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From The Rectory

“Where do you think the world is going?” This was the question we started our Lent course with. We had four options: getting worse, getting better, going round in circles or chaos. I wonder which one(s) you’d plump for? For many of us, when we are presented with this question, our mind goes straight to the news. There seems to be complete chaos in world affairs – who knows what will have happened between me writing this and you reading it. The situation seems to get worse by the day. And it’s not just the world scene either, it seems on a personal and local level people are struggling with ever more tragedy and ever more illness.


When we consider the world around us and when we consider our own personal situations we can despair. And when presented by the claim of Christianity that there is an all-powerful and all-loving God, we can sneer. The most common objection to the Christian faith is the question of suffering. Now there are many good answers to this question, but for me the story of Good Friday is the closest to my heart.

We are approaching Easter fast. And the Easter weekend begins with Good Friday. I remember as a child being incredible confused about Good Friday. How can it be good? It is a day we remember someone being unfairly tried, flogged and crucified. It seemed a pretty bad Friday to me. It just sounds like a continuation of the unfairness and suffering of the world around us. But it is *Good* Friday because the person being crucified was God in human flesh, Jesus.

Good Friday tells us that God cares enough about the suffering and injustice in this world to come and do something about it. But not just do something about, to be personally invested enough to join us in it. The cross of Jesus is like a rescue at sea amid a storm. The helicopter lowers down a rescuer into the wind tossed waves. The rescuer is prepared to give everything, even their life, so that those lost in the sea can be rescued. All they need to do is cling on to them and be drawn up to safety. Jesus’s cross is how a loving and powerful God chooses to rescue his suffering people from a world where he had given us complete freedom and that freedom has been used to do great evil. Jesus is the rescuer lowered down from heaven so that all who cling to him can find his rescue. What is that rescue like? It is a multifaceted gift, but one facet is hope for life beyond death. Easter hope. Jesus didn’t stay dead but rose to new life. This showed us that there is always better to come, what we’re going through, however bad, will not be the end of the story. The Christian hope is that like Jesus we will be raised to life again. Raised to a world which the all-powerful and all-loving God has decisively rid of evil; where the problem of suffering is no more. Where there is no more sickness, death or tears, but instead complete love and joy.

David Spence

LITTLE FISHES

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Little Fishes is our weekly toddler group for parents and children aged 0-4 and is held in St Peter’s Church, North Tawton.

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For more info, please contact Wez Cutler on: 07540127827 or wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk



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April 8th

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Midweek Communion

St. Peter's, North Tawton
12 noon 22nd April 2025

Please do join us for a traditional said communion service from the Prayer Book.



If you would like to talk to one of the team, please contact:

North Tawton

Rhona & Ken Bragg 01363 530673
Jackie Tye 01837 880479

Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154
Lynn Robinson 07966 477465

Bondleigh

Danny Semorad 07814 877151
Lin Warre 01837 82089

Roundabout

is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bondleigh and Honeychurch.

Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the Church, by the PCC, by members of the four churches, or by the Editors.

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Visit Roundabout on its own website:
www.northtawtonroundabout.com
(There are also links online via the websites of the North Tawton Town Council and the Sampford Courtenay Village Council).



Lent Communion and Lunch

Join us for a short communion service followed by a soup lunch.

St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

12 noon 2nd April 2025

St James' Church, Bondleigh Spring Coffee Morning Saturday, 12th April @ 10.30am

We welcome you to come along and enjoy coffee and a chat with friends and neighbours at our Spring Coffee Morning.

There will be all the usual stalls to browse with lots of bargains and Lin's draw with many brilliant prizes to be won!

We look forward to seeing you!

Another date for your diary - our very popular Grand Plant Sale will be held in the church on Saturday, 24th May at 10 a.m.

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e-mail: townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

North Tawton Town Council – Seasons of Change

As we welcome the onset of Spring, we also welcome a season of change at North Tawton Town Council. Our two new members of staff, the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk have been working hard to update records, archives and policies. Ensuring that the Council is well informed, and efficiently run, with dedication and positivity is a priority for them both. Our Town Councillors continue to work hard, in their own time, and have been actively involved in the current reviewing of council assets and connecting with the town in a number of ways. We would like to thank each member of the Council for their continued support of both town and the Council.

One of our biggest changes is the new live streaming of Town Council meetings. This venture not only demonstrates transparency on the part of the Council, but also allows members of the public to view meetings where they might previously not have been able to attend in person. There are strict policies surrounding the live streaming of meetings, and the protection of people attending public meetings that are filmed continues to be very important. We are keen to see how our films are received and any feedback we receive will continue to improve our service to the town.

It has been lovely to see the increase in the number of members of the public who have attended recent Town Council Meetings. Whilst current policy means public participation is not available, we are more than happy for people to email us, or to write in, and rest assured that the voice of the public is inherently important to the Council as a whole.

