

# Moorland Parish Link

- Widecombe -

Huccaby - Ilington - Leusdon - Postbridge



Askrigg - Bickington - Buckland - Holne

## February 2026

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

# The Ministry Team

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Team Rector</i><br><b>Revd Phillip Parker</b>                           | The Rectory<br>Copperwood Close<br>Ashburton TQ13 7JQ | 01364 389638<br><a href="mailto:rector@moorlandteam.org.uk">rector@moorlandteam.org.uk</a> |
| <i>Team Vicar</i><br><b>Revd Ross Hathway</b><br><i>Until 8th February</i> | The Vicarage<br>Widecombe-in-the-Moor<br>TQ13 7TF     | 01364 716308<br><a href="mailto:ross@moorlandteam.org.uk">ross@moorlandteam.org.uk</a>     |
| <i>Team Vicar</i><br><b>Revd Canon John Bennett</b>                        | The Vicarage,<br>Ilsington, TQ13 9RW                  | 01364 661116<br><a href="mailto:jsbkbenett@btinternet.com">jsbkbenett@btinternet.com</a>   |
| <i>Methodist Minister</i><br><b>Revd Kevin Hooke</b>                       |   | 07772 571647<br><a href="mailto:hookekp@hotmail.com">hookekp@hotmail.com</a>               |
| <i>Team Curate</i><br><b>Revd Jenny Weigel</b>                             |   | 07355 354841<br><a href="mailto:jenny@moorlandteam.org.uk">jenny@moorlandteam.org.uk</a>   |
| Families Worker<br><b>Angie Blanche</b>                                    |   | 07863 854013<br><a href="mailto:angie@moorlandteam.org.uk">angie@moorlandteam.org.uk</a>   |

**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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Dear friends,

One of the challenges of creating these kinds of articles is that you have to do it in advance. I am writing this just after the 12 days of Christmas for a magazine covering pancake day and Ash Wednesday; in a week of ice cold and windy weather, but in the hope that it will be better by the time you read this. And as for the state of the world and what is happening globally, anything I type now may well be out of date in a matter of weeks. We live in a rapidly changing and uncertain geo-political landscape, where power, resources and profit (for the few rather than the many) seem to dominate.

In such a world, it strikes me that we need our own anchoring points, as individuals, communities and churches. Jesus talked about wise and foolish builders, the first erecting his house on solid rock, the second on shifting sand. The saying comes at the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5 to 7), a summation of Jesus' teaching: teaching which begins with the beatitudes, announcing blessing on, for example, those hungering for righteousness, the merciful and peacemakers. It goes on to include the replacement of 'an eye for an eye' with 'turning the other cheek' (not an invitation to be walked over, but an alternative to revenge and retribution); loving your enemies as well as your friends (continuing to seek the best for them rather than liking them or condoning their actions); being generous and prayerful not for show but quietly; looking to your own faults and actions before judging others'. A lot of this is not always easy and maybe aspirational at times, but practice this, says Jesus, and you will be building your life on solid ground.

The writer to the Ephesians (traditionally believed to be Paul, of course), prays that his readers may be rooted and grounded/established in love. He is referring to God's love living within people through his Spirit. This image may be more from horticulture than construction, but essentially it is the same – having a point of stability from which we can live. Whether we think of ourselves as people of faith or not, as we continue in this strange and challenging world may we, together and individually, hold on to those values and strengths which ground, guide and sustain us for good.

*With best wishes as ever,*

*Kevin*

*Rev Kevin Hooke, Methodist Minister.*

## Churchwardens

|  |              |  |
|--|--------------|--|
| St Mary the Virgin, Holne with St Raphael, Huccaby |              |  |
| Rebecca Scott                                      | 01364 631640 | <a href="mailto:stmaryvirgin2022@gmail.com">stmaryvirgin2022@gmail.com</a> |
| Marilyn Wells                                      | 01364 631007 | <a href="mailto:straphael1868@gmail.com">straphael1868@gmail.com</a>       |
| St John the Baptist, Leusdon                       |              |  |
| Geoff Bamsey                                       | 01364 652820 | <a href="mailto:geoff.bamsey952@gmail.com">geoff.bamsey952@gmail.com</a>   |
| Patrick Simpson                                    | 01364 631209 | <a href="mailto:admin@bennah.co.uk">admin@bennah.co.uk</a>                 |
| St Gabriel, Postbridge                             |              |  |
| Wendy Watson                                       | 01822 880215 | <a href="mailto:wendy@merribridge.plus.com">wendy@merribridge.plus.com</a> |
| St Pancras, Widcombe                               |              |  |
| Michael Pascoe                                     | 01364 621333 | <a href="mailto:pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk">pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk</a>     |
| Philippa Gimlette                                  | 07973 558916 | <a href="mailto:philippa.gimlette@me.com">philippa.gimlette@me.com</a>     |
| St Andrews, Ashburton                              |              |  |
| Francis Parffrey                                   | 01364 654067 | <a href="mailto:francis.parffrey@gmail.com">francis.parffrey@gmail.com</a> |
| Joyce Arscott                                      | 01364 388279 | <a href="mailto:joyceaomc@gmail.com">joyceaomc@gmail.com</a>               |
| St Mary the Virgin, Bickington                     |              |  |
| Peter Warren                                       | 01626 821213 | <a href="mailto:pw.rentor@gmail.com">pw.rentor@gmail.com</a>               |
| St Peter, Buckland in the Moor                     |              |  |
| Secretary - Pat Layley                             | 01364 653771 | <a href="mailto:layley12@gmail.com">layley12@gmail.com</a>                 |
| St Michael's, Ilsington                            |              |  |
| Linda Hall   | 07837 703318 | <a href="mailto:lindamaryhall22@gmail.com">lindamaryhall22@gmail.com</a>   |
| Peter Dickinson                                    | 07801 042767 | <a href="mailto:peter@pmqd.com">peter@pmqd.com</a>                         |

