Moorland Parish Link

Postbridge - Widecombe - Ashburton

Huccaby - Ilsington - Leusdon - Bickington - Buckland - Holne



December 2026

Church and Community Magazine of The Moorland Team

The Ministry Team

Team Rector **Revd Phillip Parker**	The Rectory, Copperwood Close Ashburton TQ13 7JQ	01364 389638 rector@moorlandteam.org.uk
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Families Worker **Angie Blanche**		07863 854013 angie@moorlandteam.org.uk

Our front cover for **December** is
a view from **Hamel Down** from a snowy day in November 2024

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 Team - **Judy Southcombe 01364 641211**
Diocesan Safeguarding Team - SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org
Moorland Team Website: https://ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/safeguarding

Table of Contents

The Ministry Team	2	St Gabriel, Postbridge	19
Safeguarding	2	Church Services for December	22
The Parish Letter	3	Holy Communion Midweek & Home	23
Churchwardens	4	Dates for the Diary	23
Moorland Team Officers	4	St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor	25
Church News & Events	5	Rainfall	33
St Peter, Buckland-in-the-Moor	7	Dunstone & Poundsgate Chapels	33
St Mary, Holne	9	Other Community News & Events	35
St Raphael, Huccaby	13	Business Directory	41
St John the Baptist, Leusdon	15	Final Word	43

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Dear Friends,
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
What?? Too soon?

It is remarkable how fast the shops and supermarkets can change their store stock and advertising these days, and how early in the year we see Christmas items appearing on the shelves. I noticed this year, a supermarket taking a 'Back to School' display down in early September and replacing it with advent calendars and yummy lebkuchen. I didn't mind the latter; they're a particular favourite of mine any time of the year, but it did seem crazy early to see advent calendars for sale, when there was still Harvest, All Hallows, Remembrance and Advent between then and Christmas.

I could, of course, be very cynical about the consumerist culture that is trying to maximise the seasonal spending on Christmas merchandise, but I invite us to think instead about what we might learn from what we observe in the shops. There is a desperation to shift the shopper's gaze towards Christmas. A red and white truck rolls across our TV screens, accompanied by, "Holidays are coming… Holidays are coming…" John Lewis ploughs millions into an advert – and people are actually excited to see what it is this year… Green and red elves on shelves will fill the shop shelves and our social media, with a drive to be the most creative parents in this season of expectation. (Morag and I have sworn that we won't get trapped in the 'elf on a shelf' ritual – ask us in three years' time if we have succeeded or succumbed!) All of it is about the approaching phenomena that is Christmas, and people are so invested in it. The question is, are we so invested in it?

The coming to earth of God's own son, Jesus Christ, to be born as a child, destined to become our King and Saviour, is the biggest and best news there has ever been. But are we excited about it? Are we sharing that good news? Do we spend time telling people about it, and making sure they don't miss it? When's the last time you invited someone to church? All the research shows that people come and find out about Jesus when someone they know asks them to come with them. McDonalds are happy to invite people to come in and eat at Christmas – who are we inviting to come in, eat and find greater joy than a Big Mac this Christmas?

Advent is all about the expectation and the preparation, pointing us to Christmas. We can keep our own gaze on Christmas using the many Advent resources available. Check out the 'Gift of Christmas' on the CofE website (https://www.churchofengland.org/faith/advent-and-christmas/gift-christmas) for Advent and Christmas reflections you can use through the free Everyday Faith app or order as booklets. If you want to do something different with children or grandchildren, check out the ideas on the 'Gifted' children's page from the Methodist website (https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/gifted-for-children/).

On behalf of all the ministers and leaders of the churches in the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Rev'd Phill

Churchwardens

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Moorland Team Officers

BENEFICE OFFICE and PARISH OFFICE - email: admin@moorlandteam.org.uk

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

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Christmas Services

TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER

7.30pm	Service of Light	St Petrocs, Ashburton

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

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

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER

2pm	Dementia Carol Service	St Andrew's, Ashburton

WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER

6pm	Community Carols	Blackpool School, Liverton

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

7pm	Carol Service	Poundsgate Methodist Chapel

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER

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

MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER

7.30pm	Christmas Community Sing	Ashburton Arts Centre

TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

6.30pm	Carol Service followed by Supper	Dunstone Chapel, Widecombe

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

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

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

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

MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER

7pm	Carol Service	St Mary's, Holne

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER ★ CHRISTMAS EVE

3pm	Crib Service	St Michael's, Ilsington
4pm	Crib Service	St Andrew's, Ashburton
8pm	Christmas Night Communion	St John the Baptist, Leusdon
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Andrew's, Ashburton
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Michael's, Ilsington

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER ★ CHRISTMAS DAY

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

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www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/services

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Sold in aid of the upkeep and maintenance of Buckland's15th century historic building.



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

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

Date	Table Flowers	Time	Service
6th December	Advent	15.00	Christingle
13th December	Advent		
20th December	Advent	15.00	Carol Service
25th December		09.30	Christmas Morning Service
27th December	10.30 Ashburton - United Mission Community 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.

FESTIVE SERVICES 2026

St Peter's Church,
Buckland in the Moor



Sunday 6 December @ 3.00pm
Annual Christingle with a collection for The Children's Society (your chance to help a troubled child this Christmas)



Sunday 20 December @ 3.00pm
Traditional Carol Service
with a collection for external repairs to this church to continue to keep its interior dry.



