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## Not from The Rectory

### Long Lost Families

Most of us, of course, know who our mothers are, but some children don't. They are those who were separated from their mothers a few days or weeks after birth. They were adopted by other adults and sometimes reached adulthood before discovering that the parents with whom they grew up were not their natural parents. Learning that must have been a shock and you can understand how many of them wondered both why they were put up for adoption and what had happened to their natural parents?

During my lifetime and for a considerable time before that, there was a social stigma attached to a woman having a child out of wedlock. If the father of the child was unable or unwilling to marry, young women might look to their family for help. The social stigma was such that the mother-to-be could be discreetly hidden from public notice until after the birth, when, with the social stigma avoided by the adoption of her child, she might return to her normal family life.

Until quite recently, the law covering adoption prevented the child from finding out who was the natural mother. Even now, there are understandable safeguards about seeking information. If a natural mother can be located, the existence of a child unknown of in her present family circle has the potential to be embarrassing. For contact to take place between child and the natural mother, the wishes of both have to be obtained. There will need to be consideration of how relationships with their current families may be affected and also how relations with the adopted parents can be managed.

Until quite recently, the law also prevented a mother tracing her adopted child. There are mothers who must have wondered for years if the decision to have a child adopted was the right thing for that child. How harrowing to be prevented from knowing how the child has fared. How worrying too, the thought that the child, if contacted, will harbour feelings of rejection for the natural mother. What a burden of stress for a

mother to carry – often for the rest of her life.

Unravelling separations between mothers and adopted children requires much delicate negotiation. Some insight into the successful process is featured in the television programme "Long Lost Families". Mothers now in their sixties and seventies have been shown meeting the child they last saw aged six or eight weeks. Adopted children, now with families of their own, have been able to meet a natural mother, if she is still alive, or, failing that, discover they have "new" half brothers and sisters and their families. Sometimes it has meant travelling half way round the world for a meeting. Sometimes, they have lived within walking distance without knowing.

We do not know how many mothers and children, when offered the chance to meet each other years later in their lives, have chosen not to, preferring not to know. They do not figure in the television programme. Their preference not to know must be respected. But the programme does show how reconciling for both mother and child it can be to unlock the burden of not knowing. Those willing to take the risk of finding out why it happened to them and to share it with each other can find relief. Love, cut short in the first weeks after birth, can be rekindled despite the passage of time. First meetings, even on camera, show immediate embraces and often tears of reconciliation.

In our March edition, I praised the televised team of "The Repair Shop" for dealing so sympathetically with each other and the strangers who take items into their barn for repair. It seems to me that here, in "Long Lost Families", is another television programme where the presenters also show an example of a similar worth. It is in keeping with the second new commandment given by Jesus Christ (quoted in March) that we should show love to our neighbours in the same way we wish to have love shown to us by them.

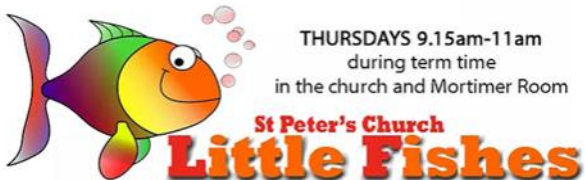
Love has the power to reconcile. Reconciling allows love to flow. The world has need of both.

*(Richard Edwards)*

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# NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Website: [northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## North Tawton Annual Town Meeting – Thursday 28 April 2022, 7.30 pm, North Tawton Town Hall

The Annual Town Meeting will be held in the Town Hall on 28 April. Residents will recall that we had an informal Town Meeting in September. We were unable to hold the usual meeting earlier in the year due to Covid restrictions. For those who are not aware I advise that this is **NOT** a Town Council meeting (we just organise it for you) it is a meeting for all residents of the parish. You're invited to come along and find out more information about various issues. You can ask questions, and there will be consultations on some proposed initiatives. I'll publish the full agenda in due course, but I can advise that our new local D.C.C. Highways Officer will be attending. He is very keen to meet residents and find out what is important to you. Please come along if you can – it's as informal as possible, and tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided on arrival.

## North Tawton Housing Needs Survey

A huge thank you to everyone who returned a completed survey form – we had an excellent response rate. The forms are being analysed by our contractor. The aim is to identify trends to help us do what we can in influencing future housing policy and responding effectively to planning consultations. We had a number of enquiries about workshop/storage units. We'll issue information in due course in response to this. A number of residents expressed concerns as to the use of first-class stamps on the reply envelopes – we wanted to pay for the replies as this encourages a greater response, which has proved to be the case; we used first class as second-class post is unreliable, and finally I advise that the cost of the printing and postage of surveys has been funded by an external organisation, not by NTTC. We will inform residents of the results of the survey in due course and thank you again for your co-operation with this project.

## Clock Tower

The Clock Tower is due to be cleaned at some time in the next couple of months. We hope this will be done before the Platinum Jubilee weekend as we will be putting a new plaque on the base of the tower to commemorate the Jubilee.

**Please Note** – the cleaning project will involve putting up scaffolding around the tower. This will obviously mean the seats won't be available for a couple of days, but the bus stop will remain clear. We may have to ask residents to leave the car parking spaces clear as well, and I do apologise for any inconvenience this will cause – again, it will only be for a couple of days at the most. Hopefully we will then see the tower in all its original glory!

## Street lights and Car Park lights – some information

I've had several queries about the lighting column at the junction of Butts Way and Gostwyck Close, which was removed some time ago – D.C.C. has advised this is due to be replaced, no timescale, I'm afraid. Town Centre car park lights – ongoing problems since the storms, I apologise but our electrician is doing his best and I'm confident it will all be back in working order soon.