***For all editorial information - copy date, contact details etc. please see inside back cover.***

**BENEFICE OFFICE and PARISH OFFICE - email: [admin@moorlandteam.org.uk](mailto:admin@moorlandteam.org.uk)  
tel: 01364654280**

## Moorland Team Officers

|                      |                                 |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Treasurer            | Vacant                          |  |
| Secretary            | Gaye Dickinson                  | <a href="mailto:gaye.dickinson@gmail.com">gaye.dickinson@gmail.com</a>     |
| Safeguarding Adviser | Judy Southcombe - 01364 621520  | <a href="mailto:judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk">judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk</a> |
| Team Administrator   | Emma Noppers-Moore 01364 654280 | <a href="mailto:admin@moorlandteam.org.uk">admin@moorlandteam.org.uk</a>   |

# Community and Church News & Events



## Farewell to Ross & Alison Hathway

After two years in the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community, Reverend Ross and Alison Hathway are leaving to be closer to their family.

Ross will celebrate his last service  
in the Mission Community at  
**St Pancras Widecombe**  
on Sunday 8th February at 10.30am.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service which  
will be followed by a light lunch.



## Widecombe Fair 2025

### Report and request for Grant Applications

The Fair is proud to be of benefit to the community and wider organisations. Each year we donate to charities that help us out on the day, Rotary clubs and Dartmoor Rescue plus our charity of the year which was "Guide Dogs". They received £1200 and were very pleased to be given a stand on the field.

It was not the best of days on 9th September 25, the weather once again tried to spoil the event. However our volunteers stuck at it and we managed to have a satisfactory financial result.

It is now the turn of local organisations to apply for funding grants which will be considered at the first meeting of the year on Tuesday 10th March.

Please apply in writing or by email to the chairman

Mike Pascoe [pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Buckland-in-the-Moor Whist

**Thursday 26th February 12.30**

Whist £3 incl half-time  
refreshments & draw



Optional soup & roll lunch  
£2 at 2.00pm



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**

**Others £10 per hour**

For further details or to book, please call

**01364 653845**



# 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        |
|---------------|-------------------|-------|----------------|
| 1st February  | Jane              | 15.00 | Holy Communion |
| 8th February  | Jane              |       |                |
| 15th February | Sandra            | 15.00 | Evening Prayer |
| 22nd February | Lent - no flowers |       |                |

*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.*

## REPORT A POTHOLE!

We had an article about the Widecombe parish road warden scheme from Sue Raynor in the November edition of the Link, outlining the good work done by a bunch of local volunteers, patching the smaller potholes

But what about the bigger ones, the real wheel crunchers?

Anyone with a computer and the internet can report any pothole in Devon to the County Council website, either click on the link below (if you're reading this online) or Google 'report pothole Devon'.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

When you do, it'll take you to a map of the county, showing the locations of all the reported potholes. If the one you've found isn't on there, you can follow their instructions on how to do so.

However, a pothole has to be of a minimum size, and have at least one steep side before they'll action it, and they helpfully offer two diagrams to illustrate this:



They also would like What3Words if you have it.

If you don't have the internet you can phone the DCC Customer Service Centre on **0345 1551015**. But you may have to wait a while to get through though as it's not as well-resourced since online reporting took over.

And it's not just potholes you can report... Any defects or problems on the road can be reported here: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/> It's worth taking a look, to see what the county council offers.

We know they aren't perfect (who is?), but if they don't know about a problem, they can't fix it...



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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                   |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 8th February  | 18.00 | Holy Communion            |
| 15th February | 09.00 | Holy Communion at Huccaby |
| 22nd February | 17.00 | Evening Worship           |


## Soup & Pudding Lunch

### Holne Village Hall


**Friday 6th February**  
from 12.30




Please contact Maggie Arden on  
01364 631438 for further details



## Holne Whist



**Tuesday 3rd February**  
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?



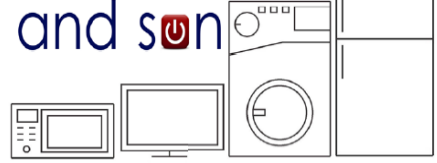
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## HOLNE HERITAGE CORNER

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

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)

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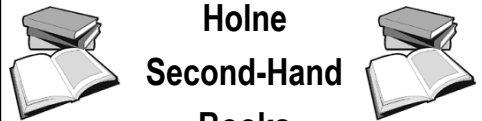
Please ring Tim Crook on 07734 308598 Or email: [timcrook10@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timcrook10@yahoo.co.uk)

**Holne  
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\*all children must be accompanied by an adult  
Contact Hannah Iskander or Katie Knott  
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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 Gift of Snowdrops

February is Snowdrop time in the grounds of St Raphael's.

Our display of around 20,000 snowdrops is always delightful, but this time it should be even finer than usual. The news from The Garden House, near Yelverton, which has over 400 named snowdrop varieties, is that last year's weather with a hot, dry summer and a mild autumn is 'the perfect alignment' for producing an exceptional crop.

Do come and immerse yourself in the blooming drifts to celebrate the arrival of Spring; and drop in at our peaceful Chapel which is kept open to everyone through every season. After a break of a couple of years, we are once again able to offer single snowdrops in pots for you to take away. The pots will be set up on a table outside the Chapel entrance throughout February. We do suggest the gift of a donation in return. Previously this snowdrop exchange has made a significant contribution to the essential funds required to maintain the Chapel and enhance its facilities.

