

IN TOUCH

February / March 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. North Molton. Twitchen. Bishops Nympton. Mariansleigh. Rose Ash. Knowstone. East Anstey. West Anstey. Molland.

Ministry Team

Team Rector

Revd David Baker
The Vicarage, NM
EX36 3HX 01598 740325
davidbaker.sw@gmail.com

Team Vicar (*Part Time*)

Revd Alastair Forman
East Rock Barn, BN
EX36 4PL 01769 551784
alastair.forman@gmail.com

Associate Priest (SSM)

Revd Penny Lawson
01398 341278

Curate (SSM)

Revd Alison Rogers
01769 550 139

Deacon

Revd Christopher Whinney
01598 760217

Reader

Richard Holloway
01769 579125

Lay Assistant

Frances Evans 01769 550313

Further Contact Details:

Messy @ Anstey

Rachel Holland
hollandclan@fhsinternet.com

Ansteys Christians Together Discussion Group – A.C.T.

Susan Bew (01398 341423)
susanbew001@icloud.com

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.

Send by to:

intouch.edgemoor@gmail.com

The business manager, to whom enquiries about advertising should be directed to:

Mr Roger Wilson

email: crossecottage01@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

800 years ago Francesco di Bernardone was the son of a successful Italian cloth merchant. Early in his life his dream was to be a successful soldier, but this didn't go well; he was captured and held prisoner for a year. However this led to significant growth in his spiritual life and he became gradually more aware of the life God was calling him to. He had a vision telling him to help the sick, and then heard God saying, "repair my church, which is falling into ruins." At first he understood this literally and set about repairing a few ruined churches; but gradually he came to see that his calling was to people in an age when many had turned away from God.

Today we know Francesco as Saint Francis of Assisi, and he seems to me to be a very relevant saint for today. Not only do we also live in an age when many have turned away from the Church and from God, but Francis had a great reverence for the whole of creation and saw clearly that the natural world – the sun, moon and stars, the earth and everything in it, animals, birds and all creatures and the air we breathe are created and given to us by God.



Today there is a growing chorus of voices calling on us to do a better job of looking after the earth with examples including climate change, plastic in the oceans, the loss of rainforests and protecting endangered species. I am sure St Francis would have been involved in this. He would have been very familiar with Bible passages such as Psalm 19:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

St Francis gained many followers, initially men who became his first friars. Later his friend St Clare of Assisi formed a similar community of women. Today there are Franciscan friars and nuns around the world in the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches who make vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Francis realised, however, that many people were called to serve God in the spirit of these principles in everyday life. He therefore created what he called a Third Order whose members today, men and women, commit themselves to living joyful lives of simplicity, giving generously, fighting injustice, working for peace and seeking to serve God and other people.

As a member myself of the Third Order I want to suggest two things as we approach the season of Lent, which begins on February 26th (Ash Wednesday). It is traditionally a time when Christian people look at living more simply (often spoken of as 'giving something up,' but I suggest that living more simply is a healthy way of thinking about it).

It is also a time for paying attention to and seeking to grow in our spiritual lives.

I suggest that we can learn a lot from St Francis as we approach Lent. If anyone would like to learn more about the Third Order I am very happy to provide more information. You can contact me on mhwrogers76@gmail.com.



Wishing you every blessing. *Michael Rogers.*

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 01398 341282

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

Baptised at Twitchen, 23rd November: Seb Lucas

Baptised at Knowstone, 8th December: Isabelle Cole

Married at North Molton, 28th December: Mark Dayment and Katie Seviour

Confirmed at Mariansleigh, 24th November

Alex Ayre: Rose Ash Alex Jones: East Anstey Harry Holland: West Anstey

Emily Govier: Mariansleigh Leslie and Lynne Pugsley: Bishops Nympton

Those received into the communion of the Church of England:

Timothy and Michele Browse: Knowstone

Burial at Charles, 29th November: Elizabeth Richards

Burial at Charles, 30th November: Jean Pyne

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

Bert Bulled	Bert Horn	Dick Newton	Emily Cutland
Michael Tate	Edith Lang	Ivor Bate	Philip Lang
Christine Ayre	Beryl Kingdon	Ron Brockman	Kathleen Poole
Anne Pollock	Joy Goodman	Margaret Pile	Hanna Nicholls
John Burnage	May Bristow	Jose Cantle	Nance Shaw
Hyla Veysey	Charlie Ayre	David Todd	David Slee
Ellen Pugsley	George Wallace	Robert Eden	Clarence Kingdom
Lorna Buckingham	Brian Winslade	Gloria Jones	Michael Millman
Sheila Devoney	Sid Tarr	David Hunt	Norman Webber
Stewart Woodman	Curly Loosemore	John Rands	Terry Bracher
Herbert Geen	Sylvia Hoyle		

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### **EAST ANSTEY WEATHER STATION November - December 2019**

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Rainfall</u>  | <u>19 yr. Average</u> | <u>Temp</u>             |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| November     | 8.2 ins<br>209mm | 154mm                 | max 13.6°<br>min 0.1°   |
| December     | 9.5ins<br>242mm  | 165mm                 | max 11.6°<br>min - 1.3° |

#### **Notes:**

- The highest November rainfall in the last 19 years was in 2009 with 257mm whilst the lowest was in 2004 with just 75mm.
- The highest December rainfall in the last 19 years was in 2012 with 273mm whilst the lowest was in 2016 with a mere 49mm. This Boxing Day we had 34mm!
- The wettest months this year were December followed by October and March.
- The driest months were January, July and February.
- The highest temperature during the year was in July at 30.1°.
- Annual rainfall was 1553mm, which compares with the 19 year average of 1349mm.

## **SERVICES**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Candlemas**

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

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Third Sunday before Lent**

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

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday before Lent**

|          |                 |                         |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 8.30 am  | West Anstey     | Holy Communion          |
| 10.00 am | Mariansleigh    | Holy Communion          |
| 10.00 am | East Anstey     | Morning Prayer          |
| 10.00 am | Bishops Nympton | Morning Prayer @ Chapel |
| 10.00 am | North Molton    | Holy Communion          |
| 11.15 am | High Bray       | Holy Communion          |

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Sunday Next before Lent**

|          |                  |                            |
|----------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 8.30 am  | Charles          | Holy Communion             |
| 10.00 am | North Molton     | Holy Communion             |
| 10.00 am | Bishops Nympton  | Holy Communion             |
| 10.00 am | Molland          | Morning Prayer             |
| 10.00 am | West Anstey + EA | Morning Prayer             |
| 11.15 am | Twitchen         | Holy Communion             |
| 5.00 pm  | Rose Ash         | Evening Prayer             |
| 7.00 pm  | North Molton     | <b><i>Sacred Space</i></b> |

### **Ash Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

|         |                 |                         |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 9.00 am | Bishops Nympton | Holy Communion          |
| 9.30 am | North Molton    | Holy Communion + Ashing |

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – The First Sunday of Lent**

|          |              |                  |
|----------|--------------|------------------|
| 8.30 am  | High Bray    | Holy Communion   |
| 8.30 am  | Knowstone    | Holy Communion   |
| 9.30 am  | Mariansleigh | Breakfast Church |
| 10.00 am | North Molton | Holy Communion   |
| 10.00 am | East Anstey  | Holy Communion   |
| 11.15 am | West Anstey  | Holy Communion   |
| 6.30 pm  | Charles      | Evening Prayer   |

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – The Second Sunday of Lent**

|                                                                        |                 |                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 8.30 am                                                                | Rose Ash        | Holy Communion            |
| 9.30 am                                                                | Bishops Nympton | Breakfast Church          |
| 10.00 am                                                               | North Molton    | Holy Communion            |
| 10.00 am                                                               | Molland         | Holy Communion            |
| 11.15 am                                                               | Knowstone       | Sunday Worship            |
| 11.15 am                                                               | Brayford        | 3 Church Service @ Chapel |
| <i>Time to Be Confirmed</i> Bishops in Mission RHS Rosemore Torrington |                 |                           |

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – The Third Sunday of Lent**

|          |                 |                         |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 8.30 am  | West Anstey     | Holy Communion          |
| 10.00 am | Mariansleigh    | Holy Communion          |
| 10.00 am | East Anstey     | Morning Prayer          |
| 10.00 am | Bishops Nympton | Morning Prayer @ Chapel |
| 10.00 am | North Molton    | Holy Communion          |
| 11.15 am | High Bray       | Holy Communion          |

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

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

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

|          |             |                                        |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| 10.30 am | Twitchen    | Holy Communion                         |
| 3.30 pm  | East Anstey | Celebration service with Bishop Jackie |

For our mid-week services please see website 'Whats On'.