There are several things on the horizon for us, and for North Tawton as it continues to grow as a town, including the VE Day Celebrations in May, floral displays around the town to look forward to, and the sharing of ideas and information with the townspeople at our proposed Council Surgeries commencing soon.

All meeting Agendas and Minutes are posted on the North Tawton Town Council notice board outside the council offices in town, and appear on the website. The website also contains copies of our policies and other relevant information. This can be found at <http://www.northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk>

We can also be contacted via the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk at the following email addresses: townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk and deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Our next Town Council Meeting, which the public is welcome to attend, will be held on Tuesday, 1st April 2025 at 7.30 p.m. at the Town Council Office. Wishing you all a lovely start to Springtime.

A date to keep free in your diary!
A Charity Concert on Saturday, 14th June at 7.30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay,
by the augmented church choir and the Two Rivers Orchestra.
Proceeds to be divided between the Exeter based cancer charity
Force and the Children's Hospice South West.

North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

Husband has several passions. Tractors. Digging. Cottage pie. And the weather. Every day we have a running commentary about the temperature, [don't forget the chill factor], wind speed and direction, and, of course, rainfall amounts. Then at the end of the month it all gets added up and he announces, to anyone who will listen, the weathers vital statistics for that particular month. You have been warned. If you see him approaching on the 1st day of the new month prepare your ears for a weathery monologue – you have my permission to say that you think you might have left the iron/grill/tap on and break in to a sprint.

Hamish Steptoe is also very passionate about the weather. And climate. He is a climate scientist at the Met. Office and he was here to give us “A Summary of Climate Change in 8 Pictures” – the first photograph being the wonderful view of the Earth captured from aboard Apollo 17 back in 1972 – [and it never fails to make me feel very small] So, here are a few interesting points from his talk.

Did you know that the temperature in space is 2.7 kelvins which is minus 270 C. If we didn't have the natural greenhouse gases the earth would have an average temperature of minus 20 C – but as a result of the natural greenhouse effect, the average temperature is 15C. Ever heard of ‘ice cores’? These are cylinders of ice drilled from an ice sheet or glacier and they contain pockets of air that can give information about past temperature and other environmental aspects. Most ice core records are from Antarctica and Greenland with the longest ice core extending up to 3km in depth. The oldest continuous ice core records to date extend 123,000 years in Greenland and 800,000 years in Antarctica. The current concentration of carbon dioxide in ice cores is rising and climate scientists are concerned about the speed at which the measurement is increasing.

Ever heard of the Scottish ‘Sphinx’? This is the UK's longest lasting ‘snow patch’ and it is located in Scotland's Cairngorm mountain range. It was known for lingering long after all other ice and snow had melted but recently it too has started to disappear – another indicator that our climate is changing. Hamish then showed us a picture of the blossoming cherry trees in Kyoto, Japan. The peak flowering of these trees has been recorded since the ninth century – and in 2023 the peak cherry blossom happened on March 25th – the earliest date since records began.

Hamish went on to tell us about an annual report produced by the Met. Office – the State of the UK Climate – which is available to read on their website. From this report we know that 2023 was the second warmest year on record for the UK in the series from 1884, with only 2022 warmer. Observations show that extremes of temperature in the UK have been affected much more than average temperature and five of the ten wettest years for the UK, in the series from 1836, have occurred in the 21st century. And finally – Hamish left us with five ‘personal choices’ that could reduce our contribution to climate change. Eat a plant based diet. Change to LED light bulbs. Have fewer kids. Be ‘car’ free – and take one less transatlantic flight per year. Well that's all [plant] food for thought isn't it?

I'm not really a ‘lunch’ person. If I have a cooked meal at lunch time I then start looking around for a comfy sofa where I can have a sleep. This can be a bit tricky when you're out with family/friends and they suddenly ask ‘where's Sue?’ and the pub landlord has to say ‘she's out the back/upstairs/wherever, having a sleep’. But you can't let that get in the way of W.I. Lunch Club. Which is why I'm writing this on a very happy tummy recently filled with ham, eggs and chips followed by chocolate ice cream. So husband will be fending for himself tonight.

Guaranteed it will be, what he fondly calls, a ‘mucksy pie’ – an interesting combination of whatever he can find in the fridge – microwaved to within an inch of it's life and smothered with gravy. With a Rennie on the side.

I'm not really a craft club person either. But I went. And I made some rather fetching beads. See – I can do more than a Dorodango.

And – we made it through to the Devon Federation Quiz Final. We won't dwell on my contribution to our success in the heat or in the Final. The word ‘negligible’ comes to mind. But you should have seen the embarrassingly huge pile of sweets and chocolate in the middle of our table. If there had been a prize for best nibbles we'd have won it – no argument. And we came joint third in the final. Listen – can you hear Jan shouting ‘YES – but we should have WON!!’

