

Rejoice



March 2026 to May 2026

South Molton and Ringsash Methodist Circuit Magazine

South Molton and Ringsash Circuit

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From our Minister

Psalm 143:8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

Over the past couple of years, I have become acutely aware of my physical balance, or lack of it to be more precise. Recently the cause of my lack of balance was discovered and to put it simply, my vestibular (inner ear) system has stopped working and so I am having to learn to do every movement again with only visual information for my brain. I am told that the brain is clever enough over time to retrain the way in which it balances the body using visual signals rather than those from the inner ear.

Life has been described as “a great balancing act” and like so many things in our lives, we don’t give our physical, spiritual or emotional balance too much thought until something goes wrong. Off balance areas in our lives can bring anxiety, fear and sadness. Unexpected challenges can knock us off balance spiritually, physically and mentally.

When I was younger, I used to do a lot of mountain climbing. Climbing steep mountain faces is all about balance. Over the past few weeks, God has helped me to connect my past ability to find balance and focus when climbing with the need to learn those lessons again. There are certainly three lessons from climbing that we can all benefit from when it comes to finding balance if life throws us off kilter.

The first is ‘Stay in contact with the rock’. When climbing, as far as possible, your core should remain in contact with the rock. The core of your body is where your strength is and when you lean into the face of the rock you are pretty sturdy. Therefore, when looking at where to move next this is a good place to start.

God is our rock and our refuge, and he constantly reminds us to stay in touch with Him. To put our trust in Him. I find that spending time with God at the beginning of the day helps me to

check my alignment with God's will and fills me with peace and strength. My quiet time grounds me in Him before the busyness of the day.

Secondly, when mountaineering, keeping your eyes on a focal point is essential for balance. Often that focal point isn't too far ahead, but just far enough to plan your next move or maybe two.

This world tries every trick to knock us off balance and separate us from God. The devil loves to remind us of our failures and inadequacies. Jesus quoted scripture when tried and so can we. Knowledge of and spending time in God's word is essential for us to stay focused on our identity through Christ.

Finally, when climbing, balance doesn't happen automatically. It takes practice and also some pain. Scrapes and bruises are all part of the experience that help build the courage, determination and respect needed to continue to reach the top.

Just like life, there are messy parts, painful parts, beautiful parts, and even total slip ups which quite literally take your breath away. Some parts are graceful and feel perfectly balanced, whereas others are less fluid or clumsy. When climbing, if you are having an off day or you are facing a tricky section of a climb, you need to stop and realign as well as reassess.

When we feel like that in our lives it is time to do some soul searching, to reconnect with God. Try to pinpoint where the wobble is in your soul and invite God in to help you work on it. God loves each of us too much to leave us where we are. Transformation is a life journey and Jesus promises to coach us, love us, guide us and support us every foot hold on the way. As we rise on that journey, one thing I can promise you is that the view becomes more magnificent as we climb.

Revd Anna Flindell

The Circuit Choir



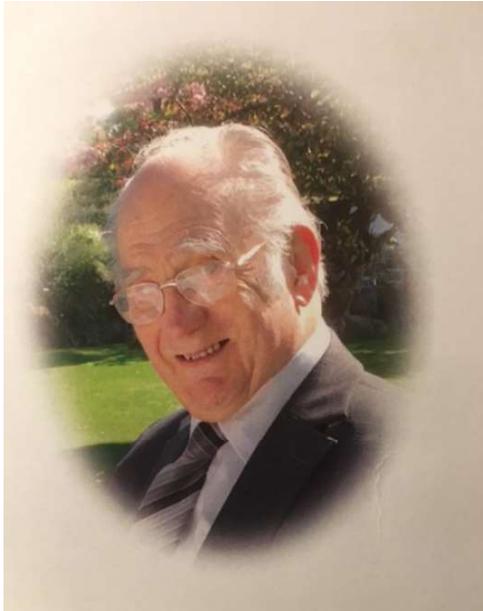
It is with sadness that we heard that two of our members have passed away.



Michael Nelson

A former member, Michael sang with us in the early years. As well as his love of music, he was a skilled writer using a wide range of language, which was evident when he entertained us with a variety of monologues at our social evenings.

The Choir was represented at his funeral at the North Devon Crematorium, Barnstaple, on 13th January.



Dr Jeffrey Smallcombe.

Jeff sang with us until his final illness. He had previously been a member of the Barnstaple Male Voice Choir for many years, and we were delighted when he joined the Circuit Choir, he was an asset to the bass section. We remember Jeff singing 'The Lord's prayer' unaccompanied, at a concert at Kings Nympton in his 90th year. It was a very special moment. He was devoted to his family who spoke of his sense of fun and his talents, having a black belt in martial arts, he enjoyed sailing, and music – both listening and of course, singing. He achieved his

Doctorate of Law at the age of 40 years and subsequently lectured at Exeter University. The Choir was represented at 'The Celebration of his Life' at the North Devon Crematorium, on 17th December, during which a sequence of photos of Jeff's life was displayed on the screen accompanied by Jeff himself singing 'My Way'. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue and his family.

Our annual concert at Duke Street on 3rd December, was very successful and well supported. The varied programme included two pieces by John Rutter, 'The Gift of Music' and 'The Colours of Christmas', as well as Caccini's 'Ave Maria'. There were carols for Choir and congregation, including 'We Three Kings' with soloists, (a fourth King made an appearance due to one King being unwell)! Doreen James sang 'The Stork Carol', and Carezza sang the solo part in the choral version of 'Mary Did You Know'. Gillian Reynolds was the Chairman with her well chosen words introducing the items, and we also thank her for designing and printing the programmes. As always, we are



indebted to Sue Wallis for ably accompanying us, and to Jo, who played the instrumental part in some of the pieces as well as sharing the conducting with me.

We would also like to thank Derek for his technical help, and Gwen for welcoming the congregation as they arrived.

The retiring collection in aid of the Benito Project based in South Molton, amounted to £300.

Our thanks to Carezza

and her helpers for once again preparing a Christmas Tree to represent the Choir at the annual Christmas Tree Festival in the Parish Church, 4th to 8th December.

