

The Messenger



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



**February - March 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 April/May edition is
Monday 2nd March 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



There are seasons in life when everything seems to be going really well. Work, family, a hobby or even retirement plans give you a sense of direction and purpose for your life. There are other times when life seems much harder. Maybe you feel as if you are going round in circles, you do not seem to be achieving anything and all you can do is hope for better times to come without knowing how far off those better things may be.

One of the great episodes in the biblical history of God's covenant people is the period between the enslaved Israelites escaping Egypt through the Red Sea and their arrival in the promised land. It was a period of forty years. If things had gone well, it should have been a few weeks at most; instead, they wandered around literally and metaphorically in the wilderness. Those people lived through that time in an actual wilderness, but their experience gives us a picture of what it can feel like when our lives feel dry, unproductive and aimless.

The forty years of wilderness wandering is echoed in the Christian tradition of the forty days of Lent. This year Lent begins on Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) 18th February. Because the date of Easter moves around year to year, so does Ash Wednesday, which is always six-and-a-half weeks earlier. Those of you who are quick at mental arithmetic will see that six-and-a-half weeks is more than forty days. The trick is that you do not count the Sundays.

The season of Lent is not mentioned in the Bible, but it is a Christian tradition going back many centuries. Lent recognises that a time in the wilderness can be a time of preparation. A season that does not feel so good, that might even involve some deprivation, has the potential to prepare us for what is to come. People sometimes create this artificially by giving up something for Lent.

The old covenant people of God were being prepared for their new life in the promised land; Lent prepares God's new covenant people for Easter.

Though you will not find the word 'Easter' anywhere in the Bible, it is, of course, right at the centre. The resurrection of Jesus is the most important episode in the whole of biblical history. The wilderness of Lent gives way to the glorious wonder of Jesus' resurrection, his dead body being renewed. And that in turn reminds us that the whole of our lives on earth, the good times and the challenging seasons, are an invitation to put our faith in Jesus so that one day we can enter the promised land of God's renewed creation.

Mark

Children's Page

LENT

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter. It starts on Ash Wednesday (18th February in 2026) and the last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

It's a time when Christians remember Jesus's fasting in the wilderness and decide to 'give up' foods that they enjoy – maybe cakes and chocolate? The day before Lent is known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. This is when people used up all the rich foods that they would not be eating for six weeks! Do you like pancakes? What's your favourite topping?



During Lent, we can also 'take on' doing good things for others, just like Jesus did. Can you think of ways you can help your family or friends? Maybe you can tidy your bedroom or do a litter pick?

Especially, we must think about and remember to pray for all those that we know and love.



Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 27th February (3.45-5.15 pm) Messy Church
- Sunday 15th March (10.00 am) Mothering Sunday
- Friday 20th March (3.45-5.15 pm) 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.

Interested in coming to Messy Church?

Email: Rosemary
HUDSONROSEMARY@HOTMAIL.COM

Children's Craft

On the previous page, we read about Lent and 'praying', 'giving' and 'fasting'. Here is an idea for making a Lent mobile on which you can write or draw what you do for Lent.



You will need:

- Coloured Card
- Ribbon or String
- Scissors
- Felt pens
- Hole Punch

Instructions:

- Draw one large and three smaller heart shapes onto coloured card
- Cut out the heart shapes
- Punch four holes in the large heart – one at the top and three along the bottom edge
- Punch one hole at the top of each of the smaller hearts
- Write the word 'LENT' on the large heart
- On the other hearts, write 'PRAY', 'GIVE' and 'FAST'
- Cut four lengths of ribbon or string and join the hearts together (as shown)
- Hang up your mobile and, during Lent, write or draw on each heart what you have done

World Day of Prayer

This year we are pleased to say that St Michael's Church will be hosting this service which has been prepared by the women of Nigeria under the theme "I will give you rest, come".

Friday 6th March at 2 pm

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer annually.

Please come and join us at this service, followed by refreshments. A warm welcome awaits. For further details contact **susanmlock48@gmail.com**

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 28th MARCH at 7pm

in St Michael's Church Hall

£10 per person (includes a 2-course supper)

Tables of 6

Email: hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com to book



Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Museum

From textiles to toothbrushes: Otter Mill's third evolution from spinning to manufacturing



It's a convenience more than an invention. Everybody – young and old – uses one. And it was once a source of both skilled and semi-skilled employment at Otter Mill for the decades around the turn of the twentieth century, marking a shift from 60 years of silk yarn spinning.

We're talking about the humble toothbrush. This, and other brushes, were staple items – essential household equipment in the scrubbing age before detergents.

Both Ottery and Axminster were centres of brush-making in their respective water-powered mills, a story that has been researched by East Devon native **David Knapman**, whose specialist interest is Devon's small market towns and their industries.



Otter Mill changed from a silk spinning mill to become, at first, a brush factory

In March Ottery Heritage Society welcomes **Todd Gray**, who last gave the monthly talk in November 2024. On that occasion, he revealed the stories of the medieval structures hiding behind the modern facades of the island of dwellings around St Martin's and including the fire-damaged Royal Clarence Hotel looking out onto Cathedral Close.

This time he's going to be sharing highlights from his research of 70 wartime diaries belonging to both long-time Devon residents, and newcomers who arrived as evacuees during the years immediately before and during the Second World War. The stories they tell has a different tone from the usual military narratives, as those who comprised 'Devon's Home Front' describe what their lives were like, awaiting news and making less go further.

David Knapman's talk is on Tuesday, February 17th, and Todd Gray's is on Tuesday, March 17th, both 7.30 - 8.30 pm in The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery. Non-members are very welcome but we ask for a donation of £3.50, card reader available. Brook Street car park is adjacent.

