

IN TOUCH

December 2019 / January 2020



The Magazine of the Edgemoor Group of Parishes

IN TOUCH circulates freely throughout the eleven parishes. Contributions to the cost of production are welcome and may be handed to the clergy or placed in the *In Touch* collection boxes. **Suggested copy price £1.00**

www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk



The Edgemoor Group of Parishes

Charles. HighBray. NorthMolton. Twitchen. BishopsNympton. Mariansleigh. RoseAsh. Knowstone. EastAnstey. WestAnstey. Molland.

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IN TOUCH is published six times a year in December, February, April, June, August and October. Contributions for each issue should reach the editor at North Molton Vicarage by the 7th of the month preceding publication. Articles for the magazine are welcomed from all within the 11 parishes.

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EDITORIAL

I wonder how many of you reading this would remember Jackanory, BBC children's programme. The show's title comes from an old English nursery rhyme:

I'll tell you a story
About Jack a Nory,
And now my story's begun;
I'll tell you another
Of Jack and his brother,
And now my story is done.

Stories are important, many communities have their own stories or narratives, the Desert Fathers and Mothers, the early Christian hermits, ascetics, and monks who brought us 'The Sayings of the Desert Fathers' packed with story and wisdom. Closer to home we have Celtic Christianity famed for their storytelling.

Starting in November the Edgemoor Group of Parishes explored their story, the story of individual churches and communities, the story of being in a group of 11 rural places of worship.

What do you most value about your church?

What do you see God doing in and through your church?

What is it in our stories that has led us here?

What new thing could happen in the next chapter of the story of your church?

And what would your part be in it?

A day was set aside to weave through all 11 churches praying in each one, simply and gently – to listen and discern.

Many stories emerged which now will form our next chapter, cultivating the soil, setting seeds, protecting the vulnerable and sharing the harvest.

And to be reminded of this season's greatest story – the Christmas story. Reading from Krish Kandiah's book 'A strange Christmas' he writes about the nativity character which some say is the hero of the show, without him Jesus would have had nowhere to be born – the Innkeeper.



Jan Massys Hospitality refused 1558

We have only circumstantial evidence to suppose his or her or their existence along with speculative translations from the Greek. But not to spoil the story totally, what we do know is that it was a long walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We can imagine Mary, heavily pregnant walking slowly on a dirt track. We can imagine the little town of Bethlehem heaving with folk returning to their ancestral home for the census. We can imagine Joseph after such a journey desperately hunting for accommodation, the rest of the relatives had already arrived. So perhaps it is not surprising that there were no guest rooms available, Mary and Joseph find themselves in a manger for shelter and refuge. But a space was made, a little room was offered.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. Luke 2: 1-7

What space, a little room can you offer?

May the joy of the angels, The gladness of the shepherds,
The worship of the wise men, And the peace of the Christ child be yours,
Be yours this Christmas. May Christ, who by his incarnation
Gathered into one all things earthly, All things heavenly,
And fill you with joy, Fill you with joy and peace. God Bless *David Baker*

CHURCHWARDENS

Charles

Jonathan Hudson 01598 710350

Stuart Whitehead 01598 710769

High Bray

Ray White 01598 710417

Anthony Bawden

North Molton

John Fox 01598 740543

Twitchen

Graham White

Molland

Brian Taylor 01769 550704

John Lawson 01398 341278

West Anstey

John Morgan 01398 341972

East Anstey

Keith Bavin 01398 341257

Bob Connell

Knowstone

Reg Howe 01398 341508

Rose Ash

Martyn Rix 01769 550281

Caro Hammick 01769 550409

Bishops Nympton

Frances Evans 01769 550313

Cheryl Woollacott 01769 550435

Mariansleigh

Thelma Avery 01769 550424

Richard Govier 01769 550996

FROM THE REGISTERS

Cremated at Barnstaple, 24th September, followed by Memorial service at North Molton: Rosalie Geen

Cremated at Barnstaple, 27th September: Fredrick 'Desmond' Ward

Cremated at Barnstaple, 9th October: 'Jim' Nancekivel. Memorial service North Molton, 16th October

