

The Messenger



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



**June - July 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?

Our Team Vicar, Mark Ward, is currently enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical. In his absence, please contact either Carys Baker (07977090932 or curate@otterystmary.org.uk), Revd. Mac Dick or the Church Warden, Pam Johns.

Could someone else from the Church help you?

<i>Other West Hill Clergy</i>	Revd. Mac Dick macdick1@aol.com	371064
	Revd. Ann Turner jandaturner@btinternet.com	813476
<i>Pastoral Care Coordinator</i>	<i>vacant - contact Team Vicar or Churchwardens</i>	
<i>Church Warden</i>	Pam Johns (<i>also Sacristan</i>) pam-johns1@hotmail.co.uk	814096
<i>Assistant Wardens</i>	Ann Pangbourne Sue Lock	812947
	or	07984 881398
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>vacant - contact Churchwardens</i>	
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	Joanna Bromley joannambromley@hotmail.com	07879 220011
<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>	Sue Ritchie westhillchurchsafeguarding@gmail.com	814811
<i>Verger</i>	<i>vacant - contact Churchwardens</i>	
<i>Church Hall Bookings</i>	Sue Lock	812947
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PLEASE NOTE The last date for copy for the August/September edition is
Monday 6th July 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.

Clergy Letter

This week, I booked a summer break for our family. We're not going far, but we've found a beautiful house with lovely grounds and a hot tub. Bliss! Let's hope the August weather is kind. I will take my umbrella, just in case...!

Now Easter is behind us, and with the sun finally making an appearance, it's a time of year when many of us look forward to creating some space for rest and refreshment. Whether we do that at home or away, the pull of sunny days and the upcoming school holidays offer the prospect of a welcome change of routine and pace. We all need that, sometimes, or we find ourselves flagging.

It's reassuring to remember that Jesus took breaks as well. He knew the importance of having some space to get away from it all and pray, to recharge himself in the midst of giving out to so many people. In fact, throughout the gospels this is something he does often, and Luke comments on this (Luke 5:15-16): people were clamouring to see Jesus, it must have been a very pressured situation to be in, but he knew his personal time alone with God was not optional but essential.

Our lives can be a pattern of busyness. We tell ourselves that it's selfish to take a day off, or even to have a couple of hours off, because others need us. We make a virtue of putting ourselves last. Yet the truth is, we can't pour from an empty cup. Jesus knew that. He didn't feel guilty about taking a break and neither should we. When we are rested and refreshed, when we've allowed ourselves some peace or some fun or some joy – whatever it is we need – we return to our everyday more equipped to be there for our loved ones and our work. It benefits everyone. Even God himself rested on the seventh day after creating the world and, like Him, we need our 'sabbaths'.

Rev'd Mark of course is currently in the middle of a three-month sabbatical, a period of rest and renewal that all clergy are encouraged to take every 7 to 10 years, and we wish him and Cag all good things as they enjoy their time away. It's a reminder to us all that rest and stillness can be just as holy as work and is the opposite of doing nothing. So, the encouragement is there for us to create a pattern of life with rest built in, and perhaps best of all some uninterrupted time with God, even if that looks like just 10 minutes with a cup of tea. Remember, Jesus did it first!

Carys

St Michael's on the Web

From the end of June, information about St Michael's Church will be moving from www.ottervalechurches.org to www.whmessenger.info, where you can also find an online copy of the Messenger magazine and information about other village organisations and activities.

Children's Page

Boats Boats

At Messy Church, for several years, Rev Mac Dick would lead us in singing (and lots of actions!) 'With Jesus in the Boat we can Smile at the Storm'. This means that if we love and have confidence in Jesus then He will help us through tough problems. Messy Church's new regular signature tune is 'My Lighthouse'. Lighthouses warn boats and ships to keep away from rocks in the stormy sea. Again, Jesus is our lighthouse and will look after us during difficult times.



Boats are mentioned a lot in the Bible – Noah's Ark, the disciples in their fishing boats, St Paul's travels etc.. Whether it's on a quiet lake or in the middle of the ocean, boating is a beautiful way to enjoy God's creation. You've probably sailed before. Was it in a pedalo or canoe on a lake? Perhaps you've been lucky enough to go on an ocean cruise? Or maybe you're planning to sail on a ferry to France this summer? We hope you enjoy your holiday however you're travelling. Safe journeys!

Messy Church will also be on holiday in July and August. We start again in September.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 19th June – Messy Church BBQ & activities in the Vicarage garden! (3.45 – 5.15 pm)

Friday 18th September – Messy Church (3.45 -5.15 pm)



For more information about Messy Church & Messy Momentum (for the 9+ age group), please contact **Rosemary**:

hudsonrosemary@hotmail.com

Children's Craft

Egg Carton Boat

You will need:

- Egg carton
- Drinking straws
- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Poster/acrylic paint
- Tin foil - optional

How to make the boat:

- Cut the egg carton in half
- Paint the boat in a bright colour and allow to dry completely
- Cut out two coloured paper triangle shapes (for the sails)
- Glue the sails onto the straws
- Insert a straw sail into each hole in the carton
- Glue a colourful flag at the top of each sail, if you wish
- The boat should float in a basin of water (this one did!). However, to be certain, you could wrap the base in tin foil



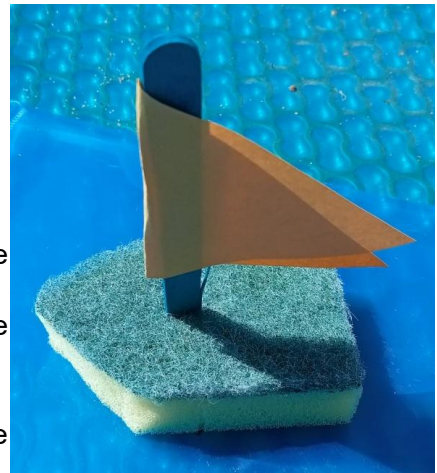
Kitchen Sponge Boat

You will need:

- A clean kitchen sponge
- Lolly stick
- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- Glue

How to make this simple boat:

- Cut the sponge into a boat shape with one pointed end
- Cut the coloured paper into a triangle shape
- Glue the sail to the lolly stick
- Cut a slit in the centre of the sponge (ask a grown up to help)
- Place the lolly stick into the slit that you've made
- Place your sponge boat into water and watch it float!