Ian Greig, trustee

Priest in Charge Board - an Unusual History

Just to the left, inside the door into the Church, you will find the Priest in Charge board. This board goes back to 1846, when the church was consecrated, and records the history of ministry at St Michael's. It was first put in place in 1985, in memory of Cyril Howard, who served as a sidesman for many years, under the Revd Thomas Lowe.

In 2005, after Wenda Rioch retired, Ann Turner and John Pangbourne, together with Mac Dick, who at that time was a Lay Reader, took the running of the Church onto their shoulders. They did so with the authority of Simon Franklin, the Team Rector at the time, and Bishop Bob (Cullompton) who took the unusual step of licensing Ann and John to ministry in the team: so recognising the extent of their retirement ministry. Mac was ordained in 2011, to become a Self-Supporting Minister with Permission to Officiate.

Little did anyone think that this situation would continue for 17 years - through Covid

- and meeting for worship on Zoom, for 18 months or more until October 2021, when Mark Ward moved into the Vicarage at West Hill and, along with the other 5 churches still under his wing, became our Team Vicar.

Last year the PCC decided to update the Priest in Charge board. It was not an easy task to correctly represent the history of the church and its ministers over this period, but our hope is that it has done so.

After some searching, we found a wonderful signwriter, Carole Kent, who lives and works in Axbridge. We were delighted with the work she did for us and she delivered the board back to us, with her partner, who put it proudly



in place.

Of course alongside Mark we still benefit hugely from the ongoing ministry that Ann and Mac exercise among us. We have been so blessed as a Church throughout these years, and now love having Mark at the helm, wonderfully supported by his wife, Cag. Submitted by **Ann Pangbourne**

Hospiscare News

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

SAVE THE DATE – Men's Walk - Saturday 7th March 2026

On Saturday 7th March, our Men's Walkers will embark on a seven-mile walk from Exeter's Double Locks – with a well-earned bacon roll at the halfway point courtesy of the Rapid Relief Team, and an Exeter Brewery pint (or a non-alcoholic option) and delicious pasty from Chunk of Devon waiting at the finish to be enjoyed during the Italy vs England Six Nations game on the big screen on their return!

And if you can't join us at the Double Locks, you can do Men's Walk 'Your Way' by choosing your own location and route. This event has sold out six years in a row so don't hesitate, <https://hospiscare.co.uk/events/mens-walk/> or telephone 01392 688020

Open Gardens 2026 – Be Part of Something Beautiful

As we look ahead to the coming year, we're excited to announce that our Open Gardens 2026 season will run from April through to October - and we're now searching for new, unique, and inspiring gardens to feature.

Whether you have a cottage garden, a wildlife haven, a courtyard filled with character, or a hidden gem tucked away in your village, we'd love to hear from you. Every garden tells a story, and together they create a season filled with beauty, community spirit, and meaningful support for Hospiscare.

If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please contact us at: fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk

Let's make the 2026 Open Gardens season our most inspiring yet — together.

Hospiscare Monthly Bingos

Every 2nd Sunday of the month at Ottery St Mary Football Club. Thank you to all who continue to attend our bingos. Otter Vale Friends are very grateful for your continued support.

Doors open 6.30 pm - Eyes down 7.45 pm.

Recycle your unwanted gifts

Do you have any new or unwanted gifts Hospiscare could recycle and use at their upcoming fundraising events? If you can help, please contact Sharon on 07803 428363 or via email s.collins@hospiscare.co.uk

Our Staff and volunteers at Hospiscare would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes to our wonderful community and wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

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 Advertisers

The Messenger is funded by the advertising in our Yellow Pages. We have some new advertisers for 2026, so please take a look.

West Hill Emergency Plan

Many of our readers will remember the proposal for an Emergency Plan in a brochure distributed by the Parish Council in Autumn 2024. This plan is now virtually established, but there is still a need for a few more volunteers to improve coverage of the village.

Apart from an introductory briefing and one or two short exercises per year, there would be little else involved. If you would like to find out more about what taking part would entail, or indeed join our team of volunteers, please contact **John Rowland** on j.v.rowland@btinternet.com.

In the unfortunate event of a major natural or human-made crisis, we may all be caught up in events. Being prepared as a community could make a major difference.

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:

9th February: - the West Country Rivers Trust.

9th March: - the building of Exeter Cathedral

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.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I began my last letter referring to all the momentous events that took place in 2025 and sadly it looks like this trend of great uncertainty will continue unabated in 2026. Fortunately we do have some positive events taking place this year which may lift the hearts of many of us. These include the FIFA World Cup and the Winter Olympics. And then we can look forward to the US mid-term elections which I guess will be a weathervane for President Trump. So it is unlikely we will be getting bored any time soon.

Nearer to home we will shortly be witnessing the installation of the ex Bishop of Crediton, Dame Sarah Mullally, as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to hold this most senior post in the Anglican Church.

And in May a lot of us will have the chance to vote for our chosen politicians in the forthcoming May elections. We can look forward or not to the many TV debates and hustings.

What might we expect as residents of West Hill? In the article from West Hill Parish Council, the neighbourhood plan features strongly in their programme for 2026. It will be an important factor in decisions around new housing developments in West Hill, many of which have already caused a lot of controversy. We do have a beautiful village in which to live and we should do all that we can to preserve it for those who live here now and those to come in the future. It was also encouraging to read about the addition of new councillors to work in the interest of West Hill. I believe our village is in safe hands with the current councillors.

May I just encourage you to look at the Hospiscare article and specifically the *Open Gardens 2026 – Be Part of Something Beautiful*. As it says, whether you have a cottage garden, a wildlife haven, a courtyard filled with character, or a hidden gem tucked away in your village, they would love to hear from you. I know there are some wonderful gardens in West Hill.

