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## From The Rectory

*I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.*  
(Romans 15:30)

As I write, we are just emerging from our first experience of exams as a family. Not only a chance for children to get stressed, but parents too. Many of us have had children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews sitting exams in the past months – we may even have had the delight to be sitting them ourselves! For me it was an opportunity to be shocked at “how things have changed since I was a kid” and to hear the stories of those who sat exams even further back in the past. It is a communal rite of passage – particularly if like me you were a clueless teenage boy when you sat your GCSEs and little idea they were important. When I did realise it was a fast introduction into taking responsibility for myself!

But even with exams, as with all we face in life, we don't need to face such trials and responsibilities alone. We can share our stresses and worries with others around us – a problem shared is a problem halved. It makes such a difference and gives us a better perspective when we share our problems whether with a friend, family member or counsellor.

Prayer gives us an opportunity to also share our worries and stresses with God – the Bible tells us:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God,*

*which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:6-7)

What an encouraging promise! I have certainly known that peace from Jesus when I have brought the stresses I have been facing to God in prayer.

But there's one other level to this – we can pray for each other. When we hear from others about the trials or stresses they are facing our instinctive reaction is to want to solve their problems. But so often in reality there is little we can do, and that can be frustrating. But as Paul wrote in the Bible quote I began with, we can *join them in their struggles* by praying to God for them.

### Try Praying

If you are interested in finding out more about prayer, why not check out 'Try Praying'. These are little booklets available free online ([trypraying.org/try-it](http://trypraying.org/try-it)) or as paper booklets from our churches. Try Praying is simply a seven day practical introduction on how to pray to God and how it can change your life. It is aimed at anyone – whether you've tried praying before or not. Why not try praying?



David Spence

### LITTLE FISHES



**Toddler Group**

**Every Thursday (inc. school holidays)**

**9am-11am @ St Peter's Church**

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

We are a growing group from in and around the town and aim to provide a FREE space which is fun and safe for children and supportive for parents.



For more info, please contact Wez Cutler on: 07540127827 or [wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk)



**Drop in anytime between  
10.30 a.m. – 12 noon  
in the Mortimer Room  
St. Peter's Church**

**2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month**

**July 8th & 22nd**

**For more information contact  
Jo Fear 01837 82553**



A space to meet people, have a coffee (or tea!) and get broken things mended

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.

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 July 2025 & 13th September 2025 - 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (No Repair Café in August)**

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).

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



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# Midweek Communion

St. Peter's, North Tawton  
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If you would like to talk to one of the team,  
please contact:

## North Tawton

Jackie Tye 01837 880479

## Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154  
Lynn Robinson 07966 477465

## Bondleigh

Danny Semorad 07814 877151  
Lin Warre 01837 82089

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Harriet Every: 01647 432402 hmevery@aol.com

## 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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EX20 2BZ  
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E mail: [nt.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:nt.roundabout@gmail.com)  
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Visit Roundabout on its own website:  
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(There are also links online via the websites of the  
North Tawton Town Council and the  
Sampford Courtenay Village Council).

## Charity Wine Tasting Evening



2nd August 2025 7:30 pm

North Tawton Community Centre

Steve and Julia are taking on a 500km cycling challenge in November 2025 to raise funds for Lendwithcare. The route starts in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and ends in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Lendwithcare is a revolutionary way to help people in low-income countries to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

To raise funds we are hosting a wine tasting evening featuring 12 wines from Chile.

To book your place please contribute £15 to our JustGiving Page by scanning the QR code below. Please reference wine tasting in the comments. If you have any questions please call Steve on 07960 865900

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## **JULY EVENTS**

### **The Summer Book Quest: 12th July – 6th September**

Join us to sign up for our brand-new FREE reading challenge, The Summer Book Quest, exclusive to Devon & Torbay! This year's inaugural theme, *The Deep Sea Adventure*, awaits you; collect stickers for each one of the three tasks you complete, and receive a certificate and reward when you have completed the three challenges. Sign up from 12<sup>th</sup> July and keep an eye out for our Summer Book Quest events!

### **Summer Bookish Quiz: 2nd June – 30th August**

Pick up your quiz sheet and test your book knowledge to be in with a chance of winning some lovely [Summer](#) prizes! Suggested donation £1 per entry; all proceeds will go to Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs libraries in Devon & Torbay. With thanks to Dogberry & Finch Books for donating a book bundle and The Friends of Okehampton Library for our other prizes.

