

The Messenger



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



**December 2025 – January 2026
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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PLEASE NOTE The last date for copy for the February/March edition is
Monday 5th January 2026.

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 order to meet our printing schedule for The Messenger, I am writing this before the budget on 26th November. I assume that you are reading this after that date. As always happens in the run-up to the budget, the news is full of speculation by commentators and pundits, and question-dodging by government ministers.

In a news bulletin on the radio or television, a piece about tax may sit side by side with

something that is actually far more momentous and important. And yet, for us as individuals, the taxation story is the one that affects us personally and soon. We have to deal with the things that impact our lives now; we may not have the headspace or bandwidth to worry about something in another part of the world or that lies in the future.

The Christmas story is about one of the most important and momentous events in all human history, but it begins with a tax rise. At least, it involves a census, decreed by the Roman Emperor, a first step towards a poll tax. For the people living in Galilee and Judea, far, far from Rome, the immediate concern was registering their names. And for those who had moved away from home, it meant the inconvenience of a journey.

Very understandably, these people would have been caught up in the immediate. As well as dealing with the census, many were probably anxious about how they would pay the tax demand that would follow.

In the midst of all this an event was quietly taking place, unnoticed by most people, that would, ultimately, prove to be far more significant—a baby was being born. Obviously, for Mary and Joseph the birth of their baby boy was very immediate and life-changing, but for most people in Bethlehem it did not affect them at all, and they probably did not even notice.

However, there were a few shepherds who did notice. Alongside the news of the census, they heard another item of news. A very special baby boy had been born. And although it would not change their day to day lives immediately, they chose to take this news seriously.

In the midst of all the things that impact us right now, I hope that we can hear the ultimately more important news spoken by God's messenger: *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*

I hope and pray that you and yours have a very blessed Christmas.

Mark

Children's Page



The Nativity

The word 'nativity' means birth. Baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which is the place of His nativity. When each of us was born, family and friends brought gifts to celebrate our birth. In Jesus' time, it was the same - although the Kings (Magi) travelled a very long way to visit Him and bring special gifts to give thanks! The Nativity scene is known to us all. On the Children's Craft page, there is an idea for making your own Nativity scene using homemade salt dough.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 12th December (3.45-5.15pm)

Messy Church

Wednesday 24th December (4.30pm)

Crib Service

Friday 23rd January (3.45-5.15pm)

Messy Church



Messy Church is generally for the 3 – 12 years age group but everyone is welcome. At each meeting, we provide tea for the children. We then have lots of fun with storytelling, crafts, games and songs. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For more information email [Rosemary hudson@rosemaryhotmail.com](mailto:Rosemary.hudson@rosemaryhotmail.com)

**We wish you all a Happy Christmas
and we hope to see you at Messy Church in 2026!**

Children's Craft

Salt Dough Nativity Scene

Ingredients

250g plain flour
125g salt
125ml lukewarm water

Recipe

- Mix the flour and salt together in a large bowl.
- Add the water and stir until it's all combined to make a dough.
- Place the dough on a flat, lightly floured surface and knead until it's smooth.
- Create your Nativity models.
- Place on a baking sheet.
- Bake in a low-heat (80C) oven for 2 hours or you can leave them to air dry for 2 days.
- Once dry, paint the models and set up your Nativity scene!



Family Services at St Michael's Church

Have you been thinking about going to church and wondered which services would be suitable for younger families? You may be surprised that St Michael's Church offers a variety of services, some of which are especially planned for all ages. Here's some information – take your pick!

Café Church

This informal service is held on the first Sunday of the month (at 9.30am) in the church hall (Narthex). The room is set out with tables, at which you can enjoy pastries and as much coffee as you want! The theme each month relates to everyday life. There's the opportunity for discussion and reflection together with videos and music. For the children, crafts are prepared for them to enjoy.

3SS

On the 3rd Sunday of the month (at 10am), there's an All-age service held in the church. Again, the aim is to link Bible passages to our lives today. Children are very welcome and crafts are set up especially for them. The service is often lay-led with use of the large screen for videos and music.



Dependent upon school holidays, Messy Church is held on the 3rd Friday of the month (3.45 – 5.15pm) during termtime (except July & August). This meeting is aimed at the 3 to 12 years old age group but all are welcome. All children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We are currently part of a national pilot project called Messy Momentum, which is for the Year5+ age group. During the Messy Church meeting, this youth group is offered the opportunity for an informal chat about Bible verses and separate crafts.

When the children arrive, we serve a light tea – hot dogs, pizzas and fish finger sandwiches are the favourites! There's tea and coffee for the adults. The session includes a short Bible story, music and lots of messy crafts! It's a great fun way to end the week!

Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

I think this year really must be a record for Team West Hill, thanks to your generous sponsorship and the riders.

There were five of us in our team, but nobody was free to ride on the 13th, the actual day for the 'Ride and Stride'. The first three cyclists completed their ride on 1st September, covering 26 miles with 12 churches, the others on 12th, cycling 30 miles, visiting 9 churches.



Neither of the dates was kind weather wise and we all got a bit of a soaking for our efforts!

Thank you very much once again to everyone who sponsored us so willingly. We raised a total of £1,600. Brilliant news for the Trust and St Michael's and so greatly appreciated - we couldn't have done it without you!

Three visiting cyclists called into our church for a break on 13th and enjoyed a stop and some light refreshments.

The DHCT Cycle Ride in 2026 will be on Saturday 12th September, please make a note, if you feel like joining the team. It was a memorable day out this year, in spite of the weather. We deeply missed one of our keenest riders in the team, but I know Richard would have been proud of our effort, achievement and growing team.

