

Moorland Parish Link

- Widecombe -

Huccaby - Ilington - Leusdon - Postbridge



Ashborton - Bickington - Buckland - Holne

September 2025

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

The Ministry Team

<i>Team Rector</i> Revd Phillip Parker Institution on 3rd September	The Rectory Copperwood Close Ashburton TQ13 7JQ	From 4th September rector@moorlandteam.org.uk
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Safeguarding: If you have a concern about the safety of someone or the actions of someone working with children or vulnerable adults, please speak to someone:

Moorland Team Safeguarding Adviser - Judy Southcombe 01364 621520

Diocesan Safeguarding Team - SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org

Moorland Team Website: <https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/safeguarding>

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“So long, farewell, aufwiedersehen, adieu....”. Anyone familiar with the film *The Sound of Music*, will recognise this phrase from the song sung by the Von Trapp children to entertain the guests at a lavish celebration. They sing it again as they begin their escape to Switzerland from the stage in Salzburg.

There are so many words or phrases to use on leaving a place or people. Some like the German word “aufwiedersehen”, imply that the parting will only be temporary – until we see one another again. But we can never be certain that on this earth at least, “we’ll meet again”.

This is my way of saying that after fourteen years on glorious Dartmoor, Tony and I are moving on to pastures new. Much thought and prayer has gone into this decision especially as it is never the place we miss when we move, but the people. We have been truly blessed by the fact that wherever we have lived we have had wonderful neighbours and good friends plus great experiences. Our time on Dartmoor has been life-changing for both of us.

When we went to our first service, (Harvest Festival), at St. Raphael’s, neither of us had any idea about how important life within the church and our Mission Community would become to us. God really does move in mysterious ways! Neither do we have any idea what lies ahead in terms of worship and ministry in our new home, but we are certain that there will be a role for us providing we go with open hearts and minds.

There is much I could reflect on about how our Mission Community has developed in the last fourteen years. In particular, how the Ashburton and Moor parishes and Methodist communities have come together to the benefit of all. Now a new era is beginning with the arrival of Phill, Morag and Jude, and it promises to be a fruitful time.

Although we will be returning occasionally to Dartmoor until Thimble Hall is sold, it is time to say “goodbye”. Google informs me that the word “goodbye” is a contraction of the phrase “God be with ye”, first used in 1573 with “good” gradually replacing “God”.

I understand “goodbye” as a neutral word. It does not mean that we will never meet again, neither does it promise that our paths will cross one day in this world. However, it is a wonderful reminder of Jesus’ promise to his disciples that whatever we do, wherever we go, God is always with us.

Goodbye and may God bless you all.

Gillian

Churchwardens

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Churches
Conservation
Trust

The Churches Conservation Trust covering Cornwall, Devon and South Somerset

We are holding a tower tour at St Michael and All Angels (Princetown) in September
Saturday September 20th 2-4pm: [Princetown St Michaels Tower Tours](#)

This edition of the Moorland Parish Link (and previous editions) can be
downloaded from: <https://widecombe-in-the-moor.com/widecombe-parish-link/>

Confirmation

Confirmation is a public commitment to follow Jesus Christ as his disciples. When we are confirmed,
God confirms us as his children by his Holy Spirit as we confirm the promises
that were made at our baptism.

Are you interested in being confirmed? There is a Mission Community Confirmation Service with
Bishop James at 10.30am on Sunday 23rd November in St Michael's Ilsington.

Please contact Revd John Bennett (jskbennett@btinternet.com) if you are interested
in preparing for confirmation.



You are invited to the Licensing
by the Bishop of Plymouth and
the Installation by the Archdeacon of Totnes
of

Revd Phillip Parker

as Team Rector on

Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 7pm
at St Andrew's, Ashburton

Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Do please let us know if you are able to bring a cake or some savoury finger food for the reception
after the service! Email Emma (admin@moorlandteam.org.uk)



WHIDDON
AUTUMN
FESTIVAL

Tickets now on sale for the 5th Whiddon Autumn Festival, on 17-21 Sept across Chagford, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh,

Throwleigh and Moretonhampstead.

This year's festival offers an exciting programme, including several performances from Ferrier Award-winning tenor Matthew McKinney and returning Ensemble-in-Residence Corvus Consort.

Acclaimed singer-songwriter The Magic Lantern will be running a songwriting workshop at the Drewe Arms, before taking to the Long Room stage for an atmospheric evening performance.

2025 Composer-in-Residence Ben Nobuto will write 3 new works to be premiered during the festival. There are plenty of community events to get involved in, like the Come & Sing workshop, the Music & Coffee Morning and the Family Concert, which are all pay-what-you-feel events. WAF offers free and discounted tickets for under 35s and a 50% discount for those claiming government benefits. To find out more and to buy tickets please visit the festival website, at www.whiddonautumnfestival.co.uk.

We hope to see you there!

Buckland Community Hall

The Community Hall at Buckland-in-the-Moor is available to hire

It is a modern building set in a quiet and beautiful location and has parking

The charge for hiring the hall is

Parishioners £8 per hour

Others £10 per hour

For further details or to book, please call

01364 653845

Buckland-in-the-Moor Whist

12.30pm Optional soup and a roll lunch
£2 at 2.00pm

Whist £3 incl half-time refreshments & draw

Thursday 25th September



Whist every fourth
Thursday in the month.



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St Peter's, Buckland-in-the-Moor

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see Page 22 for details or
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/buckland

Date	Table Flowers	Time	Service
7th September	Sandra & Teagan	15.00	Holy Communion
14th September	Sandra & Teagan		
21st September	Sandra & Teagan	15.00	Evening Prayer
28th September	Sandra & Teagan		

St. Peter's Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.



