

IN TOUCH

April/May 2021



The Magazine of the Edgemoor Group of Parishes

IN TOUCH circulates freely throughout the eleven parishes. Contributions to the cost of production are welcome and may be handed to the clergy or placed in the *In Touch* collection boxes.
Suggested copy price £1.00

www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk



The Edgemoor Group of Parishes

Charles. HighBray. NorthMolton. Twitchen. BishopsNympton. Mariansleigh. RoseAsh. Knowstone. EastAnstey. WestAnstey. Molland.

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IN TOUCH is published six times a year in December, February, April, June, August and October. Contributions for each issue should reach the editor at North Molton Vicarage by the 7th of the month preceding publication. Articles for the magazine are welcomed from all within the 11 parishes.

Send to:

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FROM A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY TEAM



Do you ever dream of living in the perfectly clean and organised home, everything in its place, rooms completely decorated, finished to the standard set in the photo shoots from Country Homes & Interiors? And the garden, weeded and dug, trees pruned, gazebo and a summer house with a Tarr Steps replica water feature?

Or would you rather spend your time in a room cluttered with objects, souvenirs, books, art, and items that make up your daily life. And a garden left to run wild, there to encourage the bees, birds, slugs and worms – all of God’s creation welcome?

For some people, a tidy room can be soothing. For others, such rooms can be sterile, bland, and uninspiring. Some people feel anxious in a cluttered room while others feel their most creative amongst the debris.

I must confess, I need a tidy room and I do take great pleasure in a garden with freshly mown grass.

Both offer me an orderly retreat in an often disorderly week.

But it hasn’t just been a disorderly week, we have all come through a time like no other in living memory. Now, with vaccinations helping to stem the Covid pandemic, we can arrive in a time, carrying the hopes and dreams of a new beginning, but recognising that we carry many fears and troubles of the year just passed. Time now to reflect on our recent experience and the difficulties and the possibilities it has set before us.

Disorder, untidiness, messiness, at times chaos, turns out that it can be a catalyst for change.

From the very start of the Bible, from Genesis, in the beginning the Spirit hovered not over the organised, the order but over chaos, bringing in a new creation.

The pandemic has challenged us individually and collectively, in ways no-one could have imagined.

For some, they have asked the question of whether it is right to simply go back to how things were, or to seek a ‘better normal’. Perhaps it has challenged us to reflect on what kind of people we truly desire to become and what kind of world we hope to pass onto future generations.

Have you been challenged in this place, time and circumstances in which you find yourself?

In what way I wonder?

Jesus once asked a blind man: 'What do you want me to do for you? (Luke 18:41). The blind man asked that he might see again. Perhaps you too are wanting a clearer vision in some part of your life?

For now, you might, like me, have to learn to live with some messiness.

But actually that's ok, I know the stone rolls away.

A 'better normal' dawns.

He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

Happy Easter

David - Team Rector

CHURCHWARDENS

Charles

Jonathan Hudson 01598 710350
Stuart Whitehead 01598 710769

East Anstey

Keith Bavin 01398 341257
Bob Connell 01398 341282

North Molton

John Fox 01598 740543

Twitchen

Graham White

Molland

Brian Taylor 01769 550704
John Lawson 01398 341278

Mariansleigh

Richard Govier 01769 550996
Thelma Avery 01769 550424

West Anstey

John Morgan 01398 341972
Rachel Holland

High Bray

Ray White 01598 710417
Anthony Bawden

Knowstone

Reg Howe 01398 341508

Rose Ash

Martyn Rix 01769 550281
Caro Hammick 01769 550409

Bishops Nympton

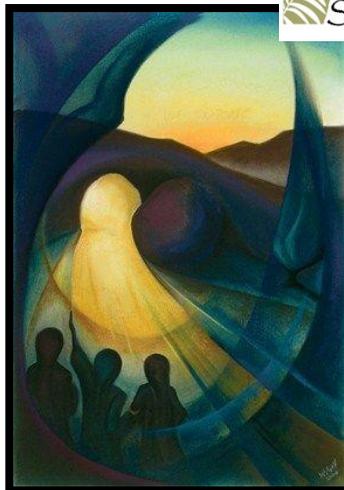
Frances Evans 01769 550313
Cheryl Woollacott 01769 550435

