



# Moorland Parish Link



- Widecombe -

Huccaby - Ilington - Leusdon - Postbridge



Askrington - Bickington - Buckland - Holne



## December 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](mailto:SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org)

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

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## Christmas? Bah Humbug!

As we approach Christmas I confess I have some sympathy with dear old Ebenezer Scrooge! There is indeed a lot of humbug surrounding Christmas and I am tempted to adopt something of a Victor Meldrew 'I don't believe it!' approach to some of these things. For example:

Shops displaying Christmas decorations in October.

Christmas adverts on the TV from November.

Christmas songs played incessantly in supermarkets such as: 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' (Sam Smith) and 'Merry Christmas Everybody' (Slade). And then there is 'I wish it could be Christmas every day' (Wizzard) – I can't think of anything worse!

Black Fridays.

'New Year' sales starting on Boxing Day!

But alongside these rather annoying things, there is more serious humbug surrounding Christmas. I'm not actually thinking about materialism or consumerism or excessive eating and drinking; these are serious problems but are perhaps a symptom of a deeper malaise. Rather I'm thinking about humbug surrounding the Christmas story itself. The Christmas story has been sanitised and romanced to such an extent that it can bear more resemblance to a Disney Pixar fantasy movie than the events recorded in Matthew and Luke.

Let's be clear, the Christmas story is not a 'nice' story. It was not nice for Mary to be told she was going to conceive and give birth when she was engaged to a man she had not slept with; I don't think she felt 'highly favoured', rather she was 'troubled'. It was not nice for Joseph to learn that his betrothed was pregnant when he wasn't the father. It was not nice for the expectant Mary to have to travel 90 miles to Bethlehem. A cattle feeding trough is not a nice place to lay a new born baby. The angels that appeared to the shepherds were not nice little girls with tissue paper wings and tinsel halos – the shepherds were 'terrified'. When Joseph, Mary and Jesus went to Egypt it was not for a nice holiday to see the pyramids, it was to escape the slaughter of innocent children.

No, the Christmas story is not a nice story, but it is truth. It is truth both in the sense of it being historically true but also in that the story reveals truth about God. Jesus is God with us. God loves the world so much that he was prepared to humble himself to be born as a vulnerable baby. The one 'through whom all things were made' was not able to control his bowels; the 'bread of life' relied on his mother's milk; the 'Prince of Peace' cried himself to sleep. Now the thing about the true Christmas story is that we can't just dismiss it as a heart-warming tale, rather it demands a response: we can either be like the wise men who 'bowed down and worshiped' or we can say Bah Humbug. Which will you do?

*John Bennett*

## Churchwardens

St Mary the Virgin, Holne with St Raphael, Huccaby		
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tel: **01364654280**

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## Christmas Services

### TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

7.30pm Service of Light St Petroc's, Ashburton

### SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER

10.30am Christingle Service St Andrew's, Ashburton  
 3pm Christingle Service St Peter's, Buckland  
 4pm Christingle Service St Pancras, Widecombe

### MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

7.30pm Christmas Community Sing Ashburton Arts Centre

### WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

6pm Community Carols Blackpool School, Liverton

### SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

3pm Moor & Messy Carols & Nativity Cyril's Barn, Newcombe Farm  
 3pm Carol Service St John the Baptist, Leusdon  
 4pm Christingle Service St Michael's, Ilsington

### TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

6pm Carol Service followed by Supper Dunstone Chapel, Widecombe

### FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

6pm Carols by Candlelight St Raphael's, Huccaby  
 7pm Carol Service St Mary's, Bickington  
 7pm Carol Service Poundsgate Chapel

### SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

3pm Carol Service St Peter's, Buckland  
 4pm Carol Service St Pancras, Widecombe  
 6pm Carol Service St Michael's, Ilsington  
 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight St Andrew's, Ashburton  
 6.30pm Carol Service St Gabriel's, Postbridge

### MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER

7pm Carol Service St Mary's, Holne

### WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER ★ CHRISTMAS EVE

3pm Crib Service St Michael's, Ilsington  
 4pm Crib Service St Andrew's, Ashburton  
 4pm Crib Service St Pancras, Widecombe  
 11.30pm Midnight Communion St Andrew's, Ashburton  
 11.30pm Midnight Communion St John the Baptist, Leusdon  
 11.30pm Midnight Communion St Michael's, Ilsington

### THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER ★ CHRISTMAS DAY

9am Christmas Communion St Mary's, Bickington  
 9am Christmas Communion St Gabriel's, Postbridge  
 9.30am Christmas Communion St Peter's, Buckland  
 10am Christmas Family Communion St Michael's, Ilsington  
 10.30am Christmas Family Communion St Andrew's, Ashburton  
 10.30am Christmas Communion St Pancras, Widecombe  
 11am Christmas Communion St Mary's, Holne

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF SERVICES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/services](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/services)

Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community



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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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# 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](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/buckland)

Date	Table Flowers	Time	Service
7th December		15.00	Christingle
21st December		15.00	Carol Service
25th December	Christmas Flowers	09.30	Christmas Communion
28th December		10.30	Ashburton United Mission Service

*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.*

## St Peter's Church Buckland in the Moor Forthcoming services

**Sunday 7th December**  
**Christingle Service 3.00pm**

Collection in aid of  
 The Children's Society

**Sunday 21st December**  
**Carol Service 3.00pm**

Collection in aid of Fremington  
 Children's Hospice South West



**25th December**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Service 9.30am**



*Do come and join us;  
 you will be most welcome*

**Stuck for a last minute five pounder  
 present?**



**Buckland's Tea Cloths  
 can be found in church**



The Royal British Legion church collection  
 at the 9 November afternoon service at  
 Buckland was **£128.50**.

## Buckland-in-the-Moor Whist

There will be **no Whist in December**, but it  
 will be back as usual in January.



Whist every fourth  
 Thursday in the month.