### **Storytime & Craft: Wednesday 2nd July, 10:00-10:30**

This month's theme is Summer - come along to listen to some stories all about the Summer and make your very own paper ice cream to take home! Suitable for all ages.

Suggested [donation](#) 50p per child, drop-in.

### **Filo Project Information Stand: Monday 7th July 10:00-12:00**

The Filo Project offers small day care groups in a host's own home for people experiencing memory challenges, relating to conditions such as dementia and stroke. The host will provide transport there and back for all their guests. Activities are geared to the abilities and interests of the group and all will enjoy a home cooked two-course meal together as an integral part of the day. The emphasis is on the guests enjoying some social interaction with friends, while enabling their full time carers to have a day of respite knowing that their loved ones are being well looked after. If you'd like to find out more about the Filo Project pop along to the library to have a chat with Debs.

### **The Summer Book Quest Launch – Beach Doodles Structured Workshop: Saturday 12th July, 10:00-11:30 & 12:00-13:00**

For this workshop, artist Megan Dowsett brings an extensive collection of shells, seaweed, driftwood and pebbles and invites you to arrange them into pictures and patterns, thinking about what their role is in the ecosystem as you go. What IS a shell, after all? And, after we've explored on our own, we'll create a bigger, collaborative piece, and discover the magic that can happen when we all work together.

The 10:00-11:30 session is bookable via the library or Eventbrite, £3 per person. The 12:00-13:00 session is drop-in; no booking necessary. Suitable for ages 4-12.

### **Ocean in a Cereal Box: Thursday 24th July, 14:00-15:00**

Come along to make your very own ocean in a cereal box! Please bring an empty cereal box - all other materials provided. Free, donations welcome. Suitable for ages 5+. Booking essential via Eventbrite or the library.

### **Sea Themed Craft Table: 28th July – 2nd August, during library opening hours**

Drop-in any time this week during library opening hours to make your own mosaic sea turtle to take home! Free (donations welcome), drop-in, suitable for all ages.

### **Police Community drop in: Date to be confirmed**

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."

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

There are many regular events for adults and children.

Please go to our webpage for details or visit our Facebook Page

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, Okehampton EX20 1AR

[Okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:Okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

01837 52805

### **Opening Hours**

**Monday** 09:00-17:00

**Tuesday** 09:00-18:00

**Wednesday** 09:00-13:00

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## **North Tawton Afternoon W.I.**

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

The anticipation is unbearable. Expectations are high. Disappointment may be lurking. Could these be the opening phrases from a best-selling crime novel? That would be a 'no'. Just the usual feelings husband has prior to the first dig of his spuds. Everything above the ground is looking good – but is there anything waiting below? I stand nervously holding the basket – as the 'teddy digger' is carefully pulled through the soil ..... I wonder if Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, grows her own spuds? Forgot to ask her the other day when she came to our group meeting. And what an incredibly interesting talk she gave us. Alison started by talking about her early career with Plymouth City Council and how, with mentorship from the Police, she was supported to 'get things done' and how she learnt the importance of the Police working hand in hand with the Community. She explained that although Plymouth has won numerous awards for its 'City Vision' over the past 20 years, they have also had their fair share of tragedies and bad news such as the Keyham mass shooting tragedy. A large part of her role is holding the Police to account over their actions and setting the strategic direction and priorities for Devon and Cornwall police through the police and crime plan. This includes setting the police budget and the local police precept. One of her success stories was the organisation and management of policing for the G7 summit which was held in Cornwall in 2021 – it went 'very smoothly with no angry protests' – (although there would have been a very angry protest if Joe Biden had put the jam and cream on his scone in the wrong order)

When it comes to crime, Devon and Cornwall has been top of the table for the lowest crime ratings – currently we are ninth. Alison explained that, unfortunately, violent crime (with or without injury) forms the bulk of crimes committed in Devon and Cornwall with much linked to drug dependency. Many cases are taking as long as two years to get to court and, because of this, it is really difficult to keep victims engaged in the process. Alison went on to talk about the 'Prisoners Building Homes' programme which is being led by the five South West Police and Crime Commissioners – this was set up to enable prisoners to be employed and trained by modular housing providers to build low carbon modular homes for local communities and vulnerable people. It provides an opportunity for prisoners to learn new and useful skills which could lead to secure employment on their release from prison. Alison concluded her talk by asking us to please report any crimes that we see – as the criminal justice system can only work effectively if members of the public help by reporting anything that we think is suspicious.