We are looking forward to a visit from a specialist Galanthophile (snowdrop enthusiast) from RHS Wisley, and hope to learn more about the different varieties in our collection.

The first snowdrops were probably planted at St Raphael's in the middle of the last century, so they are a truly inter-generational gift: protected by the continuity and the tending by local parishioners that the Chapel has ensured. Perhaps some of the snowdrop bulbs acquired from St Raphael's will similarly thrive and spread; and offer their distinctive variety of early-blooming joy and hopefulness in another accessible setting- for generations to come.

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

| Date          | Time  | Service                                   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 8th February  | 10.30 | United Communion - Widecombe (see page 5) |
| 22nd February | 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.*

## Leusdon Memorial Hall

Our Coffee Morning in January had to be cancelled because of the danger from the slippery roads, hopefully we will be ok for the next one on

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am -12.00 midday.**

**The Whist Drive continues on 9<sup>th</sup> February starting at 2.00pm**

The committee met on the 19<sup>th</sup> January, more details next month.

Our social media presence continues to grow and followers have now passed 438. 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 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 me or any committee member.

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

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*Box Sash and Velux Window Repairs*

*UPVC Repairs • Locks, Hinges and Handle Repairs*

A Friendly, Prompt and Efficient Service

Please phone Scott for further information or a free estimate:

**01364 631572**

**07786 355682**



**Robert  
Williams**

SALES | LETTINGS | AUCTIONS

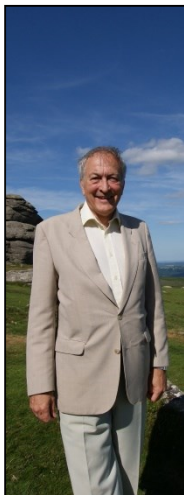
01392 204 800

[robertwilliams.co.uk](http://robertwilliams.co.uk)

[sales@robertwilliams.co.uk](mailto:sales@robertwilliams.co.uk)

[lettings@robertwilliams.co.uk](mailto:lettings@robertwilliams.co.uk)

2 Southernhay West, Exeter, Devon EX1 1JG



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Moor, Richard  
Copus has over 30  
years unrivalled  
experience of  
Dartmoor  
Properties

***selling and auctioning homes on Dartmoor for  
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Web site: [www.robertwilliams.co.uk](http://www.robertwilliams.co.uk)

**COVERING THE WHOLE OF DEVON FROM THE HEART OF DEVON'S  
COUNTY TOWN, 2 SOUTHERNHAY WEST, EXETER, EX1 1JG**

with 70 associated offices in the south-west and a London connection

## Widecombe Community Hall

Construction work for the hall has moved on, and just before Christmas the concrete was poured for the floor slab. Work is now ongoing on the walls, with the plan being the hall will be watertight in March. This is the phase of work we have funding in hand for now.

A little on the funding: in autumn we were awarded a grant of £75,000 by Teignbridge District Council and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Rural England Prosperity Fund. We had substantial funds in hand as a result of local Fundraising and a generous bequest, we then received very generous donations from local individuals who are keen to make this project happen and this was enough to begin the main build.

Thanks to our fundraising team, Yvette and Polly we have also just been awarded a grant from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' Community Fund which gives us £20,000 towards windows and doors.

Thanks to all parishioners for your support and interest in the project, we hope you will be able to use this facility before too long!

As progress is quick, we are updating our website weekly.

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

01364 631543

[www.widecombecommunityhall.org](http://www.widecombecommunityhall.org)



## Widecombe Parish Council

### Sheep Grazing in the Parish Field 2026



The Parish Council is offering a Licence to graze sheep in the Parish Field (with water supply) from 1st April to 30th November 2026 and is inviting bids for this grazing.

Please note:

- The field is planted with Apple Trees in wire guards which is why only sheep are to be grazed.
- There will be a minimum of three 2-week periods in the year when the field must be clear of sheep for events being held by the Jubilee Orchard Committee. There will be at least 6 weeks notice given of the date for each event.
- The Licensee will be required to prove valid current Public Liability Insurance

Please submit your bid by 28th February 2026 to the Parish Clerk, Suzanna Hughes

Email: [suzanna.hughes21@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.hughes21@gmail.com) or

Write: Mrs S Hughes, Widecombe PC, 16 Westwood Cleave, Ogwell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6YE



PHYL'S FOLLIES' PANTOMIME SHOWCASING  
TALLY HO

EVES @ 7.30pm 30<sup>th</sup> JAN 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> FEB  
MATS @ 2pm 31<sup>st</sup> JAN & 1<sup>st</sup> FEB  
POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL PL20 6SY

£10

(and ice cream)

£6 CHILDREN

BOX OFFICE [POSTBRIDGEPANTO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:POSTBRIDGEPANTO@GMAIL.COM)  
OR 01822 880223





- Dry stone walling-
- Operated digger hire (various sizes)-
- for landscaping, ditching, track repairs etc-
- Devon banks restored-
- Agricultural fencing & gates-

*high standards of work undertaken*

Tel Matt Storrs 07508 043 703 or  
matt@dartmoor-rural-services.co.uk



## Widecombe Parish Council

Next Meeting:

**Thursday 5th February 2026**

**Church House, Widecombe  
at 7.30pm**

## Mole Problems?



For an efficient, humane  
**Mole Catching Service**  
in your area, that really works...!

Competitive prices.