HERALDING APPROACHING AUTUMN with

A CREAM TEA AFTERNOON, 2.00 to 5.00pm

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER BUCKLAND IN THE MOOR VILLAGE HALL

SEE THE ANCIENT TITHE MAP. TOGETHER WITH PARISH RECORDS OF LONG AGO on display in the church opposite in aid of Devon Historic Churches Open Day and the gutters/ down pipes, roof, damp walls and interior crumbling plaster of Buckland in the Moor Church

20 YEARS AGO

Twenty years ago the small grade II* listed building in the churchyard had its roof re-thatched, National Lottery gave a grant of ten thousand pounds with the stipulation that the church must start saving for the next re-thatch. During the past twenty years many cups of coffee, many cakes, sales of books, gift cards, donations, gifts, a wedding festival, flower festivals. And the list goes on, the fund grew to the almost double that 20 year old figure. So many readers of The Link and Parish News have contributed towards this new thatch which has started, or is about to start, depending of the date you read this issue. 26 August being the given start date. Let's hope for good weather for the thatchers who have to use combed wheat straw - it's a listed building so can't change to reed! What next? Initially voluntary help from any home decorator with a little spare time would be so appreciated to paint the walls with lime wash and the woodwork needs a coat of paint. Damp has penetrated the walls in places causing problems to the plaster. More when the full extent is known.

THEN A start has already been made with the 'In an English Country Garden' day in July, and this is being followed by 'Afternoon Cream Tea' on 13 September – see the notice above.



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HOLNE COMMON

Beating of the Bounds

7th September 2025

**Open to Holne Parishioners and invited
guests**

**Meet at Suzie's field, Stoke Lane at
9.15am to sign in**

Walk 9-10km over Holne Common

**Bring a packed lunch and suitable
clothing and footwear for the weather**

Refreshments available on completion

**Booking your place is essential, please
email Shirley Mudge on:-**

shirleymudge@hotmail.com



St Mary the Virgin, Holne

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link

Church Services—see Page 22 for details or

www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/holne

Date	Time	Service
14th September	18.00	Holy Communion
21st September	09.00	Holy Communion at Huccaby
28th September	17.00	Evening Worship

The author of Ecclesiastes in the Bible writes:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Some readers might remember that this was the refrain to the song ‘Turn! Turn! Turn: To everything there is a season’, made popular in the 1960s by The Byrds.

Ecclesiastes forms one of the ‘Wisdom’ books in the Bible along with Psalms, Proverbs, The Song of Songs, and the Book of Job. Although it is not often read in church, it is the source of many of the sayings still used today such as “Cast your bread upon the waters” and “every evil under the sun”. It is also about life and how uncertain life can be, but whatever is thrown at us, what matters is how we respond to both the good and the challenges. Pain and suffering are also an inevitable part of being human. Similarly, whilst we are encouraged to enjoy the gifts that God gives us, we do well to remember that success or wealth can all be taken from us in an instance.

What Christians believe is that “to those who love God, who are called according to his plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good”. In other words, even those who love God and are doing their best to obey his commands know that bad/sad/evil/wicked things will happen to us. However, we believe that ultimately God will use them to bring about good, both in our lives and in the world.

Talking of there being a season for everything, this month Tony and I will be saying “goodbye” to Hexworthy and our Mission Community and moving to Suffolk. When we moved here, we had no idea what God had in mind for us regarding first, St. Raphael’s Chapel and then St. Mary’s Church, and we will miss the people of both churches.

This gives me the opportunity to say “thank you” to past and present Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and volunteers who supported me during my time as Churchwarden. Since the refurbishment of St. Mary’s in 2022, it has been good to see the building used more by different groups. St Raphael’s has also grown as a place of pilgrimage and prayer as well as a tourist attraction.

Parish churches belong to the people of the parish, not just those who choose to worship there. I believe it would be good for the church to have people who may not ‘come to church’, but who value the buildings and the churchyards to join the PCC and bring other perspectives to the day to day running and future planning for St. Mary’s and St. Raphael’s. It is not an onerous task with three to four meetings a year, but an important one.

I know that under the stewardship of Rebecca and the support of Marilyn at Huccaby, the churches are in very good hands, but both of them and the PCC, deserve and need the continuing support of our local communities to maintain these valuable and precious community assets. Is God calling you?

God bless you all.

Gillian



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hannah@hotmail.co.uk
nottkg@gmail.com

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Soup & Pudding Lunch Holne Village Hall



First Friday of the month from 12.30.

Please note change of day!

No lunch in September as we are returning to a Friday lunch date from October, we look forward to seeing everyone again.

Next lunch will be Friday October 3rd,

Please contact Maggie Arden on
01364 631438 for further details



Holne Whist



**Tuesday 2nd
September, from 2pm**

Raffle, tea or coffee and biscuits for £3.
If there are any suggestions or queries
please ring

Judy Henderson on 01364 631461

I look forward to seeing you

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St Raphael, Huccaby

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see Page 22 for details or
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/huccaby

Music at St Raphael's

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." - Victor Hugo

"Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life." - Ludwig van Beethoven.

On 24th July the chapel hosted an imaginative Night Music concert by world-class string quartet musicians, promoted as part of the Ashburton Chamber Music Festival: "New this year is a *Nachtmusik*—an hour or so of music in a small venue on Dartmoor, close to nature, performed in near darkness, with no chat or applause – a very beautiful and meditative experience". The hugely successful event certainly lived up to its billing. To inspire further musical events at St Raphael's, it is worth noting: the Chapel's dedication to Archangel Raphael; the distinctive ambience of the building; and the impact of community collaborations.



In commenting "Music is well said to be the speech of angels." the American poet Longfellow was echoing all the Abrahamic faiths. Jewish tradition says that angels constantly sing songs of praise to God. The Christian tradition routinely portrays angels playing musical instruments. Islamic tradition specifically describes Archangel Raphael as a Master of Music who will blow a horn to announce Judgment Day (see illustration). Festival Artistic Director David Yang was inspired to bring this classical concert to St Raphael's by the chapel's special ambience. People often comment on the rural setting and the tranquillity of the simple interior, with its single white, light-flooded space and the steep elevation of its roof. When empty, the building has some echo, but the acoustics were greatly improved by the 112 bodies of our capacity audience!