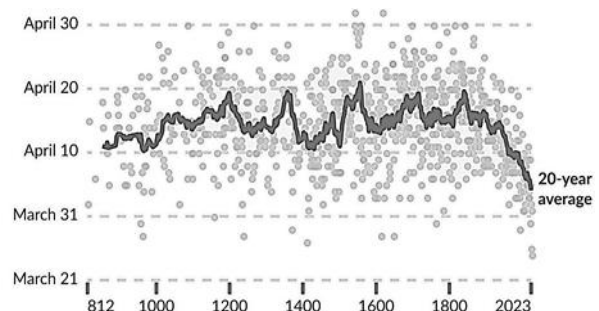
Sue Knott

BONDLEIGH RAINFALL

After a wet January, February has been a settled month with small amounts of rain spread fairly evenly through the month. This rainfall amounted to just 56.5 mm.. This is a complete contrast to last year when February was the wettest month of the year having a total of 196.9 mm.. March has started dry with no rain in the first 10 days.

Danny Semorad

Climate graph: Peak cherry bloom date - Kyoto, Japan



Data source: Yasuyuki Aono (2021; 2024)



‘The changing of the seasons’

Noah Smith

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Saturday, 6th September.

Have you booked your Seed Potato and Bucket yet?

Our **POTATO IN THE BUCKET** Class remains popular with 60 + entries. Bill already has this year's seed potatoes chitting ready to be collected from the **Village Hall on Sat 26th April at 10 a.m.** We will also be hoping to have some plants and seeds to sell/swap (**if you've got some to swap they would be greatly appreciated**) and a chance to chat with some of the "experienced" exhibitors over a cuppa. Plus, a chance to give us your ideas of additional/different classes before we finalise this year's schedule.

Hopefully by now the sun is beginning to shine and you can get outside in the garden – but on cold and wet days why not get your "Homecraft" entries ready? Or start taking some photos – our theme this year is "**Celebrations**".

Keep an eye on the Gardener's World website to see what you could plant from April onwards

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/in-month/april-jobs>

If you want to RESERVE your seed potato and bucket, or have any other comments/suggestions for this year's show – please contact Marion & Bill on 01837 82285 or marion174@btinternet.com

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News from North Tawton School



Sacrifice

This term, we have been learning about sacrifice; what it means to go without, give something up, or do something differently. The children have been learning that sacrifice is an important part of many religious practices, and during times like Lent and Ramadan, it holds special significance.

Lent is observed by many Christians, leading up to Easter, and it's a time for personal reflection, prayer, and sacrifice. Christians often give up something they enjoy, like certain foods or activities, to help them focus on spiritual growth. This act of sacrifice is meant to help them remember the sacrifice Jesus made for humanity. Similarly, Ramadan, observed by Muslims, is a month of fasting where Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, and other physical needs during daylight hours. This fast is also a form of sacrifice, showing self-discipline and empathy for those who are less fortunate. This year, Lent and Ramadan coincide in the calendar.

Both Lent and Ramadan encourage people to think beyond themselves and consider the needs of others. For Christians, giving up things during Lent is a way to draw closer to God and show gratitude for what they have. It's also a reminder that sometimes we need to make sacrifices to grow as individuals and be better to others. For Muslims, Ramadan is also a time to focus more fully on Allah, God. Ramadan is not only a time for fasting but also about giving to charity, helping those in need, and showing kindness to others. Both of these periods are an opportunity to practice selflessness and develop a deeper sense of community and compassion.

For our pupils at school, understanding the importance of sacrifice in these religious observances can help build empathy and respect for people of different faiths. Through our discussions in assemblies and in classes, some children, and adults, have chosen to go without sweets or treats this Lent. Some have chosen to sort out some clothes and toys to donate to Merry Go Round. We have encouraged all to think about something they can add to or change in their behaviours. Lent is a reminder that sacrifice isn't always about giving something up, but about making room for something more meaningful, whether it's spiritual growth, helping others, or simply becoming more aware of the world around you.

Whether you're fasting or simply reflecting, these practices teach us how small sacrifices can lead to big changes, both in ourselves and in our communities.

Tara Penny Principal

PIE NIGHT

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Guide Coffee Morning

Saturday 29th March

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There are a limited number of table tops available at £5 but not to sell food,

Contact 89160.

Proceeds for Guide funds.

Guide quiz,

Saturday 26th April

in the Town Hall,

doors open 7 p.m. quiz starts 7.30 p.m..

Maximum of 6 in a team, cost £3 per person.

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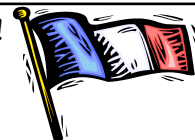
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Calling past and present Blangy- le-Chateau twinning associates !!