Call Mick

Tel 07513 562911

Email: [mickc911@gmail.com](mailto:mickc911@gmail.com)



## K DECORATING

Interior and Exterior

**PAINTER & DECORATOR**

Free Quotes References Available

*Kevin Teague*

Tel: 07810 262744

## COMPUTER SERVICES

- Desktops and laptops supplied, upgraded, optimised, mended.
- Printers, wi-fi, networking, broadband – supplied, installed, checked, upgraded.
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*Local, friendly, professional, unbiased.*

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*Sophie Milton Mobile*

*Massage Therapy*



BSc(Hons), RGN, ITEC, Federation of Holistic Therapists

Medically trained massage therapist offering safe, gentle techniques designed to support relaxation and well-being in the comfort of your own home for clients with pre-existing health conditions or those with pain or mobility issues.

**01364 621581 or 07875 923981**

# The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025

## **Important changes for all dog owners and livestock owners**

This recent change to the law protecting livestock from dogs has now come into effect and has important consequences for all dog owners. Please make sure that you are aware of these changes if you are a dog owner or are walking someone else's dog.

It introduces tougher penalties and increases police powers for incidents when dogs attack livestock. There is a very brief summary of the key provisions below and a more detailed explanation can be found on the Rolling Along blog ([Significant Amendments to the Dog \(Protection of Livestock\) Act](#)) and on this Defra blog ([Law changes strengthen protection for livestock – Farming](#)).

### **Stronger penalties**

There are now potentially unlimited fines for dog owners whose dogs are found to have attacked or chased livestock. This has increased from a maximum of £1,000.

### **Widening of the definition of a dog attack**

This no longer applies just to physical attacks, but includes chasing livestock as fear and stress that harms livestock is now included. Very importantly the definition of a dog being "under proper control" has changed significantly. It is no longer good enough for an owner to be able to get the dog back under control after it has chased livestock even if it hasn't actually bitten any of the animals affected.

### **Greater police powers**

Police officers are now allowed to enter premises, search, and seize evidence (e.g. dog DNA) to secure a conviction.

Hopefully these new powers will help to reduce the number of animal attacks by dogs and the financial and emotional implications for livestock owners.

## **POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**Available  
for Hire**



*The Old Clapper Bridge, Postbridge*

**Meetings  
Parties**

*Special rate for Postbridge Residents*

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

**Elaine Smerdon 01822 880065**

**elainesmerdon@yahoo.com**

# Church Services for February 2026

## 1st February Candlemas/Presentation of Christ Gold/White

*Readings - 1 Kings 17.8–16, Psalm 36.5–10, 1 Corinthians 1.18–end, John 2.1–11*

|           |       |                 |            |       |                      |
|-----------|-------|-----------------|------------|-------|----------------------|
| Widecombe | 10.30 | Morning Worship | Ashburton  | 08.00 | Holy Communion (BCP) |
|           |       |                 | Bickington | 09.00 | Holy Communion       |
|           |       |                 | Ashburton  | 10.30 | Family Service       |
|           |       |                 | Ilington   | 10.30 | Holy Communion       |
|           |       |                 | Buckland   | 15.00 | Holy Communion       |

## 8th February 2nd before Lent Green

*Readings - Genesis 1.1–2.3, Psalm 136 or Psalm 136.1–9, 23–end, Romans 8.18–25, Matthew 6.25–end*

|            |       |                  |           |       |                      |
|------------|-------|------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------|
| Widecombe  | 10.30 | United Communion | Ilington  | 08.00 | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Leusdon    | 10.30 | See Widecombe    | Ashburton | 10.30 | Parish Communion     |
| Postbridge | 10.30 | See Widecombe    | Ilington  | 10.30 | Family Service       |
| Holne      | 18.00 | Holy Communion   | Ashburton | 15.00 | Moor & Messy Church  |

## 15th February Next before Lent Green

*Readings - Exodus 24.12–end, Psalm 2 or 99, 2 Peter 1.16–end, Matthew 17.1–9*

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

## 18th February Ash Wednesday Purple

|           |       |                       |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------|
| Widecombe | 19.00 | Ash Wednesday Service |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------|

## 22nd February 1st of Lent Purple

*Readings:- Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7, Psalm 32, Romans 5.12–19, Matthew 4.1–11*

|           |       |                  |           |       |                  |
|-----------|-------|------------------|-----------|-------|------------------|
| Widecombe | 10.30 | Parish Communion | Ashburton | 09.15 | Breakfast Church |
| Leusdon   | 12.15 | Parish Communion | Ashburton | 10.30 | Parish Communion |
| Holne     | 17.00 | Evening Worship  | Ilington  | 10.30 | Morning Praise   |
|           |       |                  | Holne     | 17.00 | Evening Worship  |

## Holy Communion

## Midweek & At Home

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



### Communion at home

If you would like to receive Home Communion please see [page 2](#) for contact details

## Rainfall in December 2025

| Place      | Total Rainfall              | Days without rain | Wettest Days      |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Postbridge | 325mm ( 12.8")              | 9                 | 8th 57.5mm (2.3") |
|            | December 2024 117.4mm(4.6") |                   |                   |
| Holne      | 447.1mm (17.6")             |                   | 8th 85.1mm (3.4") |



## Total Rainfall in 2025

| Place      | Total Rainfall 2024 | Total Rainfall 2025 |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Postbridge | 1969.5 mm (77.6")   | 1879.7mm (73.8")    |
| Holne      | 2414.3mm (95.05")   | 2355.2mm (92.72")   |



