

FREE

Issue 43, December 2022

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



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EDITORIAL

Some of us have been thinking about what we can do to help people through the winter and one idea is to offer home-made soup and a roll on one day a month in the Village Hall. If the demand is there we could increase the frequency through the winter months. We see it as an opportunity to enjoy a bit of company in a warm space over a hot meal and, though we don't envisage charging for this, we would welcome donations to cover the cost of ingredients and the hire of the hall.

Initially we would like to find out if there is enough interest so please let us know if you would consider coming as a 'consumer' or if you would be happy to help make or serve the meal. We would like to start before Christmas and, if there is enough support, we'd like to hold this on a Wednesday after coffee morning, starting on Weds 14 December. Please **contact Jan Summers on 82571, email jansummerszm@gmail.com**

Finally, let us reflect on what an eventful year it has been – the wonderful Platinum Jubilee celebrations, followed by the sad loss of our much loved queen, and the war in Ukraine which has affected so many people in so many ways. All of us on the Editorial Team send best wishes to all our readers and advertisers with our grateful thanks for your support this year.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE: 8 DECEMBER

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Christmas Card Deliveries

If you haven't got the time or energy to deliver your Christmas cards in the village this year, there is a team of willing elves to help you out.

There will be a 'post box' in the church where you may leave your cards from Saturday 3 December until Saturday 17 December. The box will be emptied daily and the cards sorted for distribution in the week beginning 19 December. It is essential, to ensure delivery, that the full name and address of the recipient is written clearly on each envelope.

If you find it difficult to get your cards to the church they can be collected. Please call Sally on 82531 for more information, or if you could volunteer to deliver any cards. Thank you.

Mobile Library

Our Mobile Library will be here **Friday 9 December** stopping at Waie Cross 1.15 - 1.40pm . Join instantly on the Mobile, no need for ID and no fines if you can't return your books by the due date. For further information contact: www.devonlibraries.org.uk/ Tel 0345 155 1001

Rainfall

Rainfall for October - 83 mm. Thanks to Margaret Harris for this each month.

Thanks

Sally Rowden thanks all those who bought flowers at the gate this year. She has given over £100, shared between Devon Air Ambulance and Crediton Foodbank.

ALL DOG WALKERS: We've reported on this before but it is still a problem. Please: pick up your dog's mess and deposit it in a suitable bin (not other peoples' black bins). This includes keeping the Village Green, which is mowed by volunteers, clear of dog mess.

VILLAGE EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Every Weds	Coffee morning, 10.30am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Wed 7 Dec	WI Christmas Meal, 6.30 at the Waie Inn
Fri 9 Dec	Mobile Library, 1.15 - 1.40pm at Waie Cross
Sat 10 Dec	Market, 10.00 - 11.30am at Village Hall
Mon 12 Dec	Zeal Explorers Village Walk, 2pm at bus stop
Weds 14 Dec	Soup and chat, Village Hall at 12.30pm
Weds 14 Dec	Christmas Bingo - please bring a prize for the draw, starts 7.30pm
Sun 18 Dec	Christmas Carol Service, 6.30pm at St Peter's Church
Wed 21 Dec	Film Night, 7 for 7.30pm, see page 15 and back page



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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe as I write this article in early November, that we are preparing for the December and Christmas services. The season of Advent is a time for getting ready, not just the turkey, mince pies and decorations, but for what Christmas is really about. We give presents and send cards to our family and friends, but God gave us the greatest gift of all, His Son our Saviour. We welcome everyone to come and join in and enjoy our Christmas celebrations.

Christmas at St Peter's

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 Sunday the 18th. A collection will be made for a children's charity. The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine or coffee/tea if you prefer. We continue our celebrations on Christmas Eve with Christmas Communion at 9.30pm.

The church will be decorated with greenery and candles for the carol service, flowers can be added for Christmas Eve.