The vintage style lighting columns around The Square are due to be completely replaced by the D.C.C. lighting team at some point in the new financial year. They have apparently come to the end of their life and are not worth repainting.

## Strawberry Fields Shrub Beds

At the time of writing most of the work is now complete, there are some more plants to go in when they arrive and we are also looking at improvements to the small grass triangle adjacent to the pavement as you go into Strawberry Fields. I drove past this morning and thought it looked great, and most certainly a huge improvement – I hope residents will be pleased, particularly as this project was paid for entirely from external grant aid.

*Sarah Say*

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## North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

### Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

'A collectable object such as a piece of furniture or work of art that has a high value because of its age and quality'. So that's the first definition of 'an antique' that I got from Google. But I think I'll tweak it. It now reads – 'A collectable object such as a piece of furniture or work of art or a quirky, rustic, technophobey, cake-loving, spectacular spud-growing husband which has a high value because of its age and quality'. That sounds better. And husband truly believes it's a compliment. Bless.

Our March speaker was Richard Halsey – an antiques dealer for 45 years. His main area of interest was furniture and items made from 'treen' – or small, functional, household wooden objects. However, his talk was woven around people with whom he had spent time discussing, valuing and purchasing antique items. Such as 'Peggy' – who had inherited a collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century oak furniture and 'piles of porcelain china including cups without handles' otherwise known as tea bowls. Then there was the 'lady from Exmouth' who attended one of his talks clutching one of the most important pieces of English Delftware that he had ever seen. It was eventually sold through a specialist auction for the princely sum of £3,600. Did you know that in the Victorian era it was quite acceptable to drink your tea out of the accompanying deep saucer? It not only allowed your tea to cool so you could drink it quickly, it encouraged the air to mix with the liquid thus enhancing the flavour. I thought it was a resting place for your custard cream(s) prior to and during the dunking process. My mistake.

Richard concluded his talk with a bit of advice. When you next find yourself in an antiques shop and something has caught your eye – rather than make an offer (which probably won't go down too well with the dealer) ask them 'is that the best price?' Wise words.

Husband likes to think he's a good driver. Ever since he raced around the 1950's streets of North Tawton in a reconditioned pedal car he has considered himself to be a good driver. During our early courting days (I love that phrase) he would gently point out various aspects of my driving ability that could be improved. You can imagine how that conversation actually went. Best not repeat it here. But just in case any of our members wanted to brush up their driving technique we have arranged a 'Driving Workshop' for them. And the good news? It's for the over 60's so I can't go – so there.

What else have we got? A Dance Workshop, a Crochet Workshop, a Cyber Crime talk – not forgetting our Away Day at the Waie (Inn) and a trip to Bridge Mill, Holsworthy. Oh - and a talk about lingerie. That woke you up, didn't it? More on that some other time.

And finally – I'm thinking of starting a new monthly feature. 'Words and phrases you have probably never heard of and will probably never need to use' – ( bit of a clunky title though, might need to work on that). Husband is a veritable walking encyclopaedia of what are fondly called 'husbandisms'. Here is the first offering. **'He'll never tear a lot abroad'** Any idea? Are you as clueless as I was when he casually dropped it into the conversation a couple of weeks ago? Would it be fair to make you wait a whole month for the answer? Because that's precisely what I'm going to do.

*(Sue Knott)*

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## St. James' Church Bondleigh

### Spring Coffee Morning Saturday 9th April at 10.30 a.m.

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#### Other Diary Dates include:-

Grand Plant Sale -  
28th May at 10 a.m. - more details to follow.

St. James' Patronal Festival  
24th July - more details to follow.

### SCEnSus Village Green Working Party

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March 10am



This year SCEnSus would like to invite volunteers to come and help tidy up the Village Green, (in place of the Spring Litter Pick). There are various jobs identified in the Annual Playground Inspection: -

- Rub down and clean benches and picnic tables
- Rub down and clean gates.
- Weed and brush cobbled path.
- Some maintenance to Play equipment.

Volunteers of all ages welcome.

PLUS – collect your Seed Potatoes and Buckets for the Flower Show afterwards!

## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in North Tawton – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Plans are progressing well to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Tawton. Various groups and organisations within the town have met to share ideas and bring together a draft programme of events.

There is still plenty of scope for other events to be added.

North Tawton Town Council has allocated a small budget plus a donation from the Community Games and Culture Group so if you need some financial support for your event please contact the Town Clerk.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

6 p.m. - Parade from the Square to the Rugby Club – theme – '70 years of history' (Events group) – why not join in? Look out for further details.

Rugby Club – Barbecue – Lighting of the Beacon (Scouts & Rugby Club)

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Possible events in the pubs.

Games – Race afternoon/Beetle drive!

Bowls

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Treasure Hunt (Guides) & cream teas

Tea Party in the Town Hall for over 70s (WI)

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

12.30 onwards Picnic in the Memorial Park – bring your own picnic (if raining alternative venues will be available)

including entertainment – music, juggling etc – if you have entertainment skills please consider how you can get involved

Scarecrow trail & Shop Window displays throughout the period.

Look out for further information over the next few months.

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## Sampford Courtenay SCEnSus Seasonal Suggestion – April

Life certainly has its challenges at the moment and there's plenty to get up tight about. Growing your own food has many positive points – the 'therapy' of planting in the first place, watching your seeds sprout and grow, the thrill of harvesting produce and all whilst saving money along the way – especially if some of what you grow will produce extra seeds or tubers (e.g. potatoes) that you can use to grow another crop next year. How's that for both value for money and forward thinking?