[www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk](http://www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk)



## **CHARLES** – Annie Whitehead

BADGWORTHY WATER



***‘Being in touch with the natural world is crucial’*** says David Attenborough. As we stroll around the village there are already signs of an early Spring with bulbs and wildflowers peeping from the hedgerows and banks and the joyous sound of birdsong and even our hens after their moult laid their first egg early January. This must be due to climate change that nature is totally out of sync. We pray that that the unpredictability of weather in 2020 does not have a devastating and far-reaching effect on farmers and wildlife.

**In Touch** is of course the title of the local magazine and it is our duty as writers to inform the community of happenings throughout the village. On November 29<sup>th</sup> the funeral service was held at Charles church for Elizabeth Richards. The following day the funeral for Jean Pyne was also held at the church. Jean lived at Town Barton Farm with her husband Pat where they farmed for many years. Thank you to Gloria for arranging flowers and those that cleaned the church and those that helped the bereaved sing the chosen hymns. Both families of the deceased expressed their gratitude.

The **quiz night** at Sandyway proved to be a great success with competitive Brainiac’s vying for first prize! £450.00 was made from quiz and draw.

**The Christingle service** at the chapel hosted by Charles was lacking in numbers. But thank you to Rev. Alison Rogers for conducting the service and making it fun. Proceeds went to Bala orphanage in Kenya.

**Our pre-Christmas service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>** deserves a special mention. Thank you to all those who cleaned and decorated the church with wonderful sprays of greenery prior to the event. The church was filled with people from Charles and surrounding parishes to celebrate the birth of Christ led by the special Rev. Jonathan Richards. The lessons were beautifully read and carols with descants harmoniously sung resonated throughout the church. Afterwards mulled wine and canapes were provided. A lovely community gathering. Thank you.

*Stuart and I wish you a wonderful 2020 & Dates for Diaries will be in next edition*

## **NORTH MOLTON** – *Carol Fenwick*

All Saints enjoyed a very joyful and busy Christmas – it started with North Molton Primary School holding their Christingle Service, followed by The Nine Lessons and Carols followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine, and then the Crib Service on Christmas Eve which included a group of Angels; some of which were rather excited about Christmas! Thank you to all those who helped to make all this happen.

LENT LUNCHESES will be upon us soon - starting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March when our friends from the Methodist Church will be doing the first one – these will continue the 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the Old School, starting at 12.30pm. This year all donations will be given to The Saunders Good Samaritan Trust, a South Molton based Charity run by a small group of people who help the elderly, sick, disabled and anyone in urgent need, they support local community enterprises and younger people facing financial constraints in their effort to realise their potential, so please come along and support this very local and small group of people helping those in the community.

Members of the HISTORY SOCIETY and guests enjoyed our December Meeting when Ken and Ann Tucker showed us two films – one on the Barnstaple Fair which used to be a huge event, and the second one was when an aircraft crashed in All Saints Churchyard, narrowly missing the Tower. After the films we all enjoyed Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls kindly donated by Reg (for which thank you very much Reg) and a glass of wine. The Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, (starting at 7pm) when 'The Paper Man', Jim Patterson, will show us how he makes paper for artists. He is the only person making English water colour paper by hand in the UK.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year – 2020 will certainly be an interesting one!

## **Planning the Future for All Saints North Molton**

We are currently waiting for our Quinquennial report from the Architect, a five-yearly survey on the church building. Once receiving the report we aim to prioritise the list of works needed on the church and where the recent fundraising monies are best allocated.

## **NEWS FROM NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL**

*- Nicola Bourne*

Happy New Year Everyone. Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Market – we as ever appreciate your support for the hall.

Our second dance of 2020 is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February; 7.30 – 11.30pm with the usual bring & share supper. Prices have now been increased to £5 per person.