CHURCH CALENDAR:

Palm Sunday 28th March

7.00am

Morning



Reflection & Prayer on Zoom

10.00am Holy Communion,
All Saints North Molton

10.00am Holy Communion,
St Mary's Bishops Nympton

4.00pm 'Baking through to

Easter' on Zoom
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

Monday of Holy Week 29th March

7.00am Morning Reflection
& Prayer on Zoom
9.30am Holy Communion,
All Saints North Molton
4.00pm 'Baking through to
Easter' on Zoom
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

Tuesday of Holy Week 30th March

7.00am Morning Reflection
& Prayer on Zoom
9.30am Holy Communion,
All Saints North Molton
4.00pm 'Baking through to
Easter' on Zoom
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

Wednesday of Holy Week 31st March

7.00am Morning Reflection
& Prayer on Zoom
9.30am Holy Communion,
All Saints North Molton
4.00pm 'Baking through to
Easter' on Zoom
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

Maundy Thursday 1st April

7.00am Morning Reflection
& Prayer on Zoom
4.00pm 'Baking through to
Easter' on Zoom

6.30pm Reflection with
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mmunion at All
Saints North Molton

7.00pm Holy Communion,
St Peter's Rose Ash
7.00pm EATs Maundy
Thursday Reflection on Zoom
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

Good Friday 2nd April

7.00am Morning Reflection
& Prayer on Zoom
12.00noon Passion Reading,
Churchyard All Saints North Molton
2.00pm Reflection, St
Mary's Mariansleigh
4.00pm 'Baking through to
Easter' on Zoom
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

Saturday, Easter Eve 3rd April

7.00am Morning Reflection
& Prayer on Zoom
4.00pm 'Baking through to
Easter' on Zoom
6.30pm Reflection with
Holy Communion at All Saints North
Molton
9.00pm Night Prayer on
Zoom

EASTER DAY 4th April

7.00am Sunrise Service on
Zoom

10.00am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Peter's Charles

10.00am Easter Day service +
 HC, All Saints North Molton

10.00am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Mary's Molland

10.00am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Michael's East Anstey

10.00am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Peter's Rose Ash

10.00am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Mary's Bishops Nympton

11.15am Easter Day service +
 HC, All Saints High Bray

11.15am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Peter's Twitchen

11.15am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Petrock, West Anstey

11.15am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Peter's, Knowstone

11.15am Easter Day service +
 HC, St Mary's Mariansleigh

4.00pm 'Baking through to
 Easter' on Zoom

9.00pm Night Prayer on
 Zoom

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For all Zoom services follow the
 Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/
 4099684358](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4099684358)

Meeting ID: 409 968 4358

Using your landline or mobile phone
 you can telephone into the services
 by dialling any of the four telephone
 numbers: 02034 815237 0203
 481 5240

0131 460 1196 0203 051 2874

Further information is available on
 the Edgemoor website

Each week from then onwards for
 the foreseeable future:

10.00 am North Molton
 Holy Communion

10.00 am Bishop's Nympton
 Holy Communion

10.00 am Zoom Morning
 Service

Wednesdays 9.30 am Holy
 Communion at North Molton. As
 'new ' services are added to the
 schedule, they will be put up on the
 website.

Ascension Day is Thursday May 13th.
 We would hope to be able to hold a
 service. Thy Kingdom Come will run
 between Ascension and Pentecost
 on Sunday 23rd May.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Bishops Nympton Doreen May
 Ashton Cremation 2nd February at
 Barnstaple

Rose Ash Ella Morrish Cremation
 24th February at Barnstaple

North Molton: Hector Delbridge,
 Cremation 3rd March 2021 at
 Barnstaple

Molland Jim Bending Burial 4th
 February.

