



OTTERTON PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2024

A member of the Raleigh Mission Community



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Fri 10am-2pm

CHURCHWARDENS:

DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN:

RMC PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

SERVICES FOR MARCH

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH

9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton

SUNDAY 10th MARCH

9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton

SUNDAY 17th MARCH

9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton

SUNDAY 24th MARCH – Palm Sunday

9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton

FRIDAY 29th MARCH – Good Friday

12.00 noon	Good Friday Reflections		East Budleigh
3.00pm	Cross of Christ		Otterton

SUNDAY 31st MARCH – Easter Sunday

9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton

SUNDAY 7th APRIL

9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton

Morning Prayer will be said at 9.30am at East Budleigh on Tuesdays and at Otterton on Thursdays



Members of the Otterton community have revived the village's **SOAPBOX DERBY** with a 2024 event - taking place on **EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY (1st April 2024)** starting at 10am. The event is to help raise money for the village playground which is estimated to cost about £30,000. The last Derby took place in 1993! The 2024 event will see a competition for distance and will start at the top of the hill at Stantway Farm. Entry forms and rules can be found on the Otterton Soapbox Derby site on Facebook or by emailing ottertonsoapbox@gmail.com or obtained through the Community Shop, Hair@57, The King's Arms and The Mill. A special event logo has been created by book and commercial illustrator Patrick Llewellyn who lives in Otterton.

View from The Vicarage

Dear friends,

So, what is going on in March this year – let me think? Oh yes, it is Easter Sunday on 31st March which means on 10th March it is Mothering Sunday and on 24th March it is Palm Sunday. What else...Oh yes, it is my 10th wedding anniversary – mustn't forget that! So, a lot going on whether you are a Christian or not and most people are drawn in to Mothering Sunday and are partial to the odd Easter egg, no matter what they believe.

When writing these things, I always scan the month to see what is most prominent, which gives me a “starter for ten”, and life is punctuated by these special annual events of course because they raise our sights away from the more humdrum perennial stuff of everyday life. Not that they make the ordinary stuff any less important – just different. Not everything can be special all the time as that would mean the specialness is lost.

Getting the church decorated for Easter Sunday is a special annual thing but actually the church has to pay the gas and electric bill every month and keep the tiles in place on the roof. And on a daily basis, things have to kept clean and tidy and in good order. We can't provide the special things without first making sure that the ordinary humdrum things happen 365 days a year.

That could be a metaphor for our daily lives I suppose. We celebrate our birthdays and anniversaries, but they are special events. We have to keep our lives – our mental and physical health - in good order 365 days a year as well.

Physical, mental and spiritual health are all important to help our lives run as smoothly as possible. My personal likes are walking and Scrabble to keep my physical and mental health in good order, and prayer, worship and contemplation to keep my spiritual health in good condition as well. Lent, which fills all of March until Easter offers us a prime opportunity to have a spiritual spring clean. Love and peace, Martin

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COUNTY COUNCIL

Contact: Jess Bailey, Lark Rise, Elsdon Lane, West Hill, Ottery St Mary EX11 1TZ 01404 814056 jessicamarybailey@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Contacts: Charlotte Fitzgerald – charlotte.fitzgerald@eastdevon.gov.uk; Melanie Martin – melanie.martin@eastdevon.gov.uk; Henry Riddell – henry.riddell@eastdevon.gov.uk

OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Otterton Parish Council had a very positive first meeting of 2024 at the beginning of February. With 8 of the 9 seats now filled, together with great supporters in specific roles such as Pathways & Public Rights of Way and Tree Wardens, it means there is a healthy variety of views and expertise to support the village. If you would be interested in filling the last remaining seat, do chat to Melanie Martin or contact the clerk on clerk@otterton.info for more information. Training is available and all Councillors are encouraged to undertake training in roles that they are interested in to ensure safety and compliance with rules - we look forward to hearing from you.

As we approach the end of the financial year (end of March), the Council is considering contracts that fall due for renewal in 2024. These include Grass Cutting, the village Defibrillator and access to the Voluntary Community Bus. If you have views on any of these or would like further details and, in particular, use the community bus service, we would like to hear from you. All these services have a cost implication so your views are important. Do contact the Parish Council as above or come to the next meeting on **4th March 2024** in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. You will be most welcome. Whilst writing, Councillor Henry Riddell is seeking views on a **Banking Hub for Budleigh Salterton**. Do contact him if you want to know more or would support this initiative - henry.riddell@eastdevon.gov.uk

Francesca Mills, Clerk to Otterton Parish Council; Sandycross Farmhouse, Yettington, Budleigh Salterton EX9 7BW
mobile: 07880 331465; email: clerk@otterton.info; website: www.otterton.info



OTTERTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children have had a busy start to the first half of the Spring term. They enjoyed a visit from Planet People, who led a workshop on a sustainable future. There were lots of wonderful ideas about greener buildings, less fuel powered vehicles and more wild animals. The children wrote down their hopes for the future and what they would like the world to look like. These ideas went into a time capsule, which was buried in the school allotment, to be dug up in 50 years' time by future generations of Otterton School! Our Otters class have also been busy at the allotment, planting potatoes and tending to their bug hotel. You may have seen us helping to keep the village clean and tidy by litter picking. Our thanks to Budleigh Lions who have kindly donated litter pickers to the school. We would also like to say a big thank you to the OVA who have donated some beautiful bird boxes, to help support biodiversity at the school and allotment. We can't wait to see some new residents moving in. In PE, the children have enjoyed learning some new skills in martial arts lessons, provided by Chris from VMMA Fitness, and taking part in a dance festival at Exmouth Community College. Next term our Heron class will be having swimming lessons.

We are very pleased to announce that on Wednesdays we will be starting a **Toddler Group**, 9.30am - 11am, £1.50 per family. Join us for a song, story and snack and enjoy making some new friends.

Please contact the school for more information on 01395 568326 or email admin@otterton.thelink.academy

OTTERTON COMMUNITY SHOP

We are pleased to launch our **Loyalty Card**. From 1st March 2024, each spend of £10.00 will entitle you to a stamp and ten stamps will allow you to claim a £5.00 discount or a £5.00 OCS Gift Voucher to redeem at a later date. We are constantly looking at ways to keep the prices of essential items as low as possible and this is now combined with a scheme designed to ensure that we also reward our most regular customers. We like to do our bit. Of necessity, we have to exclude from the qualifying spend, tobacco and smoking requisites, OCS Gift Vouchers, cashback and newspapers. Apart from this, each £10.00 spent will entitle you to a stamp. Full Terms and Conditions are available on the shop website.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to make available the **Shop Gift Vouchers** which were well received when offered in the run-up to Christmas. The Vouchers are each £5.00 in value. They are a nice way to support or treat friends and family and can be redeemed against any purchase.

OTTERTON LADIES' COFFEE MORNING – 11am Monday 4th March

At The King's Arms, Otterton. Please come along and make new friends or just catch up with old ones. All welcome. (contact Sharon 708302 for more information)

HOSPISCARE MEN'S WALK

The 2024 Men's Walk to raise funds for the local Hospiscare charity takes place on **Saturday 9th March**. Members of the Otterton community have been both generous and kind in sponsoring **Terry Tibbott, Geoff Porter and Malcolm Crabtree** in past years. This year the threesome will again be undertaking the walk on the outskirts of Exeter, starting and finishing at the Double Locks pub and covering approximately 7.5 miles. Please sponsor them if you can as Hospiscare, like nearly all charities, continues to be in desperate need of funds. Sponsorship forms are located in the Community Shop.

OTTERTON RELIEF IN NEED: Local Support for Local People

Otterton Relief in Need Charity (ORINC) exists to provide financial relief to residents of the Parish of Otterton in need, hardship or distress through situations such as loss of income or domestic crisis. Types of help given include payment of essential bills, rent, electricity, supply of logs and other living expenses.

If you or someone you know would benefit from our support, we encourage you to please apply. Application forms can be found:



- In the **foyer of the Village Hall**
- On our new **website**, www.orinc.org.uk
- Or you can **email**: orin.charity@gmail.com

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DEALT WITH IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE.

If you are interested in donating to support the work of ORINC, please email us at the address above.

OTTERTON FILM CLUB

We will be screening the film "The Miracle Club" in the Village Hall on **Friday 8th March** at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm for tea/coffee and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there. Entry £5 for adults, £3 for under 16s. Contactless Payments Accepted.

Set in 1967, THE MIRACLE CLUB is a heartwarming film that follows the story of three generations of close friends, Lily (Maggie Smith), Eileen (Kathy Bates), and Dolly (Agnes O'Casey) of Ballygar, a hard-knocks community in Dublin, who have one tantalising dream: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes, that place of miracles that draws millions of visitors each year. When the chance to win presents itself, the women seize it. However, just before their trip, their old friend Chrissie (Laura Linney) arrives in Ballygar for her mother's funeral, dampening their good mood and well-laid plans. The women secure tickets and set out on the journey that they hope will change their lives, with Chrissie, a sceptical traveller, joining in place of her mother. The glamour and sophistication of Chrissie, who has just returned from a nearly 40-year exile in the United States, are not her only distancing traits: Old wounds are reopened along the way, forcing the women to confront their pasts even as they travel in search of a miracle. Their shared traumas can only be healed by the curative power of love and friendship.