Time for something more uplifting. Gently competitive, but fun. Anyone for bowls? So one recent sunny afternoon saw a group of WI ladies in the stunning surroundings of North Tawton Bowls Club attempting to learn how to send their bowl smoothly over the beautifully manicured green in the direction of the jack.

As anticipated, it's not as easy as it might look when a seasoned bowler does it – but it was a lot of fun. And some of our novice bowlers produced some pretty reasonable results. And the cake was perfect. Oh yes – there was tea and cake to round off a fabulous afternoon.

Our Mystery Trip is just around the corner. I've checked the weather forecast and it's all looking good at the moment. It's a bit of a lottery tho' isn't it? A leap of faith. Piling on to a coach with no idea where you're going. I mean, what do you wear? Should I wear walking shoes/boots or strappy sandals/flip flops? Do I take a coat just in case? What about snacks? Will I have time to write postcards? So many questions. Back to the teddy digger. Was it a hit or a miss? Well lovely readers – it was a HIT!! The soil fell away and there they were. Beaming back at him. Everyone relax – we have spuds and all is well with the world. By the way. Bet you didn't know that May 30<sup>th</sup> was International Potato Day. Husband didn't. And when I told him it was too late. But next year will be different. Husband is already preparing for it. He is planning a mass leaflet drop with recipes for all things potatoey. He is organising a march through the town in support of the spud.

And he is busy designing a flag. Won't that look lovely fluttering from the Town Council Office?

*Sue Knott*

## **BONDLEIGH RAINFALL**

May was another 'dry' month with only 34.9mm. Much of it falling in small amounts at the end of the month. This compared to 111.5mm last year.

While my wife has been spending an increasing amount of time at W.I., I have been doing something much more interesting. I've been looking at the occurrence of 'dry' Springs. The Spring months are March, April and May. Dry Springs have not been unusual in recent years. This year there was 130.3mm in the three months. In 2022 there was 137.4mm and in 2020 it was drier again at only 117.4mm.

Will this dry weather continue? Are we heading for a drought? Or will we have just another 'English' summer Watch this space!

*Danny Semorad*



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## The Two Moors Festival celebrates 25 years this October

The internationally- renowned chamber music festival – the Two Moors Festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an exciting line up in October 2025. This includes the best of chamber music and song, spanning six centuries of musical tradition, as well as talks and workshops.

Twenty one events will be held in fifteen different venues on Exmoor from Wednesday 1st October until Sunday 5th October and on Dartmoor from Wednesday 8th October until Sunday 12th October.

Since 2001, the Two Moors Festival has evolved into one of the most distinctive classical music festivals in the UK. It usually welcomes over 4,000 people to its rural venues. The Festival also nurtures young artists through its Young Musicians' Competition.

The Festival has become a cornerstone of the South West's cultural calendar. Every October for the past twenty-four years, venues across Devon and Somerset - from village halls to churches from castles to museums, from country houses to railway stations - have come to life with inspiring recitals, concerts, operas, newly commissioned works, talks, exhibitions, school workshops, masterclasses, and more.

Highlights of this year's 25th Anniversary Festival on Exmoor include:

- English Song with soprano, Elizabeth Watts and acclaimed accompanist Julius Drake
- All ages singing workshop with APOLLO5
- Schubert's 'Trout Quintet' with Artistic Director and violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen, cellist Guy Johnston, pianist Cordelia Williams, violist Gary Pomeroy and bassist Toby Hughes
- Jazz with Alice Zawadzki
- Tianxu An – playing Liszt, Chopin and Rachmaninov

And on Dartmoor:

- World Premiere of Erkki-Sven Tüür's piece written and commissioned for the Festival
- All ages concert with Colin Currie Quartet
- Schubertiade with tenor, Nick Pritchard, pianist James Baillieu and pianist Cordelia Williams
- Poetry reading by Carol Hughes
- A night at the Opera with National Opera Studios

Tamsin Waley Cohen, Artistic Director and violinist, says: 'I'm thrilled to be celebrating 25 years of this extraordinary festival. We have a stellar line up of world class musicians, from rising stars to household names, a major world premier from Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür, talks, workshops, and plenty of chances to socialise. We always hope that our audience will leave with their hearts full and a warm inner smile, and this year is no exception. All set against the drama and wild beauty of these two vast national parks, over the last 25 years the Two Moors Festival has cemented its place in the UK's cultural calendar. We look forward to the next 25 years of bringing enriching music and events to these beautiful rural areas, and working further with our local, national and international partners.'