A reminder that if you wish to add
 names to an anniversary of death
 slot in our magazine, please

complete the form inside the back cover, or send the details by email to alisonj.r66@gmail.com. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

KNOWSTONE -*Michele Browse*

At last, it feels as if spring is on its way! Daffodils, snowdrops, and crocuses are waving their heads in the sunny breeze, as I write this, and on surrounding farms, lambing has begun. The dry weather and cloudless blue skies, at the end of February, were a most welcome tonic after the long, wet winter lockdown, and new life is all around us. Our nation is rolling out the coronavirus vaccine with better-than-expected swiftness, and there is increased hope in being able to get together with our families and friends in a few months' time. As we reflect on the renewal of life and the beauty of the world around us, we also remember our Lord's crucifixion and glorious resurrection, and we are very pleased to be able to open **St Peter's Church on Easter Sunday, 4th April, for a Communion Service at 11.15 am**, officiated by Canon Michael Rogers. In accordance with continuing Covid restrictions, this will be a shorter service and all attending will be required to wear face masks. No singing will be allowed, although we can still enjoy

some uplifting organ music and springtime floral displays to highlight this most important day in the Christian calendar. The long-awaited under-pew heating system has now been installed, so even if the weather is chilly, there will be a warm welcome for all parishioners joining in this joyful celebration. In St Peter's churchyard, any remaining Christmas wreaths were removed from the grave sites at the end of February, in accordance with Edgemoor Group regulations, and the churchyard is now looking immaculate, displaying the regeneration of springtime flowers.

Sadly, annual spring/summer events like the Village Show will not be able to take place this year, but there is hope that a pop-up event may take place later in the year when restrictions ease. Meanwhile, the Knowstone Parish Hall Committee is running a Photography Competition. This is open to all ages, with categories of "what I/we did during lockdown", "trees", "escape/freedom", "spring" and (children only) "my favourite place". The deadline for entries will be Monday, 31st May, and entries will be judged by someone outside the parish. Further details can be found on the Knowstone parish website.

Welcome: We welcome to our parish Kevin and Susan, who have moved into Rose Cottage,

Knowstone and hope to see them when future community activities resume.

Some special milestones: Mrs Ruth Lord, a long-standing resident of Mill Haven and member of St Peter's Church, celebrated her 90th birthday on 4th February, and Mr John Ashton of East Kidland Farm celebrated his 94th birthday on 25th February. We wish belated hearty congratulations to them both.

Condolences: Miss Christine Stone, formerly of Knowstone Parish, sadly passed away in December. She is survived by her sister Pearl, with whom she once shared a home in Roachill.

Looking forward to a cheerful and promising spring season, with best wishes...



MOLLAND –Brian Taylor

As I write this at the beginning of March, the daffodils are in flower, but the snowdrops have not quite finished their flowering cycle whilst,

at the same time, the primroses have started flowering in the gardens and hedgerows, so spring is here once again after what seems to me to have been a long winter with the lockdown. Springtime is probably when our churchyard is at its prettiest. By the time you read this, Easter will be here so let us hope that we can hold some sort of service on Easter Sunday this year and gradually get back to some sort of normality as the effects of the pandemic hopefully recede. Unfortunately, the Devon Bell Ringers have had to cancel their competition again this year as they will not be able to hold the qualifying rounds

before the final in June (even if that could have taken place), so we hope to hold the final in Molland in 2022.

As many of you will know, Jim Bending died on 25th January.

Often, when passing by his cottage, he would call Trish and myself to have a look around his garden and he would come up to ours especially near show time to discuss the size of onions!

Our sympathies go to Carole, Graham, and the rest of the family. Revd. Penny Lawson conducted the funeral service on 4th February and writes these few words:

In January, Molland lost a “wise man” - Jim Bending. He could be a bit gruff, but always.

with a twinkle in his eye and did not make a big fuss. He had lived in Molland for at least.

50 years, and, with his death, we all have a sense of the passing of an era. His daughter,

Carole said “he loved his gardening, hunting, playing skittles and, most of all, winning cups at the garden show in Molland”. He will be missed.

CHARLES – *Annie Whitehead*

‘Tomorrow will be a good day’ (Sir Tom Moore 1920-2021)

A Baby’s Sock (A true story)

Two little girls went riding one day.



Along Charles lanes lined with banks brown and bare.

A bitter wind blew reddening their cheeks all aglow.

While grey clouds up above were threatening snow.

Tousled manes and tangled pigtailed but they didn’t care.

They were having such fun with no



thought of the sun.