## 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**

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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](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/holne)

Date	Time	Service
14th December	3pm	Moor & Messy Carols & Nativity - Newcombe Farm
19th December	18.00	Carol Service - Huccaby
22nd December	19.00	Carol Service - Holne
25th December	11.00	Christmas Communion
28th December	10.30	Ashburton - United Mission Community Service

**Candlelit Carol Service**  
with Christingle making

**on Monday 22nd December at 7.00pm**  
**St Mary's, Holne**

Mulled wine/apple juice and mince pies afterwards.  
It will be supported by the Children's Christingle Choir  
and the Holne Community Choir.

If anyone wants to join us in either choir please contact Denise on  
[deniserobinson111@gmail.com](mailto:deniserobinson111@gmail.com).

**Soup & Pudding Lunch**  
**Holne Village Hall**  
**Friday 5th December**  
**from 12.30**

*This will be our Christmas special and includes carols and a raffle*

**Please contact Maggie Arden on 01364 631438 for further details**

**Holne Whist**  
**Tuesday 2nd**  
**December 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*

Been to the shop lately?



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## 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

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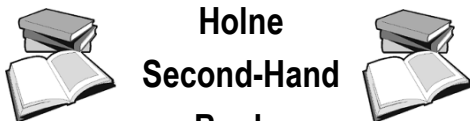


**Holne  
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\*all children must be accompanied by an adult  
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[hannaha@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hannaha@hotmail.co.uk)  
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## St Raphael, Huccaby

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](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/huccaby)

The theme for this year's Widecombe Christmas Tree Festival is '**Magical, Mythical, or Mystical**', to be interpreted "any way you like". It's just as well interpretation is left open, because that depends on your values and assumptions. Trying to distinguish these three categories is so tricky that they are sometimes used interchangeably. It will be interesting to see which specific stories or topics the Festival entries will be based on; but what would it be like to actually experience a Christmas tree in any of these ways?

All the entries will doubtless be setting out to achieve a '**magical**' display in the informal, colloquial sense of 'wonderful' or 'captivating'. It is unlikely that anyone would take the tree to have magical properties in the literal sense: in the belief that the tree itself could be used in rituals to manipulate natural or supernatural beings and forces. This would remove the Christmas tree from its Christian context; although some might still feel it remains a complex matter to distinguish some Christian practices and beliefs from magical ones.

In contrast, Christmas trees are clearly '**mythical**' in a strong formal sense, rather than in the colloquial meaning of 'a widely held but false belief or idea'. The Old and New Testaments do fit the generalised definition of a myth as "a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon and typically involving supernatural beings or events'. Many mythological systems are characterised by their own ways of showing that the sacred and religious life are the opposite of the profane and secular life. Christianity makes its particular claims to truth in similar terms. More specifically, modern Christmas trees have been related to the 'tree of paradise' of medieval mystery plays. A tree decorated with apples (representing fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thus referencing the original sin that Christ took away) was used as a setting for the play. The apples were later replaced by round objects such as shiny red baubles.

The use of evergreen trees to symbolise eternal life is again common in ancient mythologies, and the popularisation of Christmas trees in Victorian Britain was based on the enthusiasm of the royal family for this aspect of their Germanic heritage, despite its likely pagan influences.

Whereas the mythic deals with mythology and mythological patterns, the **mystical** deals with matters of transcendent spiritual experience. Christian mysticism is the tradition of mystical practices and mystical theology within Christianity which "concerns the preparation [of the person] for the consciousness of, and the effect of, the direct and transformative presence of God" or divine love.

You would indeed be fortunate to have attained the spiritual wisdom to experience such a transformation while meditating upon a Christmas tree, but it is surely not impossible. Ecclesiastical authorities have, however, sometimes been wary of claims to such direct and transcendent spirituality, fearing that mysticism "starts in mist, and ends in schism".

All this may take this year's Christmas Tree Festival theme much too seriously or pedantically. Christmas trees have become a hugely popular and joyful tradition for seasonal celebration. They are beautiful decorations, bringing families and groups of many faiths, or none, together. Yet some tension between the sacred and religious, and the secular and profane, surely remains.

The Festival runs from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at St Pancras, Widecombe. Our own Christmas tree in Huccaby Chapel will be on display in the week leading up to Christmas itself. Enjoy!

Richard Wells

**acleanpair**<sup>PRO</sup>

**Lora K Fielding**  
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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](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/leusdon)

Date	Time	Service
14th December	15.00	Carol Service
24th December	23.30	Midnight Communion
28th December	10.30	Ashburton - United Mission Community Service

*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](mailto:ross@moorlandteam.org.uk)

 Carols by Candlelight at Leusdon Church with the Widecombe Singers, Sunday 14th December at 3pm. followed by mulled wine and mince pies. 

## Leusdon Memorial Hall

On Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025, we met at the hall at 10.15am for the laying of the wreath and reading of names. After this we proceeded to the Church for the two minute silence. It is important to pay respects and remember those who sacrificed their lives so we could be free. The hall has stood for over one hundred years to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by people of Leusdon along with three Americans who died in a tragic accident at Barren Corner whilst training for D Day.

Our next coffee will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.00am -12.00**. As usual in December it will take the form of **carols, cake and coffee, led by Mike, Miffy and Lloyd**. The November Coffee Morning raised £173.00 for hall funds.

*The **December Whist Drive** is on **Monday 8th December** with lunch at 12.30pm followed by whist at 2.00pm. Please note that this will be held at the Church House, Widecombe as the Pantomime is on at Leusdon during that week. We wish the Moorland Merrymakers well with this year's production.*

On 17<sup>th</sup> November, with the Parish Council, we arranged for defibrillator training in the hall from a charity called Jay's Aims. Unfortunately the trainer didn't arrive so we are arranging a new date.

Our social media presence continues to grow and followers have now passed 437 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.