Happy Sailing!!

Ottery St Mary Choral Society

Thomas John Carnell

The organ in Ottery parish church is an impressive piece of equipment. The great space in our beautiful church is filled with the most inspirational sound whenever the organist plays a grand fanfare. I wonder how many people have found themselves standing behind the organ in the passage to the Lady



Chapel when it is playing? If you have, you will have experienced the thrill of those bass notes reverberating right through you, loudly enough to make conversation impossible with whoever is next to you. It's like the excitement of standing on a hill facing into a gale.

On the wall right behind the organ, receiving at least a weekly awakening from this gorgeous instrument, is a brass plaque; easy to miss, easy to ignore. The inscription reads: "In Memory of Thomas John Carnell, Organist 1868 – 1896, Who Loved His Craft".

Thomas Carnell was not only Ottery's church organist, but the founding musical director of the Ottery Choral Society in 1883. We had some very distinguished members. The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette in December 1883 reported that the president of the new society was Sir John Kennaway, Bart., MP, and the vice-presidents were the Hon. Bernard Coleridge and the Rev. W. H. Metcalfe of the parish church. The very first concert we put on was Mozart's "Twelfth Mass" in April 1884 to raise funds for the Ottery town hospital.

Scholars now recognise that Mozart didn't write this music at all. In 1819, the music publisher Novello printed a catalogue of Mozart's masses, and this piece was the twelfth in the list. By the late 20th century, it was generally accepted that a composer called Wenzel Müller actually wrote it. Never mind – the Victorian Ottregians loved it. There were two performances, on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th April 1884, and at each performance some of the popular choruses were encored.

Thomas Carnell went on to conduct the society for a further twelve years, until September 1896 when he took a train to Taunton to watch a Somerset vs. Australia cricket match. He was taken suddenly ill at the cricket ground, was rushed to the hospital, but sadly died there.

After this blow, the Choral Society folded in 1898. It was revived in 1904, and we have been going strong ever since, thanks to the generosity and support we get from all of you in our town. We are looking forward to our next major concert in November, where we plan to fill the Great Hall at Exeter University in aid of the FORCE cancer charity.



RBL CENTENARY STANDARD

Celebrating 100 Years in West Hill!

To commemorate the centenary (1927-2027) of West Hill Royal British Legion, the Craft Group has been asked to create a new standard. The flag will represent 'West Hill Today' and we are looking for design contributions from organisations and groups connected to the village.

More details to come!

Please contact Jane Ollier if you're interested in being part of this innovative project

Email westhillcg@outlook.com

Ottery St Mary Health & Wellbeing Forum

The Health and Wellbeing Forum are organising a community event at the Station Centre, Ottery St Mary on Saturday 13th June, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm.

Are you or a member of your family a carer for a loved one? You may be a child carer, caring for a sibling or an adult carer whichever or just interested to know about the support available to you as a carer or potential carer. Pop by and meet those who can offer support through various ways, maybe you are wanting advice about Lasting Power of Attorney, sorting finances or more practical day to day support for you or your cared for person. On the day we will have space set aside for your loved one with a number of Ottery Help Scheme volunteers on hand to provide activities or to sit alongside and chat while you talk to exhibitors.



Creating Carer Friendly Communities
Part of Carers Week 2026

Join us at this community event

Saturday 13th June from 11am - 1pm

The Station, Mill Street, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1AH
(free parking on site)

Meet organisations who offer support to local carers and those who are cared for in our local community

There will be a safe space with activities for your loved one while you meet and chat to exhibitors

Any queries re exhibiting or attending please contact jilldudding@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk
This event is coming to you through local statutory and voluntary services in conjunction with Ottery Town Council

We look forward to welcoming you on the day. If you would like more information contact jilldudding@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

Jill Dudding

Ruth Prince

(21/1/1943 – 21/4/2025)

Recently we received the sad news of Ruth's death. Ruth was born and raised in Liverpool. After getting married she moved to Buckinghamshire to help run her husband's construction business and train as a teacher, later becoming a child minder. She had 3 children. Some years after her husband died she met and married Keith Gowen, who some of you will remember. They moved to West Hill in 2014 to be close to one of her daughters and her grandchildren. Here they became members of St. Michael's and Ruth sang in the choir for several years. When Ruth became ill in 2023 she moved out of West Hill. We send our sympathies to Keith and her family. Ruth will be laid to rest near her former home in Buckinghamshire to be near her daughter.

Hospiscare News

Ottervale Friends recently held their Fun Day and Easter Car Boot Sale, a successful event - a lovely time was had by all and the weather behaved itself. Thank you to all who came to support this fundraiser. Special thanks to all the volunteers who continue to work so hard. Also, another special mention to Ottery St Mary AFC for their continued support and collaboration, a grand total of £1166 was raised from the event.

SAVE THE DATE Our Car Boot Sales are back in collaboration with Greendale

Join us every second and fourth Sundays of the month, May - August 2026. Browse, buy, or sell pre-loved treasures while supporting Hospiscare. Come along and hunt for hidden gems, get yourself a funky painting, browse for homemade jewellery, plants, and so much more. Seller entry - £5 for Cars, £10 for vans: 8.00 am-10.00 am. Visitor entry by donation: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday 29th August – 12 noon to 4.00 pm - Cadhay Summer Fete

A fun filled day with beautiful gardens and house tour available, BBQ, refreshments in the tea-room, bouncy castle, side stalls, crafts and so much more!!

Thank you Mr. R Thistlethwayte of Cadhay for allowing us to use this beautiful setting.

2026 Open Garden Season

From now until September, you are warmly invited to enjoy a lovely selection of open gardens across our area. From tiny cottage gardens to vineyards,

there is something for everyone to enjoy, all while supporting a much-loved local charity. Local to us this year is Coldharbour Farmhouse, Ottery St Mary, which is opening on Saturday 1st August 2026 2.00 pm till 4.30 pm.