We began the Spring Term on 11th January, and as well as revising some music in our repertoire, we will be working on new pieces.

We have been singing together for eighteen years and are blessed with musical talents within the Choir of soloists, instrumentalists and smaller groups who sing at the Care Homes. We sang at Eastleigh Care Home on 6th November, and at The Firs Witheridge on 11th December, at both venues we were given a very warm welcome, and I think the singers enjoyed these afternoons as much as the residents who were invited to join in some of the Christmas pieces they knew.

We are more than a Choir, as well as sharing our love of music, we are like a family caring for one another, always giving support when needed, and to those who are unwell.

The attendance at our practices has been good, which is encouraging as we prepare for future concerts.

Ray Jones

It is with great sadness that we heard Ray Jones passed away on Friday 6th February..

Ray, together with his wife, Celia, had been faithful members of the Choir until his devastating illness. We remember Celia and the family in our prayers.

A tribute to Ray will appear in the next issue of Rejoice.

Jean

South Molton



Sunday 23rd November

The morning service led by Revd. Dr. Tracey Darling included the special double Christening of cousins Winifred Edgell and Aoife Woodman, who were supported by a large number of family and friends. We were invited to join the family for refreshments in the Hall after the service.



Sunday 30th November The Circuit Morning worship led by Deacon Ruth Richey, supported North Devon Hospice 'Light up a Life' appeal. (See Derek's separate report on this Service.) This has been a regular event for many years in different local venues, including Duke Street Methodist Church, organised by Graham from Westacott & Son Funeral Directors until they were taken over by the Coop.

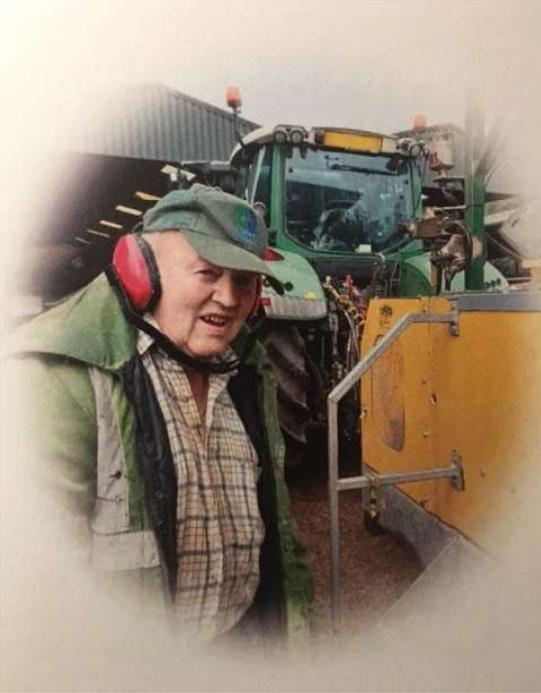




Sunday 14th December -
NDADA .The morning service was the Annual Toy Service supporting the work of North Devon Against Domestic Abuse at Barnstaple, when a large number of toys were brought forward and placed around the tree. There was also the opportunity to donate gifts of money, which amounted to £175 in cash.



Sunday 21st December
The annual Carols by Candlelight. The tea at 5 pm was followed by the service led by Derek Summers who introduced seven carols interspersed with thoughtful comments and stories relating to each carol. The evening included a recording of an instrumental interlude by Steph Redman, and two items from the Music Group. Hot drinks were provided at the end.



Brian Dullam Service - 23rd December

Duke Street Methodist Church was full on 23rd December for the 'Celebration of the life' of Brian Dullam, who attended this Church until his final illness. The service which was conducted by Rev. Anna Flindell, was also relayed into the Hall. The organist was Morley Chapple. Moving tributes were given by grandchildren Suzie and Amy Chapple, and a dedication by grandson Sam Smith, reflecting a life well lived. Brian has been described as a true legend who lived and breathed all aspects of

agricultural contracting in and around North Devon and beyond. Donations were divided between the Devon Air Ambulance trust and the North Devon Hospice. We remember Lilian, Sandra, Pauline and the family in our prayers.

Sunday Lunch - January 11th

The Catering team led by Gwen, provided a Sunday Lunch after the morning service on January 11th. This was a fundraising event to support Lily, a Sunday Club and Brigades helper, in her appeal for financial contributions towards her volunteering project in Uganda, 'From Home to Hope at Kira Farm', where her ultimate aim is to help children who are disadvantaged. The three course lunch, soup, baked potato with a choice of 6 fillings followed by a selection of delicious desserts, was enjoyed by almost 40 people, (See Derek's report for more details.)



Jean Blake



'Light up a Life' Circuit Service

As part of this year's Light Up a Life campaign, a series of services were held across North Devon throughout Advent to encourage local people to come together with others in the community to mark the memory of those they miss.

The Circuit kindly agreed that the Circuit service on the 1st Sunday of Advent at South Molton would be in support of the North Devon Hospice - "Light up a Life Campaign. Ruth Richey was planned for that date and was more than happy to lead the service which she did so ably.

Representatives from North Devon Hospice attended the service and spoke briefly about their work. There were cardboard stars for people to write a name of someone they wish to remember and these were hung on the Christmas Tree at the front. Similarly, there were candles for people to take to light in memory of someone. The stars were then taken to ND Hospice to be placed on a Christmas Tree at their special celebration in Barnstaple later in December.

North Devon Hospice are grateful to us for hosting the service at South Molton and sent us this message:

Our volunteer was so complimentary of the service and said there was lots of people in attendance which is fantastic.

I can confirm that there were £470.20 raised, which is a huge amount!

Thank you so much for holding the event for us and for bringing the community together to remember loved ones at Christmas time.

Warmest Wishes

George

Georgia George Bedgood

Fund raising Events Manager

Derek

South Molton - additional notes



1. We were pleased as a Church to support Lily; (one of our young people who helps Linda with Sunday Club and also helps at Girls Brigade) towards her fundraising for her volunteering project in Uganda. The net amount raised from the Sunday Lunch at our Church in South Molton on 11th January, with donations, amounted to **£345**.

