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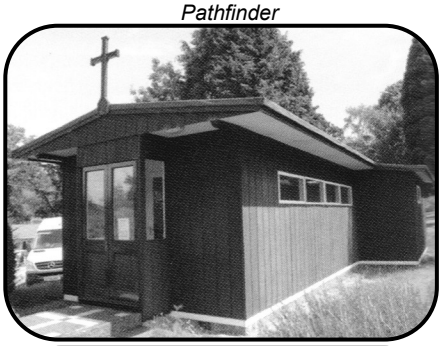

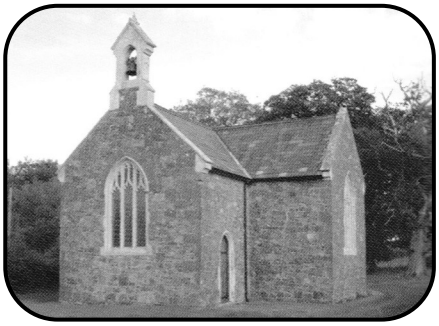

Oldridge

Rector

Reverend Martin Wood, The Rectory, Church Lane,
Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HY 01647 24119

Whitestone and Oldridge Churchwarden

Dr. Jane Richards, Quarryfield House, Whitestone EX4 2JS
(01392 811492)
Vicky Bryant 01392 811391

NORTH KENN MISSION COMMUNITY

SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 3rd May

9:30 am Holcombe Burnell	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
10:00 am Whitestone	**Morning Prayer**	**Lay led**
11:00 am Cheriton Bishop	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
6:00 pm Tedburn St Mary	Evening Prayer	Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 10th May

9:30 am Whitestone	**Parish Communion**	**Revd Martin Wood**
9:30 am Holcombe Burnell	Morning Prayer	Lay led
11:15 am Tedburn St Mary	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3:00 pm Pathfinder	Prayer and Fellowship	
6:00 pm Cheriton Bishop	Evening Prayer	Revd Martin Wood

Thursday 14th May Ascension Day

10:30 am Pathfinder	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 17th May

9:30 am Cheriton Bishop	Parish Communion	Revd Martin Wood
11:00 am Whitestone	**Parish Worship**	**Revd Martin Wood**
3:00 pm Pathfinder	Evening Prayer	Revd Martin Wood
6:00 pm Holcombe Burnell	Evening Prayer	Lay led

Sunday 24th May Pentecost

9:30 am Cheriton Bishop	Morning Prayer	Lay led
9:30 am Tedburn St Mary	Parish Communion BCP	Revd Martin Wood
11:00 am Holcombe Burnell	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3:00 pm Pathfinder	United Service	
6:00 pm Whitestone	**Evening Prayer**	**Revd Martin Wood**

Thursday 28th May

10:30 am Pathfinder	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 31st May

10:30 am Tedburn St Mary	Team Communion	Revd Martin Wood

FROM THE RECTOR

Easter, Ascension and Pentecost

The month of May incorporates Ascension Day (14th May) and Pentecost (24th May). In the church's year, Eastertide continues until Pentecost. The day of Pentecost is seen as the culmination of the Easter season. In the bible, we are told that Pentecost occurred fifty days after Jesus' resurrection and ten days after his ascension. Pentecost is derived from the Greek word for "fifty." The day celebrates the Holy Spirit's descent upon the disciples following Jesus' ascension. We remembered the 80th anniversary of D-Day two years ago. Easter is like the D-Day landings, which gave the Allies a foothold in Europe. Jesus' resurrection gives us a glimpse of our eternal destiny. Pentecost marks the power to move forward with God's help to change the world from bad to good. The D-Day landings did not bring victory, but they created a beachhead to fight forward toward that victory.

Pentecost is ranked as the third most important Christian festival. In second place comes Christmas, and in first place is Easter. I do wonder if Christmas is perceived as the most important. Certainly, in commercial terms, Christmas is much bigger than Easter. Pentecost is not ranked commercially. I would guess it is eclipsed by Mothering Sunday! This is only the halfway point of the Lenten observance, with little or no religious significance.

In comparison, Pentecost is not really marked or remembered. Looking back at its history, we can see it was much more important. By the seventh century, Pentecost had become such an important festival that the whole week following was set aside to observe it. The law courts were not in session, and most work was prohibited. By the 12th century, this was limited to just three days. In most European countries, the Monday (25th May) after Pentecost is still observed as a holiday. In our country, the link with the bank holiday was broken in 1967, and it was formally replaced by a fixed "spring holiday" on the last Monday in May in 1971. However, this year the fixed bank holiday coincides with the religious bank holiday. In many calendars, the day is listed as "Whitsun." This comes from the phrase "White Sunday" and refers to the practice of newly baptised people appearing in their white baptismal garments on that day.

In the Jewish calendar, the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week marked the beginning of the harvest and a festival celebrating its fruits. This was the second-most important festival for the Jews. (The most important was Passover.) This explains why so many people from all over the Roman Empire were in Jerusalem for the first Pentecost. On the first Pentecost, we are told that 3000 people believed after Peter's first speech! An improbable beginning for any preaching career, yet with God's help, many improbable things can happen!

Rev. Martin Wood. The Rectory, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HY 01647 24119 (Tuesday to Sunday) revwood163@gmail.com

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Whitestone Prayer Group

Look to grow in prayer and faith with local Christians usually meeting once a month.

Next meeting is
Monday 11th May 2026
Come and Join Us

7.30 pm to 8.45 pm at
Gary & Mary's house at
3 Exe View Cottages
Whitestone EX4 2JJ
07772 393965

WEDDING DRESS EXHIBITION

There will be a Wedding Dress Exhibition at St Mary's Church, Cheriton Bishop from Friday 1st May to Sunday 3rd of May.

On Friday 1st May and Saturday 2nd May, the exhibition will be open from 10am to 4pm. On Sunday 3rd May, the family service will be at 11am and the exhibition will then be open for the rest of the day.

Raffle and refreshments are available. Entry is free and we'd love to see you there.

Julie Drake

WHITESTONE in 1793

From Pelwhele's History of Devon, 1793

"Whitstone (in Domesday, terra Baldwini Vicecomitis, Witestan; and in another place, terra Baldwini Vicecomitis, Witestan) which our ancestors called Whitestone, is a large Parish, in length above 4 miles and, in breadth, rather more than three. It is very hilly. Waddledown, in this Parish, is one of the highest hills in Devonshire. It commands a vast extent of country. To the south and southwest, Haldon and Lawrence Tower, the long windings of the Exe; the City of Exeter itself; and Haytor Rock: and to the west, Dartmoor; and the hills of Somersetshire to the east; form a striking prospect. It is said that (exclusively of those in the City) 24 churches may be seen from Waddledown; and 60 sail of ship have appeared at one time in the river Exe. On the north side, where it joins Newton St. Cyres, Whitestone is finely clothed with Coppice: Oak and Ash, indeed, are scattered over the Parish, which on the whole, is rather coarse and in many places inclinable to furze. The orchards in this Parish have been remarkable as producing excellent cyder. The soil, indeed, is very favourable to the cultivation of the apple tree; and this, as well as the other parts of the district, is a good corn Parish. **But the roads are almost impassable; steep, rocky, full of loose stones, and overgrown almost every where by the hedges, and having sanding pools at the foot of every hill, they are truly formidable to the stranger. ..."**

John Eyre

LAST CHANCE TO COMPLETE A SURVEY FOR SOUTH EAST DEVON WILDLIFE

South East Devon Wildlife is an organisation created to protect internationally important nature reserves in the area, including the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve, Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren, Dawlish Countryside Park or Ridgetop Park.

If you have walked, cycled, or explored any of these areas it would be a great help if you could share your views on the survey at *https://bit.ly/SEDW-survey*

The survey closes on Thursday 30th April

The information gathered will be vital in helping to enhance how these areas are managed and protected for future generations. South East Devon Wildlife works for East Devon, Exeter and Teignbridge councils, in partnership with Natural England, the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust, RSPB, and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

Thank you for all the support with this campaign so far.

Distinctive Communications
on behalf of South East Devon Wildlife
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Summary of St. Catherine's Parochial Church Council's Annual Report for the year 1/1/25 to 31/12/25 and presented at the AGM on 15th April 2026. (Includes St. Thomas' Oldridge and St. John the Evangelist Pathfinder).Worship and services)

St. Catherine's Whitestone continues to have a service each Sunday and, although we are a small congregation, we are a core of faithful friendly worshippers. The usual pattern of services is as follows; first Sunday of the month at 10am is lay led, second Sunday at 9:30am led by Rev. Martin Wood is Parish Communion, third Sunday at 11am is Parish Worship led by Rev. Martin Wood with refreshments afterwards and the fourth is Evening Prayer at 6pm also led by Rev. Martin Wood. The fifth Sunday of any month is a Communion service rotated around the Benefice (Cheriton Bishop, Holcombe Burnell, Tedburn St. Mary and Whitestone). St. Thomas' Oldridge held three services in 2025 and Pathfinder have a fortnightly service. Our Carol service, with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards was well attended as was our Mothering Sunday service with refreshments and little simnel cakes afterwards. Harvest was held in the Parish Hall with parishioners bringing a plate of savoury food to share and a seasonal pudding was provided. 50 butternut squashes were sold (many thanks to Jennifer Kellagher for growing them) in aid of our chosen charities. This was a successful and enjoyable evening. During 2025, we made greater use of social media to promote our services and to increase community awareness.

Volunteers: All volunteers were thanked including those who carry out duties at our services, help clean, flower arrange, help tidy up the churchyards and organ players.

Fabric: We continued to make use of the "Community Payback Team" to carry out jobs in the church yards. John Eyre carried out a safety report on the church yard monuments. The East wall was repaired and an application to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was made for a plaque. The churchyards have been cleared of artificial flowers and plastic ornaments following the Diocese's guidelines.

Fundraising: The up keep of a Grade 1 building is a big responsibility as well as expensive. The PCC continue to look for opportunities to fund raise. The Parish Magazine made a small profit in 2025 and we are grateful to all our volunteers who deliver magazines and to Jock and Tom for their hard work.

The report concluded with a section headed "**Looking to the Future"**.

(If you wish to view the full report please ask Church Warden Vicky Bryant 01392 811391 or email: vbryant269@gmail.com)
Alternatively, visit *whitestone-devon.org.uk/church* to read or print the full report.

WHITESTONE WHEELERS

Saturday 18th April was the first outing for the new Whitestone cycling group, which we have called Whitestone Wheelers, affectionately Whitestone wobbly Wheelers or alternatively dub, dub, dub!

A fresh bright day saw seven of us out on steads old and new, a mix of shiny new E-bikes, more veteran versions with dodgy electrics, and the tried and true muscle-only-powered stalwarts. We headed off breezily downhill to the River Exe via leafy back lanes through Exwick, and along the cycle trail following the flow of the water. Threading through other exercise seekers on two legs and four, we were soon peddling alongside the Exeter Ship canal and out into the 'wilds' of the Exminster marshes. The migratory wildfowl & waders had already headed back to their breeding grounds in northern climes, but cycling through the timeless landscape of wet ditches and grazing marshes is at the same time both invigorating and peaceful. We were all too soon passing the medieval wood-pasture of gnarled ancient oaks with fallow deer grazing beneath, and on up the driveway into Powderham castle estate, where we stopped for lunch. The Orangery cafe there caters well for cyclists with heaps of room for bikes and great cakes! We admittedly lingered long in the sunshine there over coffee and chat.

Our return trip was by the same route with some riders peeling off at the Quay to go into town to see a film at the Phoenix on the state of our waterways, quite apt re the theme of the day. The uphill cycle back to Whitestone was variously heroically endured or effortlessly assailed, but overall I think everyone agreed it was an excellent first outing, to be repeated with suggestions of fish & chips on Exmouth beach and other temptations in the offing.

If you'd like to join our Whats App group to be notified of future pedalling adventures please contact Bev, Alan, Alwyn or Lesley.

MINUTES OF WHITESTONE PARISH COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2026.

Attendance:- Chair – Cllr T Baird
Councillors M Belt, M Frankum, C Lang, T Taylor
District Councillor J Parrott
Mr M Quinn
Apologies:- Councillor P Stott

Councillor Baird opened the meeting and Mr Quinn said that he was in attendance in order to raise some queries regarding the accounting procedure taken by the Council. The Chair and the Clerk went through various queries which he raised and Cllr Belt said that she would investigate the procedures which were in place with the Management Agents in charge of the income/rental of 1 and 2 School Houses. Mr Quinn indicated that he was satisfied with the explanations given by the meeting.

23. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2026 having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chair with the addition of the timing of 10am being added to item 20.8 to confirm the timing of the meeting on 18th April..

24. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
District Councillor Parrott reported that negotiations are still taking place regarding the reorganisation of Councils and in answer to a query from Councillor Baird he will keep in touch regarding the development at Atwells Farm.

25. MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR
25.1 Councillor Baird reported on a meeting with the Highways regarding potholes and gutters within the Parish was positive and is pleased to report that most of the potholes in Hill Lane have been filled.

25.2 Mr Edward Purser has tendered his resignation as a Parish Councilor owing to work commitments and Cllr Baird expressed thanks for his input into the Council whilst he was in office. The following is a letter sent from Mr Purser:- “Dear Parishioners I hope this letter finds you well during this Easter period and that your are enjoying the springtime in the Parish. I am writing this letter (to be included in the April Meeting Minutes) to inform the Parish of my intention to resign from the Whitestone Parish Council. It has been a privilege to serve the Parish over the last year and a half, working with Parish Councillors and Parishioners to best address the needs of the community, improve village facilities, provide comment on planning applications and manage the Parish budget. However, over recent months, it has proven challenging to balance work for the Parish Council with full time employment and existing commitments to rowing and as a ringer at St Catherine Church. It is for this reason I have been unable to allocate the time required to the role. I would like to thank the Parish Council team, led by Tracey Baird and want to wish them the best for future work in the community. It serves as a source of pride being able to shape the community through my work on the Parish Council. This includes the new parcel locker at the village hall, new play park facilities and comment provided on planning applications. I encourage people to take up the role of Parish Councillor. With changes to local government, the Parish Council is to play an increasingly important role in representing the needs of the community within the County and the Parish Council requires a diverse group of individuals to speak up for the Parish. Yours sincerely, Edward Purser. MEng (Hons), GMICE”.

25.3 Cllr. Baird expressed thoughts regarding the rising prices of oil for many households within the Parish. It was suggested that forming a bulk-buying consortium could help secure more competitive rates and offer some relief to residents. If you would be interested in joining a collective purchasing group, please contact Cllr. Belt 01392 811374 or email Cllr Baird cllr.tbwpc@gmail.com to register your interest.

25.4 Cllr Baird said that following a report from Winkworths the fencing/gates and some steps around School Houses needed to be renewed it was also noted that the fence and gate to the Community garden was also in disrepair and three quotes are being sought.

26. PLANNING - Applications can be viewed on line by going into the public access system at Teignbridge Planning following the directions giving the application reference. The following applications having been received from Teignbridge District Council with a request for comments were examined and responses will sent which can be viewed on Teignbridge District Council Planning site.

26.1 26/00413/FUL Extension to existing agricultural barn to provide covered dung storage at Cricket Field Barn.

The application was discussed and the Council wishes to raise the following concerns on behalf of the Council and members of the public. Firstly, the Council notes that existing bays are already attached to the recently constructed barn. These appear to provide a similar function to that now being proposed. It is therefore unclear why additional covered dung storage is required, and the application does not sufficiently justify this need.

Furthermore, within the earlier approved application (Ref: 24/00427/FUL), There was a clause put in on the planning to ensure compliance with the application and due to the proximity of nearby residential dwellings which would make the proposal unsuitable for livestock. The current proposal for covered dung storage raises questions as to whether the nature and use of the site has altered from that previously approved. Clarification is therefore requested as to how dung is being generated if livestock use was deemed inappropriate.

The Council is also concerned about the potential for increased traffic movements associated with this development. Additional agricultural activity, including the transport of waste materials, is likely to result in more frequent vehicle movements along local roads, which may not be suitable for increased use and could have an adverse impact on residential amenity and highway safety. In addition, it is understood that the dung storage bays referenced in this application may have already been constructed. If this is the case, the Council is concerned that development may have taken place prior to the granting of appropriate planning permission, and requests that this is investigated.

Given the above concerns, Whitestone Parish Council respectfully requests that the application is either refused or that further clarification and justification is provided before any decision is made.

26.2 26/00529/FUL Change of use of an existing single dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to a residential children’s home (Use Class C2) for the care of up to 2 children at 1 Marylands. The application was discussed and supported. .

26.3 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission
25/01986/FUL Retention of earth works at Stoodleys Farm, Six Mile Hill

26.4 25/00649/COND1 Discharge of conditions 2 (Hedgebank details) and 3 (stone & mortar details) on planning application 25/00649/FUL - retention of widening of existing access construction of entrance piers, and creation of a new access drive at Hackworthy Farm

26.5 Refusals of Certificate of Lawful Use or Development
26/00346/CLDP Certificate of Lawfuness for proposed replacement side porch at 15 Merrymeet.

26.6 Certificate of Lawful Use or Development
26/00543/CLDP Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed replacement rear extention at 2 Cleave Cottage, Corner.

26.7 26/00475/CLDP Certificate of Lawful Use of proposed use of the dwelling as a home for up to 2 children requiring care and support from 2 support workers operating a single household within Use Class C3. This would run like a conventional family of 4 home.

27. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

27.1 Request from the Hall Management Committee for a grant towards refurbishment of the Billiard Room which will cost £1,755.70. Discussion ensued and the Council felt unable to make a decision at the present time as it was believed that previous contributions had already being made to this project.

27.2 Council Surgeries
This will take place on Saturday 25th April from 11am to 1pm.

27.3 Parish Plan update
Awaiting a little more information.

27.4 Crossway Park & Community Garden
New fencing is being investigated and following the hoped for donation of topsoil being laid it was agreed that the purchase of grass seed up to £50.00 be authorised.

27.5 Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7.30m on Thursday 23rd April at the Parish Hall.

28. FINANCE

Income

28.1 1 School Houses rental to 02/05/26
£950.00 - £114.00 (includes £19.00 VAT) = £836.00

28.2 2 School Houses rental to 07/05/26
£1100.00 - £132.00 (includes £22.00 VAT) = £968.00

Expenditure

The following expenditure was proposed and seconded for payment. All in favour and the cheques were signed by Councillors Baird and Frankum

28.3 L Blades – (Lengthsman £314.33
Grass cutting £170.00) – cheque no 856 £484.33

28.4 T W Woodley (Allsorts) (5 weeks cleaning of Whitestone Park Toilets) – cheque no 857 £80.00

28.5 Devon Association of Local Councils
(includes £42.22 VAT) – cheque no 858 £323.22

28.6 Fry and Son (includes £3.11 VAT) -
cheque no 859 £18.66

The following payments were made through Winkworth Letting Agents

28.7 G P Roofing & Property Maintenance
(1 School House) £85.00

29. CORRESPONDENCE

A complaint from a parishioner was discussed concerning snails in the post box situated outside the Parish Church which are damaging the mail posted therein. Cllr Baird said that she has reported this to our local postman and he had promised to pass the information to the appropriate authority and get all of the boxes sprayed and hopefully some brushes in the slots

30. REPORTS

Cllr Belt reported on the excess of weed at no 2 School Houses and said the School Houses needed painting. An arrangement was made for her to meet with Cllr Baird to take a look.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

Got opinions? Like your village and parish? We need you!

Our Parish Council is looking for new councillors — ordinary people who care about where they live and want to help shape its future.

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The Sheldon Open Air Theatre is a natural grass amphitheatre with a capacity of 500, nestled into the Teign Valley just at the edge of Dartmoor.
It's probably the only open air theatre in the world in the grounds of a retreat centre, which gives it an atmosphere you won't find anywhere else. Our concerts raise funds for the work of the Sheldon Retreat, and they're staffed each year by a small resident community alongside a dedicated team of volunteers. We think it shows.
We're proud that this is a genuinely local resource.

Riviera Dogs

Friday 24th July 2026 · 8pm–10pm

New to Sheldon — 5-piece 80s band from the English Riviera

21st Century ABBA

Saturday 25th July 2026 · 8pm–10pm

The UK's No.1 ABBA Tribute Band

Joey The Lips

Wednesday 29th July 2026 · 8pm–10pm

A Sheldon favourite — back by popular demand

The terraced auditorium is grass, so bring a mat or cushion to sit on. No chairs in the main auditorium, but if you have any mobility difficulties please do get in touch — we have easy access spaces on the deck with a great view, and our team will make sure you're sorted.

Book even earlier to save more
For years we've run an "Early bird" ticket offer, but this year we've introduced the "Ultra-early bird" for those of you who like to plan ahead. £17 for the main terraces and £12 for the back bank if you buy before 31st May. Premium tickets at £28 are refundable for any reason until 10am on the day. Under-14s are £12 with a paying adult and under-3s come free. Booking is at sheldontheatre.co.uk

Our concerts are open air — this is an English summer, so the possibility of rain is part of the deal. Premium ticket holders can claim a refund before 10am on the day. Otherwise, if we assess it's safe to go ahead then sou'wester, wellies, good company, and you'll have a brilliant time.

THIS MONTH'S BRAIN TEASER

BRAIN TEASER CORNER

What is the odd one out?

a. **PENTAGO** b. **TRI**

C. **HEPTAGO** d. **HEXAGO**

e. **SQUA**

Answer next month

PREVIOUS BRAIN TEASER

Answer to last March's Brain Teaser

Based only on what you can see in front of you, what are the next two letters in the sequence?

B O O W Y C S ? ?

The answer is 'I' and 'F'.
It is just a list of the first letters in the question.

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If you didn't receive your free copy of last year's little orange book (2025-26 edition), please contact Nick Hall on 01392 340304 or Nick@OurLocalExpert.co.uk
and he will be happy to post you a copy out at no charge. The guide is also available online at www.OurLocalExpert.co.uk

Nick Hall always welcomes genuine feedback about businesses who do and don't feature in the guide using the above contact details.

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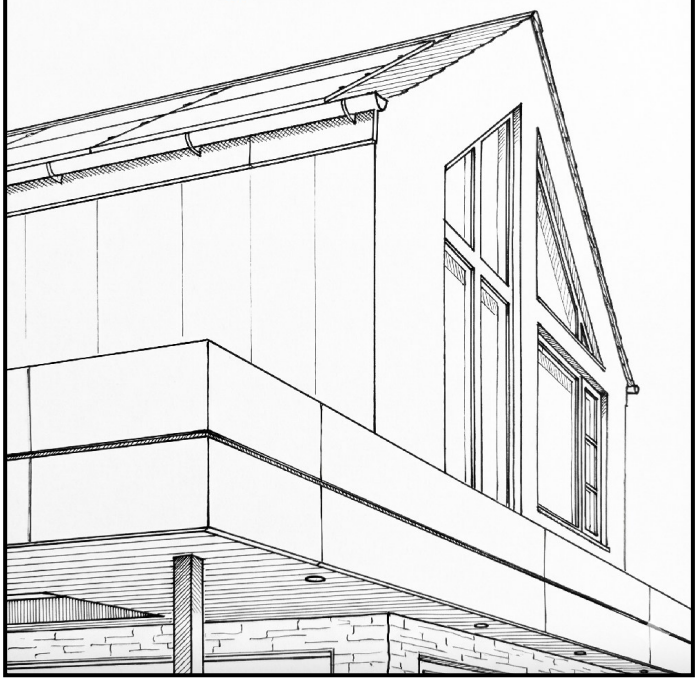

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TEDBURN ST MARY
WI MARCH MEETING

Members of Tedburn St Mary WI are having a busy and enjoyable year. A local group, now numbering over forty in total, have had plenty on offer to them via their WI in April 2026.

Tedburn St Mary WI aim to have a lunch out every month, providing members with the opportunity to relax and socialise, but also to give support to local businesses. This month the lunch outing is to be held at Holmleigh Garden Centre, which the group have visited before and really enjoyed.
Now that the weather is improving participation in the monthly Tedburn St Mary WI walk is possible. This April we went to Steps Bridge. The walk was a great success with 7 members, (plus a four-legged friend) walking in the beautiful Spring sunshine and admiring the daffodils.

Members also had a lot of fun when they joined the Bollywood dancing event hosted by the Alphington WI. Many thanks to the Alphington group for inviting us to this sociable event.
The speaker at the April meeting was Caryl Gibson, a qualified Cordon Bleau cook. Caryl ***delivered an entertaining and informative presentation in which she demonstrated how to cook a chicken dish. Members took away with them lots of useful cooking tips, a copy of the recipe in order to make the dish at home and were able to sample the food, which was delicious. Thank you Caryl!***

Some Tedburn St Mary WI members sampling the dish made by Caryl Gibson, following her Cordon Bleau cooking presentation at the April meeting.

The 90th birthday of a Tedburn St Mary WI member was celebrated with a presentation of flowers.

President Jane, presenting Tedburn St Mary WI member Sheila with a 90th birthday bouquet. Congratulations!

Tedburn St Mary WI crafting sessions are always well supported, and continue to offer a variety of art and craft activities and projects for members to engage in. We also hope to start up a Book Club in the near future.
Our regular meetings are held in Tedburn St Mary Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm. As always, we love to meet prospective new members, and you will be warmly welcomed if you would like to attend. There are lots of activities on offer at Tedburn St Mary WI every month, including good speakers, walks, and knitting and craft sessions. Remember that the first meeting attended is free, to enable you to decide whether to join our WI. Just contact either Jane or Rachel.
President Jane: Tel: 07814659526
Secretary Rachel: Tel: 01647 61868

Best-One Tedburn Village Stores

Shop opening times:

7:30AM-6:30PM Mondays to Saturdays
8:00AM-6:30PM Sundays and Bank Holidays

Tedburn offers a wide selection of products from groceries, frozen, chilled, veg, dairy products, greeting cards, etc. as well as in-house cooked hot pies and pasties, **FREE TO USE** cash machine, The National Lottery, daily newspapers and magazines.

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PHONE: 01647 61320
EMAIL: shop@allstock.co.uk

EXETER FORUM

Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear on the Exeter Forum website **www.exeterforum.org** Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk.

Date	Speaker	Title
Wednesday 6 May	**John Webber followed by AGM**	**Exeter's forgotten Royal daughter- Henrietta Stuart (short talk)** Henrietta Stuart was the youngest daughter of Charles 1. John will tell the story of her survival from her traumatic early years to life in the French Court of her cousin, Louis XIV, the Sun King, where she married Philippe, Duke of Orleans. **The Exeter Forum AGM will follow this 25-minute talk.**
Wednesday 13 May	**Angela White**	**The History of Expatriate Women in Hong Kong**. Former Hong Kong resident Angela makes a welcome return to the Exeter Forum to describe the lives and importance of the many women who shaped Hong Kong and its connections with China since the Victorian times.
Wednesday 20 May	**Brian Fernley**	**The Schneider Trophy.** Brian will describe the history, significance and importance of this interwar aviation trophy. It was awarded for the winner of a demanding seaplane race and took place 12 times from 1913 to 1931. It was intended to encourage innovation in aircraft design, particularly speed. The 1931 winning aircraft built by Supermarine led to the development of the Spitfire.
Wednesday 27 May	***Spring break***	***No meeting***

CHURCH HOUSE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION Registered charity 269625

AGM (Public meeting)
to be held on

Wednesday 20th MAY 2026
in Whitestone Parish Hall at 7.00 pm.

To be followed by a meeting of the CHEF Trustees. All Whitestone residents are welcome to the AGM.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AVAILABLE

Applications are invited for consideration at the next meeting of the Trustees.

The closing date is

Wednesday 6th May 2026

The fund is intended to provide financial assistance to residents of the ancient parish of Whitestone who wish to further their education or training for academic or practical purposes. Funding for leisure activities are not eligible for consideration. There is no restriction on the age of applicants who may apply for a grant. Applications are not means tested.

All applications are assessed in confidence by the Trustees with reference to the provisions of the Trust Deed. Successful grant applications range typically from £50 to £500, depending on particular circumstances, and may include grants towards course fees and materials, books, computers, mandatory uniforms, and travel costs. The Trustees are elected representatives from village organisations who meet twice a year, normally in May and November, and notice is given in advance of the meetings in the Parish Magazine.

Applications need to be fully costed with documentary evidence provided and must be accompanied by a completed data protection form which is available on the Whitestone website*. They should be sent to the Hon Secretary, Sue Llewelyn, Trillow, Halsfordwood Lane, Nadderwater, EX4 2LD or by email:

susan.llewelyn@hmc.ox.ac.uk

to arrive by **6th May 2026** at the latest.

*www.whitestone-devon.org.uk/chef.html

PARISH HALL DEVEVELOPMENT PLANS

Along with St. Catherine's church, the Whitestone Parish Hall is one of the most important assets for the Whitestone community. Again, in keeping with church, the Parish Hall spends a lot of money to maintain the fabric and facilities of the building.

The Parish Hall hosts 18 clubs and societies who meet regularly and who expect the premises to be maintained properly.

In the last 12 months, the Main Hall has been repainted. Additionally, the Billiard Room with Kitchenette have both been repainted along with new flooring installed. The Ladies toilet has been repainted and, in the Gent's toilet, the deep purple wall has been repainted to a light grey. All the outside security lights around the Hall have been replaced.

In the next 12 months, we plan to:

- replace the blown double glazed panels in the Billiard Room
- Investigate the possibility of installing an automatic water cut-off valve to operate between 10:00pm and 8:00 am with override for late events.
  (Two previous overnight floods resulted in extensive damage, high costs and inconvenience)
- Repaint the Hall Extension
- Repaint the store room used by the Table Tennis club with new lighting and flooring. This room has not been decorated since the Parish Hall was a school!
- Investigate the removal of the earth bank on the left of the Parish Hall entrance to make a cleaner and safer entrance with a wider pedestrian path. It should reduce the mud and debris flowing onto the road.
- Repair the road surface at the Hall roadside entrance.
- Buy a new roadside notice board.
- Buy an advertising banner for parties at the Hall.

This will be in addition to the myriad of tasks and repairs that will 'appear' during the year.

Jane Richards
Chairman

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Do you have a business that could benefit from being advertised more widely?

Whitestone Parish Magazine has a couple of advertising spaces available. Our magazine is delivered monthly to around 220 households locally.

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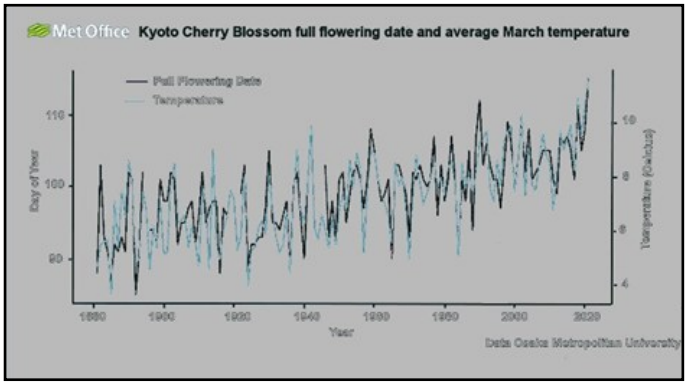
KYOTO CHERRY BLOSSOM DATES SHIFTED BY HUMAN INFLUENCE

The dates of the world-famous cherry blossom in Kyoto have been shifted forward by climate change and urban development.

New research has shown how a combination of human-induced climate change and urban warming has brought forward the annual cherry blossom flowering date in Kyoto. The study found that the full flowering date has been shifted to be over a week (11 days) earlier than if no human-induced climate change or urban warming had happened.

Last year was the earliest full flowering date in the 1,200 year Kyoto record, with the cherry blossom bursting into colour by 26 March 2021. This year's full flowering date was declared on 1 April 2022.



Climate change contribution
Observations show the average March temperature in Kyoto city centre has increased by several degrees since the pre-industrial period, under the influence of both climate change and urban warming.

To identify the level at which human influence has impacted full-flowering dates, a natural climate (where computer models remove human-induced greenhouse gas emissions) was compared to the current climate. This revealed that an increase in average March temperature in Kyoto led to full-flowering dates moving 11 days earlier due to factors like greenhouse gas emissions and urban warming.

Urban warming contribution
To assess the influence of urban warming, which occurs when a city like Kyoto grows and becomes more developed, temperature observations from a Kyoto city centre weather station were compared with another in the rural location of Kameoka.

Temperatures in the two locations began to diverge after the 1940s with central Kyoto warming faster compared to the rural location. The full flowering dates of cherry blossom in Kyoto are now 11 days earlier in Kyoto's warmer climate with the research finding almost half of this change was caused by urban warming.

Summary
The study found that the difference between the two stations has levelled off around the end of the 20th century, showing that the urban warming of central Kyoto has now reached its peak. Both sites continue to see increasingly earlier full-flowering dates once the temperature difference levelled off, indicating the ongoing influence of climate change.

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

A LONG NIGHT IN PARIS by DOV ALFON

When an Israeli tech entrepreneur disappears from Charles de Gaulle airport with a woman in red, Israel is on a state of high alert. Colonel Abadi, the new head of Unit 8200's autonomous Special Section, who just happens to be in Paris, arrived on the same flight.

For Commissaire Léger of the Paris Police coincidences are suspicious. When a second young Israeli is kidnapped at gunpoint from his hotel room soon after arriving on the same flight, his suspicions are confirmed - and a diplomatic incident looms.

Back in Tel Aviv, Abadi's deputy is working to identify the victims and the reasons behind their abduction. In Paris a covert Chinese assassination team listens as the investigation unfurls and watches from the rooftops.
The clock has been set - this turns out to be a long night in Paris.

The author is a former Israeli intelligence officer and has used his experience to create this complex thriller.

Feedback from our group was mixed. Characters are well drawn, the plot is complex and confusing and there is too much detailed description of organisations. The book is too lengthy maybe impacted by the translation into English. Fast paced at times, boring at times.

Our next meeting is on May 11th.

Jane Rose.

THE 100 CLUB DRAW IN AID OF THE WHITESTONE PLAYPARK

Every month, a number from 1 to 100 is drawn by a parishioner at the Parish Council meeting. This month's lucky number was 58 which is held by L. Hickman who collects the prize of £25

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY			
Sun	3 May	Whitestone Walkers Meet at Parish Hall car park at 9:30am or Otterton at 10:15	p 19
Wed	6 May	Table Tennis Parish Hall 7:00 - 9:00 pm	p 19
Sat	9 May	Plant Sale Parish Hall 2:00 - 4:00 pm (Donations from 1:00 pm)	p 19
Sat	9 May	Social Club Meal Parish Hall 6.00 - 9:30 pm	p 19
Mon	11 May	Book Club Parish Hall 10.00 - 12 noon	p 17
Wed	13 May	Parish Hall AGM Billiard Room - Parish Hall 7.00 - 9.00 pm	
Thu	14 May	Arts & Crafts Club Parish Hall 10.00 - 12 noon	p 19
Thu	14 May	Parish Council Billiard Room - Parish Hall 7.00 - 10.00 pm	p 19
Sat	16 May	Last date for copy for the June magazine	p 18
Mon	18 May	Garden Club Parish Hall 7:30 - 9:30 pm	p 19
Wed	20 May	CHEF Meeting Billiard Room 7:00 - 9:00 pm	
Sun	31 May	Exeter Bonzai Society Parish Hall 10.00 am - 5.00 pm	

WEEKLY EVENTS IN MAY 2026		
Day	Dates	Event
Mon	4th, 11th, 18th &25th	Pilates Parish Hall 6.15 to 7.15 pm.
Tue	5th, 12th, 19th & 26th	Short Mat Bowls Parish Hall 7.30 to 9.30pm
Wed	6th, 13th, 20th & 27th	Short Mat Bowls Parish Hall 10.00 - 12 noon
Wed	6th & 27th	Handbell Ringing Hall Extension 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Thu	7th, 21st & 28th	Parish Pals Parish Hall 10.00 - 12 noon
Fri	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th	Short Mat Bowls Parish Hall 7.30 to 9.30pm

The LAST DATE for contributions to the next Parish Magazine (June)

Saturday 16th May

EMAIL ADDRESS

magazine@superjock.co.uk

JOBS FOR THE PARISH WARDEN

If you notice any damage to Parish property, build up of litter, blocked roadside ditches, or any other matter that would improve the environment and well-being of Parishioners or visitors within the Parish boundaries, please contact the Parish Warden's line manager.

Cllr Mary Belt on 01392 811374

WHITESTONE WALKERS

Next Walk – Sunday 3rd May 2026.

Meet at Whitestone Parish Hall at 9:30 or at venue by 10:15

Meet in the village of Otterton. As you enter Otterton from the west, cross the road bridge and then look for free street parking on Fore Street as soon as possible. There is often parking on the left in front of a green space with some trees which is where we will congregate at 10:15.

What3words:- To find the approximate meeting point - what3words: ///flask.cluttered.seasons

This is a walk of about 4.5 miles starting from Otterton along the left bank of the River Otter towards Budleigh Salterton with a little uphill walking on good paths. There is an alternative along the right bank of the river which is level but on uneven paths if that is desirable. There may be wet and muddy areas, depending on the weather so stout footwear should be worn. A circular route that is within the River Otter Estuary Nature Reserve and touches on the seafront at Budleigh Salterton. There will be the opportunity to take refreshments at Budleigh Cricket Club about three quarters of the way through the walk or Otterton Mill at the end of the walk.

Please let me know at Jcbryant15@gmail.com if you are going direct to Otterton.

PILATES AND EXERCISE THERAPY

Pilates with Caroline Dodd is on Monday evening in the Parish Hall from 6.15 to 7.15 pm. for all levels and abilities. Pilates can help improve posture, reduce pain and help you move more freely to improve your quality of life. £8.00 per class or £30.00 monthly.

Please get in touch with Caroline if you have any questions or to book the Exercise Therapy class. Mobile 07791105987 or email: caroline_dodd@sky.com

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Please contact the Parish Clerk, Pat Vaughan, for the latest information. (01392 411628) or view the Whitestone website www.whitestone-devon.org.uk There is no meeting in August and the next Council meeting is in the Billiard Room of the Whitestone Parish Hall on Thursday **14th May** at 7.30pm.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

We normally meet THREE times a week. Please see table on page 16 for the actual dates.

Tuesday	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Wednesday	10.00 -12 noon
Friday	7.30 - 9.30 pm

The cost is only £2.50 (50p for 16s and under) including tea/coffee and a biscuit.

To protect the green mat (rink), please wear soft shoes with completely flat soles if you have them.

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be on Monday **11th May** at 2.00pm in the Parish Hall.

SOCIAL CLUB

(Secretary Bryan Durrant 01392 811328)

Sat 9th May	Annual Dinner (Members only). Names of attendees and any special dietary requirements to Bryan by Monday 27th April.
Mon 22nd Jun	Grahame Forshaw (Exeter Harbour Master) will be talking about the work of the Exeter Port Authority, which covers the whole of the River Exe.

The Social Club normally meets monthly, mostly in the Parish Hall, and is a great opportunity to meet other people. After the speaker there is normally a social "bring and share" food and drink session. Annual membership is £16 (which includes an annual dinner). Non-members are most welcome to join us at meetings in the hall (except for the annual dinner) on an occasional basis at a cost of £4.00 per evening. Meetings in the hall normally start at 7:30pm.

HANDBELLS

We currently have a full team of handbell ringers and continue to meet every two to three weeks, normally on a Wednesday afternoon. For more information contact Bryan Durrant on 811328.

GARDENING CLUB

The Annual Plant Sale and cream tea will take place on Saturday 9th May 2-4pm in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 1pm for donations of plants and produce.

The Gardening Club will meet next on Monday 18th May at 7.30pm when Claire Forster will be talking about 'Border Perennials".

All are welcome.

Contact Lesley Williams on 0703-173305 for further information

ARTS AND CRAFTS MORNINGS

Are you trying to finish a painting, some sewing, knitting or anything else? Come along to Whitestone Parish Hall and give yourself time to finish off your project.

TIME: 10.00 to 12 noon

COST: £2 per session

May 14th Main Hall

For further information contact Marian Durrant 01392811328 or Nikki Phillips 07763 879897

CHURCH BELL RINGING

If you are interested in learning how to ring, please contact James Bryant on 01392 811391 for more information. Practice night is usually every Thursday at 7.45 until 9:00 pm.

WHITESTONE ENTERTAINMENTS

The Budapest Café Orchestra will now be returning to Whitestone on Saturday 7th November.

TABLE TENNIS

The next session will be on Wednesday 6th May at 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

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BOOKING THE PARISH HALL

The Whitestone Parish Hall is available for bookings.

Contact the Booking Clerk, Caroline Honeywill, for the latest information.

Tel: 01392 811245 email: carolinehoneywill@icloud.com

If you have any comments to make on the content, layout or any other matters concerning this magazine, please contact this month's Editor: Vicky Bryant, St Catherine's Cottage, Church Lane, Whitestone, Exeter EX4 2LF
vbryant269@gmail.com

We always welcome any suggestions to improve the magazine.

If you wish to place an advertisement, please contact the editor for the current rates.