Free Open Gardens Visitors' Guides are available from your local Hospiscare shop, Abbott's DIY, Otter Gardens & Coldharbour Farm Kitchen.

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 and helping to care 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: Mob: 07803 428363, Email: s.collins@hospiscare.co.uk

Sharon Collins

Update on Royal British Legion Club from the Treasurer

Six months into my role as Treasurer of the Royal British Legion Club, I've been reminded just how special this place is and how much of it goes unseen by many.

Many people don't realise the Legion is a true community hub. In any given month it hosts everything from Art and Crafting groups, Women's Groups, Skittles teams, Ladies' nights, Dads' nights, Jazz, Live Bands, Opera, Movie Nights, Private Parties, Talks, Quizzes, Big Breakfasts, Codfather Fish & Chips, Wakes, Meetings, Bingo and Sports watching (Exeter Chiefs, Six Nations, Autumn Internationals, Champions League etc.).

What's even less visible is the effort behind the scenes. The Legion is powered by volunteers who keep everything running: organising events, maintaining the building, managing finances, tending the garden, staffing the bar (alongside paid staff) and much more. Their contribution is enormous and essential.

It's also a place that gives back, raising thousands of pounds each year to support armed forces veterans.

We've invested a lot recently in new facilities including a large screen TV in

the snooker room, refurbished pool table, championship quality dart board and lighting (and a 2nd one on the way), a heat pump plus extensive refurbishment behind the scenes. To keep moving forward, we need your help.

Two simple ways to support your Legion:

1. Come and be part of it

If you haven't visited recently (or ever), now's the time. A single extra drink a day across the year would boost our surplus funds significantly. A small increase in sales makes a big difference given our significant fixed costs. Pop in for a film night, live music or a match, grab fish & chips on a Thursday night or just enjoy a drink with friends. Everyone is welcome (including well-behaved dogs). We're open evenings from 7.00 pm and Sunday lunchtimes from 12.00 noon. In the summer months we also hope to open more on weekend afternoons for sport watching or if the weather is nice to take advantage of the lovely garden.

2. Lend a hand

Volunteering is rewarding, social and vital to the Legion's future. We're especially looking for help with catering events, a deputy treasurer, gardeners and someone to start a darts team but any skills are welcome (e.g. DIY, Marketing, Website, Interior Design).

Interested in helping? Get in touch: [**rblclubwesthill@icloud.com**](mailto:rblclubwesthill@icloud.com)

The Legion belongs to all of us and your support helps keep it thriving.

Andy Ritchie (Treasurer)

You Shall Receive Power

On May 14th, the Church celebrated the ascension of Jesus into heaven. Ten days later we celebrated Pentecost.

Pentecost, according to Jewish tradition from the time of Moses, comes on the 50th day after Passover. On that day, the children of Israel had reached Mount Horeb. There God made a promise to them *"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; ... you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation."*

As He commissioned them to be His representatives to the rest of the world, He demonstrated His awesome power to them with thunder, lightning, thick cloud on the mountain and the sound of a loud trumpet, not blown by a human.

Fast forward to the same day in Jesus' time. The disciples gather and

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experience a mirror image of that first Pentecost. The sound of a rushing wind, flames of fire that did not burn and the babble of noise as they all began to speak in languages they did not know. What had happened?

Peter explains it to the crowd of 3000 or more, who heard the noise and came running to find out what it was. *“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honour in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.”*

This centuries old festival opened the door for all who love and obey God, to receive the power of the Holy Spirit into their lives. And as Jesus had told them *“ ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

This same Holy Spirit is available to us today.

At Café Church - a fun and informal gathering for all ages - at 9.30 am on the first Sunday of each month, we are exploring “How can Jesus change me?” as we too are empowered by the Holy Spirit. **Ann Pangbourne**

Ottery Help Scheme

Need a helping hand?

Ottery Help Scheme's Home Services are designed to help you when you are in need of additional support. Perhaps you have been unwell, are returning home from hospital, or need extra help with chores or shopping. Maybe you simply need a little company. We tailor support to suit your needs.

For a set hourly rate, we can provide an experienced DBS checked member of staff who can:

- **Help around the house** - maintain a clean and tidy home, assist with laundry and ironing, change the bedding
- **Manage your shopping** - accompany to the supermarket; help with loading/unloading, unaccompanied shopping (just provide a list), help set up online shopping, meal planning and food preparation
- **Organise your paperwork** - Filing, form filling, assist with phone calls
- **Help outside the home** - accompany to appointments, trips to local coffee shops, garden centres or the seaside

To find out more please call Ottery Help Scheme at 01404 813041 or email info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

Welcome Café

Now that the weather seems a bit more settled why not take a stroll around the village on the last Friday of the month and visit the WELCOME CAFÉ. We would love to see you and you will enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and a piece of homemade cake, all for the princely sum of £3.50, much cheaper than in the established coffee shops!

The next dates are on: **June 26th** and **July 31st 10.30 – 12.00 am**

The Welcome Cafe is run entirely by volunteers and is an opportunity for village people to meet up and enjoy each other's company. We look forward to meeting you.

Christine Smith

West Hill Parish Council

As you will be aware, planning matters take up a lot of the Parish Council's attention. Work is progressing on our Neighbourhood Plan and this is becoming increasingly important as we get closer to the date of the implementation of the Local Government Reform. As it currently stands we do not know who our Planning Authority will be or where they will be located. Our best protection for the village in the future is to have a Neighbourhood Plan approved which will give us some influence over future planning decisions. Without it we are just a single voice amongst other consultees. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is working hard to deliver this important but very detailed and complex piece of work and I thank them for the time and effort they are putting in to it.

