. For 120 years we have given a good go at singing some of the most beautiful choral music in the world.

The choral society's main piece for Christmas 2025 will be Schubert's Mass in E-flat, and the Spring 2026 centrepiece will be Haydn's "The Creation". We resumed rehearsals for the Christmas concert on Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Spring programme starts on Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup> 2026, all in the United Reformed Church, Ottery St. Mary.

If you would like to sing with us, you would be very welcome. Turn up, sign up, pick up some music, and you're off. Contact **osmcs@hotmail.co.uk** for more details.

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828) wrote eight Masses. He completed his last, confusingly called "Mass number 6" (don't ask), in summer 1828. It was first performed on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1829 under the musical direction of his brother Ferdinand. Schubert himself never lived to hear any of the rehearsals or performances of this work, falling fatally ill of typhoid fever in late October 1828, dying on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1828. We will be performing this beautiful piece, his last large-scale work, on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> in the parish church.



Photo by Mark Gilronan

It isn't just this inspiring and beautiful music that brings our members back each term. Many of our members have been with the choir for a long time; some for more than 25 years. Our members all cite enduring friendships and the gain in self-confidence that they get when singing as a group. Here are some quotes from members old and new:

... "Having recently moved into Ottery I went to and enjoyed the Christmas concert so asked about joining. I have been made very welcome and really enjoy the weekly rehearsals."

... "The main reason I turn up on Wednesday evenings is to try to learn the piece of music that has been chosen for us. It is quite a steep learning curve as my music reading is strictly in the elementary stage. I enjoy the humour and the nonsense of the evening and shutting out the humdrum for a couple of hours and just focus on trying to hit the right note."

... "I joined the choir about twenty-three years ago when I first moved to this

area to firstly make some friends - which I have done. But mostly because I love singing and I believe that you can't be unhappy if you are singing! And it is very special to sing with a group of like-minded people to make such a beautiful sound and what an achievement it is when we have tackled a more difficult piece to give others pleasure."

... "Sometimes in the winter I am more reluctant to go out to choir practice on a cold dark night but once I join everyone else and enjoy a lovely piece of music to work on, it's worth it!"

... "I thoroughly enjoy the singing, even when I get it wrong. I love meeting new people (very important having retired from 150 miles away)."

So come along for the music, stay for the friendship, and rise to the challenge!

# **Simply Worship**

For the last two years Cag Ward and I have been putting together simple contemporary worship services twice termly. It started as a time for us to enjoy worshipping together and learn some new songs and revisit older ones. As people wandered into the church, some asked if we would put on the occasional service so others could join in. We took this as a nudge from God and the Simply Worship services soon started.

The services are for anybody who loves to worship God, from any church or denomination. There is no sermon or liturgy but each service is firmly based on scripture. They are often inspired by the Psalms, the main worship inspiration that Jesus would have been steeped in. The services are an hour long and are mostly sung worship accompanied by acoustic guitars. Some of the songs are well known modern worship songs, others are ones that have been written very recently and we are learning for the first time.

A flyer goes into the Otter Vale churches that Rev Mark Ward is vicar of, giving details of the upcoming service including any new songs that people might like to listen to online to become familiar with before the service. If you would like to have these details, e-mail me: Jane Follett - janefoll@aol.com and I'll send you a digital copy of the flyer.

This term's Simply Worship services at St Michael's Church are:

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 - 8pm Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 6 - 7pm

If you enjoy contemporary worship in a relaxed atmosphere, sometimes with times of quiet just being in God's presence or raising the roof in praise, then do come and join us. This term we have been inspired by the book "Holy Roar" by Chris Tomlin and Darren Whitehead which "provides insight and encouragement to deepen our practice of praise." Expect lots of inspiration from the Psalms!

Jane Follett

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Back in the June/July edition I mentioned the VE Day Service on May 8th and now that has shortly been added to with the VJ Day celebration on August 15th. We were again blessed with a wonderful turnout at the War Memorial which as usual looked absolutely beautiful thanks again to the hard work of Sid Brissenden and Clive Thomas.

With the dreadful world situation as a backcloth I thought the opening prayer at this event was worth repeating here as a reminder to us all that peace never comes without a price, often a heavy one.



Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness. And as we remember the many who gave their lives opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for those who continue to strive for peace

VJ Day 1945 Piccadilly Circus now. We also need to remember the

hundreds of thousands of Japanese who perished at Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the price of peace. But today we gather joyfully, as those who gathered on that first VJ Day in 1945, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

I am a regular reader of Sorted Digital (can be found on Google). The September edition looks at Energy, Encouragement and Emotions. I strongly recommend this online magazine. Some extracts might encourage your interest.

