

East Budleigh with Bicton Parish News

December 2020 & January 2021



A cold view over the Otter Valley. Picture taken by Peter Bowler

Please send articles to:

ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Available online at

www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/east-budleigh-parish-magazine



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The information in this edition is correct at the time of printing. For the very latest updates please visit www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/

Dear Friends....

We can see the light!

This news that there is a distinct possibility that a Covid-19 vaccine is quite close is probably the best early Christmas present anyone could have asked for. Now we just have to manage the dark winter months and the present lockdown and whatever follows that until the vaccine(s) finally comes on stream. But I find that these current restrictions are suddenly much easier to bear because we have glimpsed the light at the end of the tunnel.

The four weeks before Christmas are called Advent, which looks forward to the coming of the eternal light of God into the world at Bethlehem. The most common Advent motif is “Darkness to light” and the spirit of the season is anticipation.

As we sit in eager anticipation of a vaccine to a nasty virus, we also wait in eager anticipation of Christ coming into the world.

What we are celebrating at Christmas is God’s permanent loving and redeeming presence in the world. A loving presence that did not just begin and end with the life of Jesus.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end” is said near the beginning and near to the end of the book of revelation.

Which means that the whole of creation came from God and will end in God and Jesus was God’s revelation to the world – in historical time - to show us his eternal loving will and purposes.

The celebration of Jesus’ birth every year at Christmas is the celebration of the eternal light of God in the darkness that came to demonstrate his unending love for all created things – yes, even you and me.

Love and prayers,

Martin



The All Saints Pastoral Umbrella

If you or anyone you know needs some pastoral care and support, please contact:
Rev’d Martin Jacques 01395 443473 or
Rev’d Karen Young 01395 488121

The Church Matters even more so in the present troubled times!

Christmas may be different this year from Christmas' past, but the Christmas message will not change. All we can do at this early stage is to set the scene for what is intended for the RMC.

Christmas Eve service 6pm at All Saints East Budleigh - **see page 7 for further details.**

Christmas Eve at 11.00 pm. Midnight Mass at St Peter's Budleigh Salterton.

Christmas Day at 0800 am - Holy Communion at St Peter's Budleigh Salterton.

At **11.00am**, Holy Communion at all 3 churches within the RMC viz: **All Saints, East Budleigh**, St Michael's, Otterton and St Peter's, Budleigh Salterton

We shall not surrender all other Christmas services to coronavirus, and we will be holding a Carol service and a Christingle although, sadly this year, due to Government restrictions each will have to be via the silver screen. Please go to the RMC website www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/ where these and other details of other Christmas services/news will be published. Sadly, everything is subject to change and is dependent upon the Government relaxing current restrictions, but hope and optimism must be our guiding star.

Aside from the Christmas season, the plan for All Saints, East Budleigh is to resume 9.30am Holy Communion each Sunday from the lifting of the lock down restrictions, but with the exception of Sunday 27th December, the first Sunday after Christmas Day.

Wednesday 10.00a.m. Morning Prayer at All Saints will, of course, resume as soon as government restrictions are relaxed to allow it.

Please see the web site for updates.

As the 'new boy' junior Churchwarden I have inherited from Paul Kurowski authorship of this column in the magazine – I cannot recall it being in the job description but I am always open to correction on this and any other matter of authorship. We are all most grateful to Paul for everything that he has done and continues to do as Churchwarden Emeritus.

Let us pray and hope that 2021 will be a better year.

My telephone number is 01395 442781 and is now included in the Who's Who list on page 33.

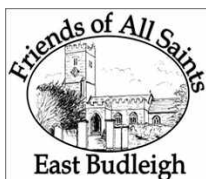
John Neligan - Churchwarden

Used stamps for the Leprosy Mission

A big thank you to all who brought stamps to church last winter for The Leprosy Mission. **Please continue to do so if you can.**

In many countries the need of leprosy patients continues to be great and the sale of our stamps is a tremendous help so please keep up the good work and save all the used stamps from your envelopes.

God bless you all, Pam Mayor



Parish News

A huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers who give up their time to create, proof read and distribute the

Parish News to households for free.

The Parish News, including back issues, is always available on the RMC website: www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/east-budleigh-parish-magazine.html

Supporting the Friends

You can support the Friends by joining as a Friend and/or entering the monthly draw in the 200 Club and/or making a donation – for details of how to do this and information about the Friends, events and brief updates see:

www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/friends-of-all-saints.html

Friends' Committee

We will hold a Friends' Committee meeting before the end of the year to consider what may be feasible ...

If anyone would like to join the Committee to help run the Friends' activities, please email friendsofall.saintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

As well as me, Elizabeth is stepping down after many years' service but will continue to coordinate the Parish News distributors – thank you.

2020 ... what a Year!

As 2020 draws inexorably towards the end, the Friends Committee has been frustrated in organising major events to raise money for the fabric and maintenance of the Church. Let's hope that we may be able to do something in 2021!

And Finally ...

The Friends' Committee members wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and a better New Year.

Paul Kurowski Chair ... until midnight 31 December 2020!

Drake's C of E Primary School



We had lots of fun celebrating Bun Day in East Budleigh. This annual tradition sees the vicar and sexton throw buns down to the schoolchildren and is something that the children love to be a part of.

We have lots of exciting things planned for Christmas including a Christmas performance, Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner at school. Christingle is happening on 14th December.