(Continued on page 17)

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**Robert  
Williams**

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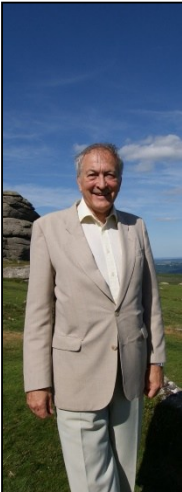
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# MOORLAND MERRYMAKERS

## The Panto Puzzle!

*Produced by Tracey Mann*

**Matinee - Saturday 6th December at 5pm**

**Monday 8th to Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm**

**At Leusdon Memorial Hall**

Tickets for Matinee performance ONLY are available in advance from  
**Friday 24th October at 9am**

The main booking office for all other performances opens at  
**9am Saturday 1st November**

Booking by email only Nicky - [mmerrymakers@gmail.com](mailto:mmerrymakers@gmail.com)

**Ticket prices - Adults £10, Children £5**

## Rainfall in October 2025

Place	Total Rainfall	Days without rain	Wettest Days
Postbridge	180.9mm (7.1")	13	19th 26.4mm (1.0")
	October 2024 - 179.1mm (7.1")		
Holne	210.00mm (8.27")		18th 44.1mm (1.76")



(Continued from page 15)

Should you wish to book the hall, it is available for hire at £11.00 per hour, which includes electricity and heating, there are special rates for regular users. Further details can be obtained by contacting our booking secretary: [leusdonmemorialhallbooking@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Finally on behalf of the hall committee I would like to thank you for the continued support you have given us during 2025 and look forward to more events in 2026.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

John Southcombe: [johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsouthcombe@hotmail.com)

For Leusdon Memorial Hall Charity No 300887



# CHRISTOPHERS' FAMILY FUNERALS

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## TALLY HO

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WHIM AND WELLIES WITH  
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PLENTY OF BUTTERY-FINGERED CAMARADERIE.

PERFORMANCES BEGINNING @7.30PM  
30TH OF JANUARY AND 5TH, 6TH  
AND 7TH OF FEBRUARY 2026  
MATINEES 31<sup>ST</sup> OF JAN & 1<sup>ST</sup> OF FEB @2PM

POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL, PL20  
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OR RING 01822 880223



# 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](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/postbridge)

Date	Time	Service
21st December	18.30	Carol Service
25th December	09.00	Christmas Communion
28th December	10.30	Ashburton- United Mission Community 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 in December

### Monday 15th December Christmas Coffee Shop & Mini Market 11am-12.30

Usual stalls and raffle- anyone wanting a stall -Sue 01822 880223

### Tuesday 16th December Christmas Whist Drive 7.30pm

All Welcome, £4.00 incl the usual nibbles and a raffle

### Monday 29th December Twixmas from 6.30pm

A relaxed social evening for all ages with a Quiz, Raffle, Soup and more  
No charge for this event but ideally we would like to know how many are coming so please book your numbers with **Elaine 01822 880065**

**There will be a box in the Village Shop if anyone has any prizes they wish to donate**

## POSTBRIDGE COFFEE MORNING

Our Christmas Coffee morning is on  
**Monday 8th December,**  
**between 11am - 12 noon**

*We take a short break in January, returning in February*

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.





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## Defibrillator!



Remember the defibrillator in the bus stop in **Widcombe**. Its yellow cabinet is unlocked, so it's easy to access. Instructions for use are on the defibrillator itself. **But in any case, the first thing anyone should do is call 999.** The phone box in the coach park still works, if you're in the village itself, but it needs coins.

It's a good idea for everyone to check out the defibrillator when they're in the area. The more familiar we are with it, the easier it will be to use if we have to – bearing in mind, we wouldn't be at our calmest in such a situation.



## Mobile Post Office

**Every Monday incl Bank Holidays**



**Widcombe 09.00 - 10.30** Car Park, next to Café On the Green

**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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**For more information on booking please contact:**

**Elaine Smerdon 01822 880065**

**elainesmerdon@yahoo.com**

# Church Services for December 2025

## 7th December

### Advent 2

### Purple

*Readings - Isaiah 11.1–10, Psalm 72.1–7, 18, 19 [or 72.1–7], Romans 15.4–13, Matthew 3.1–12*

Widecombe	16.00	Christingle	Ashburton	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
			Bickington	09.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
			Ashburton	10.30	Christingle
			Ilington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	15.00	Christingle

## 14th December

### Advent 3

### Purple

*Readings - Isaiah 35.1–10, Psalm 146.4–10 or Canticle: Magnificat, James 5.7–10, Matthew 11.2–11*

Widecombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ilington	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
Leusdon	15.00	Carol Service	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
			Holne	15.00	Moor & Messy Carols & Nativity, Newcombe Farm
			Ilington	16.00	Christingle

## 19th December

Huccaby	18.00	Carol Service	Bickington	19.00	Carol Service
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## 21st December

### Advent 4

### Purple

*Readings - Isaiah 7.10–16, Psalm 80.1–8, 18–20 [or 80.1–8], Romans 1.1–7, Matthew 1.18–end*

Widecombe	16.00	Carol Service	Ashburton	09.15	Breakfast Church
Postbridge	18.30	Carol Service	Ashburton	10.30	Said Communion
			Buckland	15.00	Carol Service
			Ilington	18.00	Carol Service
			Ashburton	18.30	Carol Service

## 22nd December

			Holne	19.00	Carol Service
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## 24th December

### Christmas Eve

Widecombe	16.00	Crib Service	Ilington	15.00	Crib Service
Leusdon	23.30	Midnight Communion	Ashburton	16.00	Crib Service
			Ashburton	23.30	Midnight Communion
			Ilington	23.30	Midnight Communion

25th December		Christmas Day		White	
<i>Readings - Readings to be chosen by officiant</i>					
Postbridge	09.00	Christmas Communion	Bickington	09.00	Christmas Communion
Widcombe	10.30	Christmas Communion	Buckland	09.30	Christmas Communion
			Ilington	10.00	Family Christmas Communion
			Ashburton	10.30	Family Christmas Communion
			Holne	11.00	Christmas Communion
28th December		Christmas 1		White	
<i>Readings - Isaiah 63.7-9, Psalm 148 [or 148.7-end], Hebrews 2.10-end, Matthew 2.13-end</i>					
Ashburton	10.30	United Mission Community Service			
		Ashburton	18.30	St Petroc's Reflective Service	