For further information on concerts on EXMOOR from 1st October - 6th October please contact:

Margi Jervoise – [margi@twomoorsfestival.co.uk](mailto:margi@twomoorsfestival.co.uk) or 07817791538

### DARTMOOR CONCERTS:

Wednesday 8th October 10a.m.	The Hall, Stepcone Hill, Exeter, EX1 1BD Intesa Love & Lullabies for 1-5s and their grown-ups
Wednesday 8th October 7.30p.m.	The Hall, Stepcone Hill, Exeter, EX1 1BD Intesa Viols & Voice
Thursday 9th October 7.30p.m.	All Saints Church, Church Path, Okehampton EX20 1LE National Opera Studio A Night at the Opera
Friday 10th October 5p.m.	St. Lawrence Chapel, Ashburton, TQ13 7DD Poetry Reading by Carol Hughes
Friday 10th October 7.30p.m.	St. Andrew's Church, Ashburton, TQ13 7DT Tamsin Waley-Cohen with Colin Currie and United Strings of Europe World Premiere by Erkki-Sven Tüür's and Tchaikovsky Serenade
Saturday 11th October 11a.m.	The Nicholls Hall, Lydford, EX20 4BH Silent film of "A Cottage on Dartmoor" accompanied by harpist Elizabeth- Jane Baldry
Saturday 11th October 3p.m.	Ashburton Arts Centre, TQ13 7DT All Ages Concert with Colin Currie Quartet
Saturday 11th October 6p.m.	Canonteign House, Lower Ashton, EX6 7NT Nick Pritchard, James Baillieu and Cordelia Williams Schubertiade at Canonteign
Sunday 12th October 10.30a.m.	The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton, EX6 6QN Talk: Rivers & Rights with Amy-Jane Beer
Sunday 12th October 2p.m.	The Activity Hut at Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton, EX6 6PB Workshop: Nature writing with Amy-Jane Beer
Sunday 12th October 3.30p.m.	St. Andrew's Church, Moretonhampstead, TQ13 8LL Chiaroscuro Quartet play late Beethoven



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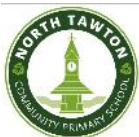
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## Poetry at North Tawton Primary School



When was the last time you read a poem, or wrote one? Do you have a favourite poem? Can you recite one from your childhood? It's a shame that poetry is not often an adult's choice of reading material, but I bet we all have fond memories of poems from our childhood. Here are some you may know, can you finish the lines?

The owl and the pussy cat went to sea in a beautiful ....

When shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning...

Each peach pear plum, I spy ...

Tyger, tyger burning bright, in the forest ....

Faster than fairies, faster than witches...

Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder...

Our early years staff have an extensive list of nursery rhymes which our children are taught, as children get older we share poems through our topics such as In Flanders Fields by John McCrae when learning about Remembrance Day.

This term we are celebrating poetry at North Tawton Primary! From haikus to free verse, epics to limericks we have been reading, discussing and writing poems of many different forms and traditions.

Year Six have been writing collaborative poems to celebrate Summertime. Here are two collaborations for your enjoyment!

### **Summer days**

The days feel like joy,

I see buds ready to burst with new life,

Summer smells like a field of flowers,

It reminds me of my sweet childhood,

I'll be catching hay fever.

### **Summertime**

The days feel like spring, but warmer,

I see the sun setting on the sea,

I hear birds chirping,

Summer smells like salted chips,

Makes me bouncy!

Year One children have been experimenting with language to describe water

Dripping water

Splashing waves

Crashing waves

Soothing river

Dripping rain

I challenged the children to learn and recite a poem for a poetry recital afternoon. Each class learnt a poem and collaborated to present it. Nursery treated us to a counting rhyme about naughty monkeys, Chestnut class taught us how flowers grow, with a picture reveal! Beech class transported us to the other beach – the seaside — and Willow Class energetically told us about a rapping Granny through the poetic form of a rap or course! Hazel Class performed 'From a Railway Carriage (the 'faster than fairies' one in the quiz introduction!) and Sycamore Class performed Ted Hughes's The Thought Fox which was very brave as Mrs. Hughes was our honoured guest! After our class performances, some very brave children stood up and recited a poem they had learnt by themselves. We were so impressed by the confidence and delivery of our performers. There were traditional poems and modern ones, short poems and an epic, two were written by the children themselves and one child shared a poem in Ukrainian.