April is a busy month for gardeners of all kinds – those with heated propagators or greenhouses will be well underway potting up seedlings that started to grow a while ago. For everyone else and, importantly, for beginners, April is the ideal month to get started and to plant seeds in pots outside your home, on your window sill or even straight into the ground as the weather warms up – but remember to protect your tender plants if we're likely to get an overnight frost.

If you haven't grown anything much before but want to have a go, here are a few suggestions:

Try big 'pots' (recycled buckets or any large container with drainage holes filled with compost) by your doorway or in a yard with a couple of garden canes and plant some runner beans, Swiss/ 'Rainbow' chard, beetroot, salad leaves or nasturtiums (add the flowers to a salad) for a useful as well as colourful display. Make sure the beans and nasturtiums 'climb' by training them around the canes, tying them with string at intervals if necessary. Remember that you'll need to water them daily once they're growing and when (if?) we get continuous hot weather.

Plant hanging baskets with trailing tomatoes or strawberries for an edible and colourful alternative to flowers.

Grow peas and beans (broad, runner or french beans) – grow more than you need and save some at the end of the season and dry them to be used next year. Plant them in a container or directly in the soil in a sunny place against a wall or trellis.

Get together with some friends and share the cost of buying seeds; ask keen gardeners for any spare home-saved seeds or surplus young plants that they might have that you can grow.

Enjoy researching what you can grow that you know you'll enjoy preparing and eating.

If you're into old wives tales, traditions and/or superstitions, find out why potatoes are (were?) believed to be best planted on Good Friday ... and maybe put a couple in the ground or in a pot for yourself on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> and see what happens.

Get competitive – with your children, friends, neighbours ... anyone! Who can grow the tallest bean, the heaviest potato or tomato, the largest or longest whatever ... consider entering the Sampford Courtenay Produce Show (see page 31 for a list of classes).

So, April's here .... get going .... and get growing!

The recent withdrawal from a concert programme in Wales of a Symphony by Tchaikovsky has drawn criticism in the national press. Perhaps the concert promoters feared loss of income from concert goers. Whatever the reason, it seems a strange thing to do. It is difficult to associate Tchaikovsky (1840 –1893) with the action of a Russian government whose "military exercises" have spilled across the border into Ukraine in 2022. Celia Olsson (see page 21) argues the case for realising the Orthodox Church is not only to be associated with what we may think of as the Russian Orthodox Church. It is a mistake to assume that everyone in Russia supports the current Russian policy in Ukraine. Among those who don't may lie the future of a very different foreign policy in Russia. For that we may hope.

Long established works of Art and forms of Christian worship which have come out of Russia are likely to outlive the present Russian government (or indeed any government anywhere else). Let us recognise their value to the international community by keeping faith with their contributions to the world, even if our interest in them is not direct and even if they are under attack elsewhere.

*Richard Edwards*

**ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:**

Community News, Articles, and Events are published (free of charge) in any edition, but must be received by the Editors no later than the 13th of the month before publication.

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## JUBILEE PARADE

As part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebration, North Tawton will be launching a long weekend of festivities starting on June 2nd at 6.30 p.m. with a Parade from the Square to the Rugby Club for the lighting of a beacon.

We are inviting all groups, organisations, friends, and families to take part in this event.

The theme for the parade is **70 YEARS OF BRITISH HISTORY** and as such, you are invited to wear outfits from 1950's through to the present day.

Do you have a classic car or motorbike or bicycle and would be able to take part in the parade? If so we would love to hear from you.

We are hoping to get as many people involved as possible to help ensure the weekend is one we all remember.

Please email [ntheventscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ntheventscommittee@gmail.com) for more information.

There is funding available for any organisations and groups wishing to take part

## Pastoral Care Team



We are pleased to announce that a Pastoral Care Team is now up and running representing the churches of St. Peter's, North Tawton, St. Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay and St. James, Bondleigh.

The team has been attending in-house training over the past three months including visiting the bereaved and the lonely, and marriage and baptism follow-up—and much more that comes under the heading of 'pastoral care'. Look out for the posters in and outside our churches with details of who to contact in the first instance.

## Sheila Shaw 1948-2022

My family and I thank those who sent cards and letters expressing sympathy on the death of Sheila.

There were many stories of Sheila's care and kindness to others, this seemed to be her mission in life.

We are also very grateful to those who attended the service at St. Peters to honour Sheila.

Thanks to those who contributed with music, overheads, stories, and the catering in the town hall.

Thank you all so much

Sheila was an active member of the community, both in the 1970-80's (mother & toddler group, wholesale food co-operative, baby sitting circle, cubs) and also during the last 10 years ("Tuesday Chat", "Little Fishes").

She was always welcoming, liked to chat, loved children (especially babies), loved her friends and family (and me!)

.....and she loved Jesus.

She will be greatly missed.

Chris Shaw



## Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Would like to offer commemorative Platinum Jubilee Mugs to all the children of the parish up to the age of 16 years old. (Free of charge)

If you would like to register your interest, please email the Clerk at [SCPCclerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCclerk@aol.com) with name, age and address.

If other parishioners (of any age) would like to obtain a commemorative mug these can be purchased for the sum of £6.00 each. Again, please let Clerk know if you would like to order some.