## Holy Communion Midweek & At Home

<p>There is a service of <b>Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10.30</b> (excluding 24th and 31st December ) at St. Andrew's Church in Ashburton You will be most welcome!</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communion at home</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to receive Home Communion please see page 2 for contact details</p>
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## From the Registers

Funeral	Widcombe	12th November	Richard George Casey
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## Dates for the Diary

December 2025		Page	December 2025		Page
2nd	Holne Whist	<a href="#">9</a>	10th	Dunstone Charity Lunch	<a href="#">33</a>
2nd	Princetown History Club	<a href="#">35</a>	13th	Xmas Tree Festival begins	<a href="#">25</a>
3rd	Leusdon Coffee Morning	<a href="#">15</a>	13th	Widcombe Christmas Market	<a href="#">31</a>
3rd	Widcombe History Group	<a href="#">29</a>	15th	Postbridge Whist Drive	<a href="#">19</a>
5th	Holne Soup and Pud Lunch	<a href="#">9</a>	15th	Postbridge Mini-Market	<a href="#">19</a>
6th	Shallowford Nativity	<a href="#">39</a>	16th	Dartmoor Forest PC	<a href="#">40</a>
7th	Widcombe Sax Concert	<a href="#">24</a>	17th	Princetown Seniors Xmas Lunch	<a href="#">35</a>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Parish Link Copy Deadline</b>		18th	Princetown Santa's Sleigh	<a href="#">36</a>
8th	Postbridge Coffee Morning	<a href="#">19</a>	21st	Xmas Tree Festival ends	<a href="#">25</a>
8th	Leusdon Whist Drive	<a href="#">15</a>	29th	Twixmas Evening - Postbridge	<a href="#">19</a>
8th	Merrymakers panto begins	<a href="#">17</a>	<b>Forthcoming - January 2026</b>		
9th	Jubilee Orchard Carols	<a href="#">24</a>	8th	Widcombe Parish Council	<a href="#">24</a>



## Jubilee Orchard News

We are going to have a carol singing session in the Jubilee Orchard in the village (previously known as the Parish Field) on **Tuesday 9th December at 6pm.**

We will have a big bonfire (see below) and sing all the obvious favourites. It's a chance to see the orchard by moonlight (the 40 apple trees are growing on rapidly), see fellow parishioners and enjoy a seasonal sing song. Please bring your own lighting and any musical instruments. If you think a snack and a glass of something by the fire will add to the fun please bring it with you. Well supervised children are most welcome. Because we have done so much work in the orchard we are short of bonfire material, so if you would like to bring anything burnable and non toxic, please feel free to leave it in the top field. The gate is padlocked, the code is 1471. There are no sheep grazing in there currently, so come at any time.



## Ferio Saxophone Christmas Concert 7th December

We are excited to welcome the Ferio Sax Quartet for their third concert in St Pancras, Widecombe. A seasonal menu includes Bach, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Bizet's Carmen and a fabulous arrangement of Anderson's Sleigh Ride. If you haven't heard them before, do come along: we can assure you it's unlike anything else!

The concert **starts at 11.30am**. Home-made cakes and coffee served from 10.30, so why not make a morning of it? The concert ends by 1pm.

Tickets for unreserved seats are £15 at the door or online from [wegottickets.com/event/677369](http://wegottickets.com/event/677369).  
**Under 16's go free.**

Or for premium reserved seats at £20 contact Michael Brown: [mikebrown007@hotmail.com](mailto:mikebrown007@hotmail.com).

*Proceeds are going towards disabled access for the church.*



## Widecombe Parish Council

Next Meeting:

**Thursday 8th January 2026**

**Church House, Widecombe  
at 7.30pm**

***NO MEETING IN DECEMBER***



## Widecombe Sandbag Store

A reminder that Widecombe 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.



# 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 December	16.00 Christingle	Alison Hathway	Judy & Brenda	None
14th December	10.30	Philly	Philly & Michael	None
21st December	16.00 Carol Service	Debbie & Ronnie	Debbie, Kris & Peter	None
23rd December	All help decorating for Christmas please			
24th December	16.00 Crib Service			
25th December	10.30	Philly	No coffee	
28th December	10.30	Ashburton -United Mission Community Service		

**Widecombe Church** is open all day, every day, 9-4. 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

**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** - 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

**LIFE CHANCE TRUST** charity number 1199491 -

A Devon based charity supporting young people aged 16-25 who have experienced past challenges or trauma and those who have been in care.  
 Entry forms will be available in the Church from the beginning of November or from me, **Judy Southcombe** 01364 621520 [judyouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judyouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk), or **Mary** in the Kiosk.



# WIDECOMBE PRE-SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Widecombe Pre-school is a fantastic early years setting in the heart of the moorland community. Families come from a large local area to enjoy the small group sizes in a setting that enjoys a variety of spaces including Church House, gardens and our Outdoor Classroom.

The pre-school, which has been open in the village since 1973, is a registered charity with a committee of volunteers. Three members of qualified early years practitioners are currently employed to run the 15 hours/week sessions during term time. The committee is made up of parents as well as members of the wider community that bring together a range of skills and knowledge in finance, management, education provision and much more!

The current committee holds half termly evening meetings including an AGM and runs a variety of fundraising events through out the year. We also have a treasurer who oversees the finances. We carry out recruitment and HR requirements and ensure that the setting adheres to OFSTED and Charity commission rules.

Fundraising is extremely important as a small setting. Even with good pupil numbers, the significant costs of running a modern education setting and heating an old building mean that a significant loss has to be made up with regular fundraising activities.

Following our recent AGM it became clear that many of our committee members will be moving on at the end of this academic year and we are in need of new faces if we are going to open in September 2026!! Whether you are a parent with children at the pre-school or a local looking to volunteer some time, experience and skills please do get in touch to find out more.

Committee members are Trustees of the Charity and will be required to complete a DBS check.

**We will be holding an Interest and Information evening at 8pm on  
Monday 19th January 2026 in Church House, Widecombe.**

Widecombe Pre-School is a registered charity for which we are required to have a committee with current parents and members of the community.