Friday 25 December @ 9.30am
Christmas Day Service
Everyone most welcome
Refreshments after Christingle and Carol Service







REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Collection for the Royal British Legion at Buckland's Remembrance Sunday Service amounted to **£119.20**; this has been sent to the RBL.

Buckland Community Hall

...is available to hire. It is a modern building set in a quiet and beautiful location and has parking. The charge for hiring the hall is
Parishioners £8 per hour
Others £10 per hour
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Buckland-in-the-Moor Whist



Monday 14th December
Note Day change for this month
Whist at 2pm
with half time refreshments & draw
Optional soup & roll lunch £2 at 12.30pm
Usually every 4th Thursday in the month

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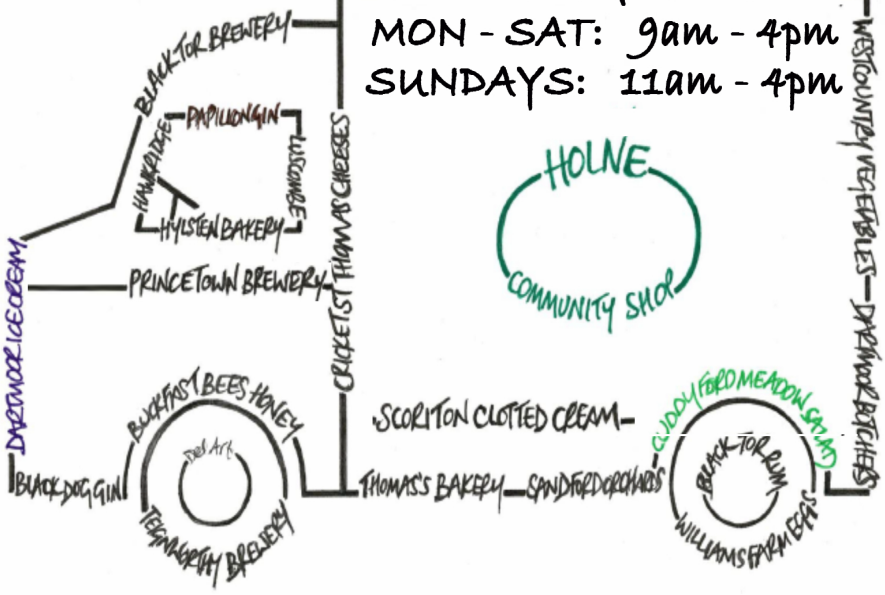



St Mary the Virgin, Holne

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

Date	Time	Service
18th December	18.00	Carols by Candlelight - Huccaby
21st December	19.00	Carol Service
25th December	10.00	Christmas Communion
27th December	10.30	United Mission Community Service - Ashburton

Newbridge – Update on Repair Works

Repair works have recently been carried out at Newbridge. Please note that these are temporary repairs only.

Unfortunately, before planned repairs were done in October, the bridge was struck again by a vehicle causing damage to the downstream parapet, including pushing some of the parapet coping stones into the river.

Due to current water levels in the River Dart, it was not possible to safely retrieve the coping stones at this time. Temporary repair works were carried out, with the wall finished with a temporary mortar capping to provide an interim solution.

Unfortunately, this means that further works will be required in the spring, when water levels should be more favourable. These will involve retrieving and reinstating the coping stones and completing the permanent repairs.

Your patience and understanding are appreciated while these works are carried out in stages.



Soup & Pudding Lunch

Holne Village Hall Friday 4th December

Christmas Special!! We're including a Christmas sing along and a raffle, so prizes will be welcome please.

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



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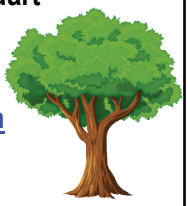



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HOLNE HERITAGE CORNER

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

Other information is currently being gathered and it is hoped to provide additional local material.

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 Whist



Tuesday 1st 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.....*

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.

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St Raphael, Huccaby

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
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www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/huccaby

Christmas Events

St Raphael's popular Christmas Carols service will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday 18th December. This year the musical accompaniment with be provided on both cello and piano by our very close neighbours who are more usually associated with the finest international concert venues. So do come along and be inspired to join in, and sing up on this joyful occasion.

As part of the Link magazine team, we are also looking forward to participating in the Widecombe Christmas Tree Festival which runs from Saturday 12th December to Sunday 20th December at St Pancras. Last year there was a wonderful variety of beautifully and imaginatively decorated trees from many local organisations. The Link team entry garnered the most popular votes for its 'Narnia' interpretation of the 'Magical, Mystical, Mythical' theme. It will be interesting to see how this year's theme of 'Hobbies' is interpreted to produce another varied and festive spectacle reflecting the creativity of so many local groups.

Richard Wells



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St John the Baptist, Leusdon

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
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www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/leusdon

Date	Time	Service
13th December	15.00	Carol Service
24th December	20.00	Christmas Night Communion
27th December	10.30	United Mission Community Service - Ashburton

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

We have reached the last month of 2026 and what a busy year it's been at Leusdon. Our coffee morning's, on the first Wednesday of every month, have continued to be popular events. Friends meeting, sharing a cuppa and enjoying cake and conversation, please do come along, all are welcome.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning will see us singing carols and making rather merry on December 2nd. There is no coffee morning in January. The whist afternoon has moved from Leusdon Hall across to Buckland Hall on the 14th of December, with lunch at 1.00pm followed by whist at 2.00pm. This is due to our wonderful panto from the Moorland Merrymakers. If you haven't got tickets yet, get them quick!

We have plans for another exciting themed evening event at the end of February, listen out for more details.

