

IN TOUCH

February/March 2021



The Magazine of the Edgemoor Group of Parishes

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www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk



The Edgemoor Group of Parishes

Charles. HighBray. NorthMolton. Twitchen. BishopsNympton. Mariansleigh. RoseAsh. Knowstone. EastAnstey. WestAnstey. 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 550139
alisonj.r66@gmail.com

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

FROM A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY TEAM

We would be kidding ourselves if we were to think that there has been no melancholy about 2020. We have surely mourned the loss of coming together for worship and other gatherings with the familiar ease and joy of past years. We are missing loved ones with whom we have had regular engagement; those easy friendships un-dinted by time or distance; the regular daily greetings of life in our communities and the pleasure of sharing food and drink together in pubs, restaurants and each other's homes.

But melancholy of this sort has a sweet edge. It reminds us that the greatest gift this world can afford is that of human relationship: familial love, the adventure of new and growing friendships, the easy warmth and mature trust of long-term bonds. Perhaps today these gifts seem to us of even greater value than when they were more easily accessible. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

The wonders of modern technology, from the 'phone to Zoom and back again, have been a great blessing to us but they cannot replace the warmth of flesh and blood meetings.

Our next great festival in the church is Easter – the promise of light after darkness. But, before Easter Day Jesus himself had to experience the very deepest of melancholies on the cross as his intimacy with his Father in heaven was viciously severed. But this necessary moment of darkness was to end in the bright and permanent light of restoration through resurrection.

And so for us this present darkness is leading to a greater light: a light made all the brighter for the lessons of darkness, a light that tells us that every human being is precious to God and therefore precious to us. And, in case you need reminding, you are one of those precious human beings too!

Alastair Forman

In this edition you will find news from our villages, a couple of quizzes, and notification of some of the things which are going on to try to sustain our spiritual life when it is more difficult/impossible to meet together. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Ministry team or churchwardens if we can do anything to help.

CHURCHWARDENS

Charles

Jonathan Hudson 01598 710350

Stuart Whitehead 01598 710769

East Anstey

Keith Bavin 01398 341257

Bob Connell 01398 341282

North Molton

John Fox 01598 740543

Twitchen

Graham White

Molland

Brian Taylor 01769 550704

John Lawson 01398 341278

Mariansleigh

Richard Govier 01769 550996

Thelma Avery 01769 550424

West Anstey

John Morgan 01398 341972

Rachel Holland

High Bray

Ray White 01598 710417

Anthony Bawden

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

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

From the registers:

Ashley David Moore Cremated 4th December at Barnstaple

Hans Joachim Musche Buried 10th December 2020 at Charles

Judith Eleanor Hutley Cremated 15th December 2020 at Barnstaple

CHARLES – Annie Whitehead

Hope for the Future (P. McCartney 2016)

'Some hope for the Future

Some wait for the call

To say that the days ahead

Will be the best of all'.

We saw the best of all when eighteen villagers gathered to sing carols in the churchyard a few days before Christmas. As we walked up to the church, village houses were beautifully adorned with festive lights seemingly welcoming those that travelled through. With the porch decked with greenery and as twinkling lights shone over the crib through the open door there was a true sense of community spirit, unity and hope for the future as we temporarily forgot the

awfulness of the past year. Early on Christmas day Chris Whinney led a short service inside the church. Christmas 2020 separated us from our loved ones because of COVID-19 restrictions but our condolences go to the family of Hans Musche aged 94 from Boundy Cottage, Charles Bottom who passed away just before Christmas. He will be sadly missed by those who knew and loved him.

To say that the days ahead are going to be challenging is an understatement, but we wait for the call when we can one day resume our normal lives.

I wish **everyone** of you a very happy new year and leave you with some touching words from Anthony Horowitz:

*So, if you're feeling uninspired,
Sleeping badly, waking tired
If everything is going wrong,
The day feels dark, the night's too long
Remember all the people who
Have found the following is true:*

***It's so much easier to cope
If you decide to live in Hope.***



NORTH MOLTON – Carol Fenwick

We wish you all a happy, peaceful, and healthy 2021.