Lily's Mum (Laura) has sent us this message:

I have received the money. Thank you all so much again, out of the £2500 to raise Lily now only has £375 to go. Your fundraiser has really boosted her. Thanks to all that donated also.

Laura x



2. Last November we began the distribution of a "Welcome Card and Pen" to properties in South Molton. The professionally printed card has a warm welcome message and gives details of what services / activities the Church provides. These are distributed to the most recent new housing estates in the Town and also to any property which has been sold and new people have moved in. This will be an ongoing exercise offering a warm welcome to anyone who moves to South

Molton.

3. Some of our members are participating in a **Passion Play**, which The Baptist Church are arranging. The performance will be on Saturday 28th March in the Pannier Market at 6 pm.

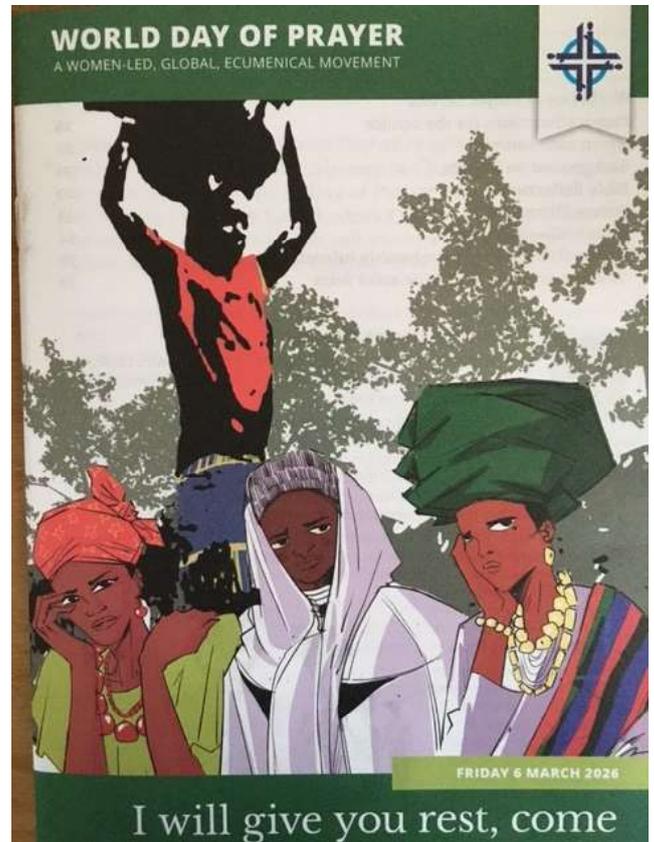
4. We anticipate that there will be a Churches Together March of Witness and service on Good Friday – 3rd April. Details are not yet available but will be publicised as and when arrangements have been made.

Derek

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

I will give you rest, come

**World Day of Prayer
Service
on
Friday 6th March 2026
at
10.30 am
St Joseph's Catholic
Church, South Molton**



Prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria.

The World Day of Prayer was introduced to Nigeria in 1961 by Lady Eudora Olayinka Akanu-Ibiam of the Presbyterian Church and was embraced by member Churches of the Christian Council of Nigeria.

South Molton Women's Fellowship

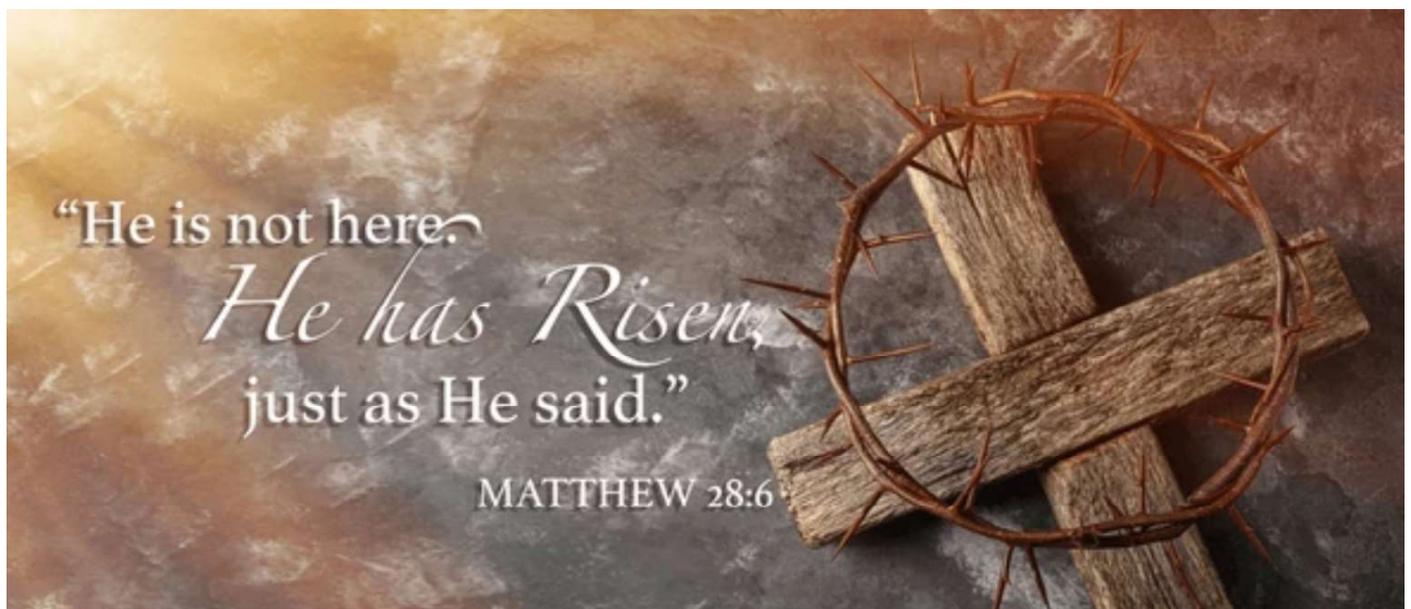
Our Autumn programme finished with a Carol service with readings led by Doreen Lake. This was followed by Tea and Coffee with mince pies and cream!

Our New Year's party was held on the 20th January. We had a short devotional service led by Gwen Kingdon. This was followed by a lunch, after which we had a quiz and games organised by Gwen Kingdon.