As well as David Yang and his musicians, we are very grateful to Andy Williamson of Ashburton Arts Centre and his team for the carefulness and efficiency with which they set up the concert and then returned the Chapel to its previous state. A donation from the Festival will help with Chapel maintenance. The concert will have introduced the Chapel and the Forest Inn to many new visitors: staff at the latter went out of their way to cater for the audience before and after the event.

Never before, in its 157 years, will the chapel have resounded to music of such intricacy, interweaving call and response, and such expressive range, from agony to joy. Collected together, we could imagine the offered music blending with the hymns and innumerable prayers contained within the space of the chapel, from the first to the latest. All dancing to the music of time...



sun setting at the concert, photo by Bleau Hudson

Richard Wells

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St John the Baptist, Leusdon

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link

Church Services—see Page 22 for details or

www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/leusdon

Date	Time	Service
14th September	12.15	Parish Communion
28th September	12.15	Parish Communion

Leusdon Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.

Any queries, please contact **Revd Ross Hathway** (Team Vicar) 01364 716308

ross@moorlandteam.org.uk

Leusdon Memorial Hall

Work has now completed on redecoration, improving disabled parking, making the Hall even more user friendly. New windows will be installed in early September. We are making good use of our National Lottery funding. Our next project will be roof insulation and modernising the heating system after the appropriate surveys have been completed. Applications for further grants have been submitted.

On Saturday 20th September Emma Routley is coordinating a reunion of past members of Leusdon Youth Club. All those people who remember the fortnightly dances in Widecombe Church House, (which were regularly attended by over 100 people in the 60s and early 70s), The Bed Race, Tug of War or just coming on the bus from every corner of the Parish, Holne and Buckland on a Wednesday evening are welcome to attend as well as those from further afield. Just come along to the Hall on Saturday 20th September from 1-5pm for a catch up and some light refreshment. This is a free event. Please contact Emma by email or Facebook for further details.

We welcome back the Moorland Merrymakers from mid-September for rehearsals for this year's Pantomime, which as usual takes place in early December.

We continue to organise monthly coffee mornings, the next being Wednesday 3rd September 10.00am -12.00 midday. In August we raised £245.00 for Hall funds. It was great to welcome so many families to this event. The whist drives continue on September 8th with lunch at 1.00pm followed by whist at 2.00pm.

Our social media presence continues to grow and followers have now passed 431 it is a resource open to all community and local charities, it is invaluable in publicising local activities. Our old chairs have been in constant demand during the summer by local groups and families for various events. They are available to borrow for other Community events. All we ask is that this would be acknowledged.

Should you wish to book the Hall, it is available for hire at £11.00 per hour, which now includes electricity and heating, there are special rates for regular users. Further details can be obtained by contacting our booking secretary: leusdonmemorialhallbooking@gmail.com. Tables at the Coffee Morning can be booked for £5 per table per session, please either book these by using the details above or coming to see us at the coffee morning.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to discuss any aspect of the Hall please contact myself or any committee member.

John Southcombe email: johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com

For Leusdon Memorial Hall Charity No 300887



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MED Theatre Activities in September:

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SESSIONS - Tuesdays in Moreton - recruiting for new members!

Bright Nights Drama Club (for 8-12yr olds) and Wild Nights Young Company (for 13-19 yr olds) will both begin the process of developing new, original pieces of theatre in September.

Term dates: **9th September - 2nd December**, For more information or to sign up, email helengilbert@medtheatre.co.uk or visit www.medtheatre.co.uk

HOME EDUCATION OFFERING:

MED Theatre is offering two drama courses for home educated young people this Autumn:

- **Tuesdays, 9.30am-12.30pm**, MED Theatre's studio, TQ13 8NF. For 8-16yr olds.

- **Fridays. 2-3pm**, Moor Imagination Collective, Buckfastleigh. For 8-13yr olds.

For more info/costs or to sign up, email education@medtheatre.co.uk

ADULT IMPROVISATION COURSE:

Improvisation involves games that give you an experience of being in the moment in a playful way. All adults welcome, no experience necessary. A great way to meet other adults and try a new skill.

- **Mondays 22nd Sept–20th Oct, 2025, 7-9pm**, MED Theatre's studio, TQ13 8NF.

- £60 for the 5 sessions. If cost is a barrier, do get in touch. For more info and to book email abbystobart@medtheatre.co.uk

INVITATION TO 'DARTMOOR ELEMENTS' BOOK LAUNCH and OPEN HOUSE in our new MED studio - Come to our open house for a 'nosey and nibble' to see where we are on **Thursday 25th September, 5–7:15pm**. No need to book, just pop in!

- **Followed at 7:30–9pm** by the official launch event for Dartmoor Elements, the new collection of poetry by Mark Beeson (MED Theatre's late founder). Tickets FREE but BOOKING REQUIRED due to limited space - for more info/to book visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/med-theatre/ or email info@medtheatre.co.uk



MOORLAND MERRYMAKERS

THE MOORLAND MERRYMAKERS PANTOMIME REHEARSALS START AGAIN
THIS MONTH.

OUR FIRST REHEARSAL/INTEREST MEETING IS ON **TUESDAY 16TH
SEPTEMBER - 7.30PM AT LEUSDON MEMORIAL HALL.**

OUR PANTOMIME THIS YEAR WILL BE PRODUCED BY TRACEY MANN AND IS
CALLED '**THE PUZZLE PANTO**'.

WE ALWAYS LIKE TO SEE NEW MEMBERS - EITHER TO PERFORM OR HELP
BEHIND THE SCENES. SO PLEASE COME ALONG IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
CONTACT ALI WHALE FOR ANY MORE INFORMATION 01364 621260.



CHRISTOPHERS' FAMILY FUNERALS

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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bryan@roguesroost.co.uk

www.roguesroost.co.uk



St Gabriel, Postbridge

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church Services—see Page 22 for details or
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/postbridge

Date	Time	Service
21st September	18.00	Holy Communion

Postbridge Church is open all day, every day. You are welcome to visit at any time, an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.



POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Our next Monthly Coffee Shop & Mini Market will be held on

15th September, 11.00am - 12.30pm.

Stalls: local meat, produce, cards, books, puzzles, craft etc.

And don't forget Games Night, **every Thursday** evening from 7.30pm.

All ages welcome, £2 to include tea and coffee, please bring any other refreshments.



POSTBRIDGE COFFEE MORNING

Our monthly coffee morning is on

Monday 1st September, between 11am - 12 noon and again on 6th October

These coffee mornings are held in Postbridge Village Hall to raise funds for St Gabriel Church and we'd like to thank all who have contributed.



FAMILY DOG SHOW Sunday 7th September 2025

in conjunction with the
 33rd Dartmoor Pony Moorland Show
 to be held at **The Old Playing Fields,
 Station Road, Princetown, PL20 6QX**

Entries 10.30am Judging 11.00am,
 £1.50 per class. Rosettes 1st - 6th place

Enquiries to Michele, **01822 880235** or
michelebrusey@gmail.com

POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

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The Old Clapper Bridge, Postbridge

**Meetings
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For more information on booking please contact:

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Come and play an organ!

You may have seen (and hopefully heard) the new organ we have installed in the church. It has just completed its 12 month "probation", and has been fully handed over to us by the organ builder, Martin Renshaw.

Following a visit by him we now have the "old" organ up and running in a barn (now known as the "organ loft") at Northway Farm, just up Widecombe Hill on the left. We are making it available to be played by anyone who would like to, by prior arrangement.

The instrument was built in 1830 and later added to, and would have been installed in a private residence - common practice in those days apparently, but certainly somewhat unusual these days! It is a simple instrument, all mechanically operated apart from the air supply, which is a great relief.

Miles Fursdon used to pump the organ by hand whilst his mother played it, and is now the owner of the original wooden lever. We have not replaced the walnut organ case, so that you can see inside and learn how the organ works.

If you would like to have a go, drop our organist Michael Brown an email:

mikebrown007@hotmail.com to arrange a time. He will introduce you to the instrument and leave you to it: he is not offering organ lessons, so bring your own music if you have any, or you can borrow his. No previous experience is necessary, and you don't have to be able to read music. We are told the organ sounds great in the small acoustic of the barn, particularly when played softly. It also sounds impressive when you pull out all the stops: almost enough to knock the cyclists off their bikes when they come whizzing down the hill!

Michael will be giving two short organ recitals on **Widecombe Fair Day in St Pancras Church, at 11am and 3pm**, so do come and hear the St Pancras organ then.

Postbridge
Village Hall

Phyl's Follies SEPT. 29TH 1930

Interest & Evening

From seasoned panto-veterans that are
SOCK-KNOCKINGLY STUPENDOUS
to courageous debut panto-punters,
ALL WELCOME!

Sarcasm loaded, applause-milking primed,
now muster your **FOLLY-FIRED GUSTO**
We need people who can **DODGE** a **CUSTARD**
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Holidays**

Widecombe 09.00 - 10.30
Next to Café On the Green
+Tuesday 9th September
all day at Widecombe Fair on the Fair Field
Ilington 11.00 - 13.00
Next to Ilington Village Shop
Postbridge 14.00 - 15.00
Top of Dartmoor National Park visitors Car Park

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- * **iPad to access services:** pay bills, pay rent, car tax to name a few
 - * **Sign up to the library** and download digital books to your own device
 - * **Find us on Facebook**, "The Crew of the Outreach"

Church Services for September 2025

3rd September

Ashburton 19.00 Licensing of Revd. Phill Parker

7th September

Trinity 12

Green

Readings - Jeremiah 18.1–11, Psalm 139.1–5, 12–18, Philemon 1–21, Luke 14.25–33*

Widcombe	10.30	Morning Worship	Ashburton	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
			Bickington	09.00	Holy Communion
			Ashburton	10.30	Family Service
			Illesington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	15.00	Holy Communion

14th September

Trinity 13

Green

Readings - Jeremiah 4.11–12, 22–28, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1.12–17, Luke 15.1–10

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Illesington	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
Leusdon	12.15	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
Widcombe	15.00	Moor & Messy Church	Illesington	10.30	Family Service
			Holne	18.00	Holy Communion

21st September

Trinity 14

Green

Readings - Jeremiah 8.18 – 9.1, Psalm 79.1–9, 1 Timothy 2.1–7, Luke 16.1–13

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Huccaby	09.00	Holy Communion
Postbridge	18.00	Holy Communion	Ashburton	10.30	All-Age Communion
			Illesington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Bickington	10.30	Morning Worship
			Buckland	15.00	Evening Prayer
			Ashburton	18.30	St Petroc's Reflective Service

28th September

Trinity 15

Green

Readings - Jeremiah 32.1–3a, 6–15, Psalm 91.1–6, 14–16, 1 Timothy 6.6–19, Luke 16.19–31*

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ashburton	09.15	Breakfast Church,
Leusdon	12.15	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
			Illesington	10.30	Morning Praise
			Holne	17.00	Evening Worship

Holy Communion

Midweek & At Home

There is a service of
**Holy Communion every Wednesday
at 10.30**
at St. Andrew's Church in Ashburton
You will be most welcome!.