Where does this British virus of negativity come from? Is it a leftover from a World War 2 generation that were bombed into believing that there might not be a horizon beyond their horror? They certainly had every reason to lose hope, as they cowered in underground stations during the Blitz, and dared not expect too much. Have we, a younger, unbloodied generation, embraced some of their stoicism, without ever having experienced the horrendous pressures that they faced daily? Are we just boringly negative without cause, we who, half a century later, have never had it so good? Loaded under our mountains of videos, Game Boy consoles, holidays in the sun and a host of other stuff, we're still nervous of being happy? One antidote for the negative bug is encouragement and affirmation. A friend of mine has, in my opinion, the greatest gift of encouragement I've ever seen. He can always be relied upon to come up with some jaunty comment to

help bring a little sunshine into an otherwise dingy day.

Perhaps you know somebody like that who can lift our spirits or maybe you are that person yourself.

The digital world is immersive, drawing you in from a relatively safe place to something much darker with only a couple of clicks. What goes in through our ears and eyes affects our thinking, and if we're not careful it can affect our ability to distinguish between what is fun and what is harmful. Digital content is a world away from my fairly tame re-enactment of wild west adventures as a young boy playing in local fields with my pal from up the street.

It seems to me that it's all too easy to slip into a virtual reality, and we may need to be intentional about guarding our hearts and our minds. The NHS web site has this to say: "It's easy to stop noticing the world around us. It's also easy to lose touch with the way our bodies are feeling and to end up living in our heads, caught up in our thoughts without stopping to notice how those thoughts are driving our emotions and behaviour."

An Ancient Proverb says this: Turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to one's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:21-23 NIV

In our world of easy and sometimes accidental access to bad stuff, this piece seemed so relevant to our lives today so much of which is impacted by electronics and now Al. Any problems are exacerbated by our children and even our grandchildren being more tech savvy than us more senior citizens. Food for thought.

I wish you all a great and safe Autumn

Mac Dick

## **West Hill Garden Club**

The summer months brought all the sunshine we could have wished for as temperatures remained in the high twenties day after day, enabling us to enjoy living outside. The lawns, trees and plants, though, weren't quite so happy as they struggled for moisture and relied on watering. We were lucky not to have a hosepipe ban so watering just became part of the daily routine. As the saying goes – be careful what you wish for!

Moving into Autumn our October meeting takes place on **Thursday October 9th in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm** when instead of a Speaker we have a Demonstrator. Member **Monica Highnam** will show how to **Construct and Decorate a Seasonal Door Wreath** with hints and tips on how to make your own in time for Christmas. You could even make one for Halloween this year. If you don't do one for Christmas, you could make one for Easter next year, as the technique is the same, whatever the season. It's just the decoration that varies.

A list of names and menu choices for our Christmas Lunch (all details supplied) will be open that evening, and also the daffodil bulbs for our annual competition (held next Spring) will be available to purchase.

In November we hold our **AGM**. This will be on **Thursday November 13**<sup>th</sup> **in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**. We have enjoyed a very good year with lively speakers, interesting outings, and a steady membership. At each AGM we always hope new committee members will step forward to maintain our friendly and thriving Club. The AGM is followed by our very popular **Bring and Share Finger Food Supper** with wine and soft drinks supplied by the Club. There will also be a raffle for Club funds.

New members and visitors are always welcome. If you have any enquiries please contact our Chairman **Sheila Gillam** 01404 814074 or Secretary **Pauline Wade** 01404 813191 who will be happy to help you.

Monica Highnam

# **West Hill Men's Supper Club**

We gather monthly usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday for a couple of drinks followed by a two-course meal and a talk by an invited speaker. The topics for the two autumn meetings are:

13<sup>th</sup> October: Operational Detective-from an ex Chief Inspector 10<sup>th</sup> November: Exmouth National Coastwatch Institution

We have an interesting and varied programme throughout the year.

Our venue is the Narthex annex to St Michael's Church in West Hill starting at 18.45. We charge £25 (cash) which includes drinks and the meal.

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.

## **Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride**

By the time you read your Messenger this month, Team West Hill (currently five members) should have completed their cycle ride.

On our practice runs, we have been in reach of many beautiful East Devon churches - Escot, Talaton, Feniton, Broadclyst, Whimple, Rockbeare, Aylesbeare, Ottery (more than one here), Tipton, Venn Ottery and West Hill. We may not be able to visit all of them on the day of our ride, but will do our best.

A huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored us to date. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is such a bonus to the ride itself, benefiting the work of the Trust and St Michael's. Details of the final total should be available for the December issue of the Messenger.

#### Sue Bonnie

## **Birds of West Hill**

What level of intelligence do birds possess? An intriguing question that scientists have sought to answer. They discovered that birds possess a range of intelligence, in some families to a significant level. The crow and parrot family are amongst the most intelligent birds. Here are some areas of intelligent behaviour:

**Self-awareness** - six Magpies with a red dot placed on their throat looked at themselves in a mirror. Two tried to remove the red dot from their own necks (not the mirror's reflection), showing they were able to recognise themselves in a mirror. A black dot placed on their throat elicited no response.