We are continuing our mission to update and improve the hall, attending to exterior maintenance to prolong our lovely building.
Our committee has worked hard all year fundraising with various events to help pay for our improvements.

I wish to thank everyone who has supported us this year, either by hiring the hall or attending our events, without you we would struggle, so a Big Thank You.
Lastly a massive Thank You to our supportive and enthusiastic committee members.
I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2027.

As always, take care.

Tonia (Chairperson)
For Leusdon Memorial Hall Charity No 300887

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email dashcoord@gmail.com

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Produced by Lu Curnock

Matinee - Saturday 5th December at 5pm
Monday 7th to Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm
At Leusdon Memorial Hall
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Booking by email only - Caroline - mmerrymakers@gmail.com
Ticket prices - Adults £10, Children £5

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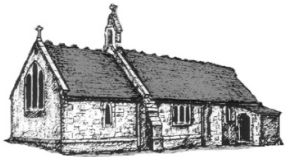

St Gabriel, Postbridge

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

Date	Time	Service
13th December	15.00	Carol Service
27th December	10.30	United Mission Community Service - Ashburton

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



POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



Our Christmas Coffee Shop & Mini Market will be held on

Monday 21st December 11.00am - 12.30pm

The last one of the year with lots of goodies in the bumper raffle. We look forward to seeing you all.

The Village Hall Lottery, this runs from November to October so time to re-new your balls! There are forms in the Village Shop, £24 buys you 12 months per ball, money can be left at the shop or there are details on the form for anyone wishing to pay online. The draw takes place at the Coffee Shop each month.

Sunday 13th December 3pm Family Christmas Carol Service, everyone is very welcome to come and enjoy this lovely service in St Gabriels Church with a bring and share tea in the hall afterwards.

Tuesday 15th December 7.30pm Christmas Whist Drive £3.00 including light refreshments. If you would like some practice, speak to Jacky on 01822 880224. This is a fun relaxed evening where everyone is welcome including beginners. We have a raffle, any prizes gratefully received, there will be a box in the Village shop

Monday 28th December- 6.30pm TWIXMAS - this is a lovely Social Evening for all the family -Soup, Cake & a Christmas Quiz. There will be a raffle, so prizes welcome.

Please book with **Elaine on 01822 880065**

Postbridge Coffee Morning

Monday December 7th

Our final coffee morning of 2026, all of which are held in **Postbridge Village Hall** to raise funds for

St Gabriel Church and we'd like to thank all who have contributed throughout the year.

Maureen

POSTBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

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Elaine Smerdon 01822 880065
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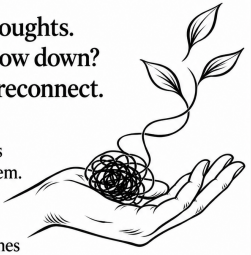

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Matinees on 30th & 31st January at 2pm
At Postbridge Village Hall, PL20 6SY

Tickets available from 1st December (£10 adults, £6 children)
To include ice cream (please mention any food allergies)

Box office postbridgepanto@gmail.com
or ring 01822 880223

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Widecombe	**09.00 - 10.30**	Car Park, next to Café On the Green
Ilsington	**11.00 - 13.00**	Next to Ilsington Village Shop
Postbridge	**14.00 - 15.00**	Top of Dartmoor National Park visitors Car Park

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

Church Services for December 2026

1st December					
			Ashburton	19.30	Service of Light - St. Petroc's
6th December		**2nd Sunday of Advent**			**Purple**
Readings: Isaiah 40.1–11, Psalm 85.1–2 8–end [or 85.8–end], 2 Peter 3.8–15a, Mark 1.1–8					
Widecombe	16.00	Christingle	Bickington	09.00	Holy Communion
			Ashburton	10.30	Christingle
			Ilsington	10.30	Holy Communion
			Buckland	15.00	Christingle
8th December					
			Ashburton	14.00	Dementia Carol Service
13th December		**3rd Sunday of Advent**			**Purple**
Readings: Isaiah 61.1–4 8–end, Psalm 126 or Canticle: Magnificat, 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24, John 1.6–8, 19–28					
Widecombe	10.30	Parish Communion	Ilsington	08.00	Holy Communion
Leusdon	15.00	Carol Service	Ashburton	10.30	Parish Communion
Postbridge	15.00	Carol Service	Holne	15.00	Moor & Messy Xmas, Newcombe Farm
			Ilsington	16.00	Christingle
14th December					
Ashburton Arts Centre	19.30	Christmas Community Sing			
18th December					
Huccaby	18.00	Carols by Candlelight	Bickington	19.00	Carol Service
20th December		**4th Sunday of Advent**			**Purple**
Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1–11 16, Canticle: Magnificat or Psalm 89.1–4, 19–26 [or 89.1–8], Romans 16.25–end, Luke 1.26–38					
Buckland	15.00	Carol Service	Ashburton	09.15	Breakfast Church
Widecombe	16.00	Carol Service	Ashburton	10.30	Said Communion
			Ilsington	18.00	Carols by Candlelight
			Ashburton	18.30	Carols by Candlelight
21st December					
			Holne	19.00	Carol Service
24th December		**Christmas Eve**			**Purple**
Leusdon	20.00	Christmas Night Communion	Ilsington	15.00	Crib Service
			Ashburton	16.00	Crib Service
			Ilsington	23.30	Midnight Communion
			Ashburton	23.30	Midnight Communion