**Last Orders should be received by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The Mugs will be presented at a Village Event for the Queen's Jubilee 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

(More details later)

**Grand Summer Ball**

*Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June – 7pm*  
**Sampford Courtenay Village Hall**

*Black tie event*  
**Drinks reception, dinner and**  
*live band*  
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*Contact Marilyn Weeks*  
**01837 851269**  
**rmweeks007@gmail.com**

**SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL**  
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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YOGA CLASSES	Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m.
TAP DANCING	Thursday 2 - 3 p.m.
TABLE TENNIS	Weekly, ring 01837 851659 for details
FLOWER CLUB	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month 2.30 p.m.
CRAFT & CHAT	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month 3.15 - 4.45 p.m.

**OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-**

Easter Sunday Ice Cream Sundaes & Easter Trail (incorporating plant & obelisk sales)  
 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2 - 3p.m.

Come & Chat      Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Jubilee Platinum Picnic Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 12 midday

Summer Ball (see separate advert) Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
 7 p.m. till late

Open Gardens      Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July      details to follow

Please visit the parish website for more details on all of these events

[www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

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PALM SUNDAY  
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10TH APRIL 9.30 A.M.

COMPLINE AT ST. ANDREW'S

MONDAY 11TH APRIL 9.00 P.M.  
TUESDAY 12TH APRIL 9.00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 9.00 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION INCLUDING STRIPPING THE ALTAR (REV'D. JOHN COURTIE)  
THURSDAY APRIL 14TH 7.30 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS (REV'D. RITA BULLWORTHY)  
FRIDAY APRIL 15TH 2.00 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION (REV'D. JOHN COURTIE)  
SUNDAY APRIL 17TH 9.30 A.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ST. PETER'S, NORTH TAWTON

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS APRIL 15TH 10 A.M.  
EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE APRIL 17TH 11 A.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ST. JAMES'S BONDLEIGH

EASTER COMMUNION APRIL 17TH 9.30 A.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ST. MARY'S HONEYCHURCH

EASTER COMMUNION APRIL 17TH 3 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NORTH STREET CHAPEL

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EASTER SERVICE ON 17TH APRIL AT 11 A.M.  
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## News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Full minutes can be viewed on our website [www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk) where any useful links are live. Plus check out our new [FACEBOOK](#) Page. Like and Share to help us spread S.C.P.C. news.

**SEAMOOR LOTTO** – Sampford Courtenay Parish Council has registered as one of the charities which will benefit from the new Lotto run by W.D.B.C.. If you have not bought your ticket yet, please sign up at <https://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk/support/sampford-courtenay-parish-council>

**SCPC** –on Tues 1<sup>st</sup> March held their meeting in the Village Hall with 8 Councillors and 1 members of the public

**Emergency Numbers & Contact Details** – are now available in a handy Parish Directory which can be downloaded from the Website <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/information-leaflets-links>

**Storm Eunice** – SCPC support for parishioners left without power, and lessons learnt for the future. – Cllr. Wilson (9 feedback replies to date) Cllr. Wilson – thanked all Councillors and volunteers who had helped support parishioners during the extended Power Outage during Storm Eunice. She also thanked the Village Hall for allowing its use as a “warm” haven, and place to recharge batteries etc. Free of Charge. The Village Hall was also used for a member of the NHS in the parish to conduct private meetings, through use of the Village Hall Broadband. Cllr. Wilson has since made an application through Devon Communities for funding for an LPG Generator; 8 x Two-way radios, a Waterproof equipment case to be used for future incidents. Cllr. Wilson is to arrange a separate public meeting to review and amend the SCPC Resilience Plan. The Clerk has already up-dated the Website with a new form for residents to complete if they wish to be added to an Emergency Contact list for future incidents.

<https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/news/incidentmanagement-team>.

**Digital Inclusion** – Cllr. M Morrissey - outlined his proposal that the Village Hall could be used for parishioners with poor or no broadband connectivity to access NHS consultations. It is believed, that unfortunately, more first consultations will be triaged remotely to assess if Face to Face appointments with NHS staff are required. Procedures would be put in place to ensure privacy of these consultations, but Cllr. Morrissey already has the support of Devon Communities Internet Hub.

**Defibrillator** – Confirmation of contract to Adopt BT Kiosk in the square has been received and BT have removed telephony equipment. Anthony Morris has kindly agreed to fit the Defibrillator, Free of Charge.

**Broadband/Mobile Coverage Survey** – Cllr. M Morrissey – confirmed that 12 properties around the New Inn have now been fitted with Fibre to the Premise by BT Openreach, and all seem to be working extremely well. Cllr. Morrissey will send out another up-date via “Julie emails” and Facebook shortly. However, as this is issue is so commercially sensitive it is very difficult to obtain accurate information from Broadband Providers. Best advice is for parishioners to keep logging on to BT and Airband websites and check their own post code for up-dates.

**Jubilee Mugs - SCPC will be purchasing Commemorative Jubilee Mugs which will be available free of charge for any parishioner 16 and under; or for £6 per mug for others. Please see Advertising and get in touch with the Clerk if you would like to order. THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PLACE AN ORDER.**

**Jubilee Bench and Picnic tables** have been delivered – it is hoped to organise a St George’s Day Teddy Bear’s Picnic 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 23rd April on the Village Green for the “BIG REVEAL”.

**Annual Parish Open Meeting – 19th April – 7.30 p.m.** – provisional Agenda items will be: • Broadband Up-date • Speed Watch Demonstration • NHS Hub at the Village Hall up-date • St. Andrew’s Church up-date • Village Hall up-date If you would like any other items/issues added to the agenda please let the Clerk know.

**GET SCPC & PARISH NEWS DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX** - the best way to keep up to date is to sign up for emails via Julie and the Website.