We recently met with an officer from the Highways Department to discuss a number of matters of concern to the village such as speeding, on-road parking and the poor condition of road markings. We are very concerned that with planned developments here in West Hill and also in Ottery St Mary the situation will only get worse as road traffic will inevitably increase. I wish I could report a meaningful and positive outcome but budget constraints and the fact that we have not experienced many serious accidents in West Hill means that in the eyes of Devon County Council we are a low priority! WHPC has reconstituted our Road Safety Working Group to explore what we can do ourselves as a Parish Council to resolve some of these matters. As a Parish Council we have very limited powers to do much but we are exploring the "art of the possible" and will keep you informed. It is a matter we are treating very seriously.

Together with Jess our Ward Councillor we recently had a discussion with Devon County Council about Broadband speeds in West Hill. DCC were under the impression that there is no major problem in West Hill as they believe that all properties can access broadband with speeds of at least 30 mbps which is what they regard as acceptable. If your experience is

different please let me know as I want to collect some factual evidence to present to Devon County Council and Openreach.

WHPC plans to be at the annual Village Summer Fete in June and – weather permitting – we will set up our crazy golf course as we did last year. Practice your putting skills and make sure you come along for a bit of fun. All proceeds from the Crazy Golf will go the PTFA who are organising the fete.

Our Parish Council meeting in May marks the start of the final year of this council as we are due to have elections for a new Council in May 2027. All those who are keen to stand for election for the new Council should polish up your CVs and form an orderly queue to submit your applications. This is your chance to help promote local democracy and contribute to the future of your village.

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

West Hill Primary School

A Busy and Memorable Start to Term

It has been a busy and rewarding time since my last article, with plenty to celebrate across our school community.

The summer term certainly began in a memorable way. At 9:30 am on the very first day back after the Easter holidays, we received *that* phone call from Ofsted. While there is never a “convenient” time, I could not have been prouder of how our staff, pupils, governors, and families came together to show what makes our school so special.

Since then, the term has continued at pace, filled with trips, musical performances, sporting events, and the many everyday moments that make school life so rich. We have also been lucky to enjoy some lovely weather, with the field in constant use and pupils enjoying valuable time outdoors together.

Friday 8th May saw a musical concert to parents and carers given by the pupils who receive peripatetic music tuition in school. It was wonderful to celebrate the range of instruments and different stages the pupils are on along their own musical journeys. What confidence they showed in front of so many listeners!

Our Year 6 pupils will be taking their SATs tests during the week beginning 11th May. They have worked incredibly hard and approached their learning with determination, and we are very proud of them.

We are also looking forward to Sports Day before half term—always a

highlight and a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part, support one another, and celebrate being active together.

Finally, I am delighted to share that our Reception class for September 2026 is full, with significant demand for places. At a time when many schools are facing challenges with pupil numbers, this is a real testament to our school community. We are pleased to see a mix of familiar family names alongside new families joining us, and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone and getting to know them in the months ahead.

As always, thank you for your continued support—it makes all the difference.

Mr Rob Pantling Acting Headteacher

West Hill Garden Club

Leaving behind a warm dry Spring full of colour and birdsong in the gardens, the promise of the high summer months is now eagerly anticipated by every gardener. The Garden Club replant, water and maintain the planter outside Morrisons, year round, so we are now ready with watering cans to keep the summer bedding looking its best for all passers-by to enjoy.

We are also preparing plants to sell at our stand at the **Village Fete** held in the School Field on **Saturday June 27th from 12 noon until 4.00 pm.** Our stall is well known for its value for money plants covering not just flowers but also shrubs, herbs and vegetables so please come along and support us again. The funds we raise are used to pay for future speakers.

Members please note - for our June meeting we have a change to our printed programme.

On **Thursday 11th June** we are going to visit **Lee Ford, at Knowle Village, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7AJ** meeting there at **2.30 pm.** The garden includes a traditional walled garden filled with fruit and vegetables, a herb garden, a bog garden, a hydrangea collection, as well as greenhouses and a conservatory. We will be welcomed with an introductory talk and given maps to find the areas which interest us most. Teas will be available.

In July we will be back in the Village Hall on **Thursday July 9th at 7.30pm** to hear **Rob Vincent** speaking about **House Plants.** No doubt we shall be able to learn how to make our house plants flourish, with information on when to water and when not to, when to feed and with what, in fact all the things we thought we knew until the plant starts to look sick and doesn't survive under our care!

Our Chairman (**Sheila Gillam** 01404 814074) and Secretary (**Pauline Wade** 01494 813191) are always ready to answer any Garden Club query and you are warmly welcome to visit the Club and meet us. We are a friendly group and you will be made most welcome.

Monica Highnam

The Royal British Legion West Hill

Movie Nights

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

1 st June	I Swear, 2025
8 th June	The Quiet Girl, 2022
15 th June	Now You See Me, Now You Don't, 2025
22 nd June	The Death of Stalin, 2017
29 th June	Wuthering Heights, 2026
6 th July	The Adam Project, 2022
13 th July	The Dressmaker, 2015
20 th July	Ancestry Road, 2025
27 th July	Mothers Pride, 2026

Bingo Nights (Doors open 6.30 pm)

Sundays 7th & 21st June and 5th & 19th July

Opera Nights

Summer Break

Jazz (with City Steam Jazz Band)

Sundays 14th June & 12th July (7.00 pm - 9.30 pm)

Crafters Evenings

Tuesdays 2nd June & 7th July from 7.00 pm

Dads' Nights

Fridays 12th June &
10th July from 8.00 pm

Mums' Nights

Fridays 5th June & 3rd July

Codfather – Fish & Chips

Every Thursday from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Other Events

Ladies Probus, 9th June from 2.00 pm

West Hill Women's Group, 11th June & 7th July 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

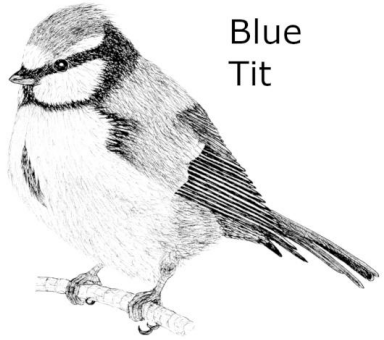
World Cup – all England Matches will be on live

Birds of West Hill

By June birds will be well into the breeding season and for some it will be over. Depending on the weather and food supply, some birds will have second and even third broods, lasting into July. This is particularly true of summer migrants who start breeding later than our resident birds. Hopefully you will have enjoyed the richness of bird song, a season which lasts until the end of May, when the males are defending territory and attracting a mate. Male song is also important to the young chicks who are born at this time. Birds have the innate ability to sing but only learn their specific species' song from the father. At the end of the breeding season males not only stop singing but are unable to sing. The part of the brain associated with singing shrinks, becoming inactive and will usually re-grow and re-activate towards the start of the next breeding season. At the end of the breeding season both males and females biologically lose the ability to breed, with their breeding organs shrinking and becoming functionless. Again, these re-grow and re-activate at the start of the next breeding season. The Wood Pigeon is an exception, as they can breed throughout the year.