## From the Registers

There are no Register Entries this month,

## Dates for the Diary

| February 2026 |                         | Page               | February 2026 |                                  | Page               |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3rd           | Princetown History Club | <a href="#">35</a> | 9th           | Postbridge Coffee Morning        | <a href="#">19</a> |
| 3rd           | Holne Whist             | <a href="#">9</a>  | 11th          | Dunstone Charity Lunch           | <a href="#">33</a> |
| 4th           | Leusdon Coffee Morning  | <a href="#">15</a> | <b>15th</b>   | <b>Parish Link copy deadline</b> |                    |
| 4th           | Widecombe History Group | <a href="#">29</a> | 16th          | Postbridge Mini-Market           | <a href="#">19</a> |
| 5th           | Widecombe PC            | <a href="#">20</a> | 24th          | Dartmoor Forest PC               | <a href="#">40</a> |
| 6th           | Holne Soup and Pud      | <a href="#">9</a>  | 24th          | Ashburton U3A                    | <a href="#">40</a> |
| 7th           | Fundraising Race Night  | <a href="#">24</a> | 26th          | Buckland Whist                   | <a href="#">6</a>  |
| 9th           | Leusdon Whist           | <a href="#">15</a> |               |                                  |                    |

# Race Night

In aid of **Widecombe Pre-school**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February

7PM

£3 entry fee (all ages)

Leusdon memorial hall



8 video horse races

£1 per bet (cash only)

Chance to win big on the last race with a group bet!

Bring your own drink

Some drinks are available for a donation price

Please book in advance via email  
to [evelynedworthy@gmail.com](mailto:evelynedworthy@gmail.com)





# 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      |
|---------------|-------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1st February  | 10.30 | Wendy B               | Judy           | Wendy B      |
| 8th February  | 10.30 | Philly                | Rose M         | Wendy B      |
| 15th February | 10.30 | Clare                 | Jenny P        | Jenny P      |
| 18th February | 19.00 | Ash Wednesday service |                |              |
| 22nd February | 10.30 | Ronnie                | Kris and Peter | None in Lent |

**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.

## St Pancras Church, Widecombe Job Vacancy Part-time Church Treasurer

The PCC of Widecombe-in-the-Moor are seeking a volunteer for the role of Treasurer of the historic church of St Pancras. This is a part time, voluntary role for which the successful applicant does not need to be a member of the PCC or a church goer.

The Treasurer will be required to provide income and expenditure details to the PCC meetings which are usually held four times each year. Responsibilities include banking monies, preparing an annual financial report and attending occasional ad hoc meetings locally. It would help to be well versed in computers but it is not essential.

From May 2026 the new Treasurer will be able to work through the accounting year with our current Treasurer and there is also help for new Treasurers from the Diocesan Finance Team.

If you are interested in finding out more about this role please contact one of our churchwardens whose details are listed on pg 4.

## Message from the Hathways at Widecombe Vicarage

Dear friends, you may have heard that we are leaving the lovely Moorland and Ashburton team and moving eastwards to be closer to our son and his family in London. We have enjoyed being in this beautiful setting and want to thank you for the warmth of your hospitality.

When we arrived two years ago several people kindly loaned or gave furniture for the Vicarage which was greatly appreciated. If we have not yet contacted you and you would like to retrieve any items, please let us know ASAP on **01364 716308**.

## Another concert for your diary

We are organising a concert, this time in partnership with Ashburton Arts Centre. **It's a viola and piano recital given by Garfield Jackson**, who plays with the well known St Endellion string quartet. The concert will be held in the **Ashburton Arts Centre at 4pm on Sunday 12th April**. A cream tea will be part of the programme! Garfield will play music by Brahms, Elgar, Prokofiev and Bach.

Our share of the proceeds will be put towards the assisted access project in the church (where a working model of the possible solution has been built if you'd like to have a preview).

We will announce ticket details in due course. For now just pop the date in your diary if this is your type of thing.

# WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Christmas Tree Festival was held in the Church from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025. It proved a great success with visitors from all over the country as well as several from overseas, including two separate groups from New Zealand. The couple from Kent who come every year to see the Festival were back again, it is always lovely to see them.

As usual, the flags that people can take home with them proved very popular, it is lovely to think of our flags from Widecombe adorning trees right around the world!

The theme this year was "MYSTICAL, MAGICAL OR MYTHICAL" which as usual, was interpreted in many different ways.

The results were:

## **ADULTS' TREES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Link
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike the Post
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rugglestone Inn
- 4<sup>th</sup> Shallowford Farm

## **CHILDREN'S TREES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Widecombe Primary School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hetty & Lilah
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ivy Forest School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Widecombe Preschool
- Special Youth Hang Out

## **SMALL TREES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cafe on the Green
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Kiosk
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wrens (Elaine & Lesley)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Christine Lamb

## ***Other participants:***

Jacqueline Welby, Dunstone Chapel, Leusdon Church, Dartmoor Hill Ponies, Widecombe Sewing Circle, Heatree Activity Centre, Sexton's Cottage, St. Gabriel's Church, Postbridge, Widecombe History Group, The Old Inn, Ashburton Methodist Church in the Community, Judy Southcombe

During the festival, the carol service and Christmas Day service, we had a collection for **Life Chance Trust**, charity number 1199491. An amazing £1337.06 was raised for them. Thank you to EVERYONE concerned with the festival, the participants, the many stewards and especially David, who unlocks and locks up the Church everyday, switching all the lights on the trees on and off every time!



## **CLEAR DECORATORS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**TEL - 07527 306 012**

**EMAIL: CLEARDECORATORS@GMAIL.COM**

**WEBSITE: WWW.CLEARDECORATORS.CO.UK**

## Widcombe Parish 'Snow Warden Scheme'

For many years now, the Council has no longer cleared snow or spread salt on any roads other than: Widcombe to Bovey and Ashburton to Princetown.

This voluntary group aims to clear snow and spread salt on as many other roads as we can. We have 18 volunteer tractors and drivers each with an allocated stretch to clear. There are 59 volunteers in total. We spread salt on icy days or when tractors have been through. We don't aim to salt all roads, just steeper sections, or dangerous corners where a little extra traction would help and may prevent an accident or just getting stuck.