If you think you might have some time to give to fundraising and running the committee then please get in touch with:

**Jessica Steer - Committee Member [jesssteer26@gmail.com](mailto:jesssteer26@gmail.com)**

**Penny Cartwright - Pre-School Manager [info@widecombepreschool.org.uk](mailto:info@widecombepreschool.org.uk)  
01364 621273 (pre-school hours only)**



## Widecombe & District Sports Group

For membership renewals please email [cl.partridge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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/](http://www.widecombe-in-the-moor.com/sports_group/)

*Thank you and enjoy your sports area.*

## ST PANCRAS' CHURCH, WIDECOMBE



### FAMILY CRIB SERVICE

**Christmas Eve**  
**Wednesday 24th December**  
**at 4.00pm**



CHILDREN MAY COME DRESSED AS  
NATIVITY CHARACTERS

ALL WELCOME,  
ESPECIALLY LIVELY CHILDREN!

[www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/widecombe](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/widecombe)

## Widecombe Singers

If you want to join the Singers we  
rehearse at

**The Church House, Widecombe**

**Tuesday evenings at**  
**7.30pm**

Admission £3

Telephone Rose 01364 631238  
for more details



## Add your voice



Widecombe  
Christmas Craft Fair  
Church House 4pm-7pm  
Saturday 29th Nov

In conjunction with the  
Old Inn Lights switch on  
Joining in with the  
Christmas Festivities

outside in the square, the Tree  
lights go on, a Brass Band,  
Pre & Primary school singers

(Inside the pub if the  
weather is inclement.)



## 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*



The poster features a blue background with a white circle in the center. At the top of the circle is the school crest, which depicts a horse and rider. Below the crest, the text reads 'WIDECOMBE SCHOOL LOTTERY'. The main prize information is '£5 £10 & £15 PRIZE MONEY TO BE WON EVERY MONTH'. A yellow banner below this says 'ONLY £2 PER MONTH'. Further down, it says 'To sign up, or for more info please email: friendslotto25@gmail.com'. At the bottom of the circle, it says 'EVERYONE CAN JOIN. PLEASE PROMOTE AMONGST FAMILY AND FRIENDS'. The poster is decorated with illustrations of school supplies like books, a ruler, and a pencil.

## WIDECOMBE COMMUNITY HALL BUILDING COMMENCES

The Widcombe Community Hall Trustees are delighted to announce that we have raised sufficient funds to appoint contractors and begin building the hall. Work will proceed in phases and this first stage will see us completing a watertight building by the end of March 2026.

This is thanks to the amazing ongoing support of local people and businesses, grant funders and the tireless work of dedicated volunteers – a true community effort.

Contractors will be starting on site in November and we will keep you updated here, on Facebook and on our website, as the building emerges. Come and take a look for yourselves if you're in the village.

Fundraising continues as we plan for the subsequent phases of work and to reduce our reliance on loans – please do get in touch if you or your business are able to make a financial contribution.

Let's get building!

[info@widcombecommunityhall.org](mailto:info@widcombecommunityhall.org)

01364 631543 [www.widcombecommunityhall.org](http://www.widcombecommunityhall.org)





# RECENT WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS



**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
7.30**

*JOHN WALTERS, A LOCALLY REKNOWN WILDLIFE  
SPECIALIST RETURNS TO TELL US OF HIS HIGHLIGHTS  
OF THE YEAR THROUGH HIS PAINTING, DRAWING AND  
PHOTOGRAPY*

COME AND JOIN US IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH  
HOUSE, WIDCOMBE IN THE MOOR  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7.30 START  
£5 DONATION

COMING UP NEXT MONTH – JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> – NEW YEAR LUNCH AT THE OLD INN  
WITH JIM CAUSLEY. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL (NON-REFUNDABLE)

(PLEASE NOTE THAT TALKS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)  
WIDCOMBE HISTORY GROUP CHARITY NO. 1144684



## **THE RUGGLESTONE INN**

WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR

Home from home with Cask ales, fine wines, local cider & country food.  
Traditional Dartmoor Inn with an inviting atmosphere, all set in  
a fabulous beer garden, with moorland brook.

### ACCOMMODATION

Rugglestone Cottage set in the grounds of the inn offers two bedrooms,  
open plan kitchen / living area and private patio.

Available all year round.

[www.rugglestoneinn.co.uk](http://www.rugglestoneinn.co.uk)

01364 621327



### PreSchool (2-5years)

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](http://www.widecombepreschool.org.uk)

[Info@widecombepreschool.org.uk](mailto: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  
CHRISTMAS MARKET  
SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER  
IN THE CHURCH HOUSE  
10 am - 4pm**

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**Home Made Jam and Chutney.**

**Honey & Honey products,**

**Handmade Chocolates, Homemade Cakes**

**Delicious Natural Dog Treats. Christmas Wreaths**

**Local Cider and Apple juice**

**Dartmoor Photographs & Craft Stalls**

**Refreshments and Games in aid of Widecombe pre school**

**Stuffed toys, Mulled wine, Tombola**

**In aid of Bovey Tracey Scouts**

**CAROL SINGERS 10.30, 12.00 1.30**



**HANDBELL RINGERS 2.30 pm**



**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN THE CHURCH**

## ASHBURTON AND BUCKFASTLEIGH HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

-REG. CHARITY NO. 900416

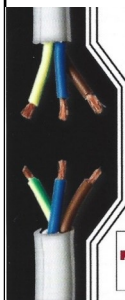
Are you interested in helping your local community? If so why not come and join in your local League of Friends. Our object is to relieve patients, former patients and those in our community who are convalescent, disable, handicapped or infirm and to support the work of our local hospital.