**Problem solving** - tests have been carried out to verify Aesop's fable of the crow gaining access to water in a vessel by dropping stones into it. Unsurprisingly, they found that the crow was able to solve the problem. In Japan crows placed hard-shelled walnuts onto a road and retrieved the opened contents after passing cars had crushed the nuts. They even observed the colour of the traffic lights to place and retrieve the nuts whilst the lights were on red! Some decades ago Blue Tits acquired the skill of removing the foil top off bottles of milk delivered to doorsteps to get at the creamy milk! They learned which colour cap led to the creamiest milk – gold top Jersey milk!

**Logic** - in a pairing test picture cards were placed over three cups. One card, covering one of the outer cups containing food, matched the card



covering the middle cup. A non-matching card covered the other empty outer cup. The crows quickly learned that only removing the matching card led to food.

**Tool use** - in tests on New Caledonian Crows the birds developed sophisticated tools to extract their food, manufacturing a tool with a hook on the end, made to the exact size required to prise out its larva prey from a crevice. Gulls have learned to drop molluscs onto hard ground to break open the hard shell.

**Recognition** - in an experiment Ravens were able to remember for two months the identity of people who had tricked them. Seven birds were given a bit of bread but

then given the opportunity to exchange their bread for a piece of cheese, which they prefer. Occasionally humans cheated a Raven out of its treat

by taking the bread and then eating both the bread and cheese. Two days later the birds which had been tricked refused to trade with those people that had tricked them.

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

# **West Hill Arboretum Group**

#### Report on Bug Safari

The Bug Safari was a huge success! All 20 of us, including 10 excited children, had a fantastic time exploring the hidden world of insects. The kids especially loved their bug explorer kits, which helped them get up close and personal with all the creatures we found.

The guide, Luke, a passionate bio-conservationist, led the safari with an infectious enthusiasm that captivated everyone. We met so many amazing bugs, from busy beetles to delicate butterflies. The highlight for many was seeing a spectacular stag beetle up close. The children's excitement was palpable as they learned about the vital role these small creatures play in our ecosystem. It was an unforgettable adventure that turned a simple walk into a thrilling exploration. Hopefully we have instilled a love of creepy-crawlies that will last a lifetime.

#### Highlight on Rowan/Mountain Ash Sorbus aucuparia

This an attractive little tree – in May with its flowers and in autumn with its bunches of red/orange berries. As its name suggests it is tough, growing on the mountains of Scotland, higher up than any other tree.

A deciduous tree, it has pinnate leaves which often turn a pretty autumn colour. We know autumn is coming when we see the red berries in late summer. These can be used to make an unusual smoky flavoured jelly. The steely-grey bark is smooth at first but becomes scaly with age. The timber is used for tool handles, carving and turnery in areas where other wood is scarce.

The Rowan/Mountain Ash is much grown in gardens and parks. There are about 80 northern temperate species ranging from Scotland to the Himalayas.

We should like to send all best wishes to Alan Cook and his wife Sally in their new home at Colyton. Thank you Alan for all your hard work with the Arboretum Group.

The next walk will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 10.30 am at Prickly Pear car park. This will be a Fungi walk, led by an expert. We shall need some rain, so please check if in doubt!

Celina Herbert - Chairman Tel. 07912061530

**Eileen Perkins** - Secretary and Tree Warden Tel. 01404 815905

# Ottery St Mary Bowling Club

By the time that this article is read, there is every likelihood that the leaves will have been blown off the trees, and the bowling green will have been closed for the winter. Having said that, the greenkeeper will now be starting the winter preparations for next season, and having seen how good the green is at the end of a heavy season of play, it is hardly surprising that winter work starts as soon as the last bowl has been bowled!

Reviewing the season, it would be fair to say that it has been a good season with some notable successes and also some least memorable events. The ladies' team excelled themselves in The Top Club competition by winning through to the County Final, where they met a very strong team from Torquay, who had several international players in their ranks, and who have won this particular competition on previous occasions. Needless to say, the Ottery ladies did not win, but they put up a very good fight, with one or two matches being close run affairs. Similarly, the men's team won through the early rounds of their competition, but were defeated at quarter final stage.

The East of Exe League is a Monday night league for mixed teams, and there is every likelihood that Ottery will win the league this year. In addition both the men's and the ladies' section play in Over 60's midweek leagues, and all six teams entered are riding high in their respective leagues.

The majority of the fixture list is made up with matches against other local teams, where friendly rivalry built up over the years is always a key element of these occasions. Touring teams also enjoy a visit to the club as the facilities are always of the highest quality, and the welcome is always warm and genuine. This year an inter-county match will be played at Ottery, which is an indication of the high esteem in which the club is held at a higher level.

The game of bowls does have the reputation of being a sport for the older generation and we still have some 90 year-olds playing and enjoying an active afternoon in the sunshine. Furthermore, this year, a Junior section has been started by the club captain assisted by at least four fully qualified coaches. Some of the youngsters have already represented the club in friendly matches. So the season is now drawing to a close, but there are still winter social activities to be enjoyed, very often involving a meal!