We have 34 Grit Bins to keep an eye on in our parish. Please look out for your nearest bin and if it needs topping up, go to the DCC website – 'Report a Problem' and inform them. Being part of an official DCC scheme means all volunteers are covered by County insurance in the event of a mishap where a third-party claim might be made.

If you would like to join us to help the Widcombe community to remain mobile in winter conditions, please contact Miles Fursdon, Tel: 631282 or email: [fursdon@waterleat.co.uk](mailto:fursdon@waterleat.co.uk) and I'll tell you more about how we work. I look forward to hearing from you.



### Widcombe & 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.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/sports\\_group/](http://www.widcombe-in-the-moor.com/sports_group/)

*Thank you and enjoy your sports area.*

## Widcombe Singers

If you want to join the Singers we rehearse at

**The Church House, Widcombe**

**Tuesday evenings at  
7.30pm**

Admission £5

Telephone Rose 01364 631238  
for more details



# SOPHIE MILTON MOBILE MASSAGE THERAPY

## BSC (HONS), RGN, ITEC

My mission is to bring the benefits of massage therapy to people in their own homes, particularly for those people who are too unwell, or simply prefer not to travel or drive after a deeply relaxing treatment.

### **Why choose massage?**

Many people see massage either as an indulgent spa treatment or treatment for sports injury, but massage can also help with multiple health issues, particularly those suffering with longer term physical and mental health conditions and pain.

The benefits of touch have long been recognised, but science can now prove that the action of massage directly stimulates the brain to unlock the body's own "drug cabinet" to release hormones, including the body's natural pain killers, helping to reduce pain, manage stress and contribute to feelings of pleasure.

So, a massage treatment really does do much more than just make you feel nice, it can help to reduce the physical effects of stress on the body by calming the nervous system which in turn can help boost the immune system and provide multiple health benefits.

### **Why choose me?**

With a strong clinical background as a medically trained massage therapist, and additional training in oncology massage, I adapt every session to your unique needs- whether you're undergoing treatment, recovering, or managing a long-term condition, you're in safe hands.

My approach focuses on:

- ◇ Comfort-led, gentle techniques
- ◇ Reducing stress and easing tension
- ◇ Supporting relaxation, mobility and overall wellbeing
- ◇ Working alongside your existing medical care

Massage can be given on my portable couch, where I can assist you into the most comfortable position for you, be it lying flat or on your side, or we can opt for a specialised massage chair, or even sitting in your own chair.

Home visits are available to clients living within a 10-mile radius of Widcombe in the Moor. Additional mileage costs or appointments at my home may be negotiated at my discretion.

Please give me a call or message me for a no obligation discussion about your needs.

**01364 621581 or 07875923981**

Or see my **Facebook page: Sophie Milton Massage Therapy**



WIDECOMBE HISTORY GROUP

# FILM NIGHT

SHOWING

## THE YEAR OF THE DARTMOOR HILL PONY

*(THERE WILL BE A POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER FILM  
WHICH CANNOT YET BE CONFIRMED AT THE TIME OF  
THIS RELEASE)*

**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
7.30PM**

COME AND JOIN US IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH  
HOUSE, WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7.30 START  
£5 DONATION

COMING UP NEXT MONTH – MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> – DARTMOOR MYTHS & LEGENDS.  
EMMA CUNIS, ENLIGHTENS US WITH THE MYTHS AND LEGENDS THAT SHROUD  
DARTMOOR

(PLEASE NOTE THAT TALKS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)  
WIDECOMBE 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



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!

### Volunteers needed!

We are run by our committee of trustees made up of  
current parents and the wider community.

We are in need of some fresh faces to keep the  
preschool going! No necessary skills or experience  
required, just the enthusiasm to help with fundraising  
and support to keep this fantastic setting available to  
the young families of our community.

#### PreSchool (2-5years)

Tue 9:15am - 3pm

Wed 9:15am - 12:45pm

Fri 9:15am - 3pm

See website for fees and funding info.



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

**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*



**WIDECOMBE-IN-THE-MOOR  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**WIDECOMBE SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

**£5 £10 & £15  
PRIZE MONEY TO BE  
WON EVERY MONTH**

**ONLY £2 PER MONTH**

**To sign up, or for more info  
please email:  
friendslotto25@gmail.com**

**EVERYONE CAN JOIN. PLEASE PROMOTE  
AMONGST FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**WIDECOMBE FAIR COMPANY LIMITED**

**FAIR FIELDS GRASS KEEP AND MAINTENANCE TENDER**

Tenders are invited for a) Grass keep and b) Field maintenance works on circa 4.6 hectares of the Fair fields

Anyone interested should apply for further information which will contain the tender forms and Terms and Conditions from the Chairman. [pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk)

Tenders should be submitted by midday on **10th April 2026** with the successful applicant being advised by 15th April and the Contract starting on the **20th April 2026**

The Contract will run, with the caveats contained in the tender documentation until **25th December 2026**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The Moor area of 1.38 hectares has been removed from the Grass Keep Maintenance contract. Its use can be discussed by local agreement. This is because maintenance work is needed on the land, particularly the fencing.

## ASHBURTON AND BUCKFASTLEIGH HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

-REG. CHARITY NO. 900416

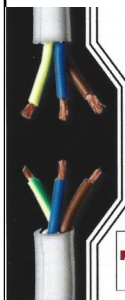
Are you interested in helping your local community? If so why not come and join in your local League of Friends. Our object is to relieve patients, former patients and those in our community who are convalescent, disable, handicapped or infirm and to support the work of our local hospital.

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

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

## Local Electrician

Fully qualified and experienced.