After the young have fledged and left the nest, parental duties often continue. As the young mature their digestive organs grow enabling them to expand their diet. Initially insects are often a food of choice, as they are easier to digest. The young can gradually move to eating seeds, nuts and vegetation as they mature. This change is vital for most birds as far fewer insects are available later in the year. Young birds of prey learn how to catch prey from their parents. Ducklings swim with mum (note the absence of any dads here) who shows them how to feed and to stay safe. Young, immature cliff-nesting Guillemot chicks jump high up from the cliffs into the sea, to be joined on the sea by their father who looks after them for several weeks. Young Cuckoos are fed until they are several times bigger than their foster parents and ready to fly off to Africa. Members of the crow family will often assist in the parental care of other members of their group if their own breeding attempt has failed. However, some fledglings are left to their own devices once they have flown the nest.

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



Blue
Tit

Does God speak today?

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”

Between 1978 and 1987, during the early years of our marriage and ministry, John and I often heard of Barry and Mary Kissell, and met them on occasions. Ably supported by Mary, Barry had an amazing ministry, empowered by the Holy Spirit. When he died in 2022, he was described as a “joy-filled maverick, prophetic trailblazer and leader of leaders”; “a kind, gregarious and eccentric man of God.”

It was therefore with great interest, that I recently bought a copy of his book “Riding the Storm” published in 2002. It records the story of how he broke his neck in a surfing accident in New Zealand in 1997 and his slow progress to recovery. But more than that it speaks of how God warned him of the coming time and sustained him through it. Of how God spoke to him through visions, dreams and prophecies, as he lay immobile for months. It gives an honest view of suffering, touches on the depths of despair and doubt he went through but always how these were met by moments of faith and hope.

It is a real treasure for anyone wanting to learn how God speaks and acts, and particularly so at difficult times. The book is currently out of print but there are a few copies available on Amazon, eBay and other second-hand book sellers. Also I have two extra copies on order, if anyone would like to borrow one.

Ann Pangbourne

For further information about Barry’s life and ministry please read this article by J.John <https://share.google/ciyTuohSkCCWokCDD>

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

We sadly have to report the death of Peter Clarke. Peter had lived in West Hill with his wife Joyce for many years. He was known to many of the residents particularly those who were interested in Opera. Peter has organised the ‘Opera Nights’ at the Royal British Legion for many years.

I am really pleased to advise you that Joyce intends to continue the ‘Opera Nights’ knowing that Peter would have wanted them to keep going.

I would like to bring our readers’ attention to the West Hill Village Hall article. And in particular to the really urgent need for people to come forward as trustees without which the Village Hall charity will struggle to keep operating. I have been a trustee myself for well over 10 years and my wife before that. During that time I have come to appreciate just how much the Village Hall contributes to the life of West Hill ranging from the use by the Primary School, Pre School and the many other organisations who regularly use the Hall.

The committee met 5 times in 2025 with each meeting lasting around 2 hours. So the commitment by individual trustees is pretty minimal over the year.

So I am adding my plea to you all to think about whether this is something that you could take on. It is a role where you can help to make real difference to what the Village Hall can offer and to ensure that it is run appropriately. Why not give the Chair, Colin Veale (01404 813830), a call if you want any more information and I really hope that the village residents will respond in the right way. YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!

I wish you all a very Happy Summer.

Mac Dick

Ottery Help Scheme

Volunteer Nail Cutters Needed

At Ottery Help Scheme, we provide a much needed toenail cutting service for local people who struggle to manage their own foot care and are not eligible for NHS provision. Demand for this service is growing, and we currently have a waiting list - which is why we urgently need more volunteers.

Our nail cutting is carried out by trained volunteers who receive specialist training from an NHS podiatrist. While our volunteers are not professional podiatrists, they offer a safe, friendly and dignified service that makes a real difference to people's comfort and independence.

To help us meet local need, we're looking for caring and reliable Volunteer Nail Cutters. The commitment is just three hours once a fortnight, on a Friday, and no experience is needed as full training is provided.

If you enjoy helping others and would like to make a practical difference in your community, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Ottery Help Scheme on 01404 813041 or info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

West Hill Arboretum Group

A Walk through West Hill

The **West Hill Arboretum Group's** latest seasonal walk drew a crowd of both seasoned tree-lovers and curious newcomers.

Led by Mat Shute, we walked along Bendarroch Road, along Footpath one and down Toadpit lane, seeing many wonderful trees along the way. One of the highlights was a visit to the oldest oak tree in the village. Tucked away but standing proud, this magnificent specimen has likely watched over West Hill for hundreds of years. Seeing it up close serves as a humbling reminder of our role as temporary stewards of our trees and all they add to our beautiful village landscape. Mat discussed the vital role such "veteran" trees play in supporting local biodiversity—acting as a high-rise home for

everything from rare fungi to nesting owls.

What's in a Name? Bendarroch Road

Many of us walk or drive along **Bendarroch Road** daily, but few know the history rooted in its name. "**Ben**" stems from the Gaelic *Beinn*, meaning hill or peak. "**Darroch**" comes from *Darach*, the Gaelic word for oak.