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

[ashburtonleagueoffriends@outlook.com](mailto:ashburtonleagueoffriends@outlook.com)

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TQ13 8JL

Darryl Hutchinson  
Electrical Services  
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NICEIC Registered Electrician

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[countycleansing@btinternet.com](mailto:countycleansing@btinternet.com)

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E:Spikemilontimberservices@gmail.com



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Nail Trimming (Including Diabetic Feet)  
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Ingrown Toenails  
Athletes Foot

Rachel Arrowsmith-Brown

S.A.C Dip FHPT/S.A.C Dip FHPP

01822 880005 or 07786930718

## Moor Logs

[www.moorlogs.co.uk](http://www.moorlogs.co.uk)



### logs for sale



loads start from £110 for  
1.5m

Call Tom or Rachel Arrowsmith-Brown

Home 01822 880005

mob 07784 146037



## Dunstone & Poundsgate Methodist Chapels

Ministers: Revd. Kevin Hooke 07772 571647

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

### Sunday and Christmas Services

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

**16th December 6pm**- Carol Service

**Poundsgate** - **7th December** at 3 pm. Led by Revd. Kevin Hooke in conversation with William West, St Andrew's Parish Church Ashburton

**19th December 7pm** - Carol Service



### Dunstone Lunches



**Wednesday 10th December from 12 noon until 2.30pm.**

**This month's lunch is for Dunstone Chapel**

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

Thank you to everyone that joined us in November at Dunstone Chapel. We received **12 filled shoe boxes** to forward on to under-privileged children supported by Samaritans Purse (Operation Christmas Child).

A huge thank you to all our helpers and to all the people who join us at our lunches!



### Carol Services

**Poundsgate  
Chapel**



**Dunstone  
Chapel**

**Friday 19th December  
at 7.00pm**

**Tuesday 16th December  
at 6.00pm**

If you don't live too far away, we hope very much that you can join us.

***Please pop the dates in your calendar!***



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[www.treesurgerydevon.uk](http://www.treesurgerydevon.uk)

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[www.carrollcleaning.co.uk](http://www.carrollcleaning.co.uk)

The Hollies, Avenue Road, Bovey Tracey TQ13 9BQ

## Other Community News and Events

### Prinetown History Club

meets **1st Tuesday** every month

Prinetown Community Centre 7 for 7.30pm

**2nd December** Club AGM and the Chairman will also be giving a talk on the little known Napoleonic prisoners' bone artwork and models and showing his collection.

**4th January** Tyrwhitt's Tramway - a talk by Simon Dell about The Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway

For further information, please contact:

Mr John Lissenden

**phone** 01752 47573

**email** [jlissenden@talktalk.net](mailto:jlissenden@talktalk.net)

Mr Bill Radcliffe

**email** [bill.radcliffe2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bill.radcliffe2@btopenworld.com)

**or** [https://www.facebook.com/groups/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrinetownHistoryClub/events)

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

### Ashburton Food Bank

#### A CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE FOR ALL IN FOOD NEED

Covering Ashburton and surrounding villages and hamlets

#### WE WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER A DELIVERY SERVICE

If you require food please phone: **07767 453844** and leave a message with your name, number in household, any pets, telephone number and address. We will deliver to you as quickly as possible.

Should you prefer to collect food, please phone and we will find a suitable time and let you know.



### High Moorland Women's Institute Prinetown

High Moorland WI have a busy month ahead in the run up to Christmas. We start with a treat and the WI's pre-Christmas meal/meeting and this year we have chosen to go to The Bedford.

The Community Carol Service in St Michael & All Angels, 6pm on Tuesday 16th December, will once again see the WI providing mulled wine and mince pies after the service.

Next day is the major event that is the focus of High Moorland WI fundraising throughout the year. You may have seen our leaflets and posters around the village for the Seniors' **free** Christmas meal held this year on Wednesday 17th December in the Community Centre, 12.15 for 12.30pm. Please let Sandy our Secretary know - [sidsan114@hotmail.com](mailto:sidsan114@hotmail.com) - before 29th November, if you plan to attend. Replies can also be left in the box in Prinetown PO.

We hope to meet up with many of you at these events and hope that you have a happy and trouble-free Christmas, with all good wishes for 2026.

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

Or you can email us for more information to [sidsan114@hotmail.com](mailto:sidsan114@hotmail.com) or [HighMoorland@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:HighMoorland@devonwi.org.uk)



We have had a busy autumn concluding with our Barn Dance on 15 November at the Yelverton War Memorial Hall, with all profits going to the Yelverton Friendship Café (formerly known as the Yelverton Memory Café). It meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, 2.00–4.00 pm at the Briar Tor Community Room. Whether you live with dementia, are a carer, or simply fancy seeing a friendly face, do come along for a chat and a cuppa. We would love to see you – and there is no charge. You can just turn up, or if you'd like to find out more, contact our co-ordinator Terry Donnelly on 01822 613145.

We had fun at Widecombe Fair in September, managing the main Park & Ride and coach drop-off point, and were grateful to receive a £700 donation from the Widecombe Fair Committee. We also promoted and delivered first aid training for Years 5 and 6 children at Horrabridge, Princetown, and St Andrew's Buckland Monachorum primary schools, with our President, Roger Aggett, presenting certificates to the children who took part.

Three high-quality speakers have kept us informed and entertained through September and October: Captain Richard Allan, the Cattewater Harbour Master; Rebecca Smith, our local MP; and Ray Helm, former Police Special Operations Commander for illegal immigration. We look forward to our next speaker evening, welcoming Melissa Thomas of Youth 2 Youth, who runs the Bere Alston Hub youth club.

We welcomed 2 new members in September: Claire joined as a full member, and Bob, who has helped us as a Friend of Rotary for over 17 years, was rewarded with honorary membership. We also recognised members' long Rotary service: Julian, Mick and Peter received certificates for 45 years' service; Clive, David, Ken and Paul for 35 years; and Marion for 25 years. Their commitment to 'Service Above Self' is admirable.

### **Santa's Sleigh Visits**

Santa will be bringing his sleigh to many of our villages again this December, each evening from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm:

#### **Monday 15 December**

**Horrabridge:** 18:00–18:25 Pencreber Road by Chichester Court; 18:30–18:55 Pencreber Road (Chapel Lane end); 19:00–19:25 by the "green" at Fillace Park.

**Walkhampton:** 19:35–20:00 by the War Memorial.

#### **Tuesday 16 December**

**Buckland Monachorum:** 18:00–18:30 in the square by the church.

**Crapstone:** 18:40–19:05 The Crescent (Terrace end); 19:10–19:30 between the Naval Estate and **Stonemoor:** 19:35–20:00 Jubilee Drive.