On a lighter note I thought I would end with sharing a few misprints from church magazines. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

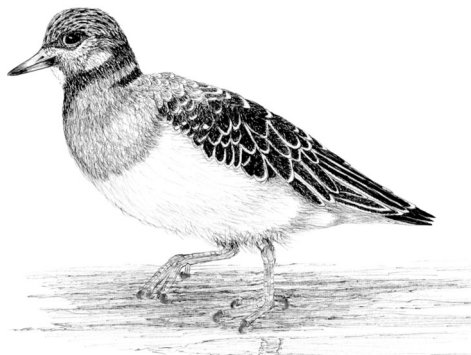
- *"The sermon this morning: 'Contemporary Issues #3 - Euthanasia.' The closing song: 'Take My Life.'"*
- *"The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning."*
- *"Great news! Doctors have performed a CAT scan on Pastor McLaren's head and report that they have found nothing!"*

With every good wish

Mac Dick

Birds near West Hill

Whilst walking along the promenade at Sidmouth you might have noticed several smallish brown streaked, red-legged birds scurrying around, pecking at the ground. These are Turnstone, a wintering seashore bird that does what its name suggests. On the beach they flick over stones to find food. The bird is strong enough to turn stones weighing nearly its own body weight. Turnstones' feet are spiny, with short, sharply curved toenails that help them hold on to slippery rocks. Each bird has a slight variation in plumage enabling the birds to identify those in its own group and any intruders from another group.



The Turnstone has catholic tastes and will eat crustaceans, molluscs, worms and even carrion. They breed in the high Arctic, making a long migratory journey. In the breeding season it becomes insectivorous (as do many birds) as this food is plentiful and young immature birds can digest insects. Turnstones visit the UK in winter but are distributed across

several continents. The bird can fly at an average speed of ~60 km/hr. One bird was recorded flying 720 km. in a day.

On their breeding grounds the male makes several nests and the female chooses which one to lay in. Young turnstones grow rapidly and learn to fly quickly. They take their first flight when they are around 19 days old and fly thousands of miles to their wintering grounds 2 days later. No time to visit the gym to build up muscles for this epic journey! Their parents will have departed before this time, leaving the youngsters to migrate on their own.

The bird has many local names often wrongly linking the bird to other families, like horsefoot snipe; red-legged plover; sea dotterel; sea lark; sea quail and skirl crake. Being linked incorrectly to six other families must be a record! However, ebb picker; stanepicker; stone raw and tangle picker all correctly relate to the Turnstone's feeding habits. The Turnstone's scientific name is *Arenaria interpres* with *Arenaria* from the Latin arena for sand and *interpres* meaning messenger.

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.

Monday Bible Study

When the Bible is studied, the tendency can be to focus on individual books, a gospel maybe or a New Testament letter. In church services we are directed to just a few verses for the sermon, so it's easy to miss the fact that from Genesis to Revelation, (the first and last books) the Bible has one over-arching story. We can fail to realise that its sixty-six books, which were written by almost as many authors over hundreds of years, have a connection, a theme that unites them.

For this reason and in response to several requests, our next Monday Bible Study at St Michael's will feature a course launched by the Bible Society in May last year, that looks at the whole Bible. It will help us to realise its unity and follow the theme through many events and people.

The teaching videos are accompanied by a guidebook for each member of the group. It contains photographs of places, maps, descriptions of people, diagrams and much more to enrich our insights and understanding.

The meetings will be held as usual at St Michael's, but at the NEW TIME of

10 am - 11.30 am MONDAY FEBRUARY 9th

and on the seven Mondays following, ending just before Easter.

(Tea or coffee will be served between 9.40 am and 9.55 am for those who would like it). As always, everyone is welcome to come along to these meetings of discovery and fellowship. Everything is free, and the course is guaranteed to be informative, memorable and enjoyable.

To book a place on the course, ring 813476.

Ann Turner

West Hill Craft Group

Village Standard to mark 100 years of our local Royal British Legion

In 2027, the West Hill and Aylesbeare Branch of the Royal British Legion will celebrate its first centenary. To mark this wonderful occasion, West Hill Craft Group has been invited to help create a new village standard (flag) to be displayed alongside the standards of the West Hill Royal British Legion.

We want this project to be a true community effort. If you are part of a group, family, local business, or organisation in West Hill, we warmly invite you to get involved. Please let us know who you are and how best to contact you. Your ideas and participation are welcome!

During 2026 we will hold workshops to develop ideas, distribute materials, and work together to bring the new standard to life. Further details will be shared as plans develop.

Our aim is to create a standard that truly reflects West Hill today. We hope that at the next centenary celebration, future generations will be able to look back and see the unique spirit and identity of our community in this

shared project.

Please contact us by email: westhillcg@outlook.com, or pop in to see us at the RBL on the second Tuesday evening of the month from 7.30 pm, or let Dave Underwood at the RBL know how we can contact you.

You'd be very welcome to bring your craft along and join in at one of our monthly meetings.

Jane Ollier

Opera Nights

Opera Nights, at the Royal British Legion, are informal and free of charge. The bar will be open at 7.00 pm and there is a short introduction to the work at 7.20 pm. The Opera commences at 7.30 pm 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 29th January: Verdi's "Ernani".

Thursday 12th February: Verdi's "La Traviata"

Thursday 26th March: Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore"

Further information from Peter Clarke opconpeterclarke@gmail.com

Lent Course: A Journey through the Wilderness

Newton Poppleford Church is offering a Lent Course based on material produced by The Bible Project. It takes the theme of The Wilderness.

Sessions will be on Thursday evenings in The Meeting Place at Newton Poppleford Church, starting at 7.30 pm and finishing by 9 pm.

