

The Messenger



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



**April - May 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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Our lower cover picture is a spring flower arrangement created by Rachael Down in memory of her mother, June Potter.

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PLEASE NOTE The last date for copy for the June/July edition is
Monday 4th May 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



Many, many years ago there was a temple in Jerusalem. It was a holy place which represented the presence of Yahweh, the Lord God, living in the midst of his people. Although people knew that God could not be contained in a building nevertheless the inner sanctuary was the place where God's presence was most powerful. It was the place in which he put his Name.

In the year 586BC disaster struck. The Babylonian army invaded and destroyed the temple. As it says in Psalm 74, 'They behaved like men wielding axes to cut through a thicket of trees.' And having smashed up the temple, they set it on fire. For the Israelite people it was not just the destruction of a beloved building, it raised the horrible thought that the Lord God had finally lost patience and abandoned them to their fate.

Many of the Israelite people were taken into exile in Babylon. As 'Boney M' sang in the 1970's, 'By the rivers of Babylon... we wept.' [Psalm 137]

There was, however, an Israelite prophet in exile called Ezekiel. God gave him a vision of a new temple. At the end of the vision is a picture that I find particularly attractive. He describes water coming out from the temple and flowing eastward. It starts very small, but as the vision takes us further downstream it becomes a shallow stream, then a river to wade across, eventually a river in which someone could swim.

And then the prophet sees trees on the banks. Because of the stream from the temple, the trees bear fruit and have green leaves all year round. And it says, 'the leaves are for healing.'

People imagined that the vision would be brought about by constructing a new building with wood and stone. Eventually, those who returned to Jerusalem did build a new temple, but the life-giving stream never emerged. Instead, God did something unexpected. He gave the world a living, breathing temple—Jesus Christ.

Like the first temple, Jesus was destroyed. He was killed on the cross, but God raised him to new life. Jesus' resurrection is the resurrection of just one man. But like the 'river of life' that started with a trickle, that one resurrection flows through history and the world.

Ezekiel's vision is picked up again in the very last chapter of the Bible. In Revelation it says that the leaves of the tree that grows by the river are 'for the healing of the nations.' In our day we long to see the nations healed. That will happen eventually, and it will flow from an empty tomb in a garden.

Mark

Children's Page

Messy Momentum



St Michael's Messy Church is currently taking part in a national pilot project called Messy Momentum, which is for the 9+ age group. During each Messy Church meeting, this youth group is offered the opportunity for informal chat about Bible verses and separate more age-appropriate crafts (at the February meeting, UV lights and specialist goggles were involved!)

Feedback from the current group is very encouraging.

If you're interested in returning to Messy Church, please get in touch. Also, if you've now moved to secondary school, you can come along without an adult (with a completed parent/guardian consent form).

At Messy Church, on arrival, 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!

Dependent upon school holidays, Messy Church is on the 3rd Friday of the month (3.45 – 5.15pm) during termtime (except July). All of the younger children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 24th April – Messy Church

Friday 15th May – Messy Church

Friday 19th June – Messy Church
BBQ

For more information about Messy Church, contact Rosemary
hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com



Easter Jokes



Q. Why don't you tell jokes about Easter eggs?
A. Because they'll crack up!

Q. What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear?
A. 14 'carrot' gold!



Children's Craft

Easter is a time of new life. Spring is here, there are lambs in the fields, our gardens are bursting into colour, insects are buzzing around and the sun is finally starting to shine!

Here are a couple of Easter/Spring crafts, which you might like to try during the Easter holidays.

Insect Paper Clips



- Draw an 'insect' (about 10cm long) onto white card/paper
- Colour your 'insect' and cut out
- Using double-sided sticky tape or glue, stick your 'insect' onto a clothes peg

- Use the peg to clip together your paper notes
- Make another!

Easter Card



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- Fold an A5 piece of card in half
- Draw an egg shape on the front. Then draw a jagged line across the middle of the egg to make it look as though it has been 'cracked'.
- Draw and colour in a design on the egg.
- Cut through both pieces of card around the egg, leaving 10cm along the fold.
- On the front piece of card only, cut along the jagged line.
- Write your message inside.

When you open the top part of the egg, your message will be seen.

Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Museum



By the time you read this, Ottery Museum will be open for its new season (April 3rd). And we need your help! There's been recent progress with our plans to purchase the historic building and make it more accessible and fit-for-purpose, and all the trustees are seeking team members with skills as diverse as IT, the heart of the operation, admin, cataloguing, communications, hospitality etc. More detail on the website. And now on to upcoming talks...

Ottery History Society talks for April and May explore how people and trade crossed rivers and oceans.

Former history teacher Stewart Raine's talk *Crossing the Pond* on April 21st concentrates on the development of the coal- and then oil-powered steamships that developed from the mid-19th century, carrying thousands of passengers across the Atlantic, many of them emigrants from Europe seeking a new life in the USA. Liverpool-based Cunard, with its famous liners *Mauretania*, *Lusitania* (see picture), and *Aquitania*, and Southampton-based White Star Line with the *Olympic* and, of course, the short-lived *Titanic*, were the most important British companies. Less well-known to us, North German Lloyd and Hamburg-America carried far more, particularly emigrants. France, the Netherlands, and even Italy all produced transatlantic liners to get a slice of the traffic.

When *Queen Mary* was launched in 1934, followed by *Queen Elizabeth*, it was assumed that sea travel would remain the way passengers crossed the Atlantic. But in the new era of air travel, these grand ships found themselves unable to compete. Today, only *Queen Mary 2* has a regular schedule of Atlantic crossings, which are really seven-day cruises.

You might be surprised to learn that it was not the first-class passengers, but the emigrants that provided the real revenue for the westward crossings – which explains why the ships always called at Queenstown in Ireland and Cherbourg in France.