**Please contact SCPC Clerk – Marion Pratt at [SCPCclerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCclerk@aol.com) or on 01837 82285 if you would like to raise any issues. Even better, come along to a meeting.**

**Next meetings** 5<sup>th</sup> April and Parish Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April.

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There is a regular service notification in the "Roundabout" about the Orthodox Church in Devon. I would like to tell everyone that this Orthodox church has no affiliation to Moscow. We are made up of Orthodox people from all over the world, using mainly the English language with some prayers also in Slavonic (a form of Russian used by some Eastern European churches), Greek, Romanian and sometimes also (depending on who is in church) Arabic, Finnish and Georgian. It must be very confusing for people outside the Orthodox world to work out the intricacies of it all. Here is a very simplified run down. There is an Ukrainian Orthodox Church which comes under the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul) as we ultimately do in Devon. There is an Ukrainian Church which comes under the Moscow Patriarch, and their priests are having problems. There is also the Greek Catholic Church which to outsiders might look exactly the same as the Orthodox - it is, except it comes under the Pope. Speaking Russian does not denote which church you belong to; Russian is spoken all over Ukraine, regardless of which church, or none, you belong to. *Celia Olsson*

## Coffee Morning for Ukraine Appeal

Sampford Courtenay.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the fund raising for Ukraine event held in the Church rooms on Sunday morning, 13th March.

Thank you to the many helpers and cake makers and for the donations in cash and cheques.

The total so far raised for the Red Cross Appeal is a whopping £1,456!!!!

It just shows how much our small community cares and comes together when needed.

The Royal British Legion, North Tawton Branch celebrated their 100 year anniversary on Tuesday 22nd February in the Town Hall.

Approximately 60 people were treated to afternoon tea and cake.

We hope you all had a great time.

Mrs. Enid Westlake helped chair Monica Simons cut the cake!





**Sampford Courtenay St. George's  
Day  
Teddy Bear's Picnic**

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 2.30 p.m.  
The Village Green**

Bring your own Teddies and your  
own Picnic  
The new Jubilee Bench and Picnic  
Benches will be “unveiled”.  
Enjoy some games and story-telling  
and some sunshine! (Hopefully)



**READING GROUP**

Normally meets on the last Tuesday  
of the MONTHLY  
7.30 p.m. AT THE NEW INN  
for further information or to join  
contact Ann Palmer  
phone 01837851659  
on annpalmer@lineone.net

**Sampford Courtenay Open Gardens**

Sunday, 3rd July, 11a.m. - 5p.m.

Refreshments available  
Proceeds to be shared between  
St. Andrew's Church and the  
Village Hall Roof-us fund.

Full details to come.

**Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:**  
<http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/>

The website is managed by **Julie Carpenter**  
who can be contacted on  
juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk  
or  
admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk  
or by phone:  
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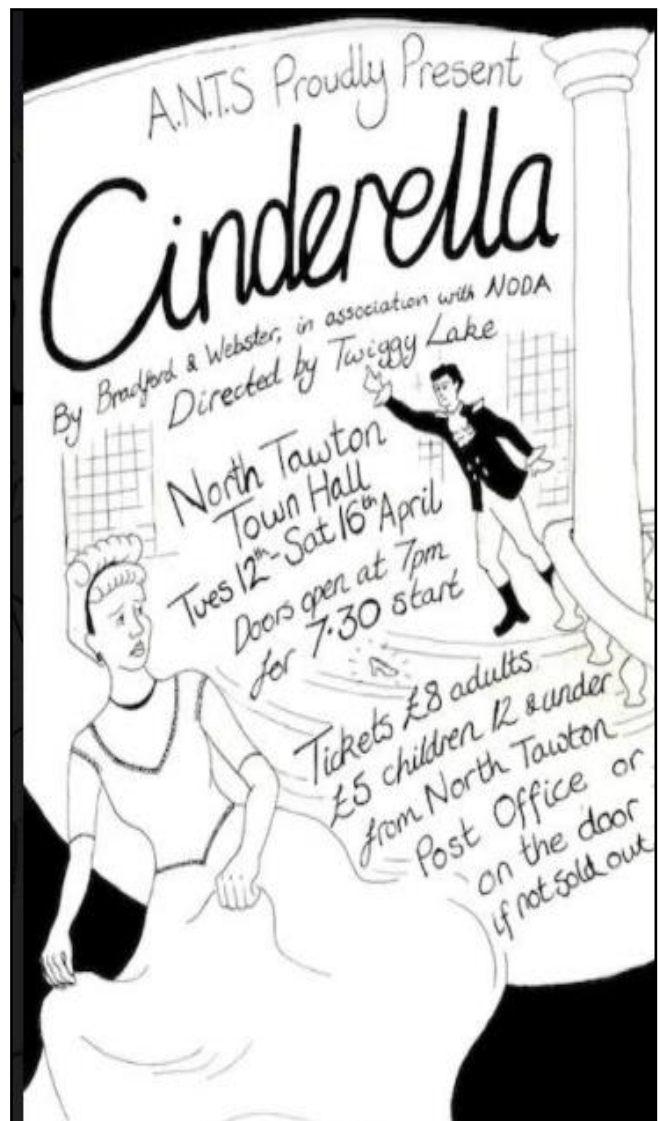
**Sampford Courtenay Flower Club**

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

11th April 2022 2.30 p.m.