Blangy Le Chateau & North Tawton Twinning

The town twinning movement started very soon after 1945, with the passionate support of mayors and citizens who vowed that Europe should never again be torn apart by war. Most of the twinings were between towns from countries that had, till recently, been divided by war.

There was a renewed impetus in 1975 to Twin with European towns and villages following the UK joining the Common Market in 1973. Town Councils in Devon were given lists of towns in Normandy that wished to twin, and a delegation from North Tawton Town Council went to France to “check out Blangy Le Chateau”. It was considered very similar in size to North Tawton with similar groups/organisations e.g. Primary School, Fire Station and Football Club.

In the early years North Tawton were able to fill a coach with people wishing to experience “French Living”. Friendly football matches were arranged and primary pupils were able to travel and stay with host families. But now that foreign travel is so much cheaper and easier, and regulations regarding child safety are stricter – the number of those willing to continue these Twinning visits has dwindled. It is the same in Blangy Le Chateau and we have recently received the following message from their President – Isabelle Pivert “Dear friends of North Tawton The twinning was created in 1975. We celebrated the 40th anniversary in 2015. The Blangy twinning association was terminated in September 2024 because there were no longer enough volunteers. We said we would continue to meet as friends. Isabelle”

A small group are travelling from Blangy to stay with the few remaining active twinning couples in North Tawton in June this year. To commemorate this 50th Anniversary if anyone who has previously taken part in the Twinning Group would like to meet while they are visiting, please contact North Tawton Chair Jill Whiteley and a get together can be arranged.

Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay, and Jacobstowe WI

Jerusalem was sung with great gusto to open our Annual General Meeting.

Cherry Chidwick our President welcomed everyone, and introduced Veronica Matthews, who brought a wonderful display of Easter decorations. She went on to explain how with very little expense we could create the same effect. Baskets of goose eggs were exquisitely decorated with natural elements, a willow obelisk rabbit, and Easter hanging wreaths in different mediums, also a fun way of turning a plastic milk bottle into a rabbit basket to hold all those chocolate eggs. This display certainly brightened up the afternoon, a lovely way to start planning Easter.

Members are looking forward to joining The Red Earth Group next month hosted by Morchard Bishop W.I.. Our Coffee and Cake morning, including a plant stall is organised for Saturday 10th May at Exbourne Hall 10 - noon. Hopefully this will be supported & enjoyed by everyone in the area.

The Annual Meeting followed tea and cakes, with the Secretary giving the Annual Report which outlined a very successful year. The President then thanked the committee and members for their commitment and support.

Cherry was returned as our President, also new committee, and with a very enthusiastic band of ladies we look forward to another fun year. Prizes and rosettes were awarded to the monthly competition winners. Our next meeting is April 7th at Sampford Courtenay Hall at 2.30 p.m., when we have invited Maggie Duffy who is sure to give an entertaining afternoon.

If you are interested and would like to come along and see what the W.I. has to offer, please phone 07971413997 for more information, or contact DFWI.

Picture shows prize winners (l-r) Margaret, Ethel & Karen



Afternoon Tea at Made-Well
Saturday 19th April




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Tuesday 15 April at Fairplace Church

Our meeting this month starts at 2.00pm with a short AGM followed by our speaker at 2.30pm

Ruth Stainer-Smith

Ruth is Vice Chairman of Okehampton Beekeepers Association. Her talk will include an introduction to honeybees and their relationships to other insects.

Beekeeping today is a fascinating and rewarding activity but at times can be challenging. Caring for bees, like caring for any livestock, can be affected by adverse weather, pests, disease and bad luck. Successful beekeeping requires some degree of dedication to acquire knowledge and understanding of bees and their needs. Also, in this global world with changing climate, it is necessary to keep up-to-date with developments.

So, if you want to know more come along and listen to Ruth's talk. There will be time for discussion at the end of her presentation.

This meeting will be held at Fairplace Church, 3 Fairplace Terrace, Okehampton, EX20 1DT starting at 2.00pm.
 Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of, hiring the venue and refreshments.
 For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 688590





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The Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club
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News from the Moor



Hi everyone

As I write we have had a full week of sunshine. It's a miracle! Spirits have been lifted, Spring flowers are everywhere and we have high hopes that this year will continue to be kind.

At Castle Drogo, we are busy preparing the Nursery Rooms on the top floor of the castle to open at the end of March. The Night Nursery will focus on the parallel timeline of 1920s when the castle was being built and the Drewe family moved in; 1970s when the National Trust opened Drogo to the public; and today as we continue to care and share this incredible place. Personally, I am particularly looking forward to some 70's fun.