Communion at home

If you would like to receive
Home Communion
please see page 2 for contact details

From the Registers

Wedding	Widcombe	19th July	Agnes Coaker and Rupert Hammond
Funeral	Widcombe	21st July	Sheila Allchin
Funeral	Widcombe	11th August	Terence Alfred Phipps

Rainfall in July 2025

Place	Total Rainfall	Days without rain	Wettest Days
Postbridge	34.1mm (1.3 ")	16	19th 17.2mm (0.7")
	(July 2024 - 131.5 mm (5.2 ")		
Holne	42.8 mm (1.69 ")		19th 26.6 mm(1.05")



Dates for the Diary

September 2025			Page
1st	Postbridge Coffee Morning		19
1st	Widcombe Cake Stall		27
2nd	Princetown History Group		35
2nd	Holne Whist		11
3rd	Leusdon Coffee Morning		15
3rd	Widcombe History Group		29
7th	Pony Show & Dog Show		19
7th	Adventures of Harry Boston		26
7th	Beating of the Bounds		8
8th	Leusdon Whist		15
9th	Widcombe Fair		31
11th	Widcombe Social		26
13th	Buckland Cream Tea		7
September 2025			Page
14th	Parish Link Copy Deadline		
15th	Postbridge Mini-Market		19
16th	Moorland Merry Makers		17
17th	Dunstone Charity Lunch		33
20th	Princetown Tower Tour		5
20th	Leusdon Youth Club Reunion		15
23rd	U3A Ashburton		38
23rd	Dartmoor Forest PC		40
25th	Buckland Whist		6
29th	Phyl's Follies Interest Evening		21
Forthcoming events in October			
3rd	Holne Soup & Pudding		11

I was touched and amazed at my retirement bash!

For the many gifts, and donations of cash,

It was a case of trying to spot,

Who was there, and who was not!

I know that some customers could not attend,

I hope they'll soon be on the mend.....

I will be back... like Arnie said,

I'm enjoying my lie-ins in me bed!

So thank you all, you showed you care...

Catch you again at Widecombe Fair!

Mike 'The Post'



MC#

DOOR & MESSY
open to explore faith creatively

Widecombe Church House
TQ13 7TA
September 14th
3-5pm

Hot dogs and refreshments provided
Please bring snacks to share

www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk

Widecombe Church House Management Committee Chairman - Mike Pascoe

To book the Hall please contact Rose Mortimore 01364 631238.

Rates of Hire

Local Events: £6.00 per hour

Non-local Events: £10.00 per hour

Non-local commercial events: £100.00 per day

For any other rates please contact the Bookings Secretary

Payment by cheque is preferred.

Cheques to be made payable to

Widecombe Church House Fund

and send to Sarah Reeve,

Bonehill Cottage,

Bonehill Lane,

Widecombe-in-the-Moor,

TQ13 7TD

For all other matters relating to the Church House please contact Diana Cameron on

01364 621218



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St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link

Church Services—see Page 22 for details or

<https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/widecombe>

Date	Time	Sidesperson	Coffee	Flowers
7th September	10.30	Philly	Alison H	Jacqueline W W
14th September	10.30	Peter	Kriss and Peter	Jacqueline W W
21st September	10.30	Clare	Sue D	Debbie D
28th September	10.30	Ronnie	Brenda B	Debbie D

Widecombe Church is open all day, every day, 9-5. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.

Any queries, please contact **Revd Ross Hathway** (Team Vicar) 01364 716308



Sunday September 7th at 10.30am

**You are warmly invited to our
'Thank You' Service**

(Songs of Praise format with well-known hymns)

The people of St Pancras Church would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has contributed to the life of the church in any way over the past year - flower arrangers, bell-ringers, singers, coffee providers, musicians etc.

Please come & celebrate with us



Widecombe Sandbag Store

A reminder that Widecombe Parish Council has a sandbag store in which a stock of sandbags are stored should parishioners need them during heavy rainfall.

The store is located in the bottom corner of the coach park behind the recycling skips.

Please only take what you need so that as many people as possible can benefit from them.



Widecombe Fair ROAD CLOSURE



9th September 09.00 to 17.00
through the village centre:

for health and safety reasons, safeguarding the general public whilst the Fair is on.

Please adhere to the closure signs on the day - it is against the law to ignore them.

If this causes you any problems, please contact a member of the committee.



Widecombe Parish Council

Next Meeting:

Thursday 4th September 2025

Leusdon Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

F P Legal Ltd

POWERS OF ATTORNEY - WILLS



**I can help you here in Ashburton, Buckfastleigh,
Widecombe and the Moorland area.**

Home visits can be arranged to suit you.

Contact Francis Parffrey - Member of The Society of Will Writers

Find out more by phoning:-

01364 653 331 or 07443 622 903

- Or sending an email to fp@fplegalservices.co.uk
- Or requesting information about the services offered by letter addressed to:- **Hillcrest, Bowden Hill, Ashburton, TQ13 7EA**

Widecombe & District Social Group

Carole Arnold
Speaking about the
Royal British Legion



Church House, Widecombe.
Thursday 11th September 7.30pm
£3 on the door to include raffle entry
Further info from Rose 01364 631238

The adventures of Harry Boston

**Sunday 7th September, commencing
4pm, Church House, Widecombe.**

Finger food, coffee and tea.

**Come and hear what Harry is up to in
the depths of Borneo's jungle.**

**Harry has been working in the 'Living
Waters' Village for several years.**

**There are 900 orphan and unwanted
children who now live there with a
future they would not have had.**

**Harry will speak of the educational
opportunities and vibrant
community life.**

Widecombe Singers

If you want to join the Singers we
rehearse at

The Church House, Widecombe

Tuesday evenings at 8pm

Admission £3

Telephone Rose 01364 631238
for more details



Add your Voice



Widecombe & District Sports Group

For membership renewals please
email cl.partridge@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 621468.
Alternatively membership forms can be found in
the noticeboard by the court.

Regular Bookings: Tuesday & Thursday: Tennis
Adults (16+) 6.30 Under 16's with ability are welcome
to these sessions with a parent who is also playing.

For queries re tennis phone **Di Cameron on
01364 621218.**

Please remember to wear soft soled shoes and to
leave the court tidy with the net replaced. Report any
damage immediately to Claire Partridge (Secretary)
on 621468. Close all gates and replace the keys.

For more information about WDSG visit
www.widecombe-in-the-moor.com/sports_group/

Thank you and enjoy your sports area.

POP-UP CAKE STALLS ~ THIS SUMMER



CHARITY FUNDRAISER towards a new Community Hall

Widecome-in-the-Moor on the Green

Mondays, 2.30~4.30pm

July 21st & 28th

August 11th & 18th

September 1st

Traybakes - Fairy Cakes - Cookies - Whole Cakes...