Lusitania First Class Lounge

On Tuesday, May 19th, the society welcomes a Roman archaeology authority of long standing, Dr Peter Marsden FSA, to compare and contrast the major Roman stronghold of Londinium with the smaller but well-resourced provincial legion headquarters and river crossing of Isca.

Londinium (Roman London) and Isca (Roman Exeter) shared key Roman

urban traits as civilian settlements founded shortly after the AD 43 Claudian invasion.

Both were destroyed in Boudica's revolt around AD 60-61, and both were rebuilt quite rapidly with walls and fortifications, but they differed markedly in scale, function, and prominence.

Londinium was Britannia's largest commercial capital and port, three to five times the population and size of Isca, and it remained a prominent Roman stronghold until 410 AD. Isca, the smaller legionary hub in the south-west, was home to the Augusta II legion for 25 years with a forum, basilica, and underfloor heated bath house. After the legion left, Isca grew as a Saxon trade centre.

Peter Marsden is a long-established Roman archaeologist and author whose 1980 work *Roman London* is still a standard source on our Roman origins. He now lives near Exeter.

Ottery Heritage Society exists to make our shared heritage accessible to all, and non-members are especially welcome to hear talks (we ask for a small donation). The Institute in Yonder Street, Ottery has car parking nearby in Brook Street. There's hospitality from 7.00 pm and the talks run 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm.

Ian Greig, Trustee

The Week Before Easter

John's gospel gives a clear picture of the last week of Jesus' life.

In Chapter 10, Jesus was being targeted after the Feast of Dedication (Hannukah: usually in December). So he took his disciples to Betharbara, the other side of the Jordan River, just opposite Jericho, "And there he stayed." *v40*. This was where John had first baptised *Chapter 1:28*. Here John had recognized Jesus as "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" and here he had baptised Jesus.

In Chapter 11, it is written that while Jesus was there, news of the death of his dear friend Lazarus, was brought to him. After a few days he went back to Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, and raised Lazarus from the dead. As soon as his enemies among the Pharisees knew he was back they started to plot to kill him. So once again Jesus took his disciples to a safe place, the city of Ephraim, in the wilderness of Judea, north east of today's Ramallah. John writes that the Feast of Passover was near - so now around March.

Chapter 12, records that Jesus returned, with his disciples, to the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus six days before Passover and was given supper. The "next day" he rode into Jerusalem on the day we have named Palm Sunday.

Without getting too caught up into the complicated concept that Jewish days

start at sunset, this was almost certainly the 10th day of the month, the day the sacrificial lambs for Passover are taken into the house *Exodus 12:3*. And here was Jesus, riding into the city of his Father's House; the city about which God had said, "Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there" *1Kings 11:36*.

On the 14th day of the month, at the start of that day, (the evening), Jesus has a meal with his friends, (Chapter 13), teaches them about what was to come, (Chapters 14-16), goes with them to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prays (Chapter 17) and is betrayed and arrested (Chapter 18).

Chapter 19 details the story of Jesus' crucifixion. It notes that this was the Preparation Day: still the 14th day, the day the Passover lambs are sacrificed. This would take place between 3 and 5 pm, after the afternoon prayers and before the next day began at sunset. This was exactly when Jesus died. "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The disciples had not understood all He had told them and they were devastated.

But we call that day "good" because we have the privilege of knowing that Jesus would rise from the dead after 3 days, would walk and talk with them for a further six weeks and then send His Spirit to lead and teach them.

Today He still walks and talks with those who know Him. I, along with many others, can testify to that.

Ann Pangbourne

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

All of you who have had some connection with West Hill School will probably be aware of the sad death of Clare Bennett, a long serving senior teacher. Her life in the village has made such a difference to our community and so I am using my page to include this tribute from Rob Pantling, the Acting Head Teacher.

Mrs Clare Bennett - A Tribute from the West Hill Primary School Community

13th May 1976 – 31st January 2026

The staff, governors, children and families of West Hill Primary School wish to pay tribute to Clare Bennett, a much-loved and deeply valued member of our community for many years.

Clare joined West Hill Primary School in 2014 and from the moment she arrived at West Hill, she became an integral part of school life.

Clare served the school with distinction both as a dedicated class teacher and as our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo), and as a key member of the Senior Leadership Team. Her contribution to school life was profound, and her loss is felt deeply by colleagues, pupils and families alike.

As SENDCo, Clare brought exceptional professional expertise alongside great compassion and sensitivity. She supported countless children and their families, always taking the time to listen carefully, to guide thoughtfully and to advocate tirelessly. She was unwavering in her belief that every child deserved the right provision, encouragement and opportunity to flourish. For many parents, Clare was a calm, reassuring and knowledgeable presence during challenging times, offering both practical support and genuine care.

One of Clare's most recent initiatives, introducing the Zones of Regulation across the school, continues to have a lasting impact. Through this work, she helped children develop the language and understanding to recognise, manage and talk openly about their emotions and wellbeing — a legacy that remains embedded in daily school life.

As a classroom teacher, Clare was inspiring, creative and wholly committed to her pupils. She combined high expectations with warmth and encouragement, motivating children to achieve their very best. Her enthusiasm enriched every area of the curriculum, and she had a particular gift for the arts. Clare shared her love of music generously, leading the school choir and Teachers' Rock Choir, and creating memorable opportunities for pupils to perform.

Among the many highlights of her time at West Hill were the school's success in 2018's *A Song for Christmas* competition and the unforgettable performances at Exeter Cathedral.

Clare was not only central to school life but also deeply rooted in the village of West Hill itself. She formed lasting friendships within the village and cared deeply about the community she both lived in and served.

Clare died after bravely battling acute myeloid leukaemia for 20 months. Throughout her illness, she showed remarkable courage and resilience — qualities that reflected the strength and determination with which she approached every aspect of her life.