Perhaps, people reading this article are considering taking up a new sport or hobby, and I must ask if you can find another open air sport that combines physical activity, laughter, friendliness, company, competitiveness, and above all fun. It is always very interesting to hear people who joined the club in April say "I never realised how much I would enjoy playing bowls!" Next season will start on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026, and further details will be circulated prior to that date. I hope to see you then.

Clive Russell, Press Officer email: cliveump@gmail.com

## **West Hill Village Hall**

Registered Charity No. 1160370

We have had a lovely summer this year and we hope everyone was able to take full advantage of the good weather. During this time Sarah was able to successfully hand over her responsibility as Finance and Administration Officer and Lynda tells me she is very much enjoying her new role.

At the time of writing this article West Hill Primary School and West Hill Pre-School are still enjoying their summer holiday. However by the time the Messenger is distributed, the School and Pre-School will have returned for the start of their new term and the village hall will, once again, be very busy.

#### **Future Major Events and Marquee Bookings**

15<sup>th</sup> Nov 25 PTFA Ball with full marquee

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 25 Wedding Reception with full marquee

29<sup>th</sup> Nov 25 Hospiscare Christmas Fayre 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 25 Pre-School Christmas Bazaar

24<sup>th</sup> Dec 25 Blood Donation (moved from 23 Dec) 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 26 Wedding Reception with full marquee

After many years of planning we finally have a footpath connecting West Hill Road to the Village Hall and West Hill Primary School. We wish to thank West Hill Parish Council for the time, money and effort they have devoted to completion of this project. We trust that all users of the Hall and Primary School use this footpath respectfully and do not park their vehicles close to the new entrance to the village hall or in Ashley Brake.

During the summer break West Hill Pre-School undertook significant changes to their play area and it now looks very inviting for the children to return to. At the start of the new term Pre-School is expanding their hours and will now occupy Maple room for a number of hours each week, in addition to their occupation of Acorn room.

West Hill Primary School no longer uses the gym climbing frame that is mounted on the wall of Oak Hall so this will be removed. If you are aware of any school or village hall requiring a climbing frame please inform **Lynda**. Where the frame was secured to the floor there are a number of metal bolt holes which will be removed and will be replaced with wooden infills.

The floor has not been resurfaced since before the pandemic so refurbishing work is now required. We have arranged for all the work in Oak Hall to be carried out during the half term holiday and it will last for four days from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Please visit our 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 Lynda Creegan on 01404 623091 between the hours of 09.00 and 17.30. You may also contact Lynda by e-mail on westhillvillagehall@gmail.com

Colin Veale, Chairman, Village Hall Trustees

# The Royal British Legion West Hill

#### **Movie Nights**

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

6 <sup>th</sup> October	One Life, 2024
13 <sup>th</sup> October	The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, 2011
20 <sup>th</sup> October	First Man, 2018
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Sinners, 2025
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Eat Pray Love, 2010
10 <sup>th</sup> November	The Old Man and the Gun, 2018
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Happy Gilmore 2, 2025
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Under the Tuscan Sun, 2003

#### Bingo Nights (Doors open 6.30 pm)

Sundays 5th, 19th October and 2nd, 16th & 30th November

#### **Opera Nights**

23<sup>rd</sup> October & 27<sup>th</sup> November (Doors open 7.00 pm)

#### Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 12<sup>th</sup> October & 9<sup>th</sup> November (3.00 pm - 5.30 pm)

#### **Crafters Evenings**

Tuesdays 7<sup>th</sup> October & 4<sup>th</sup> November (from 7.00 pm)

#### **Dads' Nights**

#### **Mums' Nights**

Fridays 10<sup>th</sup> October & 14<sup>th</sup> November from 8.00 pm

Fridays 31st October & 28th November

### Codfather - Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm

#### Other Events

Ladies Probus, 14<sup>th</sup> October & 11<sup>th</sup> November from 1.30 pm

West Hill Women's Group, 7<sup>th</sup> October & 5<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 am-12.00

Band Night, Lonesome Saddles 4<sup>th</sup> October – from 7.00 pm

Philly's Yoga Class 6.00 pm -7.00 pm

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October & 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November

# Remembering and Celebrating the Lives of Loved Ones

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3 pm

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

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

The Remembrance book for writing the names of those you wish to be remembered will be in church from Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>. **Ann Turner** 

## **Abide With Me**

Many of our best known and well-loved hymns are the ones that make a deep emotional connection and reveal a depth of meaning to life's events. The hymn 'Abide with Me' is a wonderful example.

'Abide with Me' was written by Henry Francis Lyte. Lyte was born in 1793 in Scotland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in 1814. He gained the English poem prize on three occasions. Lyte took holy orders in 1815 eventually moving to Brixham, Devon in 1823 remaining there until his death in 1847. It is uncertain when he wrote the hymn. One scholar thought Lyte probably wrote the hymn in 1820 and recalled the hymn just before his death in 1847

The basis of the hymn comes from Luke 24:29, where the disciples meet but do not recognize the resurrected Jesus. "But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent". Lyte creatively changed 'Abide with us' into 'Abide with me,' making it speak to the individual, in prayer or meditation. Each verse ends in the plea "Abide with me", a prayer for God's presence and comfort in our lives, especially at times of change and remembrance. The hymn resonates deeply with those who feel their need of God in their lives, with its haunting beauty and spiritual depth.