Burial at North Molton, 11th October: Albert Holloway

Burial at Knowstone, 12th October: Catherine Morgans

Burial at North Molton, 12th October: Christopher Taylor

Internment of Ashes at West Anstey, 27th September: Mary Elworthy

Internment of Ashes at Knowstone, 1st November: Verna Rapley

Marriage Blessing at Charles, 12th October: Steve Facey & Rachel Pierson

Baptised at West Anstey, 2nd November: Harry Holland

THE YEAR'S MIND – *please remember at this time*

Bill Smith	Patricia Block	Henry Arye
Peter Lerwill	Maggie Ayre	Claire Smythe
Jack Crang	Jim Combe	David Lang
Ethel Ayre	Matthew Bird	Rob Chirton
Valerie McArthy	Marjorie Paramore	Tim Lankester
Marian Green	Derek Hall	Phoebe Kyte
Nicholas Thorne	Les Greenslade	John James
Gwen Fleming	Joyce Redmore	Anita Shorter
John Pollock	Emma Hill	Stan Eva
Alvina Kingdon	Betty Palfrey	Margaret Ashton
Norman Elstone	Vera Elstone	Bill Lock
Margaret Boden	Molly Bulled	Kathleen Richards
Ron Down	Ken Blackmore	Mary Moore
Kathleen Richards	William James Combe	

EAST ANSTEY WEATHER STATION – *Neville Vereker*

September - October 2019

Month	Rainfall	19 yr. Average	Temp
Sept	5.51ins		max 23.0°
	140mm	89 mm	min 8.1 °
October	7.80ins		max 17.7°
	198mm	132mm	min 2.9°

Notes:

- The highest September rainfall in the last 19 years was in 2008 with 177mm, whilst the lowest was in 2014 with a mere 22mm.
- The highest October rainfall was in 2000 with 249mm, whilst the lowest was in 2016 with 25mm. There were 3 dry days in October!!



MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays Bishops Nympton 9.00am Every 1st & 3rd week Informal Morning Prayer
Every 2nd & 4th week HC. **Wednesdays North Molton** 9.30am each Week Holy
Communion **Morning Prayer Weekly:** Tuesday 8.30am Twitchen
Friday 8.30am John the Baptist Charles.

Local House of Prayer: Bishops Nympton *see church notice board*

Local House of Prayer: A short Celtic Daily Prayer

East Anstey Church: 1st & 3rd Friday of the month 5.00pm – 5.30pm

West Anstey Church: 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 12.00pm – 12.30pm

Molland Church: 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month 10.00am – 10.30am

SERVICES

Sunday 1st December – 1st of Advent

8.30am	High Bray	Holy Communion
8.30am	Knowstone	Holy Communion
10.00am	North Molton	Holy Communion
10.00am	Bishops Nympton	Morning Prayer
10.00am	East Anstey	Holy Communion
11.15 am	West Anstey	Holy Communion
6.30 pm	Charles	Evening Prayer

Sunday 8th December – 2nd of Advent

8.30 am	Rose Ash	Holy Communion
9.30am	Bishops Nympton	Breakfast Church
10.00 am	North Molton	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Molland	Holy Communion
11.15 am	Knowstone	Sunday Worship
4.00pm	Brayford Chapel	Christingle
6.30 pm	East Anstey	Evening Prayer

Sunday 15th December – 3rd of Advent

10.00am	North Molton	Holy Communion
10.00am	Mariansleigh	Holy Communion
10.00am	East Anstey	Morning Prayer
10.00am	Bishops Nympton	Morning Prayer @ Chapel
11.15am	High Bray	Holy Communion
4.00pm	A very, very Special Messy Church Christmas @ West Anstey church	
6.30pm	Knowstone	Carols

Friday 20th 6.30pm Rose Ash – Carols

6.30pm East Anstey - **Carols**

Sunday 22nd December – 4th of Advent

8.30am	Rose Ash	Holy Communion
10.00am	North Molton	SAID Holy Communion
11.15am	Charles	Holy Communion
6.00pm	Molland	<i>Village Candlelit Carols</i>
6.30pm	Bishops Nympton	<i>Carols</i>
6.30pm	North Molton	<i>Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols</i>

Christmas Eve

3.00pm	Mariansleigh	<i>Carols</i>
3.30pm	North Molton	A Very very very <i>Special</i> Crib service
3.00pm	Mariansleigh	<i>Carols</i>
4.30pm	High Bray	<i>Carols by Candlelit</i>
6.30pm	Twitchen	<i>Carols</i>
9.30pm	North Molton	Midnight Mass
11.30pm	Bishops Nympton	Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.00am	East Anstey	Family Holy Communion
10.00am	North Molton	Family Holy Communion
10.00am	Molland	Family Holy Communion
11.00am	Rose Ash	Family Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December – 1st of Christmas

10.30am	North Molton	Holy Communion
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Wednesday 1st January – NEW YEARS DAY

9.30am	North Molton	Said Holy Communion
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Sunday 5th January – The Epiphany

8.30am	High Bray	Holy Communion
9.30am	Mariansleigh	Breakfast Church
10.00am	North Molton	Holy Communion
10.00am	Bishops Nympton	Morning Prayer
10.00am	East Anstey	Holy Communion
11.15 am	West Anstey	Holy Communion
6.30 pm	Charles	Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th January – The Epiphany