Because the course is seven weeks long and the last Thursday in Lent is Maundy Thursday, we are starting the Lent sessions on 12th February, the week before Ash Wednesday. If you would like to come but cannot get to every session, you are more than welcome to come to however many you can manage.

The seven sessions are titled:

- Session 1: From the Wilderness to the Garden and Back Again
- Session 2: Exile Encounters With God in the Wilderness
- Session 3: Wilderness Humbling and Grumbling
- Session 4: Singing in the Wilderness
- Session 5: Jesus' Wilderness Tests (or Traps)
- Session 6: Bread in the Wilderness
- Session 7: Faithfulness in the Wilderness Leads to Rest

Mark Ward revmarkward@btinternet.com

West Hill Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 1160370

We are already one month into 2026 but this article is being written in December 2025. Nevertheless the Trustees and employees of West Hill Village Hall would like to wish all readers a very Happy New Year.

We have a very busy 2026 ahead of us; these are some of the events taking place at the hall:

Future Major Events and Marquee Bookings

- 20th Feb Hospiscare Quiz
- 1st April West Hill Primary School Easter Show
- 16th April Blood Donation
- 18th April West Hill Conservatives Lunch
- 27th June West Hill Primary School Fete
- 1st July West Hill Primary School Summer Show
- 2nd July West Hill Primary School Summer Show
- 11th July SW Quilters AGM

Dog walking in West Hill Village Hall car park

Since the opening of West Hill Village Hall's footpath we have considered changes to our policy on dogs being allowed in the car park. The objective of the new footpath is to provide far easier access to the Village Hall and Primary School. We encourage as many people as possible to use the path rather than arriving by car. We also wish to allow dog owners to use the new footpath as part of a circular route around the village.

There are some important restrictions:

- All dogs must be held on a short lead and be controlled by their handlers.
- Users must pick up after their dogs and take away any used poo bags.
- Strict maintenance of the dog free zones which West Hill Primary School has requested parents to observe must also be respected by users of the footpath during school drop-off and collection times.
- The dog free zones are/will be clearly shown on a notice by the entrance to the car park.
- Dogs are not allowed in the Play Park managed by West Hill Parish Council.

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

Make me a Channel of your Peace

Some hymns take the form of a prayer. When prayers are sung it enhances the depth of meaning, giving the words more impact and stronger, heart-felt feeling. Singing provides that extra focus and emphasis, with the music allowing us to fully dwell on the words and ponder their deep meaning. The hymn we are looking at in this edition is 'Make me a channel of your peace'.

The original Latin words of the prayer are attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) who founded the Franciscan order. However, the words do not appear in any of his extant writings. St. Francis was born into a prosperous merchant family and as a young man he lived the life of the wealthy. Whilst fighting in a war in 1204 he had a vision calling him to Assisi and from there he joined the poor in begging at St. Peter's Basilica. Francis returned home and began preaching on the streets. Oddly, he was never ordained to the Catholic priesthood but remains a well-known historical religious figure. The words of the prayer reflect Jesus's words recorded in Acts 20 'Remember the words of Jesus "It is more blessed to give than to receive"' and Paul's exhortation to the Philippians 'for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil His good purpose'.

The prayer was first published in 1912 in a French spiritual magazine and subsequently in Italian in 1916, in a Vatican newspaper. The first known publication in English occurred in 1936. From these origins the prayer has been widely used, especially during WWII. The well-known hymn version of the prayer was set to a melody in 1967 by songwriter Sebastian Temple who, after a varied career, in later life became a Franciscan monk. This popular hymn is sung each year at the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance in London, it was used at Princess Diana's funeral and famously was quoted by Margaret Thatcher as she entered Downing Street for the first time as Prime Minister.

<p>1 Make me a channel of your peace: Where there is hatred, let me bring your love; where there is injury, your healing power, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.</p>	<p>3 O, Spirit, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.</p>
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<p>2 Make me a channel of your peace: where there's despair in life let me bring hope; Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.</p>	<p>4 Make me a channel of your peace: it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving to all that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.</p>
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The Royal British Legion West Hill

Movie Nights

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

2 nd Feb	A House of Dynamite, 2025
9 th Feb	Last Breath, 2025
16 th Feb	My Oxford year, 2025
23 rd Feb	Puzzle, 2018
2 nd March	The Roses, 2025
9 th March	Belonging, 2004
16 th March	My Sister's Keeper, 2009
23 rd March	The Great Gatsby, 2013
30 th March	Wild Rose, 2018

Bingo Nights (Doors open 6.30 pm)

Sundays 1st & 15th February and 1st & 15th March

Opera Nights

12th February & 26th March (Doors open 7.00 pm)

Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 8th February & 8th March (Winter timings 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm)

Crafters Evenings

Tuesdays 3rd February & 3rd March (from 7.00 pm)

Dads' Nights

Fridays 13th February &
13th March from 8.00 pm

Mums' Nights

First Friday of each month

Codfather – Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Other Events

Ladies' Probus, 10th February & 10th March from 2.00 pm

West Hill Women's Group, 4th February 10.00 am-12.00 noon

Band Night, Rush Hour, 21st March – from 7.00 pm

Club Members' Day

Saturday 28th March from 3.00 pm – first drink free

Magic, Myths or Mystery?

On Monday 2nd February the Church celebrates Candlemas which marks the end of the Christmas season.

For many of us, especially for children, Christmas is a magical time - magical in the sense of wondrous, awesome, special: it lights up their eyes. But there is also an element to Christmas which is magical in the sense of magic. We have Father Christmas flying through the sky on a sleigh pulled by reindeer and sacks full of presents. We have him coming down the chimney putting the presents in stockings which we had laid out the night before. The carrots, mince pies and sherry left for him are all magically gone and much of the day will centre around the presents that he brought.