Out on the estate in Fingle Woods, there is a section of Permissive Bridleway from Clifford Bridge which is now closed with immediate effect. This section of track, by the holiday lodges, is privately owned and permission for public access has now been revoked. The National Trust have provided an alternative route which, due to the presence of sensitive wildlife, will become active after the bird breeding season has ended (1st of August 2025). During the bird breeding season, access into Cod Wood and to Steps Bridge is available at the Coleridge Car Park at the top of Small Ridge Hill. Thank you in advance for following all signs and directions to help us protect our breeding wildlife at this sensitive time of year.

Over at Lydford Gorge, the team there have been busy setting up a fenced, off-lead area for visitors with dogs. This provides a much-needed space for dogs to let out some energy before heading on to the gorge walks. It is at the Devil's Cauldron entrance in the Orchard and will be open during our normal opening hours for visitors.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that we are starting a Connection Cafe at Lydford Gorge in the Waterfall tea room. It will take place on the last Wednesday of the month, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Upcoming dates are Weds. 26th March, Weds. 30th April, Weds. 28nd May, Weds. 25th June.

The purpose is to provide a safe space for people to get together, chat and connect with others. Open to all, especially locals, everyone is welcome to pop in for 5 minutes or longer. Hosted by Julia from our tea room team, it will be light touch with books, board games or even an art activity. It will be free to attend, and the Tea room will be open for those who would like to buy a hot drink. This is a new venture for us so let's see where it goes!

Best wishes all,

Paula

Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor

Bow & District Historical Society

Monday 28th April
7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

talk by Charlotte Coles on
Graveyards & Headstones.

Bow Village Hall EX17 6HU.
Membership £15
Visitors very welcome £4.00
Tea/coffee biscuits included.
Enquiries 01363 82468

Okehampton & District Local History Society

Wednesday 9th April - 7.30 p.m.

at The Ockment Centre, Okehampton.
Speaker T.B.A.

All Welcome. Visitors £3.00.

Easter Services

Holy Week (Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April)

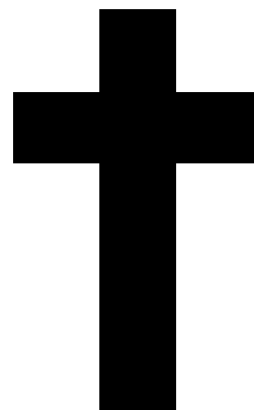
9:00pm Compline (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) @ St Andrew's, SC)
7:30pm Maundy Thursday Communion (Thursday @ St Andrew's, SC)

Good Friday (Friday 18th April)

10:00am Good Friday Reflection (St Peter's, North Tawton)
1:00pm Good Friday Service (St James', Bondleigh)
2:00pm Stations of the Cross (St Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay)

Easter Sunday (Sunday 20th April)

9:30am Easter Day Communion (St Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay)
9:30am Easter Day Communion (St James', Bondleigh)
11:00am Easter Day Family Service with Communion (St Peter's, North Tawton)
3:00pm Easter Day Communion (St Mary's, Honeychurch)



From the Archives— we reprint here the editorial printed in the first “Roundabout” published in September 1990 and written by Edna Eglinton from the “Editorial address” of 9, North Street. That magazine appears to have been printed on a Gestetner machine and comprised 8 pages enclosed within two yellow covers, all held together by two staples.

WELCOME to ROUNDABOUT—the magazine is for everybody round about North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch. It will be delivered each month free to every household in these four parishes.

We hope it will be enjoyed by all and will prove to be useful in getting to know each other.

This is not just a church magazine—though the churches are all co-operating—it is for the whole community, and we hope that secretaries of organisations round about will send us reports of their meetings, advance notice of their programmes and events, and perhaps persuade their members to contribute articles on matters that interest them.

We would like to hear from any of you who have some special knowledge to share, or perhaps can tell us something you remember from the past. We shall be open to most subjects, but strictly non-political.

Many thanks to all those who are making this venture possible: our Rector, Tony Gibson, who started the ball rolling, Lyn Gibson for the cover pictures, Geoffrey Preece for bringing in the advertisers, the advertisers themselves for their support, the gallant band of volunteers distributing the magazine, and Express Foods of North Tawton for production of the cover.

Material for the October issue should reach me by Monday 17th September and I look forward to hearing from you.

Nearly 35 years on the original aims appear to have worn well. Lyn Gibson's original cover sketch was replaced by a “new look” version done by Michael Lawrence in March 1995 (still used today) and in that edition the Rector of the day, Mark Butchers, offered thanks to everyone involved in the production “including Lesley Hill for her marathon stapling” and “Hazel Hooker, Margaret Hunter, Betty Tucker and Ann Cripps and the great army of volunteers who deliver door to door, month by month—all your work is very much appreciated.”

.....and that thought is echoed heartily by today's editors (Hilary and Richard)

At Okehampton Library



Okehampton Library offers so much more than books. It's a welcoming space with free WiFi and computer access, people to chat to, groups and activities. Enjoy a natter with other customers or have a go at our community puzzle. Refreshments are available.