#### **Thursday 18 December**

**Princetown:** 18:00–18:25 bottom of Woodville Avenue; 18:35–19:00 Barrack Road (Heather Terrace end); 19:10–19:30 Bellever Close by the school gate; 19:35–20:00 The Square.

The aim is for Santa and his sleigh to bring some magic to the children, but if you wish to donate, we would be most grateful. We will also be collecting at Yelverton Parade on the 19th and 23rd, and at Tesco Roborough on the 21st and 24th. All money raised will go to excellent local causes and Rotary charities.

*With all good wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year.*



**NEIGHBOURS  
HELPING  
NEIGHBOURS**  
Registered charity 1116549

DASH is an independent Ashburton Charity, existing solely to provide support for patients of Ashburton Surgery

We can help with transport to medical appointments or to deliver prescriptions to patients' homes

If you have some time and would like to support **DASH** as a volunteer or if you would like some help with transport, please call Evie on **01364 653335** or email [dashcoord@gmail.com](mailto:dashcoord@gmail.com)

A stay and play toddler group for 0-5 years

# HEDGEHOGS

## FRIDAYS

9:00am-11am  
in termtime

Free play, Crafts, Music,  
Snack-time, Outdoorplay

 St Andrew's Church Hall  
West Street  
Ashburton, TQ13 7DU

info:  
[deniserobinson111@gmail.com](mailto:deniserobinson111@gmail.com)



## Old Gardening Tools Wanted

Give your unloved tools stuck at the back of the shed another useful life as part of our tool shed available for everyone to borrow

Goodwill community allotments  
old A38 Bickington  
TQ12 6JY

info Michael 07458 359541

Hand tools only from forks and spades to wheelbarrows and everything in between  
Help us recycle your tools

*Thank You*



BLACKPOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Community CAROLS

HANDBELLS      CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

LIVE BAND      SHEEP WITH SHEPHERDS



Wednesday  
**10TH DECEMBER - 6PM**

Join us for a joyful celebration of community and song  
Festive refreshments from 5.30pm

Wishing all our readers,  
contributors, advertisers,  
distributors, proof readers and all  
that know us  
A very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year !!



## CLEAR DECORATORS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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## The Shallowford Nativity

'The morning's task was to turn the farm into Bethlehem. It began with seeming chaos, vans slewed across the yard, equipment unloaded, and helpers criss-crossing seemingly randomly. I guess Bethlehem, too, had been a flurry of activity to prepare for its avalanche of visitors so long ago.

'Slowly our Bethlehem took shape. Animals were moved to appropriate places. The sheep were sorted, to be later watched over by the shepherds abiding in the field. A tax office sign was nailed to the door of the pigs' pen, but they seemed not to mind. The barn was labelled 'Cold Heart Inn'. Lighting and spotlights were rigged up in every corner, and finally a great star, lit by fluorescent tubes was fixed to the roof of the barn.

'We were not really ready to start at half-past six, but then I doubt if Bethlehem itself had been ready. The yard was now filled with people, huddled around the tarmac edges. Braziers burned in the middle, surrounded by well-trodden mud.

'The upper door of the hay barn opened and a trumpeter trumpeted. A Roman soldier announced the decree of Augustus Caesar that all the world should be taxed and in the midst of people still arriving came Joseph, leading Mary on Smokey, the old grey pony. Slowly along the driveway, lit by burning torches, they made their way into 'Bethlehem', past the tax office and the grunt of pigs, nervously past the burning braziers, and into the crowd, which slowly, almost reluctantly, opened a way to let them through.

'To the inn, and a pause for a carol. The innkeeper's stentorian headmaster's voice refused them entry, but escorted them to the stable. Smokey was tethered to the hay rack, glad of an extra feed. Mary sat on a bale of straw, while Joseph fiddled around. In the adjacent stall, a cow with calf bellowed at the noise and intrusion, more concerned about her own young than a story of human birth.

'This was a real reminder of the grace of God. A throng of unmindful people. The bare muddy earth, the smell and sound of animals. "How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that he should give his only Son to make of us a treasure."

'The stars were out for that Shallowford nativity. Orion with his three-starred belt bestrode the south eastern sky, and the great bear watched over the northern moors. And of course, our own star, a fluorescent diamond made of wooden battens, and fixed to the roof of the barn, the highest we could manage.'

That was a dozen years ago, but...

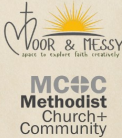
Come and join us on 6 December 2025 at 4pm for

### **THE SHALLOWFORD NATIVITY**

Farmyard nativity, carols and festive refreshments at  
East Shallowford Farm, TQ13 7PW

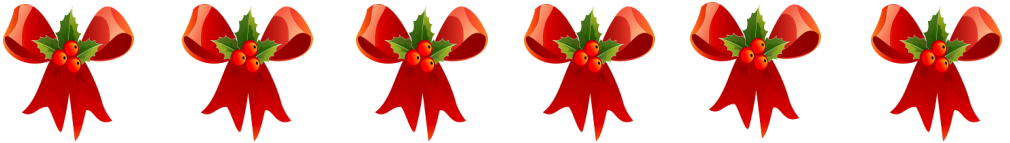
*Robert Musgrave*





CAROLS & NATIVITY  
 Moor & Messy Barn Christmas  
 Cyril's Barn  
 Newcombe Farm, Coombe  
 Buckfastleigh TQ11 0JE

Sunday 14th December 2025 - 3pm  
[www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/services](http://www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/services)



### **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 meeting:** 16th December, 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](mailto:clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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.**