The tune universally used for this hymn is 'Eventide' written by William Monk. Whilst attending a hymnal committee meeting Monk saw Lyte's text and composed 'Eventide' in ten minutes! The hymn first appeared in Hymns Ancient and Modern 1861.

This well-known hymn has been sung before every FA Cup Final since 1927 and at the Rugby League Cup Final since 1929, plus at Royal weddings and countless funerals.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide: the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide: when other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see: O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine. Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies: heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

# Macmillan Cancer Support – Coffee Morning

We would like to invite you to a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. It will take place from 10.30 am on Tuesday October 21st at St Michael's Church, West Hill.

Macmillan Cancer Support are doing whatever it takes to help more people with cancer get the best possible care the UK has to offer, whoever and wherever they are. Your support for this wonderful cause will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there.



# Tea & Toast & Toys on Fridays



We meet every Friday from 8.45-10.00 am, upstairs in the Village Hall, during term time.

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 or milk and buttered toast with jam/marmalade/Marmite.

The group is growing and we see new faces every week. Do come along -you don't have to have a small person in tow! All welcome!

Please give us a ring if you want to know more: **Pam** (814096) **Rosemary** (234578)

# **Royal British Legion West Hill Branch**

Remembrance and the Poppy Appeal are two distinct, but closely-linked activities. Both become most evident during the run-up to Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, but in fact are continuous processes. Maintaining the War Memorial and its surrounds makes it an attractive feature of the village, and reminds us why it is there. And we have assembled there on VE Day and VJ Day, to Remember. The Poppy Appeal is supported by events throughout the year, most notably by the Bingo sessions which, twice every month, raise significant funds for the Appeal. Last year West Hill raised £20,100 and we have already passed that sum for the current year. We have an excellent team of helpers but some of our more senior volunteers have retired. If you wish to help, please contact our Poppy Appeal Organiser, **Terry Coldridge** (01404 812414). All volunteers are welcome, and membership of the RBL is not necessary.

We look forward to seeing you on Remembrance Sunday (10.30 am at the Memorial) and Armistice Day (10.40 am at the Memorial).

Mike Cartwright Chairman 01404 811492

## **West Hill Parish Council**

A long time ago, before the Parish Council was established, many residents of West Hill wanted to create a new entrance onto the Village Hall site .... a hole in the hedge!

At the time of writing we have actually started the construction of the Village Hall Footpath despite what seemed, at times, to be a concerted plan by the fates to throw any and every obstacle in our way. Even at the very last minute we needed to have a document signed and sealed by Devon County Council and after nearly a full day of the Parish Council running around the countryside and making seemingly countless telephone calls to collect the document and the required signatures DCC announced that they couldn't seal it because all the necessary staff from the office were working from home! With a lot of help from Jess our Ward Councillor we got there in the end and by the time you read this the footpath should be in use.

Every morning I take my dog for a walk round the village. I have now started to carry a pedal bin liner with me to pick up drinks cans, plastic bottles and various types of food wrappers that people have just thrown away. I hate to see litter anywhere and it really upsets me to see that some people think so little of their village that they just leave litter like this. I appreciate that we don't have a lot of litter bins in the village but that is no excuse and people should take their litter home with them to dispose of it responsibly. I appreciate that some of this will have been thrown from cars passing through the village but I do find rubbish beside roads that are not heavily used and are not on a through route. I have been accused of being a bit of a Victor

Meldrew and maybe I am old fashioned but I do believe that we should take responsibility for our own actions and should not leave a mess that we expect someone else to clear up. Maybe this could be a new campaign for the Parish Council.

The Parish Council continues to be active in trying to control the spread of house building that requires the developers to build on precious natural countryside. We all understand the need for housing and we want to enable young people to start on the housing ladder but we also recognise that we need to preserve our beautiful countryside. At a recent meeting of the EDDC Planning Committee that was considering a development of nine more houses in the village I pointed out to them that there were over 35 properties for sale in West Hill ranging from large 5 bedroom houses to small 2 bedroom bungalows. This is around 10% of the properties in West Hill. If people are keen to move here – as many of us have done – there is ample opportunity for them to do this without resorting to the destruction of the countryside.

This year seems to have flown by and it will soon be time to start raking up leaves again. My dog thinks that it's a great game to dive into a pile of leaves and scatter them. Is there a good dog trainer out there?

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

# **Hospiscare News**

#### Coffee Morning is back for 2025!

Could you put the kettle on and raise a cuppa for Hospiscare? Whether you're a star baker or just love a slice of cake with friends, you can host a coffee morning to support vital end-of-life care in your community.

