

FREE

Issue 31, December 2021

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



EDITORIAL

Last month, we included details of an open meeting to discuss a proposal for a new Village Hall and this month we have a report of the meeting (Page 5). The survey referred to at that meeting will have been completed by the time this edition is published and the results are awaited with interest. But it is important to note that there are widely differing views about the need for a new hall. With Climate Change very much in focus at the current time, should we be considering a new build or should we examine the possibilities offered by refurbishing what we already have? One thing is clear – if it is decided that a new hall is needed it will be a long time coming and our existing facility cannot survive a lengthy period in its current state without some remedial work being carried out.

Since the re-opening of the hall after the COVID restrictions there have been plenty of events for people to enjoy – read about our recent Big Breakfast on Page 16.

Finally, a plea for some common sense: now that the clocks have gone back the nights are drawing in and it is dark quite early in the evening. On my regular travels out of the village after dark, it is no surprise to see lots of people walking their dogs. They loom up out of the darkness and they are almost invisible until very close. PLEASE, night-time walkers – make sure you CAN BE SEEN!

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE: 8 DECEMBER

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COMMUNITY NEWS

MOBILE LIBRARY

Our mobile library will be off road for 2 weeks over Christmas, consequently the last visit for this year will be Friday 26 November 1.15-1.40 pm at Waie Cross. The first visit for next year will be on the twelfth day of Christmas - 6 January 2022 - at the usual time and place, giving you time to take your decorations down before turning up to borrow fresh reading material. For more information: 0345 155 1001 <http://www.devonlibraries.org.uk>

Erica Eden
Phone:- 01363 82606

RAINFALL

Sorry that we missed the rainfall figure for September - we had 76mm. However, October was a different picture - 136mm. It sure was wet!

DEN BROOK COMMUNITY FUND

Grant Applications for Capital projects are invited from charities, social clubs and not-for-profit organisations who are based within the parishes of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton and Zeal Monachorum. The deadline for the current round is **31st Jan 2022**.

Forms can be obtained by e-mail to:
denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com or from:
14a The High Street, North Tawton Devon EX20 2EP

ROAD SIGN

Does anyone remember the 'squeaky' noise that could be heard when passing the end of Western Road?

The noise was made by the road sign which was loose, and eventually one arm (pointing to North Tawton) fell off. All this happened well over a year ago, since when, the destination of that road has been a mystery.

But now it's all fixed, with a new sign alongside the cleaned-up monument and the recently painted telephone box.

As you can see, this area is very posh now.



VILLAGE EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Every Weds	Coffee morning, 10.30am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Wed 1 Dec	WI, Christmas meal at the Waie, 6.30 for 7.00pm
Sat 4 Dec	Advent Fayre, 2pm at Village Hall
Sat 11 Dec	Village Market, 10.00 to 11.30am, Village Hall
Mon 13 Dec	Zeal Explorers Village Walk, 2pm at bus stop
Wed 15 Dec	Film night, doors open 7.00pm, film starts 7.30pm, see back page
Fri 17 Dec	Readings and Carols in Church, 6.30pm
Wed 22 Dec	Bingo, Village Hall, doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm

CREDITON FOODBANK

During November there have been so many wonderful donations of food and money for which Sarah, the new Coordinator, and the volunteers at the Foodbank are so grateful. Your continued generosity, in giving to those who are still struggling at these difficult times, does not go unnoticed. When I delivered some of the parcels at the time Sarah took over from Chris, she asked me “which Church are you from and then very quickly said ‘oh no you’re from the village’. I think that said it all.

Christmas is upon us and the House-to-House collection will start on Monday, 6th December, we will be licensed up until Friday, 10th December. The aim is that we will cover as much of the village on Monday and Tuesday, then do the outlying homes in the latter part of the week. If you are out when we call, and you would like to donate you can ring me, Lois, on 82982 or Jan on 82563 and we will happily come back to you. Or you can drop off at Kentmere (bottom of the hill second on the right with the Waie Inn in front of you) or Jan (North Star house opposite the Church). If you have already donated, or don’t wish to donate, please put this newsletter in a place where we can see it clearly so that we will not disturb you.