Pat Penno

For more information contact the Chairman,  
Nancy Passmore on 01837 54849



## Facing our Fears

Brian McQuillen

The news from the Ukraine is not good, but neither should we be shocked by it. It has been developing for a long time, for we have known of Putin's style and intention for years. With economic trouble at home in Russia he needs a diversion away from domestic problems, in the same way that the president of Argentina, General Leopoldo Galtieri used diversionary tactics from his problems when he invaded the Falklands.

Western democracies have shied away from positive action for too long, but whatever our future action there must be a moral basis for British foreign policy. It is important to recall what Winston Churchill said the House of Commons at the outbreak of war on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939.

*"This moral conviction alone affords that ever-fresh resilience which renews the strength and energy of people in long, doubtful, and dark days. Outside, the storms of war may blow and the lands may be lashed with the fury of its gales, but in our own hearts this Sunday morning there is peace. Our hands may be active, but our consciences are at rest."*

Admittedly, we are not at war with Russia, (yet) but it is a fact of human existence that there are wars and there will be wars. Let me quote someone else:

*"You will hear of wars and rumours of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginnings of birth pains."*

Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 24 : 6 – 8)

It is not for God's people to speculate and find answers to every problem which challenges our daily lives. We may discuss, argue, or lobby those who carry the burden of decision making, but no matter how terrifying the vision, the first step towards lasting faith is not to become overwhelmed or paralysed by fear. Rather, we need to face our difficulties in belief and confront our nagging doubts. Because if we allow them to stay in our peripheral vision, they become shadowy "bogeysmen" and end up gnawing away at our faith.

If, on the other hand, we turn to face our doubts and fears, and do so with humble prayer, then something truly miraculous happens – God works within us, purging us of fear and bringing us through integrity to a fuller, deeper, more peaceful faith.

*(Brian McQuillen is the Vicar of St. Goran and St. Michael, Caerhayes in the Diocese of Truro. He wrote this for his parishioners on hearing the Russian armed forces had crossed the border into Ukraine.)*

## Bondleigh Rainfall

February's rainfall was not very significant. Although it rained on most days, it was not in large amounts and added up to 91.8mm, which was much the same as last year at 89.2mm. However, what was significant was the strength of the wind. With one storm after another there were continuous gales for most of the last 10 days of the month. The winter continues to be very mild with no sign of much change as we go into March.

Danny Semorad



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## Ladies that lunch



**Meet at the New Inn  
Sampford Courtenay**

at 12.30 on the  
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(unless otherwise advised)

for more information or to book ring:

Jackie Mardon

01837 82298

Debbie Manton, the New Inn

01837 82247





## **SAMPFORD COURTENAY COMMUNITY JUBILEE EVENTS**

### **Sampford Courtenay Parish Council**

Commemorative Mugs (Free to 16 and under, £6 each others – please order from Clerk [SCPCClerk@aol.com](mailto:SCPCClerk@aol.com) or 01837 82285 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 22)  
Commemorative Bench

### **New Inn**

Sat Jun 4<sup>th</sup> – BBQ, bar and live music including *Diving for Pearls*

### **Village Hall**

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June – from 12 noon – Platinum Picnic  
Plus Red, White & Blue Fancy Dress Competition  
Jubilee Hat Competition  
A Queen's Day at the Races – fun games for all the family.

### **St. Andrew's Church**

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June – 9.30 am – Service of Celebration followed by Refreshments  
Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June – Choral Concert 7.30 p.m.

### **Flower Show – (to be on display by Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May)**

Scarecrow Trail – on Jubilee or Historic Event of past 70 years theme.  
Door Step Floral Container – Red, White and Blue theme  
Best Decorated House – get your bunting out!  
Plus other Jubilee themed classes for show day on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Check Parish Website <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/> or  
Face Book page <https://www.facebook.com/SampfordCourtenayParishCouncil> for more information  
and up-dates.

### **Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe W.I.**

The meeting was held in Exbourne village hall on Tuesday 8th March. Best wishes were sent to the President who will be out of action for a while.  
The vice-president, Rosemary Lowe welcomed everyone and Jerusalem was sung.

The speaker was Nancy Passmore, who demonstrated making Easter Wreaths with Spring Flowers. She was thanked by Shirley Reddaway and the winner of the main wreath, which was raffled, was won by Ethel Nancekivell. More arrangements were made about the Cream Tea to be provided by the WI on June 3rd from 3 to 5 p.m. for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

Winners of Flower of the Month were Karen Hunter, Vera Collins, Sally Kenealy and Gwyneth Leonard. The competition for a floral display in an egg cup was won by Karen Hunter and Margaret Rook.  
The next walk is to be around Fatherford, Okehampton on Friday March 25th, starting a 10 a.m.  
The next meeting is in Sampford Courtenay village hall on Tuesday 12th April at 7 p.m., when the speaker will be from the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

*Margaret Weeks*

### **NORTH TAWTON BOWLING CLUB**

**Our green opens for the 2022 lawn bowls  
season  
on Saturday 16th April  
13.30 for Open Triples at 14.00**

#### **April HOME fixtures:**

**Tuesday 26th April  
14.30 Ladies Shield v Bradworthy**

**Thursday 28th April  
18.30 Exeter & District League v Crediton**

***To arrange an introductory session*  
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More Truth *offered to the parishioners of St. Goran and St. Michael, Caerhayes in the Diocese of Truro.*

by Brian McQuillen

The first casualty of war is truth. Before a shot is fired, a bomb dropped, or a tank moved, truth disappears out of the window. We have recently witnessed President Putin trying to justify his war by false accusations, fabrications and lies about the conditions of the Ukrainian people.