#### Make It Your Own

Gather your friends and family, whip up some homemade goodies, and raise funds that go straight to Hospiscare. There are endless ways to make your event special:

- Host a classic coffee & cake morning at home, work, or in your community.
- Get creative with a donation stall, a pamper & fizz night, or a coffeethemed quiz & games evening.
- Spread the joy with doorstep deliveries or office gatherings.
- Join forces with your exercise class, wild swimming group, or even your choir rehearsal and make it part of your Coffee Morning or an Afternoon Tea celebration.

- Local businesses can join too! If you run a café or cake business, consider donating proceeds from cake sales throughout October.
- Go digital share your fundraising page online so friends and family who can't attend in person can still show their support.

It's as easy as brewing a pot of tea or coffee!

Sign up via <a href="https://hospiscare.co.uk/support-our-work/fundraise/hospiscare-coffee-morning/">https://hospiscare.co.uk/support-our-work/fundraise/hospiscare-coffee-morning/</a>, and set up your fundraising page, and plan your event today.

Let's make every sip and every slice count.

Staff and volunteers at Hospiscare would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes to our wonderful community. Your support, kindness and generosity continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we care for.

Thank you for being by our side for the last 43 years caring for those in your community.

**Sharon Collins** Area Fundraiser 01392 424960 / 07803 428363

## **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 'village 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** 

## **Welcome Café**

Thank you to all our loyal customers for their support in the last months. We are firmly back in the new, improved Narthex and things have settled down at last. We welcome all for a cup of coffee and a piece of homemade cake, the choice is always delicious and varied.

The next cafés are on **October 31**<sup>st</sup> and on **November 28**<sup>th</sup> at which we will be holding a small '**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR'** as last year. We will be having an 'unwanted gift' stall so if you have any contributions they would be welcome.

Also we will be happy to welcome any volunteers to help in the kitchen or to make a cake. If you are interested please contact me.

**Christine Smith** 01404 912995

# **West Hill Primary School**

School has been a busy place over the summer, both outside and in. The Parish Council have overseen the installation of the new footpath between West Hill Road and the Village Hall, and the school hopes this will help alleviate some of the pressures on parking in the car park and on Beech Park at the start and end of the school day.

Meanwhile, a great clear-out saw us create space for our new library, which we hope will be completed for Christmas. We will be asking the children for their input on theming the library to create a welcoming, inspiring space in school. We hope the book fayre, held in September created a buzz around this project, and we look forward to filling this space with exciting titles for the children to enjoy reading.

One observation upon opening the school gates again on Thursday  $4^{\text{th}}$  September was not just seeing how well the children came in together, but how the school connects people. As the school gates closed in the morning, so many parents and family members stood to speak together, no doubt catching up after the summer break. It was a reminder that the school serves as another point of cohesion for a community which extends beyond the wonderful 4-11 year olds who attend each day.

Here's to a wonderful term ahead!

Mr Rob Pantling Acting Headteacher, West Hill Primary School

# Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

After enjoying Sarah Pepper's demonstration at our September Club night, we now look to October and November – I can't quite believe that the year is passing by so quickly and that the shorter days, darker mornings and evenings will soon be upon us.

As always, we hold our AGM in October and this year it takes place on Tuesday 21st. As has now become something of a tradition, after the formalities we will enjoy a very sociable Bring and Share supper along with Christmas Bauble exchange. For any members reading this, there will still be a competition and the title is "Horizontal".

In the lead up to Christmas we have a busy time. On 18<sup>th</sup> November, we have our Christmas Demonstration when Dutch, British and American Master Florist, Tina Parkes will be bringing us "Deck the Halls". Up until this year, our Christmas Demonstration has been an "Open" meeting meaning it is open to anyone that would like to come but over the last couple of years the event in this format has proved to not be viable. The Committee and Members therefore made the decision that our Christmas demonstration will take place in the smaller upstairs Beech Room at West Hill Village Hall with a limited number of tickets available only through Club members. This will

ensure that we do not exceed the maximum capacity of the room and means that we will unfortunately not be able to admit anyone who arrives on the night without a ticket. If you would like to come along then please buy your ticket from one of the members if you know them or alternatively, please call Sue Marvin on 07906 029076. Tickets are £12 and this includes tea/coffee and a mince pie. There will also be a raffle of all Tina's arrangements.

Following the success of the **Christmas Wreath Making workshop** held last year with **Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare**, we are excited to be jointly running the event again in 2025 kindly sponsored by Hall & Scott Lettings. It will take place on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at West Hill Village Hall so please put the date in your diary.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with 20 spaces in each and the cost remains the same as last year, £45 per person. This includes all materials, tea/coffee and cake/mince pies. Why not book your place now? Perhaps come with a friend or get together a group of you and enjoy spending time together doing something creative for Christmas! Please contact me on 01404 811807 for further details on how to book your place on our joint Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare/Ottery Floral Art Club Christmas Wreath making workshop.