There is not a great deal to report other than we hope you are all keeping fit and well. It has been a difficult time for us all, and here we are again in another lockdown for a while. Hopefully, when the vaccines start flowing, we will see some light at the end of the tunnel – until then please stay safe and well.

We send our condolences to the family of Judith Huxley who died in December – Judith was an active member of North Molton Mothers Union, and was always ready to help people, especially bringing them to church.

For updates on any church services, please check the Edgemoor parish website www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk

I wonder whether you can recall things that happened in 2020, other than COVID-19! Perhaps you can answer these questions:

1. What date was the first lockdown announced by Boris Johnson?
2. How much did Capt. Tom Moore raise?
3. In which Chinese city was COVID-19 first identified?
4. Who made up the same sex pair in Strictly Come Dancing?
5. Which Island did Harry and Meghan first move to in January?
6. To the nearest million, how many acres were burnt across Australia in January?
7. Which city was due to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games?
8. Swarms of what destroyed crops in East Africa.
9. Who campaigned for an extension to free school meals over the holidays?
10. An orchestra from where was trapped in a castle of wolves.
11. Which member of the Royal family was the first to suffer from COVID-19?

(Answers: 1. 23rd March. 2. 32m 3. Wuhan
4. Nicola Adams & Katya Jones 5. Vancouver 6.
46 7. Tokyo 8. Locusts 9. Marcus Rashford
10. Bolivia 11. Prince Charles)

NEWS FROM NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL-*Nicola Bourne*

Firstly, the hall committee would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful & most of all safe 2021. As I write this it has just been announced that we are going into another 6-week lockdown (at least). This means that our plans for our annual pancake morning must now sadly be abandoned.

There are currently no plans for other events as the hall remains closed. Maybe in a few months we can review the situation and have our plant sale - who knows?

But until we can all get together again and enjoy one another's company, stay safe and well.

Nicola Bourne North Molton Victory Hall correspondent nician@waitrose.com
01598 740477

TWITCHEN – Hugh Croft

Last time I wrote we had just started a lockdown-----this time as I write it's lockdown again! and when you read this it'll be mid-winter-----Lent approaching-----perhaps we should just curl up and hibernate!!

But no-----the vaccine, the spring and Easter all just around the corner-----light at the end of the tunnel!!

The Smile

Smiling is infectious,
You can catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner.
And someone saw me grin.
When he smiled, I realised.
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile,
And realised its worth:
A single smile just like mine
Could travel round the Earth.

If you feel a smile start,
Don't leave it undetected:
Let's start an epidemic--quick--
And get the world infected!!



Author unknown.

EAST ANSTEY – Fran Bridger

Here we are in 2021 – largely hoping for better things! Last year has been a huge trial for some, and for others it has been a time of liberation; a time to catch up with creative tasks, take up distance learning courses, and catch up with old friends. The farmers are still working hard, irrespective of weather and COVID-19, and most are trying to get along in as normal a way as possible. Spring is pushing itself into our world with welcome daffodils, snowdrops, and crocuses. We are still able to walk along our boggy moorland ways, hear the buzzard, see the flight of the migrant fieldfare and, if we are lucky, hear the tawny owl calling to us in the thin light of pre sunrise.

The church remains open on a Sunday for private worship, and services will be

advertised as and when they can safely go ahead. **Thank you to all those who decorated the church so beautifully for Christmas**, with lights and holly adorning the church porch and a lovely tree and flowers inside for our evening service on the 20th.

With little to report **let us hold those people in our hearts and in our prayers, who have suffered loss, tragedy, and sadness**. Let us hope that for them 2021 can truly be a time of healing and rebirth. Let us also pray for healing for those who are in and out of hospital, fighting illnesses etc, and especially for Neville, Anne and Chris who are all seeking a return to good health.

On a happier note, **thank you to all the wonderful carol singers** who met at Hawkwell Cross and sang so superbly along the dark lanes. It was a chance to sing when all singing indoors has been largely banned! Well done everyone.