But what of the myths told eloquently by Christmas cards, carols and Nativity plays? Much as we love all of these, does it matter that they are filled with myths?

The Bible readings which we hear, told by John, Luke and Matthew tell us this:

- “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” - God Himself became human in the person of Jesus.
- Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and she had not yet “known” a man.
- She and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, Joseph’s ancestral home, following a decree by Caesar Augustus.
- While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she laid him in a manger because there was no room in the “inn”.

Our understanding of this last point has led to so many dearly held myths. But the proper meaning of “inn”, is a guest room - and many now use that in the readings. It was the guest room of a home, (clearly mentioned elsewhere in Old and New Testament) that was already occupied. So, Mary and Joseph were given space with the family in the main part of the house, where everyone bedded down, next to the area where the animals were. It was not “a draughty stable with an open door.”

Angels did visit the shepherds but not “in the bleak midwinter” - if it had been the sheep would not have been in the fields.

More likely it was after the harvest when the sheep were let into the fields to graze off the stubble. The exciting point is that it was prophesied 700 years before by the prophet Micah that the “ruler (or prince)” would come first to “the tower of the flock”: in Hebrew “migdal eder” - the fields just outside Bethlehem where Jacob’s wife Rachel died, and where the sacrificial lambs were raised.

And what of the wise men? Were they kings? were there three? and did they visit the baby Jesus?

Matthew's gospel reflects a prophecy in Isaiah made 1000 years before the birth of Jesus, but he also tells us that Jesus was "a young child" and that Herod - to make sure he killed this potential rival king - killed all the children under 2 years old.

Yes, they came to Bethlehem; yes, they visited Jesus and yes, they fell down and worshipped him. But it was probably at least a year later, at a festival time when Joseph would have been required to go to nearby Jerusalem. Bethlehem being the place of his family that is where they would most likely stay.

Does it all matter?

Yes, yes, yes - because the true story is so much more exciting than the magic or the myths, which we take down with the cards, wrap up and put away with the decorations!

This is a true story and the "mystery" spoken of by the writers of the New Testament: God became man, Immanuel (Hebrew for "God with us"). To live with us, experience all we experience as human beings, to live life as God intended it, to be misunderstood, unjustly judged and die a tortuous death - all the while demonstrating the love of God - in order to bridge the gap between us and our creator and give us life with Him for eternity.

It is a real story, attested as true over thousands of years and it's life changing!

Submitted by **Ann Pangbourne** *These ideas are not entirely her own but come from theologians and preachers including Theologian Revd Ian Paul, Author Bishop Tom Wright and others.*

West Hill Primary School

As we look back on the autumn term and the Christmas season just gone, I would like to share a little of what has been happening in our school and to reflect on the strong sense of community that surrounds it.

The past term was filled with learning, growth and many moments of joy. The children continue to impress us with their resilience, kindness and enthusiasm, and they are a real credit not only to their families but also to the wider village community that supports them.

One of the highlights of the season was our **combined Nativity celebration involving Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**. The children retold the Christmas story with warmth, confidence and genuine delight, and it was a pleasure to welcome families and members of the village to share in such a special occasion. Moments like these remind us how powerful it is when a community comes together to celebrate tradition, creativity and togetherness.

Alongside these visible events, the autumn term also saw continued work

to strengthen children's learning and wellbeing. Reading remains a key focus, and pupils have been closely involved in shaping a refreshed school library that we look forward to sharing more about in the months ahead. Clear communication and positive relationships between home, school and community continue to underpin everything we do.

As we move into the new year, we are excited about further improvements to the learning environment and new resources that will enrich the curriculum and inspire curiosity and enjoyment in learning.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the sense of care and goodwill that exists across our village. Schools thrive when they are rooted in their community, and we are fortunate to be surrounded by people who value kindness, cooperation and the wellbeing of children and families. That shared spirit makes a real and lasting difference.

With best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful year ahead, and thank you for continuing to support our school and its place within village life.

Warm regards,

Mr Rob Pantling Acting Headteacher

West Hill Parish Council

I would like to start by wishing everyone a happy, peaceful and successful New Year. I am sure this is a sentiment with which most people will concur so rather than it just being a wish why don't we all think what we can do to actually make it happen rather than just wish for it?

The Parish Council is starting the year in a good position with two more Councillors joining our Council at the end of last year. I sincerely thank Councillors Jewell and Owen for volunteering to give up some of their valuable time to work for the benefit of the village alongside the other members of the Council. This brings our strength up to 6 Councillors out of a planned establishment of 7 so we are now in a stronger position to address some of the topics brought up by people in our recent village survey.

There are two significant planned housing developments we are dealing with at the moment. The developers of the land North of Eastfields have submitted some of their plans for this development and, at the time of writing this article, we are awaiting a decision on the matters that they have so far submitted. There have been objections from a number of residents and the Parish Council particularly about the planned layout and the clustering together of the affordable housing. The Snr. Flood and Coastal Risk Officer is also objecting to the plans due to there being insufficient detail about the management of surface water drainage and we await to see how these objections are going to be addressed. A concern that has not yet been addressed by the developers is how they are going to manage the storage and transportation of materials during the construction without causing disruption to the neighbourhood and damage to the roads in the village.

The second development that we are dealing with is the proposed construction of houses on land by West Hayes. This application is already being addressed through an appeals process as the developers have claimed that the planning authority was taking too long to consider the application. This location is an ecologically sensitive area and has been designated as a site of national importance for bat assemblage. The developers are proposing to deal with the inevitable ecological damage by buying credits in a “habitat bank” near Honiton. This is a process that assumes that it is acceptable to damage the ecology in West Hill as long as the developers pay a commercial enterprise in Honiton to establish or protect an area somewhere else to compensate for the damage they are doing here. I personally believe that nature is the best creator of natural habitat and if there is an area in West Hill that is particularly sensitive and precious then it should be left to nature to manage it – not a commercial “habitat bank”.