On Saturday 28th February, Clare's life was celebrated at Ottery St Mary Parish Church. As was fitting for Clare, the sun shone beautifully throughout the day. West Hill Primary students both past and present came together to sing in the service - a truly special moment.

Above all, Clare will be remembered for her kindness, humour and unwavering dedication to the children and families she served. She brought warmth and positivity to each day and was not only a respected leader and teacher, but also a treasured colleague and friend.

Clare is survived by her husband, Matt, and their children, Libbie and Sam, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy. Clare's impact on West Hill Primary School has been lasting and profound. She will always remain part of the story of our school and of the many lives she touched.

On a personal note, I will be forever grateful to have known, worked and

taught alongside Clare. I will miss her smile and her laughter deeply. I feel privileged to have shared in her journey, and her influence will continue to guide and inspire everyone at our School in the years ahead.

Clare's family have asked that those wishing to contribute donate to 'The Exeter Leukaemia Fund'

<https://clarebennett.muchloved.com/Fundraising>

Rob Pantling

I would also like to reiterate how much Clare will be missed by the whole village where she touched the hearts of many.

Mac Dick

West Hill Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 1160370

We have had a really wet start to 2026 but now that spring has arrived we all hope for better weather so we can enjoy the great outdoors. There are however many opportunities to enjoy indoors at one of West Hill Village Hall's events.

One-off bookings for parties and events remain strong and bookings for our Regular User groups are running smoothly. We have many upcoming events including the following:

1 st Apr	West Hill Primary School Easter Show
16 th Apr	NHS Blood Service
18 th Apr	West Hill Conservative Lunch
27 th Jun	West Hill Primary School Fete
27 th Jun	40 th Birthday Party
30 th Jun	West Hill Primary School Summer Show preparation
1 st & 2 nd Jul	West Hill Primary School Summer Show
11 th Jul	SW Quilters AGM
6 th Aug	NHS Blood Service
7 th Nov	West Hill Conservative Lunch
11 th - 13 th Nov	Wedding Reception
21 st Nov	Preschool Bazaar
28 th Nov	Hospiscare Christmas Fayre

After many years of loyal service our Village Hall Manager, Mike Hemming, has decided to retire from his role. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Mike for all the valuable work he has undertaken for us over the years and we wish him the very best for the future.

The search for a new Village Hall Manager is now underway so if anyone is interested, or if you know of someone who is, then please contact myself Colin Veale (01404 813830) or Tony Fryer (01404 813408). The role is part time (around 6 hours per week) and is a salaried position. This might well

suit a retired person who is practically minded and wishes to provide support within the community for a few hours each week and receive a salary for doing so.

Tony and I will do our very best to maintain all the services at the hall until we find a new manager.

Please visit our website www.whmessenger.info/west-hill-village-hall for details of the full range of clubs and activities on offer at the hall, or call Lynda Creegan on 01404 623091 between the hours of 09.00 and 17.30.

You may also contact Lynda by e-mail on westhillvillagehall@gmail.com

Colin Veale, Chairman, Village Hall Trustees

The Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil marks the end of Lent and is the first service of Easter. It is held on Holy Saturday evening when we recall the hours in which Jesus passed from death to life. It's an ancient service which originally took place out of doors in the hours of darkness between sunset on Saturday and dawn on Easter Day.

Our service at St Michael's will be on Saturday April 4th at 7.30 pm, inside the church and will last an hour.

However, it will contain all the elements of the original service: the symbols of fire and light as the Easter candle is lit from a fire outside the church door; a recounting of the story of salvation in Bible readings; and a recalling of the vows that were made at our baptism which identify us with the death and resurrection of Jesus and mark our having moved to a new life in communion with him. The final part of the vigil will be the joyful celebration of Holy Communion on Easter morning.

Do consider coming to this very lovely, quite emotional, evening service.

Ann Turner

Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

We were pleased to get our 2026 Club year off to a great start in March when we were joined by Devon & Cornwall Area NAFAS Demonstrator, Karen Smith, with her demonstration called "Village Life".

On Tuesday 21st April we have our regular workshop, "Pot Luck". This hands on evening has become a firm favourite with members and visitors over the years. The format is a bit like Ready, Steady, Cook but rather than a dish of food being the end result, with "Pot Luck", it's a flower arrangement!

Everyone brings along a container – this year it is a kitchen utensil (anything used in the kitchen basically!) along with some appropriately sized flowers and foliage, oasis/pin holder/chicken wire or similar. This is all then given at

random to another Club member/visitor who takes those floral “ingredients” and turns them into an arrangement which is returned to their owner at the end of the evening! Therefore it’s “Pot Luck” who gets your items and “Pot Luck” how it might turn out!

In May we will be joined by NAFAS Area Demonstrator, Charlotte Dawe who travels from Cornwall to bring us her demonstration entitled “April Showers Bring May”. This isn’t Charlotte’s first visit to us and we look forward to welcoming her again and enjoying all her arrangements which will be raffled at the end of the evening. For members reading this article, the May competition is “A Cascade”.

We are a friendly group, and new members and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome. Why not come along and take part in “Pot Luck” on **Tuesday 21st April** (see details above) or join us for Charlotte’s demonstration, “April Showers Bring May”, on **Tuesday 19th May – both take place at West Hill Village Hall, Beech Park, West Hill, EX11 1UQ at 7.30 pm.**

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

Ottery St Mary Bowling Club

As I write it seems that the rain will never stop, but there are two club members who are grateful for the rain, namely the green keeper as he does not have to water the green and the treasurer, as the water bill should be considerably reduced! The Bowling Club is gearing up for the new season which officially starts on Sunday 19th April, and by then all the pre-season work in and around the club house will have been completed, and the club will be ready to welcome both existing and new members alike.