8.30 am	Rose Ash	Holy Communion
9.30am	Bishops Nympton	Breakfast Church
10.00 am	North Molton	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Molland	Holy Communion
11.15am	Charles	3 Church Service Morning Prayer
11.15 am	Knowstone	Sunday Worship
6.30 pm	East Anstey	Evening Prayer

Sunday 19th January – The Baptism of Christ (1st after Epiphany)

8.30am	West Anstey	Holy Communion
10.00am	Mariansleigh	Holy Communion
10.00am	East Anstey	Morning Prayer
10.00am	Bishops Nympton	Morning Prayer @ Chapel
11.00am	North Molton	Shared service <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>
11.15 am	High Bray	Holy Communion

Sunday 26th January – 2nd after Epiphany

8.30 am	Charles	Holy Communion
10.00am	North Molton	Holy Communion
10.00am	Bishops Nympton	Holy Communion
10.00am	East Anstey+WA	Morning Prayer
10.00am	Molland	Morning Prayer
11.15am	Twitchen	Holy Communion
5.00pm	Rose Ash	Evening Service

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## **PRAYER**

*Prayer – the long and the short of it*

Prayer can be the most natural thing in the world as we reach out to God... But it can also feel like an impossible thing to do and we might not have a clue where and how to start.

Prayer sometimes comes spontaneously – a quick prayer for help in an emergency, when something lovely has happened in our lives, or when we want to say thank you to God in the face of beauty or wonder, a prayer for forgiveness or even to express our awe and adoration.

Growing in prayer is related in part to a greater awareness of the activity of God around us. Then those brief ‘arrow prayers’ become a more important part of our lives and begin to reflect a more constant being-in-touch with God. It’s then we start to learn that prayer is not just about asking for things, but giving ourselves to a deepening relationship. This is the heart and goal of prayer — to know God and to be nourished in that relationship.



## Charles News... Annie Whitehead

*“ The rooms were very still while the pages were softly turned, and the winter sunshine crept in to touch bright heads and serious faces with a Christmas greeting”. (Louise M. Alcott 1832-1888, Little Women)*

The Pageant & Exhibition from June- October truly honoured our literary heritage. In preparing for events over the months was of also great social importance. We don't have a pub, village shop or school gate for daily interaction but this gave an opportunity for those in Charles and surrounding

villages to become acquainted and wonder at our rural communities outstanding individual skills. You went above and beyond our expectations. Thank you.

We congratulate Steve and Rachel on their marriage and how lovely it was to have the Blessing in our church. The church bells pealed happily over the village welcoming the happy couple as they entered the church. We also thank Geoff Collier for maintaining the church bells. A basket of goodies was taken from the church to help support Encompass food bank. Thank you to all who donated. Shoeboxes filled with Christmas presents and bags of warm bedding, clothes etc will have been collected and sent overseas to innocent victims suffering in a world of unimaginable violence. Thank you to all those in Charles who supported this worthwhile cause. Thank you, Madeleine and Gloria, for organising. On November 2nd representatives from Charles Church went to North Molton to attend Edgemoor Conversations to gather and share stories and to help plan for the future of our church, parishes and communities. Anyone who would like to help for Church cleaning please contact me (01598 710769). The church is the nucleus of the village & of great historical value. The doors are always open & to all. Charles doesn't live in a vacuum! some of us bravely ventured out to Anthony's Quiz night. Well, we were right to be concerned as the questions were (um...how shall I say this tactfully) quite testing and unique to say the least. Thank you, Anthony, for as always, a very entertaining evening. (hush... don't spread it around too much but a team from Charles lost.). I'm not proud of it.

**Sunday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**: Christingle service (hosted by Charles) Methodist Chapel at 4pm

**Sunday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Christmas Service at Charles 11.15am

I echo the words below... what better way to say goodbye to an amazing 2019 in Charles. *'A merry Christmas to every-body! A happy New Year to all the World? Hallo there! Whoop! Hallo! (Charles Dickens 1812-1870, A Christmas Carol)*



## **HIGH BRAY** – *Ruby White*

Congratulations and love to Steve and Rachel on their marriage, very special people part of the High Bray ringing team we feel privileged to have shared their special day.

Thank you so much everyone , my car was full of your kind donations from the Harvest Service it was taken to the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple who care for those in need of food and help to go from day to day.

Anthony's Quiz night was the usual fun, lots of questions about local knowledge – we didn't do too well in that round !! Thank you for draw prizes and supporting us to raise £270 for church funds.