We meet on Tuesday afternoons with a variety of speakers at 3.00 pm. All ladies are welcome.

Doreen Lake



Harmonica Singers in Concert

'Have Yourself A Blessed Little Christmas' was the title of the Harmonica Singers Concert with an invitation to get into the Christmas spirit, relax and enjoy an evening of Festive Music and traditional carols, on Wednesday 10th December in Duke Street Methodist Church.

The singers, Wendy, Shelbie, Sara, Eddy, Di, Rose and Ian sang a wide range of Christmas music interspersed with carols for the congregation to join in.

As usual, they were ably accompanied by Martin on the piano assisted by Ron on the drums. The hour long programme continued with the items following each other smoothly and without interruption, the titles appearing on the screen.



Despite singing non-stop for an hour, the singers energy and enthusiasm never wavered, and they are to be congratulated for their hard work in presenting a very enjoyable evening of well known and some different seasonal music, which

certainly helped the congregation to get into the Christmas spirit and continued with mince pies and coffee afterwards in the Hall. There was a retiring collection with the proceeds split between the Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade.

This photo was taken on 17th January when Shelbie, on behalf of the Harmonicas presented a cheque to Monica Fry for the Brigades.



Jean

Leaders of Worship and Preacher's Trust (L.W.T.P.)

Our thanks to all who contributed in anyway to last year's envelope appeal for the work of L.W.T.P. envelope appeal result was £205.00. We also have others who donate in other ways. So thank you.

To find out more about the work of L.W.P.T. see www.lwpt.org.uk.

Gloria Manning.

Brayford.

This is a quiet period in the life of our Church.

We had our PLOUGH SERVICE on 11th January. This was a special United Service with High Bray and Charles Members. We always welcome our friends from North Molton Methodist who support us for special occasions.

The service was dedicated to the work of the FCN. (Farming Community Network) and our speaker was David Ley. His theme was the purpose of ploughing is a fresh start, and burying the old. Our large congregation thought his message was both relevant and challenging, and delivered in a user friendly way.

Most of the congregation stayed for a delicious ploughman's lunch. We all enjoyed Hilary's catering skills, and the friendly buzz in the room indicated that everyone was having a good time. AND, we were able to send a big cheque to FCN. to help finance the valuable work they do supporting farmers through difficult times.

Our Community Coffee Morning is being well supported. Talking and laughing is allowed, so do come out to the country on the first WEDNESDAY of each month from 10.30-12.30. It is FREE AND FRIENDLY.

Ruth

North Molton

The second mid-week housegroup which launched in September has flourished at Becky and Norman's home in Heasley Mill. So much so, that we are considering launching a third housegroup this spring. The Alpha group exploring Christianity met on Friday afternoons last term. Though small in number, the four ladies who attended were all positive about its impact. One has asked to do the course a second time. We hope to explore arranging another Alpha course along with our friends at All Saints later this year.

Pupils and staff from the village school came to the chapel for 'Experience Christmas', an interactive learning opportunity. Rev'd Anna joined volunteers from All Saints and our church to lead pupils through the Christmas story. Feedback was incredibly positive for what has become a regular diary event.

Over 30 children attended the fortnightly Friday Club programme during the winter term which concluded with a trip to the panto at Barnstaple – oh yes they did!

We were very encouraged by high numbers attending church services during a busy Christmas season. A group of ladies, including some who don't attend church, beautifully decorated the windows of the chapel for Christmas. A Christmas tree by the front door of our chapel was beautifully decorated by lights and flags from nations around the world to highlight that the coming of Jesus is a blessing for the whole world, an important message to share at a time when many politicians are seeking to divide communities and stir up hatred.



Invitations to Christmas services were handed out in early December as we visited each home in the village accompanied by Santa on an illuminated tractor. We also gave every home a copy of 'Why Christmas?' a booklet written by Nicky Gumbel of Alpha-fame, about the true meaning of the season. Santa on a tractor proved very popular with young families. Many opened their front doors and despite the cold weather, ventured out to the street to meet Santa and his helpers. It provoked lots of comments and 'likes' on the North Molton Village Facebook page, plus requests to revisit next Christmas.



the true meaning of the season. Santa on a tractor proved very popular with young families. Many opened their front doors and despite the cold weather, ventured out to the street to meet Santa and his helpers. It provoked lots of comments and 'likes' on the North Molton Village Facebook page, plus requests to revisit next Christmas.

Over 100 people crammed into the chapel to see local children in a modern musical take on the Christmas story called 'Operation Emmanuel' on 14th December. The following Sunday over 60 attended our Community Carol service accompanied by a brass ensemble. Farmyard friends proved popular with children beforehand along with bacon rolls, coffee and mince pies. A friendly donkey even came into chapel during one song – yes, you guessed it, Little Donkey!



Older residents enjoyed attending a 'pop-up cinema' to watch and sing along to White Christmas. They enjoyed generous servings of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cake and cuppas during an extended interval, then took home a goodie bag with chocolates and a calendar made by Friday Club children.

Rev'd Anna joined us to lead the Christmas Day morning service this year. Having prayed for her recovery from illness it was lovely to celebrate and sing carols with her.



The New Year began with a well-attended communion and the Covenant service led by Rev'd Jeanette Richardson. We are encouraged by the significant increase in attendances at our Sunday services, in particular with more young families. Discussing this over coffee after church on a Sunday morning an older member of our church told me; 'It's wonderful, the noise of children in our services means we are alive and have a future, something to be grateful for and not to complain about!'

After three meetings to review 2025 and to discuss and pray about the year ahead, the stewards announced our mission

priorities for 2026 are:

- ***Make prayer a priority as we recognise our dependence on God to continue to grow.***
- ***Continue to develop monthly outdoor community events.***
- ***Encourage preachers and musicians to include more contemporary songs in our sung worship.***
- ***Increase our social media presence to build awareness among locals about what happens at our church and to promote church events. (Please see next page for details of coming events.)***

Numbers attending the Tuesday morning coffee morning have dwindled in recent years so after a pause in January we plan to relaunch this with additional regular elements that might include gentle chair exercises, occasional speakers and other activities. Please pray that the small number of regulars are open to welcome new attenders.