This is followed by our annual Pancake Morning on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** from **10.00am – 11.30am**, please come along & join us for freshly cooked pancakes. Yummy!! Our dance in **March** is on (please note) **Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**. Watch this space for all the news & upcoming events for our hall.

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



## **NORTH MOLTON LUNCHEON CLUB**

The new year for North Molton Luncheon Club is already well underway. I would like to thank all the local volunteers who give their time to keep the club running. Cooks, front of house, dishwashers and those who keep the books, each has an important role. If you would like to join the team then please come along to The Victory Hall on any Wednesday to ask how you could help. Thanks also to our wonderful Senior Citizens who enjoy a two-course lunch each Wednesday (except during August), without you there wouldn't be a Luncheon Club. If you think someone from North Molton Parish would appreciate a lunch, then please do ask them. The two-course lunch with a cup of tea is just £4.50.

The Old School Hall committee in North Molton, are having a **Band Night** on Saturday 22nd February to raise money for the Old School Hall. More details to follow shortly!



## **TWITCHEN** – *Hugh Croft*

As I write it is the feast of the Epiphany. The three kings making that great journey of faith, leaving all and going into the unknown. As you read this we will be preparing for another journey into the unknown as we approach Lent, a spiritual journey of faith and renewal, a time for looking , for searching, for questioning as we journey towards Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter.

A big thank you to the Exmoor carolers who visited in November and gave a wonderful performance, which raised a lot of money for Twitchen Church. Our carol service on Christmas Eve was packed out and ended with mulled wine and mince pies. Many thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully and those who helped in so many ways, particularly the Revd's Jonathan and Alison for taking the service and to Tony Poling who once again filled the church with music. A visiting couple were so impressed and enjoyed it so much that they put a very complimentary message on Instagram.

Twitchen folk have some very keen gardeners in their midst and I thought at the end of the church news we could have a gardening section to keep us up to scratch. If anyone would like to contribute or have any suggestions do get in touch with me. I guess gardening is another journey into the unknown!

The church APCM. will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4.30 pm at the vicarage in North Molton. All are most welcome.



### **MOLLAND** – *Brian Taylor*

A new decade has dawned upon us, a new beginning for our country and all of us. I am full of hope for the future.

A couple of things to report from the last couple of months of 2019. Firstly, thanks to the generosity of those from East and West Anstey, Knowstone and Molland who attended the Remembrance Day Service on November 10<sup>th</sup> we were able to donate £200 each to The Royal British Legion and The Royal Star and Garter Homes. Secondly, the Carol Service on December 22<sup>nd</sup> saw the church filled to near capacity and again, thanks to the generosity of those who attended, we were able to donate the collection of £372 to the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple, a local charity which cares for those much less fortunate in North Devon than ourselves.

And now to the future – Pam and Marj will be holding their stall for the church in South Molton Pannier Market on **Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** so, if you are “in town” on that day, do go along and visit them and buy some goodies to help our church funds.



Now to a major event for St. Mary's; on **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** we shall be hosting the Major Final of the Devon Bell Ringers Association which means that the “best of the best” throughout Devon will be competing here in our church; thanks must go to Keith Bavin, churchwarden and long-time bell ringer at East Anstey for nominating us here in Molland for this event. There will be more news on this in the next edition as there will be, hopefully, on the repairs to the church clock and other events taking place in 2020.

### **ANSTEY Hall** – *Karen Piercy*

Happy new year to you all.

Lots of fun was had over the Christmas period at Anstey Village Hall, the Christmas Party was a great success. Thank you to Valerie Jackson and the committee for organising it and helping on the night. Congratulations to all prize winners in the Christmas Draw, we raised £560 for the hall. Anstey Arts donated £100 towards the entertainment at the party.

Anstey Arts have also donated £200 to East Anstey School PTA to contribute towards new computers. I'm very sad to report that due to lack of support the Friday Night Social Club has been cancelled.