Having played various sports during my lifetime, I am so glad that a few years ago I decided to try bowls, and I can honestly say that I have not been disappointed. What other sport offers gentle exercise in the open air, a game that is full of fun and laughter and one that is also coupled with a sense of belonging to a community? All of these elements are beginning to be recognised by the professionals as essential to a healthy lifestyle, and I can guarantee that, like me, you will not be disappointed!

Open club nights start at 6.00 pm on Friday 24th April and this is the first opportunity when anyone can come down to the club in Strawberry Lane simply to try the game out. We have five qualified coaches who will assist you to learn the game, and the green itself is reckoned to be one of the best in East Devon, used frequently by the county for home matches. All equipment will be provided, but you are requested to wear flat shoes, and just don’t leave your sense of humour at home! In 2025, the club started a youth section, when young people between the ages of 11 and 17 can come down to the club on Saturday mornings, and learn a new sport that does not

involve kicking a ball! Further details including the start time and date will be available on the club website. Last season, one of the young people who joined the Saturday morning sessions played a couple of friendly matches at a senior level, and I understand that he was very good!

As well as providing superb facilities, Ottery St Mary Bowling Club has a reputation for being both a friendly and a welcoming club, which leads on to the question - what is stopping you from coming down on a Friday evening, simply to see if you like the sport? I look forward to meeting new members .

Clive Russell - Press Officer

Jan Beardsall

Jan moved to West Hill with her family in 1986. Although she had many interests, her three great passions were her family, her gardens and her poetry. She had written poems from childhood. As an adult she found inspiration in nature, people, the trivia of daily life, and from love and loss. Her poetry won several prizes, but what gave her more pleasure was raising over £5000 for charity from the sales of her books. She was a frequent contributor to the Messenger.

Jan died on 23 December 2025 after a long battle with dementia. She is buried in St Michael's churchyard.



The poem printed here is about her father. It records two important events they shared: her wedding and his funeral, both occurring in August, some 30 years apart.

To the Church

Everyone had gone.
The house was silent as the
car drew up.
August - so hot:
Too hot for finery.
I picked up my bouquet
You put on your top hat.
We were nervous
Our hands were shaking.
"Ready?" you said.
We left the house together
For the church

Everyone was there.
We all fell silent as the
car drew up.
August - so hot:
Too hot for black.
I stared at the wreath
They'd put above you.
I was nervous
My legs were shaking.
"Ready?" someone said.
We left the house together
For the very last time.

West Hill Primary School

A New Chapter Begins: Celebrating Our New School Library

This term marks an exciting milestone for our school community with the opening of our brand-new school library – a long-awaited addition to our provision.

Every school would love a dedicated space where children could discover the joy of books, develop their imagination, and build the reading habits that support learning across the curriculum. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, that vision has now become a reality at West Hill. Pupils have had a say from start to finish, with them voting for a 'countryside' theme and the school council approving the final design. Pupils enjoyed their first visit to the library on Thursday 5th March, coinciding with World Book Day.

The project was made possible through the tireless fundraising efforts of our PTFA, whose commitment to enriching the school experience for our pupils continues to make a profound difference. Their work, alongside a generous contribution from the Parish Council, provided the funding needed to transform an ordinary room into a welcoming and inspiring library space.

As well as offering the space for a whole class to come to the library together, the room also has tables and seating for pupils to work in small groups in lesson times, or to play a game of chess or Scrabble during lunch.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped bring this project to life. The PTFA's dedication, the Parish Council's generous support, and the encouragement of our wider school community have all played a vital role in making the library possible.

Mr Rob Pantling, Acting Headteacher

Welcome Café

Well it looks like spring is coming at last, do come and support the Welcome Café, take a stroll down to the Church on the last Friday of the month and enjoy a cup of coffee and some home-made cake. We are open from 10:30 am and while you are there take a peek at the churchyard, at this time of the year it is carpeted with beautiful pale-yellow primroses and the smell is fantastic.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their support and we couldn't do it without them. Many were at the afternoon tea party given by the PCC in recognition of all the supporters of the Church activities. It was good to be on the other side! We are always happy to have more volunteers.

Next Café dates are **April 24th** and **May 29th**

Hope to see you there for refreshment and conversation.

Christine Smith 01404 812995 or littlebrake@btinternet.com

The Royal British Legion West Hill

Movie Nights

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

6 th April	Dead of Winter, 2025
13 th April	Prime Minister, 2025
20 th April	Touch, 2024
27 th April	Hamnet, 2025
4 th May	Shall We Dance, 2004
11 th May	Jay Kelly, 2025
18 th May	Larry Crowne, 2011
25 th May	Red Notice, 2021

Bingo Nights (Doors open 6.30 pm)

Sundays 5th & 19th April and 3rd & 17th May

Opera Nights

30th April & 28th May (Doors open 7.00 pm)

Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 12th April & 10th May (7.00 pm - 9.30 pm)

Crafters Evenings

Tuesdays 7th April & 5th May (from 7.00 pm)

Dads' Nights

Fridays 10th April &
8th May from 8.00 pm

Mums' Nights

Last Friday of the month

Codfather – Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Other Events

Ladies Probus, 14th April & 12th May **from 2.00 pm**

West Hill Women's Group, 7th April & 6th May **10.00 am - 12.00 noon**

West Hill Garden Club

Easter will be here in early April and we know we can look forward to signs of Spring again after a very wet and grey winter. The deciduous trees will be coming into leaf and the fruit trees will be showing off their blossom, as perennial flowers in the borders start to shoot and the farmers and gardeners start to sow the seeds for this year's crops. Let's just hope for no late frosts and lots of warm dry days.

For our April meeting we have **Katherine Crouch** coming to speak to us about **Garden Design**. This will be on **Thursday April 9th at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**, followed by tea and coffee. Whatever size garden you have no doubt Katherine has some ideas to inspire you.