Put them together, and you have "**The Hill of the Oaks.**" It is a perfectly fitting title for a road that leads us through a landscape still populated by many sturdy giants that do so much to harbour our local ecology, the average oak tree providing food and shelter for over 2,000 native species.

Our next walk will be a guided walk through wild flower meadows at Blackbury Honey Farm 25th July, 10.00 am for a coffee if you would like, walk commencing at 10.45 am. Children are especially welcome and will be given a small gift. Please let us know by the 20th July if you would like to attend, by email to **Celina@herbert.mx**

Directions: Blackbury Honey Farm, Southleigh, Colyton, EX24 6JF. From Ottery St Mary take East Hill road from the square. Follow to crossroads at Hare and Hounds, straight across and follow the brown signs: or follow the brown signs from the A3052, Sidmouth Road, from the Bowd Inn. No dogs allowed on the farm.

The farm is a lovely place to visit and you may well want to stay after our walk to see all it has to offer, including a lovely café. Toilets available.

The Arboretum Group is always looking for new faces to join our walks.

Celina Herbert - Chairman Tel 07912061530

Eileen Perkins - Secretary & Tree Warden - Tel 01404 815905

Ottery St. Mary Floral Art Club

Members and visitors thoroughly enjoyed our May demonstration when Charlotte Dawe, aka "Charlotte The Florist", travelled from near Port Isaac to wow us with her demonstration "April Showers Bring May".

We now turn our minds to June and July. On Friday 12th June, our members will once again be encouraged to take part in "The Lonely Bouquet" when small bouquets will be left in random places around the local area for the finder to take home and enjoy (or perhaps pass on to someone else). This event is to underline the NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) theme of "Friendship through Flowers". Fingers crossed, some readers of The Messenger will come across a "Lonely Bouquet" on the 12th June while out on their travels – if you do, we hope that it brings a smile and brightens your day.

Our June Club night on June 16th sees our annual garden visit, which is a members' only evening. This year we're off to Manyberries Fruit & Flower Farm near Newton Poppleford. We're very excited to be visiting Caroline's

flower field for the first time, especially as we'll not only have the opportunity to pick our own "bucket of flowers" but there will also be tea and cake – for members of a Flower Club, that really is the perfect night out!

On Tuesday 21st July we will welcome demonstrator Caroline Gibbons. This will be Caroline's first visit to the Club, and we are looking forward to meeting her and enjoying her demonstration. As always, Caroline's arrangements will all be raffled at the end of the evening. For any members reading this, the July competition is "Colours of Summer" – please take part if you can.

Visitors are always welcome to come and enjoy our Club nights with us so why not join us for Caroline's demonstration at **West Hill Village Hall, Beech Park, West Hill, EX11 1UQ – 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st July.**

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

Death Valley

Death Valley is the hottest place on earth, the very name conjures up images of a dry, desolate wasteland. And yet it rains there from time to time, and when it does there can be a superbloom of beautiful flowers, of a sudden carpet of colour in a place famous for death and foreboding. Seeds of life were hidden there all the time, underneath the dust blown surface. This set me thinking about a line from Psalm 23, '...though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me...'

There are many dry places in our lives,
 Many places where colour and abundance have lapsed,
 Thirsty places that long for your revival of hope.
 Remind us again Lord, that you are here,
 In these dry, shadowy death valleys.
 Let there be a superbloom of your presence please,
 Splash colour where there is only grey,
 Let the rains of your Spirit settle on the surface,
 And draw out those unexpected signs of hope please.

Psalm 23 v 4 Copyright © D Hopwood 2015 Used with permission

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**

Tell Out My Soul

This month's hymn demonstrates how well written words and music can make the spirit soar. This is a modern hymn, the words written by Timothy Dudley-Smith in 1961. The words of 'Tell out my soul' are based on Mary's Magnificat, recorded in Luke 1:46-55 where Mary sings God's praise after being told by an angel that she is pregnant with Jesus. The Magnificat is sung in the Anglican evensong service. Timothy Dudley-Smith wrote the hymn after reading the Magnificat in the New English bible, which provided the first line of his now famous hymn. This was the start of a long career in hymn writing. Walter Greatorex had written the tune Woodlands some time before and it proved an ideal match for the hymn's poetic words, being a joyful, exuberant melody. Dudley-Smith was educated at Cambridge University. In 1950, he was ordained an Anglican priest and was appointed archdeacon of Norwich (1973-1981) and bishop of Thetford, Norfolk (1981-1991).

The first verse uses Mary's declaration that her soul magnifies the Lord and rejoices in God.

The second verse celebrates God's great acts and enduring mercy throughout history.

The third verse speaks of divine justice, overturning human pride and how God lifts the humble and hungry.

The final verse proclaims the reliability of God's promises and calls Christians to declare His greatness forever.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord
Unnumbered blessings give my
spirit voice
Tender to me the promise of his
word
In God my Savior shall my heart
rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
his might
Powers and dominions lay their
glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are
put to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted
high

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
his name
Make known his might, the deeds
his arm has done
His mercy sure, from age to age the
same
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty
One

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his
word
Firm is his promise and his mercy
sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord
To children's children and
forevermore

Emergency Plan Working Group

Readers of the latest edition of WHPC Newsletter will have seen the news concerning the Parish Emergency Plan. Although we already have a strong team the need for further volunteers to join our Village Responders will be a constant. On present figures we will be fairly stretched to give the desirable cover for the whole area during an actual emergency. Add the likelihood of some people being absent at the time, the need for further volunteers to join and expand our group is self-evident.

The requirement is straight forward. Volunteers are invited to familiarise themselves with a local area of the village so that during a crisis they are likely to have better knowledge of where assistance may be required. They are equipped with an identity card and during an emergency will have a portable radio linked to a Control Hub. In normal times the collective involvement will be confined to a couple of meetings a year which will include an annual exercise. Details of the Emergency Plan, together with suggestions on ways that people can help prepare themselves, will also be published periodically by the WHPC. If you would like to join our team please contact **John Rowland** at: j.v.rowland@btinternet.com

West Hill Village Hall

Registered Charity No. 1160370

Future Public Events

27 th June	West Hill Primary School Fete
30 th June	West Hill Primary School Summer Show
11 th July	South West Quilters AGM
15 th July	West Hill Village Hall AGM
6 th Aug	NHS Blood Service
7 th Nov	West Hill Conservative Curry Lunch
21 st Nov	Pre-School Bazaar
28 th Nov	Hospiscare Christmas Fayre

A new group, DanceFit, is hoping to start classes on Fridays from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm, starting in May.