Our Reading Well titles are a range of books covering physical and mental health, and include titles aimed at children and teens. And don't forget if you're housebound or struggling to get to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver not just books but a friendly chat too!

Keep an eye out for more events and activities at Okehampton Library.
Visit our website: discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk
Follow us on Facebook (Okehampton Library) and Instagram ([@okehampton.library](https://www.instagram.com/okehampton.library)).

EVENTS IN APRIL

Police Community drop in: Thursday 10th April 15:30-16:30

Police Community Support Officer, Sean Jones will be here if you would like to come in and chat. He said: "It will be a good chance for us to engage with the community and answer any questions or concerns people have, as well as passing on advice if they would like it. I will also bring along some finger printing kits for any children to take part in."

Easter Trail: 7th-19th April during library opening hours

Can you find all the Easter items hidden around the library to receive a small chocolate treat?

Friends of Okehampton Library Chocolate Draw

£1 a ticket. Enter our Chocolate Draw to be in with a chance of winning one of our delightful bundles. To be drawn Wednesday 16th April. All proceeds will go to the Friends of Okehampton Library, who support the library.

REGULAR EVENTS

ADULTS:

Okehampton Library has a meeting room available for you to book, so you can spread your roots and break the work-from-home cycle or deliver training and meetings in a productive and comfortable environment. Book through our website roomhire.librariesunlimited.org.uk.

Friends of Okehampton [Library: Monday 7th April 14:00-15:00](#)

Are you interested in becoming a friend of your library?

Anyone is welcome to get involved and support the library, organising or helping with events, encouraging use of the library, and supporting fundraising activities.

Read Easy: First Tuesday of every month, 10:00-12:00

Come and chat with Richard from Read Easy, the charity that helps adults learn to read. Richard would love to talk to you, particularly if you are interested to know more about what Read Easy do and/or if you would like to introduce someone to their free 1:1 and confidential service.

Coffee & Create: Fridays, 10:00-12:00

Bring along your own creative projects and enjoy some optional socialising!
Hot drinks available. Free (donations welcome), drop-in, open to adults.

Okehampton Library Book Bingo

Join our FREE year-round reading challenge for adults! Read 12 library books across the year for 12 different prompts. Once you have completed a square, come in to have your bingo card stamped and move onto the next. They can be completed in any order; when all 12 have been completed, bring your card into the library to be entered into a prize draw to win a book bundle and mug – funded by The Friends of Okehampton Library. Completed bingo cards must be handed in to the library by 10 a.m. Saturday 20th December 2025. Collect your bingo card from Okehampton Library at any point in the year.

Recycling for Good Causes: Okehampton Library has taken some inspiration from other Devon Libraries which are doing their bit assisting in tackling the climate crisis and we are proud to say that we have also teamed up with Recycling For Good Causes to offer a recycling point in our library! You can now drop off certain electronics, stamps, currency or jewelry at the recycling point in front of the customer service desk and these items will get sorted and recycled, whilst also raising money for our charity Libraries Unlimited.

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Stay & Play: Mondays, 10:00-11:00 (term-time only)

A fun, free play session for under 5s. Come to play and socialise.
Just drop in.

Read to a Dog: Tuesdays, 15:45 -16:45

To help and encourage children and teenagers to read, book on to a 'Read to a Dog' session with 'Rafa' who has been assessed by and is registered with Pets as Therapy (PAT). All children can benefit from this activity and are welcome, however, it is particularly beneficial to those children who find reading challenging, are worried about reading aloud in front of others or lack self-confidence and self-esteem. Each FREE reading session lasts up to 15 minutes. Booking is essential.

Bounce & Rhyme: Tuesdays, 10:00-10:20 & 11:00-11:20

Suitable for under 5s. FREE, booking essential via the library or Eventbrite.

Baby Weigh: Tuesdays, 09:30-11:30

FREE self-weigh facilities for parents to weigh their babies, are available in a screened area within the library. This is in partnership with Devon Public Health Nursing. No booking necessary.

Duplo Builders & Storytime: Wednesdays, 09:30-10:15

Suitable for under 5s. FREE, no booking necessary.

Lego Builders: Saturdays, 9:30-11:30

Suitable for ages 5+. FREE, just drop in.

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Join our reading adventure for [0-4-year-olds!](#) Collect a FREE sticker book from the library, receive a sticker featuring one of Libro's animal friends for each visit to the library. Collect all 8 stickers to receive a certificate.

The Secret Book Quest

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Children must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

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North Tawton Repair Café would like to thank everyone who comes along to our events – it makes us all happy when we can fix something that would otherwise be thrown away. Did you know that you don't have to have anything to fix in order to come along? We will be open on the dates below, and always have hot drinks available, and often soup, so please just pop along for a cuppa and a chat – we love meeting new people!