Regular events at the hall for February and March:

Monday 9.30 – 10.30: **Seated Yoga**, 12.45 – 15.45: **Post Office**, 19.00 – 22.00:

**Bowls Club**

Tuesday 13.00 – 15.00: **Crafter noon Tea**, 19.00 – 21.00: **Evening Papercraft**

Wednesday 09.30 – 10.30: **Pilates**, 19.00 – 21.00: **Craft Club**

Friday 20.15 – 21.15: **Line Dancing**

### Special Events

Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>: **Anstey Arts presents “Blinded by the Light”** doors open 7.00 pm

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 19.00 – 22.00: **Dance Club**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 19.00 – 22.00: **Anstey WI**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 19.30 – 21.00: **Hunt Support AGM**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 11.30 – 14.30: **Pancake Lunch**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 20.15 – 21.15: **Ferret Racing**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 18.00 – 21.00: **Anstey Arts presents “Downton Abbey”** doors open 6.00pm for afternoon tea, **please book**

[www.ansteyarts@westanstey.uk](mailto:www.ansteyarts@westanstey.uk) or 341106

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 19.00 – 22.00: **Anstey WI**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 19.00 – 21.00: **Village Hall Committee Meeting**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 07.30 – 14.00: **Hunt Breakfast**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 19.00 – 22.00: **Beaford Arts in collaboration with Anstey Arts presents a live show from Scratchworks – “Hags – a magical extravaganza”** with 2 course meal and bar. More details to follow.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 11.00- 13.00: **Coffee Break**



**“Hags – a magical extravaganza”**

## **EAST ANSTEY** – *Fran Bridger*

After a wet start to winter we can only pray that the months leading to spring will be drier. With that in mind it is good to spare a thought for those in Australia who are suffering so cruelly from a want of water. What a lot we must be thankful for here in East Anstey. The Coffee Morning held by Angela and Philip raised over £112 for the **Devon Wildlife Trust** and they send their thanks to all who supported this happy occasion. The **Christmas lunch** at Cynthia's in December was a wonderfully happy affair, raising over £175 for the Anstey WI and the Children's Hospice SW. Many thanks to Cynthia, and her thanks to all who supported this, giving so generously. Both the **East Anstey Carol Service** and **Christmas Day services** were a lovely prelude to Christmas, and it was lovely to see so many smiling faces. Thanks to everyone's generosity the church was able to send £350 to the Children's Society. **The Carol Singing** evening was very jolly, with around 25 happy people giving musical enjoyment to others. Thank you to everyone who came, who brought torches, who sung so brightly with gusto, and to Ann and Keith who as always put such effort into welcoming us back at the church with mince pies and hot chocolate. **A big Thank you from Sylvia** to the 'Flower' ladies who decorate the church throughout the year, ensuring everyone who visit our lovely building can see the love and care that we have for it. If you like informal worship why not come to **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Worship** (3TW) every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7 – 7.45pm at Highlands, led by Mac. Tel: 341993. **Pancake Lunch** will be held at Anstey Hall on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, noon – 2pm. Proceeds to local charities. Finally, there will be a **Dedication Service to celebrate the completion** of the tower repairs, the rewiring, new guttering and repainting of the church on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm. We look forward to seeing and thanking everyone for their generous support for this important project over the past years.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE:**

- **Poetry Reading:** 4<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March: 4pm. Tel: 341993.
- **Sequence dancing:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm. AVH.
- **Third Tuesday Worship:** 18<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm. Highlands.
- **Pancake Lunch:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, noon – 2pm AVH.
- **Charity Dance:** 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 – 11.30pm. AVH.
- **Church Dedication Service:** 29<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm



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

A few short words on behalf of Lynn and the schools at Bishop's Nympton and East Anstey since she is unable to add her usual light-hearted look at the news for this edition of the In Touch.

Firstly, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas festivities, for decorating the church, and for making the carol service such a success. The church was packed with eager school children, families and friends which helped to make the occasion truly spectacular. Also, good wishes for a very Happy New Year to parents, guardians, children, staff, and everyone who helps to run the schools.

Normal service will resume for the next edition.

**EAST ANSTEY**- Susan Bew

This Lent we will be following the successful 'Prayer course' from the Creator of 24-7 Prayer, Peter Greig.

The aim of the course is to grow our relationship with God through prayer - becoming better at hearing His voice and experiencing more of His presence. (Luke 11 v 1-2).