The good news is that there have been people who, by the Grace of God, have had their lives turned around, so that they no longer need the Foodbank. The bad news is that there are those who, through ill health, loss of jobs, broken relationships and because of the times we are living in, have mental health issues. These are the people who need to know that there are people out there who care. So, Zeal Monachorum not just at Christmas but right through the years you have been those people. I know times will be harder in the coming months, but if you are able to, please will you donate items that will bring smiles to those who think they have little or no hope of a happy Christmas for their families. Children and the elderly alike. Over the years we have been asked if we would accept money and of course that has been a yes because this enables the Foodbank to buy fresh food such as chicken, fresh vegetables, fruit etc., and any items that have not been donated. Whatever and however you donate it is received with much gladness and heartfelt appreciation.

From Christians working together at the Foodbank and all those they serve:

ZEAL MONACHORUM: A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT PROPOSED NEW VILLAGE HALL

Over 60 parishioners attended the open meeting of the proposed New Village Hall, which was chaired by Andrew Chandler, Chairman of the Parish Council. Ken Down explained the thinking behind the plan, outlining the advantages of a new hall on a new and larger site with ample parking, overcoming the safety concerns at the present hall. Explaining how it could be funded, Ken said funding sources could include:

- a) Sale of the current hall,
- b) Grants from local government (Mid Devon District Council, Devon County Council),
- c) Den Brook Community Fund,
- d) Other grant funding organisations.

Ken Hogg spoke about the possibility of including within the plan a community shop, play area and allotments. Emma Davis had arranged an informative photographic display which illustrated other recently built or refurbished village halls and the facilities they have been able to incorporate. Computer images produced by Chris Davis gave a concept of what we **could** have in the future.

At present we are not in a position to purchase land to bring this proposal to fruition. Not knowing where it was going to be sited appeared to be a major concern at the meeting. However, it was explained that it is only possible to take one step at a time. The first step was to carry out a parish survey, which will begin after the meeting with the aim of getting approval from the majority of the village residents. During questions and comments, these were some of the issues raised:

- a) Do we need a new Village Hall when we have the Waie Inn?
- b) Would the parishioners support a new hall?
- c) The existing hall should be updated and a site be found nearby for a car park.
- d) It was stated there had never been a reported incident near the hall and it was not considered there was any danger for hall users.
- e) Would having a new Village Hall bring more houses?

The chairman and the committee members mingled with those who attended hearing more of their views while enjoying wine and cheese prepared by Margaret Harris. Many were in favour of the plan and praised the work undertaken so far by the committee and for putting “their heads above the parapet”. The results of the survey findings will be announced at a public meeting in due course.

Ken Down



FILM NIGHT

Having recently taken over the equipment for Film Night from Okehampton Moving Pictures, we hoped that our first film evening in October would be a success. We weren't disappointed - nearly a full house came to watch 'The Personal History of David Copperfield'. We invested in some slightly more expensive ice creams, which sold very well (see below), and we offered tea/coffee and cake which also saw lots of takers. All-in-all we were very pleased with our first foray into cinema, and hope we can continue to please our visitors.



Our December film is '**Summerland**' which is a spoonful of hope, love and laughter. It depicts the story of Alice, a reclusive writer, resigned to a solitary life on the seaside cliffs of Southern England while World War Two rages across the channel. When she opens her front door one day to find she's to adopt a young London evacuee named Frank, she's resistant. It's not long, however, before the two realise they have more in common in their pasts than Alice had assumed. Wounds may be healed, second chances do occur and, just perhaps, magic really does exist. **Starring Gemma Arterton; Gugu Mbatha-Raw; Penelope Wilton and Tom Courtenay.**

Wednesday 15th December, see back page

FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

The weather has deteriorated at the moment, so there is not much activity down at the lake. We are still awaiting the builder to put the awning up for Trevor's bench.

We are pleased to say that the fencing is now complete and we are very satisfied with the result. We thought it better to put new weather protected posts in, but still leave the old posts as a secondary measure, as this was cheaper than removing the wire and refastening it.

The calendars have proved to be very popular, but we have a dozen left if anyone requires one for a Christmas present. Please ring Ken or Jane on 07749 329832.