25th December		Christmas Day			Gold or White
Readings: Readings to be chosen by officiant					
Buckland	09.30	Christmas Morning Service	Bickington	09.00	Christmas Communion
Widecombe	10.00	Christmas Communion	Ilsington	10.00	Christmas Family Communion
Holne	10.00	Christmas Communion	Ashburton	10.30	Christmas Family Communion
27th December		**1st Sunday of Christmas**			**White**
Readings: Isaiah 61.10—62.3, Psalm 148 [or 148.7–end], Galatians 4.4–7, Luke 2.15–21					
Ashburton	10.30	United Mission Community Service			

Holy Communion — Midweek & at Home

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



Communion at home

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

From the Registers

Funeral	4th November	Postbridge	Michael Grigg
Funeral	20th November	Postbridge	Valerie Greatrex

Dates for the Diary

December 2026		Page	December 2026		Page
1st	Holne Whist	11	10th	East Dartmoor Landscape Mg	26
1st	Princetown History Club	35	12th	Christmas Tree Festival begins	25
2nd	Leusdon Coffee Morning	15	12th	Widecombe Christmas Market	30
2nd	Widecombe History Group	29	13th	Sax Quartet Concert	26
2nd	High Moorland WI	35	14th	Buckland and Leusdon Whist (at Buckland)	7
4th	Holne Soup & Pud Lunch	9	15th	Postbridge Whist Drive	19
5th	Moorland Merrymakers start	17	15th	Dartmoor Forest PC	40
6th	**Parish Link Copy Deadline**		21st	Postbridge Mini-Market	19
7th	Postbridge Coffee Morning	19	28th	Twixmas - Postbridge	19
9th	Dunstone Charity Lunch	33			

Rotary Yelverton

Christmastime Update

As usual, it's been a busy few months for Yelverton Rotary, starting with helping to manage the car parking at the annual Widecombe Fair – always an enjoyable event! This was followed by a club skittles match, with members competing for the Jim Brown Memorial Cup. The cup was kindly donated by Jim's family in memory of our former president, who sadly lost his life in a motoring accident while travelling to a Rotary meeting many years ago.

We've also enjoyed some excellent talks over the past couple of months. The first was about the Buckland Monachorum Swift Project, a local nature initiative raising funds to provide nesting boxes and help reverse the decline in numbers of these remarkable birds.

This was followed by a fascinating talk about the Walkham Valley Landscape Recovery Project and its work to restore and protect the natural environment. We also welcomed a speaker from Hearts Together (formerly Heartcare), an independent charity based at Derriford that provides accommodation and support for families during difficult times when loved ones are receiving medical care.

In October, several of our members supported Tavistock Rotary Club by attending its 80th Charter Dinner at the Bedford Hotel. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and fellowship.

November was another busy month. We took part in the annual Remembrance Service, laying a wreath at the Yelverton War Memorial in Crapstone. We also visited Heather Bridge House in Dousland to learn more about its work. Heather Bridge is an independent special day school supporting pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The school has been working with our club to make wooden planters, which we then donate to local schools and nurseries to encourage children to discover the pleasures of gardening.

Our annual charity Barn Dance at Yelverton Memorial Hall is always a popular event and a great way to raise funds for good causes.

And finally, with Christmas fast approaching, keep an eye out for Santa and the Rotary sleigh!

As you can see, life at Yelverton Rotary is never dull. We enjoy good company, interesting activities and the chance to make a difference in our local community. If that sounds like something you'd enjoy, why not come along and join us? You'll be made very welcome!

Email: secretary@yelverton.rotary1175.org



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St Pancras, Widecombe

For contact information, ministers and church officers please see front of the Link
Church *Services—see Page 22 for details or*
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Date	Time	Sideperson	Coffee	Flowers
6th December	16.00	Brenda (Christingle)	Rose M	Advent - no flowers
13th December	10.30	Penny	Philly & Michael	Advent - no flowers
20th December	16.00	Philly & Debbie	Kriss, Peter & Debbie	Advent - no flowers
23rd December	09.30	All help, please with the flowers		
25th December	10.00	Ronnie	No coffee	
27th December	United Mission Community Service - Ashburton			

***Widecombe Church** is open all day, every day 9-4 Winter Opening. You are welcome to visit at any time – an opportunity to sit quietly, say a prayer and enjoy our beautiful building.*

Widecombe Community Hall CIO
charity number 1182621

Trustees of Widecombe Community Hall would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2027.
We'll be providing more opportunities for welcoming you onto the site again soon and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.
www.widecombecommunityhall.org

WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2026

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will run from
Saturday 12th December to Sunday 20th December.
This means that the trees will be up for the Christmas Market, the Concert on **Sunday 13th December,** the Carol Service and End of Term Celebrations for the School.
The trees will go up on Friday 11th December and come down on Monday 21stDecember.
The theme this year is "**HOBBIES**" which, as usual, can be interpreted any way you like!
Entries are welcome from Groups, Organisations, Families and Individuals
Please 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 **"Ty Hafan Children's Hospice"** charity number 1047912
Entry forms will be available in the Church from the middle of November or from me, Judy Southcombe 01364 641211 judysouthcombe@yahoo.co.uk
or Mary in the Kiosk.
Due to maybe having to rearrange some of the trees for the Ferio Sax Quartet Concert on Sunday 13th December, we won't start **judging the trees until Monday 14th December**.
With regret, Mary and I have decided this will be our last year organising the Christmas tree Festival, so please make it an extra special one!