The rotas for December

4 December, 10.00am

First reading

New Testament

Advent 2

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Matthew 3: 1-12

Sidesman

Cleaner

Family Service

Mrs Becky Harvey
& Jocie

Miss Lynn Warren

Mr Colin Crothers

Margaret Down

There are no flowers in Advent

11 December, 6.30pm

Old Testament reading

New Testament reading

Gospel

Advent 3

Isaiah 35: 1-10

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Sidesman

C W E

Mr Tony Brealy

Mr Robert Peck

Rev David Rowbottom

Mr Colin Crothers

18 December, 6.30pm

Lessons and Carols

Readings and readers to be arranged

Sidesman

Mr Tony Brealy

24 December , 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

Flowers

Mrs Jane Hogg

Mr Graham Rounsley

Rev David Rowbottom

Mr Tony Brealy

Miss Margaret Harris

Thank you

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who have worked for, or supported, the church in any way during 2022.

Our Readers, flower arrangers, cleaners, sidesmen, bell ringers, churchyard grass cutters - all these helpers are vital to the smooth running of the church. I would also like to thank all who give regularly to church funds either weekly, monthly or annually, and all who support our fundraising activities. Like all households, income is essential for our commitments to the Diocese, Cadbury Deanery, the West Mission Community as well as helping to support and maintain St Peter's and its surroundings. Our financial year ends on the 31st December.

Church rotas

I am now preparing the flower, reading and cleaning rotas for 2023. If you would like to join our team of volunteers please contact me, we can never have too many. Tel: 82204

*I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmastime
Margaret (Churchwarden)*

—oooOooo—

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Who wrote 'The Snowman'?
2. What is the current colour of a second class stamp?
3. What is Viscum Album otherwise known as?
4. What is a young turkey called?
5. In the UK, where is the village of Bethlehem?
6. From which part of the cinnamon plant does the spice come?
7. Who were the first people to visit baby Jesus?
8. Which carol contains this line? 'To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line'.
9. What is cockney slang for eyes?
10. When making Christmas pudding, in which direction do you stir the mixture and why?
11. How many ghosts appear in 'A Christmas Carol'?
12. Original mince pies were oval shaped. What did this represent?
13. In 'Home Alone', where are the McCallisters going on holiday?
14. What did Frosty the Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?
15. Which fairy tale first inspired gingerbread houses?

Answers on Page 15

THE WAIE INN

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Brunch: 9am - 12pm

Full Menu: 12pm - 9pm (8pm on Sundays)



- Indoor & outdoor seating available (indoor table reservations to be made in advance where possible)
- Our Swimming Pool is available for family & bubble sessions at £30 per hour. Please call us to book.
- Waie 2 Play is open for advance bookings - please visit our website.
- Our skittle alleys, squash courts and pool & snooker tables are available to use. Please call us to hire our Multi Sports Hall.



I'm Philip of PGLive

I'm a solo guitarist with my own backing and singing harmonies. I play well-known songs at events including weddings, parties, dances, and outdoor events. I cover a wide range of music including The Eagles, Coldplay, Ed Sheeran, Queen, Elvis Presley, Elton John, John Denver, Van Morrison, Roy Orbison, George Ezra, The Beatles, plenty of country hits and old-time ballroom music.

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ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

Our speakers vary in their subjects and ability to hold their audience. We were so lucky with our November speaker, our very own treasured treasurer Hazel Wainwright, who is a very experienced florist.

As instructed by Hazel at the previous meeting, we had all brought a candlestick, candle, plenty of greenery, small headed flowers and various other items. After ensuring that we all had secured our items to the top of our candlesticks she proceeded to demonstrate how to make a floral arrangement which could then be copied, should we wish, to make a Christmas arrangement.

The hall looked resplendent with all our floral efforts. The competition for November was the best arrangement and it fell to Hazel to choose, which gave her "quite a dilemma" she said. After much deliberation the winners she chose were: Jan Breally 1st, Sue Carey 2nd and Maria Richrdson 3rd. Jan is pictured below with the winning arrangement.

On December 7th we will be enjoying our annual Christmas dinner at the Waie Inn, starting with a free drink on arrival at 6.30pm.

WIs from all the local villages have a group meeting each year at which there is always a keenly fought competition. At our most recent one the poem shown below, written by Hazel Wainwright, was our entry and we came second – thank you Hazel.

The Dartmoor air is sharp and cold,
But exercise is good we're told.
The dogs are barking, loved ones laughing,
We're off on a snowy walk.