We are also now able to offer repairs to computers and to bikes. Bikes must be booked in – please drop us a message on facebook, or call Ruth 07950 637976

12th April 2025 - 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Please bring all items in prior to 12 noon, the earlier you bring them,
the more likely we are to be able to look at them that day!
At the Community Centre, Barton Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HN.

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

If you'd like to find out about volunteering your skills, then please drop in or call Ruth.



North Tawton Library of Things

Join for £5 a year and borrow any of the items we have in the library for free. Open 5.30-6.30 every Thursday in the Chapel of Rest. You can join online or with a paper form (available in the Post Office).

Our library includes household tools, gardening equipment, beer and wine glasses, hoover and carpet cleaners, prams, travel cots, pet carriers, food dehydrator, dehumidifier and craft equipment! Why not pop along and have a look?

<https://northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/>

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14TH TIVERTON II (A)	14TH TIVERTON II (H)	8TH TEIGNMOUTH II (A)
21ST EXETER ENGINEERS (H)	21ST EXETER ENGINEERS (A)	22ND EXETER ATHLETIC (H)
28TH NEW CROSS (A)		

OCTOBER	JANUARY	APRIL
12TH CREDITON II (H)	4TH NEW CROSS (H)	5TH SIDMOUTH II (H)
19TH CULLOMPTON II (A)	11TH CREDITON II (A)	
26TH NEWTON ABBOT II (H)	18TH CULLOMPTON II (H)	

NOVEMBER	FEBRUARY	KEY DATES
16TH OKEHAMPTON II (A)	15TH NEWTON ABBOT II (A)	PRE SEASON FIXTURES - AUGUST
30TH TEIGNMOUTH II (H)		30TH TORRINGTON (H)
		15TH NOVEMBER - FIREWORKS NIGHT (FRIDAY)

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THE ART BOX – April 2025

In association with Ruth Smith Gallery and Red Mud Arts. If you would like to contribute a short creative piece, review, or general arty musings, please send to Ruth at ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk



This month's Art Box is from Julie and Marie who are launching a series of art retreats at Julie's off-grid cabin, Silent Haven, in East Chilla.

'Connecting to Wild Nature through Art' is a weekend retreat for women following the cycles of nature with therapeutic art. Wilderness guides you to reconnect to your roots and rediscover your natural self and this is an opportunity to escape into a sanctuary of peace, beauty and sanctuary, feeling healed by nature. The workshops are for women who want to discover their inner nature by releasing old patterns and blocks that no longer serve. It offers time to look at life through an elevated perspective by using art and nature as teachers helping to discover what are your needs, what beliefs form your life, and how you find faith in yourself. Workshops include therapeutic painting, learning technical skills, guided visualisations, forage walk and sustainability, nature inspired art, craft, woodwork, discussion and a fire ceremony to close the weekend. Get in touch if you'd like to know more!

The facilitators:

Julie: BA Graphic Design FdA Integrative Counselling, has been making art for over 50 years. Combining a variety of materials, techniques and styles, building an off grid retreat to steward the woodland and to heal.

Marie: Learned therapeutic arts through 'Tobias', allowing the images and forms to flow through to release emotional pain and struggle. Now helps others to find their own capacity to heal themselves through art.

For details of the next retreat visit: artinnature-devon.eventbrite.com, and to book on for June, contact: 07935269279 or 07939998549.

Red Mud Arts dates for your diary:

Open Mic Night: second Wednesday of the month, from 7.30 at the White Hart, North Tawton. Find out more on the Facebook group.

Life Drawing: last Tuesday of the month, 7-9 p.m. at the Community Centre, North Tawton. Email ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com.

Artists' Critique Group: first Tuesday of the month, 7-9 p.m. at Ruth Smith Gallery, North Tawton. Email ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com.

Join our mailing list to hear about upcoming gatherings, talks and workshops at redmudarts@gmail.com



In the past people have donated lilies for the church at Easter in memory of a loved one.

If you would like to be involved in the resumption of this practice please make a donation by putting it in an envelope through the Vicar's door in Essington, by 13th April, with the name of the person (or people) you are remembering.

These will then appear in church on Easter Sunday.



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Ladies who lunch



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Pause for thought

Hail. Easter bright, in glory dight!
Ye heavens, laugh and sing:
Since Christ our light uprose by night,
Let carols greet the King.
The work of death has been reversed
By Jesus' victory;
And mortals from their prison burst
To His new life, and free.

Daniel's Thesaurus Theologica c. 1530

NORTH STREET CHAPEL

**April 20th
3 p.m.**

Tea and Praise

Colin and Marion Vanstone



**Little Seedlings
Playgroup
North Tawton Primary
School Hall
Every Tuesday during
term-time
9 - 11 a.m.
For babies & toddlers
0 - 4 yrs
Admission £2 per family
payable at the door**

**NORTH STREET CHAPEL
SEWING CLUB**

Monday 14th and 28th April

6.30 - 9 p.m.