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CHRISTMAS CONCERT
St Pancras' Church Widecombe TQ13 7TA
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"Playing and music alike sported an irresistible exuberance" Financial Times
Sun 13th December 4pm
Refreshments from 3pm
£15 online or at the door
under 14s free


Landscape Recovery
East Dartmoor:
A Wilder, More Resilient Future
Come and hear about the East Dartmoor Landscape Recovery Scheme, a future project bringing together landowners, farmers, conservation organisations and local communities to secure the future of this unique landscape.
Find out about the project's aims for wildlife and how local communities can get involved.
Scan to book your free tickets
Learn more at our events:
Tuesday 19 Nov 6pm Chudleigh Town Hall
Wednesday 2 Dec 6pm Ilsington Village Hall
Thursday 10 Dec 6pm Widecombe
devonwildlifetrust.org/wilder-east-dartmoor


Christmas Carol Service
St Pancras' Church
WIDECOMBE
Sunday 20th December 4pm
Sing traditional carols and see the church full of Christmas trees in our Christmas Tree Competition.
Families welcome
Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Widecombe Sailing Club

launches the Winter Regatta!

In aid of the Widecombe Community Hall

Back by reasonably popular demand, the Winter Regatta will take place at the **Old Inn, Widecombe, on Friday 22nd January 2027**.

Hot buffet and singing, music, telling stories, poems, jokes

Dust off those stripey teeshirts and knotted hankies, brush up your performing skills!

Don't forget your parrot! **And save the date!**

Veggie options available and all GF

Tickets £25

More details from Daf Edwards 07957 280129 dafedwards53@gmail.com

Widecombe & District Social Group

November was our last social for 2026 Thank you to all who have attended throughout the year and we look forward to returning with another programme of varied and interesting speakers in March 2027



Widecombe & District Sports Group

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

Regular Bookings: Tuesday & Thursday: Tennis Adults (16+) 6.30 Under-16s with ability are welcome to these sessions with a parent who is also playing. For queries re tennis phone **Di Cameron on 01364 621218.**

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

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

Thank you and enjoy your sports area.

Widecombe Church House Management Committee Chairman - Mike Pascoe

To book the Hall please contact Rose Mortimore 01364 621444.

Rates of Hire

Local Events: £6.00 per hour

Non-local Events: £10.00 per hour

Non-local commercial events: £100.00 per day

For any other rates please contact the Bookings Secretary

Payment by cheque is preferred. Cheques to be made payable to Widecombe Church House Fund and send to Sarah Reeve, Bonehill Cottage, Bonehill Lane, Widecombe-in-the-Moor TQ13 7TD

For all other matters relating to the Church House please contact Diana Cameron on ***01364 621218***



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Widecombe Community Hall CIO
charity number 1182621

We invite you to our

VALENTINE'S DINNER & DANCE

With CHARITY AUCTION hosted by Russell Steer

The Old Inn, Widecombe-in-the-Moor

Saturday 6th February, 2027

7 for 7.30pm

with music from 'Go Tell Alice'

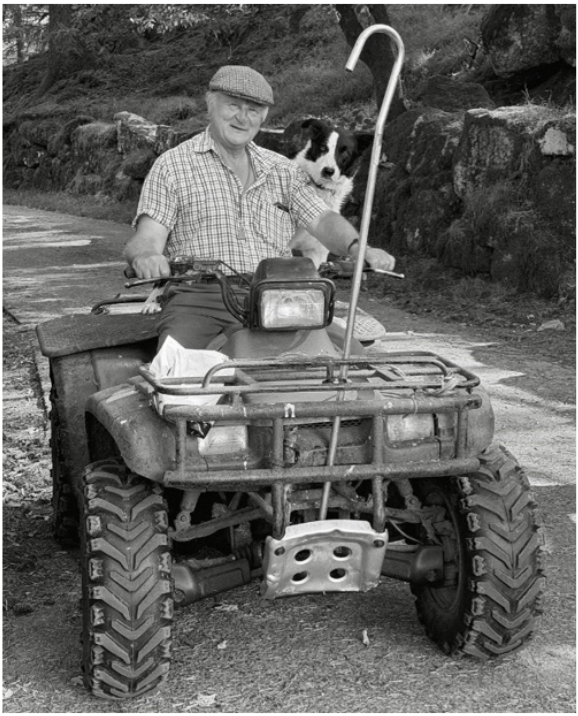


Tickets: £36 for a 3 course meal & coffee

Available from: chrismayhead@gmail.com
& widecombecommunityhall.org

Event to raise funds for Widecombe Community Hall
Charity No. 1182621

The Moorland Farm



Layland Branfield is a Dartmoor Hill Farmer from Princetown and will share his passion for the Countryside, History and farming

Wednesday 2nd December

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 – George Southcombe talks at our Annual Lunch at the Old Inn

[Please note that talks may be subject to change]

Widecombe History Group charity no. 1144684



WIDECOMBE
CHRISTMAS MARKET
SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER
IN THE CHURCH HOUSE
10 am - 4pm

Dartmoor Beef & Lamb,

West country Cheeses

Home Made Jam and Chutney.

Honey & Honey products, Organic teas

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Refreshments and Games in aid of Widecombe pre school

Mulled wine, Tombola

In aid of Bovey Tracey Scouts

CAROL SINGERS 10.30am 12.00. 1.30pm



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN THE CHURCH

Widecombe Singers

If you want to join the Singers we rehearse at

The Church House, Widecombe

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

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07749 717105
for more details





widecombe pre-school & toddlers

www.widecombepreschool.org.uk – e: info@widecombepreschool.org.uk – t: 01364 621213





Ofsted Good Provider

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'

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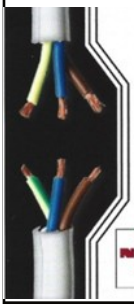

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Dunstone & Pondsgate Methodist Chapels

Minister Revd Kevin Rooke 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 - 6th December at 3pm led by Revd. Kevin Hooke.