We had a good break away last month in Suffolk and look forward to getting back into the swing of things. Have a very happy Christmas and please all stay safe.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane



QUOTES

‘Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you’ve got a Christmas Tree in the living room’. *Nora Roberts, American author*

‘All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt’.
Charles M. Schultz, American cartoonist, creator of the comic strip ‘Peanuts’

LOCAL CONTACTS

If you need help, for example with shopping or collecting a prescription, or even if you would just like a chat, please call one of the following people:

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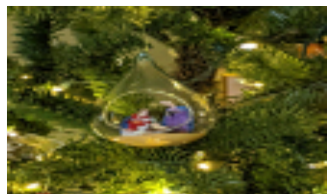


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www.devonthatching.com 07790 412 079



Exterior painting, gutter clearing

Chris 07597968293
[01363] 881475



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe, as I write this article in early November, that we are preparing for December and Christmas services. Luckily, 2021 has been much kinder to us as we have been able to have worship in Church since March. In spite of what we hear at present concerning Covid infections, we look forward to a busy December.

The rotas for December.

5th December at 10.00am

First reading

New Testament

Advent 2

Malachi 3: 1-4

Luke 3: 1-6

Sidesman

No flowers in Advent

Cleaner

Family Service

Mrs Becky Harvey
& Jocie

Miss Lynn Warren

Mrs Marian Quick

Mrs Margaret Down

12th December at 6.30pm

Old Testament reading

New Testament reading

Gospel

Advent 3

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Philippians 4: 4

Luke 3: 7-18

Sidesman

C W E

Miss Lynn Warren

Mr Robert Peck

Rev D. Rowbottom

Mr Colin Crothers

Friday, 17th December at 6.30pm Lessons and Carols

Readings and readers to be arranged

Sidesman

Mr Tony Breal

24th December at 9.30pm

Old Testament reading

New Testament reading

Gospel

Christmas Eve Communion

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

Sidesman

Mrs Jane Hogg

Mr Graham Rounsley

Rev David Rowbottom

Mr Tony Breal

Margaret Down

Flowers 24th, January 2nd & 9th

Advent Fayre 4th December from 2 – 4pm

The stalls include: Cakes; Produce; Books and bric-a-brac; Raffle; Tombola. Light refreshments will be available. If you are able to donate items for any of the stalls it would be much appreciated. Contact me Tel 82204 or any one of the PCC. This is our first major fundraiser for a long time, we look forward to your support.

Christmas at St Peter's

We are looking forward this year to being able to celebrate Christmas in church. Some of us have heard the good news of the Christmas story many times but it is

still as exciting as ever. We begin with a service of lessons and carols on Friday, the 17th December. A collection will be made for the Childrens' Hospice South West at Fremington near Barnstaple. The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. We continue on Christmas Eve, with our celebration communion at 9.30pm. The church will be decorated with greenery for the carol service, flowers can be added for Christmas Eve.

Rev Robert

Our vicar Robert is currently unwell and receiving treatment. We send him our best wishes for a full recovery and pray that he will soon be back and joining us for some of our worship.

I am sorry to announce the death of Mrs Audrey Lovegrove aged 88. Her funeral took place at Colebrooke Church on the 10th November, she was laid to rest with her husband Maurice. We send our condolences to her family.

Church rotas

I am now preparing the flower, reading and cleaning rotas for 2022. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please contact me. Tel: 82204. Thank you to everyone who has helped this year.

Margaret (Church Warden)

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In order to produce fantastic horses a top reproductive team is essential. Dr Irma Rosati MRCVS is the head reproductive vet for Equus Vets and is based year-round at Newton. Through the main stud season, she is joined by DMV Giovanna (Nina) Scarpa MRCVS. Both Irma and Nina are vastly skilled reproduction specialists, who have many years' experience on some of the biggest studs in Europe, using the latest reproductive techniques including embryo transfer. Newton has been using embryo transfer successfully for many years and this technique is of particular value now that so many of the sports mares are in training and out competing. It allows these mares to start or continue their competitive careers, whilst also producing stars for the future.

The next step in taking the breeding programme at Newton to the very top level is the installation of a state-of-the-art IVEP laboratory. IVEP (In Vitro Embryo Production) is made up of four processes:

- Ovum Pickup (the collection of eggs from a donor mare)
- In vitro maturation (maturing the egg to the right age for fertilisation)
- Intracytoplasmic sperm injection ((ICSI) the egg is fertilised by injecting a single sperm cell)
- and lastly In vitro embryo culture (the embryo is cultured until it reaches an age where it can be either frozen or transferred to a recipient).



Irma inseminating.