Our May meeting will be on **Thursday 14th May** when we will be going to visit **Plaz Metaxu Gardens at Whithybridge**. The name means 'the place in between' as it is in a 32 acre combe beyond a farmstead, and has been developed by its owner, Alasdair Forbes, since 1992. It is said his design was influenced by myth, literature, poetry, painting and music - so it promises to be a garden with a difference. Times and travel details will be given at the April meeting.

Earlier in the year we enjoyed a talk on Hedgehogs. The Speaker explained how his brother in Oxfordshire had set up a **Hedgehog Highway** in his village where hedgehogs could safely travel from garden to garden through a small hole in the hedge or fence, and so avoid the need to cross roads, as they searched for food or fellow hedgehogs, often travelling many miles overnight. This prompted a debate as to whether the idea could be copied in West Hill. Are there hedgehogs in the village? If you have any sight of them and would like to explore the idea please contact our Chairman or Secretary whose contact details are below.

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

Monica Highnam

Lutra Vallis Ladies Probus Club

What is the connection between: Dartmouth Search and Rescue, a High Court Judge and a Goldsmith? They were all recent Speakers at our monthly Meetings. Our members agreed they were extremely interesting and their topics diverse and most entertaining.

Forthcoming Speakers look to be similarly interesting.–

On Tuesday 14th April, Peter Manfield, his talk is titled "A King's Lifeguard." He will be giving us an insight into his life in military service as a musician,

playing both trumpet and trombone.

On Tuesday 12th May, Nigel Hyman, his talk is titled "Pop Up Museum." He will be bringing us items from Sidmouth Museum to "intrigue and amuse!"

If you are friendly, interested and interesting, and wish to meet like minded women, why not find out more about our club? We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm, at the British Legion in West Hill. An optional delicious tea is available provided by Hospiscare, at a nominal cost. All proceeds go to that worthy charity. You would be most welcome to come as a Guest to try us out!

To find out more please contact:

Chairman **Trisha Fryer** on 01404 813408 or email

Trisha.fryer@hotmail.co.uk

or Membership Secretary **Moni George** on 07368546944 or email

monicageorge895@aol.com

Ottery Help Scheme

As we welcome in the new year Ottery Help Scheme welcomes their new Chief Officer.

I would like to introduce to all readers Teresa Pollard who has joined the team as Chief Officer. Teresa comes with a wealth of experience from running Exeter Food Bank to various roles with Living Options Devon. Teresa lives locally with her husband and teenage family. Only a few days into her new role she is meeting local residents and getting to grips with the workings of OHS. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her a long and enjoyable time with us.

Over the past few months, we've been highlighting our OHS groups. One group that may be less well known is the Boardroom Group. This is a joint venture with Able 2 Achieve and the social enterprise Silver Otter Café, located just along the road. Once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, clients can choose to enjoy lunch together at the café before heading to the space behind it to play a variety of games for a couple of hours. Others prefer to join the group just for the games. There is fun and laughter and Oh yes a competitive spirit from some while others enjoy a more peaceful game.

A big thank you to those who have taken on being a volunteer as their New Year's resolution! We very much appreciate all our volunteers whether you can offer an hour or two a month or a regular slot whether supporting an activity or as a driver. As the requests increase to transport local residents to medically related appointments the need for drivers also increases. If you think this could be for you please pop in the office, call 01404 813041 or make contact via email: info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

Jill Dudding, Chair of Trustees



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 Parish Council

After one of the wettest starts to a new year that I can recall maybe we can now start to look forward to Spring. The daffodils are coming out in force and the snowdrops have been out for a while. Some trees are showing a hint of green and we will shortly be able to enjoy what is certainly my favourite time of the year.

Since the last edition of The Messenger we have done some more work to the new footpath at the Village Hall and laid tarmac on the pathway up to the playpark. Not surprisingly it was difficult for people to manoeuvre pushchairs on the bark path and as we had a little money left over in our budget we decided at a Council meeting that this would be a real benefit to a lot of people. I do hope that this will make it much easier for people to get to the playpark.

The playpark is a popular area for the village children and as a Council we recognise the importance of keeping it safe and in good condition. Some of the equipment is showing its age and is reaching that time when it must be replaced. Our Playpark Working Group is finalising a plan to develop the park further by replacing pieces of equipment in a phased programme over a few years and introducing some new attractions. It is one of our objectives as a Parish Council to keep the playpark a safe, attractive and fun place for our children.

At Christmas we managed to install a Christmas Tree beside the footpath thanks to the generosity of Otter Nursery who provided the tree. It was an experiment and a bit of a last minute thing but it was generally well received. For next Christmas we would like to make lighting up the tree a bigger event and bring more people together to celebrate and enjoy the coming of Christmas. Councillor Ben Jewell is co-ordinating plans for the event and if anyone wants to assist and contribute to this then I am sure that Ben would welcome any offers of support and also ideas to make the event memorable.

We do receive some letters commenting on poor driving standards and other matters of Road Safety on West Hill's roads. Thankfully we have very few accidents but that is no excuse for complacency. With planned housing developments in West Hill and Ottery it is quite probable that this will increase the volume of traffic on West Hill's roads and increase the problem. As a Parish Council we do not have powers to do very much with regard to road safety but we can collect evidence to present to those who do have such powers to try to persuade them to do more. Now we are fortunate in having more members of our Parish Council we have reinvigorated our Road Safety Working Group to collect such evidence and lobby those bodies who can help us improve the safety on our roads. Walking around West Hill it is quite disgraceful to see the state of some of the road markings, many of which are now barely visible. Unfortunately this neglect by those in authority can lead to a behaviour pattern that says "If they can't be bothered then why should I be?". We have to try to change this.

As we move into Spring your Parish Council will be doing all it can to try to maintain West Hill as a delightful place to live.

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

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 and there is an interval, when the bar will again be open. If the Operas are given in the original language, there are subtitles in English.