During the coming year we should learn more about the Government’s plans for Local Government Reform and how this will impact on the people of Devon. There is no unanimity across the County, District and Town Councils about how the new arrangements should work so whatever the outcome some groups will not be happy. Because of the uncertainty about this future it is even more important that we get approval for our Neighbourhood Plan so we have some say and influence about the future shape of our village over the coming years. This is undoubtedly the most important piece of work that we need to deliver as a Council and please rest assured that this is being given top priority.

Returning to my opening sentiments, we as a Council will continue to do all we can to make the New Year successful. Of course there are challenges and there will be more to come but we now have a stronger Council to be able to manage these.

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

Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

Although there is no Club night in February, some members still meet informally for a coffee catch up on the third Tuesday of the month at 11.00 am at Otter Nurseries – for any members reading this, that will be Tuesday 17th February this year and hopefully several of you will be able to make it.

Our 2026 Club year then begins on Tuesday 17th March when we will be joined by Karen Smith with her demonstration called “Village Life”. Thanks

to her grandmother's passion for flower arranging Karen decided to go into floristry once her own children were teenagers. She trained at Bicton College and then set up her own floristry business which she ran for 10 years. She continues to run workshops from home and, after attending many Flower Club demonstrations, started demonstrating herself in 2021 passing her NAFAS Area Demonstrators' test in November 2024. We are looking forward to welcoming Karen and are excited to see the designs she creates for us (all of which will be raffled at the end of the evening).

Angie, our Programme Secretary has worked hard on the 2026 schedule and, as well as some great demonstrators we also have the return of the "Pot Luck" workshop in April, a visit to a local flower farm near Newton Poppleford in June and our "Lonely Bouquet" initiative, also in June.

Although not the biggest club by any means, we are a friendly group who share an interest in, and love of, working with flowers, foliage, and other elements to create something beautiful – it is also a fabulous way to de-stress! Our Club nights are very relaxed and visitors and new members are always welcome to come along and join us. Why not come along to Karen's demonstration **at West Hill Village Hall, Beech Park, West Hill, EX11 1UQ – 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th March** to see for yourself?

Before closing for this edition of The Messenger, a reminder to members that the title for the competition in March is "A Touch of Frost" plus subs (and Flower Arranger monies if relevant to you) will be due at the meeting please.

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



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

As our club year begins in January we now have a whole new programme of Speakers and Outings etc. to look forward to in 2026, all arranged by our Programme Secretaries, and sometimes with helpful requests from members.

The **Garden Related Fun Quiz** takes place at our February meeting on **Thursday 12th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**. Run each year by one of our members the quiz started in 2016 and the questions keep coming! This year there will also be a very small section of (easy) plant identification included, just for variety. Members and visitors join a table of 4/5 people to see if their table can secure the prizes all amid light hearted banter. A Bring and Share Finger Food Buffet follows, complete with drinks, and the evening concludes with a Raffle.

On **Thursday February 26th** we have our first outing of the year when a trip to Burnham Orchid Nursery near Newton Abbott at **11.00 am** has been booked. Names and travel arrangements will be finalised at the February meeting.

On **Thursday 12th March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall** we have invited **Will Dommett an East Devon District Council Ecologist** to speak to us about the sites, habitats and species found in this area. We will be able to hear what is being done to protect and encourage the wildlife around us, ask questions, and learn how endangered species can be saved for future generations to enjoy.

Visitors and new members are always welcome to 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

Welcome Café

The Welcome Café is part of the outreach of West Hill Parish Church and is open to all residents and their friends. Do come and join us especially if you live on your own. We aim to make everyone welcome, and yes, we do have a laugh.

It is normally held on the last Friday of the month from 10:30 am until midday (or when all customers have left). We would love to see you all.

Now the bad news: due to the increasing cost of coffee we have decided to increase the cost of coffee to £2, refills are still free, and the price of a slice of cake remains at £1.50.

We are always happy to recruit new volunteers either for kitchen duty or cake making. If you are interested please contact me and we can add you to this year's rota. We normally have 3 volunteers in the kitchen and 3 homemade cakes made for each Café.

The dates for the next Cafés are **February 27th** and **March 27th**.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Christine Smith 01404 812995 or littlebrake@btinternet.com

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**

The Season of Lent

In the coming weeks we celebrate Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) on February 17th and Ash Wednesday, the next day, marking the start of Lent.

On Shrove Tuesday we use up rich foods, like eggs and milk, prior to Lent. It is also a time to be "shriven" - to confess and receive assurance that our sins are forgiven. A sign of this is received at a service on Ash Wednesday when the ashes of the Palm crosses, from the previous year, are used to mark the sign of the cross on the forehead of the penitent.

These traditions loosely echo God's commands in the Old Testament: firstly, to remove anything made of yeast prior to the celebration of Passover in the Spring, and later to hold a day known as Yom Kippur.

Lent is a reminder of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the **start** of his ministry. For us, a time of prayer, fasting and repentance and remembering his crucifixion at the **end** of his ministry. The New Testament teaches that He offered himself as a 'propitiation' for our sins (1 John 2:2).

The 40 days mirror those leading up to Yom Kippur - which Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks described as *a day not just of confession and forgiveness but of a profound liberation...we can begin again. We are not held captive by the past*". The Greek word in John's letter is identical to that used to translate the Hebrew word "Kippur" in Leviticus 25:9.

Seeing the roots of our traditions in the Old Testament can add a whole layer of understanding and depth as we approach this season.

