

IN TOUCH

October/November 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

What has life been like for our farmers in this difficult year? This is an edited version of **Devon Churches Rural Forum Harvest newsletter**.

'With thanks to all our reporters: David Moore, Joanne Jones, Colin Smallacombe, Danny Semorad and David Ursell.

The cereal harvest has been difficult this year. It started last autumn when it didn't stop raining. Some farmers sowed some winter crops - but much of the seed and young plants rotted and yields are consequently poor. Others drilled in the spring - but then the weather became exceptionally dry and later warm - and again the seed suffered and yields are low. Now at harvest the weather has been erratic with considerable rain; in some areas in the west of England the harvest is only about half complete (as of 5th Sept - usually being complete around 10th). Harvesting the corn is very challenging at the moment with many farmers waiting for a settled spell of weather.

Wheat, barley and oats have struggled and there are some suggestions that yields have been 30-40% down which will push prices up over the winter and shortages are expected. And much of the corn has also needed considerable drying, so although the price has gone up, so have the input costs.

Maize is doing well - it loves the sun - so the hot summer months were perfect for it, as long as it was drilled reasonably early in the season, faring the best of the crops. Yields should be good.

Silage wasn't looking too good earlier on in the year with the dry weather, but with the rain in August and the soil still warm the grass has been growing strongly and the season has been extended - and though with the later cuts the quality is not so good it will still help with winter feed costs. Hopefully most will have enough silage to see them through the winter.

Sheep prices are doing relatively well and prices for breeding sheep have risen particularly over the past few months. Beef has also recently picked up in price as well. Beef and sheep prices were low at the start of lockdown, but have recovered and lamb prices have held up when traditionally they would have eased at this time of the year. The lamb price has held up so far, though

the future is uncertain with Brexit, but there is a high demand in France, so hopefully a fair price will hold up in 2021. The other gift of sheep is of course wool, but wool prices have been at an all-time low, and the price being paid doesn't cover the cost of shearing.

Milk remains in the doldrums - there was over-supply during lockdown for those who supplied the coffee shops and catering industry - but there is also surplus in Europe which is keeping prices depressed. Dairy farmers will also have rising feed costs because of the increase in corn prices and there is a shortage of use straw for winter bedding.

As well as impacts on supply lines, there were other Covid issues for farmers of course, not least an exacerbation of isolation and for some, difficulties of additional people accessing the countryside and land.

Farming is such a primary industry that it would take something more than a pandemic to stop all our activities of providing food for the nation. Don't forget we "ran out of food" in August (a reference to the level of our self sufficiency in food) in this country, so all farmers are important. Look after them !! We have much to pray for: the continuing pressures of Covid, the uncertainty of Brexit affecting both tariffs and trade, and of course the weather. But as always we have a harvest - and plenty to give thanks and praise to God and our farmers, farm workers, and all those involved in the production and delivery of our food and care of our land.'

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

25th July 2020: Wedding at Bishops Nympton - Edward Williams & Katie Partridge

22nd August 2020: Wedding at Charles – Luke Mears & Emily Gundersen

20th August 2020: Funeral Service & Burial at Bishops Nympton - Gordon William Weeks aged 85

3rd September 2020: Funeral Service and Burial in the churchyard at Knowstone - Annie Mott aged 64

15th September 2020: Cremation Service Barnstaple – Colin Wells

18th September 2020: Funeral Service and Burial North Molton – Keith Regan

CHURCH SERVICES

At the time of writing, it has still not been possible to plan too far ahead. Zoom services are continuing alongside services in church.

October

Sunday 4 th	10.00 am Zoom 10.00 am Holy Communion	North Molton
Sunday 11 th	10.00 am Zoom 10.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Morning Prayer & Baptism	Twitchen Mariansleigh Knowstone
Sunday 18 th	10.00 am Zoom 10.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Morning Prayer	East Anstey Bishops Nympton North Molton

Sunday 25 th	10.00 am Zoom 10.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion 5.00 pm Evening Prayer	High Bray West Anstey Rose Ash
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For Zoom, simply copy and paste the service link in the address bar <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4099684358> All are welcome to join; family, friends and neighbours.

For telephone connections dial any of the numbers below then use the new meeting ID: 409 968 4358

0203 481 5240 0203 901 7895 0131 460 1196 0203
051 2874 0203 481 5237

Please keep a watch on the church noticeboards and the Edgemoor Group website www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk

for any details about services in November including what might happen on Remembrance Sunday. At the moment, acts of worship are not affected by the group of six.

Please check too about anything planned and mentioned in this magazine as happening – everything changes very fast.

CHARLES – *Annie Whitehead*

'Hope dances in the puddles until the sun comes out'. The chilly evenings and hazy mornings are a reminder that the russet beauty of Autumn is close by and summer is at an end. The circle of life encompassed our village when in July we mourned the passing away of Jan Murtagh. Our sincere condolences go to her family. In August we celebrated a new beginning for our youngest daughter who married in Charles church. The sun did come out and 'danced in the puddles'! Many thanks must go to Revd David who not only presided over the order of service but gave the couple hope during the constant change of legislation towards church weddings. The now Mr & Mrs Mears walked out to the welcome sound of church bells resonating over the village. Heartfelt thanks to all our dear friends and neighbours in Charles

who gave us overwhelming support in so many ways making it such a wonderful day. The **Christmas Shoebox Appeal** will still go ahead with the deadline at the end of October as they will be collected by a Vicar in Sussex on Remembrance Day at High Bray church service. The boxes will be distributed throughout UK & E. Europe for those desperately in need. For more information, please contact: Madeleine 01598 710389.

***St John the Baptist Church** underwent a Quinquennial Inspection on June 16th. The report revealed no major structural problems. Please contact J Hudson: 01598 710350 for full report.

*Charles church is now open on Wednesdays & Sundays

Dates for Diary: Edgemoor Walking Challenge
September /October **postponed** until March 2021.



NORTH MOLTON – *Carol Fenwick*

There isn't a great deal to report other than we hope you are all keeping fit and well. It has been a difficult summer but was helped by the lovely beginning when we could all enjoy the sun and be busy in our gardens. Now we are managing to get about a bit but being cautious and careful. We are ever hopeful that things will get better.

It was lovely to be back in All Saints on the 30th August. The next services at North Molton are Sunday 4th October which is Holy Communion and Sunday 18th October which is Morning Prayer. Services are at 10.00 am.

We are now meeting for Tuesday Morning Coffee outside the old school in the car park, we bring our own coffee and, so far, the weather has been very kind to us. It is lovely to meet and catch up and see how people have coped with the lock down. The circle is getting bigger - there have been as many as 16. (This will be reviewed now under the current guidance / Rule of Six)

NEWS FROM NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL-*Nicola Bourne*



We are now open for business but as usual with any leisure facility we have guidelines that must be followed & we do provide all the necessary equipment – gloves, masks, hand sanitiser etc:

Some activities have already begun but our usual autumn/winter diary of dances & the Christmas market taking place are now unlikely. However, if you would like to use the hall please call on the number below or use my email & we will be happy to help.

I hope everyone is keeping well & staying safe.

North Molton Victory Hall Correspondent: Nicola Bourne (01598 740477)

Or email: nician@waitrose.com

Children

Brown eyes and blues eyes,
You are always there for me.
Catching when I fall.

Grandchildren

Wriggling and giggling
They scamper to the garden
“Catch us Granny. Quick!”

Friends and Neighbours

“Here is your shopping.”
“Let’s have tea over the fence.”
“I am here for you.”

Dogs

She stands back to watch
My dog leaping in the grass.
“That’s God’s gift.” She says.

Poem by: Mezzi Franklin

TWITCHEN – *Hugh Croft*

Sundays after Trinity--twenty of them. A time between the great feasts of the Church. A good time to pause and reflect.

The PCC decided to open the church by appointment only, but the church yard is a very peaceful place to be if anyone seeks quiet and tranquillity.

We are grateful to David and his team for organising the zoom church and very carefully and slowly opening the churches in the group for services and private prayer.

Thanks again to Ian Woolacott for rousing his group of stalwarts to trim the churchyard and for cutting the churchyard hedges. We are so grateful --- it looks absolutely lovely.

MOLLAND - *Brian Taylor*

The village has been quiet during the summer months as all events which would bring us together have been cancelled. However, the cycle of country life has continued; the lambs have been born and grown up, the grass has grown and been cut, and milk has been produced. The swallows and house martins have come and will have gone (almost certainly) by the time you read this. The plants in the garden have grown well with both heat and rain nurturing them. Now the hedgerows are full of blackberries, so no shortage of blackberry and apple pies this coming winter!

We will keep you posted on any events that are able to take place during the coming months so keep an eye out for posters and look at the website and Facebook pages on your computer, if you can.

The latest casualty of “the virus” is the Neighbourhood Watch Annual Meeting which is cancelled for this year.

We are all lucky to live here in Molland and, of course, the rest of the parishes within the Edgemoor Group, so whatever the uncertainty in the coming months we will all cope. Here is to better times! Cheers!

ANSTEY Hall – *Karen Piercy*

Although Anstey Village Hall has been closed our lovely committee Chairman, Valerie Jackson, has been very busy. A plumber has cleaned and lagged the hot water system ready for the hall to re-open. He also thoroughly cleaned the urinals and fitted an outside tap for walkers in our beautiful countryside to refill their water bottles. The wooden cladding on the walls is being sanded and treated with fire retardant. A few crafty locals have decorated the outside of the hall with bunting and inside there is a display of art by the talented children of the community.

The entrance is open every day offering a selection of greetings cards handmade by Jo Penney, books, plants, and other goodies.



Anstey Arts organised a Scarecrow Competition for the local community. There were 21 entries from East and West Anstey. First prize went to the fabulous crow at Mill View, 2nd prize went to the biker at Post Office House that made a few people jump out of their skins and third prize was the amazing family of scarecrows at Chez Nous. They won hampers of delicious local produce donated by Little Mead Meats, Moorwine and Exmoor Distillery with a few extra goodies added by Anstey Arts. Thank you to everyone who entered the competition, voted, and donated prizes.



EAST ANSTEY – *Fran Bridger*

Oh, what a wonderful summer! A brilliant hot Spring led to a somewhat dismal start to summer, but we were desperate for the rain! Are we ever happy? The loss of the Flower Show

I am sure has hit the gardeners rather hard in this area since most of us has spent the 'lockdown' putting in far more hours than normal in garden work. Speaking for myself I have had a fabulous crop of dahlias! Fruit and veg. in abundance and am now in the throes of harvesting it for the winter months. I hope many of you

are in an equally good situation – whatever you have been up to during these last seven months.

In terms of local news, we continue to pray for the health of everyone, for those who are ill to regain good health, and for a normality to our lives and a feeling of safety when we visit friends and family.

Did anyone go to the seaside this year? Here is a short poem about what might happen if you do ...

Now you see it, now you don't

The ice cream came, with a squawk of warning ...
Plus, a seagull or two, who were always hovering;
But the child had wanted a day at the sea
With an ice cream cone, or two, or three ...
Then a flock of gulls flew overhead.
“Watch out, my dear,” the seller said;
But the girl in pink with ribbons in her hair;
Waved her cone and didn't care;
She didn't see the gull as he rose
That pinched the cone from under her nose.

Keep safe and look after friends and neighbours.



Exmoor Link Federation (Bishops Nympton and East Anstey Primary Schools) - Lyn Loftus

It seems like an age since we have been in school, but happily, all children returned at the beginning of September and new routines are being developed quickly.

While the schools look slightly different to pre-lockdown days, we have systems in place to deliver the full curriculum and are really enjoying having everyone back so full of enthusiasm.

During the period in which we had a reduced number of children attending, we developed a number of alternative ways to deliver lessons, with home learning packs sent regularly and online lessons and catch ups taking place via Microsoft TEAMS. We will continue to use some of these as a way to involve families, as our

gatherings for Harvest etc won't be able to take place in the normal way.

We are also beginning to look at alternative methods of delivering our traditional Christmas events that we all enjoy so much. We will be doing our best to ensure as many of our fun activities take place in some form.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone for your support as we have dealt with these very challenging circumstances. Please keep yourselves safe, and we look forward to seeing you at some of our virtual events.

WEST ANSTEY – *Banger Milton*

Hopefully by the time this edition is printed, the community will be a hub of activity...

With Covid still in all our lives, the Church is still locked, but services are being planned. There being 11 parishes, West Ansteys is planned for 25th October. No Harvest Festivals, so we look to Christmas.

On an up note, great thanks & appreciation must go to Gaby (from Millbrook) who has to date, made nearly 3,000 face masks, donating £500 to both the Church & to the Village Hall.

The Village Hall entrance has continued to be open every day, & the Post Office is coming every Monday again. The Dance practise club has started up with limited numbers, & all being well, the Craft Club & W.I. will soon kick off again.

On a personal note, thank-you to all the Village who socialised (& tolerated!) my hound puppies: Wallow & Wallop. They have returned to Kennels. Peace & quiet until next Spring.

KNOWSTONE – Michele Browse



As we softly ease into a more normal life, leaving a rather vacant spring and summer behind, we in North Devon have much to be thankful for. Our individual lives may have been turned on their heads with restrictions and family separations, but we have come out of the lockdown, so far, safely and possibly in a more reflective state – perhaps learning how to use our confined lives more productively and with others in mind. The farmers, however, have had to carry on as normal, despite coping with a wet harvest, and for that we are thankful.

As churches were gradually allowed to re-open for private prayer, Knowstone PCC held a special meeting in July to discuss the ramifications of opening St Peter's one day a week, and it was agreed this would not be practical for our particular circumstances. Therefore, St Peter's remains closed for now, and re-assessment will be made between the time of writing this and its publication. It is hoped that we can resume monthly services in the near future within the social-distancing guidelines, obviously with some changes to our former communion and family service routines. Meanwhile, the church building has been looked after on a regular basis, and the churchyard has continued to be maintained beautifully throughout the summer. St Peter's is a vital, integral part of our community, and the PCC and other volunteers will continue to ensure it is respectfully managed. Knowstone Parish Hall, which has also been in lockdown, is now ready and available for bookings of small groups, subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Pilates classes resumed on 8th September as small,

socially distanced sessions on Tuesdays (7.00pm) and Fridays (10.30am). All annual events of large gatherings have remained cancelled. **The Edgemoor Autumn Challenge**, a fun event extended to all residents living within the Edgemoor group of parishes, now has been postponed until March.

Several new residents have joined Knowstone Parish, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to: Gill and Martin at Ladymead, Roachill; Rob and 'Mooch' at Huckleberry, East Knowstone; Kirsty, Dan, Alex, Maddie and Caitlin at Tracey's Farm, Knowstone; Tom Snr and Tom Jr at Marilyn Cottage, Knowstone.

In the past few months, we have sadly lost three residents from our community, and our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Keith Osborne (Owlaborough), Michelle Moore (Beaples), and Annie Mott (Great Wadham).

May God's blessings continue to keep Knowstone Parish a safe, resilient, and compassionate community.

ROSE ASH

With everybody ready on their starting blocks, peering through overgrown fringes, we emerged from lockdown with caution and trepidation. Let us hope the worst is over and we can all begin to move forward with our lives, ever grateful and thankful for the NHS and Key Workers who have worked so hard on behalf of all of us during these past few months – truly humbling. It is now time to reset.

Rose Ash has little in the way of actual news but, as ever, it has all been going on quietly in the background. With continued support for friends and neighbours, the regular fruit and vegetables deliveries and online things such as gardens to visit remotely and the ever-popular Word from the Shed, from Alastair, Rose Ash has shown its' true spirit of solidarity. It has been lovely, recently, to be able to meet family and friends in gardens and outside areas too, and more recently indoors too, redefining how much people mean to each of us. The lanes and fields have been busy with farm vehicles bringing in the crops in some challenging weather conditions.

We have also, during lockdown, enjoyed seeing the scarecrows around the Bishops Nympton area, often meeting them unexpectedly on corners – very entertaining.

Very sadly, Rose Ash lost one of its' pivotal and much-loved village members, Cyril Cole, in May. Cyril was a husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle and our thoughts are very much with Cyril's family and friends at this sad time. Cyril was keen on his wildflowers and wildlife, particularly barn owls and had won several awards such as the Otter Trophy and Silver Lapwing Award for Farming and Conservation. Although, due to the current restrictions, friends and neighbours were unable to pay their respects by attending Cyril's funeral, many lined the lane as the funeral procession left his home, remembering Cyril on his final journey.

Church services are now being held and St. Peter's, in Rose Ash is now open for private prayer and reflection on Wednesdays. There is a Holy Communion service every Sunday at a church within the Edgemoor group – details are on the website calendar. A 5.00 p.m. Evensong service will be held in Rose Ash on October 25th.

During the coming darker, colder, and wetter months it will be even more necessary for us all to continue to support one another, especially if Coronavirus increases requiring further possible local lockdown. Let us hope not.



BISHOPS NYMPTON – Cheryl Woollacott

After many weeks closed, what a lovely way to open our Church for the wedding of Edward Williams and Katie Partridge, congratulations to you both. As I write, some things are slowly trying to start up again, for the latest up to date information on where live services are happening around the parishes, and when Churches are open, plus times of zoom services which are continuing, please regularly check with the Edgemoor group of Parishes website. Rev Alastair Formans 'Word from The Shed' can be seen weekly, on YouTube.

Also, House of Prayer at Bishops Nympton has continued virtually, throughout, every Wednesday from 7.30 pm, when several pray for the Parish, Community, Friends, Family and Neighbours, especially thinking of those who are unwell, receiving treatment or still feel particularly lonely or isolated. Thank you once again for all the help and kindness shown throughout the Parish during this very unsettling year.

Thoughts too are with children and teachers starting a new school year with the changes they have had to adapt.

Despite everything, it's that time of year when we can still enjoy and be thankful for the harvest from our gardens, orchards, and fields, with some crops better than others, but a lot to be thankful for.

Congratulations also to Andrew and Rachel Woollacott, now in Bishops Nympton, who celebrated the arrival, during lockdown, of a second lovely little daughter, Alice Nancy, sister for Olivia.

As nothing can be planned up too far in advance at the moment, do visit the village shop where a lot of current information can be found as to when clubs etc will be starting up again. The Community Club has now re opened. It's been wonderful to have the shop open throughout so thank you Dave, Fran, and all volunteers for being there.

In November, our fallen heroes from World Wars 1 and 2 will be remembered by all in some way.

If there is anything in particular you would like mentioned for the December/January issue, please e mail me by 7th November, meanwhile, keep safe and take care, best wishes Cheryl Woollacott

WEST ANSTEY WEATHER STATION – *Neville Vereker*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>20 yr average</u>	<u>Temperature</u>
July	4.7 ins		Max 27.6° C
	118 mm	112 mm	Min 8.7 ° C
August	7.6 ins		Max 30.9° C
	193 mm	107 mm	Min 8.1 ° C

Notes:

1. The highest July rainfall in the last 20 years was in 2009 with 235mm, whilst the lowest was in 2013 with 31mm. This July was, therefore, very average and with the rainfall fairly well spread throughout the month.

2. This August, in contrast, set a record, beating the previous highest rainfall for August in 2014 when we had 182mm. Compare this August with 2014 when we had a mere 22mm during the month! It is also interesting that the first half of the month was relatively dry with the heavy rains not starting until the 13th.

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

Wow, what great support we have had over the holiday period with visitors observing our new measures brilliantly. Exmoor has definitely been busier with people 'staycationing' and we have loved seeing them at the Centre. Hopefully, we have made some new friends who will visit and support us again to take part in the activities we haven't been able to offer at this tricky time. We will be welcoming visitors and experienced riders to book in up until our winter closing date of October 30th.

Our stable yard tours have been extremely popular, and our visitors have enjoyed seeing the ponies close over the stable doors. So much so that the number of ponies being adopted has risen - the adoption packs have been flying off the shelf. In particular, Almond and Rama, two of our adoption ponies have loved the cuddles and been great ambassadors. If you would like to adopt a pony please visit our online shop on our website for more information – they make great gifts as birthday or Christmas presents.

It is already time to start organising and preparing for the Autumn and Winter months. We are planning that our Dark Skies Festival activity: Wildlife at Night on 28th and 29th October will be able to go ahead in a safe manner. Spaces will be limited so if you wish to attend, please call or email to book in.

Soon we will be welcoming a new intake of foals from the Moorland Herds. This is always an exciting time of the year so keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for updates of all the news.

Winston and Fleeter with Bluebell in the background – ready to meet visitors

We send you all our good wishes, please stay safe and remember to call or email to book in for a visit or a ride.

Website: www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk



NORTH DEVON HOSPICE – OVER AND ABOVE

Support your frontline healthcare heroes with a limited-edition rainbow rugby shirt, rugby ball and face masks



10-year-old avid rugby fan Ryan Mahajan is hoping to raise thousands for frontline healthcare heroes, after coming up with the idea of designing and selling a rainbow coloured rugby shirt and rugby ball, which will see all proceeds donated to charity.

Ryan's family run Aramis

Rugby, a company based in South Molton which provides clothing and equipment to the rugby world. After sketching his ideas up on a pad at home, the design team brought his creations to life and a specially designed rugby shirt, rugby ball (and face masks) are now available to purchase from their website!

100% of the sale is being kindly donated to North Devon Hospice as well as the charity for North Devon District Hospital, Over & Above with all production costs being absorbed by Aramis.

Ryan realised that he needed to do something to help care for the people who are caring for others during the pandemic. He said "I felt bad that while we are safe inside our homes, the healthcare workers are working to save lives, sometimes risking their own. I want to raise a lot of money for healthcare workers as they don't sometimes get to see their loved ones because of working in hospitals and hospices. I want to thank them for helping sick people and for helping us during coronavirus."

Our 'official heroes' are held in high regard by Ryan and he is looking forward to raising as much money as possible to show his appreciation for them.

The special, limited edition rainbow coloured rugby shirts and balls (plus face masks) are available to purchase NOW...please visit www.aramisrugby.co.uk/charity to get your hands on them before they sell out!

Raising money for:



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