Puddings & Song, a packed church enjoyed singing and wonderful 'puds' Brayford Academy, musicians Julian Tewksbury, Tony Poling, Audrey Isaac along with our local community singers all flag waving to Land of Hope and Glory – what a finish.

Our sympathy to Gladys Barrow and family on Johns death. Gladys always supported by John have done so much for Brayford over the years.

Thank you Mike and Dawn Edwards for making such a good job of the moss on the church path – we don't want anyone visiting A&E !

Christmas Brayford Academy on Wednesday 11th December, 2pm and 6 pm, always different and always super.



Candle lit Carols and readings at 4.30pm Christmas Eve, love to see you there.

Still time to buy the Village Calendar, available in all good outlets or contact Doreen & Roger 01598 710409.

To all Edgemoor Group have a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

## **NORTH MOLTON** – *Carol Fenwick*

Here we are again at the end of another year. By the time you get this we will be into December and Christmas – we all look forward to the celebrations but let us not forget the time we are really celebrating – the birth of Jesus in that lowly stable in Bethlehem.

We have enjoyed the performances of 'A Bedroom Farce' given by NOMADS – this was the 36 year of performances without a break.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual All Saints' bazaar it must have been one of the wettest days of the year, but we had a steady flow of people who enjoyed the stalls and a cup of tea and chat – we made £407.40. much needed funds for the church. Thank you to all those who had stalls and gave their time. North Molton's Harvest Festival shared lunch on Sunday 20th October with the Methodist Chapel, raised £351.00 which will be donated to the Farm Community Network. A huge thank you to all of those who came along and gave so generously for this great cause. We had a good turn out for our remembrance day service on Sunday 10th November at All Saints Church, North Molton. Our remembrance day collection raised £200.00 which will be given to the Royal British Legion. Thank you everyone.

Special dates for December will be THE NINE LESSONS and CAROLS followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm. On CHRISTMAS EVE there will be THE CRIB SERVICE at 3.30pm followed by MIDNIGHT MASS at 9.30pm. On CHRISTMAS DAY there will be just the one service at 10.00am.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very joyful Christmas and May 2020 be a happy and healthy one for you all.

## **NEWS FROM NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL**-*Nicola Bourne*

We have just one event in December – our Christmas Dance on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> from 7.30 – 11.30pm with Ben Chapman & a special visit from Father Christmas. We have a dance on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January celebrating twelfth night & then our next one is on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Our annual Pancake Morning is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 from 10.30am – 12pm. Please come along & join us for freshly cooked pancakes & a cup of coffee or tea if you prefer! Yummy!! Watch this space for all the news & upcoming events for our hall. Our family wishes your family a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

**North Molton Victory Hall Correspondent Nicola Bourne 01598 740477 or email: [nician@waitrose.com](mailto:nician@waitrose.com)**

**TWITCHEN** – *Hugh Croft*



Advent is upon us.  
The Christian new year, a new start,  
new beginnings, new resolutions.  
Advent, the lead up to Christmas, a  
time to pause, to be quiet, to reflect  
as the Christmas razzmatazz gathers  
momentum, late night shopping,  
turkeys, Christmas trees, decorating  
and all!!

The quiz evening at the Sportsman's was a huge success raising over £400. for our church. Thank you all who supported it.

The pet service was a great occasion, lots and lots of well-behaved dogs!! and one hen.

Greeting cards of Twitchen church are again for sale, £2. each or 3 for £5. available from Anne Brown Tel. no. 01769579556, or Graham White Tel. no. 07887593441.



The Twitchen church carol service will be at 6.30 on Christmas Eve.  
All are most welcome.

*We wish all a Happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.*

## SPECIAL FEATURE

MOLLAND – *Brian Taylor*



■ Pictured with the Bishop of Exeter is Brian Taylor (left) from Molland and winner Paul Kurowski of East Budleigh.

As many of you are aware, the churchyard at St. Mary's was entered in the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) Devon branch competition for the best churchyard with the environment, wildlife and community involvement in mind. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Rev'd Penny and John Lawson and myself attended the prize giving ceremony at Exeter Cathedral where the Bishop of Exeter presented the

prizes, and I am pleased to say that we were joint second out of 26 entries throughout Devon! Many thanks to all concerned especially the Messy Church Group in getting involved in helping with this project; it was a great success and plans are already afoot for next year. Subsequently, the churchyard has been tidied ready for the winter and spring flowers in 2020 and many thanks to a great band of helpers in carrying this out in September.

The church was decorated on Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> for the Harvest Festival; many thanks to all who helped with this in providing flowers and vegetables. The supper afterwards made £358 for church funds. It was a great evening enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to Pam and Marj for organising this, to those who brought food, to those who washed and dried up all the dishes and to those who helped with the auction.

On Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> there was a car treasure hunt, a scarecrow display throughout the village and a number of stalls and competitions in the hall, all of which raised £313. This was a great idea and effort by the village hall committee and many thanks to all who participated and helped.



## MOLLAND – continued

On Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> the Neighbourhood Watch held the annual meeting at which we were pleased to welcome three police officers. Although we live in a relatively low area of crime, it is always wise to be vigilant for suspect vehicles and people in the area and to inform the police (Tel: 999 if a crime is in the process of being committed) using their website at any other time giving as much detail as possible of people and vehicles which will not only help trace these people but also build up a pattern as similar events may have been reported in other parts of the county. If you do not have a computer, tell a neighbour what has happened or a parish councillor, churchwarden or a member of the clergy all of whom will always be pleased to help. The police officers said that they realise that more policing in rural area is needed and they are also



aware of the need for information to be more readily shared between neighbouring police forces.

And now to **December, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> to be precise; the Carol Service will take place at 6pm**, it will be candlelit as usual, so please come along for the start of the Christmas celebrations – all are welcome to this joyous

event! (Please note there will not be a service in the morning on that day but, this year, **there will be a service on Christmas Day at 10am.**

And so, as the year draws to a close, a **Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year** to all the residents of Molland and the Edgemoor group of parishes.



**December days are often drear, but Christmas brings in Hosts to cheer.  
And a very warm welcome to all recent newcomers.**

Autumn is a time of thanksgiving and preparation and many thanks are due to a large number of people for their hard work, generosity and support of a range of events. Many of you will have noticed the beautiful new side benches inside the church porch and the commemorative plaque. This was due to a gift from **Charles Gillet**, a long standing, and much-loved church warden for many years. A special Service of Dedication was held, and the church was full of friends and well-wishers. Our spectacular **Harvest Supper** raised over £1065, divided between the Anthony Nolan Trust and the North Devon Hospice. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, with many wonderful food offerings later being sold at the auction. Thank you to everyone who provided food for this event and to Marilyn and team for their hard work. The annual **Quiz** at the Sportsman's Inn in aid of the church raised over £460 and Ann and Keith are hugely to be thanked for their work, as are the staff at the Inn and all quizzers who supported it despite the weather! After months of wondering (no not Brexit!) the **OWE Hall** is finally sold. However, we hope the Coffee House charity fundraiser will continue and it would be great if those who can, volunteer to hold a coffee morning at their homes. The Coffee House mugs will be available, and the A Board. Over the years we have raised thousands of pounds for charities to help those who need help – please let us try to continue this great work as a community – and have a fantastic social occasion at the same time. Info will be posted.

You will be pleased to know that our **Village Christmas Carol Singing** will take place again this year – weather permitting! Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, meeting at Hawkwell Cross at 6pm. Please **wear something High Vis**, and bring torches, for safety. We will be making our way through the village and up to the church where there will be hot chocolate and mince pies waiting. **All singers of all ages and abilities welcome.** Please join in as you see us passing by.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Charity Dance:** 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 8pm Anstey Hall
- **Practise Dancing:** 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: 7.30pm Anstey Hall
- **School Carol Service:** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2pm.
- **3TW (Third Tuesday Worship):** 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7pm in the church
- **Carol singing in EA:** Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 6pm at Hawkwell Cross
- **Poetry Reading** (new event): Tuesdays. Contact Fran 341993



ACTs recently enjoyed the Bible Society course concerning the historical context of the Bible, and how this applies to our lives today. Thank you to all who hosted the evenings. ACTs will resume on Wednesday, 22nd January at Barton Cross Barn. Please join us for a Bring and Share supper. Everyone is welcome who is looking for Christian fellowship. For info tel Susan: 341423. Merry Christmas to everyone; keeping those you love and those you have lost, in your hearts at this special time.

### West Anstey – *Banger Milton*

Webbed feet comes to the fore, with dark days too. The thrills of the starlings being back & Christmas looming ever closer with all the seasonal goods being for sale already.

Harry Holland was christened at West Anstey Church, prior to his confirmation taking place.

The Carol Service is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December with mulled wine & mince pies afterwards & of course everyone is welcome.

Anstey Show have donated £100 each to Devon Air Ambulance Trust, West Anstey Church, West Anstey Village Hall & East Anstey School. Not fantastic on the profit but every little helps!

The Young Farmer's had another successful Firework's night at Partridge Arms Farm, slightly down on numbers – again, weather related.

The Tug of War team are still going strong with a visit to Birmingham recently which went well.