Whitebury Farm  
Chagford  
TQ13 8JL

Darryl Hutchinson  
Electrical Services  
07426 406802



NICEIC Registered Electrician

## County Cleansing LIMITED

Septic Tanks - Sewage Systems - Cesspits

### Septic Tanks Emptied

Competitive Rates

01364 653900 or 07976 561906

Professional Reliable Clean Service

Specially Adapted Vehicle for the Devon Lanes

24/7 Emergency Call out

Contact Simon Fisher

8 Fairfield Road, Kingskerswell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 5HQ  
[countycleansing@btinternet.com](mailto:countycleansing@btinternet.com)

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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 Services

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

**Poundsgate** - 1st February at 3 pm. Led by Revd. Kevin Hooke.

## Dunstone Lunches

**Wednesday 11th February from 12 noon until 2.30pm.**

**This month's lunch is for Try Praying**

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 January. We raised **£130** towards the running of our Chapel.

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

**Mums  
life  
group**

Doing life together

Monday 1.30pm - 3pm  
0-5's welcome  
(during term time)

faith, life, bible and chat

Please contact  
Angie  
07863 854013  
Angie@moorlandteam.org.uk  
for further information

Please join us

*Come and hang out with us, and bring a friend!*

# Youth

**HANGOUT**

SNACKS, GAMES, CHAT, FUN, FRIENDSHIP

**Sunday evenings 6.30pm-8pm**

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

18 Jan  
1 Feb  
15 Feb  
1 Mar  
15 Mar  
29 Mar

Movie Night (6.30-8.30pm)  
Grill Phill  
Pancake Parlour  
Exodus: Desert Disco  
Exodus: Law & Order  
Easter Party

**info: [angie@moorlandteam.org.uk](mailto:angie@moorlandteam.org.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

### Princetown History Club

meets **1st Tuesday** every month

Princetown Community Centre 7 for 7.30pm

**3rd February** Dartmoor's Hunter Gatherers with Emma Stockley

**3rd March** - Napoleon in Plymouth , a talk by Clive Charlton

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/PrincetownHistoryClub/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 Princetown

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

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

Email address: [sidsan114@hotmail.com](mailto:sidsan114@hotmail.com)  
or [HighMoorland@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:HighMoorland@devonwi.org.uk)

**Goodwill  
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library**

Goodwill community hub  
@ Grannypats old A38  
near Bickington  
thousands of quality fiction  
and biographies  
for you to choose from  
part of the little free library network  
donations welcome

Community  
Action  
Groups  
Devon



# CHRISTOPHERS' FAMILY FUNERALS

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01364 654065

Bridge House, 9 Kingsbridge Lane, Ashburton, TQ13 7DX  
www.christophersfunerals.co.uk info@christophersfunerals.co.uk



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BICKINGTON

We are able to accept your half used tins of paint and recycle them to benefit the community and reduce landfill.

We have a large range of paints available for you to select from gloss to fence paint etc with a suggested donation of £1 a litre to support our community projects. ♡♻️

and amazing savings on the cost of paint for your Projects



## 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*



## Goodwill

## Kids Welly Swap

@ Grannypats tiny farmshop  
and nursery old A38  
near Bickington



Help reduce landfill  
and recycle your boots



Good quality Adults  
welcome to



## Winter Update Report

Happy New Year from the Rotary Club of Yelverton

We had a busy and fun end to 2025. Our Barn Dance raised over £625 for the Yelverton Friendship Café (formerly the Yelverton Memory Café), which will help keep it going for some time to come. Thank you to everyone who came to dance and dine, and who bought raffle tickets.

The Friendship Café meets on the first and third Friday of each month from 2–4pm at Briar Tor Community Room. Whether you live with dementia, are a carer, or just want to see a friendly face, do come along – there is no charge. To find out more, contact Rotarian Terry Donnelly on 01822 613145.

Santa and his sleigh came to delight the children of Horrabridge, Walkhampton, Buckland Monachorum, Crapstone and Princetown in the run-up to Christmas. We were delighted by how many children came to our “Santa Stops”, despite some horrendous weather (including some children who had recently received first aid training from us in local primary schools). Although these visits are not primarily focused on fundraising, we were humbled by the generous donations we received.

We were also out collecting donations at Yelverton Shopping Parade and Tesco Roborough, with the kind permission of the stores’ management teams and West Devon Borough Council. It was wonderful to see so many cheerful shoppers (and a few understandably stressed ones!) busy with their Christmas preparations. Your incredible generosity helped us raise close to £1,250 for local and Rotary charities – thank you!

To help disadvantaged people enjoy their Christmas, we donated 15 Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes to children in domestic abuse refuges, each containing over £80 worth of age- and gender-appropriate toys. Local food banks also benefited from £450 worth of carefully chosen Christmas goodies. Further afield, we supported ShelterBox in providing help to those in the Philippines who are still homeless following Typhoon Bualoi and the Cebu earthquake.

Looking forward into 2026, we are hosting our Rotary District Governor, Sam Cross, who is the district’s first female DG. We are also proud to be sponsoring local girl Lucy Hulbert, who has been selected for the Devon Cricket Foundation’s Under 15 Girls tour to Sri Lanka in February. This talented young lady will benefit from playing against high-level opposition in a very different climate and will undoubtedly develop both as a player and as a person through this opportunity. When she returns, she has promised us a talk about her experiences. In the meantime, we will be following her matches through Devon Cricket and keeping an eye out for the bat with our logo on its face!

Beyond that, we will be busy planning our fundraising and community service events throughout the year, continuing our efforts to improve the quality of life for people in our communities. If you know of any local good cause that may benefit from our assistance, or if you would like to join us or help in any way, please contact us via [secretary@yelverton.rotary1175.org](mailto:secretary@yelverton.rotary1175.org).



# 50 Years ago

I'm not sure if we'll be able to keep this up, but I'll give it a go.