Sue Bonnie



Wartime Christmas Cake Recipe

During 2025, there have been many events held to commemorate the end of the Second World War. Recently, I have been looking through my mother's wartime recipe book. I came across the following one for an Eggless Christmas Cake. It includes grated carrot, which appears to have been a major ingredient for many of her recipes of that time! I've converted the amounts into metric (in brackets).

Eggless Christmas Cake

4oz (100g) finely grated carrot
 2 tbsp (30ml) golden syrup
 3 oz (75g) sugar
 4oz (100g) margarine
 1 tsp (5ml) bicarbonate of soda
 ½ tsp (2.5ml) almond essence
 ½ tsp (2.5ml) vanilla essence
 6oz (150g) dried fruit
 12oz (300g) self-raising flour
 1 tsp (5ml) ground cinnamon
 1 small teacup of milk, slightly warm

Method

Cook the grated carrot and syrup over a low heat for a few minutes. Cream the sugar and margarine until light and fluffy. Stir bicarbonate of soda into the carrot and syrup mixture then beat into the sugar and margarine, using as if it were an egg. Stir in the flavourings and dried fruit. Fold in flour and cinnamon. Add the warmed milk to make a moist dough. Put into a greased cake tin. Smooth cake over the top.

Bake at 220°C (425°F), gas mark 7. After 1 hour, turn the heat down to 150°C (300°F), gas mark 4 and bake for a further hour.

Elizabeth Thurgood

Hospiscare News

Hospiscare Christmas Tree Recycling – Back for 2026

Do you have a van (big or small) and a bit of time to spare? We are looking for friendly volunteers to collect trees from homes and drop them off at a local site on Thursday 8th, Friday 9th, or Saturday 10th January 2026. It is a busy but fun day, and we will make sure you are well-fed with snacks and lunch to keep you going! You will get a simple route with postcodes and a full briefing from our team, so you will know exactly what to do.

Whether you can help for one day or all three, we would love to have you on board! It is a fantastic way to help, make a difference, and support Hospiscare.

If you think you can help, just drop us an email at n.boon@hospiscare.co.uk or give us a call on 01392 688030.

SAVE THE DATE - Christmas Wreath Making Workshop 2025 - Saturday 6th December 2025

Ottery St Mary Floral Art Club & Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare warmly invite you to join them at their Christmas wreath making workshop.

Using traditional methods, you will be shown how to design and assemble an elegant, fragrant Christmas wreath, with a sustainable wire ring covered in fresh moss, decorated with a wide range of fresh greenery and a variety of decorations and ribbons to make your front door the most festive on the street! During the workshop tea or coffee will be served. There will also be a selection of delicious homemade cakes, with dietary requirements catered for, if stated on the booking form.

Times: – Session 1 – 10:00am till 12:30pm & Session 2 - 1:30pm till 4:00pm

Cost & Bookings: £45 per person which includes all materials, tools, refreshments, and the wreath you created to take home.

To book your place please pop into the Ottery St Mary Hospiscare Shop to purchase your ticket – Cash only.

Otter Gardens – Festive Adventure: Great fun for your Little Elves

Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare are looking forward to seeing you all at Otter Gardens for their Festive Adventure, get ready for Christmas with their returning charity event for Hospiscare - Festive Adventure for 2025!

SAVE THE DATE – West Hill Quiz - Friday 20th February 2026

West Hill Quiz, at West Hill Village Hall – Teams of 6, £10 per head – Raffle and Bar

Our 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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

What a momentous year has just gone by. I cannot recall so many events, catastrophes, political upheavals happening in just a few months.

Whilst we remembered and celebrated the end of the Second World War in Europe and Japan, we sadly continue to see people's inhumanity to each other exemplified in the Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and many other parts of the world.

We have observed a dramatic upheaval of financial and trading norms being rolled out by the Trump administration. This has compounded an uncertain political situation in our country with major political parties struggling to retain voter attraction.

This year, we have missed having a hosepipe ban but climate change seems to be inexorably impacting many lives around the world. We appear to have been blessed with minimal effects as yet! It has been heartbreaking to observe the wild fires and flooding causing so much havoc elsewhere.

And now the possibility of humankind being back on the Moon or even getting to Mars seems to be getting nearer.

And closer to home the England Women's Rugby Union team won the World Cup. And Europe somehow scraped together a wonderful win in the Ryder cup in America!

So what a mixed bag. I am sure your own families' experiences will have further added to the eclectic mix of 2025.

And whilst all of this was happening around us, the editorial team at the Messenger has managed to edit and produce six issues of our village magazine. So I would like to particularly thank Rosemary Hudson, Geoff Green and Tricia Lynch for all their hard work plus a particular thank you to all our contributors as well without whom we would not have a magazine like the Messenger.

We are so blessed in West Hill with our village community, its school, the Legion and so many other groups and organisations that provide a wonderful variety and quality of life. We should not take it for granted but treasure it all for us and for the future generations to come.

May I wish you and your families a very Happy and Joyful Christmas and a safe New Year.

Mac Dick

West Hill Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 1160370

By the time this article is in circulation we will be entering the Christmas and New Year season so the Trustees and Employees of West Hill Village Hall wish you all a joyous festive period. We will have erected our Christmas tree in the Village Hall reception area by 29th November.

We are heavily booked throughout this period with a combination of community events, regular Christmas events and a number of children's parties.

Future Major Events and Marquee Bookings

29th Nov 25 Hospiscare Christmas Fayre
 6th Dec 25 Floral Art Club Christmas Wreath Making
 7th Dec 25 Preschool Christmas Bazaar
 24th Dec 25 Blood Donation session
 31st Dec 25 Sheryl and Jon Lawrence New Year's Eve Dance

On 15th November the PTFA held their Annual Ball at the Village Hall. As always we provided use of the village hall, complete with a full marquee, free of charge. We do this because PTFA is one of our largest users and in this way we can give significant support to West Hill Primary School which is at the heart of our community.