Any enquiries: Karen Taverner, Club Secretary – 01404 811807

# **Religious Tolerance**

The text of a podcast by Dave Hopwood:

"I was reading an article in one of the newspapers just the other day and it was about religious tolerance. It was a good article but it finished up by saying that's really the point of religion - it is about trying to be kind. Of course a very big part of Christianity is how we treat other people but what I wanted to do in this podcast was to really highlight that there is something distinct about Christianity. It doesn't begin at the point of trying to be good, trying to be nice. In fact that's not really a prerequisite in a sense that it's all about being a nice person, rather it begins with following Jesus. Those are the stories that we read in the Gospels in the Bible; those are the stories where we find people are invited to begin this journey to take a step to follow Jesus to see where it might lead them. They're warned that it won't be easy; they're offered a version of life that is fuller but perhaps more difficult. They're invited to begin that journey with Him now. What you find as a result of that journey is that people change. The way that they treat others, the way that they treat the world, the way that they see the world, the way that they see other people, the way that they see the results of their own actions; all of that is affected and all of that changes. So, yes it does change people in their attitude and their actions but more than that the offer is given that to follow Jesus means that we get his help. The Holy Spirit is described as being the helper, someone who will come alongside us and not do the job for us but help us to treat people differently, help us to see the world differently. So to be a Christian is not really just about being nice or being kind but rather it begins with the following - the discovery, the lifelong discovery of who Jesus is, the transformation of our character that begins as we embark on that journey, as we embark on that sometimes risky adventure."

Reproduced with kind permission of **Dave Hopwood**. For further podcasts and writings see Dave's web site - **https://davehopwood.com/** 

# **Councillor's Column**



# Application for 5 houses on Lower Broad Oak Road

I am extremely disappointed that the Planning Inspectorate has allowed the appeal for 5 houses on Lower Broad Oak Road. The application drew widespread objection from West Hill residents as well as from myself as ward member and the Parish Council. The Inspector considered that the harm to the view (which is protected in the neighbourhood plan) would only be 'localised' and

that the negative impacts on natural features and wildlife can be mitigated or compensated for. The Inspector considered the site was not "so poorly located to facilities and services....that it amounts to a harm of significance or demonstrable nature". I totally disagree with all of these points and it is frustrating when inspectors based somewhere far away override local decision making.

## Outline application for 9 houses at Westhayes.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July I spoke vociferously against this application at EDDC's planning committee for 9 houses at Westhayes. Despite the fact that the applicant's ecology report identified that it is a site of national significance for bats (as there are more than eleven species present), the planning officers were recommending approval without any input from the council's own ecologist. I had to intervene several times during the meeting to get my point across and to ensure that the application didn't just get waved through. I was pleased that the application was eventually deferred in order for input to be obtained from EDDC's ecologist – the ecologist has now objected to the application. So we will need to see how the applicant endeavours to overcome the objection.

Exeter City Council wants to extend its boundaries to include West Hill The government is insisting on re-organising local government, scrapping district councils and creating mega unitary councils instead. I knew it was likely that Exeter City Council would want to expand its boundaries — as in order to qualify as a new unitary authority they need around 500,000

residents. But on 14<sup>th</sup> August we learned that they want to incorporate vast swathes of East Devon within their boundaries, including West Hill. I am strongly opposed to their proposal as I would be worried we will lose our green spaces in order to meet their 'growth ambitions'. Their public consultation can be found on the City Council's website and is live until 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The various local authorities are required to put forward their detailed proposals to the government by 28<sup>th</sup> November. EDDC are continuing to work on the basis it wishes there to be two unitary authorities for Devon (one covering 5 district council areas and one including 4 district council areas). We are yet to see what Devon County Council are going to be putting forward.

#### New Footpath from West Hill Road to the Village Hall/School

Congratulations to the Parish Council and the Village Hall in delivering this project in time for the new school term. I know how challenging it has been to get this project completed - not least trying to satisfy the requirements of DCC highways department. I have been pleased to help chase things up and get things signed off at DCC.

#### Notice of motion

I tabled a notice of motion in September at Devon County Council for enhanced support for rivers in Devon, including the River Otter. I am proposing that the Council should embed river rights in council policies in planning, land use, water and biodiversity. In addition that the Council should advocate to the Environment Agency and government for river rights frameworks and stronger protections and support local initiatives such as citizen science monitoring, riparian planting and sustainable farming. It is likely to be debated at the full council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

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

# **West Hill Women's Group**



We don't have a speaker at our August meeting but use it as a time to catch up with friends and to get to know other people in the group a bit better. What we do have is a produce/plant sales table and this year it was 'groaning' with goodies (especially the very generous selection from

one particular member) which enabled a total of over £150 to be raised for West Hill RBL Club, our charity for this year. A big thank you to all who brought and all who bought!

**Tuesday 7**<sup>th</sup> **October Sheila Parker** will present – *Life is a Cabaret* – her third talk about her fascinating life in show business. Come early to get a good seat as Sheila's talks are very popular!