We now have a portrait of His Majesty King Charles III hanging over the doors into Oak Hall. The portrait was generously donated by our longest serving Trustee, Mike Harris.

We are still without a Village Hall Manager so, if anyone knows of someone who would like a few hours of work each week and receive a salary for their effort, please contact me.

On 15th July West Hill Village Hall will hold its Annual General Meeting, starting at 7.30 pm. At the meeting Elected Trustees will confirm if they wish to stand again for a further year, if they do, they need to be re-elected. There

are currently four elected Trustees who are all in their late 70s; they have collectively served for over 68 years. They feel it's now time to stand down and allow new, younger Trustees to take over. Three of the elected Trustees are prepared to continue until the end of 2026.

Therefore, this is an appeal to residents to come forward and volunteer to serve as a Trustee. There are hundreds of parents of Pre-School and Primary School children who have a vested interest in the future of the hall. There are many other residents who regularly use the hall and therefore also have a vested interest. If you are interested please contact me (Tel: 01404 813830, e-mail: colinveale@btinternet.com)

West Hill Village Hall is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation and reports to the Charity Commission. If we are unable to find new Trustees to take over the responsibilities of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or otherwise serve as a Trustee we will have to report the situation to the Commission and allow them to determine the future of our hall.

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 9.00 am and 5.30 pm.

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

Colin Veale, Chairman, Village Hall Trustees

West Hill Men's Supper Club

We gather monthly at (usually on the 2nd Monday) for a couple of drinks followed by a two-course meal and a talk by an invited speaker. The last meeting for this season will be on 8th June after which there will be no further meetings until we resume in September:

8th June: Subject: The Industrial Heritage of Dartmoor

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.

Classic Misprints

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last pew notice: "Lunch will be gin at 12.15." Please correct to read "12 Noon."

The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir.

At the church meeting last week, the vicar spoke briefly and delighted the audience.

Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference includes all meals.

West Hill Art Group

We have 14 members in the Art Group and they all have completely different styles. I am going to feature two members styles in the next few months. This month I am showcasing Jenny Baker and Mac Dick.



Jenny loves to try all the techniques and produces some terrific work and should be proud of her positive results.

The other artist in our group I am showcasing this time is Mac. He has a very bold solid style of blocks of colour and creates his own interpretation of the references. It is a pleasure to watch the paintings evolve and then some totally original idea gets added. It is a joy to watch them both develop.

These two are creating their own very individual original styles.



Councillor's Column



Broadband in West Hill

I recently organised a meeting with West Hill Parish Council and Devon County Council (DCC) officers to discuss broadband upgrades in the village.

With the current Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) network, residents should already be receiving download speeds of around 30Mbps. However, we were advised that the majority of West Hill falls within the Openreach Gigabit contract. Under this programme,

Openreach is expected to roll out full fibre broadband - offering speeds of up to 1,600Mbps - across the village by 31st March 2028.

However, in fact full fibre is already available in some parts of West Hill, and wider rollout may occur sooner than this. Openreach's website indicates that work will begin in some areas "within the next year." I would encourage residents to check availability for their properties directly via the Openreach website.

Additional Bus Stop on West Hill Road

I have been contacted by several residents concerned about the lack of a bus stop on West Hill Road in the centre of the village.

I am currently in discussions with DCC to explore whether it may be possible to amend the route of the 44/44A bus service. Any changes, including the introduction of a new stop, would have implications for the overall timetable. DCC is reviewing the situation, and I hope to provide a further update soon.

Library Update

I spoke at the special meeting of the DCC Corporate Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee on 29th April, which was convened following the public consultation on the future of Devon's libraries. This consultation received an unprecedented 25,000 responses.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the consultation outcomes and the recommendations due to go to Cabinet in May. However, the scrutiny report provided was extremely limited in detail, leaving little scope for meaningful scrutiny.

The Committee resolved that:

- The Cabinet decision should be deferred to allow full pre-decision scrutiny
- Statutory library hours across Devon should not be reduced

At the time of writing, it is unclear whether a further scrutiny meeting will be scheduled or whether the decision will proceed directly to Cabinet on 20th May.

Local Plan

I attended the East Devon District Council (EDDC) Strategic Planning Committee on 5th May.

A key update is that the Government has extended the deadline for submitting local plans under the transitional arrangements. These transitional arrangements allow councils to benefit from comparatively lower housing targets (although still significant). The new deadline is 31st December 2026.

This extension gives EDDC additional time to complete its work. However, it also means East Devon remains highly vulnerable to speculative development in the interim.

Local Government Re-organization

We are currently awaiting the Government's decision on the reorganisation of local government in Devon, which is expected in June or July. Whatever the outcome, significant changes are anticipated, with the existing two-tier system set to be replaced by unitary authorities.

Elections to the new councils are expected to take place in May 2027. These councils will initially operate in "shadow" form, before assuming full responsibilities in April 2028.

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

Men's Otter Vale Probus Club

Membership is open to retired or semi-retired professional and businessmen aged 60 and over with the aim of promoting common interest and fellowship in a convivial atmosphere. Talks on a variety of subjects are held every 2-3 weeks in the comfortable surroundings of the Jack in the Green Inn with most members staying on for a delightful lunch.

So far this year we have heard presentations on 'Teaching Computers to Read', 'The Morgan Sports Car', 'A Tale of Two Cities' (London and Exeter), 'Bungle in the Jungle' (a mining scam) and 'The Cuban Missile Crisis'. The programme until the summer break is:

May 27th – Industrial Relations at Ford in the 70's and 80's

June 10th – Mystery Speaker

June 24th – Devon Blood Bikes

July 8th – Visit to a Devon dairy farm demonstrating robotic milking and a digester

Should anyone be interested in coming along to sample membership please get in touch with the secretary at gordonoxenham@gmail.com or anybody you know to be a member.