Unfortunately we have lost the West Hill Art Group as one of our regular users so Beech room is now available on Monday afternoons. Please contact Lynda if you are interested in filling this slot. We are however very pleased to welcome Philly Yoga to the hall on Wednesday evenings.

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

During the school half term we had damaged timbers on the floor in Oak Hall replaced and had the floor completely sanded down and re-varnished; this came at a cost of £4000. At the same time we took the opportunity to have Pickle Ball lines painted and we hope someone in West Hill will take the opportunity to set up a Pickle Ball club; a craze which is sweeping the country.

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

Councillor's Column



Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee at Devon County Council

The annual adult care budget at Devon County Council is in excess of £380 million and represents 49% of the Council's entire budget. In May this year the Council appointed me to Chair the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee. This Committee plays an important role in holding adult services and the health service across Devon to account.

Since becoming Chair I have twice called the Chief Executive of the South Western Ambulance Trust (SWAST) to the Committee in connection with their proposal to terminate a thirty year 'co-responding' partnership with the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. This partnership has seen fire fighters being called out to medical emergencies in some of Devon's most rural areas where ambulance response times are slowest. SWAST's intention has been to replace fire co-responders in these areas with volunteer community first responders. Whilst the Committee has recognised the valuable role of community responders across Devon, the Committee lacked confidence in the risk assessment work carried out by SWAST in the scrapping of the fire co-responder scheme and has written to SWAST to reconsider their proposal.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has recently introduced an inspection regime for adult services which are run by local authorities. In October CQC inspectors carried out an inspection at Devon County Council. The purpose of the inspection is to provide independent assurance to people of the quality of care in their area. As part of this process a number of senior officers were interviewed as well as the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and myself as Chair of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee. We do not yet know the outcome of the inspection, but the CQC will in due course be publishing an inspection report which awards an overall rating. The rating categories are: inadequate, requires improvement, good or outstanding.

Outline application for 9 houses at Westhayes (ref 25/0057/OUT)

On 18th July I spoke vociferously against this application at EDDC's planning committee for 9 houses at Westhayes particularly on the issue of bats – it is a site of national importance for bats. I was pleased that despite the officer recommendation for approval, this application was deferred. This came back to committee on 21st October – and I submitted a further objection. The planning committee again went against officer recommendation for approval and will be carrying out a site visit which is due to take place in November.

Planning application for 3 houses at Higher Metcombe (ref 24/1761/MFUL)

I objected to this planning application for 3 houses at the end of Lower Broad Oak Road (Tipton side) and have been pressing EDDC to reach a decision for some time. I am pleased that it has now been refused by EDDC. EDDC refused this application for a number of reasons. These include: the location which is outside the built-up area boundary and the proposal would cause harm to the distinctive rural landscape; the location is unsustainable meaning residents would be heavily car dependent and also there is also a risk of surface water flooding at the site.

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

Welcome Café

As we are coming to the end of the year, I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the volunteer helpers of the café. We couldn't do it without you.

I will be sending out an invitation in December to all volunteers for next year's rota and I am happy to include any extra people who come forward. We have different types of volunteers - those who help in the kitchen and those who provide the delicious cakes, some help on a regular basis and some volunteer on an occasional basis. All are most welcome.

Dates of next Cafés: **December 19th and January 30th**

By the time this Messenger is circulated we will have had our Winter Fair at the November Café and I would like to thank Ann Robertson for organising it again this year.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Christine Smith

West Hill Arboretum Group

Report on the fungi walk

On the 4th October 21 adults and children set off from Prickly Pear carpark armed with baskets and bags looking for fungi. Our expert Rob Jones was keen to show us which were edible and those best avoided. Several people found the highly valued 'Cep' fungi and Rob showed us the way to prepare them for eating. An educational and very interesting foray into our woodland fungi. I didn't know so many existed!

Highlight on Holly/Ilex aquifolium

If you have ever fallen into a holly bush you will know they have sharp prickles along the edges of the glossy dark green, evergreen leaves! We are familiar with them for use at Christmas for decorations. Only the female tree produces the attractive red berries; so if growing in your garden a male and female will be needed. There are some attractive decorative cultivars

which you can find in garden centres.

Holly bark is smooth and grey, the wood is very dense and heavy, yet soft and easy to work. It makes excellent firewood even when green. It is mainly used for decoration, carving and cabinet work. Smaller stems make sturdy walking sticks. It's not fussy about soil type and will grow in shade.

Our next walk will be in the spring on Saturday April 11th 2026 leaving the British Legion at **10.30am**. This will be led by a tree expert, and will be about 3 miles along footpaths and bye roads. Sturdy footwear required as paths may be muddy. No stiles.

Celina Herbert - Chairman Tel. 07912061530

Eileen Perkins - Secretary and Tree Warden Tel. 01404 815905

Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

It is hard to believe that we are now only weeks away from Christmas and therefore the end of our 2025 Club year.

Although our membership is the smallest it has ever been, we are keeping our heads above water financially and are excited that we have a full programme already in place for 2026. In 2025, we have again, thanks to the hard work of our Programme Secretary Angie, enjoyed the variation of a workshop, a garden visit and several very talented Demonstrators, along with our now traditional bring and share supper and Christmas bauble exchange which accompany our AGM. We have welcomed new members who have wholeheartedly joined in both the Pot Luck workshop and the monthly members' competition, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as the year has progressed.

Although the format of our Christmas Open Demonstration had to be altered because of costs and viability, we were over the moon that the reduced number of tickets we could offer sold out! Tina Parkes (Dutch, British & American Master Florist) really did inspire everyone who came along on 18th November with her demonstration "Deck the Halls" and those who were lucky enough to win her arrangements in the raffle were able to take a part of the evening home with them!

As mentioned in the last edition of The Messenger, **we are once again running a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop jointly with Otter Vale Friends of Hospiscare**, which takes place **on 6th December at West Hill Village Hall**. There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with 20 spaces on each. The cost is the same as last year, £45 per person and this includes all materials, tea/coffee and cake/mince pies. So many of us put a wreath on our front door at Christmas and rather than buy one this year, why not come along with a friend or group of friends or family and make your own wreath which is completely individual to you? Tickets this year are only available from the Ottery St Mary Hospiscare shop

(cash only) in Broad Street so please pop in and get your ticket soon to ensure a place on your preferred session.

After the Christmas Wreath workshop, we will have just one more date in the Club diary for 2025, our Christmas dinner, on 10th December. The Club then takes a break until March 2026, although some members still meet up informally for a coffee and natter at Otter Nurseries in January and February (in 2026 that will be 20th January and 17th February).

As we say goodbye to 2025, we would like to thank all those behind the scenes at The Messenger for their hard work in bringing this great publication to us all throughout the year and wish all Messenger readers a great Christmas and happy and healthy 2026.

Any enquiries: **Karen Taverner**, Club Secretary – 07791 013383

Happy New Year!

When we wish each other Happy Christmas and Happy New Year, which New Year are we talking about? The start of the next calendar year? But what about other New Years?

We've already had one New Year, the new school year and the new university year. After the summer holiday groups restart: very much a new beginning. The Church starts its New Year in November, on Advent Sunday when we look for the coming of the King. And then there's the new tax year! A new year of life comes with spring - flowers bloom, fresh leaves appear, and animals give birth. Then there are international New Years: the Chinese New Year, Diwali and the Jewish New Year.

The Jewish calendar also has many New Years. The first month is Nisan (March/April) in which Passover is celebrated when God said, "This shall be the head of the months for you". In the Old Testament that month is the next year of the king's reign. The Jews also have another day, in the seventh month, the New Year known as Rosh Hashanah. On that day they celebrate the Creation and God, the Creator. It is also known as Yom Teruah, the Day of Trumpeting. Jesus told many familiar parables about this day and the people who were not ready for a particular event. The wise and foolish virgins, the sheep and the goats, the thief in the night, the parable of the talents and many others found in Matthew 24:32-end of Matthew 25.

That is followed by the Days of Awe, when people do their best to be right with God and with one another, putting right past wrongs, praying for forgiveness and asking for help to change. This leads into Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement - a day of repentance and knowing the grace of God to forgive. For Christians, Jesus is the only One who provides that bridge between us and God. Yom Kippur leads to another new year. The harvest is complete and there is great rejoicing. After the week long harvest holiday, comes a day called Simchat Torah - which means rejoicing in the Word of

God. And a new year of daily study of the Scriptures begins

Do we have anything to learn from these new beginnings, which are at the root of our Christian faith? I believe we do - what do you think? Have a full and happy New Year right through the seasons: walking through them with God as your Father; His word your guide.

Ann Pangbourne

Opera Nights

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

Thursday 18th December: Rossini's, "The Barber of Seville". We round off the year with a visit to Glyndebourne and John Cox's production of Rossini's most popular comedy with Maria Ewing as Rosina and John Rawnsley as Figaro.

Thursday 29th January 2026: Verdi's, "Ernani". An opportunity to see this early Verdi Dramatic Opera from the Metropolitan Opera, New York, starring Luciano Pavarotti and Sherill Milnes.

Further information from **Peter Clarke** opconpeterclarke@gmail.com

Otter Vale Men's Probus Club

We are a friendly club whose aim is to promote fellowship among professional and business men aged 60 and over. We meet at Jack in the Green twice monthly, for a talk and a meal.

Our next talks are:

26 th November 2025	Murky Waters	John Hall
14 th January 2026	Teaching in the Falklands	Wendy Reynolds
28 th January 2026	Teaching Computers to read	David Nangle
11 th February 2026	Bungle in the Jungle	Ken McKenchie
25 th February 2026	Morgan Sports cars	Alex Sully

Colin Piper's talk on the History of West Hill was moved from 14th January to 8th October to cover a hole in our schedule. By popular demand another version of the talk is booked for 20th January 2026 in the British Legion at 1.30pm. Maximum numbers are going to be capped at 40 so please let Colin Piper know (on 07732 173952) if you would like to attend. The talk is free, although there will be a bucket circulating to collect money for the British Legion.

If you are interested in attending an event as a guest, please contact our chairman **John Pulsford** at 01404 815994

The Royal British Legion West Hill

Movie Nights

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

1 st December	Mr. Monks Final Case 2023
8 th December	Richard Jewell 2019
15 th December	The Thursday Murder Club 2025
22 nd December	Chappaquiddick 2018
29 th December	A Complete Unknown 2024
5 th January	Molly's Game 2017
12 th January	An Eye for an Eye 1996
19 th January	Downton Abbey The Grand Finale 2025
26 th January	The Interpreter 2005

Bingo Nights (Doors open 6.30pm)

Sundays 7th & 21st December and 4th & 18th January

Opera Nights

Thursdays 18th December & 29th January (Doors open 7.00pm)

Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 14th December & 11th January (Winter timings 3.00pm – 5.30pm)

Crafters Evenings

Tuesdays 2nd December & 6th January (from 7.00pm)

Dads' Nights

Fridays 12th December &
9th January from 8.00pm

Mums' Nights

Fridays 5th December &
January tbc from 8.00pm

Codfather – Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Other Events

Christmas Wreath workshop, Sarah Pepper Wed. 3rd December 7.30pm

New Year's Eve Celebration Wed. 31st December (bring & share food table). All welcome.

Ladies Probus December tbc

Live Band Night, "Lonesome Saddles" Sat. 6th December from 7.00pm

Sharon Andrew's Singers Sat. 13th December 5.30pm – 8.00pm

Rotary + Ottery Silver Band Carols Sat. 20th December 6.00pm

West Hill Women's Group 6th January Coffee Morning or Talk

Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Museum

There's no meeting of the Ottery St Mary Heritage Society in December, but something to look forward to in January is an invitation to hear a popular previous speaker.

Historian Trevor Waddington is Chairman of Trustees of the Fairlynch Museum, Budleigh Salterton, and last June he gave the OHS a talk on how the museum came into being.

On Tuesday 20th January, Trevor reflects on the late Georgian period and the lives and creations of the wealthy and independent-minded Parminter cousins of the wealthy Devon wine merchant Parminter family.

Influenced by classical Italian architecture they experienced on a Grand Tour of Europe, on return the cousins secured a spacious hillside site with a view overlooking the Exe estuary, and commissioned the building of an innovative 16-sided house which would catch the light at any time of day. With great imagination and creative ability, they decorated the house using shells, feathers and souvenirs from their travels for artworks and friezes.

Trevor Waddington spent a lot of time at A La Ronde as a National Trust guide and is well-placed to cover its recent renovations, as well as the intriguing story of a covenant limiting the handing down of the property to female Parminter relatives — with an interesting exception.

The talk is open to all (non-OHS members are asked to contribute £3.50) at 7.30pm in The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery. Brook Street car park is adjacent.

All enquiries to:

Lynda Murlewski

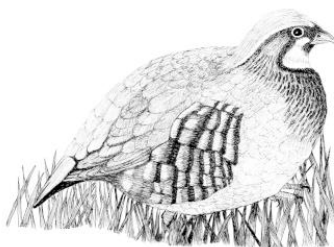
Hon. Secretary: otteryheritage@gmail.com

Birds of West Hill

This month's bird is the partridge of which there are two species in the UK – the Red-legged and the Grey. Both are farmland birds and are also bred for shooting. Numbers of the Grey Partridge have fallen dramatically by 92% between 1967 and 2023. The reason for this is the use of herbicides and insecticides which kill off the young birds' vital insect food.

The Red-legged Partridge was introduced from France in the 17th century as a game bird. It is less favoured as a game bird as the bird tends to run rather than fly and its meat is less tasty.

This bird appears in the first day of the song The 12 days of Christmas – 'On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me a



partridge in a pear tree'. Indeed, the bird does sit in trees. In the 16th and 17th centuries this song was used by Catholic children to help them learn their catechism. The bird symbolises Jesus, who protects us in the same way the bird does its young. The pear tree represents the cross Jesus died on. The 'true love' (in the song) is that of God giving us the gift of His son, Jesus, at Christmas.

The Grey Partridge's scientific name, *Perdix perdix*, derives from a Greek mythological tale with the Greek *perdesthai* meaning a maker of explosive noises. Perdix was a sister of Daedalus, whose son was turned into a partridge when his uncle tried to kill him by pushing him off the top of a tower. He flew to safety but avoided heights and re-told his story in a hoarse voice. In fact the bird does not fly high or far, which makes it appealing for sport shooting.

Jug is a name for a group of partridge roosting in a huddle with their heads turned out, keeping a look-out for predators (as birds can do even when sleeping). The bird also uses a broken wing display to distract predators from their nest.

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.

Anticipation

As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, the church year quietly approaches its end. The close of the liturgical year invites us to slow down and reflect on what has passed. We are invited to pause before beginning again. November serves as a bridge linking what has been with what is to come. In this in-between time we live in anticipation, not only of Advent and Christmas, but also of the deeper promises of God unfolding in our lives.

The Gospels offer many images of anticipation. We are told of watchful waiting in the parable of the ten women called to stay awake and be ready, even when the wait is long. The parable of the talents speaks of active waiting and of being faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Simeon and Anna are the embodiment of faithful waiting as they look forward to the fulfilment of God's promise. Theirs is a posture of hope, rooted in trust. They did not know when or how the promise was to be fulfilled, only that they should wait in expectation.

We live in a culture of instant gratification, where waiting is often seen as a problem to solve or a void to fill. But for Christians, waiting is not wasted time, it is sacred time. It is a spiritual discipline, a quiet resistance to the rush of the world and the lure of busyness.

To wait is to live in the tension of the now and not yet of God's kingdom. It is to trust in God's promises without needing to know the outcome. In

surrendering our need for certainty, waiting becomes a quiet act of rebellion against a culture that demands immediacy.

When we choose to wait with intention, we open ourselves to the slow, transformative work of the Spirit. We learn to listen more deeply, to notice more fully and to discover God in the longing itself. As St Augustine of Hippo said: "The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire. You do not see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you, so that when He comes, you may see and be utterly satisfied."

Taken from November 2025 Monthly Reflection by the Archdeacon of Plymouth.

West Hill Pre-School

The first term at West Hill Pre-School this academic year has commenced well, with many new children having joined the Pre-School and settling in well. Our wraparound provision continues with steady numbers, with capacity available for breakfast clubs on a Tuesday to Friday, and space in the After School Club on a Friday. For further details please contact **Natalie.Taylor@westhillpreschool.com**.

See inside the back page for details of our Christmas Bazaar.

Wishing all in the village a wonderful Christmas and a great start to 2026.

Otter Valley Rotary

To restart our Rotary year, the President for 2025/6, Peter Bennett, was inducted by previous President, Richard Thomas.

In September we hosted Marcus Paul at the Hidden Oak, together with Exmouth Rotary Club. Marcus told us of his newest publication, 'John Buchan Reconsidered: Thirty Nine Years of War and Peace, 1901-1940' in which he relates Buchan's exploits during those years of which members were largely unaware. A most interesting evening by a local author speaking about his fourth book.

Since then we've hosted the Rotary biannual Quiz in various hostelrys throughout the area in October - don't miss the next one on March 12th 2026 - just such fun.

On October 15th, together with '41 Club', we hosted a talk by Mary Holdsworth of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) who told us of her very real experiences working in Afghanistan - just one of the countries in which she has worked. An excellent insight by one who was actually there. Members were full of admiration for her dedication to the cause in sometimes dangerous and often harrowing circumstances. Grateful thanks to the Jack in the Green for providing facilities.

We supported Tar Barrels on November 5th by helping park cars and selling

programmes.

In November, Remembrance Day wreaths were laid in Ottery, West Hill, Cranbrook and Honiton and we also sold poppies in Ottery Sainsbury's.

Plans for the festive season are well underway - of which more later.

Why not join us? Further details from our new secretary

keith.spittlehouse@btinternet.com,

West Hill Men's Supper Club

We gather monthly, usually on the 2nd Monday, for a couple of drinks followed by a two-course meal and a talk by an invited speaker. The next meetings will be on:

8th December - Ministry Aviation Fellowship

12th January - Tudor Times in the Otter Vale

9th February - The West Country Rivers Trust

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.

Silent Night

As we move towards Christmas we hear carols being sung. One of the most popular is Silent Night, composed in 1818 by Franz Gruber to lyrics by Joseph Mohr. Stille Nacht was first performed on Christmas Eve, 1818, in the Austrian village of Oberndorf. Father Joseph Mohr had come to Oberndorf in 1817. Written soon after the Napoleonic wars the carol would bring hope and peace to so many people.

In 1818 a group visited Oberndorf to re-enact the story of Christ's birth. The presentation of the Christmas story from Matthew and Luke's gospels caused Mohr to recall a poem he had written earlier about the angels announcing the birth of the Messiah to shepherds. Mohr decided to use these words for the Christmas Eve service. Mohr visited Gruber (the church organist) asking him to compose a melody for that night's mass. The now famous tune was written that evening and played on a guitar (as the church organ was broken).

Sometime later an organ builder came to fix the organ. He let Gruber test the instrument, who played the simple melody written for Mohr's poem. The organ builder took copies of the carol back home. There two families of singers put the new song into their Christmas repertoire. In 1834, it was performed for the King of Prussia. The carol was sung outside a church in New York In 1839. Silent Night was translated into English in 1863. During

World War I, in a temporary truce on Christmas Eve, soldiers sang Silent Night.

Over the years Mohr was forgotten and people assumed the melody was composed by a classical composer. A manuscript discovered in 1995 in Mohr's handwriting was dated as c. 1820. The original version of Silent Night contained six verses but the English version is usually sung with three verses. This simple carol tells the wonderful Christmas story so simply and effectively.

Silent night, holy night! Sleeps the world; hid from sight. Mary and Joseph in stable bare watch o'er the Child beloved and fair, sleeping in heavenly rest, sleeping in heavenly rest.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds first saw the light, Heard resounding clear and long, Far and near, the angel-song; 'Christ the redeemer is here, Christ the redeemer is here.'

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, O how bright Love is smiling from Thy face! Strikes for us now the hour of grace, Saviour, since Thou art born, Saviour, since Thou art born.

Geoff Green



Tea & Toast & Toys on Fridays



We meet every Friday from 8.45-10.00am, 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.

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).

West Hill Garden Club

Now that we settle into winter mode we can look back on our garden successes (and failures) for the year 2025. It's time to enjoy the festive season, browse the seed catalogues and plan for the year ahead.

On **Thursday December 4th** we will be going to the **Red Lion at Broadclyst** for our annual lunch, **12.00 for 12.30pm**. This is always a very cheerful occasion when we socialise together as we enjoy good food and wine.

Our new Programme starts in January when our first meeting of the year will be on **Thursday 8th January** in the **Village Hall (upstairs) at 7.30pm**. Our Speaker will be **Stephen Powles** speaking on **Hedgehogs- in need of your Help** I know that there are some hedgehogs in the village and we can learn how to encourage more of them by making our gardens 'hedgehog friendly.'

Subs (very good value at £10 per year) will be payable that evening or can be paid online if more convenient. The 2026 Programme of speakers and outings will be available for collection.

As we close the year 2025 the Garden Club sends seasonal good wishes to all our readers and fellow villagers and we look forward to a new year of gardening challenges.

Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings. If you need further details please contact our Chairman **Sheila Gillam** (01404 814074) or Secretary **Pauline Wade** (01404 813191) either will be pleased to help you.

Monica Highnam

West Hill Parish Council

Our Neighbourhood Plan Working Group hosted a drop-in session in the Village Hall to enable people to discuss and comment on the results of the village-wide survey we conducted. The survey has provided some valuable information to help formulate the plan that we want to submit for approval. It is becoming increasingly important to have an approved neighbourhood plan as we learn more about the forthcoming reorganisation of local government.

The reorganisation essentially removes the District Council level of government and establishes larger Unitary Authorities. The unitary authorities will carry out the roles previously undertaken by the District Councils and the County Council. The precise details of how this will be structured have yet to be determined and there are currently three main options for Devon which may be submitted to central government to decide upon. Whichever option is implemented it will mean that decisions on important matters such as planning will be made by a larger authority which will inevitably feel more remote from local areas than the current arrangements. Having our own approved neighbourhood plan will mean that those planning decisions will have to take note of the details of our plan. In the absence of such a neighbourhood plan we will have little say in planning matters which affect our village. The new organisation structure is scheduled to be in place by 2028 so we are under some pressure to get the neighbourhood plan together and approved.

The pressure from central government for more housebuilding is resulting in development schemes which would previously have been rejected as unsuitable now being given serious consideration. Because East Devon

does not have land for 5 years worth of forecast housing need, a process known as the “Tilted Balance” comes into play. This means that proposed schemes should be assumed to be approved unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. The net result of this, of course, is that developers are submitting plans for schemes that are unsuited to the geography, ecology, design and character of West Hill without consideration for the impact on the limited infrastructure of the village. The Parish Council and our ward councillor Jess are resisting the inappropriate schemes but it is becoming harder to do so. With the changes being planned for local government this challenge will become even more difficult.

In the survey conducted for the neighbourhood plan, comments were made that there is a need for more under 40's involvement in groups like the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and more age diversity in decisions affecting the village. All I can say is “YES PLEASE”. We would love some younger people to come forward to get involved with the Parish Council and I am sure that groups like the Village Hall Trustees, the Royal British Legion and the Speedwatch group would all like to see more young people, or any people for that matter, get involved in village matters. Please just step forward and volunteer and you will be welcomed with open arms.

We wish all our residents a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

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

Dorrie's 25 in 25



In WW2, age 16, West Hill resident, Dorrie Pack, was in the Land Army, helping farmers to provide food for the nation. Now, aged 98, she is raising funds for her favourite charity Hospiscare, so that they can provide care for the community today and in the future.

During the month of November, Ottery Leisure Centre offered Dorrie the opportunity to join a group in the gym where she can ride on a static bike. She is aiming for 25 miles in 25! At the time of writing, she is well on the way to achieving that distance and her target of £2000 sponsorship.

If you would like to support Dorrie in this challenge, please go to <https://justgiving.com/page/25in25>

Thank you!

West Hill Art Group

West Hill Art Group sends Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year.



Study of an Eagle by Mac Dick



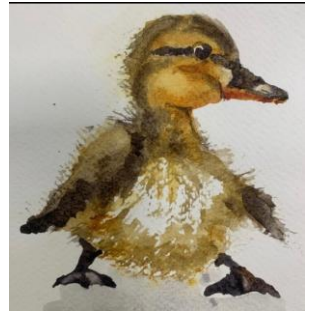
The Hen Party by Rosemary Hudson



Apples ready for Harvest by Emma Wilkinson



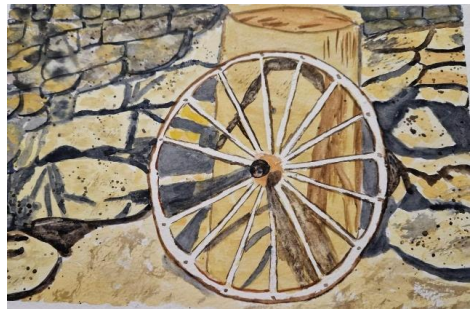
A Pair of Bullfinches by Terry Butler



The Cheeky Duckling by Mick Uttley



Arctic fox on a moonlit night by Liz Shorrocks



The Spare Wheel by Jenny Baker



Christmas at St Michael's

and nearby



Friday 28th November

4:30pm at St Michael's

Christingle Service

Sunday 30th November (Advent Sunday)

10:00am at St Michael's

An informal service for all the family

6:30pm at St Mary's, Ottery

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 7th December

9:30am at St Michael's

Advent Café Church

Sunday 21st December

10:00am at St Michael's

No service

6:30pm at St Michael's

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4:30pm at St Michael's

Crib Service

There will be no Midnight service at St Michael's

11:30pm at St Mary's Ottery

First Communion of Christmas

11:30pm at Newton P'ford

First Communion of Christmas

11:30pm at Feniton

First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

9:00am at St Michael's

First Communion of Christmas

9:00am at Payhembury

Family Communion

9:30am On-line

Christmas Day Service

10:00am at St Michael's

All-Age Celebration

10:00am at Tipton

Holy Communion

11:00am at Payhembury

Family Service

Sunday January 4

9:30am at St Michael's

Cafe Church - Why did the wise men visit?

Ottery St Mary Library

The Ottery Library has everything (for now). Cloud printing, bus schedules, *Which?* Magazines, a Ginkgo Biloba tree, recycling tubs for everything (except old bras and blister packs and you can ditch those at the Eco Boutique down the street), public loos, four free PCs, comfy chairs, a photocopier, a Meeting Room which hosts the Ottery Writers' Group, Baby Weigh, the Meditation Group and Madeleine Birch's popular *OtterLit* courses, newspapers, a defibrillator, a Lost & Found full of water bottles, three shelves of jigsaws, a Coleridge Collection, free tea & coffee, lots of stripey mugs for the free tea & coffee, Family



History courses, French conversation, great guest speakers, after-school clubs, a cozy children's space with wall perches & embroidered Peter Rabbit cushions & toys, and in between and all around, a few thousand books.

All this is held together by Kerry Carr, Library Supervisor, who runs a team of 40 volunteers, half of whom are LEVs - Library Extra Volunteers - who keep the Library open for a few hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and support Kerry on other days, plus the wonderful Home Delivery volunteers who work out what books you like to read and pick them up, check them out and take them to your front door.



The Library also boasts 67 Friends, local people keen to keep free books available to everyone, and inheritors of an amazing history, when between 2014 to 2017 the Friends emerged and ensured that Ottery still had a library when it had to move out of the old Town Hall (now the handsome Heritage Museum). Anyone can be a Friend, even if you live in West Hill – it's all

free – and then you can join the 50:50 Club, a clever fundraiser lottery to win quarterly prizes.

In *Once Upon a Time – Backalong*, a history of Ottery Library by Martin and Marjorie Stockley (only £5 in the Library!), the Library is described as 'a staunch hub in the heart of the town, supported by the tripod of the charity Libraries Unlimited, the Town Council and the Friends – strong

foundations built by a determined community.'

But this is up for grabs now: The 8th October Cabinet of Devon County Council announced a public consultation over 12 weeks to January 2026 on *The Future of Libraries in Devon*. Libraries Unlimited is running on its reserves and DCC can't afford to renew its contract. Ottery Library is one of the busiest and happiest of the 50 Devon libraries. Please watch out for the publication of the consultation and respond with enthusiasm!

Marilyn Spidell, Secretary, Ottery Library Friends

Simply Worship

The next Simply Worship is on Thursday January 29th 7pm- 8pm at St Michael's church.

Join us for an hour of acoustic guitar led worship on the theme of Epiphany.

West Hill Women's Group



The Group has had some excellent speakers in the past few months. September saw Elizabeth Cozens telling us about her time in Nepal trying to educate young girls so that teen marriages could be avoided wherever possible. It was a most interesting talk.

At our October meeting, Sheila Parker returned to give the third instalment '*Life is a Cabaret*' about her fascinating life in showbiz during the rock and roll era. Sheila had a wealth of stories to tell about those she met and worked with and even had us singing along!

No meeting in December but those members who wish to, gather for a Festive Lunch at the Victoria Hotel in Sidmouth. They always give us a delicious meal and the dining room is adorned with the most wonderful decorations. It's a really lovely start to Christmas.

Next meeting at the British Legion Club: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Brenda Thomas will give us an illustrated talk featuring her colourful, award winning, textile pictures which are built up using scraps of fabric, often recycled, and then secured with machine and/or hand stitching. Brenda will have cards for sale of her work.

We don't have a waiting list to join at present but there are only a few spaces left so if you are thinking about joining, please 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**

Ottery St. Mary Choral Society

Carols and Fireworks!

We are a non-auditioning community choir who sing classical choral music. On Saturday December 13th, in the Ottery Parish Church, we will be performing our Christmas concert.

Now, Ottery needs very little excuse to celebrate by setting fire to something, so our orchestra will be performing one of the nation's firm favourites: Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. George Frideric Handel was commissioned to write the music in 1748 by King George II. That October, the Austrian War of Succession had ended by the signing of a peace treaty in the city of Aix-la-Chapelle. This was a war that started as a Habsburg family quarrel over whether a woman could inherit the throne and ended up as a pan-European conflict spreading all the way from Spain to Sweden to Russia and lasting nearly eight years.

The music was to accompany a celebratory fireworks display in London's Green Park in April 1749. It was enormously popular at the time: in the week before the full performance, an open dress rehearsal drew a crowd of more than twelve thousand people and gridlocked London for three hours.

The choir will be singing some beautiful carols, including the catchy "Torches" by Joubert and the gentle and serene "Shepherd's Farewell" by Berlioz, and of course there will be ample opportunity for our audience to fill the church with the sounds of Christmas. We will want Ottery to be left in no doubt how many gold rings there were, so come in good voice.



Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

The centrepiece of the concert will be Schubert's gorgeous Mass in E-flat. It was one of the last major pieces of music he completed before he died at the age of thirty-one in November 1828. Schubert had a tricky relationship with the established church in Vienna, which often was used as an arm of the government to clamp down on freedom of expression. He freely adapted, re-ordered, and omitted passages of the Latin Mass text to suit his music. The result was music that was so good, the usually strict church often overlooked these liberties. This Mass is music

that expresses a range of emotions, from bleak uncertainty, to joyful hope, to a final peaceful resolution.

Our retiring collection will be in aid of Hospiscare.

Tickets are available now from the Curious Otter bookshop, and online.

Otter Valley
Rotary



West Hill Family Christmas Carol Singalong

Accompanied by

Ottery St. Mary
Silver Band

at

The Royal British Legion, West Hill

On

Saturday 20th December
From 6.30 p.m to 7.30 p.m.

Meet Santa and
Enjoy a Mince Pie &
Mulled Wine
with Friends Old & New



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

West Hill's village café



Last Friday of
every month

See you there from 10.30 am
onwards

Friday 19th December
and
Friday 30th January
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 8th December
Ministry Aviation Fellowship

Monday 12th January
Tudor Times in the Otter Vale

Monday 9th February
The West Country Rivers Trust

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

West Hill Garden Club



Thursday 4th December
Members Christmas Lunch
Red Lion, Broadclyst
12.00 for 12.30

Thursday 8th January
7.30 pm – 9.30 pm
West Hill Village Hall, Beech Park
Stephen Powles speaking on
"Hedgehogs – in need of your help"

For further information contact:
01404 813191

WEST HILL PRESCHOOL'S Christmas Bazaar

Join us for crafts, games, raffle, face
painting, hot and cold refreshments and
so much more!

We will be joined by a range of special guests,
such as JW Dance and local musicians.

All monies raised will be put towards the
wonderful preschool.

Sunday 7th December 2025
11am - 3pm
West Hill Village Hall
Free entry and open to all!



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



Ukrainian Children celebrating Christmas

Services in Church

Nov 28		16.30	Christingle service
Nov 30	Advent Sunday	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Dec 7		8.00	Holy Communion (said)
		9.30	Advent Café Church
Dec 12		15.45	Messy Church
Dec 14		10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Dec 21		No morning service	
		18.30	Carol Service
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	16.30	Crib Service
		No Midnight Service, see p26 for alternatives	
Dec 25	Christmas Day	9.00	Holy Communion
		10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
		10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Dec 28		10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jan 4		8.00	Holy Communion (said)
		9.30	Café Church
Jan 11		10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jan 18		10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jan 23		15.45	Messy Church
Jan 25		10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jan 29		19.00	Simply Worship

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.