Mrs Hughes declared all winners! So in our achievement assembly they all received a certificate!

Why not read a poetry book this month. There are so many to enjoy alone, or with children.

With best wishes,

Tara Penny

Principal



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### Pause for Thought

O sing unto the Lord a new song:  
sing unto the Lord all the whole earth.  
Sing unto the Lord and praise His name:  
be telling of His salvation from day to day.  
Glory and worship are before Him:  
power and honour are in His sanctuary

*Psalm 96 vv1,2 and 6*

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### **Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay, and Jacobstowe WI**

Our President Cherry welcomed Neil and Kerry Littleales from the National Garden Scheme. As well as spending time developing their 3-year-old ¾ acre garden including building ornamental ponds, and a waterfall, at Mowhay, Merton, Neil also has the role as social media for the NGS, and Kerry is the assistant county organiser for North West Devon. She has an enthusiastic passion for gardening and has designed and planned their own garden. Kerry's journey into the Nation Garden Scheme, started some eight years ago, living in Hampshire when she convinced the county organiser to include their small suburban garden into the Scheme. The couple moved to Devon taking many of their plants with them, as the owners of their home were not interested in gardening.

The NGS was founded in 1927 by Miss Elsie Wagg of the Queens Nursing institute who came up with the idea of raising money for district nursing through the nation's obsession with gardening, opening privately owned gardens on selected dates for charity.

The scheme has raised over £70 million, since it began and now opens over 3,500 gardens a year. Since 1948 and the creation of the NHS it has changed the nature of the support it gives, now supporting Marie Curie, Macmillan, Hospice UK, and many others.

Neil and Kerry were thanked by Liz for their enthusiastic, funny and very entertaining talk.

Members were soon taking the yellow brochures to plan their garden visits which are open until the beginning of November.

The winner of flower of the month was Ethel, with Hilary winning the photo competition and a free visit to Mowhay at Merton.

Our next visit is to Fursdon House and Garden, Cadbury. Members had a very enjoyable visit last month to Exeter, where they experienced the underground tunnels.

Our July 8th meeting at Exbourne Hall, will be a talk by Maggie Duffy entitled Devon Historical and Hysterical. Come along and see what the WI has to offer, you might like to join us.

*Liz Moir*

### **Bondleigh Events in July**

#### **Coffee Morning - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July at St James' Church - In Aid of Defibrillator Maintenance**

**We are squeezing in an extra coffee morning this year to raise money for the maintenance of our defibrillator and invite you all to come along and enjoy a get-together with friends whilst enjoying coffee and cake.**

**We will have the usual stalls to browse and Lin's draw with many wonderful prizes to be won.**

#### **St. James' Patronal Festival - Sunday, 20th July at 11.00 a.m.**

**Dedicated to St. James, our Patronal Festival service will be led by Bishop Mike and we are delighted that members of Sampford Courtenay Choir will be joining us in celebration.**

**Do stay and enjoy a glass of wine and some nibbles afterwards.**

### **The Guides will be holding their Walking Treasure Hunt & Takeaway Cream Teas on Sunday 6th July.**

The treasure hunt will start at 2 p.m. from Church Cottage, 5 Exeter Street, cost £1 per adult and 50p for a child. Please bring a pen.

Takeaway Cream Teas will be available from 3 p.m..

Please remember to bring a container.

Proceeds for Guide funds.

### **Date for your dairy -**

Saturday 9th August the British Legion will be holding their Produce, Flower & Vegetable Show in the Town Hall.

Entry forms will be available from the Post Office from 30th June.

### **Bow & District Historical Society**

Monday 18th July 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

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on

Charles Bailey, surveyor & musician.

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### **Tuesday 15th July 2.30 p.m. at Fairplace Church Our speaker this month is Nick Clyburn**

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Nick amusingly orientates the audience to demystify the confusing world of Air Traffic Control. Don't worry; Nick will talk you down safely.

Admission - £1 to help towards the cost of the speaker, hiring the venue and refreshments.