Christmas Carol Services

Poundsgate Methodist Chapel
Friday 11th December
at 7pm

Dunstone Methodist Chapel
Tuesday 15th December
at 6.30pm
Followed by supper



CLEANER WANTED

The Church House, Widecombe
One hour per week
Please contact
The Chairman
Mike Pascoe
Pascoewooder@yahoo.co.uk

01364621333



Dunstone Lunches



Wednesday 9th December
from 12 noon until 2.30pm

This months lunch is for Help the Homeless in Teignbridge Support
Our volunteers work tirelessly to provide sumptuous homemade hot dinners, soup, salad, sandwiches and cakes. Please make as generous a donation as possible.
In November we raised **£450.00 for Samaritans' Purse Operation Christmas Child** and filled 16 boxes with goodies to send off.
We also raised **£200.00 for our Chapel**. 39 people attended.
A huge thank-you to all our helpers and to all who join us at our lunches!

Rainfall in October 2026

Place	Total Rainfall	Days without Rain	Wettest Day
Postbridge	202.1mm (8.0")	11	22nd & 24th
	October 2025 180.9mm(7.1")		
Holne	219mm (8.6")		23rd





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High Moorland Women's Institute Princetown

On the 4th November the WI members had our traditional Christmas puddings making session. We all took a home a delicious pudding with enough left over to make one for local care home. The next meeting is the **2nd December,** our Christmas get together and meal. This year we are going to the Burrator Inn which has always been popular with the members.

Email: sara.attfield@btinternet.com

If you are interested please message Sara on **07969733828**

Princetown History Club

meets **1st Tuesday** every month
Princetown Community Centre 7 for 7.30pm

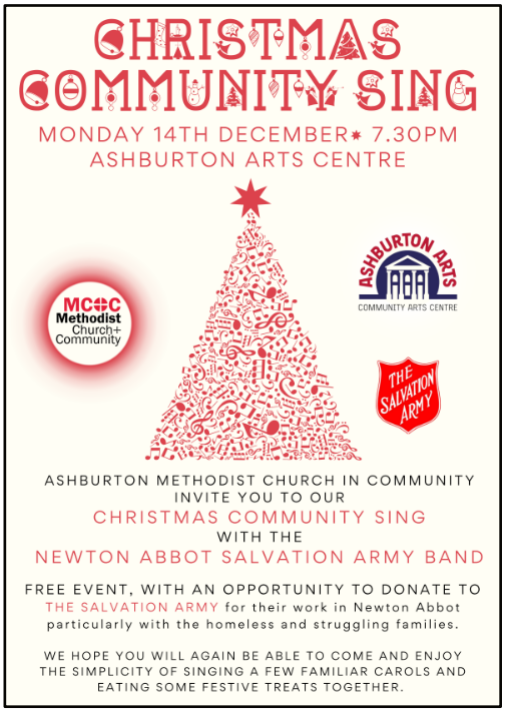
!st December - Club AGM and Chairman's talk - Mutiny on the Moor

5th January - An Update on Cut Hill Cist with Lee Bray

For further information, please contact:

Mr. John Lissenden ***phone 01752 47573***
email *jlissenden@talktalk.net*

Mr. Bill Radcliffe
email *bill.radcliffe2@btopenworld.com*
or https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrincetownHistoryClub/events



Ashburton Book Group

We meet at the Quaker Meeting House in Ashburton on the first Tuesday of the month. We choose a list of books, fact or fiction, for the coming months. On alternate meetings we discuss books we have enjoyed to recommend to other members and sometimes people are happy to lend or give away books. We are a friendly group – you can be any age or gender – you just need to love books!

Our books for the coming months are:

Godmersham Park by Gill Hornby,
Four Thousand Weeks by Oliver Burkeman,
A Town Called Solace by Mary Lawson,
The Land in Winter by Andrew Miller and
The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel.

There is a small charge which goes towards the hire of the room.

Please contact Audrey Ryder on audreyryder@icloud.com for further details or just come along to the meeting.

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Sunday 13th December 2026 - 3pm
www.ashburtonandmoor.org.uk/services


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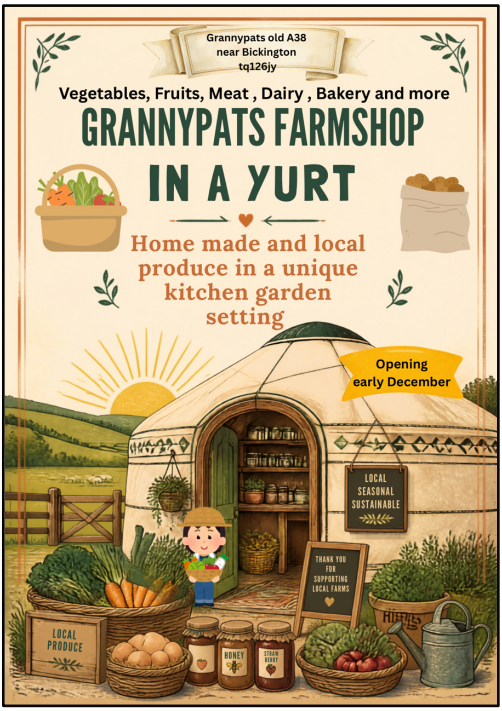
info: angie@moorlandteam.org.uk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Another 50 years.....