A possible date for your diary! Garden Show 2021 14th August.

Finally, **Lynn Loftus**, who as many of you know lived here for 23 years and worked at the schools, and provided us with much of information and interest, has sent a lovely message; I will let her close this edition - *'A huge thank you to everybody within the school and wider community for their kind words and wonderful gifts on my recent (early!) retirement - they are very much appreciated. Our schools are very special places, with very special people in them, and I know the local community values them greatly. I look forward to reading the latest news from the schools and will, of course, be following them closely as they navigate these challenging waters. Very best wishes to you all and thank you again for your kindness.'*

EXMOOR LINK FEDERATION (BISHOPS NYMPTON AND EAST ANSTEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS) - from Tim Gurney

News from East Anstey and Bishops Nympton Primary Schools

I hope that you were able to enjoy the festive period. The Autumn term finished for us in unusual but enjoyable fashion with both schools able to produce a very different style online Nativity (with our separate school bubbles each recording their individual parts in advance). We even managed some Christmas Carols.

The end of the term also saw us say some sad farewells as Lynn Loftus, our administrator and business manager of more than 20 years (at Anstey) retired from her role. She will be very sorely missed by all in our communities, but we look forward to her coming back for our regular events in school. We also said good luck to Nic Forder, our Head of Teaching & Learning at Bish Nym. She has

managed to secure her first headship in a school in Bristol. Many congratulations. This term has started with another lockdown but both schools are open for a few, including children of Key Workers and those designated as Vulnerable. We have once again started our online and remote learning programmes as well.

We hope that we can all return to a “normal” Spring as soon as possible and can get back to enjoying some of our exciting curricular events and trips as the weather improves. For now, though, I would like to wish all our families and communities a very happy New Year. We hope to see you as 2021 progresses and until then, do stay safe.

KNOWSTONE PARISH – *Michele Browne*



The beginning of this piece could very well repeat how I started the last issue – “at the time of writing this, we are getting set for another national lockdown to try to stem the growing surge of coronavirus” ...a bit like the film “Groundhog Day”, but much more serious. The year 2020 was unexpectedly difficult, trying times with peaks and troughs of hopefulness and discouragement, but we continue to strive in Knowstone Parish through faith, goodwill toward our neighbours and basic common sense.

To quote the Bishop of London (in January):

“There is hope. The vaccination programme is underway and, as Christians, we have a deeper hope in God that comforts us beyond fear itself. As we have been remembering this Christmas Season, even in the midst of our darkest fears, that hope brings light.”

Knowstone PCC held a meeting in December and planned to re-open St Peter’s Church at the beginning of 2021 for services twice a month; however, with the third lockdown and higher-level restrictions in place, these services now have been cancelled until the national situation improves.

Hopefully, with the roll out of a new vaccine and more stringent lockdown measures beginning to crack down on the spread of the virus, we will be able to

re-open our Church and offer more of the traditional Spring events associated with the Christian calendar. Meanwhile, St Peter's Church will remain a constant presence in our community, waiting to offer a warm welcome to worshippers coming through its door in future – hopefully, made even warmer as we approach, ever closer, our long-awaited installation of under-pew heating!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed to the Food Bank collection in December. Everything was taken to the Food Bank Centre in South Molton a week before Christmas (2 supermarket trolleys full!!), and volunteers there were greatly appreciative. Through your generous giving, Knowstone Parish helped many people have a better Christmas.

We offer condolences to the Newton family of Middlecott Farm, East Knowstone on the passing of their much beloved son-in-law, Simon Carter on 12th December, following 12-year battle with motor neurone disease. Simon and Sharon (Newton) Carter, who lived in South Molton, were married at St Peter's Church in 1991, and Sharon had been a strong and constant carer to Simon since 2008. Our thoughts and prayers are with her, their two sons and three grandchildren.

We welcome to our parish Deborah and David of East Hole Farm, Knowstone, and send belated congratulations to Al and Flic of Peter's Barn, Roachill on the arrival of baby Arthur Alan in November.