This will be the first lab of its kind for equine reproduction in the UK and will be a very exciting step forward, attracting many of the top competitors and breeders from around the country. The major benefit of IVEP over and above any other reproduction technique, is that the eggs from the mare can be collected in one session and from where they are based. This allows the eggs to be sent down to the lab for the rest of the process, giving the result of multiple pregnancies with no interruption in their training.

This winter will see the start of trials in the IVEP lab, ready to roll the services out commercially in early 2022. We have already received a number of enquiries for both IVEP and embryo transfer for 2022, so it is shaping up to be a very exciting breeding season.

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What is the star sign for people born on Christmas Day?
2. Which Christmas poem was originally called 'A Visit from Saint Nicholas'?
3. What were the names of the Three Wise Men?
4. What is the name for a female turkey?
5. How many points are there on a snowflake?
6. What is the cost of the Christmas Radio Times 2021?
7. Which Christmas evergreens are otherwise known as Hedera and Ilex?
8. Which carol was heard on both sides of the trenches during the Christmas Day truce of 1914?
9. From which country does the Poinsettia plant originally come?
10. Can you name the five famous reindeer who have a 'D' in their name?
11. In which city would you find Wenceslas Square?
12. Which two Gospels in the Bible tell of the birth of Jesus?
13. In the words of the song, what was Little Donkey carrying?
14. Where does the Queen traditionally spend Christmas?
15. From which well-known carol is this line taken? 'The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight'.

Three Christmas Carol Anagrams

1. Tinsel thing 2. For the silent 3. I call you of the flame

Answers for last month


- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. David Lloyd George | 8. The Beatles |
| 2. To play every note and half note of a scale | 9. Cream 29.5% |
| 3. 1937 | 10. Minnesota and Montana |
| 4. Mahon, Menorca | 11. Glasgow |
| 5. Mercury | 12. 8 Colours |
| 6. Flax | 13. Africa |
| 7. Smith | 14. Bigamy |
| | 15. The aperture |


Minute Quiz answers


1. Tulips 2. Buttercup 3. Daisies 4. Lily
5. Rose 6. Apple Tree

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EARLY MEMORIES OF SHOPPING IN ZEAL

I recently received this message from Cathy Cook, who lived at one time in Zeal. She thanks Erica Eden for the article on the shops of Zeal through the years, and Cathy says:

The article brought back memories of going into the shop/post office with my mother. I could not have been more than five as we moved out of the village before my sixth birthday. Mr Hooper ran the shop then and my abiding memory is the smell, a mixture of paraffin and sultanas; well, I say sultanas because it was a sweet smell like the fruit used in cooking, no doubt it was a combination of many things.

Mr Hooper always wore a long brown coat, (not sure of the correct term). He never seemed to smile, he was tall and thin. He was adept at scooping things from boxes and what appeared to be barrels, although, to be fair, my knowledge of the storage facilities of the stock was, as a small child, little or nothing. He scooped your goods into sturdy 'denim' blue paper bags, which were long and rectangular in shape. He would then replace the scoop whence it came, the bag and contents were weighed. He would lift the bag back to the counter, giving it a gentle shake to settle what was inside, whilst gently bumping it on the counter a couple of times before deftly straightening the top, folding it over and in on itself like an envelope. Everything inside was now securely closed. It was done quickly and never ceased to fascinate me. Your article brought into sharp focus the smell, the atmosphere, the theatre and the sound of the shop bell as we went in and left .

My parents lived in Zeal from their marriage in 1946 and it was there that I and my siblings were born: my older sister in a cottage on the left going down the hill from the church towards Waie, my brother in a cottage just past the shop and down a 'drangway'. I remember the three of us going to Sunday School down there too, a strange little room with a piano and a nook in the wall where there was a penny; the penny was stuck in the wall and most odd. I was born in 'Rowdens'. My older sister started her school life in Zeal although my brother and I went to Lapford. What a beautiful school that was, full of light and space, it was lovely. That was short-lived for us as we then moved to Copplestone in 1960, back to another claustrophobic Victorian building with little space and cramped classrooms.

I have, for some time, been sending my copy of your newsletter to my brother who now lives in Tiverton. Being three years older than me he has more memories and he has an abiding love of Zeal. He has researched the village's connection with the Monks who lived at Burston which is really interesting. When I can get another copy I send it to an elderly gentleman in Copplestone, who, with his family, also lived in Zeal at the same time as us, he and his family moved to Copplestone later and became our neighbours.