When facing execution Jesus said he was witness to the truth. Pontius Pilate the politician said, "What is truth?" More with sneering contempt than a question.

Truth is always costly because it involves sacrifice, pain and at least some discomfort. It is there with suffering. Dishonesty is always closely involved with temptation because it offers a quick fix to most demanding and difficult problems. This is why so many people easily slide into a sort of deceitful behaviour without any careful thought, a knee-jerk reaction involving self-preservation. Yet sticking to the truth will often involve a short period of pain and sacrifice, or at least some inconvenience and loss of face before truth will eventually win.

We say and believe that 'God is Truth.' The bible uses the word 'truth' 228 times (my New International Version) which highlights its importance. Surely truth matters to individuals as well as the whole of a society, country, or world. Being truthful means that everyone can grow and mature, learning from their mistakes. It means for a society, a country or world truthfulness makes social bonds, whereas lying and hypocrisy break them.

A church community has to set an example and model for others. Traditionally Lent has been a season of self-examination, discipline and growth, but these days it would be better to think about what is happening outside church walls and clearly make a stand for truth and holiness. It will be costly, as it was for Jesus, but then we are called to follow. Aren't we?

So, if God is truth, then we must have the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Anything less is blasphemy.

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World Book Day at North Tawton Primary School



Last month was International World Book Day. We love celebrating reading at school, so we made it last a week! We had a wonderful time sharing our favourite stories, talking about inspiring characters and discussing different authors and their styles of writing.

Children decorated t-shirts with their favourite book characters which many chose to wear for our dress up day. A huge thanks to FONTS for helping to fund this.

On our dress up day we saw lots of fabulous familiar characters, and some less familiar ones too! These included The Hungry Caterpillar as a beautiful butterfly, Mrs. Twit, Willy Wonka, The Pink Crayon, Amelia Earhart (and plane!), Hermione Granger, Harry Potter, Little Red Riding Hood, Dolly Parton and of course, lots of Disney princesses and super heroes.

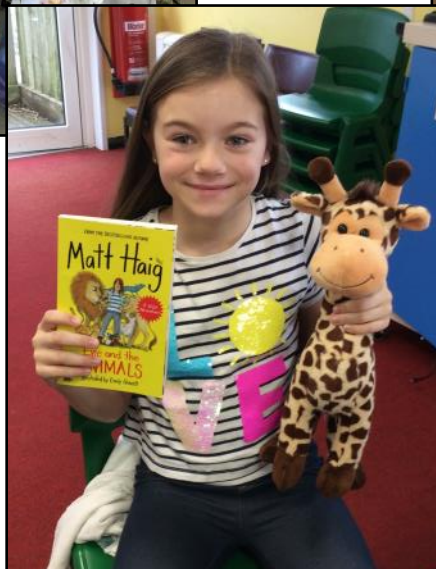
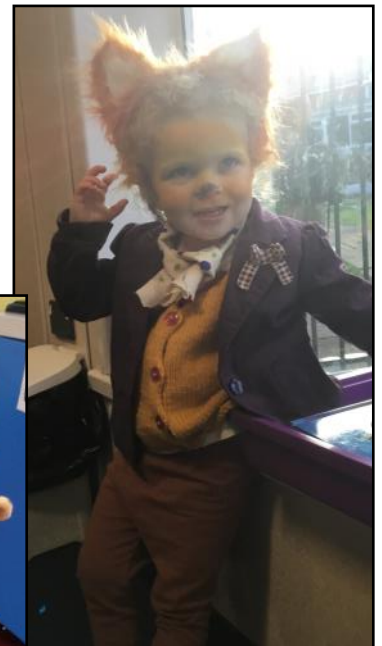
Each child took home an excellent quality pre-loved book of their choice and a £1 voucher to spend at a bookstore.

We love to read at North Tawton!

We look forward to welcoming back our wonderful volunteer readers as soon as covid rates and restrictions allow.

With very best wishes

Tara Penny, Principal North Tawton Community Primary School also known as The Paper Bag - Princess!



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Facebook: Mike Bailey





**SAMPFORD COURTENAY & HONEYCHURCH  
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**PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 20th August 2022  
In the SQUARE/VILLAGE GREEN or VILLAGE HALL (TBC)**

50p Entry fee for each item entered in following classes.

**VEGETABLES**

- Longest Carrot
  - Longest Runner Bean
  - Heaviest Marrow/Squash
  - Heaviest Onion
  - Supermarket Reject/Comic Misshaped Vegetable
  - Heaviest Potato
  - Heaviest Crop from one Seed Potato (Bucket Challenge) including the  
Peat-free Bucket Challenge (50p Entry fee already paid with your £1 for bucket and seed potato)
- BUCKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON SAT 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH after VILLAGE GREEN WORK PARTY  
12.30 p.m.**

**HOME CRAFT**

- Photo – Your favourite Jubilee Celebration Photo
- Painting – Portrait of the Queen (any medium)
- Scarecrow Trail – Jubilee or event of past 70 years Theme (On show from Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May for Jubilee)
- Door Step planted Floral Container – Red, White and Blue (On show from Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May)
- Best Decorated House – get your bunting out!
- Limerick – Memorable Event from last 70 years
- Re-cycled/Up-cycled Item – how can we all re-use or re-purpose rather than throwing things away?