Giggling and laughing trit – trot at a pace,

Until they spied on the road something smallout of place.

Out of the saddles they timidly stepped down.

‘Is it a bird, shrew or maybe an alien?’ they pondered with a frown.

With little hearts racing- were they in for a shock?

However, as they got closer it was not baby Yoda.

But merely a tot’s little sock.

After much deliberation as to what to do .AND agree

They eventually dangled it on a nearby tree.

Once safely home and snug by the fire,

Sipping hot chocolate, the telephone rang:

“At last, I have found you” said a neighbour with glee,
“Tomorrow you’ll find ‘choc in a box’ hanging on the very same tree!
AND THEY DID!

This is a heart-warming story of networking between people living in Charles who through phone calls eventually traced these two-little people to express their gratitude. Hopefully, we can soon start putting

When you receive your In Touch Magazine, Easter may well have passed – our thanks go to the clergy team and Zoom team for the services which have been a great blessing to us all. We are all longing to get back into church and enjoy the services, the music, and the singing.

We hope that the next In Touch will bring us all news of things that will,

When you get to your wit’s end, you’ll find God lives there,

dates in the diary. Take care and keep well.

NORTH MOLTON – *Carol Fenwick*

We hope you are all keeping well and safe.

We have now got to the beginning of April and can look forward to the Spring and Summer before us, leaving the dark days of winter behind. It is lovely to see the lambs in the fields, the wildflowers growing in the hedgerows and the birds have started singing.

By now we expect most of you have had your first jab and feel more comfortable moving about a bit more – hopefully, by the time we have had our second one things will begin to get a little more normal, and we shall be able see our families and get together with our friends again.

hopefully, take place – until then take care of yourselves and we all look forward to meeting up again soon.

NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL -
Nicola Bourne

EASTER QUIZ

1. How many times does the word Easter occur in the King James Bible?
2. Which is the only Shakespeare play that mentions Easter?
3. Who wrote the songs for the 1948 musical film Easter Parade?
4. How much did the world’s most expensive egg sell for & who made it?
5. Where is the world’s egg museum?
6. Easter Island belongs to which South American country?

7. What was Simon of Cyrene made to do by the Romans?
8. Which prisoner was released instead of Jesus?
9. Which light fruit cake, with two layers of almond paste or marzipan, is traditionally eaten during the Easter period?
10. What was the name of the hill where Jesus was crucified?
11. What is the Easter flower?
12. Where did the word Easter originate from?
13. Who starred in the film Easter Parade?
14. How long did it take to create the largest decorated egg in the world?
15. The 17th century German tradition of bringing eggs to good children started with what animal?
16. In eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called what?
17. How does New Orleans celebrate the last day before Lent begins?
18. Easter Sunday is different each year – how is the date determined?
19. How many days passed between Jesus' death & resurrection?
20. Who wrote the Easter hymn 'Jesus Christ is risen today'?

(Answers near the inside back cover.)

TWITCHEN – *Hugh Croft*

DEATH OF A FATHER.

He died last night.
 Long waited,
 Long anticipated.
 He'd tried several times this
 Past year,
 Struggling to push open the door.
 This time
 The door swung lazily to and fro, on
 a
 Sunlit porch, hardly moving in a
 Faint, sweet breeze, - and his
 Soul
 Slipped through
 Unhurried, easily,
 Leaving the husk of the house
 Silent, bare
 Unimportant now.
 Where did he go – where arrive?
 Was there a sound of
 Cheering, of welcome? A sight of
 Arms outstretched, of joy and
 smiles? The
 Scent of new-baked bread and
 Wine outpoured, the
 Oil of forgiveness
 Stirred by the Spirit's breath?
 He thought so, and now he knows.
 The thoughts and faith that
 Sustained him through life,
 Surely do not
 Disappear at death.
 Morning does not vanish before
 Noon, nor noon before the
 Evening. They
 Close up into one. And so

The evening is warm.

Hermione Roff

We were very sad to hear about Hector Delbridge who died on Feb 15th. He was a Twitchen stalwart and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this time, particularly for Peter and Sandra.

Again, our thanks to David and all the team for keeping us and everything going in these difficult times. Zoom church is wonderful and thanks to all who organise it. It's good to be in touch with people across the whole group and beyond. Happy Easter to all.

EAST ANSTEY – Fran Bridger



Not all things are dictated by Covid! The crocuses and snowdrops have popped bright white faces into our world as if everything continues as 'normal'. And it does – within a set of restrictions – and how we view them: i.e., is our glass half empty or half full. I saw a short film many years ago – and I expect some of

you might also have seen it – and here is a brief synopsis.

A factory worker dressed in a white boiler suit, and his fellow workers, have completed a work shift. They walk through a sterile door for a break. As they step through the door they are surrounded by trees, water fountains and bird song – a veritable Eden. Then the camera pans out and we see something quite unexpected; the men have walked not out of the big factory and into the external outside, but in fact they have walked *into* the garden – which is in fact an enclosed, very small space; an island within the rest of the world - which is the factory. The Eden is all that remains of our world and has been preserved as a tea garden.

The film shows many things, not least that our Eden is not always 'outside', sometimes it is inside, and during the last year we have been forced to look inside ourselves and at our lives in ways we have never done before. I/we have come to appreciate that our lives are only limited by restrictions if we let our minds believe we are limited, and that most of us have discovered the invaluable and therapeutic help of nature. Soon we will start seeing the swallows, hear the cuckoo, watch birds nesting in the hedgerows, and in time the fragile beauty of fledglings will be balancing on twigs like trapeze

amateurs!

WHAT'S COMING: A very welcome **Holy Communion Service on Easter Sunday, 1000hrs.** Please wear masks and use distancing – and be assured that you are all welcome, and our church will gradually become the centre piece of our community that it has always been.

And finally, **welcome to all newcomers to East Anstey**, and I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

*Soon the magic of swallows will fill
our skies
they will swoop like welcome darts
and fly
over newborn bleating lambs
and all will be well with our world.*

**EXMOOR LINK FEDERATION
(BISHOPS NYMPTON AND EAST
ANSTEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS)** - *from
Tim Gurney*

Welcome to Spring at school. This is the term where we generally are able to explore our world at our schools, both on each site and further afield. Currently we are restricted to outdoor learning in our own settings, but we hope to be able to begin our regular activities (such as the Exmoor Challenge) if and when we are allowed.

The term started with the lockdown once again with both schools open for just a few, including children of Key Workers and those designated

as Vulnerable. We once again operated our online and remote learning programmes as well during this period supporting our families with live lessons and loaned equipment. The use of remote technology has been amazing for us and in particular, our online assemblies and events have been very popular. We even managed to celebrate World Book Day with a magical visitor. This has been a touch period for all but I am so very proud of all our wonderful children and families for their efforts and our amazing staff teams for keeping learning going.

We have had some staff changes in the federation this half term with two new teachers being appointed at Bishops Nympton. We said our sad farewells to Loyce Peter but are delighted to welcome Robert Ansell to Year 5/6 and are also looking forward to welcoming Katie Martyn to Year 3/4 when she takes up her post after Easter.

We hope that we can all return to a 'normal' Summer term if possible and we can get back to enjoying some of our exciting curricular events and trips as the weather improves. For now, though I would like to wish all of our families and communities a very Happy Easter. We hope to see you as the year progresses and once again, until then, do stay safe. *Tim Gurney*

WEST ANSTEY - Banger Milton

By the time that we all read this edition, hopefully complete Lockdown will have eased & life may be heading towards normality – if we can remember what that is. Lambing will be in full swing for most and as March came in like a lamb, we hope it won't go out like a lion! Easter will have come & gone, but there will have been an Easter service on Easter Sunday at 11.15am up at the Church. No doubt the Church will have been decorated beautifully, too. Zoom meetings are at present continuing. Also, there will have been an Easter Garden competition run by the Village Hall, which should have brightened our lives up too. Smokey, Sharon, Jack & Ollie (Routley) will have left the Parish, albeit only a few miles away, but hope that they continue with their input into various events held in West Anstey. Best wishes to Jim (Wright) who is on crutches, following an accident with his horse, hoping he will be walking sound in due course.

WEST ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL –

Helen Pearce

Well fingers crossed 2021 will be a better year for us all. It already feels brighter with the recent sunny days and the arrival of some colour in the hedgerows and on the roadside banks.

Hopefully getting back to much missed social activities will not be too long away now. Once we get the green light, how about trying something new? Anstey WI are looking for new members; a friendly group meet monthly in the hall and enjoy visiting speakers, trips out and crafting. The popularity of crafting has resulted in a Craft Club being set up which under normal times meets weekly. Coffee break is held monthly, and Anstey Arts put on various events.

The hall itself has undergone a bit of updating by way of the installation of some solar panels and plans have been approved for an extension.

BISHOPS NYMPTON – Cheryl Woollacott

After what has been such a long and disheartening year, lovely to see Spring emerging with flowers, buds and little lambs running around everywhere and let's hope current plans will help all to move on from lockdown in the coming weeks. Schools are now returning and gradually restrictions being lifted. Thank you to everyone in our community looking out for each other and still doing so.

Easter is now approaching, so please check the Edgemoor Group website for up-to-date times for planned live Church services and zoom times. There will be a 10.00am Easter Day Holy

Communion at Bishops Nympton with Jane Lucas. At the moment, 10.00am H C Services will take place each Sunday here until 21st June. (Wearing of masks, social distancing, and hand sanitising to be observed.) Thank you to the Ministry team for keeping their services and zoom going. Alistair's Word from the Shed continues weekly, as does Good News at Ten every Thursday Morning via Zoom, details Rev Alastair Forman 551784. Plus, House of Prayer, virtually on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm, details Sally Cotton 550645.

A celebration of Burn's night was held via Zoom, thank you to everyone taking part, with their poems and Scottish history.

Thank you and well done to Wendy Fields who raised over £300 for Devon Air Ambulance with the lovely Christmas hats she knitted and sold at the local shop.

The avenue of trees in the Churchyard have been pollarded and thank you to a great team effort in clearing up the wood afterwards.

Just a reminder that if you would like a relative remembered on the anniversary of their passing or birthday for the first five years, please contact via In Touch, North Molton Vicarage as the list of names is being updated.

Wishing you all a pleasant Easter with 'sunnier' times ahead.

NEWS FROM THE EXMOOR PONY CENTRE, ASHWICK, DULVERTON TA22 9QE

Let us hope there is light at the end of this very long tunnel, and we will be able to re-open to the public in April – no earlier than the 12th. Please keep an eye on our website for opening times and booking details, as we will just have to wait to see what Boris says in the coming weeks.

During lockdown we have been organising some new ventures and we are now also offering a range of 'Ponies Helping People' activities, aimed at giving you a warm glow from contact with our lovely ponies. Individuals or groups can choose from a variety of grooming or leading sessions at the Centre, or a walking and pony leading experience out onto Exmoor. Deeper 1:1 equine facilitated personal development sessions are also now available in a new private area at the Centre.

At the beginning of February, eight ponies, including Andy and Banksy who were so popular with visitors last year, left the centre to go to a conservation grazing site of 800 acres in Suffolk. They met up with twelve of our ponies who have been there since 2019 and have settled in well. The Exmoor pony is a popular environmental land manager, with many being sought for 'wilding' projects. These large areas of

estate land being turned back to nature make for perfect homes for our mealy mouthed, brown bodied equine friends.

We have also had the last of this year's foals gelded and they are all happy to be handled by our staff. Their journey to a new home will happen later in the Spring.

If you are ordering items from Amazon, please could you consider doing it through Amazon Smile and selecting The Moorland Mousie Trust as your nominated charity. It doesn't cost you a penny, but it does mean the charity will receive a donation. Thank you in advance.

We hope that all our friends and supporters are well and look forward to welcoming visitors to see the ponies in April – fingers crossed! Please keep up to date with our news on the website and social media platforms.

Website:

www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre

Email:

info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Tel: 01398 323093

ROSE ASH- *Sharon Brown*

With batteries fully charged, we are ready for the off after pretty much a year in lockdown, we are ready to go...hopefully...bit by bit...fingers crossed...

Not unusually for winter, we have had a snowfall or two, in January, and some beautiful, warm, and dry sunny weather at the end of February enticing the daffodils out and making plants and trees relax, unfurl, and reach for the welcome warmth. Nature is bursting into life, once more.

St. Peters church has remained open on Wednesdays for people to go to pray and reflect and the Word from the Shed has continued to bring comfort and topics to inspire thought to many, whilst lockdown continues. Technology has brought the outside in for many people over the past months and has been a lifeline to ease loneliness and the tedium of 'staying at home'. Indeed, Burn's night was celebrated by several parishioners via Zoom. There was also a church service on Valentine's Day which included music by Aled Jones and Rod Stewart!

Our village hall has been decorated and Geoff shared pictures of this on the village Facebook page, I am sure everyone is looking forward to crossing that threshold once more. Perhaps we will all be appreciative of things we have missed doing and maybe took for granted before lockdown. In early February people stood outside their doors to clap for Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Ash Mill has moved into the 21st century with fast fibre broadband

well on the way to completion by Openreach. Thanks go to Mark Thompson who pushed the case forward for the upgrade. The

fast fibre should greatly assist with home working, schoolwork and Zoom meetings, some arising from the restrictions of the pandemic.

Simmonds have continued to deliver fruit and veg, which has been much appreciated and Joe, in the village, has suggested the need for a 'litter pick' distanced meeting to clear the lanes of Rose Ash. It is a shame we need to do this at all but, in keeping with the regular beach cleans going on along our coastline it indicates that people are working together to do what is best for the natural world. In Sir David Attenborough's Witness Statement, he writes.

'...we have gone from being a part of nature, to being apart from nature...' A powerful statement, but things such as picking up litter



shows we are all hoping and willing to redress this.

As a bit of fun, I have included a picture of our donkeys sporting

their Easter outfits, parading outside their stable as if on a

Adversity should never get the Christian down – except on his knees.

catwalk.

WEATHER STATION- Neville Vereker

January - February 2021

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Rainfall.</u>
<u>21yr Average.</u>	<u>Temp</u>
January.	8.0 ins
	202.5 mm.
146mm.	Max 12.2
February.	4.4 ins
	112.0 mm.
115mm.	Max 12.8
Min -3.8	

Notes:

1. The highest January rainfall in the last 21 years was in 2014 with 243mm whilst the lowest was in 2006 with 36mm.
2. The highest February rainfall was in 2020 with 245mm whilst the lowest was in 2003 with 57mm.
3. My apologies to readers of

this weather report for the absence of a report for the last two months of 2020 due to hospitalisation. Some of the readings for January are also a little suspect.

Bray.

HIGH BRAY

What a wonderful picture the crocuses have been at High Bray Church. I think most of the village have been taking pictures of these amazing flowers which, during these awful Covid days have been a beacon of hope. Thank you so much Craig Bennet (assisted by Dad) who picked up all the Christmas wreaths for us before they grow in and make mowing difficult.

Get well wishes to Roger and Doreen Grimmond. Roger has been very poorly; better times ahead hopefully. We remember the family and friends of the late Maurice Tucker from Brayford. Maurice, Margaret and Andrew have lived at Hillside for many years. Maurice enjoyed time with North Devon Beagles and skittles. He was a former builder always generous to High Bray church when I collected donations for a 'project' at church. I am very happy to write that we are hoping to have a Holy Communion Service on Easter Morning at 10 am when we look forward to greeting friends old and new – at a distance – with masks please.

Easter greetings tyo all Edgemoor clergy and churches from us at High

Local Houses of Prayer

1) A short Celtic Daily Prayer and a time of gentle prayer and blessing

Where and When – at the moment?

Zoom meeting – Fridays at 5.00 pm.
Contact Penny Lawson for further details

2) Bishops Nympton House of Prayer

Every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm until 8.30pm at the latest.

We pray together, each in our homes, to bless our local community.

A reminder email, usually with a suggested theme and/or reading is sent to all who wish to join in each Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

No names or personal details/circumstances are mentioned online.

If anyone would like to join us they can ring 01769 550645 or 01769 551702 or email

bishnym@bishnym.plus.com. We currently have 14 people on our list but more are always welcome.

Something to ponder

Bishop Robert recently talking about St Paul's wish to grow more Christ-like:

“St Paul echoes in 1 Corinthians 15:10 ‘I am what I am’, and to paraphrase Romans 7:15

- I know I am not who I should be
- I know that I am still not who I will be
- But I thank God I am not what I was.”

Can we see how God has been at work in our lives? What can we do to grow more Christ-like?

- Spend more time in prayer?
 - Join the Houses of Prayer and/or arrange to meet (currently on line, but eventually meeting in person) to pray in 2s or 3s and/or take part in national initiatives like *Thy Kingdom Come*.
 - Become a ‘boilerhouse’ of prayer. Boilerhouses are the powerhouses of our churches. As we age physically, and we are less able to get out, it is sometimes easier to spend time in intercession – pray the news, pray concertedly for our neighbours, pray in the night hours, when it is hard to sleep. Ask others what you should be praying for.
 - Use Bible notes to help learn more about what the Bible says and how it applies to our lives?
 - Some of our churches may well have people who are organizing this. If you cannot find anyone, email the Edgemoor team, and we will do our best to help.

- Meet with others (currently online, but eventually meeting in person) to discuss what you are reading.
- Join in, or ask to be formed at a time you can manage, groups which study together. Listen to Rev Alastair's "Word from the Shed."
- Find a way where we can put our faith into action – admittedly more difficult still, but as our lives/lockdown ease, perhaps there is an opportunity.



Reshaping the Edgemoor Group of Parishes

*Freeing Church
to be Church*

Consultations throughout the Edgemoor Group

*Clarity and Direction Affirming and
Supporting*

UPDATE: First, to thank you all who took time to pause, pray and consider a future direction for our Churches.

When setting out we did not of course envisage the severity and length of the pandemic and there is no doubt that this has made discussion and consultation difficult. There is a natural tendency to prefer to keep things as they are and nothing beats face to face when proposing and putting forward options for change. Adding to this is the natural anxiety, which many are feeling currently, and in difficult times we all perhaps prefer to cling to what we know.

Some seeds have now been planted, we continue to encourage PCCs and congregations to think creatively, proactively about the future as we move forward now with care and consideration.

Scripture Cake

This is a recipe I was given over forty years ago, and the King James /Authorised Version of the Bible is required.

Ingredients

4½ cups of 1 Kings 4:22 1
cup of Numbers 17:8
1½ cups of Judges 5:25b 2
tsp of 1 Samuel 14:25
2 cups of Jeremiah 6:20 6
of Jeremiah 17:11
2 cups of 1 Samuel 30:12
½ pinch of Leviticus 2:13
2 cups of Nahum 3:12
½ cup of Judges 4:19b
2 tsp of Amos 4:5
Season with 2 Chronicles 9:9

Method

Mix and Proverbs 23:14 and cook this as a rich fruit cake. Enjoy.

Easter Quiz Answers

1. Once - Acts 12:1-4;
2. Romeo & Juliet;
3. Irving Berlin;
4. 9.5 million US dollars Winter Egg by Peter Karl Faberge;
5. Poland;
6. Chile;
7. Carry the cross for Jesus;
8. Barabbas;
9. Simnel Cake;
10. Golgotha;

11. The lily which is said to grow with its head down to honour Jesus.
12. Originally called Eosturmonath – first mentioned in the writings of the Venerable Bede when he referred to the pagan goddess Eostre who was celebrated at the beginning of spring;
13. Judy Garland & Fred Astaire;
14. 48 days – it was created for the Osterfest festival in Pomerode – Brazil;
15. The hare;
16. Lazarus Saturday;
17. Mardi Gras;
18. The first full moon on or after the spring equinox;
- 19.3;
20. Charles Wesley.

Olive trees in the Garden

Olive trees live to a grand old age, and testifies the present olive trees in the garden are old have they witnessed?

Name: Month/Year of death.....

Month you would like them remembered in In Touch.

Your relationship with them. (not for publication)

Your Name (not for publication)

Your contact details (not for publication)

.....

Calling all children and families



EASTER GARDEN COMPETITION

Please leave your gardens (with contact name and details attached) ready for judging outside

Anstey Village Hall by

12 noon on Easter Saturday

The Winner will be announced and there will be prizes for all entrants ready for collection in the Hall Porch on

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING



Good Luck Everyone!