<b>Agricultural Services</b>		Clear Decorating	<a href="#">38</a>
Dartmoor Rural Services	<a href="#">20</a>	K Decorating	<a href="#">20</a>
<b>Architect Services</b>		Robin Milne Woodworks	<a href="#">18</a>
HMAD Architects	<a href="#">14</a>	Rochelle's Curtains & Blinds	<a href="#">12</a>
Mike Gilbert Architectural Design	<a href="#">18</a>	<b>Hotels and Inns</b>	
<b>Cleaning &amp; Domestic Services</b>		The Old Inn	<a href="#">44</a>
A Clean Pair	<a href="#">14</a>	The Rugglestone Inn	<a href="#">30</a>
Carroll Cleaning Services	<a href="#">34</a>	<b>Legal Services</b>	
Country Carpet Care	<a href="#">8</a>	Francis Parffrey	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>Community</b>		<b>Plumbing and Heating Services</b>	
Scott Elson Chainsaw Carvings	<a href="#">10</a>	MH Perry	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>Electrical Goods and Services</b>		MTP Services Ltd	<a href="#">12</a>
Darryl Hutchinson	<a href="#">32</a>	<b>Private Water Services</b>	
J Searle & Son	<a href="#">38</a>	County Cleansing	<a href="#">32</a>
<b>Funeral Directors</b>		<b>Property for sale / rent</b>	
Christophers Family Funerals	<a href="#">18</a>	Robert Williams Estate Agents	<a href="#">16</a>
Morris Bros. Funeral Directors	<a href="#">14</a>	<b>Stores</b>	
<b>Garden Services</b>		Holne Community Shop	<a href="#">10</a>
Mole Problems	<a href="#">20</a>	<b>Tree Surgeons / Timber services</b>	
<b>Health, Wellbeing &amp; Beauty</b>		Geoff Partridge	<a href="#">14</a>
Moor Mobile Foot Clinic	<a href="#">32</a>	Knowle Tree Services	<a href="#">8</a>
Sophie Edmonds Massage Therapy	<a href="#">20</a>	Sam Hall Professional Tree Care	<a href="#">34</a>
<b>Home Improvements</b>		Spike Milton Timber Services	<a href="#">32</a>
Ashburton Glass & Locks	<a href="#">16</a>		
Buckland Brushes	<a href="#">6</a>		

## Contacting the Editorial Team

Email items for inclusion or any other queries to: [link@moorlandteam.org.uk](mailto: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 - Please note early deadline***

*For the **January 2026** edition of the Link, copy deadline will be  
**Sunday 7th December**. 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 18th December***

### ***Groups and Individuals who support the Parish Link***

**Friends of Widcombe School**

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

**High Moorland WI**

**Various anonymous donations**

**Holne Parish Council**

**Widcombe Church House Committee**

**Holne Second-Hand Books**

**Widcombe Community Hall CIO**

**Holne Village Hall Committee**

**Widcombe Fair Committee**

**Leusdon Memorial Hall Committee**

**Widcombe History Group**

**Moorland Merrymakers**

**Widcombe Social Group**

**Phyl's Follies (Postbridge)**

**Widcombe Parish Council**

**Postbridge Village Hall**

**Widcombe Sports Group**

How has another December come around so quickly? All our resolutions to be super organised by the end of November so that we can enjoy the fun in the run up to Christmas bite the dust again...but is that going to stop us enjoying all our community offers in December ? No it isn't!



There is the Moorland Merrymakers Pantomime (17), with Phyl's Follies to look forward to at the end of January (18), Carol Services in churches (5) and outdoors (24), Christmas and Craft markets to enjoy (27) and (31) and who wouldn't want to be at one of Santa's Sleigh visits (36). All this as well as our regular events, don't miss John Walters talking about Wildlife (29)

Don't forget that the excellent Post Office van can help you with your Christmas stamps and post and Lucy is a mine of information about last posting dates. She can even bring you a library book to read if you would like a bit of down-time over the festive period. Details of where the van will be and when can be found on page (21).

Don't forget that the **copy deadline** for the **January 2026** edition of Moorland Parish Link has been brought forward a week to **Sunday 7th December** to allow our distributors to get it out before the Christmas break.

We have been having problems with our deadline reminder emails to gmail addresses being rejected because the server thinks they are spam. We are trying a new approach to get around this, which we hope will work. Our apologies to contributors who haven't been getting their reminders because of this.

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](mailto:link@moorlandteam.org.uk)

Wishing all our readers, contributors, distributors and advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*With very Best Wishes  
"The Link Team"*



**Parish Link Advertising Costs**

Size	Size	Month	Year
Sixth Page	61x60mm	£7.50	£80
Quarter Page	61x92mm	£12	£125
Half Page	128x92mm	£20	£215
Full Page	128x192mm	£35	£380

**Please contact the Editorial Team for information and availability of advertising space at [link@moorlandteam.org.uk](mailto:link@moorlandteam.org.uk)**

# Old Inn Christmas Diary Dates

**29<sup>th</sup> Nov - Old Inn Light Switch On, Carols with Exeter Brass Band & Village Craft Fair**

**5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Widcombe Holly Ball**

**6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Breakfast with Santa**

**6<sup>th</sup> Dec - Shirley Bassey Tribute Night**

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Bingo**

**13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Craft Market/ A Night with Roberta Calamari**

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Quiz**

**20<sup>th</sup> Dec - Santa Paws Doggy Party/ Old Inn Christmas Party with Michael Buble**

**25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Join us for Drinks 12-4pm**

**31<sup>st</sup> Dec - New Years Eve Party**

**New Weekly Offers  
@ The Old Inn  
Widcombe**



**MONDAY FROM 5PM-8PM - KIDS EAT FREE**



**TUESDAY FROM 5 PM - TAPAS TUESDAY**



**WEDNESDAY FROM 5PM-8PM - BURGER NIGHT**



**THURSDAY FROM 5PM-8PM - PIZZA NIGHT**



**FRIDAY FROM 5PM-8PM - FISH & FOLK FRIDAY'S**



**SATURDAY 5PM-8PM - GRILL NIGHT**



**SUNDAY 12PM-4PM - SUNDAY CARVERY**

## FOLK FRIDAY'S

WEEKLY FROM 8PM

000

21<sup>TH</sup> NOV - ACOUSTIC JAM  
SESSION

28<sup>TH</sup> NOV - GEOFF LAKEMAN

12<sup>TH</sup> DEC - ACOUSTIC JAM  
SESSION

18<sup>TH</sup> DEC - ACOUSTIC JAM SESSION  
NYE - BANNED FROM THE MOOR



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