Our best wishes to Pete at Western Cottage who suffered a severed finger whilst at work. He has had amazing microscopic surgery to save it, so hoping it will be all good eventually – no doubt a long haul.

Also, to Juliet Moss who had a short spell in hospital with pneumonia.

All a bit quiet on the news front.... but in due course, Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

### ANSTEY Hall – *Karen Piercy*

By the time you read this the local community will have voted in a new committee and they will be well underway with plans to make the hall a busy hub for East Anstey, West Anstey and the surrounding community.

#### December 2019

Beginning on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.30 – 10.30 am Victoria Ward will be running her very popular **Seated Yoga** classes, the final class before Christmas will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. As usual our Monday afternoon **Post Office** will be available from 2<sup>nd</sup>

December to 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 12.45 to 3.45 pm. If you want to keep this valuable facility don't forget to use it!

**Bowls Club** holds a weekly meeting every Monday from 9.00 – 10.00 pm. New members always welcome.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and every Wednesday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm **Craft Club**, bring your own project or come and learn a new skill.

**Anstey WI** meets on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.

Jo Penney will be starting her new **Card Crafting Class** on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December until Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. 2 sessions every Tuesday: 1.00 – 3.00 pm and 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

**Pilates Class** is on every Wednesday morning beginning on 4<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 – 10.30. Come along and increase your fitness levels.

**Anstey Christmas Party** takes place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, all local residents invited. Bring and share food, dancing to DJ David, a visit from Father Christmas, children's games and the Christmas Draw will take place. £1 entry to include a raffle ticket. Doors open 7.00 pm. Hopefully the lights will stay on this year! Come along and raise the roof!

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – **Charity Christmas Dance**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – **Coffee Break**, raffle, 100 Club Draw, delicious cakes and good company.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> D – **Polling Station**.

Anstey arts will be showing the popular Christmas **Film Love Actually** on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Doors open 7.00pm. Mulled wine and mince pies available.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – **DFH Gift Sale**. Doors open 6.00 pm

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> **Seated Yoga** and **Post Office** will be on.

January 2020

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> **Line Dancing**. Come along to keep fit and have fun.

Every Monday starting on 6<sup>th</sup> – **Seated Yoga** 9.30 – 10.30 am

**Post Office** 12.45 – 3.45 pm

**Bowls Club** 7.00 – 10.00 pm

Every Wednesday starting on 8<sup>th</sup> – **Pilates** 9.30 – 10.30 am

**Craft Club** 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – **Anstey Social Club**: Home cooked food, bar and many tabletop games for the young and young at heart including table tennis, table football, air hockey and snooker. Doors open 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – 11.00 – 12.30 **Coffee Break**, raffle, 100 Club Draw, delicious cakes and good company. The hall is available for booking please contact

[bookings@westansteyvh.uk](mailto:bookings@westansteyvh.uk) Ideas for Anstey Arts events or for information contact [ansteyarts@westanstey.uk](mailto:ansteyarts@westanstey.uk)

EXMOOR LINK FEDERATION (BISHOPS NYMPTON AND EAST ANSTEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS) - from Lynn Loftus

Firstly, we welcome Mrs Lake back to Class 2 in Bishops Nympton following her maternity leave and thank Mr Doble for covering in her absence. Our Harvest Festival assemblies in the churches were well supported, with celebration assemblies and pop-up cafés at Bishops Nympton also proving popular. Our thanks to the parents who have helped with these.

We are again entering teams into the annual Maths Challenge at Wellington School, so we send 'good luck' to our young mathematicians.

East Anstey School has been undergoing roof repairs, which although causing some inconvenience, has taught us more about our bat colony. There are 4 species of bats in residence; greater/ lesser horseshoe, pipistrelle and natterers. Hayden Torr (Ecologist) has spoken to the children, keeping us informed as to how we can look after the bats, both during and after the work has finished. We are again involved with local Sports Festivals and, for the first time, plans are underway to host a Cross Country Invitational Run at Bishops Nympton for local primary schools.



With Christmas approaching, we are planning our end of term activities. East Anstey is performing 'Having Fun at Christmas', and Bishops Nympton 'Aladdin Trouble' as their Christmas plays. The traditional Carol Services will be held at the village churches with families encouraged to join us. Community members are also welcome to attend; please look out for further information regarding timings etc. on our websites or by contacting the schools.

Bishops Nympton PTA hosting a children's Christmas Party on Friday 20th December. We thank these groups for their continued support for their schools. Details of forthcoming events are on the school websites.

*We wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.*

## **KNOWSTONE** – *Michele Browse*

The Christmas season is fast approaching and, amongst all the busyness of our own preparations, let us take a moment to remember the true meaning of this special time of year -- a season of love and goodwill, looking out for our neighbours and those less fortunate than ourselves, near and far, for whom a gesture of kindness and support would be most sincerely welcomed.