OTTERTON MILL

News

Our hot cross buns will be available from 2nd March to 1st April. These are always in high demand; orders can be placed to avoid disappointment by ringing 01395 568521 and choosing the Farm Shop option 3; opening times are 9.30am to 5.00pm and Fish and Chip Fridays will start again on 29th.

Music

Our 2024 gig line up has been announced; all the details are on our website; tickets can be purchased online via the website, by telephone on 01395 568521 option 4 or in person from our Mill Shop.

Milling

17th & 31st – 11am-12.30pm & 2-3pm - come and see our millers in action; always happy to answer any questions.

OTTERTON GARDEN CLUB – Spring Show

Just a reminder that the Village Spring Show will take place on **Saturday 16th March** from 2pm to 4.30pm in the Village Hall. There is still plenty of time to enter an exhibit as the closing date is Thursday 14th March. Entry forms are available from the Community Shop, Hair@No57, The King's Arms or from Iain Ure, the Show Secretary. You can also download the schedule and an entry form from our website www.ottertongardenclub.co.uk

Even if you are not exhibiting, do come along to see the entries, chat to friends and enjoy a piece of cake and a cuppa!

NEW POP-UP COUNTRY MARKET

Otterton resident Kirsty is starting a monthly Pop-up Country Market in Knowle Village Hall,
starting on **Saturday 16th March**, 12noon - 4pm.

Lots of great local sellers, including fresh flowers, books, antiques, hand-made soaps, pet supplies and treats,
and lots more.....

Wood fired pizzas – homemade cakes and coffee – kids' play park – dogs welcome

THE KING'S ARMS – from Freddie and The King's Arms Team

Hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to the Spring. *Lots* to come here at The King's!

Quiz dates for your diary: Wednesday 6th March & Wednesday 20th March. These are such great nights and we would love to see as many of you as possible!

Something new starting in March as well... Music Bingo. We have a live musician, Alex Dobson, who performs the chorus to popular hits and we play it like bingo, but without the numbers! We're going to run this monthly, so the first one is **Friday 1st March** then he's back on **Friday 29th March** (Good Friday). £5.00 for 1 game or £7.50 for 2 games. *Prizes galore for lines and Full Houses.*

Mother's Day is on the 10th - treat whoever you call mum with us. Head Chef Keenan's menu is available online or in the pub, 2 courses for £27.50 or 3 courses for £33.00 and a glass of prosecco on arrival for mum! We also have Scott Phillips (he did New Year's Eve) performing live from 3:30pm – 5:30pm. We become booked up fast for Mother's Day, so pop in and see us, give us a ring or visit us online to book a table.

Easter is just around the corner. We can't wait for the **Soapbox Derby** on **Monday 1st April** with drinks and a BBQ after the event. Keep your eyes and ears peeled regarding Easter Sunday as well....

Swifts Return in April – from Steve Culverhouse

The population of these amazing birds is in serious decline. With people insulating homes and blocking external cavities, the swifts are unable to return to the nests they have used for years. It's possible to install swift boxes under eaves and on the walls of houses. Please visit www.bristolswifts.co.uk for practical advice and information. Let's make Otterton a welcoming, Swift Friendly Village this year.

CLINTON DEVON ESTATES - From Kate Ponting, Community Engagement and Countryside Learning

East Devon's network of footpaths criss-crosses nature rich landscapes giving us the choice of coastal, woodland, river and heathland views to enjoy. Many of us will venture out this spring with four-legged friends, but at this time of year disturbance from dogs can pose a real threat to grazing livestock, farmers' livelihoods and ground nesting birds.

Dogs deserve appropriate exercise but with the freedom to exercise our pet animals where food is produced, and to share places with wildlife, comes responsibility. As dog owners we all must try harder, keep dogs in sight and play our part on every walk to keep Devon's countryside spaces special places to be and healthy for all.

Read more about the issues and importance of accessing the countryside responsibly by visiting the Countryside Learning section of Otterton Village website <https://www.otterton.info/ottertonpebblebed.htm>

kate.ponting@clintondevon.com 01395 443881 www.clintondevon.com

THE LOOKOUT FROM LADRAM

We would like to thank all those local residents who used our swimming pool this winter. Our focus turns to the holiday-maker season next. Don't forget, if you are looking for a summer job, please email us at jobs@ladrambay.co.uk

POLICE – Exmouth Neighbourhood Team: Mark.Edwards2@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Emergency 999; General Enquiries number 101; exmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk; <http://www.ukcrimestats.com/>

TAXI SERVICE: Available for local and long-distance journeys, including airport runs. For more information, please contact Barry on 07925 933100.

PLEASE NOTE that entries for Otterton Parish News should be sent to **Jill Beacham** - email: jill@beacham.co.uk - 01395 446433 **PLEASE NOTE - Deadline for April edition is Monday 18th March latest please.**