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## THE ART BOX – June 2025

In association with Ruth Smith Gallery and Red Mud Arts. If you would like to contribute, please send to Ruth at [ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk](mailto:ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk)



### *Finding My Voice: From Therapy Room to Local Pages*

Before my husband and I retired and moved to beautiful North Tawton, I spent many years as a psychotherapist and counsellor. It was a career that profoundly shaped how I see the world, and indeed, how I write. I vividly remember my tutor once telling me that clients will keep telling their story until they truly feel it has been heard. I think, in a way, that's precisely why I write – to give voice to observations and experiences, and hopefully, to be heard.

People, and perhaps even more so, the intricate relationships between them, have always fascinated me. In my professional life, I was given the incredible privilege of stepping into other people's lives, often at their most vulnerable moments – when they were feeling depressed, anxious, or facing overwhelming emotional challenges. Being with someone as they wrestled with a problem often meant that my most important role was simply to listen and observe. This is where I truly learned the value of noticing the smallest things; the tiny, often overlooked details in people's everyday lives. It's often this very detail, the seemingly mundane rhythm of daily existence, that I find myself drawn to writing about.

There's something deeply connecting about sharing our own vulnerabilities, especially when we're with someone who is feeling vulnerable themselves. I believe it's a powerful way we can feel truly connected to one another. So, many of the pieces I write explore things that have genuinely affected me over the years.

I'm a passionate advocate for the strength and resourcefulness of women, particularly older women. As many of you know, I'm an active member of our local WI. It's no secret that both older women and organisations like the WI are sometimes unfairly seen as boring or outdated. I have a real ambition to overturn that idea! Being the age I am, with the wealth of life experience I've accumulated, offers me an endless supply of material from which to draw. There are so many stories to tell, so much wisdom to share.

I wouldn't necessarily consider myself a "writer" in the grand sense, although I suppose anyone who puts words on paper technically is! While I harbour a secret dream of one day writing a novel, I'm content for now with my current path. The pieces I typically create are usually brief and observational. I write about relationships, the world I see around me, my internal thoughts, and the multifaceted experience of being a woman. Sometimes, I draw from my professional life, given that I've worked with thousands of people over the years – each with their own unique and fascinating story worthy of being told.

Having the opportunity to read my words aloud, and then to have others truly listen to what I've written, is possibly one of the most scary, nerve-wracking, yet incredibly exciting things I've ever done. I'm so grateful to Red Mud Arts for allowing me to do this at their open mic nights held right here in town. And I'm thrilled that I've been invited to share some of my work at an event being held at The Bookery in Crediton on July 17th. I hope to see some friendly faces there!

Jan Gray, June 2025

(Jan Gray will be headlining Lend Me Your Ears Spoken Word and Poetry evening at The Bookery in Crediton on July 17th 7pm. Tickets available in advance at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/crediton/the-bookery/lend-me-your-ears/2025-07-17/19:00/t-eaogxqd>. Open mic spots are available, so if you have new original writing you would like to share, get in touch with Arran R Hawkins at [lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com](mailto:lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com) to sign up.)

### **Red Mud Arts dates for your diary:**

**Lend Me Your Ears: Spoken Word and Poetry Evening, The Bookery, Crediton, 7pm 17th July. Tickets available at:**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/crediton/the-bookery/lend-me-your-ears/2025-07-17/19:00/t-eaogxqd](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/crediton/the-bookery/lend-me-your-ears/2025-07-17/19:00/t-eaogxqd). Open mic spots available, email Arran R Hawkins at [lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com](mailto:lend.me.your.ears.2023@gmail.com) to sign up.

**Artist Gathering: SAVE THE DATE! Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Taw Valley Brewery. More details to come.**

**Paid opportunities: Call for workshop proposals! Crediton Heart Project are looking for local creatives to run workshops in their art week later in summer, 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August. Email [ratsyfang@hotmail.com](mailto:ratsyfang@hotmail.com). We are also looking for people to run workshops and talks in North Tawton for our 'Meet the Maker' programme generously enabled by The Durant Trust. Email [redmudarts@gmail.com](mailto:redmudarts@gmail.com).**

**Artists' Critique Group: First Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm at Ruth Smith Gallery, North Tawton. Email [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com).**

**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, 7-9pm at the Community Centre, North Tawton. Email [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com).**

**Join our mailing list to hear about upcoming gatherings, talks and workshops at [redmudarts@gmail.com](mailto:redmudarts@gmail.com)**



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**The Okehampton and District Local History Society**

will not be having a talk in July as we will be having a group visit instead.

