

IN TOUCH

December 2021/January 2021



The Magazine of the Edgemoor Group of Parishes

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

Suggested copy price £1.00

www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Which film did Peter Dinklage sing 'I'm walking in the air'?
2. Which Christmas food is made from Marsh-Mallows?
3. Which ocean is Christmas Island in?
4. Which continent is the turkey from?
5. Which author's novel is 'Always winter but never Christmas'?
6. Who decreed that Christmas Day would be 25th December?
7. What is the capital of Christmas Island?
8. Who invented the Christmas cracker?
9. Which year was the first commercial Christmas card available?
10. According to legend which Christmas treats are shaped to resemble a shepherd's staff?
11. What is the most watched Christmas film ever?
12. Which president was the first to have a Christmas tree in the White House?
13. Which year did Charles Dickens publish 'A Christmas Carol'?
14. Which Reindeer is Rudolph's father?
15. Which Christmas plant is Viscum?
16. Who tried to steal Christmas?
17. The film 'Miracle on 34th Street' takes place in which real department store?
18. In which modern-day country was St Nicholas born in?
19. Where did Egg Nog originate from?
20. Which fairy tale does the custom for making gingerbread houses come from?
21. What gift did the little drummer boy give to the infant Jesus?

22. Which two of Santa's reindeer are named after meteorological terms?
23. Which country does the Christmas tree originate from?
24. Popular in Victorian England & also appearing in 'A Christmas Carol' what is Smoking Bishop?
25. When was Christmas first celebrated in England?
26. Shakespeare wrote a play as a Christmas present for Queen Elizabeth 1- which one is it?
27. Who wrote the first ever King's Christmas message?
28. Who banned Christmas carols after the Civil war?
29. Who started the tradition of hanging gifts on a Christmas tree?
30. Which saint introduced carols into churches?

Answers will be found in the next copy of the magazine.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers,
from the Ministry Team of the Edgemoor Group**

The Edgemoor Group of Parishes

Ministry Team

Team Rector

vacant

Team Vicar (*Part Time*)

vacant

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Rev'd Penny Lawson

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

Send to:

intouch.edgemoor@gmail.com

The business manager, to whom enquiries about advertising should be directed to:

Mr Roger Wilson

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Editorial - Alastair Forman

I was asked to write this editorial as a kind of "swan song" following my retirement from parish ministry after 41 years on the job.

The swan song comes from a mythical idea that a swan, mute throughout its life, sings a plaintive song just before death. Pliny the Elder correctly refuted this idea in the 1st Century AD but it has lived on as a metaphorical expression meaning something like "a person's last piece of work, achievement or performance" (Cambridge Dictionary). If mine were singing, then perhaps Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poetic quip would be very apt:

"Swans sing before they die; 'twere no bad thing
Did certain persons die before they sing."

But it is not! In fact, for all believers, there is no swan song. Our call to live and speak for Christ doesn't end until the day he calls us home to be with him forever.

As we enter the Advent season we are reminded, not only of the much prophesied first coming of Jesus Christ into the world, but also of his imminent return in power and great glory. That day will herald the end of the old order of things and the beginning of a new heaven and earth in which the redeemed will reign with him.

In these trembling days of climate "crisis", political unrest, plague, and delusion, where is our hope to be placed? We used to sing a song in my early days as a Christian:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely
dim,
In the light of his glory and grace".



Alison and I have had a wonderful time in the Edgemoor Group. Thank you all for your welcome, warmth, humour, and good will. May God continue to bless you and keep you in his peace in these turbulent days.

We will be moving to Filleigh in the New Year. No doubt we will see many of you in the months and years ahead. We certainly hope so.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms:

26th Sept: Bishops Nympton: Charlie Verney

24th Oct: Knowstone: Evelyn Snell

Funerals:

5th Oct: At North Devon Crematorium: Rosemary Speare of North Molton

14th Oct: Bishops Nympton: Alan Curtis, followed by interment in the cemetery.