NOTE: The balance of payment for the members' Christmas Lunch at

**The Victoria Hotel** is due this month. If you will not be at the meeting please contact me – my details are given below.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November Icing on the Biscuit – Jenny Pinn** from Tipton will be demonstrating how they ice their very individual and fun biscuits which come in all shapes, sizes and designs and are decorated accordingly. There will be samples to buy, should you wish, and I think you will, as I saw Jenny and her amazing biscuits at a local show in the summer.

**Book Sales Table** Please bring any **good condition books** which we will sell at £2 each for hardbacks and £1 for paperbacks towards our own WHWG funds.

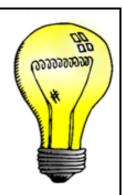
We don't have a waiting list to join at present but do come as a guest for £3 (which includes coffee/tea and cake) to try us out – we'd love to see you.

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



# Lite Nite!!

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October
(5 - 6.30pm)
at St Michael's Church



Songs, BBQ, Crafts & Light Disco!

Come along dressed as your favourite character

All welcome!

To book (for catering only, no charge), please email

hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com

# Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Museum

Registered charity CIO no. 1179598

Our Museum is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week until the end of September and will then be closed for the winter, opening again in April next year. Please check our website **www.otteryheritage.org.uk** for exact opening times as we regularly keep this up to date.

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 is currently as follows:

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm **Britain's Secret Defences** by Andrew Chatterton.

The talk focuses on the highly secret civilian groups that were pulled together to counter a German invasion during the Second World War. Also about the formation of the various groups and gives a local perspective on what was happening in East Devon.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm **Smuggling in Devon: The Truth Behind the Fiction** by Peter Hesketh.

Between1700 and 1850 smuggling became a huge industry in Devon, with

most Devonians active in it, profiting from it, or at least colluding in it. All social classes were involved. Clergymen and aristocrats were among the backers. None thought cheating the government of exorbitant taxes was wrong and smugglers brought to trial were usually acquitted by sympathetic Devon juries and magistrates. This talk attempts a balanced view of an illegal trade which long flourished in Devon despite the government's best efforts to stamp it out.

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

## **Covid Memorial Tree**



On Monday 16th January 2023, West Hill Parish Council (WHPC) planted a tree in remembrance of those lost during the Covid pandemic and also to celebrate the generous community spirit shown by West Hill residents throughout the pandemic.



The tree is situated the in churchyard at St Michael's, West Hill's village Church, alongside a providing WHPC bench opportunity for those who have lost sit loved ones to auiet contemplation and remembrance.

The tree is a Devon Heritage Apple Tree variety named 'Upton Pyne' raised by a Mr. Pyne of Topsham



around 1910. In just a few years the tree has started to provide lovely attractive yellow apples with scarlet flush for the community to harvest.

# **West Hill Art Group**

This edition's beautiful paintings use a technique with clingfilm. This involves painting a complete piece of already damp paper with a strong wash of colours. While it is wet, scrunch pieces of clingfilm to cover it. It can be used to add texture at the front of the painting, as in Lily's, or all over the painting as the other examples.

Once the clingfilm is completely dry, remove carefully and use your imagination to see a picture. Then accentuate the shapes to be rocks, twigs, trees or anything that you can see. Try it.



by Lily Vaughan



by Jenny Baker



by Emma Wilkinson



by Rosemary Hudson

**Rosemary Seymour** 01404 234122

## Welcome Café

West Hill's village café



Last Friday of every month

See you there from 10.30 am onwards

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November With Christmas Craft Fair in St Michael's Church Hall All welcome!

Contact us via the form at: 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 13th October

Operational Detective from an ex Chief Inspector

## Monday 10th November

Exmouth National Coastwatch Institution

New members warmly welcomed Contact: John Rowland 01404 813027 www.whmessenger.info

### West Hill Garden Club



7.30 pm – 9.30 pm West Hill Village Hall, Beech Park

### Thursday 9th October

Demonstration by Monica Highnam
Constructing and Decorating a
Seasonal Door Wreath

## Thursday 13th November

AGM followed by
Bring and Share Finger Food Supper
and raffle

For further information contact: 01404 813191



## GRAND CHRISTMAS FAIR

West Hill Village Hall, EX11 1UQ

Saturday 29 November 10.00am - 3.00pm

£2 entry fee, children under 12 free
All day refreshments available

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

Because every day matters www.hospiscare.co.uk



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



## Services in Church

Oct 2	19.00	Simply Worship
Oct 5	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Harvest Café Church
Oct 12	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Oct 17	15.45	Messy Church
Oct 19	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Oct 26	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Nov 2	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
	15.00	All Souls Service
Nov 9	9.30	Holy Communion (said)
	10.50	Remembrance Service
Nov 16	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Nov 21	15.45	Messy Church
Nov 23	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
	18.00	Simply Worship
Nov 30 Advent Sunday	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)

# **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.