Snow and icicles on ponies' coats,
But they don't make a fuss,
They happily munch on hay and oats,
Whilst it's rolls and hot soup for us.

The wintry sky is growing dark,
The dogs are now too tired to bark.
What a wonderful day, we wish we could stay,
We've been on our snowy walk.



As usual, I must stress, you do not have to be asked to join any WI, just pop along to the hall on the first Wednesday of each month, 7 for 7.30pm (unless otherwise specified - details always in the Village Magazine). It's a jolly good way to make new friends. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Jan Breally

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council meeting due to be held on 24th September was held on 12th October. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved, we moved to the Open Forum where a complaint was raised regarding the ongoing sewage smell from the drain at Western Road. The Clerk stated that all relevant bodies had been informed and, as yet, nobody had inspected the problem. Councillor Peter Heal (MDDC), who was at the meeting, agreed to take the matter further.

Representatives from the Village Hall committee were present to request PC approval for their plans for a major refurbishment of the village hall. It was agreed that this would be on the agenda for the next meeting, on 24 November.

The council was informed that the Church wall immediately behind the jubilee seat will have to be rebuilt. This will involve demolishing the old shelter. David Bowyer generously offered to store the Jubilee seat and carry out necessary maintenance on it at no charge. The consequence of this is that the village will be without the seat and shelter for a large part of the winter.

You will have noticed that the windings on the church clock are not working. The repairs for this are expensive and a claim is being put forward to the Denbrook fund. It will take a little while but the clock will chime again.

The chairman proposed a formula for using part of our Denbrook fund to help with the many requirements of Bow Recreation group, which is in Zeal parish. There was no obvious agreement to this, and it will have to be discussed at future meetings.

Councillors were told that the defibrillator attached to the village hall is due for its maintenance check and that it would soon be removed. Unfortunately, the temporary replacement that we were promised is not going to materialise. This means that the only defibrillator in the village for a couple of weeks in November will be situated at the Waie Inn.

The next meeting will be held on January 26th at 7.00pm.

How about some Christmas jokes . . .

- a. What do you sing at a Snowman's birthday?
- b. What do donkeys send out at Christmas?
- c. What do you call a blind reindeer?
- d. How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
- e. Where does Santa stay when he goes on holiday?
- f. How does Santa know it is going to rain?

Answers on page 15

CREDITON FOODBANK

Thank you to those who donated food in the last month. The delivery was as always so very much appreciated.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER TO FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER.

If you do not want us to knock, please leave this newsletter in a prominent place WHERE WE WILL EASILY SEE IT.

These times are hard times in so many ways and there are more people than in other years who never imagined they would need to use a Foodbank. Please remember the Foodbank is there for anyone who is in need, whatever their status. Fiona, the Foodbank coordinator and her team of friendly volunteers are there to help **ALL!**

You may have seen the Crediton Foodbank Slow Cooker Campaign which was shown on BBC Spotlight program at the end of October. With monies donated to the Foodbank they have been able to buy 50 slow cookers. Using a slow cooker costs 60p an hour as opposed to £1.50 for an oven.

If you are able, please donate whatever you can. A donation, no matter how small or large, will be equally appreciated, be it cans of food, juices, Christmas goodies and treats, particularly for children and the elderly. I know many of you in the past have preferred to give money. This will buy fresh food, milk, meat, even help with heating, lighting and wherever it is needed most. For people who are new to the village and are concerned about giving money, Jan Brealy and myself, Lois Hamilton, have been collecting for 12 years and are licensed by Mid Devon Council to carry out this collection. All donations, whether food or money, will be recorded and sent to Mid Devon Council. Let us all be aware of our neighbours at this time, especially the elderly and those living alone. We wish you all a **very Happy Christmas** and we thank you for your amazing, continued generosity at Christmas and throughout the year.

At this time of year, we are celebrating God's giving to us His greatest gift, His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. However, there will be many who are worried about how they can cope, even despairing of their future. Jesus Christ is still today God's gift to a needy world, and to all who are despairing!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR



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FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

Firstly, we owe Mr David Bowyer an apology for not mentioning his name on the photographs on the back of this year's calendar. He kindly came along, as did Mike Bostock and Mike Russell, to our Junior Fishing Competition in August.

