

Moorland Parish Link

- Widecombe -

Huccaby - Ilsington - Leusdon - Postbridge



Ashburnton - Bickington - Buckland - Holne

October 2025

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

The Ministry Team

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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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Dear Friends,

It is funny in a way to call you “friends” as, at the time I write, there are many of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, but friends is what I deeply hope we can be. To paraphrase Jesus in John 15:15, I call you friends, for all that I learn and hear from the Father I will make known to you.

My first few weeks as your new Team Rector in the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community have certainly shown me that you are a friendly bunch. The installation service at St Andrew's was a wonderful celebration of the new chapter we are setting out on together, and I am very grateful to everyone who came to show their support, but especially grateful to all those who put an awful lot of effort into making that service happen and doing such an amazing job of welcoming all our guests.

Bishop James did a great job as ever of sharing God's message with us in that service, hopefully setting the tone for the ministry we are doing together here in our churches and communities. Whether you were at the

service or not, I encourage you to read again the Bible passages from that service and reflect on them in your quiet time –

John 15:1-17 and James 1:19-27. We are called to bear fruit for God, and to be doers, not just hearers, of God's word.

(John and James are my two favourite books of the Bible, so I apologise now if I quote them a lot, but I make no apologies for what God says to us in these books.)

The installation service was just the start of our journey together and those of you

whom I've met since have been so kind in your welcome to your churches and villages. My wife Morag and my little boy Jude have shared in feeling warmly embraced by you all as we have joined you in your communities, and we thank you for welcoming our family and easing us into feeling at home in this new place. It was a special moment a few days ago, when we turned into the road where we now live and Jude just simply said, “home!” We are very pleased that we can call this place home. My hope as your new rector is that we can all share the love of God with everyone we meet, such that every person in this mission community can know what it feels like to find their true home.



With warmest wishes,

Rev'd Phill Parker,

Team Rector, Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community

Churchwardens

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**BENEFICE OFFICE and PARISH OFFICE - email: admin@moorlandteam.org.uk
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Community Family Worker

A busy start!

In April, we welcomed Angie Blanche to the post of Community Family Worker for the Moorland Mission Community, and it's been a very busy first few months for her!



She has thrown herself into this role with an infectious energy, getting to know all the churches and the variety of groups that meet across the parishes. Running the Holiday Club with a wonderful group of people, encouraging young leaders who were a valued part of the team. Angie is now a member of the team for Open the Book, Moor and Messy and Bears and Prayers, to name a few, as well as leading mums' Bible study. We already value her support with family services and school activities, which extends to Christian Union at South Dartmoor. Look out for those churchyard trails and other hands-on provision that Angie is planning for our children and families.

With thanks from the Management Committee



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 Ilington.**

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

My one-year pilgrimage: walking 12,000+ steps a day in aid of Devon Historic Churches

The UK is seeing a resurgence of interest in pilgrimage, with many historic routes and sites experiencing renewed popularity. This revival is driven by a desire for spiritual growth, connection with nature and a sense of community. Pilgrims are drawn to the UK's beautiful landscapes and sacred sites, as well as historic churches and cathedrals.

Since 1st December 2024 I am walking at least 12,000 steps (9+ kilometres) a day to raise funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. I hope to continue reaching my daily target of 12,000+ steps until the Feast of Epiphany on 6th January 2026 (that's a full year of hard walking).

I am passionate about conservation and preservation of Devon's beautiful historic churches. Too often we take our priceless heritage for granted, not realising all the many benefits historic churches and chapels bring to local communities and the UK economy.

As Churchill said in 1943: "we shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us." In a way, historic churches can be considered more accessible than traditional museums and art galleries, in the sense that they are both living monuments and useful spaces, acting as bridges between the past and present - inspiring us to look into the past and immerse ourselves in the present moment; helping us build a better, more sustainable future.

Volunteers throughout Devon are giving their time and talents every day to deliver the services that every community needs; but the considerable costs of repairs are almost always beyond their resources. This is why supporting the Devon Historic Churches Trust is so important, so that we can preserve our historic churches – for everyone, and for ever.

You can support my fundraiser by donating online through JustGiving: www.justgiving.com/page/devonhct

Robert Middleton



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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
5th October	Rebecca	15.00	Harvest Service
12th October	Rebecca		
19th October	Mary	15.00	Evening Prayer
26th October	Mary		

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.



HARVEST TIME

PREPARING:

Friday 3rd October from 10am in Church.

All contributions welcome, whether of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and/or foliage.
 No contributions (the weather this summer has not always been conducive to growing)
 then give yourself by coming and helping make the church celebratory-looking.

THANKING:

Service in Church at **3pm on Sunday 5th October.**

CELEBRATING:

With Harvest Tea from around **4.15pm (ish) in the Village Hall**
 Contributions for Afternoon Harvest Tea shared between the upkeep of the Village Hall and
 the Church.



HERITAGE WEEKEND

Buckland's original 1820 Tithe Map was a great attraction the afternoon of the 13th of September;
 almost as great an attraction as the Cream Teas! The new Rector of our eight benefice churches, the
 Reverend Phillip Parker came with his family and was able to meet both parishioners and others
 interested in Buckland's extensive collection of parish records which go back many centuries.

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

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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
12th October	17.00	Harvest Service following Harvest Tea at 16.30
19th October	15.00	Harvest Service at Huccaby
26th October	17.00	Holy Communion



HOLNE HERITAGE CORNER

Holne Church now has a small area, dedicated to the heritage of the parish and surrounding area. It contains a collection of local peoples' photo albums, and recollections of times gone by – and also some interesting maps provided by the Dartmoor National Park.

Other information is currently being gathered and it is hoped to provide additional local material on for example: tin mining, the leat system which carries water to many of the properties in the village, the village hall once used as a school etc., etc.

Please pay it a visit and enjoy looking around the church, going into our wonderful community shop and partaking of refreshments in the tearoom.

Holne Village Hall

Situated in the middle of the village, near Church, shop and Inn, available to hire at reasonable rates. Medium sized hall with separate well equipped kitchen. Sufficient chairs and tables for any event. Car parking adjacent to the Hall. Rates (per hour) £10 (£7 for Parishioners)

Special rates sometimes available, for more information or to book:

Please ring Tim Crook on 07734 308598 Or email: timcrook10@yahoo.co.uk

Soup & Pudding Lunch Holne Village Hall

**Next lunch Friday October 3rd
from 12.30**



Please remember change of day!

**Lunch now held on the first
Friday of the month**

Please contact Maggie Arden on
01364 631438 for further details



Holne Whist

**Tuesday 7th October
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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Contact Hannah Iskander or Katie Knott

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

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Attention all Owners and Occupiers of Roadside Land!

Did you know that it is a legal responsibility of landowners or occupiers adjacent to public roads to maintain their hedges and trees? It is a popular misconception that this is the duty of Devon County Council. But - not so!

Our farmers largely do a good job of trimming their roadside hedges annually. Unfortunately, many other landowners large and small, forestry estates and innumerable private field and garden owners fail to address this responsibility, probably in ignorance of the law. As a result, high-sided vehicles are sometimes damaged and often caused to swerve away from overhanging branches with potential for head-on collisions. Lorry and trailer loads of hay and straw are dragged through overgrown hedges and low branches, plucking off bales or so damaging them that they arrive depleted and reduced in value. Meanwhile, road drains become blocked with the fallen debris. I understand that locally, some hauliers refuse to use routes to certain farms needing feed or bedding because of the probable damages caused by uncut hedges and overhanging branches.

Autumn is the time for landowners and occupiers to inspect their road boundaries. (Tenants may be required by their landlords to take responsibility, so check this.) Assess what needs to be done this winter, and in subsequent years. Which hedges need an annual cut? If there are years of accumulated growth, which need a radical cut back by shape-saw and clearing?

Continued on page 17

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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

Harvest and Michaelmas

The Harvest Festival Service at St Raphael's takes place on Sunday October 19th at 3pm. All are welcome.

Most of us will be familiar with the annual Harvest Festival, in a tradition that goes back thousands of years, as an opportunity to come together and give thanks for the natural bounty of Creation upon which we all depend.

Less well-known is the other Autumn Christian festival, of Michaelmas, on 29th September. The name Michaelmas comes from a shortening of "Michael's Mass", in the same style as Christmas (Christ's Mass) and Candlemas (Candle Mass, the Mass where traditionally the candles to be used throughout the year would be blessed). Michaelmas is also known as the **Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael**, the Feast of the Archangels, or the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels.

Not at all far from us at **St Raphael's**, our sister chapel in Postbridge is dedicated to **St Gabriel**. Then on the western edge of the moor at Brentor, the church is dedicated to **St Michael**. Such a close celestial triangulation, giving such small places such mighty and linked patrons! Our claim to have a full house of Archangels locally, which must be a unique spiritual geography because there is no other Anglican St Raphael's in the country, is however complicated because there is a fourth angel, **Uriel**, recognised as an Archangel in the Anglican tradition. If a new church or chapel were to be founded on Dartmoor, you would not have to look far for an appropriate dedication...

One of the few flowers coming into bloom at this time of year is the Michaelmas daisy (also known as asters). Hence the rhyme: "The Michaelmas daisies, among dead weeds, Bloom for St Michael's valorous deeds". My own birthday is toward the end of September, so I always look forward to the arrival of the Michaelmas daisies, with their slender mauve petals radiating from a bright yellow centre. I suspect that for many of us our favourite season is the one in which we were born.



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
12th October	12.15	Parish Communion
26th October	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

New windows should now have been installed at the hall and we are hoping new blinds will be purchased shortly.

The afternoon tea in August proved to be a great success and we had many positive comments after the event. There are plans to make this an annual event. We continue to organise monthly coffee mornings the next being **Wednesday 1st October** 10.00am -12.00 midday. The whist drives continue on **Monday October 13th** with lunch at 1.00pm followed by whist at 2.00pm.

In September we raised £143.00 for Hall funds. We held a committee meeting on 15th September so hopefully I will be able to give you more information regarding the Hall next month.

Our social media presence continues to grow and followers have now passed 433. 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.

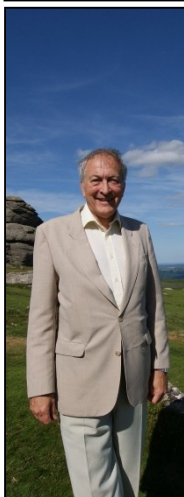
John Southcombe email: johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com

For Leusdon Memorial Hall Charity No 300887

Leusdon Memorial Hall Committee would like to say a huge thank you to all who attended our recent 'Afternoon Cream Tea'. What a wonderful afternoon we had, with the sun shining, the hall decorated and every seat taken. We were amazed by the number of guests who came along, thank you, it means so much to be able to have events that bring our community together.

Thank you to the committee members who pulled it all together, the myriad of helpers who prepared the sandwiches, cakes, scones with clotted cream and served on the day. A special thank you to Claire for not only providing the beautiful tea services but who also made gallons of tea for all of our guests along with Jen for baking over 100 scones and Nick for the amazing egg mayo sandwiches!! We hope you all went away with full tummies and enjoyed the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you all at our next event, watch this space!!

LMT Management Committee x



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Continued from page 11

All roadside trees should be regularly inspected for health and condition. Particular attention should be given to diseased elms or ash dieback victims. If you are not confident of your knowledge, have your boundaries regularly inspected by a qualified land agent, forester, arboricultural expert or tree surgeon. There are many experts and contractors that can help, several advertise in this magazine. For information on hedges look up the Devon hedge group: <https://devonhedges.org/>

At the minimum, hedges should be trimmed from the edge of the tarmac. Hedges and trees should be cut back to maintain minimum height clearances for roads and other public rights of way, allowing for next year's summer growth. These are:

5.2m (17'1") clearance for hedges and trees overhanging roads.

2.1m (6'11") clearance for hedges and trees overhanging footpaths.

2.5m (8'2") clearance for hedges and trees overhanging bridleways and cycleways.

If you take your measuring rod or tape measure along your road boundary (take care for traffic), you may be shocked by how much your hedges and trees fall short of these legal requirements.

Good luck and good trimming!



MOORLAND MERRYMAKERS

It's time to start preparing for this year's PANTO!

'Oh yes it is!'

Rehearsals have started for our pantomime this year **'The Puzzle Panto'**

But there is still time to come along and join in.

We meet every **Tuesday and Thursday at 7.30pm** at Leusdon Memorial Hall

Please see next months Parish Link with all the details for booking your seats
for the performances which will be on

Saturday 6th December, Monday 8th to Saturday 13th December

For any further information please contact **Ali Whale 01364 621260**



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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
19th October	18.00	Harvest Service

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

Monday 20th October, 11.00am - 12.30pm.

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

Dartmoor Livestock Protection will be the beneficiary of this month's raffle.



POSTBRIDGE COFFEE MORNING



Our monthly coffee morning is on

**Monday 6th October,
between 11am - 12 noon**

Next one Monday 3rd November and then
Christmas Coffee Morning on
Monday 8th December

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 PASTY, PUDDING & QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 25th October

An evening for all the family, starting at 6pm so children can leave earlier should they wish. A fun evening for all, together with the usual raffle.



£12 for adults, £5 for children under 11

Please remember that you will need to book by Tuesday 21st October

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or require an alternative to a pasty. Tessa 01822 880228

POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

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for Hire**



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elainesmerdon@yahoo.com



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matt@dartmoor-rural-services.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who supported the
Dog Show in Postbridge Village Hall on
Sunday 7th September 2025.

Our judge, **Jan Locke**, had 80 entries
in the 10 classes.

The Best in Show was
Mark Owen and "Ron"
and the Reserve Best in Show was
Grace Mitchell and "Charlie".

The dog show entries, raffle and
refreshments raised £246.00 for the
Postbridge Village Hall. Thank you to
everyone who made this a successful event.

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HARVEST SERVICES

28TH SEPTEMBER
12.15PM LEUSDON

3RD OCTOBER
6PM BICKINGTON

5TH OCTOBER
3PM BUCKLAND
3PM POUNDSGATE
6.30PM WIDECOMBE

10TH OCTOBER
6.30PM ILSINGTON

12TH OCTOBER
4.30PM HOLNE

19TH OCTOBER
10.30AM ASHBURTON
3PM HUCCABY
6PM POSTBRIDGE

WWW.ASHBURTONANDMOOR.ORG.UK

Digital Voice is coming to a village near you!



Landlines in the UK are going digital by the end of January 2027. Although the landline isn't going away, we know that you might have questions or would like to know more about this industry-wide change.

We'd love to talk to you about the UK's switch to digital landlines and will be visiting local communities, where a member of our team will be on hand to tell you what Digital Voice is, why the change is necessary and what it means for you. You don't have to pre-book, just turn up.

We're holding a drop-in session on
15th October between 10:00 and 14:00 in the National Park Visitors Centre Princetown,
Tavistock Road, Princetown,
Yelverton PL20 6QF

For more details visit www.bt.com/digitalvoice



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Next to Ilsworth Village Shop

Postbridge 14.00 - 15.00

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- * **Find us on Facebook, "The Crew of the Outreach"**

Church Services for October 2025

3rd October

Bickington 18.00 Harvest Service

5th October

Trinity 16

Green

Readings - Lamentations 1.1–6, Canticle: Lamentations 3.19–26 or Psalm 137 [or 137.1–6], 2 Timothy 1.1–14, Luke 17.5–10

Widcombe	18.30	Harvest Festival	Ashburton	08.00	Holy Communion
			Ashburton	10.30	Family Service
			Ilssington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	15.00	Harvest Festival

10th October

Ilssington 18.30 Harvest Festival & Supper

12th October

Trinity 17

Green

Readings - Jeremiah 29.1, 4–7 Psalm 66.1–11, 2 Timothy 2.8–15, Luke 17.11–19

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ilssington	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
Leusdon	12.15	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
			Ilssington	10.30	Harvest Family Service
			Ashburton	15.00	Moor and Messy: Harvest
			Holne	17.00	Harvest Service

19th October

Trinity 18

Green

Readings - Jeremiah 31.27–34, Psalm 119.97–104, 2 Timothy 3.14–4.5, Luke 18.1–8

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Harvest Family Communion
Postbridge	18.00	Harvest Service	Ilssington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Bickington	10.30	Morning Worship
			Buckland	15.00	Evening Prayer
			Huccaby	15.00	Harvest Service
			Ashburton	18.30	St Petroc's Reflective Service

26th October

Last after Trinity

Green

Readings - Joel 2.23–end, Psalm 65 [or 65.1–7], 2 Timothy 4.6–8, 16–18, Luke 18.9–14

Widcombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ashburton	09.15	Breakfast Church,
Leusdon	12.15	Parish Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
			Ilssington	10.30	Morning Praise
			Holne	17.00	Holy Communion

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

Baptism	Postbridge	24th August	Oliver Richard Coaker
Funeral	Holne	10th September	Meril Rosemary Hawkins

Rainfall in August 2025

Place	Total Rainfall	Days without rain	Wettest Days
Postbridge	76.1mm (3.0")	16	30th 18.3mm (0.7")
	August 2024 - 65.2 mm (2.6")		
Holne	103.2mm (4.06")		29th 30.8mm (1.23")



Dates for the Diary

October 2025			Page	October 2025			Page
1st	High Moorland WI		35	12th	Parish Link Copy Deadline		
1st	Leusdon Coffee Morning		15	13th	Leusdon Whist		15
1st	Widcombe History Group		29	15th	BT Digital Drop-in		21
3rd	Holne Soup and Pudding		9	20th	Postbridge Mini-Market		19
6th	Postbridge Coffee Morning		19	23rd	Buckland Whist		33
7th	Princetown History Group		35	25th	Pasty, Pudding & Quiz Night		19
7th	Holne Whist		9	28th	U3A Ashburton		38
8th	Dunstone Charity Lunch		33	28th	Dartmoor Forest PC		40
9th	Widcombe Social		27	Forthcoming events in November			
				15th	Rotary Yelverton Barn Dance		36

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 Widdy tots!

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.

Widcombe 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

Widcombe Church House Fund

and send to Sarah Reeve,

Bonehill Cottage,

Bonehill Lane,

Widcombe-in-the-Moor,

TQ13 7TD

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

01364 621218



A colorful poster for the Widcombe School Lottery. The background is blue with white stars. At the top center is a circular logo with the text 'WIDECOMBE-IN-THE-MOOR' and 'PRIMARY SCHOOL' around an illustration of a knight on a horse. Below the logo, the text 'WIDECOMBE SCHOOL LOTTERY' is written in bold. Underneath, '£5 £10 & £15 PRIZE MONEY TO BE WON EVERY MONTH' is displayed in large, bold letters. A yellow banner with the text 'ONLY £2 PER MONTH' is positioned below. Further down, it says 'To sign up, or for more info please email: friendslotto25@gmail.com'. At the bottom, a small line of text reads 'EVERYONE CAN JOIN. PLEASE PROMOTE AMONGST FAMILY AND FRIENDS'. The poster is decorated with illustrations of school supplies: a stack of books, a compass, a ruler, and a protractor.



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
5th October	18.30 Harvest Festival	Clare & Penny	Bring & Share Supper	All help please on 4th
12th October	10.30	Philly	Philly and Michael	Harvest Flowers
19th October	10.30	Clare	Jenny	Audrey and Rose
26th October	10.30	Wendy	Wendy	Audrey and Rose

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

ST PANCRAS CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL

FOLLOWED BY A

‘BRING & SHARE’ SUPPER



Sunday 5th October
6.30pm

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



Widecombe Fair

Once again the weather changed halfway through the day and tried to spoil what was another great day for Widecombe! The Fair went on to the end and turned out to be a well-organised and successful day.

Numbers were a bit down, however those who came said how much they enjoyed the event.

A huge thank you to all the members for their hard work in the months leading up to the Fair and also thank you to everyone who assisted in putting-up, taking down and exhibiting in the various classes.

Planning for next year's Fair starts now (in my head). We will have an October meeting to talk about the day, if you have any constructive ideas for 2026 or would like to join the team please come along to the Church House on Tuesday 14th October at 7.00pm.

Chairman, Mike.



Widecombe Parish Council

Next Meeting:

Thursday 2nd October 2025

Church House, Widecombe at 7.30pm

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- Or requesting information about the services offered by letter addressed to:- **Hillcrest, Bowden Hill, Ashburton, TQ13 7EA**



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The 2025 Widecombe Fair Dog Show was a huge success.

We would like to thank all the owners and dogs who joined in the fun. Our judge **Debbie Keeling** assisted by Robbie Donovan had 210 entries which was challenging but enjoyable with so many lovely dogs.

The Best in Show and Prettiest Female was **"Layla" owned by Stacey Burns** and Reserve Best in Show and Dog the Judge would like to take Home was **"Bruno" owned by Helen Rees.**

£420.00 was raised for the Widecombe Fair charities.



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.

Widecombe & District Social Club presents:

Sue Vickers

Former editor of Dartmoor Magazine



The Tamara Coast to Coast Way

The ups and downs of writing guidebooks to long-distance walking routes

Church House, Widecombe.

Thursday 9th October 7.30pm

£3 on the door to include raffle entry

Further info from Daf 01364 621242

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



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Fri 9:15am - 3pm

See website for fees and funding info.

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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'

Widcombe Church House and Lands Charity

It was decided at our AGM that Widcombe Church House and Lands Charity (WCHLC) would donate £2,500 to the Church and an identical sum to the Widcombe Educational Foundation (WEF).

The Trustees of the Charity also thought they would explain a bit more about the history of the Charity and its current role.

The Charity was established in 1635. As its title suggests, it was established to supervise the management of the Church House, land and property owned by the Charity. The original Benefactors showed great forethought in providing income for education and the relief of poverty in the parish at this time.

The Church House itself was disposed of in 1877 after the Education Act of 1872, when it became Widcombe-in-the-Moor School. The Charity's principal assets now are 1-4 Church Cottages at Dunstone, which are all let to local people.

The Charity has six Trustees in total. The Vicar of Widcombe-in-the-Moor, two Church Wardens, two appointees of the Widcombe PCC and one person appointed by Devon County Council, who oversee the aforementioned upkeep and management of the cottages. Additionally they can, where appropriate and there is a need, agree to let the cottages to local people at below market rent. When a cottage becomes vacant for any reason, this vacancy is advertised locally.

The Trustees give their time on a voluntary basis and thus overall a small surplus is usually seen each year. This is the money that is distributed to the Church and WEF, with these beneficiaries being formally defined in the constitution registered with the Charities Commission.

Leading on from this, the Charity Commission is keen to see the Trustees demonstrate good financial management. In this regard, the Trustees also ensure that a reasonable reserve is held in case any bigger repairs and the like are needed.

This is a very potted history and a little bit about how the Charity works in 2025.

The Trustees are happy to answer any questions about the Charity. The Trustees are John Dracup, Flash Southcombe, Mike Pascoe, Ross Hathway, Caroline Mann and Philly Gimlette. The email address is WCHLC@hotmail.com



Widcombe Sandbag Store

A reminder that Widcombe Parish Council has a stock of sandbags in a store 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.

Save the Date

**Ferio Saxophone Quartet Concert
at St Pancras, Widcombe**

Sunday 7th December 12.00 noon

Come along and enjoy a Christmassy programme.
For more information see next month's Link or
contact mikebrown007@hotmail.com

ASHBURTON AND BUCKFASTLEIGH HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

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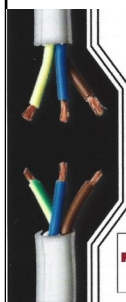
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Dunstone & Poundsgate Methodist Chapels

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 - 5th October at 3pm, led by Kevin Hooke talking with Anne Middleton.

Dunstone Lunches

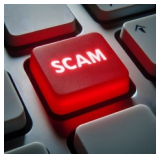
Wednesday 8th October from 12 noon until 2.30pm.

This month's lunch is for Dunstone Chapel

We are collecting for our little Chapel this month as we are in need of funds for its support and maintenance.

There will be soup, bread, sushi, savoury dishes, salads and cakes. Please make as generous a donation as possible.

The September lunch raised **£50** for the **Devon Air Ambulance** and **£125 for the Chapel**. Do come along to our lunch, meet and chat with others from our community. Ask your friends too, the more the merrier! Thank you for your continued support and generosity, it makes a huge difference.



Cyber Scams

Once again we have been advised of Scam Emails being sent within the community.

On this occasion the fake email address is parishpriest.clerk14@gmail.com

As always, please do not engage, always be mindful of the sender's email address, and if in any doubt get in touch via another means to confirm that the email is legitimate. Please only use known and trusted email addresses. Do not be pressured into doing something, things are rarely that urgent and if so would not be sent via email, scammers will use urgency as a tactic. Guidance on how to deal with cyber scams can be download via the website www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/safeguarding or click [here](#) to read the file.

Also, feel free to get in touch with a member of the clergy or admin team if you are unsure if an email is genuine.



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 23rd October

Whist every fourth Thursday in the month.





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Other Community News and Events

Princetown History Club

meets **1st Tuesday** every month

Princetown Community Centre 7 for 7.30pm

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

4th November Join geologist Alan Endacott for an illustrated talk on his work investigating the stone circle at Scorhill on Dartmoor.

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

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

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High Moorland Women's Institute Princetown

We have been busy over the last few months, providing refreshments at craft fairs (Meavy Oak and Princetown) with money raised going towards paying for the annual Christmas meal for the seniors in our area held at Princetown each December.

We have enjoyed an evening of Bingo, had a group meal at the Burrator Inn in August and in September an afternoon walking with Llamas on Dartmoor for which we missed the rain thankfully.

On October 1st we have an evening with **Free Wheeler Blood Bikers** who are coming along to give us a talk about what they do.

There is another **Craft Fair** in Princetown (refreshments) in October which will leave only one left before Christmas. And we have planned a visit to **The Box** in Plymouth for November.

If you think you would be interested in joining our Group we meet 1st Wednesday of the month at Princetown Community Centre @ 7.30pm.

Or you can email us for more information to sidsan114@hotmail.com or HighMoorland@devonwi.org.uk



Autumn Update Report

Once again, the Rotary Club of Yelverton has been very active during the summer months. At the end of July, we teamed up with the local Walkhampton volunteers for Children's Hospice South West to run a combined car boot sale, raising a superb £600 for this very worthwhile charity.

Our annual Bake-Off competition at Princetown Community Primary School was held shortly before the school holidays. Eight keen young bakers, proudly wearing the named aprons and hats we provided, produced some delicious entries, including brownies, a Swiss roll, and a Victoria sponge cake. It was a closely fought contest, but Rosie's cinnamon roll pastries came out on top, with our professional judge, Mike Palmer, saying he would be happy to serve them in his restaurant! We hope to extend this successful competition to other primary schools next year.

Also in July, we sponsored Ashton Jones from Yelverton to undertake the prestigious Rotary Young Leaders Award course — an intensive leadership experience where young people develop their skills as leaders while having fun and making new connections. Ashton graduated successfully and later gave the club an inspiring and rewarding presentation about what he forward to seeing more of Ashton's progress in the years ahead.



Our flagship Sports and Crafts Fun Day took place on 6th August. The weather was kind, and the children came out to play, with their parents and carers in tow. All our preparatory work, and that of our many partners, paid off, and the day ran with barely a hitch. As a measure of its success, the Tavistock Times Gazette devoted three pages to reporting on the event. A thousand thanks to everyone involved — but especially to those who came and HAD FUN!

We also managed the parking once again at the RAF Harrowbeer 1940s Weekend. With improved arrangements this year, everything went smoothly.

In August, the Bere Alston Hub Youth2Youth club contacted us with an urgent request for support to save their residential trip to the Dartmoor Activity Centre. We stepped in, and 11 young people were able to enjoy activities such as orienteering, land rafting, rocket building, team games, rock scrambling ("weaselling"), a quarry visit, bushcraft, giant hide-and-seek, and moorland walks. The programme encouraged team-building, problem-solving, and personal growth.

On the fellowship front, beyond our weekly meetings, we enjoyed our annual croquet match with neighbouring Rotary clubs and took part in an informative and entertaining history walk in Tavistock. Another outstanding event was a walk with Dartmoor Llamas. Meeting and learning about Willow, Bella, Marlia, Tilly, and Mr McGee was a joy and a privilege — one that will be hard to beat.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to be welcoming two visiting speakers: Captain Richard Allan, AFNI, CEO and Harbour Master of the Cattewater Harbour Commissioners, and Rebecca Smith MP, who will speak about the life and challenges of representing rural areas in Westminster. We are also lining up a skittles match against another Rotary club and will be formally inducting two new members.

Finally, on 15th November, we will hold a Barn Dance at Yelverton War Memorial Hall to raise funds for the Yelverton Friendship Café. Please do support this event and help us continue to provide this important lifeline for the elderly in our community.

If you would like to join in the fun, please get in touch with the Rotary Club of Yelverton via:

secretary@yelverton.rotary1175.org

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Every Tuesday
Raising funds for our
community activities*



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u3a
ASHBURTON

Tuesday 28th October at 2.30 pm
"My life on the Fairground", Talk by Kay,
Ashburton Town Hall

Kay's talk is very popular and covers everything you have wanted to know about the fairground: Health & Safety before you get on the ride, why rides are so expensive, how the fairgrounds evolved. Did you know they have their own hymn? She will read the words to you, and you will see why. We will look inside the caravans. I have been told many times how interesting it was. Kay loves questions so feel free to ask.



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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The journey.

'It is Saturday 25th October 1975. Outside Providence House. Elizabeth Braund and Rosemary Bird are waiting. At 7.30am the young people begin to arrive. They start to load the three-ton lorry with all the boxes and items of equipment that were not loaded on Friday evening. Lois, from a local youth project arrives at 8am. She has offered to drive a van. There is no sign of Danny. He has offered to drive the truck, and the van is fully loaded, ready to go. Everyone has arrived except Danny and Junior. Junior is a local lad, about fifteen years old, and full of energy – if he arrives. Meanwhile, Elizabeth and Rosemary leave to pick up the rental van. At 9.30, we are ready to go. Junior has arrived, but no Danny. We leave without him. One lorry, one rental van, one Providence white transit.

Shallowford Farm
making the difference



'It is an uneventful drive to Stonehenge for the usual stop. Somehow Lois misses us, and it is not until Honiton that we catch up with her, and rendezvous for a late lunch break.

'At 4.30pm we arrive at Bag Park Manor, Widecombe. Our local friend Sylvia is there to greet us, eyes streaming, as every fire in the house is smoking and the house is thick with smoke-fog.

'Unloading is quickly done, and things stowed in their rooms. At this point Danny arrives – by train and taxi. This is very much a new day. Perhaps a new era.'

The words of Elizabeth Braund in 1975.

It is Monday 18th August 2025. It is 9.30am outside Providence House. Almost 50 years later. Tracy and Elias, Maria and Val are waiting, and families begin to arrive. There will be 27 people in all, representing family groups. Two minibuses, both lent by friendly partner organisations. No-one is missing and nobody is late, and we are off before 10.30. There is a quiet excitement. Some have been before. For some it is a new adventure. It is the fourth group from Providence House this year, but who can count the number of times loaded minibuses have drawn out of the car park to make their way westwards since that Saturday morning in 1975.

But we are here. Not of course at Bag Park Manor. That was only the beginning. East Shallowford Farm – home until Thursday morning. May God have granted a blessed, harmonious, learning experience.

'O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.'

The story goes on. On Monday 15th September a new team member started at Shallowford, Emily, as Volunteer Coordinator to open up new opportunities for us. On Monday 22nd of September, the first of seven weeks of Plymouth primary schools' visits arrived to take part in a residential farm experience.

50 years may have almost past, but the story goes on.

Robert Musgrave MBE



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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: 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.**

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Architect Services

HMAD Architects [14](#)

Mike Gilbert Architectural Design [18](#)

Cleaning & Domestic Services

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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:
P C C Widcombe - Link Account

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 **November 2025** edition of the Link, copy deadline will be*
Sunday 12th October. *As ever if you are able to let us have any entries before*
the deadline that would be much appreciated.

*Next issue available on **Thursday 23rd 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

Hello - Daf here. I've just joined the Link editorial team (so you know who to blame for any mistakes!)

Here it is, October already! The summer and Widecombe Fair just a distant memory... (Did it rain this year? Does anyone remember?)

But the autumn can be splendid and there is still lots going on in our community.

Please see the warm and friendly Parish Letter from our new Team Rector, Phill Parker. Isn't it lovely that his little boy feels at home already?

There's still time to join either the Moorland Merrymakers ([p17](#)) or Phyl's Follies ([p21](#)) – or both! - as they start to organise this year's pantos.

In Postbridge, check out their latest famous Pasty, Pudding and Quiz Night – these are always lots of fun and with plenty of nosh! ([p19](#))

And speaking of nosh, this month we are celebrating the Harvest around our churches. A great opportunity for all to get together and appreciate the season's bounty.

In fact, we do 'nosh' rather well in our community. You can come to Buckland's Harvest Tea ([p7](#)), have soup and pudding in Holne ([p9](#)), coffee in Postbridge two Mondays a month ([p19](#)) a Bring & Share Supper in Widecombe ([p25](#)) and the lovely monthly lunches at Dunstone Chapel ([p33](#)), which are always worth a visit! It must be all that healthy moorland air making us hungry.

Rural life doesn't come without its problems, though, and can we draw your attention to the article about keeping our roadsides clear of overgrown hedges ([p11](#)) and the BT meeting in Princetown, outlining the coming of Digital Voice ([p21](#))? With all the changes to our communications (phone lines in particular) it's worth knowing from BT themselves what they intend doing.

Todd Gray returns to Widecombe for a talk on Long Lost Devon at the monthly meeting of the Widecombe History Group ([p29](#)) and Ashburton U3A has a talk on life on a Fairground ([p38](#)).

Finally, as ever, thank you to everyone who supports the Parish Link, we couldn't do it without you!

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"

Parish Link Advertising Costs

Size	Size	Month	Year
Sixth Page	61x60mm	£7.50	£80
Quarter Page	61x92mm	£12	£125
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