We all went to church on Saturday. To Widecombe Parish Church on Saturday 17th October. We were celebrating 50 years of East Shallowford Farm opening its doors to young people and families from London.

The church was full, the service was led by Robert Musgrave, who had been involved with the project from the very beginning. The congregation represented people from different stages of the Shallowford story, and the 50 years, 50 people, 50 stories book was launched.

Elizabeth Braund, founder of both Providence House in London and the Shallowford Trust called the project "lung for the city". It was to be a place where children and families from inner-city streets could breathe, explore, get muddy and discover a world far beyond the estates and busy roads they know.



Jerome Hughes, CEO Providence House commented that 'Half a century on, Elizabeth's vision is still alive. Young people from Battersea still travel down to Devon, still feel the space and freedom she wanted them to have, and still come back changed in ways that are hard to put into words. It was a privilege to stand alongside so many people whose lives have been shaped by that farm, and to give thanks for a woman whose faith and determination opened up something extraordinary for our community.'

Rev Nick McKinnel, who spoke at the service said that 'Shallowford has been a place of exploration and freedom which has opened up new opportunities, exciting possibilities, where young people originally from Battersea and Wandsworth and more recently Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol and so on, can discover who they can be, can step out of a comfort zone and find a new community, even become a new family sometimes.'

Ross Clotworthy, who brings young people from an Exeter school to Shallowford every Thursday, recited a poem, in which he said:

'Finding a place that is special is hard to find,
but we found one, a hilltop farm surrounded by roads that wind.
Shallowford Farm is a place which instantly makes you feel at home,
with its grand farmhouse at the centre made from old stone.'

Phil Dorman has been coming to Shallowford from boy to man. He said, 'When I was asked to do this talk, I didn't really know how to condense 34 years into a few minutes. One thing that struck me the most, for myself, in my journey is faith. On one occasion coming to the farm, I came over the hilltops and I can only explain it spiritually that God revealed creation to me and I could see it in its full glory. From that moment, I started to be looking, looking, looking at my faith.'

Fiona Lambeck, Shallowford Trust Manager, spoke about the team: 'We all come from very different backgrounds, bringing such a wide range of experience, but we all share such a drive to work together to ensure that we can provide the best opportunities for all who come back to Shallowford again and again and for all those who will visit in the future.

Trustee and local farmer, John Dracup said: 'Today is about more than just looking back and celebrating these marvellous past 50 years or honouring Elizabeth and Rosemary's foundational vision. It's also about setting our eyes firmly on the horizon and laying the foundation for the next 50 years. The need for connection, outdoor learning and rural sanctuary will only grow and we intendinc to ensure the trust is here to provide it for decades to come.'

Robert Musgrave MBE

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Dartmoor Forest Parish Council

Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting, 15th December.

See full list of councillors here:
https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/members.php
Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak during Public Sessions, whether to comment on agenda items, raise issues for future meetings, or simply listen. Agendas and minutes are available on our website:
https://www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings.php
Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/dartmoorforestpc.net
Parish Clerk: Abi Horn Tel: 07480 834523
email: clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Business Directory

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

Agricultural Services		Clear Decorating	40
Dartmoor Rural Services	32	Ingsdon Man & Van	6
Architect Services		NPT Wilde Scaffolding	38
HMAD Architects	16	Robin Milne Woodworks and Building	12
Mike Gilbert Architectural Design	36	Rochelle's Curtains and Blinds	36
Cleaning & Domestic Services		**Hotels and Inns**	
A Clean Pair	8	The Old Inn	44
Carroll Cleaning Services	34	The Rugglestone Inn	28
Country Carpet Care	18	**Legal Services**	
Community		Francis Parffrey	6
Scott Elson Chainsaw Carvings	38	**Plumbing and Heating Services**	
Computing		MH Perry	36
Computer Services	20	MTP Services Ltd.	12
Electrical Goods and Services		**Private Water Services**	
Darryl Hutchinson	32	County Cleansing	32
J Searle & Son	10	**Property for Sale / Rent**	
Funeral Directors		Robert Williams Estate Agents	16
Christophers Family Funerals	10	**Stores**	
Morris Bros. Funeral Directors	8	Holne Community Shop	8
Garden Services		**Tree Surgeons / Tmber Services**	
Farley Moore Garden Services	6	Anton Coaker English Timber	36
Mole Problems	20	Geoff Partridge	16
Health, Wellbeing & Beauty		JS Tree Services	10
Moor Mobile Foot Clinic	32	Knowle Tree Services	40
Move and Mend with Edie	14	Moor Logs	32
Pilates	18	Sam Hall Professional Tree Care	34
Somatic Healing	20	Spike Milton Timber Services	32
Sophie Milton Massage Therapy	20	**Tutoring**	
Home Improvements & Services		Lauren Miller Tutoring	14
Ashburn Upholstery	14	**Vets**	
Ashburton Glass & Locks	24	Zenvet	18

Contacting the Editorial Team

Email items for inclusion or any other queries to: link@moorlandteam.org.uk
For items sent by post please use the following addresses:

Link Finances (donations, advertising fees, invoices etc)

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

All Other Correspondence

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

Cheques payable to:
P C C Widecombe - 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 earlier timings
*For the **January 2027** edition of the Link, copy deadline will be **Sunday 6th 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 17th December.***

Groups and Individuals who support the Parish Link

Friends of Widecombe School
High Moorland WI
Holne Parish Council
Holne Second-Hand Books
Holne Village Hall Committee
Leusdon Memorial Hall Committee
Moorland Merrymakers
Phyl's Follies (Postbridge)
Postbridge Village Hall
St Peter's Buckland-in-the-Moor
Various anonymous donations
Widecombe Church House Committee
Widecombe Community Hall CIO
Widecombe Fair Committee
Widecombe History Group
Widecombe Social Group
Widecombe Parish Council
Widecombe Sports Group

Last . . . but not least . . .