Continue to stay safe as we get through the cold winter and look forward to a warmer spring ...and better times.

HIGH BRAY – Ruby White

As we enter this lockdown, it's very sad that once again our lives are far from normal, but we still have each other just a phone call away. A wonderful effort was made before Christmas to fill Simon Rooksby's van to the top, along with 72 shoe boxes with bedding, clothes, shoes etc to be distributed to needy people in developing countries. Huge thank yous to everyone.

Sadly we did not have our Christmas Eve Carol service, but a card was delivered to every home in Brayford from the church for Christmas, with hope for a better new year.

We can't enjoy being together in church for services, but Radio Devon at 8.00 am or Edgemoor Zoom at 10.00 – including by phone, or BBC 1 at 10.45 all help to keep our faith alive.

WEST ANSTEY - *Banger Milton*

Christmas is long gone & it probably will not be the best one to recall. Unable to see friends & family or join in our communities for another period. With COVID-19 still in our lives, let us hope that the vaccination roll out, by the time you read this, will be helping us to return to a more normal way of life. On the 16th December Radio Devon transmitted an hour of carols to join in with. This was nationwide with other national local radio stations. A chorus assembled at the bottom of the Church path & sang, then were rewarded with mince pies & mulled wine, kindly given by Liz (The Shippon) & Richard (Primrose Cottage). The Church was decorated for Christmas, as well as the porch, with a service on Sunday 13th & then Open Church for an hour on the 20th December. The Church mice celebrated in style enjoying the straw bales.... Thanks, must go to Rachel (Holland) & all who helped with Messy Church's contribution. There was a splendidly decorated horse trailer in front of the Village Hall. It was also there to accept donations for those in need of food & gifts in our community. Endless goodies seemed to be given – including those that were collected from West Anstey & Molland Church porches. They were taken to the YMCA food kitchen in South Molton, along with a few bits & bobs that Victoria Ward took into Tiverton on Christmas Eve. Our deepest, heartfelt sympathies to the Veysey & Edward's families following their tragic loss of Amelia.

WEST ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL – *Helen Pearce*

In November, a new Anstey Village Hall committee was elected. The officers are now: Chairman – Valerie Jackson, Treasurer – Chris Pollard, Secretary – Helen Pearce. Their contact details are displayed in the hall porch.

What I truly admire and love about living where we do is how people pull together and this Christmas was no exception. Unable to have many of our usual events at the hall, creative thinking resulted in Messy Church turning and decorating a horsebox into the Nativity scene in the car park. A Christmas house decoration competition was organised by Anstey Arts and resulted in 3 prize hampers that included donations from Moorwine, Exmoor Distillery and Anstey Arts. The hall Christmas tree was set up by Anstey Arts and decorated by the local community bringing some outside tinsel and sparkle to Yeo Mill. Anstey Village Hall Christmas Draw was held with an array of very generous prizes being donated by local businesses, thank you to Little Mead Meats, Partridge Arms Farm, Exmoor Distillery, Moorwine, The Red Lion @ Oakford, Upper Wychwood Gin and Lands Farm Goats plus other individuals from the community. Thank you to everyone who donated and bought tickets we managed to raise a net total of

£400. The draw was recorded and posted on social media. Also thank you to Valerie Jackson and Victoria Ward and family for distributing the tickets at a very late stage and Valerie delivered the prizes to the winners on Christmas Eve around East and West Anstey. A list of winners will be posted on the hall noticeboard and on East Anstey noticeboard.

And finally, the members of Anstey WI had a Christmas goody bag delivered by the Secretary and President.

ROSE ASH – *Sharon Brown*

Happy New Year to everyone; the year has begun with frosty and snowy weather making the landscape beautiful to look at and the roads dangerous – better than the rains of last winter though, perhaps. The birds are busy on the feeders at home and it is lovely to see so many varied species. Winter is a great time to see wildlife without the covering of foliage to conceal animals.



As we continue with the battle against the pandemic and face further necessary restrictions, there are still some festive activities to report on in Rose Ash.

The Christmas Tree, standing proudly outside the village hall, looked beautiful – thank you to Mole Valley for providing it and Geoff for putting it up, in fact appreciation to all involved in making Rose Ash look festive. The lights on the village edges were a nice touch too, welcoming those who passed through, or returned home.

Father Christmas made a special visit to Rose Ash before Christmas, with his elf Bob, ensuring children and adults alike were given sweets and festive fun! Someone had been busy wrapping little parcels of sweets which was a nice touch. He even usurped the Sea King helicopter flight he was due to be on which was delayed by poor weather – again Rose Ash appreciates your time Father Christmas and elf Bob, in your busy schedule. Some may have heard bells rung on the 24th at 6.00 p.m. too, although we are a little far outside of the village to hear – but we rang ours all the same.

The parish council have been holding their meetings via Zoom so Rose Ash is as busy as ever just in different ways.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the proposed outdoor carol service, due to be held on the village green on Christmas Eve, had to be cancelled. It was a shame, but one of many sacrifices that have had to be made over the previous months. The Word from the Shed, thank you Alastair, has continued, bringing the church into homes and to families. Details of all services may be found on the Edgemoor website.

I hope, as we all do, that by the time the next In Touch magazine is published, we may be forging our way ahead in the battle against COVID-19 and that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Keep safe and well everyone.

MOLLAND –*Brian Taylor*

There are a couple of points to mention from the last couple of months of 2020 which were too late for inclusion in the last edition namely: after the Remembrance Day gathering, we sent donations to the armed forces charities as per normal and after the pre-Christmas services we sent a donation to a local charity in Barnstaple.

And so, to 2021 – at the time of writing another lockdown of sorts has commenced so any plans for events this year will remain “up in the air” for a good while, I fear.



The Devon Bell Ringers are hoping for a competition this year with the final here in Molland (which was cancelled last year) and the Produce Show could be brought back if there is enough time to organise. Both events and any others will depend on what happens in the coming months with the corona virus so we will keep you posted in future editions.

My glass is always half full rather than half empty (unlike the news media) so here's to a better year!

Molland Church porch, by Rev Penny Lawson



MARIANSLEIGH – *Ruth Govier*

What a lovely crisp new year we had - it looked beautiful, although I know a few farmers had to unfreeze water pipes, but it made a change from trudging through mud! Just a reminder, Ivan Sing is the snow warden if we have any more bad weather, he did a good job keeping the village safe in the last cold spell, Thanks Ivan.

Mariansleigh church had a Christmas Communion service we managed to sing a carol before and after the service in the church yard socially distanced, the church was tastefully decorated for Christmas, but it will be great to have the big tree in church next year (hopefully). Please contact one of the church wardens for future service times and dates as it is an ever-changing challenging time to arrange things at the moment. Meshaw young farmers had a carol service/carol singing at Buthay farm which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

With full national lockdown number 3 here we have to do our bit to STAY AT HOME to keep each other safe .If anybody needs any help or someone to speak to in these difficult times please don't hesitate to contact tim.watson@hobbyhousefarm.com or myself Ruth Govier 550401 ruth401@btconnect.com at any time we will try our best to help you.

I would like to wish you all a healthy and safe New Year and hope that we can start to get back to some kind of normality in the spring. Take care Ruth.

Knock knock.

I am.

Wait, don't you even know who you are?

Who's there?

I am who?

BISHOPS NYMPTON – *Cheryl Woollacott*

As I write, a national lockdown has been put in place again, so by the time you read this, hopefully numbers with the COVID-19 would have started to decrease and distribution of the vaccine going to plan. Please keep check on the Edgemoor Group of Parishes website for up-to-date information on live services and zoom, and telephone numbers if any of you would like help or just to talk. House of Prayer continues virtually every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm, details Sally Cotton or Gillian Reynolds (and back cover of In Touch).

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful decorations and window scenes that were created for the festive season, cheering up the village as everyone walked or drove past. Many of you have enjoyed seeing the Church Porch decorated for

the Christmas Season so thank you to the PCC for organising that. The Midnight Mass service went ahead as planned, socially distancing and candles lit.