This year the project at East Shallowford, that many of us support and have benefitted from, began 50 years ago, when Elizabeth Braund and Rosemary Bird purchased the farm.

As part of 50 years' celebration, we will be interviewing 50 people or collecting a story from them, to make up a 50 story book, and at the end of the year plant at least 50 trees on the farm. If we can keep it up, we will also share a story once a week, on a Thursday, a sort of Throwback Thursday on the Shallowford farm FaceBook page.

Not surprisingly we started with Elizabeth Braund herself.

## **Elizabeth Braund – 50 Years ago**

Fifty years ago this month, Elizabeth Braund and Rosemary Bird had already spent their first Christmas and New Year on Dartmoor, and had established a pattern of bringing young people to Widecombe.

Nine months later, they would have been established at East Shallowford Farm, with the first group of young people there.

Young people have been staying there ever since.



**In an interview with the BBC**, Elizabeth said, 'This idea of having them at all, came from me having lived among the families in south London and knowing very well the life of the housing estates and how cramped it is in many ways and how a lot of kids grow up there.'

'Young people see growing things and they may vandalise them, probably not realising what they are looking at, and very often don't have the opportunity of going out of London into a real country situation.'

'We wanted to give that opportunity. Here at Shallowford, they have to share in the life of an ordinary farm. And that means they have things to do in the house. And that means, too, they begin to work together.'

**Elizabeth** went onto say: 'We've got a lot to be very, very grateful for in the way it has been and the people who have supported us along the way.'

'Hundreds of kids and several generations have been part of this, and the young people who've grown up themselves and then come back to us, and have been a great help to us and come back again and again. We've enjoyed all that! - In between all the upsets we have had - and there've been a few of those too!'

Elizabeth never wavered from the conviction of the value of the project, especially for those who stayed 'long enough to have lasting effect.'

Since those first pioneering days, hundreds, if not thousands of young people have benefitted from residential stays at East Shallowford Farm.

Rosemary died in 2010 and Elizabeth in 2013, but the work of The Shallowford Trust continues.

This year we celebrate 50 years with a series of events and activities.

Link to the website [www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk/50-years-in-50-stories/](http://www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk/50-years-in-50-stories/)

*Robert Musgrave*

learn, laugh, live

u3a  
ASHBURTON

**Tuesday 24 February 2026**  
**Shaldon Wildlife Trust**  
**The small zoo making a big difference**  
**Talk by Zak Showell**  
**Ashburton Town Hall at 2.30 pm**

Shaldon Wildlife Trust is a small 2-acre conservation focused zoo based in Shaldon. We focus on the smaller, lesser-known species and champion species many people won't have heard of. We are also known for our conservation work and support nine conservation projects across the world each year. Our involvement in these projects is beyond just financial and we are advisors and contributors in many ways.



This talk will explore how despite our size we are big contributors to conservation across the world as well as a wonderful day out.

Non-members are welcome to attend our talks, £4 payable on the door which includes tea, percolated coffee and 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](http://www.u3asites.org.ukashburton)

## **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:** 24th February, held at Princetown Community Centre, small hall starting at 7.30pm. We are also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dartmoorforestpc.net>

[dartmoorforestpc.net](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="#">26</a> |
| Dartmoor Rural Services                 | <a href="#">20</a> | K Decorating                           | <a href="#">20</a> |
| <b>Architect Services</b>               |                    | Robin Milne Woodworks                  | <a href="#">36</a> |
| HMAD Architects                         | <a href="#">14</a> | Rochelle's Curtains & Blinds           | <a href="#">12</a> |
| Mike Gilbert Architectural Design       | <a href="#">36</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="#">10</a> | County Cleansing                       | <a href="#">32</a> |
| <b>Funeral Directors</b>                |                    | <b>Property for sale / rent</b>        |                    |
| Christophers Family Funerals            | <a href="#">36</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="#">9</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 Milton 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> |  |                    |

## 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***

*For the **March 2026** edition of the Link, copy deadline will be  
**Sunday 15th February**. 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 26th February***

### ***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**

January over and it's count down to the arrival of snowdrops, crocuses (croci?), then onwards and upwards to spring! Please see more about snowdrops on the Huccaby page ([p13](#)). Their Latin name is Galanthus – I wonder if Gallant le Bower was named for an outcrop of snowdrops? Maybe somebody knows and could tell us?

Which brings me to my next thought. We at the Link team are continually impressed by the regular contributors to our little mag but it dawned on us recently that some moorland residents might like to add an article or are involved in an event that we could flag up. It costs nothing and as 700+ households see printed copies (and those who read it online), your piece would be seen by potentially thousands! Ok, hundreds, then. Still worth it.

Events happening this month include a Race Night at Leusdon, raising funds for the beleaguered Widecombe pre-school ([p24](#)), a film night at the History Group ([p](#)) and Phyl's Follies at Postbridge ([p18](#)), which may well have sold out by now.

Lucy in the mobile post van asked us to point out that she can now top up electricity and gas cards, as well as all the other services she provides. She visits Widecombe, Ilsington and Postbridge every Monday ([p19](#)) and it's always service with a smile and an opportunity for a chinwag while you're waiting in the queue.

We have an update on the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act ([p21](#)) and a piece about reporting potholes ([p7](#)). The system does work, if you follow their instructions.

Sadly, this month we say goodbye to Ross and Alison Hathway who have only been with us a short time but have made themselves part of our community. We wish them well with their move and ongoing life away from the moor.

And lastly, my elderly aunt used to say that February 26<sup>th</sup> was the "birdies' wedding day". So let's raise a glass/mug/jammy dodger to our feathered chums and wish them, too, a prosperous spring!

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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| 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)**

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