27th Oct: At North Devon Crematorium: John Stratta, formerly of North Molton

2nd Nov: Mariansleigh: Robin Herbert

3rd Nov: At North Devon Crematorium: John Dalby Smale of North Molton

Interments of Ashes:

25th Sept: Molland:

8th Oct: Elizabeth Burton

Wedding:

2nd Oct: North Molton: Jonathan Hickman and Danielle Hubbard

CHURCHWARDENS

Charles

Jonathan Hudson 01598 710350

Stuart Whitehead 01598 710769

East Anstey

Keith Bavin 01398 341257

Bob Connell 01398 341282

North Molton

John Fox 01598 740543

Twitchen

Graham White

Molland

Brian Taylor 01769 550704

John Lawson 01398 341278

Mariansleigh

Richard Govier 01769 550996

Thelma Avery 01769 550424

West Anstey

John Morgan 01392 341972

Rachel Holland

High Bray

Mike Warner

Anthony Bawden

Knowstone

Reg Howe 01398 341508

Rose Ash

Martyn Rix 01769 550281

Caro Hammick 01769 550409

Bishops Nympton

Frances Evans 01769 550313

Cheryl Woollacott 01769 550435

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

KNOWSTONE – Reg Howe & Wendy Sweet

At the beginning of October we enjoyed a thoughtful and well-attended Harvest service conducted by Revd. Alison Rogers. Thank you, Alison! Our thanks also go to Thelma and her team who decorated the church beautifully with many colourful flower arrangements. The service was preceded by a cream tea which was appreciated by everyone who attended it. Thanks to Barbara for the delicious scones and homemade jam and to the team that helped serve it and clear up afterwards. A very generous amount of food donations was received and delivered to the South Molton Food Bank.

At the end of October, we were delighted that the christening of Evelyn Snell took place in the church.

We are not holding our usual Christmas Fayre this year; however, on Saturday 4th there will be a Christmas Afternoon Tea held in the hall organised by the hall committee, 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for people to get together and enjoy a selection of cakes as well as plenty of mince pies. There will be a Christmas stall selling wreaths and decorations made by Thelma.

Our Carol service will take place on Sunday 19th December at 6.00 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the hall.

As always information about services and other events in Knowstone can be found on the website - www.knowstone.org.uk.

We wish all Knowstone and Edgemoor Group residents a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

STOP PRESS 1 We entered our churchyard in the annual CPRE competition 'DEVON'S BEST CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 2021'. The result was a ***Certificate of Merit***. Well, done everyone who played their part in keeping the grounds in good order.

STOP PRESS 2 Our architect, Alison Bunning, entered our church's ***Rood Loft Steps*** project in the annual **King of Prussia Gold Medal award** for the best church repair and conservation architecture. The gold medal was a gift by King Frederick William IV of Prussia to the Incorporated Church Building Society in 1857. The medal is held by the winning architect for one year and the winning church or chapel receives a £500 prize. There

were five projects on the shortlist, and we were delighted to be told "The Winner is St. Peter's Church, Knowstone, North Devon". Alison was presented with the gold medal by Prince Nicholas von Preussen.

Also, in the Knowstone group for the award ceremony, on Thursday 4th November, were Paul Carpenter, structural engineer and Reg Howe our Churchwarden.

MOLLAND –*Brian Taylor*

The proceeds from our Sunday Morning Harvest Festival Service and produce sale afterwards in October have been sent to The Farming Community Network.

The annual Neighbourhood Watch Meeting was also held in October with two police officers present. We are fortunate in this area that we do not suffer a lot of crime, but it is still necessary to be vigilant and to report any suspicious vehicles and persons but if a crime is actually in the process of being committed then, of course, dial 999. Without the help of residents, the police cannot take action. Another problem in the area is speeding vehicles, so take note of registration numbers and report them.

The process for appointing a new Team Rector is now underway, but it will take time so services during 2022 will be much the same as they are now i.e. services other than holy communion will be very likely lay-led; our new archdeacon, The Ven. Verena Breed, is a very likeable and supportive person and is confident that the post will be filled in due course, so we all look forward to that day although there is much work to do in the meantime.

On **Sunday, December 19th** there will be an outdoor **Christmas Pageant** in the churchyard with carols and readings **starting at 3.30pm**, with a **"Roast in a Bun"** afterwards at around 4.30pm (the village hall and pub will be open should the weather be wet) – tickets for this are priced at £5 each (£2.50 for children under 10years old) and will be available – cash only – from Clare at The London Inn prior to the event to help with catering needs; so do come along to this community event and see the re-enactment of the Christmas Story – there will be angels, shepherds with sheep, Mary and Joseph and a donkey and three wise men! It will be fun for the start of the Christmas week!