For further information contact
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or
charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com



Sampford Courtenay Flower Club

14th April 2025

Sarah Pepper - Demonstration

For more information contact the Chairman,
Nancy Passmore on 01837 54894

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:

07866 605184

**SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL
FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:-

TABLE TENNIS Weekly - for details
ring 01837 851659

FLOWER CLUB 2nd Monday of every
month 2.30 p.m.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Pie night 7 p.m. Friday 11th April

Community lunch 12.30pm
Thursday 24th April

Village Fête 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. Sunday 29th June

Please see separate adverts or visit the parish
website/facebook for more details on all of these
events www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

QUAKERS

Ockment Centre
North Street,
Okehampton
EX20 1AR

Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

The Whiddon Mission Community

**North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch
Chagford, Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Hittisleigh, Murchington,
South Tawton, South Zeal, Spreyton, Throwleigh, Whiddon Down.**

TEAM VICAR: North Tawton

Rev'd. Dr. David Spence (89243) revdspence@gmail.com

TEAM RECTOR: Chagford

Bishop Nick McKinnel (01647 937563) nick.mckinnel@gmail.com

ASSISTANT MINISTERS: North Tawton
Sampford Courtenay

Rev'd. Rita Bullworthy (89168)

ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk

Rev'd Joe Moesel (07470 297287)

jsmoesel@outlook.com

CURATE: Chagford

Rev'd. Dr. Harriet Every (01647 432402)

PARISH WORKER: North Tawton

Mr. Wesley Cutler (07540 127827) wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Peter's North Tawton

Mr. Paul Andrews (82648)

Mrs. Rhona Bragg (01363 530673)

St. James's Bondleigh

Mr. Danny Semorad (07814 877151)

Mr. Graham Stokes (82240)

St. Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

Mr Rory Robinson (07811 324154)

Mrs. Sarah Hanks (851287)

St. Mary's Honeychurch

Mr. Ray Squire (851627)

Mr. Richard Weeks (851269)

APRIL SERVICES at St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

6th April	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
13th April	9.30 a.m.	Communion
14th -16th April	9p.m.	Compline
17th April	7.30 p.m.	Communion
18th April	2 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
20th April	9.30 a.m.	Easter Communion
27th April	9.30 a.m.	Communion

APRIL SERVICES at St. Peter's Church North Tawton

6th April	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
13th April	11 a.m.	Informal Communion
18th April	10 a.m.	Good Friday reflection
20th April	11 a.m.	Easter Family Service with Communion
27th April	9.30 a.m.	Toast Church
	11 a.m.	Traditional Communion

APRIL SERVICES at St. James's Church Bondleigh

6th April	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service
18th April	1 p.m.	Good Friday Service
20th April	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service

APRIL SERVICES at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

6th April	3 p.m.	Evensong / Communion
20th April	3 p.m.	Communion

ORTHODOX CHURCH Devon Parish of Holy Prophet Elias

For details of services contact
Celia or Martin Olsson (82796)

North Street Chapel Sundays

APRIL 2025

April 6th	11 a.m.	Special service - Speaker TBC
April 13th	11 a.m.	Breaking of Bread
April 20th	3 p.m.	Tea and Praise- Colin and Marion Vanstone
April 27th	11 a.m.	Breaking of Bread

Contact: Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

20th February

David Morgan (86 years)

St. Mary's, Honeychurch

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Fourth Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Next one 24th April 2025

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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 and contents are regularly moved to the community kitchen in Merry Go Round.




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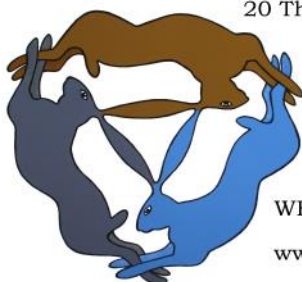

Church Flowers & Brass
Sampford Courtenay
 April Shirley Reddaway
 May Barbara Smith
Honeychurch
 April Mary Pyle
 May Sue Svedang
Bondleigh
 April 6th / 13th Trish Peters
 Lent from 5th March. No flowers. Brass only
 April 20th / 27th Sonia Rix
 May 4th / 11th Jacqui Bourne
 May 18th / 25th Lin Warre
North Tawton
Flowers
 April 20th Easter Flowers.
 All arrangers to help
 on 19th April at 10 a.m.
 May 4th / 11th Frances Brookes
 May 18th / 25th Hilary Edwards
Brass
 April Monica and Jane Simons
 May Frances Brookes

 North Tawton Residents
 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.

ROUNABOUT DEADLINE:
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 are published (free of charge) in any
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