West Hill Wasps

West Hill Wasps are the largest youth sporting group in the village, running football teams for teams ranging from Under 5 right up to Under 16 and sometimes Under 18. We have around 150 registered players.

We don't know exactly when the club was founded but believe it to have been around the 80's and it's been a part of village life ever since. If anyone does know more about the club's origins please get in touch.

A regular update is long overdue. The 2025/26 season is now drawing to a close in a frenzy of matches with some teams trying to squeeze half a season's fixtures into a month after a very long period of waterlogged pitches. All our sides have experienced the highs and lows of winning and losing and results are less important than the enjoyment and lessons the children get from playing as a team but our U15s are having a particularly



West Hill Wasps U16 team

good season with an excellent chance of promotion and winning their Division. The U14s are having a strong run too and have a good chance of going up to Div 1. Our U16s are a rarity in having finished their season. They have struggled for numbers, playing with 9 fit and 2 walking wounded at times but finished their season with a 7-4 win over Exmouth. Not bad for a village side.

Bob Chown Chairman Tel: 01404 814431



West Hill Women's Group

The Group's year runs from May to April and we have had some excellent speakers during the past year including the following:

Chris Wiseman gave a most interesting talk at our March meeting about the part played by the RAF in Exeter during WWII and will no doubt be a return speaker.

Our April meeting saw Rick Lockwood presenting an overview of the restoration of the Lower Otter and progress post breach, particularly mentioning the new wildlife that now frequents this area.

Our talks for the next two months are:

Thursday 4th June Sharon Collins from Hospiscare will tell us about the work the charity does across Exeter, central and East Devon providing specialist care to patients and their families living with life limiting illnesses.

Hospiscare is the charity WHWG has chosen to support this year

Tuesday 7th July The Suffragette Story in Devon is our talk this month presented by Pamela Vass. We all know the basics of the Suffragette movement but not necessarily how it affected our own area.

If you would like to come as a guest to any of our meetings, the cost of £3 (cash please) includes coffee/tea and cake as well as the talk. You would be most welcome to just turn up on the morning between 10.00 am (when coffee is available) and 10.30 am when the meeting begins. If you don't feel comfortable doing that then please contact me using the details below to introduce yourself so that we can expect you.

Pam Bartlett

pamela.bartlett1@btinternet.com

07816 919142



Tea & Toast & Toys on Fridays



We meet every Friday from 8.45 – 10.00am, upstairs in the Village Hall during term time. Our last session before the summer break will be on **Friday 17th July**.



Toddlers, Pre-Schoolers, Parents, 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 toast with jam/marmalade.

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

If you want to know more, please ring:

Pam (814096) or **Rosemary** (234578)

Lutra Vallis Ladies Probus Club

What a fascinating insight into the life of a Queen's Lifeguard our speaker gave at our last meeting. Peter Manfield was a musician, who in his own words "used to sit on a horse and play the Tuba". As he is 6'7" and sat on a horse 17.5 hands high, he must have made a most imposing figure! He played for the Queen and the Royal family hundreds of times on different



instruments and in different venues. He had many funny anecdotes to tell us, a most amusing raconteur. He demonstrated some of the instruments he played, and persuaded a member to do so too, however with limited success! Another well received meeting, followed by our usual delicious HIGH Tea provided by Mary's Hospiscare Team.

Our June Meeting is on Tuesday 9th June at 2pm. Our Speaker is Dr. F Burroughs, His talk is titled "Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage."

Our July meeting is on Tuesday 14th July when we have a Summer Lunch at the Harbour Hotel in Sidmouth.

If you are interested and interesting and would like to know more about joining or perhaps coming as a Guest to our friendly group, contact either–
Chairman **Trisha Fryer** on 01404 813408 email trisha.fryer@hotmail.co.uk

or Membership Secretary- **Moni George** on 07368546944 Email monicageorge895@aol.com

Otter Valley Rotary

As Easter was in April, this meant just one formal and one informal meeting during the month. Business occupied the formal meeting at the 'Jack in the Green', when plans for the new Rotary year starting in July were determined. Various officiating posts were confirmed and the 40th anniversary celebration discussed. Proposed activities to be undertaken in informal meetings were tabled and final preparations for giving out wristbands for children attending the County Show were concluded.

Further to a visit from two ambassadors from the local East Devon RDA (Riding for the Disabled), members were invited to visit one of their sessions at their HQ, the impressive Hitts Barton Arena in Whimpe. We witnessed several folk enjoying being helped to ride the very placid equines, supported by many volunteers. At the conclusion of our visit, as the picture shows, we presented our donation to this very worthwhile cause.



Looking forward, we are welcoming Anderson Jones of Devon Communities Together on May 18th before attending the Devon County Show with our children's wristbands on May 20th and attending Ottery Help Scheme's Coffee Morning on May 26th for our informal meet-up.

Our AGM and handover on June 1st completes the formal business for the 2025/6 year and a celebration to mark our 40th Anniversary will also be held during that month.

Anyone wishing to join us in supporting local initiatives will be most welcome and should contact the secretary Keith Spittlehouse, keith.spittlehouse@btinternet.com in the first instance.

Services at St Michael's



Services in Church

Jun 7	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church with Communion
Jun 14	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jun 19	15.45	Messy Church BBQ, Vicarage garden
Jun 21	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jun 28	10.00	Holy Communion (sung) with Baptism
Jul 5	8.00	Holy Communion (said)
	9.30	Café Church
Jul 12	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)
Jul 19	10.00	Morning Worship (All ages welcome)
Jul 26	10.00	Holy Communion (sung)

Zoom Services

On the first and third Sunday of each month at 9.30am for the whole Mission Community. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943585754?pwd=NnhEcW9HZjhwWHN4ZmlBdHplOStoQT09>

If you don't have Zoom, you can join via telephone on 0203 481 5240.