**FRUIT & FLOWERS**

- Tallest Sunflower (Measured at your home)
- Sunflower head with largest diameter (Please bring to the show to be measured)
- Longest stick of Rhubarb
- Heaviest Apple
- Longest Dock leaf
- Heaviest Tomato
- Buttonhole or Corsage you could present to the Queen.
- Longest Stinging Nettle

**CHILDREN**

- Children's Plate of Queen of Heart's Tarts (4)
- Children's Painting – Portrait of the Queen (any medium)
- Children's Model of a Royal Palace (made from any medium)
- Children's Recycled Item – make something new from something old.

**START PLANTING AND PLANNING**



The repair café continues to go from strength to strength, and the last two have included very successful seed swaps/giveaways as well. We repair all kinds of items, from furniture to bicycles, laptops and printers to TVs and small household goods (if you can carry it in we will look at it!). We also have a lovely sewing team on hand to fix rips and holes, mend seams and even the odd zip! We will look at any item, so if you're not sure bring it along so that we can take a look.

Our next events are;

9<sup>th</sup> April – 10 a.m. to 12.30

14<sup>th</sup> May – 10 a.m. to 12.30 – this is part of the national Big Fix event so we want to see as many items brought in as possible!

11<sup>th</sup> June – 10 a.m. to 12.30

at the Community Centre on Barton Street.

For more information go to <https://fb.me/NTRRepairCafe>

**The Whiddon Mission Community**  
**North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch**  
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<b>CURATE:</b> Chagford	<b>Rev'd. Dr. Harriet Every</b> (01647 432402)
<b>PARISH WORKER:</b> North Tawton	<b>Mr. Wesley Cutler</b> (07540 127827) <a href="mailto:wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk">wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk</a>

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St. James' Bondleigh	Mr. Danny Semorad (82319)	Mr. Graham Stokes (82240)
St. Andrew's Sampford Courtenay	Mr. Malcolm Craig (880118)	Mrs. Sarah Hanks (851287)
St. Mary's Honeychurch	Mr. Ray Squire (851627)	Mr. Richard Weeks (851269)

*(All numbers are 01837 numbers unless otherwise stated)*

Church web page address: <http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/>

**APRIL SERVICES at St. Andrew's Church**  
**Sampford Courtenay**

1st Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion BCP
3rd Sunday	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
4th Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion BCP
5th Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion Common Worship

**APRIL SERVICES at St. Peter's Church**  
**North Tawton**

1st Sunday	11 a.m. Informal Communion
2nd Sunday	11 a.m. Morning Worship
3rd Sunday	11 a.m. Family Service with Communion
4th Sunday	Traditional Communion

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**APRIL SERVICES at St. James' Church**  
**Bondleigh**

1st Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Easter Communion

**QUAKERS**  
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 a.m.

**APRIL SERVICE at St. Mary's**  
**Church**  
**Honeychurch**

April 17th Easter Sunday  
 Evensong and Holy Communion  
 No service on the first Sunday of the month

**North Street Chapel**

Contacts: Mr. C. Milton 01837 82708 Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

	11 p.m.	6.30 p.m.
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Special service	Bible Study
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Prayer & Communion	Tea & Talk
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Ministry	No service unless advertised otherwise
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Prayer & Communion	DVD
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No service unless advertised otherwise

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 Celia or Martin Olsson (82796)



## FROM THE REGISTERS

**BAPTISM**

**WEDDING**

**FUNERAL**

**There are no entries in the registers this month**



Please continue to remember those who need help via the Food Bank box in St. Peter's Church outer porch.

It is accessible there during the day.

Thank you.

### **NORTH TAWTON TOWN HALL**

Bookings: Annette 01837 880054

Secretary: Lin 01837 880031

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May 16th

June 6th and 20th.

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### **Devon Sensory Outreach Service NORTH TAWTON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Free, confidential and impartial service for people with hearing and or/visual impairment provided by the Sensory Team, Devon County Council.

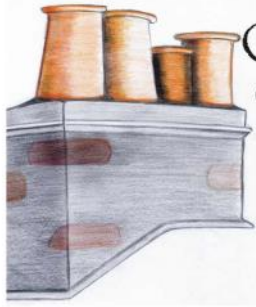
Available on the third Thursday of each month in  
North Tawton Youth and Community Centre, Barton Street.  
**10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.**



### **Pause for Thought**

Now let the heavens be joyful,  
And earth her song begin,  
The round world keep high triumph,  
And all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen,  
Our joy that hath no end.

Translated from St. John of Damascus c. 750



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## Church Flowers & Brass

### Sampford Courtenay

April  
May

Pam Clayton  
Barbara Smith

### Honeychurch

April  
May

Karen Squire  
Marilyn Weeks

### Bondleigh

April 10th  
April 17th  
April 24th / May 1st  
May 8th / 15th  
May 22nd / 29th

Sheila Thorne  
Easter Flowers  
Nikki Jourdan  
Bridget Higgs  
Pam Evison

### North Tawton

#### Flowers

April 17th / 24th  
May 1st  
May 8th / 15th  
May 22nd / 29th

Easter Flowers  
Easter Flowers  
Frances Brookes  
Hilary Edwards

#### Brass

April  
May

Monica & Jane Simons  
Frances Brookes

\*\*\*\*\*

### North Tawton

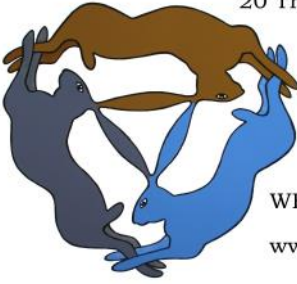
Would anyone be interested in joining the rota to do church flowers?

We are always interested in having new arrangers and you do not need to have experience in flower arranging.

If you would like to go on the rota please phone Sue Gray who will be taking over soon on 01837 82464

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