Also, thank you to Rev Alastair Forman and Angela Chanter for hosting an entertaining Christmas special Zoom meeting for everyone to catch up with each other, reciting poems and readings. Alastair's Word from the Shed continues with a huge following, giving hope and comfort to many.

Very sad to hear of the passing of Dick White, a former local resident of Bishops Nympton and known to many within the parish, our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Welcome to families who have recently moved into the village and look forward to when events will once more start up again for meeting up. The shop has a lot of up-to-date information on the area.

A big Thank you to Lindsey Turner who has put together a brilliant cookbook with local resident's favourite lockdown recipes and which is available at the shop with proceeds going towards church funds.

Meanwhile, the community spirit is ongoing, please stay safe and looking out for each other.



Thank you to Alastair Forman for the delightful pictures of our church porch in Bishops Nympton

What is worse than raining cats and dogs? Hailing taxis!!

WEEK OF PRAYER AND REST

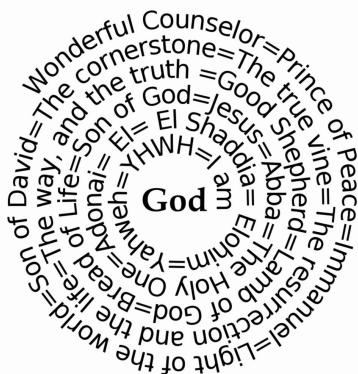
November 15th – 21st was designated a Week of Prayer and Rest – a welcome opportunity to pause during the second lockdown (even though it was planned before we knew we'd be in lockdown).

David Baker and I produced a booklet with scripture readings and prayers for each day on the theme of God's touch. One of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is that many of us cannot touch each other. Yet touch is very powerful: positively it can communicate love, care and concern, and it was the positive aspects we focussed on. So we looked at ways in which God touches people's lives, in scripture and today. What happened when Jesus touched people? How can he touch our lives today? The themes we included were:

- The power of God's touch
- God's cleansing touch
- God's healing touch
- God's life-giving touch
- When God seems far away and it feels as if we are a long way from his touch
- Overcoming fear - discovering God's touch when life is particularly challenging
- How can we seek God's touch?

In addition to the booklet there were Zoom meetings each day at 5.00pm except on the Sunday when the theme was incorporated into our online morning worship. On the Friday it was combined with the Local House of Prayer online meeting. It was a precious and valuable time and I would like to thank everyone who joined in and contributed.

Michael Rogers.



Sunday 14th Feb is Valentine's Day



VALENTINE'S DAY WORD QUIZ

1: How many words of four letters or more containing the letter i can you find from the words VALENTINE?
(No words which start with capital letters.)

Can you also find:

2: A national capital? (6)

3: A modern Israeli town? (5)

4: An ancient Israeli town? (4)

5: A dead language? (5)

6: A hand/face cream? (5)

7: A river? (4)

8: A chipmunk? (5)

9: A type of bottled water? (5)

10 - 15: Girls' names? (4) (4) (4) (6), (5), (7)

16: An Italian resident (8)

17 - 19: 3 four-letter Boys' names? (4) (4) (4)

20: An actor named Evans who was later ordained as a priest (7)

(Answers to be found inside back cover.)

Tuesday 16th Feb Shrove Tuesday

What do you like with your pancakes? Are you a traditional lemon and sugar person – or a chocolate spread one like my grandchildren? In our house we often have savoury pancakes – eg left-overs like cooked chicken and ham, or mixed vegetables, added to white sauce - where they are wrapped and rolled, covered with grated cheese and put in a hot oven. Perhaps you have a favourite recipe you are willing to share in a future edition of In Touch (not one that is copyright to someone else though)? They can be sent by email to alisonj.r66@gmail.com with **Recipe** in the subject box, or by post to North Molton Vicarage with In Touch on the address.

WHAT IS TAKING PLACE?

WORSHIPPING VIA WIFI

Studies of the natural world show that when there are major environmental changes, the most successful strategy is to adapt. The start of the COVID-19 pandemic was certainly a huge change, and living in the COVID-19-infected world has most definitely required people to adapt in many ways: how we worship is no exception.

When our churches had to be closed, David reacted by using the internet to offer us Sunday services via the Zoom platform, and an Edgemoor online congregation came into being. Many thanks, David, for bringing us together, and not allowing the wretched virus to get in the way of spending time with others in worship.

When church services, albeit under tight restrictions, could be resumed, this presented a new challenge: how to hold Sunday services in the churches, but also maintain the Zoom services for those who were best advised to remain at home. The solution was to put together a small team to undertake running most of the online services; so David invited Susan Bew, (from East Anstey), Clare Campbell, (from North Molton) and Sue Baker (physically in Battleton, but spiritually still East Anstey) to be the 'Sunday Zoomers'.

Happily, the Zoom congregation includes many who have been willing to be involved in delivering services by undertaking the readings or the prayers or the reflections; the Ministry Team too, when not committed elsewhere, have helped us enormously, particularly with their thoughtful reflection on so many different themes. We have also been blessed with the participation of a few guest speakers: in August, the headmaster of a school just outside Beirut joined one of David's Zoom services just after the devastating explosion and hearing about his first-hand experiences was very moving. Dave Tomlinson, author of *'How to be a Bad Christian and a Better Human Being'* joined us live on the 2nd Sunday in Advent, and gave an inspired talk "Stubborn Flowers", (see website for YouTube link to a recording he did subsequently).

The Christmas Day service was different as, through the marvel of mobile phones and Zoom, the Zoom congregation had a live feed from All Saints, North Molton, thanks to David's, Celia's and Clare's phones. It was lovely to 'join' the congregation there, though odd – for all – not to be singing 'Christians Awake' or 'O Come all ye Faithful'.

Zoom services felt strange at first, but have become very special. Edgemoor Sunday Zoom is a place to come to when you're anxious about going out to

attend church because of COVID-19 or may for some other reason not to be able to go in person. All are welcome.

A real sense of family has developed through the Edgemoor Zoom Community. Whilst mostly we are face to face through our computers, we have a number who join by telephone and we love to speak to them too. We are getting to know one another as we have a chance to have a chat during the fifteen minutes before the service starts; many of us might never have encountered each other under normal circumstances.

Helping to prepare and lead the services has been a blessing to all three of us personally. One of the highlights of the week is our online planning meeting, where we can catch up and put together the services. We always enjoy it when it's our individual turn to choose the music, spending a few happy hours listening to songs on YouTube to find suitable ones for the service theme.

So we three 'Sunday Zoomers' feel incredibly thankful. Thank you, David, for entrusting this task to us, and to everyone in the Ministry Team for your support; thank you everyone in the Zoom congregation for your encouragement, your participation and for being so understanding if anything goes wrong; thank you Wendy for keeping the wheels in motion circulating all the links and running orders.

One of the regulars at Sunday Zoom recently said that he will be sad when the Zoom services come to an end as he won't see the people anymore. Maybe this awful pandemic has revealed that worshipping via WiFi fulfils a need that existed before, and endure after, COVID-19: that not everyone can attend church. Perhaps 2020 has seen the beginning of a new ministry within the Edgemoor group, one that is complementary to live church services.

Sue, Susan and Clare

THE WORD FROM THE SHED

The Word from the Shed began as a one of a number of ways of keeping in touch with our congregation and friends in the Edgemoor group during the first COVID-19 lockdown. It continues as a weekly message designed to encourage and inspire hope in a difficult time. You can find many of the videos at <https://www.youtube.com/c/alastairformanwfts>

New ones will appear on the same link as they come out. There is also a mailing list from which the direct link to the latest video can be used. If you would like to be on it, please email me at alastair.forman@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS AT TEN (GNAT)

This is a weekly Zoom Bible Study Group at 10.00 am every Thursday morning. It is primarily for those in the early stages of Bible appreciation. If you are interested, please email us at <https://www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk/contact-us/>

You can also phone Rev Alastair Forman for further details on 01769 551784.

LOCAL HOUSE OF PRAYER

Every Friday at 5.00 pm we have a Local House of Prayer on Zoom. This is a gentle, prayerful time, where we join together in a short Celtic Evening Prayer, with blessings for our communities.

In this time of isolation, we miss our family, friends and communities. If nothing else, COVID-19 has revealed how much we often take these things for granted. We long to see and hold loved ones, to be able to go to a coffee morning and catch up, to invite friends into our homes for a chat or a meal. We have seen how precious our neighbours and communities are and we want to help them, but don't know how. Well, one way is to bless them and in doing this, we are blessed ourselves! After LHOP I always feel more connected to others, more hopeful, peaceful and grounded in these unsettling times. What a wonderful way to begin the weekend.

Please join with us, you would be so welcome – and remember it is Zoom – if you don't like it, you can just press a button to switch off, and blame it on bad internet reception!

Details can be found at www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk together with a copy of the words used.

EDGE MOOR AT HOME (EAT)

Anstey Christians Together (ACT) began as a monthly home group meeting some sixteen years ago. Naturally, once the pandemic hit, meetings had to be suspended. By September, when it had become apparent that it was going to be quite a while before we could return to visiting each other's homes, Susan and Sue (ACT organisers) and Penny brainstormed (over coffee and cake online) how it might be possible to migrate ACT onto Zoom.

Subsequently, in Discussion with David, the idea of throwing the doors open to the entire Edgemoor group was born, and the name changed to EAT (Edgemoor AT home).

Our first meeting was at the beginning of November and we had a good crowd. Our theme was what had kept us all going through such a difficult time. We shared some thought-provoking stories, poems, prayers, music and videos – some funny and some utterly inspirational.

The next meeting was to celebrate Advent as we prepared for Christmas. Again, many people joined us – mostly wearing either Christmas hats or jumpers – and brought along their own particular memories of Christmas, or special items/objects that bring festive cheer. (Susan's was a nativity scene knitted by a dear friend as a gift.) We played some beautiful pieces of music and videos of the nativity. Our evening was both funny (eg clip from the Good Life Christmas show) and poignant (a moving testimony from one dear friend).

We are already planning our first EAT of 2021 and hope you will be able to join us. Details to follow by email and on the Edgemoor website.

Susan and Sue

REMEMBERING THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES WE MARK

We are updating the list of names we hold and list in the magazine. If you would like a relative remembered on the anniversary of their death or their birthday, for the first five years, please write to In Touch, care of North Molton Vicarage, or email alisonj.r66@gmail.com, including the **details found on the form on the inside back cover of the magazine**, with **Anniversary** in the subject box, and a separate form/list for each person. Unfortunately, we will not be able to add any name unless you send us new details.



Valentine's Quiz Answers:

1: 30-50, average, 60-80 good, 80+ words excellent

2: Vienna

3: Eilat

4: Nain

5: Latin

6: Nivea

7: Nile

8: Alvin

9: Evian

10: Tina

11: Nina

12: Nell

13: Elaine

14: Aileen

15: Venetia

16: Venetian

17: Ivan

18: Levi

19: Neil

20: Tenniel

Name: Month/Year of death.....

Month you would like them remembered in In Touch.

Your relationship with them. (not for publication)

Your Name (not for publication)

Your contact details (not for publication)

.....

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 to:
intouch.edgemoor@gmail.com

The business manager, to whom enquiries about advertising should be directed to:
Mr Roger Wilson
email: crossecottage01@gmail.com



Local Houses of Prayer

1) 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

2) Bishops Nympton House of Prayer.
Every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm until 8.30pm
at the latest we pray together, each in our homes, to bless our local community

A reminder email, usually with a suggested theme and/or reading is sent all who wish to join in each Tuesday or Wednesday morning. No names or personal details/circumstances are mentioned online. If anyone would like to join us they can ring 01769 550645 or 01769 551702 or email bishnym@bishnym.plus.com. We currently have 14 people on our list but more always welcome.