Ann Pangbourne

Ash Wednesday Services (18th February)

10.00 am at Newton Poppleford	Holy Communion
10.00 am at Feniton	Holy Communion
7.30 pm at Ottery St Mary	Holy Communion

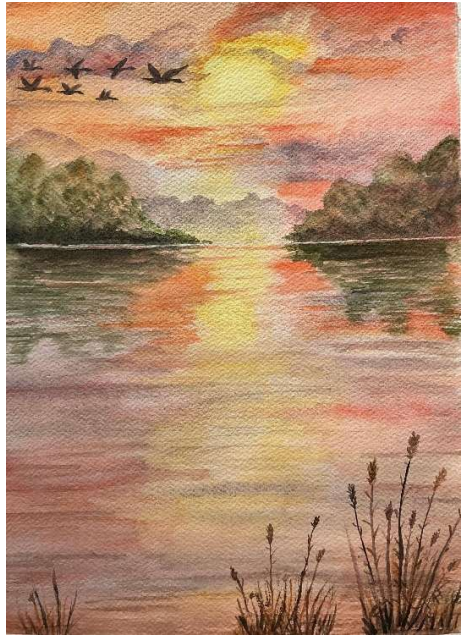
West Hill Art Group

I feel that I must correct the impression that was given in the last edition of the Messenger that West Hill Art Group was no more.

We actually moved to a new venue in early November. The Legion is more conducive to our painting group in so many ways. It is still on Monday afternoons, we have 14 members and they are producing their best work.

We are planning on painting outside, "*en plein aire*" as soon as it is warmer. Painting in the open air is more complicated because the sun goes behind the clouds and moves across the sky, which means that the shadows and highlights change position and direction. Decisions at which point you will paint your picture is better if a quick sketch is made showing the exact scene that you want to convey and in what light.

Until then we will enjoy painting in the warm at the Legion. Here are some examples of our work.



Flying Home at Sunset by Rosemary Seymour



Lobster by Lily Vaughan



Gold Hill Shaftsbury by Rosemary Hudson

Rosemary Seymour 07972 047035

Ottery St. Mary Choral Society

Joseph Haydn: The Creation

We are a non-auditioning community choir who enjoy singing classical choral music. On **Saturday April 25th**, we will be performing Haydn's "The Creation" in English, in **Ottery Parish Church**.



Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809) became one of the world's most successful composers in the late 1700s, and much of his music is as popular today as when it was written: it still has something to say to us after more than two centuries.

Haydn came from a very humble background. His father, Mathias, was a wagon maker, and his mother, Maria, was a cook.

Painstakingly, through luck, sheer hard work and innate talent, Haydn built a reputation as

Joseph Haydn, 1732 - 1809 a competent composer and music tutor. By 1761 he had been recruited by the immensely powerful and wealthy Esterhazy family, part of the ruling dynasty, and he spent 30 years as their musical director and resident composer.

The Creation was composed between 1797 and 1799, a massive fourteen month effort. It is a large-scale choral piece, depicting the creation of the world described by the book of Genesis. In the 1790s Haydn came to England on two enormously successful tours, and heard the grand scale choral works of Handel for the first time. It is said that Handel's Messiah, with the famous Hallelujah chorus, reduced Haydn to tears.

The Creation is Haydn's response: a big sound with a big choir illustrating a big subject. He throws everything at it – there are solos and duets, monumental choruses celebrating the end of each day of creation, and tone painting from the orchestra for the depiction of chaos and the arrival of the sun. **We can't wait for you to hear it!**

West Hill Arboretum Group

We hope you all had a good Christmas, and were able to enjoy a walk around our village of trees at some point. It's such a different 'feel' when we can see the shapes and silhouettes of our trees, and with the added bonus of being able to see and identify our birds in their homes.

Focus on Fruit tree pruning

If you have fruit trees now is the time to prune, if it is frost free.

Apples - Remove dead, diseased, and crossing branches (to stop

rubbing). If a tip-bearing apple variety leave alone laterals with fruit buds at their tips.

Pears - Pears should be pruned in winter. Remove dead, diseased, and overcrowded branches.

Gooseberries, black and red currants - these soft fruits should be pruned by removing diseased, weak and low branches.

Raspberries - Cut autumn fruiting varieties to ground level in January/February. Summer varieties should have fruiting canes removed immediately after fruiting and new growth cut to 6" above the top wire in February.

Do not prune plums, peaches, apricots and cherries in winter. These trees should be summer pruned - June/July, as there is a risk of Silverleaf or bacterial canker infection. Keep pruning to a minimum, only removing dead/dying/broken or diseased branches.

Our next walk will be on Sat. April 11th, leaving the British Legion at **10.30 am.** This will be led by Mat Shute of East Devon Tree Care. The walk is approximately 3 miles, along footpaths and byroads. Sturdy footwear required as paths may be muddy. No stiles.

Celina Herbert - Chairman Tel. 07912061530

Eileen Perkins - Secretary and Tree Warden 01404 815905

Councillor's Column



Neighbourhood Plans

I am really pleased that we have an active neighbourhood plan group developing a new Neighbourhood Plan for West Hill. Neighbourhood Plans are a really important way of influencing planning decisions and, as they are voted at referendum by residents, they genuinely represent the views of local communities. When I represent West Hill residents at EDDC's Planning Committee it is really helpful to be able to point to specific policies

in our Neighbourhood Plan. Planning Inspectors also frequently refer to Neighbourhood Plan policies in their Appeal decisions.

It is disappointing that the Government has decided to scrap the £10,000 grant awarded to parishes towards the costs of development of Neighbourhood Plans. The scrapping of this grant will deter parishes (particularly smaller parishes) from developing Neighbourhood Plans and in doing so will silence the voice of local communities.

At East Devon District Council's Strategic Planning Committee on 6th January I argued that Neighbourhood Plans are so important that EDDC

should be providing its own grant scheme to parishes to replace the one that the Government is terminating. I was very pleased that the Committee supported my proposal.

Saving trees in Ottery St Mary

I was alarmed to be alerted to tree felling on the Sidmouth Road, Ottery St Mary just before Christmas. When I arrived at the site I found that a huge length of hedgerow had been taken out and the trees were about to be felled as well. I stood in the road and blocked the tree felling and immediately called the EDDC Tree Officers to put in place emergency Tree Preservation Orders so that the trees were protected.

Thankfully the Tree Officers came out and agreed with me that the trees needed to be protected and are now the subject of provisional Tree Preservation Orders. The field adjacent to the trees was previously the subject of a planning application for 63 houses. This had been refused by EDDC and also at Appeal by the Planning Inspector who cited the contribution of the hedge to the character of the area as one of the reasons that the application was refused. I am pressing for EDDC to take enforcement action against the landowner for hedgerow removal.

An extraordinary Devon County Council meeting to discuss Local Government Re-organisation

On 9th January I attended a specially convened Devon County Council Meeting to discuss local government re-organisation - and specifically the letter from the Minister of State for Local Government. On 18th December Alison McGovern MP had asked 63 Councils who are due to have elections this year if they wish to postpone their elections in order to “release essential capacity to deliver local government re-organisation”. Although DCC has no elections in May, Exeter City Council is one of the councils which is due to have elections. In the letter the Minister also stated that in relation to local government reorganisation and the creation of the new unitary authorities she “remained committed to the indicative time table that sees elections to new councils in May 2027 and those councils going live in April 2028”.

At the Meeting I expressed the view that elections should not be postponed and also my concerns that there is simply insufficient time within the proposed government LGR timetable between May 2027 and April 2028 to establish new authorities and ensure the safe transition particularly for Children’s and Adults’ Services.

We will have to watch this space and see whether the Government sticks to its proposed timetable which includes carrying out a consultation in the Spring and a decision as to what form the new unitary councils will take in the Summer.

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

Otter Valley Rotary



The Community Draw taking place at The Beehive at Honiton



Our President Peter preparing to give out presents to Cranbrook children

In addition to the events shown above, Christmas collections were made at Morrisons, Cranbrook and Tesco at Honiton, for local causes. Very many thanks to the stores' Managers for agreeing these ventures.



Our Christmas tree in St Mary's Church tree festival

Members helped with serving Christmas Dinner to the elderly and alone of our area at Otter Nurseries, organised as usual by Glynn Dobson and his helpers - to whom our grateful thanks.

Following Paul and Lynne's retirement from the Tumbling Weir, our new 'home' is to be at The Jack in the Green at Aylesbeare. Meetings are scheduled for the first and third Monday evenings each month at 7.00 for 7.30 pm, unless precluded by Bank Holidays. Do contact Secretary **Keith Spittlehouse** at **keithspittlehouse@btinternet.com** if you'd like to join in supporting the local community whilst enjoying fun and fellowship at the same time, it's not at all onerous.

2026 sees the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of our Club and we have determined to donate to 40 start ups/local groups and/or deserving causes, to mark this milestone. If you know of anyone deserving support of this nature, please contact our Secretary as above.

Meetings for January and February are planned already with a skittle match with partners, ten pin bowling v Exmouth Rotary Club and a talk about the Honiton Learning Community already scheduled.

In closing, Otter Valley Rotary wish all readers the very best of health and fortune for 2026. **Julia Pither**

Thank You from Dorrie

In the last issue of The Messenger, we featured an article about Dorrie Pack's challenge to raise funds for her favourite charity Hospiscare, so that they can provide care for the community today and in the future.

Last November, Ottery Leisure Centre offered Dorrie the opportunity to join a group in the gym where she rode on a static bike, aiming for 25 miles in 25! She achieved her goal and raised over £3000. At 98 years old, she's now

taken up gym membership as well!

Dorrie would like to thank everyone who supported her in this challenge.



West Hill Women's Group



A very happy New Year to all from West Hill Women's Group.

At our November meeting Jenny Pinn, of Pinnacle Icing, demonstrated how she hand ices the shortbread biscuits

that she sells. The detail and precision of her work was amazing and it was fascinating to watch her designs take shape.

There was no meeting in December as our members had the opportunity to have a Christmas meal at the Victoria Hotel in Sidmouth.

Next meeting at the British Legion Club: Wednesday 4th February 2026

Adrienne and Robert Hesketh will give a musical presentation illustrating the history of Valentine's Day.

March meeting at West Hill Village Hall – Beech Room Thursday 5th March 2026

A change of venue for the March meeting as the RBL are having heating work done during this time.

Chris Wiseman is coming to tell us about the RAF in Exeter during WWII.

Guests are most welcome at our meetings for a cost of just £3 which includes coffee/tea and cake – we'd love to see you.

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

Welcome Café

West Hill's village café



Last Friday of
every month

See you there from 10.30 am
onwards

Friday 27th February
and

Friday 27th March
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 9th February
The West Country Rivers Trust

Monday 9th March
The building of Exeter Cathedral

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



Otter Vale Friends and Otter Vale Rotary
invite you to their

WEST HILL QUIZ
West Hill Village Hall
Friday 20 February

Prompt start for 7.30pm
£10 per head to include a light food platter
(vegan/Vegetarian option available, please pre order)

Please telephone Steve Pearcy 01404 811335 to book your place

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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

Feb 1	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Feb 8	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Feb 15	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Feb 22	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Feb 27	15.45	Messy Church
Mar 1	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Mar 8	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Mar 15 (Mothering Sunday)	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Mar 20	15.45	Messy Church
Mar 22	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Mar 26	19.00	Simply Worship
Mar 29	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.