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Catherine Morgans on 16th September. Cath lived in our parish for over 40 years and served on the PCC as secretary for many years, as well as being an active participant of many parish and church events. Over 170 people attended her funeral at St Peter's Church, which is testament of how loved and well-respected she was and how much she will be missed in our community. The family requested that, instead of flowers, a donation could be made to church funds and £1250.00 was collected, a remarkable tribute to Cath's devotion to the Church. Our thoughts and prayers continue with David and family.

January's Film Night "Downton Abbey", will be shown on 23rd January. Film only tickets cost £4.50 or reservations for the "meal deal" (meal + film) can be made directly with The Masons Arms at a cost of £16.50. All proceeds go to the Parish Hall. The annual Christmas Fayre will be held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 7th December 2-4pm. As usual, there will be wide selection of crafts, toys, books, refreshing coffee, tea and cakes will be available to enjoy whilst catching up with friends. All profits will go toward church funds. Knowstone Parish Christmas Bingo will take place on Tuesday 10th December in the Parish Hall -doors open at 7.30, eyes down 8.00pm. The usual bevy of wonderful prizes, including the Christmas hampers, will be there to be won, and our Bingo Caller, Anthony Vigus, will keep the whole evening on track with his usual flair and good humour. This is always a well-attended event, with proceeds shared between Church and Parish Hall funds. Our Christmas Carol Service will take place at St Peter's Church on Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm. This lovely candlelit service of traditional Christmas carols and Bible readings welcomes everyone with a quiet moment to reflect on the true meaning of this wonderful season. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the Parish Hall afterwards. How about trying to take some time out of your busy schedules and come along to help support these events and perhaps, at the same time, meet up with fellow parishioners you haven't seen in a while? And finally, we wish East Knowstone resident (and my neighbour) Ken Scoynes a very Happy 90th Birthday on Christmas Eve. Ken is a regular passenger on the Exe Valley Market Bus each Thursday and continues his volunteer work, once a month, at Arlington Court National Trust property. Many congratulations, Ken, on your very special day! With very warm wishes to all of Knowstone Parish for a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

## **ROSE ASH**

It's hard to think that a month or two ago we were enjoying the last of the summer sun. Still, Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night were obviously invented to brighten up the gloom of our autumn and early winter evenings. It was, therefore, great fun to see so many young witches and ghosts out and about this year; some of the outfits were very spooky indeed. Well done to them and their parents for doing the rounds. In spite of the prospect of being shouted at by politicians for the next few weeks as we move towards the General Election, we still have to think of the bigger picture and the fact that the earth is changing faster than ever nowadays. Rose Ash weather might seem a bit too wet and the sky rather grey – but perhaps we should be thankful that we have the water when we consider there are now parts of the world that have seen no rain for over five years. More than ever, we need to do whatever we can to help protect our planet. Leave more trees in our hedges, plant trees when we can, plant more flowers and shrubs that support pollinators etc. And, on another level, we can avoid placing plastic flowers on graves in the Churchyard. These tend to be smashed into small pieces when the grass is cut, leaving a mass of plastic which can be picked up by birds and spread around the countryside. **Church**

**news:** There will now be an Evening Service on the 4th Sunday of every month at 5.00pm, beginning on 26th January. This will replace the 8.30am Holy Communion on that day and bring some singing into our church life. All are welcome. 8.30am HC will continue every 2nd Sunday as usual and on the 4th Sundays of November and December this year. As a part of the five-yearly inspection of the church, we have applied to mount two new plaques inside the building: the war memorial from the old Ash Mill Methodist Church and a memorial to the author Rev. John Pollock, who lived at Rose Ash House and worshipped at St. Peter's. Also, Rose Ash is to have another Christmas Choir this year! After the great success of a couple of years ago which saw the Carol Service fill the Church to bursting, a choir is to be formed and trained by Alison Rix. Anyone who would like to get involved should contact Alastair Foreman on the phone number given at the start of In Touch magazine. **A few dates for the diary:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: Coffee Morning from 10-12. At the Village Hall. Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: 'Christmas in Rose Ash'. A Carol Service at 6.30pm in the Church and then a Village Hall Christmas Pub Night at 7.30pm with mulled-wine, mince-pies and a big-screen sing-along. Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: Rose Ash Children's Christmas party at 2pm at the village hall. Places must be booked prior to the event via Tracey Ayre. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Service in the Church at 11-O-Clock with sherry and small bites afterwards. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan: Coffee Morning from 10-12 at the Village Hall.