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

Thursday 30th April: Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin"

Thursday 28th May: Mozart's "Cosi fan Tutte"

Further information from Peter Clarke opconpeterclarke@gmail.com

Hospiscare News

A huge festive thank-you to Otter Garden Centre!

We are blown away by the incredible £42,170.30 raised through their Otter Festive Adventure in aid of Hospiscare. To everyone who volunteered, donated, or took part — thank you. A special shout-out to the amazing staff and helpers who make this magical event such a success every year. We simply couldn't support our patients and their loved ones without you.

Otter Garden Centre is a truly wonderful family-run business that continues

to support not only Hospiscare, but the whole community, with such generosity and heart. From all of us at Hospiscare: thank you for going above and beyond. Your kindness makes an extraordinary difference.

Save the Date: Monday 6th April 2026 - Car Boot Sale & Family Fun Day

Ottervale Friends of Hospiscare are putting on an Easter Car Boot Sale & Fun Day at Ottery St Mary Football Club on Monday 6th April from 10.30 am – 3.00 pm. Family fun for everyone, well behaved dogs are welcome, limited free parking.

To book for the Car Boot - please contact Steve on 01404 811335.

Save the Date: Saturday 16th May 2026 - Bumper Plant Sale

Ottervale Friends of Hospiscare are organising their Bumper Plant Sale and need your help! Can you grow plants for your local Hospice? If so, please contact Pam Joy on 01404 813820.

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. Ottervale Friends are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

Doors open 6.30 pm - Eyes down 7.45 pm.

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 44 years caring for those in your community.

If you are interested in the work of Hospiscare, or can help with any of the above requests please contact your Area Fundraiser Sharon Collins

Tel: 01392 424960 Mob: 07803 428363

Email: s.collins@hospiscare.co.uk

Sharon Collins

West Hill Arboretum Group

Our Spring walk is on Saturday April 11th

Leaving the British Legion at 10.30 am, the walk will be led by Mat Shute of East Devon Tree Care. The walk is between 2½ and 3 miles along footpaths and byroads. Sturdy footwear required as paths may be muddy. No stiles. Hopefully spring and some drier weather will have arrived by then!

Focus on Spindle Euonymous Europaeus

This shrubby tree is a good addition to any hedgerow planting. It has colourful pink berries and bright autumn foliage. It is a deciduous native

hedgerow shrub. After flowering in May/June Spindle produces distinctive pink fruits that are said to resemble popcorn! The shiny and slightly waxy green toothed leaves turn a rich orangey red in autumn.

For a new hedge, it grows well when mixed with other species such as beech, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple and hornbeam. The cheapest way to plant a new hedge is to buy 'bare root' plants in the winter months. The spindle is a hermaphrodite, meaning it has both male and female reproductive parts. They are pollinated by insects. A relative, which is evergreen, is a variety called Red Cascade; a very attractive addition to the garden shrubbery.

Advance notice of our summer walk. This will be on Saturday July 25th, and it will be a Wild Flower walk, with special emphasis for children's interests. Put it in your diaries.

Celina Herbert - Chairman Tel. 07912061530

Eileen Perkins - Secretary and Tree Warden Tel 01404815905

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 Honiton Repair Café

Sustainability is a worthy—and important—aim, but even if you're committed to it, it can be difficult to translate its goals into everyday actions that genuinely make a difference.

In 2009, Martine Postma decided to do something about this challenge and founded the Repair Café. Repair Café is a charity that aims to reduce the amount of stuff we throw away. To give you an idea of the scale of the problem: the UK ranks 2nd in the world for the amount of electrical waste ('e-waste') produced per person. The concept behind Repair Café is simple: people bring faulty, broken, or damaged items, and volunteers repair them - free of charge.

The temptation to throw things away is made all the greater because many items, especially small white goods, are relatively cheap, not designed to be repaired, and often costly to fix (if it's even possible). As a society, we've

become less inclined to repair things, and many of us have lost the required skills. Yet the success of this simple idea has been remarkable: from a single café in 2009, there are now more than 3,800 worldwide.

Beyond reducing waste and saving money, Repair Cafés offer unexpected secondary benefits. Many of the items brought in hold sentimental value, and there's a real 'feel good factor' in hearing the stories behind them from the people who bring them in. You can't help but smile when seeing the look of joy in the face of someone when they see their 60 year old toy doll back together again after so many years. And there was a look of relief with the realisation of how much a fully working riser chair would ease the lives of them and their elderly relative.

The rewards extend to the volunteers too. Repairing a rocking horse, a child's toy, or someone's ancient Hoover gives a great sense of satisfaction. There's also a great pleasure in the mental challenge of diagnosing a problem and working out how it can be fixed—often requiring a great deal of ingenuity.

There is almost no limit to the variety of items that come through the door: stereos, keyboards, toys, lamps—making it difficult to know what tools to bring. And it's not only mechanical and electrical items; clothing repairs are often needed too, including replacing zips, buttons, patches, and more.

There are a number of Repair Cafés in Devon, and their locations can be found on the Repair Café Organisation website. Our one operates in School Lane, Honiton, and has been running for about a year. It opens on the 3rd Saturday of every month, from 9.15 am to midday.

So if you have something that you'd rather not throw away or that needs a little TLC, bring it along. We'll do our best to fix it for free—though we wouldn't say no to a contribution towards our running costs. You can try our excellent home-made cakes while you wait.

John Bullard

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:

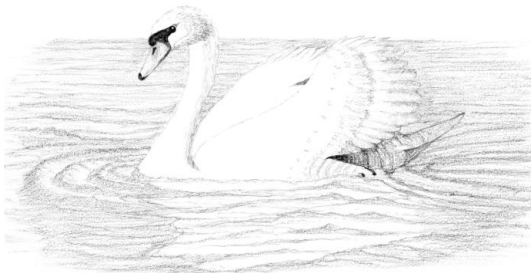
13th April: Otters – Coming to a river near you

11th May: Being an Exeter Redcoat & Cathedral Guide

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.

Birds Near West Hill

An instantly recognisable bird is the Mute Swan, seen locally on lakes, rivers and fields. The Mute Swan is our only resident swan and is one of our heaviest flying birds, weighing 12 kg. The bird is not mute and will grunt or hiss if you get too close, but it does not have a song. The term 'swan song' arose in ancient Greece to represent a final effort made just before death (or lately, a final performance e.g. in the theatre) based on the belief that the swan sang a beautiful song just before dying, having been silent all its life. The name swan derives from the Anglo-Saxon meaning sounder, probably referring to the swishing sound of its wings made whilst flying. The adult male is called a cob from the Middle English cobbe, meaning leader of a group. It also refers to the prominent black knob at the base of the bill in the breeding season. The adult female is called a pen and the young are called cygnets, from the French cygnus for swan with the diminutive suffix -et added.



The Mute Swan is a high-fidelity species. Swans pair for life and unusually remain together during the non-breeding season. The longer they remain together (they live on average for 10 years) the better the pair are at raising young to adulthood.

The Mute Swan has long been a royal bird. Edward I used the Swan as a badge. Edward III passed protective legislation as the bird was valued as a table bird for eating. Henry VII imposed fines for stealing their eggs. The Crown still has the right to Mute Swans on the Thames from London Bridge to Henley. The beaks are marked with a nick in a ceremony known as upping.

In a mythological story, Zeus fell in love with the goddess Nemesis but, when she resisted his advances, he turned himself into a swan. Aphrodite pretended to pursue him in the form of an eagle. Nemesis gave refuge to the escaping swan, only to find herself tricked into embracing Zeus. To commemorate this successful trick, Zeus placed the images of a swan and an eagle in the sky, linking these birds to the constellations Cygnus and Aquila.

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

West Hill Art Group

The Herald of Spring



Hellebores by Graham Evans



Snowdrops by Jenny Baker



Mother and Fawn by Liz Shorrocks



Spring Flowers by Decia Brennan



Proud Mother and lamb by Rosemary Hudson



Hellebores by Emma Wilkinson

Councillor's Column



Libraries Consultation

Devon County Council has recently concluded a public consultation on its proposal to reduce library opening hours across Devon. As part of this proposal, Ottery St Mary's Library hours would be reduced from 21 to 15 hours per week, and it would be closed on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Friends of Ottery Library have been campaigning to stop the proposed reduction in opening hours, and I have been working closely with the group. I attended and spoke at the Ottery Library protest on Friday 13th February, and supported the presentation of their petition to the Leader of Devon County Council at the Council's budget meeting on 26th February. More than 1,800 people signed the petition.

I also tabled a formal budget amendment at DCC on behalf of the Independent and Green Group to remove the budget line relating to £650,000 of library "efficiencies" from the 2026–27 budget. Although this amendment was not supported, it did help raise the profile of libraries within the wider budget debate.

Ottery St Mary's Library offers a wide range of activities and services for residents of all ages, in addition to traditional book-lending services. It is a highly regarded and extremely popular library with dedicated staff and volunteers.

More than 23,000 people responded to DCC's public consultation, which reflects the strength of feeling and the level of concern. Originally, a decision was due to be taken by the DCC Cabinet on whether to move forward with the proposals in March. However, there will now be a formal scrutiny meeting to examine the proposals in more detail.

I will continue to fight for Ottery Library as it is an invaluable asset to our community, and I remain strongly opposed to any reduction in its opening hours. At the time of writing, the electronic version of the petition is still available on the DCC website. Please do sign it if you have not already done so.

Land adjoining White Farm Lane (ref 25/2209)

This planning application for a single dwelling was recommended for approval by EDDC planning officers at the Planning Committee on 26th February. Although I could not be present due to attending the DCC budget meeting, I submitted an objection, principally focusing on the impact on nearby trees.

I am pleased that the Planning Committee shared these concerns and

refused the application on the basis that the siting of the dwelling close to trees would likely lead to future pressure to prune or remove them, which would have an adverse impact on the landscape character and amenity of the area, as well as harming local biodiversity.

Local Government Re-organisation

The Government is currently consulting on proposals for local government reorganisation in Devon. Full details of the five unitary council options are available on the Government's website, and the consultation closes on 26th March. I find it disappointing that the Government is pressing ahead with local government reorganisation at what is likely to be significant cost to the taxpayer. In my view, time and resources would be better directed towards improving the delivery of frontline services.

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

Ottery St Mary Library News

Shhhhh...I'm reading. Cutting libraries during a recession is like cutting hospitals during a plague. The library isn't a luxury, it's a lifeline. These were some of the placards at the Friday 13th February Save Our Library demo in Ottery St Mary.



It was a spot of joy in the Friends' three-month campaign objecting to Devon County Council's consultation on the 'future' of libraries in Devon. The consultation ended on 22nd February and the responses flooded into Exeter from library supporters all over the county: 22,000 of them! This is the largest response that the Council has ever had. The ill-judged consultation attempted to persuade us that Open

Access (think ATM), Hubs, Networks, Volunteer or Community-run libraries could replace our beloved Library with staff who know your name and go the extra mile.

a petition: the Friends presented one thousand, eight hundred and eleven signatures to the 24th February Council Budget meeting, a meeting where Councillors Bailey and Wilson made impassioned speeches and submitted amendments to reverse the £425,000 cut to the libraries' budget. The very next day the Council reversed the cut. Possibly all the campaigning and the amendments did the trick or maybe it was the gift of central government's bailout of the SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities) deficit of nearly £200m. The Council has also agreed £1m to fund 'libraries transition' but we don't know what we are transitioning to...

So thank you to everyone in West Hill who joined in. Continue to enjoy the library in the meantime. It's a busy, buzzy place full of readers. The average monthly number of reservations is 400! It's only £1 to reserve a book, but if you get the large print version, it's free. You're welcome.

Marilyn Spidell, Secretary, Ottery Library Friends

Simply Worship

Sunday May 17th 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Theme: High and lifted up

An hour of acoustic guitar-led worship with the focus on the Ascension and Pentecost.



West Hill Women's Group

'Exquisite' was the word most used with regard to the samples of textile art that Brenda Thomas brought for us to see at our January meeting. We were all enthralled by the intricacy involved in her studies of our local coastlines, and other projects, using recycled fabrics.

Valentine's Day was the subject for our February meeting when Adrienne Hesketh provided an interesting, poetic and musical history of the day both here and around the world.

Tuesday 7th April

Rick Lockwood from Clinton Devon Estates will be telling us about the Lower Otter Restoration Project, giving an overview and progress post-breach, focusing on the reserve's wildlife.

Wednesday 6th May is our AGM

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.

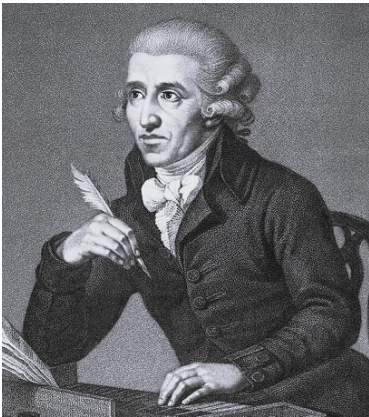
For further details please contact: **Pam Bartlett** on **07816 919142** or **pamela.bartlett1@btinternet.com**

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 Joseph Haydn's "The Creation" in English, in Ottery Parish Church, which we first performed under the guidance of our founding musical director, T.J. Carnell, in May 1895.

"The Creation" depicts the creation of the world described in the Bible, celebrating each of the six days through a combination of solo, multi-part song, and jubilant chorus pieces. It is an unashamedly optimistic work, ending with Adam and Eve, newly created, still innocent, and blissfully in love, as the first humans to witness dawn over the new world. Haydn wrote it over a fourteen-month period during 1797-8, at a time when Europe had spent almost a century at war, culminating with the Napoleonic conflicts that continued into the early 19th century. Europe was crying out for some hope, and "The Creation" offered a life-affirming vision of the paradise that the world once was.



Haydn worked almost all his life in the service of the wealthy and powerful Esterhazy family as their musical director. It wasn't until his first visit to England in 1790 that he heard the choral works of Handel for the first time. Haydn's experiences in the Esterhazy court with instrumental music and light Italian opera had not exposed him to large scale grand choral works, and Handel's music, virtually unknown in Vienna, was a revelation. The famous "Hallelujah Chorus" reduced him to tears.

Towards the end of his second visit to England in 1795, Haydn was given the libretto for *The Creation*.

This was his chance to respond to the challenge of Handel: a big sound with a big choir illustrating a big subject. He passed it on to trusted collaborator, accomplished librettist (and big Handel fan) Gottfried van Swieten, who re-worked the text in English and German. They self-published the full score simultaneously in both languages, a genius decision allowing Haydn to perform it for both his home audience and for the English, who adored him. The Royal houses of both Austria and England subscribed for copies.

The first public performance of "The Creation" was in Vienna in 1799. It broke all ticket sales records, and there were more than 40 further

performances in Haydn's lifetime. The first English performance was in London's Covent Garden in 1800, again breaking box-office records, and it has remained a firm favourite here in amateur and professional choir repertoires. You can bet your powdered periwig that somewhere in this country, a performance of this work will have been made every year since.

Easter Hymn

Easter is a time when emotions run from the depths of sorrow on Good Friday (as we remember Jesus' cruel crucifixion) to the heights of joy at His resurrection 3 days later. These emotions and what the life changing events mean to us are expressed in the many Easter hymns. One of these is 'Thine be the glory' with its powerful message of triumph and hope.

The hymn was originally written in French in 1884 as "À toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité" (To thee be glory, O risen one) by Edmond Budry (1854–1932), a Swiss Protestant minister. The English translation was made in 1923 by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939) a British Baptist minister. The tune, that matches the words so well, was composed in 1746 by G F Händel (1685–1759), in his oratorio Judas Maccabaeus. The piece has the apt title "See the conquering hero".

The first line of the first verse "*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son*" (repeated in the 5th line of every verse) derives from 1 Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." The second line "*endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won*" (and repeated in the last line of each verse) comes from 1 Corinthians 15:55: "O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?". The next two lines "*Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay*" recounts the first Easter morning as the risen Jesus is discovered as told in all four gospels.

The second verse commences with "*Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb. Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;*" continuing the resurrection story as told in the four gospels where Jesus, in His risen form, greets some of His astonished disciples and followers. The fourth line "*for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting*" derives from 1 Corinthians 15 based on a prophesy by Hosea.

Verse three starts with "*No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;*" based on verses from Romans 8 – "In all things we are more than conquerors". The 4th line "*bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above*" recounts the story of the Israelites crossing the river Jordan to enter their new home in the promised land.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.

Geoff Green

Services at St Michael's



Services in Church

Apr 2 (Maundy Thursday)	19.30	Communion at Newton Popleford
Apr 3 (Good Friday)	14.00	Reflection
Apr 4 (Easter Saturday)	19.30	Vigil
Apr 5 (Easter Sunday)	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church with Communion
Apr 12	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Apr 19	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Apr 24	15.45	Messy Church
Apr 26	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
May 3	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
May 10	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
May 15	15.45	Messy Church
May 17	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
	18.00	Simply Worship
May 24 (Pentecost)	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
May 31	10.30	Joint OVMC service at Ottery St Mary

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.