Wednesday 13th August - Colin Sturmer.  
'The Royal Great Charter 1337'.  
A Brief History of the Duchy of Cornwall.  
7.30 p.m.,  
Ockment Centre, Okehampton.  
All Welcome. Visitors £3.00.

**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**

**NORTH STREET CHAPEL**

**July 20th  
3 p.m.**

**Tea and Praise  
Ian Finch**



**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**

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

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES:-**

TABLE TENNIS                      Weekly - for details  
ring 01837 851659

FLOWER CLUB                      2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every  
month 2.30 p.m.

**OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Grand Village Fete                      Sunday 29th June  
2.30-4.30 p.m.

Flower & Produce Show                      Saturday 6th September  
2 p.m.

Community lunch                      Thursday 11th September  
12.30 p.m.

Hungrytown                      Friday 12th September  
7.30 p.m.

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

**NORTH STREET CHAPEL  
SEWING CLUB**

Will not be meeting in July and August



**Sampford Courtenay Flower Club**

**14th July**

**Jenny Dellow**

*Seasonal Delights*

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

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## Ladies who lunch



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## News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council June 2025

The Council has welcomed a new Part time Clerk and Finance Officer - Alan Matthewman. Alan also holds these roles in Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council & High Bickington Parish Council. To contact the SC Clerk you can email [clerkscpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkscpc@gmail.com), or telephone 01769 560740 or write to 26 Fairways View, High Bickington, Umberleigh EX37 9BZ.

The Council held its Annual General Parish Meeting at which Michele Wilson was re-elected as Chair and Mike Carpenter was re-elected at Vice Chair.

The meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Meeting which 24 people attended. Mike Carpenter updated the meeting on progress of renewing the footpath leading to and through the village green. This will when completed offer greater accessibility along the Waterpath (from the Square) and onto the green. Further discussion is to take place regarding the equipment on the Green as some of the children's play sites are needing repair or replacement. It is proposed to create a project that will consider the options and the funding for future equipment. The recent survey indicated that residents were happy to apply a medium spend of > £5000 to improving the facilities on the green.

Andrew Green gave an update on behalf of the Village Hall on works that had been completed. New events are being planned to meet the needs of the Community but the Trustees continue to promote the very popular food events expanding from the Big Breakfast, and community lunches to the new pop up Indonesian Events.

Chris Richards gave an update on behalf of St. Andrew's Church including considerations for the future use of the Church rooms, opportunities for fund raising concerts in the Church and proposed works to upgrade the pathway to the church to improve accessibility. Following on from the Thermal Image Camera Project that took place between February and April, Tamar Energy Community will be bringing more information and presenting Energy saving Opportunities at the Village Fete on 29th June at the Village Hall.

Plus following on from our most recent Defibrillator Training SWAST will also be at the Fete on the 29th providing information and advice on how to save lives and best practice for the use of the defibrillator in the Square

*Councillor Michele Wilson*



### Twinning Visit of Friends of Grainville Langannerie

A group of 15 friends from Lapford and North Tawton have just returned from a visit to their twin town of Grainville Langannerie in Normandy. On arrival at their "Salle de Fetes" (Town Hall) they were given a civic reception during which Peter Henshaw, chairman of the English twinning committee, and Chantal Lefèvre, his counterpart from Grainville-Langannerie, renewed the charter uniting Lapford and Grainville-Langannerie.

This visit celebrated 50 years of Twinning between the two towns.

At the welcoming ceremony Chantal Lefèvre, chairman for 42 years, retraced the history of these exchanges.

"Their origins date back to September 9, 1974," she explained. Mr. Potel, then Mayor, had received a circular from Mr. Destors, vice-president of the General Council, proposing a twinning with a town in Devon.

This initiative took shape during the conference of English towns in Devon twinned with those in Calvados, which Mr. Potel attended on October 12, 1974. It resulted, in April 1975, in a merger with the town of Lapford, "chosen because of its population of around 700 inhabitants and its agricultural and commercial activities, perfectly suited to Grainville-Langannerie." Since then, Grainvillais and Lapfordiens meet regularly, most often during May half-term, alternating between Lapford and Grainville-Langannerie. "Over the years, the partnership has been enriched by numerous official visits, school exchanges and private meetings between families. These exchanges have strengthened the human and cultural ties between our two nations."

This four-day exchange continued the tradition: with a visit to Bird Hill (Municipal Gardens reclaimed from an ancient landfill site) and the castles of Caen and Vendeuvre; an afternoon of games; and a barbecue evening with dancing, which included an old English favourite of the "Okey Cokey", plus other excursions to places around Caen and the D Day Beaches with our particular hosts.

We sadly had to leave on Sunday. But we hope that our French friends will come and visit us in England next year. If you feel like getting involved and are happy to host some of our French guests next year – please contact Marion

[Prattmarion174@btinternet.com](mailto:Prattmarion174@btinternet.com)



# 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

**TEAM RECTOR:** Chagford

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

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

**ASSISTANT MINISTERS:**

**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)

**St. James's** Bondleigh

Mr. Danny Semorad (07814 877151)

Mr. Graham Stokes (82240)

**St. Andrew's** Sampford Courtenay

Mr. Rory Robinson (07811 324154)

**St. Mary's** Honeychurch

Mr. Ray Squire (851627)

Mr. Richard Weeks  
(07790 636920)

## JULY SERVICES at St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

6th July	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
13th July	9.30 a.m.	Communion
20th July	No service	
27th July	9.30 a.m.	Communion

## JULY SERVICES at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

6th July 3 p.m. Evensong / Communion

## North Street Chapel Sundays

### JULY 2025

July 6th 11 a.m. - Special service -Mervyn Burd  
July 13th 11 a.m. - Breaking of Bread  
July 20th 3 p.m. - Tea and Praise- Ian Finch  
July 27th 11 a.m. - Breaking of Bread

Contact: Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

## ORTHODOX CHURCH Devon Parish of Holy Prophet Elias

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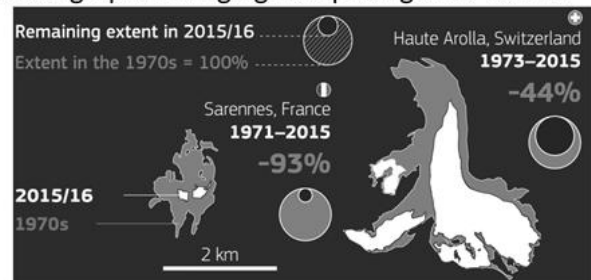
## JULY SERVICES at St. Peter's Church North Tawton

6th July	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
13th July	11 a.m.	Informal Communion
20th July	11 a.m.	Family Service
22nd July	12 noon	Midweek Communion
27th July	9.30 a.m.	Toast Church
	11 a.m.	Traditional Communion

## JULY SERVICES at St. James's Church Bondleigh

6th July	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service
20th July	11.00 a.m.	Patronal Festival Communion Service

## Climate graph: Changing European glacier extent



Europe average: 39% glacier mass loss since 2000

Data source: GLIMS glacier database; The GLAMBE Team, Nature (2025)



'In memory of Blatten'

Noah Smith



## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

6<sup>th</sup> June

Barry WARE (84 years)

St. Peter's, North Tawton

### Baptism

18<sup>th</sup> May

Nova-Rae HAYMAN-COOPER

St. Peter's, North Tawton

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**Next one 24th July 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

July	Avril Flanagan
August	Jeanette Baker

### Honeychurch

July	Karen Squire
August	Marilyn Weeks

### Bondleigh

July 6th	Margaret Bridgman
July 13th / 20th	Rose Smith
July 27th (Patronal Festival) / Aug 3rd	Julie Wilson
Aug 10th / 17th	Jacqui Bourne
Aug 24th / 31st	Sonia Rix

### North Tawton

#### Flowers

July 6th / 13th	Sue Knott / Rosemary Davies
July 20th / 27th	T.B.A.
Aug 3rd / 10th	Anita Lamey
Aug 17th / 24th	Monica Simons
Aug 31st	Joan Nicholls

#### Brass

July	Anita Lamey
August	Celia Boughton & Jo Fear

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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:

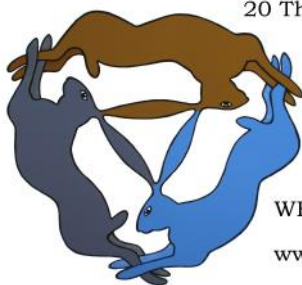
### Community News, Articles, and Events

are published (free of charge) in any edition, but must be received by the Editors no later than noon on the 13th of the month before publication.



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