Looking ahead we hope to run a Lent-themed Housegroup. Other highlights will be welcoming staff and pupils back for an Experience Easter interactive morning, the visits of Professor Roy Sambles, Bob Moffett and former Methodist President, Lord Leslie Griffiths, who will be preaching on Sundays during March, April and May.

Coming events at North Molton

You would be most welcome to join us for any of these events

Friday March 6th - World Day of Prayer Service at 10.30 am at All Saints Church, North Molton – do come and join us and learn more about Nigeria.

Sunday March 8th - We shall be pleased to welcome as our preacher, the Revd Bob Moffett. He is an Anglican Minister based in Wadebridge who has worked in global Mission, training leaders, particularly for the Middle East and Asia .

Sunday March 15th – Our Mothering Sunday celebration at North Molton will take the form of a morning where everyone is welcome to share coffee, cake and pastries and participate in activities in the chapel which will include, music, poetry, a time of reflection time and prayer.

Sunday March 29th - a Palm Sunday Procession. Working with our friends at All Saints there will be two services available – at the Methodist Church an All Age Service and at All Saints a traditional Palm Sunday Service.

Thursday April 2nd – in the Methodist Church a Passover Supper commencing at 7.00 pm when we shall follow the events of Holy Week. Do join us for this supper.

April 3rd - Good Friday – at the Methodist Church at 6.45 pm Hot Cross Buns followed by a Tenebrae service with Revd Alison Rogers 7.00 pm at All Saints.

Saturday April 4th – the lighting of bonfire/beacon in the Methodist Church field to mark the beginning of Easter followed by a procession and service at All Saints with Revd Dominic Coad.

Sunday April 5th – our Easter Sunday Celebration with an interactive service to include making and presentation of a Floral Cross, and an egg hunt to follow.

Sunday April 26th - Professor Roy Sambles to lead our worship at 11.00 am

Sunday May 10th – 11.00 am a service with Lord Leslie Griffiths - Methodist Peer, a BBC daily service presenter and previous President of the Methodist Conference.

John Buckeridge



THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' BRIGADE 1ST SOUTH MOLTON COMPANIES

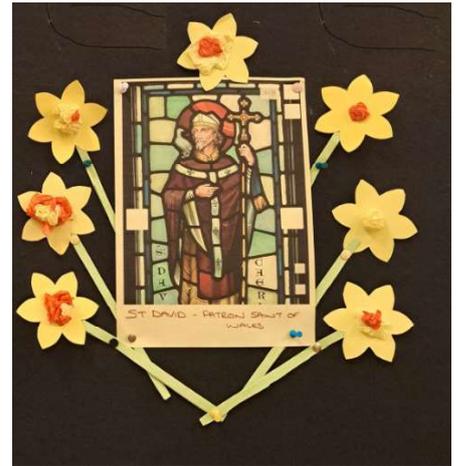


Since our last report we have had Christmas, New Year and a half term of hard work.

Our Christmas celebration, "Have you forgotten something?" was very well received, and we raised £150 for Childrens Hospice South West. Thank you to everyone who had any part in this.

Girls Brigade: This half term the 'investigate group have been looking at Spring, and have produced some lovely craft. They are a very lively group, with several "characters" among them!

The 'Ncounta group have been looking at Communication and the different ways we communicate with each other. I have been amazed at how much these girls have matured in the last few months.



Boys Brigade: We still have 3 boys. All very different characters! This term we have looked at Makaton sign language, using a Christian song video, made marshmallow robots and looked at emojis, making our own and playing other games on the theme.

We are very pleased to report that Pat has returned to BB, albeit still in pain. We really missed her calming presence while she nursed her ribs.

We would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to Harmonica, who raised an amazing £235 for the Brigades over Christmas. There is a photo elsewhere in the magazine.

Finally, I would like to say thank you Becky, Carezza, Lily and Ann in GB and Carezza (Again!) in BB for their loyalty and help. We couldn't function without you. Also to the parents, who bring their children every week.

Monica

A Christmas Day Thank you!

I must thank so many generous people who gave money and edible contributions for the Christmas Day Lunch. All went well despite the gas going off. Fortunately, this was realised at an early stage in the cooking. We were pleased to have the use of the additional kitchen in Wesley House. The preparations and cooking were all done, more or less, on time, as was the clearing away and washing up. We played games, sang carols and finished with tea, cake and mince pies.

At Circuit Choir I had a really big surprise. The Choir had been given a donation from the Firs in Witheridge, where we had sung just before Christmas, and they have given it to me as a donation towards Christmas lunch next year. So, a big thank-you to the Circuit Choir.

William 'Pope' Nutt 1782-1845

I was very interested to read about William Nutt's burial in South Molton Parish Church in a piece written by Derry Hodgson in a recent Rejoice magazine.

I know a little about him because my great great grandfather married two of John Nott's daughters, Joanna and Mary after his first wife my great great grandmother died; not bigamously but definitely unlawfully, as at that time it was illegal to marry your wife's sister even if your wife had died. He and Mary went to London to marry! Members of her Nutt family were witnesses and they then returned to Twitchen and there is no evidence that members of the Lyddon family objected either.

William Nutt was a leader in the first recorded class in South Molton in 1807 and in establishing the Rookery Chapel in East Street South Molton in 1814. My Lyddon ancestors were also involved, though living in Twitchen. He was a local preacher and apparently a very tall man, so they had to dig a hole in the Chapel floor for him to be able to stand in the pulpit. There were also boxes of varying heights for

other preachers to use. He was a very saintly man and earned the nickname of 'Pope'. Someone said, "there goes Pope Nutt who pardons sins for a penny a week". The penny being a reference to the Class Money members paid each week.

He was a baker by trade and lived in East Street. His wife Joanna nee Tipper outlived him and was buried in Twitchen Churchyard where she had gone to live with their daughter Joanna after her marriage to my great great grandfather. I can't find any reference to any other members of the Rookery Chapel being buried in South Molton Parish Churchyard. However, the Lyddon family members, all Methodists, were buried in the Parish Churchyard at Twitchen

Kath Hasler

South Molton Town Band

THERE WILL BE AN OPEN REHEARSAL

at

SOUTH MOLTON METHODIST CHURCH

on

THURSDAY 12TH MARCH

at

7.30 P.M.

Come and hear the music the Band will be playing at Torquay Contest on Saturday 14th March. This is an opportunity to enjoy an evening of Band Music - free of charge.

Ray.

Kings Nympton

At the end of November we held our annual Christmas Coffee Morning. It was a very successful couple of hours with many members of our local community visiting and enjoying the warmth of our new heaters. Mrs Clare Turner was the fortunate winner of both of the competitions.

In December the Barnstaple Ladies Choir with harpist Ruby Mather entertained us in the Parish Hall. It was a wonderful evening with the profits going to The Children's Hospice Southwest and our Chapel. Many thanks to all who supported these two events.

We were saddened by the death of Mrs Christine Skinner. She passed away on December 2nd at the age of 102. For the past couple of years she had been living at The Firs, Witheridge. The Service was conducted by Revd. Jeanette Richardson and the Chapel was at full capacity. Mrs Skinner was a long standing and important member of our Chapel, much loved by us all and is sorely missed.

By the time this edition of Rejoice goes to print and is distributed, we will have had our Pancake Afternoon, and we hope we will have had a flipping good time!

Angela

On a lighter note!

A Methodist Minister who had only been in his Circuit a matter of months arrived at the church he was preaching at one Sunday morning, followed by a lady, whom the welcoming stewards did not recognise. The Steward welcomed the lady, who announced that she would like to sit in the middle of the front row . "I wouldn't do that", said the Steward, "the Minister this morning is very lengthy and incredibly boring and I would suggest you sit in a seat in a corner where you could nod off quietly". However, the woman insisted upon a seat in the middle of the front row . "Do I know you, asked the Steward.." "Not yet," replied the lady, "I am the Minister's wife!" "OH!!", said the Steward, "and do you know who I am?" "No!" replied the lady, "Thank God for that!", replied the Steward as he disappeared at great speed!

Try to Imagine

Have you ever tried to imagine the day
Nearly 2000 years ago
Can you imagine the gloom and despair
The feelings of grief and woe?

For the disciples who had followed Jesus
For the previous three short years
For the women who had followed and loved him
Can you imagine their flowing tears?

For the soldiers who nailed him to the cross
Who were only carrying out their work
For the crowds who stood and watched it all
And for those who stood and mocked.

For the mother and brothers of Jesus
He was part of their family
Can you imagine how they were feeling
As they nailed him to the tree?

Have you ever wondered how God was feeling
As He looked down on his son
As he heard those three words uttered
'It is finished' from his loved one.

There was anger, disbelief and sorrow
Around the cross that day
But as later events unfolded
It didn't long stay that way.

So as we feel sorrow this Easter
May we also feel touched by the thrill
That emerged in the days that followed
That sad day on Calvarys hill.

And with the women and disciples of Jesus
Who rejoiced at the empty tomb
May we welcome our risen Saviour
And tell Him, in our hearts there's room.

Rosella Turner

Burrington

A Happy & Healthy 2026 to everyone.

Christmas seems an age ago now, doesn't it? Isn't it lovely to see so many snowdrops out this year and I have seen a few daffodils and crocuses. Nature at its best.

Our Parish Carol service was held at the Chapel on December 21st which was led by the Revd. Anna.

The Chapel was full which was lovely to see, and to hear the lessons being read by various people from the parish. The collection of £211.50 was donated to Chemo Hero. The service was followed with light refreshments.

We had two weeks break from our Wednesday Coffee Mornings over Christmas but with the New Year we are now back up and running again from 10.00 -11.30 am every week. We have recently donated £200 to Care For Kids, North Devon, who support families when their children are receiving treatment in Hospital and they also support the Children's Ward at NDDH.

Shirley Webber

The
chance of
a piano!



If anyone is interested in having a piano please contact me on:

01769 214

Thank you.

Sue Bailey

Chittlehampton

Spring – that lovely time of the year when nature awakens from the darkness of winter. Snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, catkins and lambs, all signs of lengthening daylight and the promise of spring and summer in the weeks and months ahead.

We were pleased to welcome Mark & Pauline Chapple to our Chapel Anniversary and Gift Day Service in November. Mark led us through a thoughtful morning Service which was much appreciated before going on to visit Pauline's Dad, Brian Dullam, in Barnstaple Hospital. In the afternoon Janet Lake, accompanying herself on her keyboard, singing with accompanist Rob at the organ, her sister Angela Bilham providing recitations, Morley performing a piano solo and John Chapple as chairman, combined to give a most enjoyable Concert, which was followed by tea in the Chapel Hall.

We were sorry to hear and send our sympathy and love to Pauline, her Mum Lilian, sister Sandra and their families on the death of Brian, a much loved husband, father and family man.

A successful December Market Stall was held in the Pannier Market. We were in the entrance near the Square with shoppers passing by which contributed to a busy morning with a good footfall. The Town Band playing familiar Carols also added to a lovely Christmas atmosphere.

Unfortunately, due to the weather our YFC Outdoor Nativity had to be cancelled this year. It wasn't safe to proceed with an outdoor event involving young people and outdoor lighting and electrics. But, watch this space for Christmas 2026!

Our United Carol Service with our friends from the Parish Church was led by Garry Reed from Barnstaple who took us through the Christmas Story, uniting us as one in celebrating the Birth of our Lord. We have recently given the Chapel a "Spring Clean". A local firm cleaned the walls for us and, when completed, we spent a morning cleaning the rest of the Chapel. Damp cloths for wiping down, vacuum cleaners and mops and buckets were the tools of the day, resulting in a refreshed brighter space for Worship. A well-deserved cuppa was enjoyed before leaving!



In April, as well as our own and United Easter events we will be holding a Tulip Fest on the weekend of 17th/18th & 19th when everyone is invited to join with us to enjoy the splendour of these beautiful flowers. Afternoon teas will be available, an open-air Service is planned for the Sunday Morning and also a Concert later in the day on Sunday. Please see

the poster for further details which will also be circulated to Churches nearer the time

The last weekend in April brings us to our United Churches Rogation Service, which will this year be held at Biddacott, the home of Jonathan and Fiona Waterer and their Shire Horses. Rev Anna will lead Worship, being joined by various participants as we give thanks for the animals, crops, gardens and those who live and work in the countryside. A "Bring & Share" lunch will conclude the mornings proceedings.



Easter Greetings from all at Chittlehampton.

Josie

Tulip Fest



Spring is coming and our tulips are just showing us the promise of a change in season, going are the dark night coming are the fresh buds spring. We have a busy celebration weekend planned with our chapel open for viewing our lovely display of tulips on Friday 17th April to Sunday 19th April.

Afternoon teas will be available throughout the celebration time. We will also have tulips tubs for sale with collection on the Sunday.

On the Sunday we are aiming for an open air service weather permitting with Anne Browse leading it. She is the former president of

the Methodist Woman in Britain.

We will close the weekend with a concert more details on this to follow

We will be delighted to see you all at some point over the celebration period.

Jayne Webber

Christmas Carol singing

God is working his mission out in us over the Christmas period at Chittle.



Sometime last summer Mark Jones asked me if I would bring the young farmers club into the Bell on Christmas eve and do some carol singing.

Knowing only half a dozen of our members have ever been to Chapel. I thought this was going to be a tall order. So I prayed about it.

At our church council I asked for help with this and they took this mission work on.

I can honestly say his mission was fulfilled that night with around 60 to 70 people all singing Christmas carols, getting the Christmas message and praising his name, it was a most special and joyful night. The people who were singing I haven't seen in church or chapel but they had faith. Across our circuit we all need to be able to walk with these people. We need to be given the tools to bring more people like this together so we can spread the message throughout the year.

Many thanks to Morley for playing the keyboard and keeping us all in some sort of tune. We must have done a good job as we have been asked back again next year so if anyone would like to join us please put the date in your diary.

Jayne Webber



Children and Young Families Support Worker at South Molton

Children and Young Families Support Worker at South Molton

I will begin as always' with recognition of our wonderful, solid and awesome team of volunteers for Teddy Bears Family Groups, some of whom, as many will already know, come from within our church, whilst others have come to us to offer their services from within the wider community.

There are now TEN individuals working well on a rota system, to provide great opportunities and amazing support for those that attend our groups; which are now being organised differently to how they have been in the past. That is... instead of offering two groups that are each targeted towards different aged toddlers: firstly 1-3 years, and then also on a Thursday, a couple of hours later 2-4 years, the two groups will each be focused on the emotional stage of the toddlers in attendance. This means that the first Thursday group starting at 9.30am will cater for those that thrive in a busier setting, whereas the later Thursday group: starting at 11.15am, will cater more towards those that thrive in a quieter environment. Both groups will offer provision for 0-4 years. This decision has been made in respect of how the groups have naturally evolved over time to meet the needs of the parents, carers and toddlers in attendance. The Tuesday groups (Newborn and Baby Bears), will continue to operate as they were previously, without any changes for the time being.

Additional to the Teddy Bears volunteer team, we also now have working with us on a regular monthly basis with Little Bears and Bigger Bears (Thursday groups) a child speech and language development specialist, as well as a worker from MIND; who because of our groups, are able to offer our toddlers and parents additional and immensely valuable practical and emotional support.

Continuously, I become increasingly aware of the positive, growing impact that these groups are having on the families that attend them, particularly amongst some of the most vulnerable, therefore I will take this opportunity to again extend HUGE thanks to all involved in making each and all of our groups possible, which includes all those that support us either practically, financially and in prayer.

With regard to my other endeavours to support children and young families, as a part of my development plan, it is intended that during the Spring term I will be continuing to offer some after school provision for 5-10year olds, by continuing to facilitate for our Physical Fun group, and then alternating that with a gardening club. During the Summer term it is intended that I will be alternating the gardening club with a creative Arts group. This decision has been made to provide some diversity for children with different interests.

Also, as a part of my development plan, following on from the success of holiday club last year (2025), it is intended that I will run another Holiday Club during the Summer holiday period this year (2026). I am hopeful that this again will involve representatives from the other churches in South Molton, making it a 'churches together' event. More information about this will follow in the next issue of rejoice.

Last but by no means least... Sunday Club: there are no plans to make any changes there, as our members (the children aged between 3 and 12 years) are very happy with how this group operates. Their joy is plain to see each time they come into Sunday Morning Worship at the end of their time in the hall, when they share their learning and creative makes with the church congregation; who appear to love seeing them and hearing from them about what they have been up to. For anybody that doesn't get to see them or hear from them directly and would like to find out what they have been doing; following each gathering (on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month), I have recently taken to printing out a little synopsis of what they have been up to, and then displaying it on the Sunday Club board in the church hall for all to read. I am just now thinking the possibility that maybe this could go up onto the church website too. I'll get onto sorting that out! At this point I need to thank Lily Lockwood, our Sunday Club volunteer helper for her continued support, which is immensely valued.

Now that's me up to date, so please enjoy the seasonal craft ideas and puzzlers that I include for you with my entry.

God Bless,

Linda

FOR YOU TO COLOUR!



HAPPY EASTER



RESURRECTION EASTER

APOSTLES
 CALVARY
 CELEBRATION
 CHRIST
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 FAITH
 GETHSEMANE
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HOLY WEEK
 HOPE
 JESUS
 LAMB
 LOVE
 MESSIAH
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PONTIUS PILATE
 PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN

Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his death on the cross, providing salvation to any who will trust in Him. (Read John 19 and 20.)

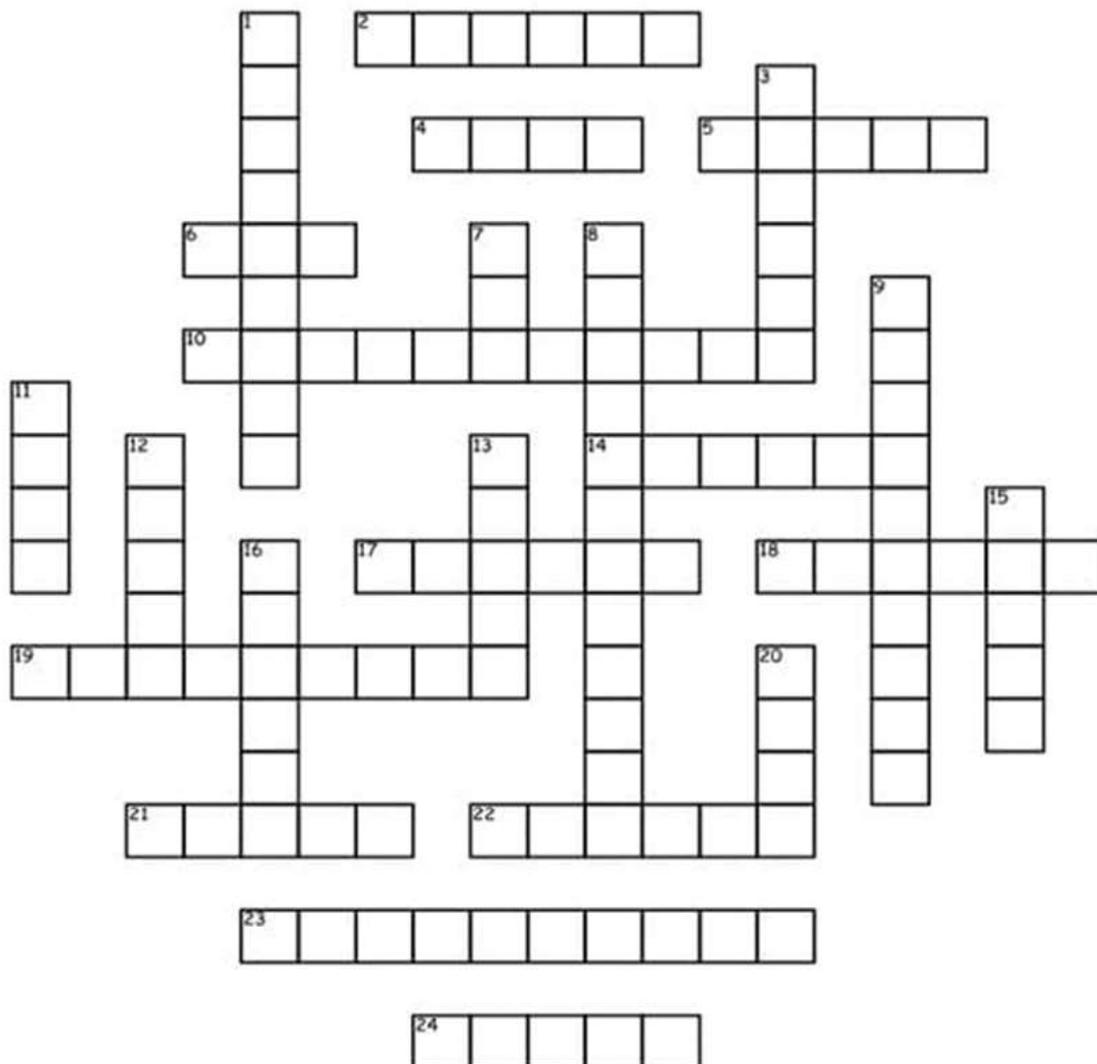
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S	Y	R	R	I	T	N	R	K	D	R	H	J	E	J	Q	I	O	I
I	L	L	I	Z	E	H	E	H	I	L	Y	A	O	Y	O	T	K	V
B	N	S	V	S	F	V	D	A	R	Z	Y	R	U	J	A	A	L	A
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R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	B	D	Y	A	B	E	R

SACRIFICE
 SAVIOR
 SOLDIERS
 THIEVES



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Easter Fill-In



Across

- 2. CHICKS
- 4. EGGS
- 5. CANDY
- 6. GOD
- 10. HAPPY EASTER
- 14. RABBIT
- 17. BASKET
- 18. BONNET

19. SALVATION

- 21. APRIL
- 22. SUNDAY
- 23. JELLYBEANS
- 24. BUNNY

Down

- 1. CHOCOLATE
- 3. EASTER
- 7. DYE

8. RESURRECTION

- 9. COTTONTAIL
- 11. HUNT
- 12. ANGEL
- 13. RISEN
- 15. JESUS
- 16. PRAYER
- 20. LILY



PAINT A STONE



MAKE AN EASTER GARDEN



BAKE EASTER BISCUITS

From the Editor

Once again the editorial team, Martin, Derek, Anita and Ruth, have produced another interesting edition of Rejoice with news from around the Circuit and it is the 20th for which I have been the editor. I am indebted to them, the contributors and the distributors who ensure Rejoice reaches you, our loyal readers, including those on the mailing list.

As Spring unfolds around us we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation.

'God saw all He had made and it was very good'.



Dates for your diary

This list does not generally include Sunday Services as most members will be supporting their own Churches except for Circuit Services. However, some Churches do, sometimes have special events/services on Sundays and they will be detailed in their own Church articles.

<u>Friday 6th March</u>	World Day of Prayer St Joseph's Catholic Church, South Molton, at 10.30 am. World Day of Prayer All Saints Church North Molton, at 10.30 am.
<u>Thursday 12th March</u>	South Molton Town Band Open Rehearsal South Molton Methodist Church at 7.30 pm. Free of charge.
<u>Saturday 28th March</u>	Passion Play in the Pannier Market 6.pm
<u>Thursday 2nd April</u>	Passover Supper. North Molton Church at 7.00 pm. With passover supper
<u>Friday 3rd April</u>	Good Friday walk of Witness, South Molton details to be announced.
<u>Saturday 4th April</u>	Lighting of beacon. North Molton Methodist Church plus procession and service.
<u>Friday 17th to Sunday 19th April</u>	Display of Tulips. Chittlehampton Methodist Church.

**Please note, that the absolute deadline
for copy for the next edition of *Rejoice* is
Midday Sunday 10th May**

If you have access to email, please send items to:
myanconeus@gmail.com
or, alternatively, please leave in the *Rejoice* pigeon hole at
Duke Street. Thank you.