**“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.” (Luke 2 verse 10)**

I wish all the residents of Molland and the Edgemoor Group a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

CHARLES – *Annie Whitehead*



**REFLECTIONS on CHARLES VILLAGE LIFE in
2021....** By Annie Whitehead

*‘Some hope for the future
Some wait for the call
To say that the days
Ahead will be the best of all’ (P. McCartney).*

There are so many facets to Charles village where people over the year with different talents/skills, faith or question faith have helped bring this small community together. So, by reflecting over the months albeit only a snapshot of our community life, there have been many life experiences and different emotions both sad and happy that families have experienced. However, in times of adversity Charles village always pulls together giving hope to others especially during the lonely time of self-isolation. In sadness, the village has suffered the loss of Doris Musche and Ray White where Ruby and family will be especially in our prayers/thoughts this Christmas: in a different ‘sadness’ we said goodbye to David and Celia. In joy, we celebrate babies born to surrounding parish families and revel in the natural beauty of where we live. Through hard work, local people dedicated their time to organise highly successful events such as Charles Fest, Charles History Exhibition and Charity Plant sales. And as always Anthony’s Quiz was such a great evening. In a religious sense, socials were arranged after the Easter service, Harvest Festival giving us a chance to get together and catchup on each other’s news. We look forward to the Carol Service on December 19th. Thank you, Penny Lawson, Jane Lucas, and Bryant Sanders, for always warmly touching our hearts and stirring our spiritual thoughts. In essence, whoever we are or whatever our beliefs, we still share the same strong feelings of caring and hope for our planet and our future. Thank you to all those who have given so much to this community over 2021 and look forward to the days ahead being the best of all.

CHURCH DATES FOR THE DIARY: **Please note that as from January 2022 the 1st Sunday in every month will be Holy Communion at 6pm led by a vicar.

Sunday December 19th: at 4pm **Carol Service** with Charles' Choir and favourite carols sung with the congregation.

Christmas Day: at 10 am **Holy Communion**

January 2nd: **Holy Communion at 6pm**

January 9th: **Three Church Service**

January 16th: at 10am **Morning Prayer.**

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year 2022



NORTH MOLTON – *Carol Fenwick*

The clocks have gone back - winter is here - lighter in the morning but it's dark a lot earlier which makes the day seem much shorter. We have enjoyed some lovely sunny days during which we have put our gardens to bed and planted bulbs ready for the spring.

The Wednesday Over 60s lunches will start again in December on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month, at 12.30 pm. If you live in North Molton and are interested in coming to enjoy a hot lunch, please give Eileen Loosemore a ring on 01598 740443.

Harvest Festival was held at the Methodist Church on the 17th of October followed by coffee and lunch in the Victory Hall - the collection taken amounted to £280 which has been sent to the Farming Community Network.

It was with sadness that John Stratta passed away on the 15th of October after a long struggle with Alzheimers - our sympathy and love go to Pam, Nicholas, and Adrian at this time.

You will find all information and arrangements for services over Christmas, New Year and beyond elsewhere in 'In Touch'.

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas wherever you may be and, hopefully, 2022 will be a good one for everyone.

North Molton Crib Service 3 pm on Christmas Eve

As we are still being careful, we do not feel that we can share nativity costumes out, so, this year we are asking children – and adults - to come dressed as a character from the nativity story – Mary, Joseph, angels, stars, sheep, shepherds, wisemen, or as an animal of any sort. We may get loads of Marys and Josephs, but do not worry.



If you can bring an unlit candle in a jam-jar or a lantern, that would be brilliant too.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate Christmas together

This year on **Christmas Eve** our **Midnight Service** starts at **11.30 pm.**

There will not be a service on Christmas Day.

Over the years, a gentleman who now lives in Israel has had an erratic conversation with David Baker –Raymond and his sister, Sylvia Renford, were evacuated to North Molton in 1940 during the London Blitz, when he was 9 and she 12.

Does anyone have any memories of this family, oral, written or photographic which they could lend me for copying, or forward to me alisonj.r66@gmail.com, which I could pass on?

NORTH MOLTON VICTORY HALL -*Nicola Bourne.*

At the moment we have nothing planned for this side of Christmas, but we have tentatively put a date in our diary for 2022 – Shrove Tuesday is 1st March so if we are able, we will have our usual pancake morning on Saturday 26th February. We are also hoping that our fabulous monthly dances will start again in January/February – maybe with some kind of normality returning we can also plan our annual plant sale & Christmas Market. The hall is available for hire if you have an event in mind. You can email or call the number below for more information.

My family & I wish you a Happy Christmas & a safe & peaceful 2022.

North Molton Victory Hall Correspondent Nicola Bourne
01598 740477 nician@waitrose.com

TWITCHEN – *Hugh Croft*

Advent, the beginning of the church's calendar, a new year, new beginnings!

Change is happening, change in nearly every walk of life, change is exciting, but also difficult and challenging.

Our church is facing big changes. At the moment we're without a team rector, hopefully there will be lots of applicants, and the right person selected.