# Christmas Tree Prayers



If you would like your Christmas tree to mean more this year, why not try this beautiful and thoughtful prayer idea?

Children love to help with decorating the tree. This idea is an easy way to let them get involved, and helps them pray at the same time.

- Buy some pretty gift tags (sparkly stars work well) – or make some by cutting up last year's Christmas cards.
- Write on the plain side the names of people or situations that you want to pray about.
- Hang the gift tag prayers on your tree as a sparkly reminder – just as your tree lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need.
- Christmas is a particularly difficult time if you are sad, or ill, or lonely or worried. Keep a few spare gift tags so you can add to your tree when you think of others who need your prayers.

Tip: If you know someone needs your prayers, but it's best if others don't know they're in need, why not just write their initial on the tag, or draw a heart shape – God will know you are thinking of them.



## **BISHOPS NYMPTON** – Cheryl Woollacott

This year's harvest was celebrated with a thanksgiving service for all produce available to us and for everything locally grown in our gardens and wonderful countryside, followed by Auction and ploughman's Lunch in the Church. The Jubilate Choir came in October and sang an array of beautiful music making such an enjoyable evening, which was organised by Gillian Reynolds and family and friends. Canapés and Cava were served on arrival, helping to raise over £400 towards the Tower Fund, which is steadily progressing, with an Auction of Pledges evening being held at the end of November. Thank you to everyone. Budding Bishops continues to thrive on Monday mornings in the hall from 10.30am, Bumps to 5 yrs Adult and Child Group. Also, Breakfast Church takes place on the second Sunday of the month in Church from 9.30am. Congratulations to Frances Evans, Claire Bradfield, Claire Campbell, Rachel Holland and Alan Butler on receiving their certificates for ministry courses they have completed. Christmas is well on its way, with the Community Sunday Lunch being on 15th December in the hall from 1.00pm. There is a party in the hall on Saturday 21st December from 7.30pm with Jason singing. The Christingle Carol Service is on Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. Midnight Mass is 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. There are several persons who are poorly or undergoing treatment at the moment, so very special thoughts and prayers to you all, Condolences to Pat Wild on the very sad passing of her husband recently, fondly remembered by everyone who knew him. Also having just heard as I write, our heartfelt sympathy to Mr and Mrs Chudley and family on their tragic loss of a family member so young, who will remain forever in your hearts. Welcome to all newcomers who have recently moved to the area - lots of events take place including the weekly bowling times, Yoga, Pilates and newly formed Tai Chi Club. WI Christmas Fun on Tuesday 17th December 7.30pm and Gardening Club have a quiz at Crossway (Sally Wilsons) on 10th January at 7.30pm. The local Shop has information and posters, so please pay a visit, including leaflets with their Christmas opening hours. History Club meets quarterly with the next one being Monday 9th December in the hall from 7.30pm. A big Thank you to all our volunteers and helpers and Committees who keep the shop, Community Club, Parish hall, Church and Chapel going and who also organise many events throughout the year, Including the school and staff, with lots of you already planning for 2020. Thank you to Andrew Parker and helpers for keeping the Churchyard tidy and the green and play area looking nice. Also, the Bell Ringing team is much appreciated for their ringing at special times. Please let me know by first week in January if you would like anything included for the February/March issue. Wishing you all many blessings over Christmas and New Year with family and Friends. Cheryl Woollacott

## Jesus' Birth Word Search

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| D | H | E | A | F | R | F | G | T | Y | H | J | I | K | M | N | U |
| S | J | G | O | D | G | D | O | K | I | U | Q | A | D | F | H | H |
| E | L | Z | D | E | R | G | B | N | U | D | F | J | O | N | H | F |

JESUS

ELIZABETH

SHEPHERDS

MARY

JOHN

INNKEEPER

JOSEPH

ZACHARIAS

ANGELS

GOD

GABRIEL

CAESAR AUGUSTUS

# BUDDING BISHOPS

We are now into our second term of running **Budding Bishops** a bumps to age 5 adult and child group.

We run each Monday of school terms from 10.30-12.00 in Bishops Nympton Village Hall.

Please come and join us for some fun, messy play, good chat, snack, story and songs.



Each week we have a theme such as pumpkins, water, building which the children can explore.

There is plenty of parking and easy access for buggies.

Please call Clare Cooke for more information on 07815745716.

# The Edgemoor Conversation

*sharing our stories - planning the future*

## the next chapter...



With the time set aside to think, pray and listen, we will gather the stories shared, the words spoken. What is the next chapter for our churches, for our communities, for our Edgemoor Group?

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Bishops Nympton, Village Hall**  
**10.30am – 3.30pm**