To offer a cake donation please contact us:
Email: info@widecombecommunityhall.org

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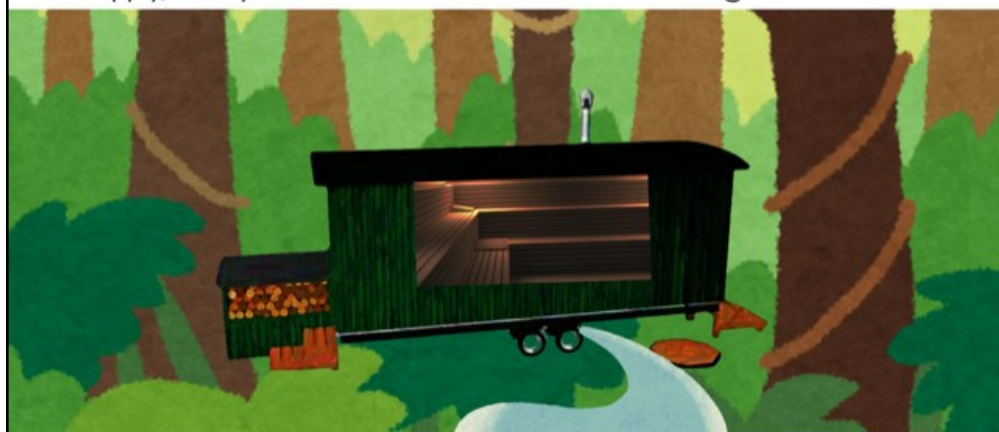
Tel. no. 01364 631276 or email wood@anton-coaker.co.uk

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www.wildersauna.com



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MILITARY DARTMOOR



**WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
7.30PM**

*THE EDITOR OF THE DARTMOOR NEWS — PAUL RENDELL —
RECALLS THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE MILITARY'S
CONNECTION WITH DARTMOOR OVER THE LAST 150 YEARS*
**COME AND JOIN US IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH
HOUSE, WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR**

EVERYONE WELCOME

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7.30 START

£5 DONATION

**COMING UP NEXT MONTH — OCTOBER 1ST LONG LOST DEVON — THE HISTORY
OF DEVON WITH TODD GRAY MBE.**

(PLEASE NOTE THAT TALKS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WIDECOMBE HISTORY GROUP CHARITY NO. 1144684



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Tue 9:15am - 3pm

Wed 9:15am - 12:45pm

Fri 9:15am - 3pm

See website for fees and funding info.

Widdytots (Newborn-5years)

Parent & Child sessions

On the last Monday of the month that
falls in term time. 9:30am - 11:30am
Relaxed informal group with drinks
and snacks. £3 per child, £1 sibling.

"You can tell how much the staff love the preschool by how much
they put in to it and in return how much the children love them!"

Our PreSchool is set in the heart of
Widecombe with weekly music, yoga,
cooking and lots of exploring and play!

We also have a fantastic sensory garden,
space to dig, grow vegetables and pick fruit.

Our outdoor classroom is run every
Wednesday in our field nearby where we
cook over an open fire, hunt for bugs and
swing in the trees!

www.widecombepreschool.org.uk

Info@widecombepreschool.org.uk
(01364) 621273

'Our children have both thrived at Widecombe exploring the various
outside spaces and taking adventure walks around the local fields'

WIDECOMBE FAIR 2025 PRODUCE AND CRAFT SCHEDULE

VEGETABLES (ALL LOCALLY GROWN)

Hermion French Silver Salver

1. 3 Coloured potatoes
2. 3 White potatoes
3. 3 Onions – Grown from sets or seed
4. 3 Carrots – Trimmed and washed
5. 3 Beetroot – Trimmed and washed
6. 6 Runner Beans
7. Longest Runner bean
8. 6 French beans – any colour
9. Any squash or courgette
10. 2 Leeks
11. 4 Tomatoes
12. Any vegetable not otherwise mentioned
13. 4 Culinary herbs in a jar.
14. A collection of 5 different vegetables in a standard box (12"x16")



FLOWERS (ALL LOCALLY GROWN)

Trophy to be presented.

15. 3 Dahlias
16. One specimen dahlia, any type
17. A Single rose
18. A Single stem of any flower (excl. Dahlia & Rose)
19. 3 Hydrangea flower stems.
20. A vase of 9 mixed flowers (3 of each variety)
21. A vase of decorative foliage



FLORAL ART - Trophy to be presented

- 22 A woodland arrangement (leaves, berries, twigs etc.)
22. An arrangement in an unusual container.
23. An arrangement in a teacup.
24. A flower arrangement in a basket.

ART AND CRAFT CLASSES (Age 13 and over)

The GORDON DAW Memorial Trophy.

26. A woven, knitted or crocheted item
27. A Needlework item.
28. A decorated greeting card, any medium
29. A pencil sketch
30. A painting, any subject, any medium
31. An item made from wood, metal or clay

32. Any craft item not mentioned
33. A photo 'Wonderful Dartmoor Weather'
34. A Short poem

CHILDRENS CLASSES – under 7 for the TAME cup

35. Garden on a plate.
36. 4 iced biscuits
37. An animal made from Fruit and/or veg
38. Flowers in footwear
39. A Model from recycled material
40. A painting, any subject any medium



CHILDRENS CLASSES - 8 to 12 for the HUTCHINS cup

41. A Pizza up to 9"
42. A Lego Model
43. A Painting any subject any medium
44. Flowers in an unusual container
45. A Gingerbread Man
46. An animal made from fruit or veg



HOME PRODUCE - The ROSE BOWL

47. A selection of homemade confectionary
48. An apple cake, own recipe
49. 6 decorated cup cakes (floral theme)
50. A traditional pasty
51. 3 scotch eggs
52. A homity pie
53. A loaf of fruit bread
54. A rectangular tear and share savoury bread
55. A jar of jam
56. A jar of lemon curd
57. A jar of chutney
58. A bottle of homemade drink, cordial, cider, wine, beer etc.
59. 6 eggs in a basket (chicken or duck)



It's time to get crafting and gardening ready for your Widecombe Fair entries, find all details on the web site at www.widecombefair.com

ASHBURTON AND BUCKFASTLEIGH HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

-REG. CHARITY NO. 900416

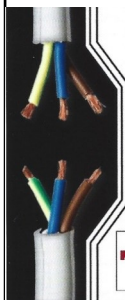
Are you interested in helping your local community? If so why not come and join in your local League of Friends. Our object is to relieve patients, former patients and those in our community who are convalescent, disable, handicapped or infirm and to support the work of our local hospital.