I will sign off now. Suffice to say to all of you who are involved in producing the newsletter, your work is appreciated and for those of us whose connection to the village goes back a lifetime, it brings the past and buried memories back to life. Thank you all of you.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Big Breakfast on 6 November was our most successful yet with 42 people and 10 helpers sitting down to enjoy a Full English Breakfast and it seemed as if everyone had a jolly good time. As with previous Big Breakfasts, we are very fortunate that some supplies are donated and our grateful thanks go to the following:

The Waie Inn, who kindly contributed lovely bacon, butter pats for the toast and flasks of coffee,

Rob & Jean Peck of Serstone Farm, who kindly donated all the eggs.

Donations of sausages, orange juice, bread, milk, napkins came from some of the helpers, all of which meant that we were able to keep costs down. And most importantly, there were donations of cash from our guests amounting to nearly £200 which goes to the Friends of Bow Surgery, thank you to all of you.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the helpers – Sally Rowden, Hazel, David & Delia Wainwright, Tracey Allis, Alan and Judi Hollingsworth, Alan Summers and David and Tina Bowyer – they worked incredibly hard.



The whole team, except photographer David B., enjoying a well-earned breakfast.

A couple of events to look forward to this coming month . . .

Our Christmas market will be held on Saturday 11 December, from 10 to 11.30am. All the usual stall holders will be there plus some extra Christmas-themed stalls.

The last event before the start of the festive season is our Christmas Bingo. If you've never joined one of our Bingo sessions there's no better introduction to the event; we have great prizes, lots of laughs and a very enjoyable evening. Do come along on Wednesday 22 December, doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 7.30pm.

Planting evergreen trees and shrubs creates all year-round colour. Take advantage of any mild spells with December Garden Advice, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre.

1. Add more winter colour such as cyclamen, violas, pansies, and wallflowers to brighten up your garden.
2. Watch out for pale blotches and fuzzy grey mould on leaves of winter-flowering pansies that can be symptoms of downy mildew. Remove infected leaves as soon as discolouration appears.
3. Use fleece for frost protection wrapping around less-hardy plants and insulate greenhouses with bubble wrap.
4. Continue planting trees, shrubs and hedges (see our selection in store, including many evergreen).
5. During winter pruning, don't forget to remove mummified fruit that remains on branches, and continue checking supports and ties of cane fruit, grape vines and fruit trees trained against walls.
6. Clear debris to prevent slugs and snails from setting up home in damp conditions. However, it is important to leave cover for other wildlife.
7. Prune dormant perennial plants to help improve their growth next season.
8. Help prevent Christmas plants such as azaleas, Christmas cacti and indoor cyclamen going over by keeping them cool at 13-15C (55-59F). In particular, forced bulbs such as daffodils, amaryllis and hyacinths require lower temperatures. We have lots of Christmas plants, bulbs and gift plants in store now.
9. If you have a pond, grab a pond heater to prevent ice forming, leaving an air hole free for toxic fumes to escape.
10. Take care not to let leaves accumulate, especially around alpenes - they will die if left damp for long. Cover bare patches around clumps with gritty compost to encourage regrowth.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place to visit over the Christmas period with large festive displays, gifts for him, her, children and pets, and an expanded range of Christmas lights, decorations, and Xmas trees.

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ZEAL EXPLORERS

Five of us and a friendly dog set off from the bus stop this month on a very mild afternoon for the time of year. There was discussion about which waterproof clothing we might need but, in fact, we kept dry and even had to shed outer layers as we tackled the hills from the village up to Serstone. Trying to avoid too much mud, we stuck to the roads as much as we could but descended to Sutton down Jackey's lane, then turned for home. However, we were all still feeling energetic enough to then take the lane past Gillhouse and back into the village via Western Road. Chatting all the way round, we had a lovely afternoon.

We hope you can join us for our next walk on **Monday 13 December at 2pm.**

If you run a local business why not advertise in

MONACHORUM MATTERS

We reach every household in the village and many in nearby locations.

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ZEAL MONACHORUM VILLAGE HALL

presents



Written and Directed by Jessica Swale

As World War II rages a withdrawn Englishwoman bares her heart to a young evacuee. After initially wanting to be rid of him, she embarks on a moving journey of womanhood, love and friendship.

WEDNESDAY 15th DECEMBER

DOORS 7 P.M. STARTS 7.30 P.M.

TICKETS £4.00