Please join us - meeting each Wednesday at 7.30pm, the six-week course starts on Wednesday 4th March at Barton Cross Barn, East Anstey. For full details and venues please contact me.



"It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach as we walk"  
--- Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)



## **WEST ANSTEY** – *Banger Milton*

A wonderful Carol service was held in West Anstey Church before Christmas, decorated by Messy Church & organised by Penny & Rachel. There were the traditional carols mixed in with a sketch & other items, followed by mulled wine, mince pies, gingerbread men & other goodies which were enjoyed after the service. Along with the very wet weather, nearly dark days – surely more than usual, there have been many people unwell over the festive season from various lurgies. Let us hope that Spring might kick in & kick out all these bugs! I have been asked by quite a few people what happened to Jemima Green after her unfortunate accident.

For those of you who never knew James & Bernadette Green (New Park) & their family, Jemima was the only girl out of four siblings. They moved to the family home in Dorset after leaving West Anstey. Jemima was an up & coming eventer – horses had always been the love of her life. However, that life changed radically in May 2015 when the car she was travelling in, with three friends, was hit, head on by a rogue driver. Her friend Lulu was killed instantly & Jemima is only with us now because the local vicar – a trauma surgeon at Kings, London before changing career was the second person to arrive on the scene & resuscitated her. Jemima was left paralysed from the waist down, & had major abdominal damage caused by the seatbelt. So, extensive surgery was required & more surgery in 2016 & in 2018, again restricting her recovery. Not only was there all the physical damage, but the mental trauma was nearly beyond coping with. However, Jemima got back on a horse with amazing help from the local RDA & a pony called Pandora. She has gradually gone from strength to strength & competes in Para Dressage – divided in to 5 grades. (Grade 1 being the most severe.) Jemima is grade 2 so does walk & trot only, in her test. She appears to be the only person competing in the UK who has a complete spinal cord injury & is paralysed. Rehab has been paramount from physio's, using the exoskeleton, & Pilates, all to improve core strength.

The breakthrough for her riding was finding Jools (horse), in December 2018. Their first competition was in March 2019 at Bicton & by May, they were in the South West team. In their first International competition in Yorkshire, they won the G2 silver section & best score from all the G1 & G2 competitors. Success has continued & the campaign for 2020 will be ever challenging. Jemima, Jools & your other two horses: Diamanti & Echo, we wish you all the very best. Finally, Claire at the Jubilee Inn would like people to know that from the middle of January, the pub will be open in the evenings.



A new year, a new decade, and a new look to St Peter's Church! At last year's final PCC meeting, it was agreed to employ contractors to reclaim and maintain St Peter's churchyard, and the transformation has been remarkable. The initial work involved removing five large, very old and overgrown rhododendron bushes

which revealed five hidden gravestones -- at least two of which were over 100 years old and in pristine condition. Full strimming of the churchyard, hedge-laying and power washing of the walkways around the church completed the job. Much of this work was done during a particularly wet and windy week in order to complete the make-over before Christmas events began.

There are still some specific jobs to be completed, but from mid-March through to October the church grounds will be regularly maintained on a fortnightly basis. The work has been widely praised by parishioners and visitors alike, and this will mean that anyone who has loved ones interred in the churchyard can be assured that their resting places will be carefully and respectfully maintained. Falling in with the majority of the Edgemoor Group of Parishes, the PCC has also agreed to **ban the use of all plastic flowers** on graves, as these can often be scattered in the wind and picked up and shredded during the strimming process, leaving harmful bits of plastic in the grass for birds and other animals to pick up. Likewise, when clearing floral tributes, we ask that you place **green waste only** in the green bin and all other waste (including plastic pots) in the black bin -- both of which can be found to the right of the church porch.

The Christmas Fayre and Bingo events were very successful and raised much needed funds for the Church and Parish Hall. The Carol Service collection raised £176 for Devon Air Ambulance. The next Knowstone Film Event will take place on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February**, showing "Downtown Abbey". This screening replaces the original January date noted in the last *In Touch*. Lastly, congratulations to Louise and Geoff Farley (and proud grandparents Sheila and Alan Bray of East Bowden) on the arrival of baby Sophie. What a lovely early Christmas present!

**BISHOPS NYMPTON** – Cheryl Woollacott

The Church was wonderfully full (up on last year!) for the Christmas Christingle Service with the excellent Pop Up Nativity staged by Clare Cooke. Also, the School Nativity held in the Church was very well supported. Thank you to the flower arrangers for the brilliant festive decorations and to the bell ringers for ringing, also to Julie Sanderson for the tree. The school had three packed audiences at their hall enjoying a grand production of Aladdin. Thank you to everyone for organising, taking part and watching.

Budding Bishops held in the Village Hall on Monday mornings from 10.30am to 12.00 is still proving popular, when Adults and Children, Grannies and Mums are welcome to come and watch the fun, based on different themes, snacks and songs. Contact Clare on 07815745716 for details. Also, they have been given a lot of play equipment which needs a handy man/woman to help clean and check over, so if anyone interested in helping, please ring the above number. Breakfast Church also continues the second Sunday of the month from 9.30am but may take place in the Village Hall sometimes.

Thank you to the Community Club for its opening hours over Christmas, as many enjoyed the Xmas Party and New Year's Eve get together.

Lots of people joined with family and friends of Johnny Kingdom, to witness his wife, Julie unveiling a bronze bust of him, sculptured by Vanessa Marston, at the Village Hall. TV cameras captured the event, with children from the school singing and enjoying festive refreshments. A lovely way to remember Johnny, who loved where he lived and his beloved Exmoor.

A successful auction organised by Sally Wilson and Fran Evans was held raising the Church Tower Fund by a further £1600(approx.) enabling the start to repairs beginning in the New Year.

Congratulations to Beatrice Mills, daughter of George and Emily on being baptised recently. Also, best wishes to Edward and Megan Verney on the birth of their baby boy, Charlie, brother to Evie.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sheila Greenslade who has passed away, a well-known and much-loved local person. Thoughts and prayers for everyone whom we know who are poorly, lonely or coping with bereavement and difficult times.

Congratulations to those confirmed at Mariansleigh Church in November, including Les and Lynne Pugsley from Bishops Nympton.

Wednesday lunch clubs continue in the hall on February 12th, 26th and March 11th and 25th, with Sunday Community Lunches on 16th February 15th March. History Club meets on Monday 9th March when Historian, Derrica Hodgson will be talking about woman of South Molton!

Welcome to all newcomers who have moved into the village. The local Shop and village hall website hold lots of information on times of regular activities in the hall, including Yoga, Bowling, Pilates, Tai Chi, WI, Gardening Club, Dance Club, or if you are interested in helping with the Shop, Hall or Community Club, ring Shirley 550235

Bishops Nympton Drama Group Players are sorry to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances, there will not be an annual production this February. Sorry to the many loyal fans and thank you for your continued support, but have every intention to perform next year, so watch this space!!

The school are having a quiz in their own hall on 31st January and a big breakfast on Saturday 29th February in the Village Hall.

As I write, we are getting the Plough ready to take into Church to bless the start of the next agricultural year, with lambing time already started!



## **MARIANSLEIGH** – *Ruth Govier*

Mariansleigh Church was looking beautiful for the carol service with its magnificent Christmas tree and flower arrangements. It was so good to see so many people singing the Christmas carols then enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you to all that helped in any way.

Welcome to Steve and Marion Bedford which have moved to The Orchard we hope that you enjoy your time in Mariansleigh.

Oxham hall has recently been redecorated and is looking very smart if you would like to book it for an event the new booking officer is Wendy Sing please call her on 01769550351 for more information.

Bingos at Oxham Hall will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month eyes down @7.30pm- usually meat prizes.

Meshaw young farmers came to the village on a very blustery night carol singing which was lovely and ended at Buthay farm for mulled wine and pizza to warm up!

Meshaw YF have their annual quiz and carvery at the Sportsman Inn on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February please contact Lucie 07400906671 to book your team in.

Thoughts are with all the people that have been ill recently and hope that you are all on the road to recovery.

With the festive season well behind us and the unseasonal mild weather let's hope 2020 is a good one!