Here in Twitchen our church is struggling, very small congregation, and lack of money. It needs support if we are to keep going!!

Our thanks to Alison and Michael Rogers who seem to be running the show single handed and giving us a huge number of services in the group, and Michael is meant to be retired! A big thank you to Rev Jane Lucas from South Molton church who is stepping in to help with Edgemoor Services. Our next service here is on Dec.12th. at 10.00 a.m.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

EAST ANSTEY NEWS - *Fran Bridger*

Last year we were entering our second lockdown – I hope that we will not be entering our third lockdown anytime soon! For now, though, here are some good news to celebrate:

- **The Harvest Service**, more thinly attended than usual because of Covid, raised £120 for the Farming Community Network. In addition, a whopping 31kg of food was kindly donated in cartons and tins and fresh produce which went to support the South Molton Foodbank. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.
- **The church bells** have been taken down and are currently being restored to full working order. They have been unable to be rung for several years now, needing urgent attention, and this process has finally begun. We hope they will be ringing again around Easter time. This is a costly project, and we have little chance of fundraising at the moment re covid but are confident that everyone's support will be there in the future. Thank you one and all.
- **Church service times** are somewhat erratic due to clergy

changes, but please look out for posters and e mails with new information.

- I am hopeful that the **outdoor carol singing** will go ahead and that we will again end up in the church for the **Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday Dec 22nd**. Please meet at 5.30pm at Hawkwell Cross, then merrily sing through the village to arrive at the church for the service at 6.30pm. Possibly there will be no welcoming hot chocolate in the church, but a lot of happy smiling faces with distancing measures to keep us all safe. Please bring torches and wear high vis jackets, etc. Please have fun and keep safe! Notices will appear beforehand.
- The **Anstey Parish Hall is offering coffee mornings** on the first Tuesday of each month, the next one being the 7th of December. Please support this and use it as an opportunity to meet and greet friends and neighbours.
- **With health being the keynote of these times** please let us remember those around us who have suffered loss, tragedy, and ill health. Having faith – whatever your views – allows us to have hope, just as Tiny Tim did in A Christmas Carol. Let us enter the festive season and the new year with the wish that God *will* bless us, everyone. Merry Christmas one and all.

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

We are now well into the second half of our Autumn Term here in the schools of the Exmoor Link Federation. It has been a term of great industry so far with the children all working really hard and enjoying school life.

This term we see sporting fixtures for our football teams getting underway as part of the South Molton Schools League and we have had a wide range of clubs running including climbing at Rock & Rapid at South Molton. Our Harvest festival assemblies were run in school this term with the children keen to show off the work they had produced. Bishops Nympton held a wonderful Book Fair before half term with the East Anstey version just about to take place. Anstey hosted a hugely successful Mini Marathon to raise money for the school council and Bishops

Nympton hosts its own Cross Country later in November.

We would like to **welcome Julie Colman** to our federation as our new administration manager. Julie is now working across both schools, and you may well see her in the school office as you visit. You may already know Julie from her running exploits, and she is also a parent at Bishops Nympton.

As we now move deeper into Autumn, we begin to **get ready for Christmas with school plays, carols, and Nativities** all to look forward to. We are planning on staging traditional plays in both Bishops Nympton and East Anstey with live audiences, for the first time since the COVID pandemic started. Do look out for details from the schools as we get closer to the time. We stage our Carol and Nativity services in the church, and we are once again hoping to take part in local activities such as Christmas Fairs and the Wellington Maths Challenge. I hope to see you all at some of our events a little later in the term.

<https://www.bishopsnymptonschool.org/>

<https://www.eastanstey.school.org/> or follow us on Facebook

WEST ANSTEY – *Banger Milton*

The 41st running of the London Marathon took place on 3rd October & Nikki successfully completed it raising £2809.85 for Spinal Research UK. Anyone wanting to donate, can still do so, finding Nikki on www.virgingiving.com as N J Routledge. This leads perfectly on to an update on Jemima Green (I did an article on her spinal injury due to a terrible accident a few years ago). Anyway, she is doing really well in her para dressage competitions & is now in the top ten para riders in the Country. She hopes to be in the GB team for the next para-Olympics in Paris in 2024. However, to the present time, she is getting married on Friday 12th November at the family farm in Dorset to Ed Chapman, who farms near Basingstoke. What wonderful news & we wish them all the best. Anstey & District Young Farmers Club (& some older ones too!) had an excellent turn out to their annual fireworks evening on 5th November. Hundreds gathered to enjoy the evening & were well entertained with some stunning fireworks & a lovely big bonfire at Partridge Arms Farm. Outdoor Church is going well & will be joining with the Church for a lantern & candle Carol Service on Wednesday 22nd December at 4pm. Mulled wine, mince pies & all welcome.

HIGH BRAY – *Ruby White*

A wonderful £950 was raised from the McMillan Coffee Morning thank you Doreen Grimmond and Sally Hurst and a host of helpers - sadly many of us may need the McMillan carers in the future - they need our help to keep working hard.

Anthony's quiz: what a night! We had fifteen tables of happy quizzers in the village hall raising £450 for the tower fund. Thank you all who helped.

Harvest celebration, lots of people in church singing, reading poems (thank you Margaret Parker). I took an amazing 16 bags of food to the Freedom Centre. Well, done everyone, it was gratefully received.

Christmas is fast approaching. We are hoping to have a Carol Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve, masks to be worn in church please, but we can still sing. Everyone is welcome. Service patterns are changing so please ring 710389 or 710417 to make sure a service is on or if there is bad weather, we have a long hill up to the church.

A Blessed, Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to the Edgemoor Group from all at High Bray Church and friends

MARIANSLEIGH – *Ruth Govier*

The community walking group will continue to meet on the 2nd Sunday @ 2pm in the winter months. We will be having Christmas treats on Sunday 12th - all to meet at Oxham Hall and Alswear notice board in January or contact ruth401@btconnect.com .

As many of you will know Mariansleigh and Alswear are going to buy 2 defibrillators' so the fund raising began with a sausage and mash evening at Oxham Hall on Saturday 9th October. We raised a staggering £1500. A huge thank you to all that made this possible. The next fund-raising event will be a Cheese and Wine evening @Oxham Hall on Sat 4th December 7pm tickets are £5 to include cheese/pate and nibbles. There will be a bar with a good supply of wine and other drinks to purchase. Please contact ruth401@btconnect.com for tickets. There are still tickets available to win a weekend break at Hilltown, Mariansleigh. The draw will take place at the end of March;

please let me know if you would like a ticket. Got to be in it to win it!!

The village were saddened to hear of Robin Herbert's passing; his Funeral service was held in Mariansleigh where he had lived with his wife Linda until a few years ago when they moved to Tiverton.

Mariansleigh's carol service will be on Christmas Eve at 3pm always a lovey start to Christmas.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and hopefully a much better 2022!xx

BISHOPS NYMPTON – *Cheryl Woollacott*

A lovely harvest celebration was held in Church with the added pleasure of seeing Megan and Edward Verney's Son, Charlie being baptised. It was also Rev Alistair Forman's last service, and a presentation was made to him and Alison, thanking them both for the wonderful ministry they had brought to the parish. An auction of produce afterwards led by Charles Bradfield, raised a great sum of over £390 for the local food bank. The Church was beautifully decorated by Angela Changer and the flower ladies' team.

Please keep check on the Edgemoor group website for up-to-date details of services and events, the Christmas Christingle Carol service will be held on Sunday 19th December at 6.30 with the midnight mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. Hopefully a group of Carol singers will be going around on either Monday 20th or Tuesday 21st, details from Sally Cotton on 550645, also, the PCC agreed that as so many enjoyed the festive windows last year, they would like as many of you to take part again, decorating your window with a Christmas scene through December until 6th January 2022

A craft fair will be held in the village hall on Saturday 11th December from 10.30am to 3.00pm raising funds towards the Church Tower repairs, very kindly organised by Lindsey Turner from 11 Meadow View.

Breakfast Church restarts again on the second Sunday of January when it will be themed around plough service and the countryside, 9.30am start.

As we go into the new year, thank you to everyone who work in and around the parish or volunteers helping in whatever way they can to keep the community thriving. A brilliant village shop, community club, Parish Council, School and Parish Hall with committees who organise local clubs and activities taking place, with Sunday lunches held monthly. Also, lunch club on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 12.30 pm, includes 2 courses plus tea/ coffee @£5, everyone is welcome to come along and meet new friends. To book, ring the shop on 01769 550226 or call in. Also thank you to the Ministry team and Parochial Church Council for keeping the church services, House of Prayer and events going, with volunteers helping to keep the inside and surrounding churchyard tidy. A lot of new families have moved into the area, we wish you all well and hope you enjoy settling here and joining in with some things. New ideas are always welcome!

Unfortunately, our Devon Air Ambulance fun afternoon had to be cancelled at the last minute but thank you to everyone who still gave their support and to Dave and Fran with everyone who help at the shop and who are running the draw at the time of writing, and to those who gave prizes and donations, update next time.

After still quite an unsettling year for many, hope you are able to meet up with family and friends for a Happy Christmas and can look forward to 2022, with any news or events you are planning to be in by 7th January for February/March! look forward to seeing lots of decorative and festive windows.... very best wishes
Cheryl Woollacott

News from the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

The Exmoor ponies are sending their festive wishes to all and hope that the winter months are treating everyone well.

For some of our ponies the winter months are filled with relaxing chill out time in small groups on their winter holidays, for these ponies the break is well earned having spent the summer months working at the Exmoor Pony Centre. For many of our ponies however the winter is an intense time with emotions running high as the moorbred youngstock are handled and trained having arrived from their herds during October and November. Protecting these young ponies from an uncertain

future is a vital part of our work and each year it is a privilege to take in these delightful ponies. Some days are filled with angst. Staff, volunteers and course participants put the foals through their paces, at a steady and patient pace of course! Each pony is an individual and the training can take longer or shorter amounts of time depending on the personality of each pony. This year we are naming our foals after 'crisps'. It is always important to have a theme for our pony names that is upbeat and positive, the year we named them after fizzy drinks seems close in our minds whilst we are thinking up crisp brands! Here is a picture of Frazzle with Ella one of our staff. Both pony and person are enjoying lots of contact time to build up trust and skills.



Whilst dedicatedly spending the winter months in the freezing cold, mucking out, caring for our ponies there is another side to our work and in these 'quieter' times we are busily arranging fundraising events and ways to financially support our work. Please

visit our Facebook page [fb:exmoorponycentrefanpage](https://www.facebook.com/exmoorponycentrefanpage) to see our Winter Online Auction or visit our website shop to purchase gifts, cards and calendars www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk

Promotion is a huge part of our work and over the last few years restrictions have halted much of our outreach work, heading to care homes, undertaking talks to groups, and interacting with media companies who can spread the positive word about Exmoor ponies far afield. In October, we were thrilled to be asked to be featured in ITV's Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh. The program was aired on Sunday 7th November and featured our Exmoor ponies and Manager Linzi. The ponies behaved impeccably and after a full day of driving and filming, and more driving the ponies and Linzi returned back to Exmoor having done the breed proud.

here are lots of ways to support our work and in the run up to the festive period there are many ways which the charity could benefit without any cost to you!

Do you use AMAZON.COM? Well, if you use AMAZONSMILE (which is the same as Amazon) and set your charity to the Moorland Mousie Trust Charity No.1116710 the ponies will benefit from your purchases. Each year supporters buying through AmazonSmile raise over £150 for the charity.

Please get in touch to book onto our foal handling course, order cards, gifts and calendars or simply to find out more about our work.

FOAL HANDLING: DAY COURSE

Enjoy a day filled with foals!

Learn how our charity handles and trains the newly weaned youngstock from the moorland herds. Get some hands on experience and enjoy some Exmoor hospitality at the Exmoor Pony Centre, TA22 9QE

£65 per person

Dates: 25th, 26th, 27th November
2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th December

**LIMITED SPACES,
BOOKING ESSENTIAL!**



Please contact us for January availability.

An amazing opportunity — why not treat yourself or book it as a gift for someone you know who loves horses and ponies.

info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk 01398 323093

Website: www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre

Email: info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Tel: 01398 323093

ROSE ASH- Sharon Brown

It wasn't the Chelsea Flower Show, not even Appledore Literary Festival but it WAS the much anticipated, much missed and

valued Rose Ash Coffee Morning. The first since the pandemic arose, it was essential social time to the souls of Rose Ash residents who enjoyed the camaraderie and hot drinks and cakes with friends and neighbours alike. The colourful new chairs look great too.

A very warm welcome is extended to the new residents of the village, we hope you all join in the village occasions and church services, you will be made most welcome. You can find out what is happening in the village from the noticeboards around, or via the community bulletin board at **roseash.info**

The Parish Information booklet is being revised and will hopefully be dropped through your letterbox once ready.

At the moment there are not a lot of events organised due to Covid 19, but we have recommenced our activities with monthly coffee mornings on the second Monday of the month at 10am. I think too, the 'Ale Girls' will be holding their social event on the first Wednesday of the month between 6 and 9 p.m. This is a new event, and we wish the girls luck with their new venture.

The hall is available to hire for private functions and if you want further information, please contact Julie Ayre on 01769 550356 or julieayre@btinternet.com or Ruth Taylor on 01769 551746 or go to the Bulletin Board to download a booking form.

The Vintage Tea Party raised £289.30 for the Children's Hospice, a great help in current times for those dependent on charity funding. This was a well attended, popular event.

The church grounds clean-up was well attended, on 25th Sept, the refreshments were greatly appreciated too by all the workers.

Eileen celebrated her 90th birthday in October and made her many visitors and well-wishers most welcome throughout the day – sharing her stories and lunch with all.

Gill Cronk and her team must be thanked for the wonderful Big Breakfast served on 30th October. The sound of happy chatter and the smell of bacon cooking drew the crowds to another well attended, much appreciated event – money raised will go the village funds and to the gardening club.

A necklace has been found, in early October, between the Old Rectory and West Ford. It is silver, with a pendant and Tracey Ayre is keeping it safe for the owner to claim, she is concerned it

may be of sentimental value to somebody and would like to return it to them.

A Harvest Festival service was held at St. Peters, and alternate weeks see either a 10am or 5pm service. All service times are on the calendar on the Edgemoor website

<https://www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk/calendar>

As always, I do hope I haven't missed out anything important, please let me know any local news or events to be added to the In Touch magazine, it keeps us all informed and makes for a great community sharonbrown200@btinternet.com

ANSTEY COMMUNITY HALL – Helen Pearce

Well, another year is nearly over. I cannot believe how, given again it has been far from normal, it seems to have passed so quickly. We can only hope that 2022 takes us forward to more normality and is more memorable for lots of positive reasons.

On the note of positivity, the bookings for the hall are steadily growing, and we are very pleased to be able to welcome a new user, Edgemoor Pilates run by Nancy Tapia. Nancy`s class is on a Monday morning from 10am – 11am and if you are interested in finding out more or joining in then Nancy would be very pleased to hear from you. Her email address is:

nancy@edgemoorpilates.co.uk

During December we have the following events that maybe of interest:

Thursday 2nd: 7pm – 10pm WI Christmas Party – Bring & Share Buffet and party games

Tuesday 7th: 10.30am – 12.30pm Coffee Break, plenty of delicious cakes, tea and coffee and of course the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones too.

Wednesday 8th: 7pm – 9pm The Craft Club is having a Christmas Wreath making evening where the Guest will show how she makes Festive Nature Balls. £2.50 to attend to include Tea/Coffee (To book your place contact Valerie Jackson on 01398 341410)

Saturday 11th: 6pm – 10pm - DFH Gift Sale

Saturday 18th: 6.30pm – 10pm Anstey Community Christmas Party, featuring DJ David, Father Christmas, come along with a

bring and share buffet. £3.00 per adult, children free. Call Valerie Jackson on 01398 341410 for more details.

WEATHER STATION - *Neville Vereker*

EAST ANSTEY WEATHER STATION

September – October 2021

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>21yr Average</u>	<u>Temp</u>
September	3.6 ins	87mm	max 28.7
	91.0mm		min 7.0
October	7.8 ins		max 19.3
	198.5mm	139mm	min 5.4

Notes:

1. The highest September rainfall in the last 21 years was in 2008 with 177mm, whilst the lowest was in 2014 with 22mm.
2. The highest October rainfall in the last 21 years was in 2000 with 249mm, whilst the lowest was in 2016 with 25mm.

ZOOM SERVICES IN THE EDGEMOOR GROUP – *Winter 2021*

As previously announced, we will be continuing to meet on zoom but rather differently now that "Live" church is back up and running at our eleven churches (albeit with a limited rota, given the Edgemoor Group's current limited resources).

We, the Z-team*, have been inspired to look at ways of evolving our online worship. As a result, in September and October, we opened up Zoom church for an "Evening Meditation". This time gives us space to explore different themes with music, poetry, readings, and prayer – and will be free to develop into whatever our zoom congregation would like it to be.

In September we explored how the 'seeds' of our online worship germinated and what 'crop' we harvested during the previous difficult eighteen months. In October we celebrated the Natural World around us.

We normally meet on the third Sunday in the month at 5.00pm, but due to the Carol services and live Nativity at Molland taking

place on the third Sunday in December, we will be meeting mid-week just for December at the revised time of 7pm:

Future dates:

*Wednesday 15th December at **7.00pm***

Sunday 16th January at 5.00pm

The weekly Local House of Prayer Celtic style service will continue on Zoom every Friday at 5.00pm

Please contact us via the Edgemoor email address

(edgemoorgroupparishes@gmail.com) if you would like further details. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sue, Clare, Penny, Wendy, and Susan

Remembering in January:

Dawn Becklake, died August 2016

BUSINESS INFO POINT

We are providing free support for local farmers and will be running a workshop on 23rd November at Allardice Hall, Parkham, South Molton. The support is funded by Defra to help farmers with the agricultural transition as they phase out Direct Payments, which is the biggest change in farm support for generations.

As well as the local workshops, we are also providing free one-to-one support for farmers, their families and their businesses across the Devon and Somerset region. The support will be available from now until February next year, so we're trying to reach and support as many local residents as possible.

For more details contact Petra Davies - contracts manager on Petra.d@businessinfopoint.co.uk or telephone: 01837 659059

BECAUSE OF COVID AND NOT GETTING LAST YEAR'S MAGAZINES DELIVERED - NOR WERE ANY EXTRA PICKED UP AND PURCHASED - **IN TOUCH** HAS BEEN RUNNING AT A HEFTY LOSS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNLESS WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS COSTS, PLEASE CONTACT ALISON ROGERS OR ROGER WILSON. DETAILS ON BACK COVER. THANK YOU.

Services for December and January

	Zoom Church	North Molton	Twicken
Dec 5th		10.00 am Holy Communion	
Dec 12 th		10.00 am Morning Prayer	10.00 Holy Communion
Dec 15th	7.00 pm Advent Meditation		
Dec 19 th		6.00 pm Carol Service	
Dec 24th		3.00 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass	6.30 pm Carol Service Cancelled
Dec 25 th		NO SERVICE	
Dec 26 th		10.00 am Holy Communion (said)	
Jan 2 nd		10.00 am Morning Prayer	
Jan 9 th		10.00 am Holy Communion	
Jan 16 th	5.00 pm Evening Meditation	United Service at the Methodist Church	
Jan 23 rd		5.00 pm Sacred Space + Holy Communion	11.15 am Holy Communion
Jan 30 th		10.00 am Morning Prayer	
Feb 7 th	Group Holy Communion venue tba		

Services for December and January

	High Bray	Charles	Bishops Nympton
Dec 5th	10.00 Morning Service	10.00 am Morning Service	10.00 am Morning Prayer
Dec 12 th	3 Church Service with Methodists	3 Church Service with Methodists	10.00 am Family Breakfast church
Dec 19 th	10.00 am Holy Communion	4.00 Carol Service	6.30 pm Carol Service
Dec 24th	4.00 pm Carol Service		11.30 pm Holy Communion
Dec 25 th		10.00 am Holy Communion	
Dec 26 th			
Jan 2 nd	10.00 am Morning Service	6.00 pm Holy communion	10.00 am Morning Prayer
Jan 9 th	3 Church Service with Methodists		10.00 am Family Breakfast church
Jan 16 th	10.00 am Holy Communion	10.00 am Morning Service	
Jan 23 rd	10.00 am Morning Service		10.00 am Holy Communion
Jan 30 th		6.00 pm Holy Communion	10.00 am Morning Prayer
Feb 7 th	Group Holy Communion venue tba		

Services for December and January

	West Anstey	East Anstey	Molland
Dec 5th		10.00 am Morning Service	10.00 am Holy Communion
Dec 12 th	11.15 am Holy Communion	10.00 am Holy Communion	
Dec 19 th		10.00 am Morning Service	3.30 pm Carols and Pageant
Dec 22nd	4.00 pm Carol Service Outdoor Church	6.30 pm Carol Service	
Dec 25 th			
Dec 26 th			
Jan 2 nd		10.00 am Morning Service	10.00 am Holy Communion
Jan 9 th	11.15 am Holy Communion	10.00 am Holy Communion	
Jan 16 th	10.00 am Morning Service		10.00 am Morning Prayer
Jan 23 rd	11.00 am Outdoor Church	6.30 pm Evensong	
Jan 30 th		10.00 am Morning Service	10.00 am Holy Communion
Feb 7 th	Group Holy Communion venue tba		

Services for December and January

	Rose Ash	Mariansleigh	Knowstone
Dec 5 th	5.00 pm Evensong	10.00 am Holy Communion	
Dec 12 th			8.30 am Holy Communion
Dec 17th	6.00 pm Carol Service		
Dec 18 th			6.00 pm Carol Service
Dec 24 th		3.00 pm Carol Service	
Dec 25 th	10.00 am Holy Communion		
Dec 26 th			
Jan 2 nd	5.00 pm Evensong	10.00am Holy Communion	
Jan 9 th			8.30 am Holy Communion
Jan 16 th	10.00 Holy Communion	10.00 am Family/Breakfast Church	
Jan 23 rd			11.15 am Family/Morning Service
Jan 30 th	5.00 pm Evensong	10.00 am Holy Communion	
Feb 7 th	Group Holy Communion venue tba		