For further information please contact us on :07814 365531 or call:

ashburtonleagueoffriends@outlook.com

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Dunstone & Poundsgate Methodist Chapels

Ministers: Revd. Kevin Hooke 07772 571647

Church contacts: Sandy McFeat 07860 555206 or Serena Walcot (01364) 631279

Sunday Service

Dunstone - Informal service at 3pm in Dunstone Chapel every week and all are welcome.

Poundsgate - 7th September at 3pm when we welcome Revd. Kevin Hooke.

Dunstone Charity Lunches

Wednesday 17th September from 12 noon until 2.30pm.

This month's lunch is in aid of Devon Air Ambulance.

There will be soup, bread, sushi, savoury dishes, salads and cakes. There is no set price, you are asked to make as generous a donation as possible

The August lunch raised **£177** for the Moorland Mission Family Support Worker and **£60** for the Chapel.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity, it makes a huge difference to the charities and people we support!

WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will run from

Saturday 13th December to Sunday 21st December.

This means that the trees will be up for the Christmas Market, the Carol Service, as well as the end of term celebrations for the school, preschool and Widdytots!

The trees will go up on Friday 12th December and come down on Monday 22nd December.

The theme this year is "Magical, Mythical or Mystical" which, as usual, can be interpreted any way you like!

Entries are welcome from Groups, Organisations, Families and Individuals

Please do start planning your tree, the Christmas Tree Festival is always very popular, with regular visitors coming back year after year! This year's charity is still to be decided.

Entry forms will be available in the Church from the beginning of November or from me, Judy Southcombe 01364 621520 judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk, or Mary in the Kiosk.



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Other Community News and Events

Princetown History Club

meets **1st Tuesday** every month

Princetown Community Centre 7 for 7.30pm

2nd September Dartmoor Transhumance, a talk by Dr Sharon Gedye

5th September Tyrwhitt's Tramway a talk by Simon Dell **Tavistock Guildhall Heritage Centre**

20th September Maritime History Day at **Calstock Village Hall**

7th October Join Sue Viccars for a talk about the new long distance footpath following the River Tamar between Devon and Cornwall

For further information, please contact:

Mr John Lissenden

phone 01752 47573

email jlissenden@talktalk.net

Mr Bill Radcliffe

email bill.radcliffe2@btopenworld.com

or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrincetownHistoryClub/events>

[PrincetownHistoryClub/events](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrincetownHistoryClub/events)



High Moorland Women's Institute Princetown

We are a small friendly group of 16 ladies based in Princetown, but many of our members live outside. We try to support the community whenever we can and are always open to ideas and suggestions in this area.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Princetown Community Centre at 7.30pm to around 9 to 9.30pm.

Email address: sidsan114@hotmail.com or HighMoorland@devonwi.org.uk

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ASHBURTON

Tuesday 23 September at 2.30 pm "Thomas the Tank Engine Man", Talk by Veronica Chambers, Ashburton Town Hall

Veronica, daughter of the Rev Wilbert Awdry tells the background and story of 'The Thomas the Tank Engine Man'...the modest parish priest, husband, father grandfather and writer of the stories which are well known and among today's classics.

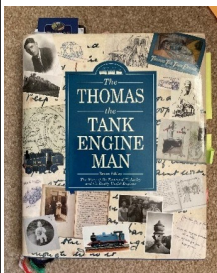
Wilbert's father was a parish priest in Ampfield and many of his parishioners were GWR men, so there was regular contact with railways, and those who worked on them. A move in 1920 to a house in Box, Wilts, near the famous Box tunnel, brought close daily proximity to the sight and sound of trains, and probably gave the boy of 9 the idea of talking trains...as indeed steam engines all sound different.

In early 1943, stories were made up to amuse brother Christopher, 2 1/2 recovering from measles...

The long step from these tales told to eventual print, family input, books, TV-wide Thomas effect, the boost for Heritage Railways and steam, and for railway modelling in general... up to today when Thomas is known worldwide, and become a kind of means of uniting people all over the world.

Non-members are welcome to attend our talks, £4 payable on the door which includes Tea, Percolated Coffee & biscuits from 2.15 pm

If you would like to find out more about our activities, or better still to join us for one or more of our interest groups, visit: www.u3asites.org.ukashburton



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Part of the story.

We drove into the mist on Dartmoor, a colleague and I, and entered a grey damp world of grey, damp sheep, grazing alongside the road. It was a welcome wetness and the misty rain hung around for most of the day. That was no matter as we were inside the fifteenth century Church House at Widecombe. That building itself would have a tale or two to tell, but not for this day.

This day we were at the invitation of the Widecombe History Group who were holding an open visitor session in this historic building. The welcome had the added attraction of tea and scones, coffee and pasties.

Inside the ancient hall were various displays. A large table full of old photographs of village life, school life, country life. A fascinating display of how from a collection of documents they had been given, plus further research, the history group had pieced together a fascinating timeline of a local boy who went to sea in Victorian times, finally coming to his demise in the Great War. And of course, a display in connection to Widecombe Fair, uncle Tom Copley and all.



Miss Braund with pupils at Battersea County School

Our task had been to share something of the story of Elizabeth Braund, her faith and what led her to Dartmoor and so on. We headed it 'Elizabeth Braund, a Christian pioneer'. Our introduction was that she had come to Widecombe in 1975 with a van load of young people and never left. Since then thousands of young people have visited the farm at East Shallowford and experienced the life on the moor. She is buried in the church graveyard, not far from her colleague Rosemary.