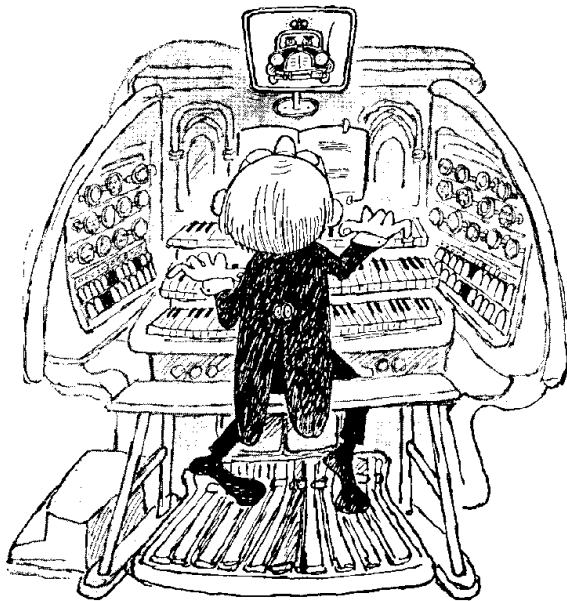


Devon YFC covers the county of Devon with a total of 38 clubs covering all areas from Devon from Blackmoor Gate in the North to Clawton in the West to Totnes in the South and Axminster in the East. These are just some of the clubs plus another 34 clubs covering the county.

**[www.devonyfc.co.uk/](http://www.devonyfc.co.uk/)**

### **HIGH BRAY** – Ruby White

It seems a long time ago now but The Remembrance Sunday was 'church full'. Simon Rookbys collected a van of donated clothes, bedding, shoe boxes and more for less economically developed countries. Thank you for your donations and for our ringing team who rung that morning. The bells sounded wonderful and again on Christmas Eve. Brayford Academy once again put on two faultless Christmas performances. WELL DONE! Christmas Eve's candlelit carols and readings were the perfect antidote to all that shopping and planning. Again, there was standing room only.



Time for some 'thank yous' to Revds. David, Jonathan, Chris, Penny, Alison, Michael and Alastair. And a very special thank you to Tony Poling for his most wonderful organ playing.

.....

### ***The Lent Collect***

*Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

## BISHOPS NYMPTON PARISH HALL



**Superb facilities and excellent parking.**

**For enquiries & bookings contact Kirstein**

**07305812174**

[bookings@bishopsnymptonparishhall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@bishopsnymptonparishhall.org.uk)

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## Useful Telephone Numbers

|                                                               |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Emergencies                                                   | 999           |
| NHS out of hours general health advice                        | 111           |
| North Devon District Hospital                                 | 01271 322577  |
| Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital                                 | 01392 411611  |
| Tiverton Hospital Minor Injuries                              | 01884 235400  |
| Age Concern                                                   | 01392 202092  |
| Alcohol Problems                                              | 0800 0241478  |
| ChildLine                                                     | 0800 1111     |
| CRUSE (Bereavement Help)                                      | 0300 3305466  |
| Devon Domestic Abuse<br>and Sexual Violence Service Helpline: | 0345 155 1074 |
| Samaritans                                                    | 116 123       |
| Farming Community Network                                     | 03000 111999  |

## **LENT Introduction to the Season**

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed  
for sins of heart and word and deed,  
when we in humble fear record

the wrong that we have done the Lord. (Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. Gloria in excelsis is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetareor Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.



# The Edgemoor Conversation - *sharing our stories*



We had three well attended gatherings in November, followed by a 'Weave of Prayer' across the Edgemoor Group with a total of 36 people taking time out to pray in our churches. The final session of the year held in December helped gather the stories shared, the words spoken to pen the next chapter for our churches and our place in the communities we live. Time will now be taken to draw all of this together to help set a future vision and plan to be reviewed and celebrated across the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November. In the meantime we continue to meet with Revd Mike Clark, also Growing the Rural Churches and Jon Curtis Lay Discipleship Project Manager. **Our thanks to** Mike Clark for steering us through our 'stories' thus far and to all who attended and contributed.

*Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philip. 4*



## Local Houses of Prayer

A short Celtic Daily Prayer  
and a time of gentle prayer and blessing.

### Where and When?

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

**West Anstey Church:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
12.00 – 12.30pm

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

# 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.