'Tis the season to be panicking about last posting dates, finding tricky gifts and running out of wrapping paper…. Well, it's good that you're taking time out to read your Parish Link. But unless you read things from back to front (and lots of us do), you're almost at the end of your break and are about to leap back into the fray.

Before you do, can we wish you a Happy Christmas? The Link Team may be larger than you think: let us take a bow. The following have played a part in getting this modest publication into your hands or on your screen. Peter Blood takes care of the finances and does an amazing job proofreading every copy. The editorial team is Debbie Richardson, Fiona Senior and Daf Edwards. Adverts are all managed by Rachel A B. Without the advertisers we'd have no Link, so please consider them when you need something done. Marilyn Wells and her crew deliver copies in their localities - the invisible heroes of the Link Team – it arrives in your letterbox as if by magic. In addition, they are dropped off at the Post Office Van, The Old Inn, The Rugglestone, Widecombe Gifts, The Old Smithy and Cafe-on-the-Green in Widecombe, Postbridge General Stores, Church House Inn and Community Shop in Holne and the Forest Inn at Hexworthy. More than 760 copies are delivered every month. Not forgetting the electronic version that goes out in the Parish Mailing.

We would like to hear from anyone who knows the history of the Parish Link. Does anyone remember when it started? What area did it cover? Does anyone have an early copy we could see? Please email us on link@moorlandteam.org.uk

And finally, please note the earlier date for submissions – this is so that we can get the January Link put to bed, allowing us time for panicking. (See above.)

Happy Christmas from all of us at the Parish Link!



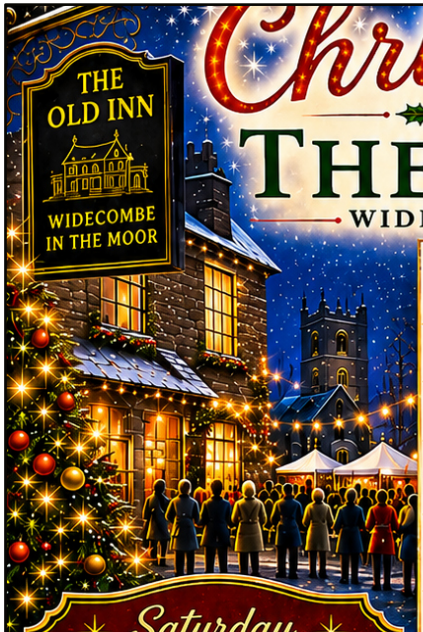
Parish Link Advertising Costs

Size	Size	Month	Year
Sixth Page	61x60mm	£7.50	£80
Quater 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

Christmas AT THE OLD INN

WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR



Saturday 21ST NOVEMBER Christmas LIGHT SWITCH ON!

- MORE LIGHTS!
- SNOW MACHINE
- CHRISTMAS MARKETS
- LANTERN PARADE
- BRASS BAND
- PLUS LOTS MORE!

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with us!

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Saturday 21ST NOVEMBER	**CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON** MORE LIGHTS! SNOW MACHINE, CHRISTMAS MARKETS, LANTERN PARADE, BRASS BAND, PLUS LOTS MORE!
Thursday 26TH NOVEMBER	**MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT**
Friday 27TH NOVEMBER	**RHYTHM AND SHOES**
Friday 4TH DECEMBER	**THE OLD INNS HOLLY BALL** 7.30PM £10PP INCLUDES HOT BUFFET AND ENTERTAINMENT
Saturday 5TH DECEMBER	**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!** £12 PER CHILD, INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND A VISIT TO SEE SANTA IN HIS SPECIAL GROTTO!
Saturday 5TH DECEMBER	**SHIRLEY BASSEY TRIBUTE** EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
Tuesday 8TH DECEMBER	**MEMORY TREE NIGHT** JOIN US FOR OUR MEMORY TREE NIGHT WITH WIDECOMBE CAROL SINGERS 6.30PM
Wednesday 9TH DECEMBER	**WREATH MAKING** £30PP BOOK EARLY AS THIS WILL SELL OUT
Thursday 10TH DECEMBER	**CHRISTMAS BINGO!** £10PP
Saturday 12TH DECEMBER	**WIDECOMBE CHRISTMAS MARKETS** 10AM - 4PM NOW TAKING BOOKINGS
Saturday 12TH DECEMBER	**EVENING ENTERTAINMENT** GEMMA RUBY
Thursday 17TH DECEMBER	**CHRISTMAS QUIZ**
Saturday 19TH DECEMBER	**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!** £12 PER CHILD, INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND A VISIT TO SEE SANTA IN HIS SPECIAL GROTTO!
Saturday 19TH DECEMBER	**DISCO / KARAOKE AND CHRISTMAS DRAW**
Christmas Day	**OPEN FOR DRINKS ONLY** 11-3PM
Thursday 31ST DECEMBER	**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH BANNED FROM THE MOOR** £15PP INCLUDES HOT AND COLD BUFFET

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT! SEE YOU AT THE OLD INN THIS CHRISTMAS!

Printed by: Parish Magazine Printing, Whitstone, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6TD Julie.Tucker@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk