

IN TOUCH

June/July 2020



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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.

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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.

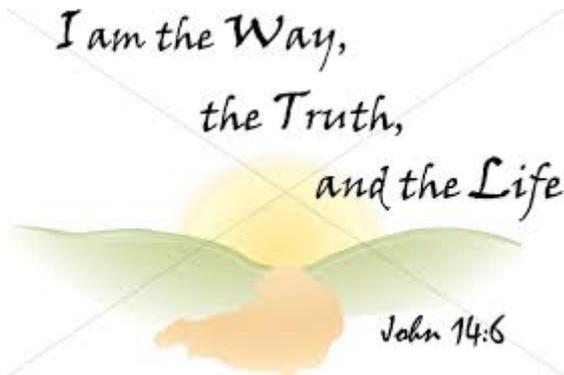
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While I was struggling to write this article the 'phone rang and it was a gift from the Lord because, from the conversation, I knew what I had to write.

A Christian friend said her Christian husband tripped over, breaking a bone in his knee. But his wife cheerily commented '*He can get up and down the stairs to the bathroom and he can wash and dry the dishes.*' To which she then laughingly added '*So he can do all the important things in life!*'

There was the article! What are the important things in life, for a Christian? In Matthew Ch 5 vs 33 Jesus says '*...seek first His (God's) Kingdom....*'. This is the most important thing for a Christian because it is normally part of the only way to eternal life. In John's Gospel Chapter 14 and verse 6 Jesus proclaims, '*I am the way, the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except through me.*' So, for a Christian, Jesus is the only means of salvation. But he also says we must normally live as he would. In Matthew Chapter 25 and verses 34 – 50, roughly speaking, Jesus says '*Come into the Kingdom you who fed, clothed and visited me for what you did for the least of my brethren you did for me.*' Quite simply it isn't enough normally for a Christian to say they believe and trust in Jesus, as Lord and Saviour. They also have to live the way Jesus calls us to do and that is summed up in two words '**Social Responsibility.**' In other words, do for others as you would want done for you. Not just during the Covid 19 problem but at all times.

CHURCHWARDENS

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral Service and Burial at Bishops Nympton on 18th March - Kathleen May Alderman.

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

Sylvia Carter
Jackie Moss
Doris Carter
Eileen Govier
Henry Sellman
Sydney Agnew
Florence Weavers
Thirza Shapcott
Nicholas Cox
Norman Roberts
Ruby Samuel
Tom Thorne
Brian Alderman
Brian Chaplin
Alice Brambley
Walter Brierly
Phyllis Holcombe
Jeremy Lock

Elizabeth Bird
Terence Hutley
Gilbert Cowdry
Reginald Windsor
Mary Rawle
Sally Bird
Rosemary Hammett
Maria Ayre
Dudley Buckingham
Alfred Lerwill
Ned Searle
John Parker
James Bird
Roy Hutchings
John Nicholls
William Webber

News from the Villages:

HIGH BRAY – *Ruby White*

No news from High Bray this time.

NORTH MOLTON – *Carol Fenwick*

Hello Everyone,

We hope everyone is coping with the situation at the moment, maybe by the end of this month we will see a change for the better.

It is all those little jobs that never seem to get done – maybe, they have now been dealt with!

Our thanks to the dedicated work of the NHS, putting themselves on the front line, and the hours they spend caring for the extremely sick – the clapping goes on.

We mustn't forget all those here who have worked so hard to keep us all going taking orders and delivering (always with a smile) – but our special thanks must go to Colin and Sue for the hours of work they put in, keeping the shop open, taking orders and delivering – THANK YOU FROM US ALL TO YOU ALL.

A huge thank you to our Team Rector David Baker, who with the rest of the ministry team has set up the Edgemoor Parish Sunday Service via Zoom, so we can enjoy a Sundays service from the comfort of our own home. Please log onto the website, www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk for more information.

Hopefully, next time you get the 'In Touch' magazine there will be much happier news and we will all be able to meet again.

NEWS FROM NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL - *Nicola Bourne*

No news from the Victory Hall, North Molton, this time around.

Will update you when the hall reopens.

Stay Home and Stay Safe

TWITCHEN – *Hugh Croft*

Church life in Twitchen has seemingly been noticeably quiet these last few weeks, but in actual fact a lot has been going on. David and his team have put in a huge amount of work during this crisis---- Zoom services, printed out services, news, prayers and a lot of pastoral care and support going on quietly and unseen. A big thank you.

Garden life on the other hand has been anything but quiet; everything is bursting forth and blossoming, and Monty Don says May is the busiest month of the year. The weather has been kind to the farmers for the lambing season, and the silaging will soon begin in earnest.

Our thoughts and prayers are particularly with all those who are helping us, whilst putting themselves at risk, during this terrible crisis.



MOLLAND – *Brian Taylor*

Due to the current situation in the country, everything that was in the process of being finalised for the coming months has either been cancelled or put on hold for the time being:

The whole of the bell ringing competition for this year has been cancelled but having spoken to the organisers it is hoped that the competition will take place next year and the final will be here at St. Mary's in Molland. The planting of the apple trees in the churchyard has been delayed until the autumn or spring of next year.

The repairs to the church clock have been put on hold until such time as the funding committee is able to meet again and of course the clock repair company is not operational at this time.

The Garden Show has been cancelled for this year under the present climate BUT it is planned to add an events page to Molland Parish Facebook to enable people to upload photos of their gardens/growing and any craft work they have made. Although some may not have the facilities to do this, we can always take photos for them and upload (in accordance with social distancing policy). The Facebook link is called "Lockdown Garden and Creation".

We have a great Parish/Village Network here in Molland to help people cope with the present situation so many thanks to all for offering help and as time progresses it WILL GET BETTER and we will all be able to meet each other again.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and enjoy the pleasantness of Molland and the surrounding area where we are so lucky to live.



Charles Churchyard in bloom

The day the government announced restrictions on March 23rd transformed our lives. At first it seemed incongruous to be in lockdown, but the reality soon became apparent as the number of fatalities increased. Our hearts and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones. Many a thought we spare for those cooped in high rise flats and without gardens. The glorious April weather has allowed us in Charles to tend to our gardens unwittingly helping us cope with the loneliness of self-isolation. We count our blessings living so close to Exmoor and able to walk

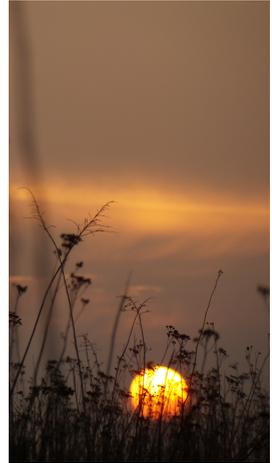
unrestricted for miles along the parish lanes, our senses evoked by the sight of wildflowers, the bleat of new-born lambs and the smell of wild garlic and bluebells. Our Church bells have been rung for a short moment on Thursday nights at 8pm as a way of paying tribute to frontline key workers and NHS staff. Some have made coronavirus masks for carers to be distributed locally. We thank David Baker and his team for stoically setting up Zoom and leading the virtual Easter Sunday Church services. Video and audio chats have brought much solace enabling communication with our precious families. The nation has come together supporting us and our families with access to distance learning, tips on home-education, (hmm!), virtual garden visits, quizzes, self-isolating choirs, recipes plus so much more. Take care and keep well.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness”

(Desmond Tutu)

EAST ANSTEY – *Fran Bridger*

During this unusual time many of us have come to meet neighbours and talk to them - at 2 metres distance - when we had never met them or talked to them before. There are offerings of help, shopping, and telephone calls to keep everyone informed and to stop them feeling isolated. It has been a time for reflection on our normal way of life, and people have begun to appreciate more the wonderful nature and land around them. We have heard the birds sing. We have watched the lambs playing in the fields - and sometimes straying from the fields, so needed to pop them back inside the gate. We have watched, listened, and participated in Thursday evening clapping's, even though there are few around to see or hear us. Yet we have felt united with the whole of the UK in this action and enjoyed the experience. Many of us have found time to undertake hobbies, catch up on the 'To Do Lists', and do lots of gardening. For myself, I have written A Poem A Day in order to raise funds for Marie Curie- one of the many charities we rely on at some time or another and who have had no fundraising during this lock down period. One of my poems, below, is based upon a previous Easter Morning Service. I look forward to bringing you the usual Updates when our country reopens for life as we know it. With love and best wishes to you all.



The walk is easy after the early call
of the scarce used alarm clock '5 bells and all
is well'. A cup of tea and energy bar
was all the food we could swallow before
we are off on our annual hike to the moors,
feeling the chill, though still inspired of course
by birdsong and deer, trying to beat the sun
rising, and shouting 'I see its rays. Let's run'.

Noses assailed by the cinnamon perfume
Of gorse, golden in the morning's misted gloom;

Running to beat the sun rising in the east
and crying against a hint of cloud, our feast
bouncing upon my back, then seeing the crowd
expectant, already gathered at the Stone
worshipping God's rising, before going home.

Fran Bridger

EXMOOR LINK FEDERATION (BISHOPS NYMPTON AND EAST ANSTEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS) – Will hope to bring the latest update when schools reopen.

WEST ANSTEY – *Banger Milton*

Well, hopefully by the time this edition of In Touch comes out, the Lock Down of the entire country that started on March 23rd – the unprecedented move to reduce the spread of COVID-19, will be partially lifted.

So, no Church services at the moment, Easter being lost too. A lot of the retired & vulnerable self-isolating, however, in the amazing community that we are fortunate to all be part of, everyone has been doing their bit to help their neighbours.

There are some Church fundraisers to mention: The annual Vintage Car Rally held in February, where one of the climbs is Coombe Wood & Christine & Hugh do refreshments. They made £166.

The Safari Lunch made about £700, so thanks to Hazel & John Morgan for the starters, All at Little Mead for the main course & the combined effort with the puds. Juliet & Tuck welcomed everyone to the Old Vicarage, & Lesley-Anne, Rose & Val (Jackson) did the making & organising of those. Unfortunately, the quiz was cancelled as are all the shows, point-to points, YFC events. Shops, pubs, Village Halls are all shut & so forth. You name it & it is not going to happen this year.

However, to live in a non-congested part of the country & have beautiful farm & moorland here is worth a lot. The gorse is looking a brilliant yellow, the weather turned for the better after the wettest winter we have had for a long time.



Turning out lambs that can have sunshine on their backs for their first few weeks of their lives is the best thing ever!

Elizabeth Burton has sadly passed away. Born in 1927 & while ago went down to Dawlish. She & Ben owned Churchtown Farm for years,

then Elizabeth moved into Church House.

Best wishes must go to Margaret Tarr who suffered a femur fracture. Again, she & John farmed Churchtown where Richard & family are now. Ending on a good note, congratulations for Michael & Kathleen (one of Rose's granddaughters), who has had another little girl – albeit at home as she never made it to the hospital, & all is well.

WEST ANSTEY - Nikki Routledge

On the 21st April 2013 I staggered across the finish line of my first marathon at the Virgin Giving London Marathon, promising I would never try that again! It took about 5 years for the memory of the pain to fade, but in October 2018 I completed my second marathon in Suffolk and in April 2019 I completed both the Exmoor and the Virgin Giving London Marathon within 3 weeks of each other. I think I have raised around £5,000 in total in sponsorship at these events so far.

My fastest marathon time was still the first one though - 5 hours 27mins.... so in 2020 I wanted to beat my time and push that little bit harder.... and in doing so help raise money for Spinal Research UK. With the onset of lockdown due to Coronavirus, I was clearly not going to be running in London this April, so whilst out training I worked out a route which would keep me socially distanced from everyone else and on April 26th I ran a new PB of 5 hours 16 minutes over 26.2 miles! The sky larks and cuckoos cheered me on instead of the crowds, I saw a newborn

Exmoor pony foal and just one dog walker from a distance! As I returned from the moor to my village, friends cheered and rang cow bells from the safety of their gardens and I also had a socially distanced finishing line of tape to run through as well - so actually I think I won! I felt so emotional that my friends had continued to support me in this way and the generosity of so many people who have sponsored me and enabled Spinal Research UK to continue their important work.

Times are difficult but I am so close to my target now so if you do have a few pennies to spare, please help me to reach my £1,800 target. Thank you.

KNOWSTONE – *Michele Browse*

We are living in unprecedented times. How many times have we heard these words? The past few months have been challenging, yet we are all having to live within the necessary restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic and, here in Knowstone Parish, there are many instances of good neighbourly acts and friendly encouragement on the periphery.

In rural communities, keeping in touch with family when travel is prohibited and dealing with loneliness and isolation in outlying properties may be the most difficult consequences; but, on the plus side, we are incredibly lucky living in such a salubrious environment where we can enjoy fresh air and exercise within our own boundaries. And didn't we have some surprisingly sunny weeks in April to enjoy in our gardens! Like all churches, St Peter's Church has been closed, with church services suspended for the foreseeable future.

However, maintaining faith and prayer is so important, especially in these most difficult times, and the Edgemoor Group of Parishes has been offering weekly online services via ZOOM, with the link for each noted on the website (www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk). Hard copies of the order of service are being left in the church porch for individual collection. Revd. Alastair Forman also is presenting weekly reflections in "The Word from the Shed", which can be accessed via YouTube. These brief, personal messages are both inspiring and enjoyable, and you can "register" (at no cost) to receive advance notification when a new video is ready to view.

Knowstone Parish Hall has, of course, also been closed with all community events postponed for the near future, but there is a wide supply of second-hand books and board games which may be borrowed to fill in the time at home. Anyone interested should get in touch with Ken Dykes, 01398 341570. Check the Knowstone Parish website also for other news and available services.

Excellent news from the Knowstone and Yeo Mill dance clubs who raised a fantastic amount of money earlier this year and presented the Devon Freewheelers with two cheques for £665.00 (from Knowstone dance club) and £525.00 (from Yeo Mill dance club). The Freewheelers are volunteer motorcyclists who run urgent deliveries of drugs, blood and medical supplies to/from hospitals in Devon. Well done, dance clubs! Hopefully, perhaps ideally, by the time this is published, we will have reached a point when individuals and communities can return to a more normal lifestyle -- in which case, church services and many events which are not listed here may be resuming. Let us hope that is the case, so check the Knowstone website and local notice boards for advanced notifications. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, stay in touch with your friends and neighbours.

ROSE ASH- *Sharon Brown*

First and foremost, I hope that everyone has stayed safe and well during the past few weeks and months, in these unprecedented times. I had wondered, once we were all asked to stay indoors and isolate from others, during the Coronavirus pandemic, what there would be to write about, but there has been plenty.

I think the last Rose Ash social event was a 'bring and buy' plant sale with the enticement of nibbles and wine to attract the crowds and raise church funds. There were bulbs such as snowdrops to buy, books to enjoy and lots of advice to be had whilst enjoying a chat with others. It will be lovely to see the bulbs next spring.

It has all felt a bit like George Orwell's 1984 in recent times with the social constraints imposed on us all, but hopefully this will work to contain this awful virus, itself a real leveller, affecting everyone in some way. What has been wonderful, in all of this, is the community spirit that has grown and shown new dimensions as a result – everyone looking out for ways in which they can help others, and cheer people up who may be lonely. There have been many supportive texts, e-mails, and phone calls.

The noticeboards do not now display details of up and coming events but have messages of care and concern with a phone number to call should one need help – along with cheerful rainbows to buoy us up and recognise the efforts of the NHS and other valued key workers. Rose Ash is spread out far and wide, so we don't always hear each other clapping on a Thursday evening to support our key workers, but without doubt this has been going on. A special song or two, to support our key workers, was put onto the Rose Ash website, thank you Geoff for that, we enjoyed it.

Thanks too must go to those who have arranged for weekly deliveries of fruit and vegetables to the village green. Sam, Ginny and Stella have really worked hard to gather our lists together, then box the items up into individual boxes and finally leaving them spaced out for us to collect, and then take payment – a considerable amount of time and effort, so thank you all. I know other stores such as the butchers Shapland and Searle and the Cheese Larder were also willing to deliver to the village as well as Jenny from Ash Moor Nursery, so thanks must go to them too. James has been considering those with no internet access and keeping them informed which is much valued.

A colouring and poetry competition were arranged by Tracey for all Rose Ash children which I hope has had lots of entries and was enjoyed by the creators. Online quizzes have also been enjoyed, so thank you for that too.

The dry and sunny weather arrived at around the start of our isolation period which has been valued. It has allowed those of us with gardens to get outside to enjoy them and do necessary work, also allowing children some much needed play space and exercise – even those with no gardens can enjoy the blue skies and views.

One small downside was the necessity to have a dog waste clear up afternoon on the village green, attended by several people. On our walks too, we have also noticed quite a bit of rubbish along Dicks Hill, empty water bottles, sandwich wrappers and other rubbish. It is up to all of us to keep the village and surrounding countryside clean and safe.

Although the church services have been cancelled, there have been online services, even for the little children and Palm Sunday crosses and Easter service booklets were left in St. Peters church porch for people to take and use. There is also a popular, weekly, 'Word from the Shed' (on YouTube). The link can be found on the Edgemoor Website - edgemoorparishes.org.uk. Or, if anyone would prefer it to be emailed to them, they can e-mail Alastair at alastair.forman@gmail.com.

BISHOPS NYMPTON – Cheryl Woollacott

What a challenging time everyone has been through these past few weeks with news and circumstances changing every day, while the sun has been shining. Bishops Nympton, as have all the villages and parishes, came together to help each other with tremendous support. Thank you all for keeping the village shop going and well stocked, with volunteers helping to take orders and drop deliveries. Lots of you have been checking on neighbours, doing their shopping, fetching prescriptions and generally keeping an eye on those who need help. The Parish Council members have been helping in whatever way they can.

Despite all Churches being closed, service sheets have been available from the Church porch, zoom services and Revd Alistair Forman's weekly 'you tube' from The Shed has been very well received. The House of Prayer members have still come together in thought and prayers every Wednesday evening too. The Church Porch was decorated for Easter weekend when a group social distancing, placed flowers and an Easter Garden there, so people on their daily exercise could see it as they passed.



Thoughts are with the families of Heather Taylor and Kath Kingdon, two former popular inhabitants of Bishops Nympton who have recently passed away.

A big thank you to the NHS and Care staff and key workers who work all hours

For us all. Keep well, keep safe.

As I write, some flags are being placed around in remembrance of VE Day, another poignant time in history, and when it's time for the next magazine, hopefully the country, the world, will be in a better place.

Best wishes, Cheryl Wollacott

The Bishops Nympton House of Prayer is currently "meeting" every Wednesday "virtually" at 7.30pm rather than in homes or church. We are also praying far more widely than just BishNym, so not quite a Local House of Prayer at the moment.

Keep Well. Sally Cotton

MARIANSLEIGH – *Ruth Govier*

Nothing to report from Mariansleigh

EAST ANSTEY WEATHER STATION – *Neville Vereker*

March – April 2020

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>20 yr. Average</u>	<u>Temp</u>
March	5.37 ins 136.5mm	102mm	max 16.1° min 0.2 °
April	1.7ins 43.25mm	72mm	max 25.5° min 0.9°

Notes:

1. The highest March rainfall in the last 20 years was in both 2017 and 2019 when we had 150mm, whilst the lowest was in both 2011 and 2012 when we had 37mm.
2. The highest April rainfall was in 2012 with 246mm, whilst the lowest was in 2007 with a mere 12mm.
3. After the never-ending rain in February it has been a joy to have a reasonably dry April with 23 dry days out of 30 but very glad to have the recent four days of rain.

Neville Vereker

News from the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

These are strange times we are living through and, like everywhere else, the Pony Centre is in lockdown. Most of our ponies have been put out to grass at the Centre or taken to other grazing sites to cut down on work, but all are still being checked daily in accordance with animal welfare requirements. A few ponies still need to be exercised however, either to control their weight or for other health reasons, and they are being ridden daily. Late foals, Andy, and Banksy (in photo) are still having extra rations to bring them up to weight.

We are entering what would normally be our busiest time of year for visitors and events, and this is when we make around 80% of our trading income. Somehow, we have to make up this deficit if we are going to survive so, like every other charity, we are appealing for help. We are making savings where we can. Our staff are furloughed and Linzi is caring for the ponies on her own, but we still have to pay the rent and, of course, there are feed bills and essential veterinary costs for the ponies.

We are immensely grateful to those of our supporters who are undertaking fundraising challenges for us through Just Giving and other methods, and to everyone who has sent us a donation in response to our appeal. Artist Jane Wills is raising money for us by raffling a limited edition print of her beautiful painting of Exmoor Ponies, and four-year-old Jakson is doing a 2.6km trot on his hobby horse!

All these and more are on our Facebook page.

We are keen to stay in touch with supporters and followers through this difficult time and we have launched a kids club on our website with downloadable games and puzzles which can be accessed from the home page by following the link to Kids Club.



Finally, we send all of you our good wishes and hope you are staying well.

Website:

www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre

Instagram: #exmoorponycentre

Email: info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Tel: 01398 323093



Local Houses of Prayer

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

Where and When – at the moment?

Zoom meeting – Fridays at 5.00 pm.
Contact Penny Lawson for further details

Where and When – in normal times?

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

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

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