Secondly, I would like to thank Spence Magarotto for the amazing photograph of Danny, his 11year-old son, see below, who landed his 12lb 8oz carp, a specimen fish, in wonderful condition. This is the largest catch by a junior. I would also like to congratulate both Danny and Saffy for their diligence and improving skills. Well done.

At this moment in time, we are hoping to get some improved fishing platforms for the less abled. These use plastics from recycled food containers and bottles and are made by a local company. We have applied for a Council grant to improve our facilities down at the lake and, if all our plans go ahead and the monies are available, we hope to improve facilities for all our members and villagers to come and make use of the lake area.

If there are any basket weavers in the village, we would be more than happy to let you have as much willow as you require as we will be doing some pruning this winter. We will once again need work parties to help with some cosmetic work,. so if you would like to come along and help, please call us on 07749329832.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane



Quiz answers

1. Raymond Briggs
2. Green
3. Mistletoe
4. A poult
5. Wales
6. The bark
7. The Shepherds
8. While Shepherds watched their flocks by night
9. Mince Pies
10. From east to west to represent the journey of the three Kings
11. 4
12. Jesus' crib
13. Paris
14. Danced around
15. Hansel and Gretel

Christmas Joke Answers

- a. Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow
- b. Mule Tide Greetings
- c. No eye deer
- d. Nothing, it was on the house
- e. At the ho ho hotel
- f. Because Rudolph the red knows rain, dear

Film Night

Firstly, thank so much to all of you that come to our film nights and help to make them a huge success.

Our film for December is a golden oldie: **'It's a Wonderful Life'**.

EVERY TIME A BELL RINGS, AN ANGEL GETS ITS WINGS!

Light up your Christmas this year with this timeless classic starring the unforgettable James Stewart as George Bailey and featuring a superb ensemble cast including Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore.

'It's a Wonderful Life' is regarded as a cinematic masterpiece and one of the most popular films of all time. For the first time, this acclaimed favourite has been re-mastered in glorious colour providing you with even more entertainment over the original black and white film.

Please join us on **Weds December 21**, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, see back page.

*May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from:
David, Tina and Gavin, your 'Zeal Village Movies' production team.*

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December Garden Advice from 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 (Bow have an expanded selection in store, including many evergreen).
5. During winter pruning remove mummified fruit remaining 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 some 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. Bow has lots of Christmas plants, bulbs and gift plants in store now.
9. Buy a pond heater to prevent ice forming, leaving an air hole free for toxic fumes to escape.
10. Don't let leaves accumulate, especially around alpiners - they will die if left damp for long. Cover bare patches around clumps with gritty compost to encourage regrowth.

Bow Garden Centre caters for all your garden and plant needs, including a range of trees, shrubs, bulbs, and seeds. Also a great selection of gardening tools, garden buildings, fish and pet supplies, a lovely welcoming Waterside Cafe, and Post Office services too. Bow also has lots of Christmas displays & inspiration including gifts for him, her, children and pets, plus their largest range ever of Christmas Lights, Decorations, and Christmas Trees!

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CONTACTS

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- Village Hall: Chairman Ken Down. Tel. 01363 82204
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- Mid Devon
Councillor Peter Heal, Tel. 01363 884277,
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- Parliament: Mel Stride MP. Tel. 01392 823 306
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Details of some nearest services

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- Library: Belle Parade, Crediton. EX17 2AA Tel. 01363 772 578
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- Hospiscare: Caring in the heart of Devon. 01392 688000
- Nearest shop: 129 High St, Crediton, 01363 774836
- Defibrillators: these are located on the West wall of the Village Hall (nearest to Churchill Gardens) and at the Waie Inn

ZEAL MONACHORUM VILLAGE HALL

presents



'It's a Wonderful Life' is a delightful film, originally made in 1946. The plot begins with some of life's trials, but concludes in a hysterically comic way, bringing much laughter for all with a wonderful Christmas scene finish. Regarded as a cinematic masterpiece and one of the most popular films of all time, it is the very definition of a feel-good family film.

WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER

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

TICKETS £4.00