For us as we talked with people it was a rich oral history experience. The couple who lived next door to Elizabeth in the first year at Bag Park Manor. The lady who recalls Elizabeth turning up to her farm with a van full of children to choose a couple of pigs, and to her surprise when asked where she should put the pigs, was told 'put them in the back with the children, we've only a couple of miles to go'. The farmer of several generations, who kept asking about Elizabeth and Rosemary's faith and motivation for all those years of working with young people.

Our own history display of course had many pictures as well. The ones that stand out for me are the ones with a sense of wonder breaking across the faces of the young people. There is Joe in the lambing shed, holding between his hands a newly-born lamb, and his eyes are almost popping out of his face with surprise. There are the two girls leaning over the railings of a steel hurdle fence and looking, possibly at a calf. One is pointing to something. Their heads are close to each other, as if sharing a secret or something special. The eyes are studied and opening wider, and the one pointing is saying something. I would like to have heard it. At the least it is 'look at that' but I can bet it is something deeper and fuller of surprise.

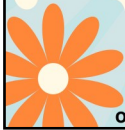
There have been 50 years of surprises, because this autumn marks Elizabeth and Rosemary coming to Widecombe with that first minibus of young people, and 2026 will mark 50 years at East Shallowford. We will be celebrating.

Watch this space and visit us at Widecombe Fair in the main field and also the pop-up café in Church House.

Robert Musgrave



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Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Council normally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month, with the meetings starting at 7.30pm in the small hall, Princetown Community Centre. One meeting per year is held at Postbridge Village Hall; usually in the summer months.



Who are your Parish Councillors?

<https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/members.php>

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings and can address Council during the Public Sessions; to comment on issues discussed, raise new issues or concerns for discussion at subsequent meetings or just come and listen to what Council is discussing.

The Agenda and Minutes for all Council meetings can be viewed on our website: <https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings.php>

Date of next meetings: 23rd September, 28th October, 25th November, 16th December, all meetings held at Princetown Community Centre, Small Hall starting at 7.30pm. We are also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dartmoorforestpc.net>

Parish Clerk: Miss Jackie Bennetts

Telephone: 01822 859104 **Email:** clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

Business Directory

In each issue of the Parish Link we promote businesses across the Parish and surrounding area, these businesses support us and enable us to publish this magazine for the local community. If you are looking for a great local business then look below. Next to each business is the page where they appear in this issue. **If you call them, please let them know you found them in the Parish Link.**

Agricultural Services

Dartmoor Rural Services [20](#)

Architect Services

HMA Architects [14](#)

Mike Gilbert Architectural Design [18](#)

Cleaning & Domestic Services

A Clean Pair [14](#)

Carroll Cleaning Services [34](#)

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Electrical Goods and Services

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J Searle & Son [38](#)

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Mole Problems [20](#)

Health, Wellbeing & Beauty

Kinesiology [8](#)

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MH Perry [6](#)

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Tree Surgeons / Timber services

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Geoff Partridge [14](#)

Knowle Tree Services [8](#)

Moor Logs [32](#)

Sam Hall Professional Tree Care [34](#)

Spike Milton Timber Services [32](#)

Contacting the Editorial Team

Email items for inclusion or any other queries to: link@moorlandteam.org.uk

For items sent by post please use the following addresses:

Link Finances (donations, advertising
fees, invoices etc)

All Other Correspondence

Parish Link Treasurer
c/o Way Park
Widcombe-in-the-Moor
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 7TU

Parish Link
c/o Bonehill Bungalow
Widcombe-in-the-Moor
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ13 7TD

Cheques payable to:
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Thank you to all those who make donations to the Parish Link.
Commercial advertising and donations ensure that the Link continues to be
provided free of charge throughout the Moorland.
If you would like to make a donation, please contact the editorial team.

Final Copy Deadline

*For the **October 2025** edition of the Link, copy deadline will be*
Sunday 14th September. *As ever if you are able to let us have any entries be-*
fore the deadline that would be much appreciated.

*Next issue available on **Thursday 25th September***

Groups and Individuals who support the Parish Link

Friends of Widcombe School
High Moorland WI
Holne Parish Council
Holne Second-Hand Books
Holne Village Hall Committee
Leusdon Memorial Hall Committee
Moorland Merrymakers
Phyl's Follies (Postbridge)
Postbridge Village Hall

St Peter's Buckland-in-the-Moor
Various anonymous donations
Widcombe Church House Committee
Widcombe Community Hall CIO
Widcombe Fair Committee
Widcombe History Group
Widcombe Social Group
Widcombe Parish Council
Widcombe Sports Group

We have got a bumper edition for you this month with it being quite a challenge to fit everything into the magazine. Apologies to a few contributors who are having to wait until next month because we ran out of space for their articles.

The big church news is the Licensing of the new Team Rector in Ashburton on 3rd September. Details of this service and preparing for Confirmation this autumn are on page [5](#).

There's a real feel of autumn with Widecombe Fair, the last of our local fairs and shows, on September 9th - remember to get those entries in ([31](#)). Another early autumn fixture is the Family Dog Show in Princetown ([19](#)).

Both our local pantomime groups are now gearing up for their shows and looking for people who would like to be involved, both on the stage and back stage ([17](#) and [21](#)). We are so lucky to still have these productions taking place. Following the retirement of Leusdon's long-standing pantomime Dame last year it will be interesting to see who gets to fill his shoes...and other parts of his wardrobe!

Buckland have the latest in their fundraising events with a cream tea afternoon ([7](#)) and there is the last of the Widecombe Community Hall CIO's pop-up cake stalls ([27](#)).

As ever, thank you to everyone who makes Parish Link possible, you know who you are!!

If you have any queries or comments on the magazine do feel free to contact us, our email is link@moorlandteam.org.uk

With Best Wishes "The Link Team"

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Sixth Page	61x60mm	£7.50	£80
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