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 then we would love to welcome you to our amazing school. The deadline for applying for reception 2021 starters is 15th January 2021. Please contact the office and make an appointment to come and have a look around. In the meantime, have a look at our Facebook page and website where we have made a virtual tour. Please also visit our school website

www.drakes.thelink.academy

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the exciting things happening in school.



Search for - Drake's CofE Primary School

01395 443871

Our Churchyards

Churchyard Volunteering

The Churchyard session on 20th November was frustrated by the lock-down and that only two people could meet outside ... as we are writing this on Monday 16th November, we have no idea what happened! The last 2020 Churchyard Working Party is scheduled for Friday 18th December – we'll find out any constraints in due course and provide an update on the website.



Anyone can join in ... we meet by the shed in the old Churchyard at 10am ... bring your own tools and refreshments and we'll let you know what needs doing!

Our Churchyards

Our thanks go to David White and Helen Cavilla for updating us on sightings in our Living Churchyard and providing superb photos of such moments, eg, three different waxcaps (fungi): scarlet, slimy and snowy; and interesting birds including a meadow pipit and a flock of at least 25 greenfinches feeding in the yew trees.

Recent On-line Talks ...

We both attended a Devon Wildlife Trust Zoom talk on Friday 13th November about lichens, we wanted to learn about them as we have many varieties in the Churchyards. We learnt quite a bit but will have to get out into the Churchyard to try and identify the various species.

Paul attended the Zoom AGM for Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) on Tuesday 10th November. After the AGM business was completed, there was a talk by Professor Harold Mytum entitled "Graveyard Memorials – an under-appreciated heritage". It was a fascinating talk demonstrating that the graveyard memorials provide interesting cultural and historical indicators about the people and society at the time from the language used, eg, in the mid C20th people "fell asleep" rather than "died" through to the type of memorial shapes and symbology in a given period.

Paul attended the Family History Federation Really Useful Show on Saturday 14th November and one of the talks related to One Place Name research in which the speaker recounted a tale of someone recording all the Woburn churchyard memorial inscriptions in 1910 and, due to weathering, all that is just about visible today are the surnames ... This is why we think that it is very important to record our memorials before too much more is lost – if there is anyone that would like to help by taking photographs of the memorials and/or recording the transcriptions, please contact us.

Please visit and enjoy the Churchyards – they are wonderfully peaceful places for quiet contemplation and a haven for wildlife.

Penny and Paul Kurowski.

01395 742942; pandp@kurowski.me.uk or churchyard.as@rmcommunity.co.uk.

Christmas Eve at All Saints

Yes, All Saints Christmas Carol Service is planned - both live and online! Thank you for your brilliant suggestions.

It will take place on Thursday 24th December starting at 6pm in established 2020 style - social distancing, hand sanitiser, face coverings and silent singing (in your head). These arrangements will necessarily restrict numbers to 90 people. If you would like to attend in person please complete a ballot form either by cutting out the one below or by copies available at the Village Shop and returning it there by midday on Sunday 20th December when the ballot will be drawn if necessary.

As there is “no more room in the inn” everyone is invited to join online. The service will be broadcast live so you can stand outside your front door to sing like in the old days or sit cosily in your favourite chair by the fire. The service will be available on the All Saints Facebook page, on Zoom and via a link on the Village Events WhatsApp Group and the All Saints WhatsApp Group. If you need help with any of these connections please tick the box on the ballot paper below and we will help you.

In keeping with the All Saints charitable tradition there will be a collection in aid of the local charities Families for Children and All Saints (50/50) outside the church.

Let’s celebrate Christmas together and wish everyone -
Great tidings of comfort and joy!



Ballot Form

Name and phone number (for Track and Trace and contact purposes)

Want to attend at All Saints?: YES/NO

How many people are in your party?

<u>Can you join by:</u>	<u>Need help?</u>
Facebook YES/NO	YES/NO
Email/zoom YES/NO	YES/NO
WhatsApp YES/NO	YES/NO

Please complete and return to the box in the Village Shop by noon on 20th December.



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East Budleigh Church Hall

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East Budleigh in Bloom

The pansies are all planted and looking good. Hopefully, they will flower all winter and provide a little bit of cheer for everyone as they walk around the village.

The cart is looking magnificent in its new location and coat of paint. Huge thanks go to Gareth Smith for the wonderful oak support pillars which look so much better than the previous supports and much safer as well. Also special thanks to Graham and Helen Wood and Jon Roseway for all the work they did in the renovation of the cart with help from the Bloomers team.

The cart has new planters and should look splendid in the Spring when the daffodils show their heads.

We are hoping to have another table sale in early December, Covid restrictions and weather permitting. Look out for poster signs at the shop if we can go ahead. We plan to sell more masks, cakes, preserves and cards amongst other things. Fingers crossed!

If you have any queries please contact the secretary, Jon Roseway, 01395 488739. Happy Gardening and a Happy Christmas from us all at EBiB.



East Budleigh Garage

We are pleased to say we will be working Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. during this latest lock down.

If you need to contact us outside these hours please leave a message on our answerphone, 01395 445595, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

As always, if you require urgent assistance please phone our Emergency Number 077094 13323

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding during these difficult times.
STAY SAFE



YETTINGTON VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are currently available from
East Budleigh Communityshop

or

Purchase via the Hall website:

www.yettingtonhall.co.uk

Please visit the website to see the list of wonderful prizes.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who have
donated these.

Cost of tickets are £1 each or £4 for a book of 5

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the draw will take place via our
Facebook page: [Yettington VillageHall](#)
on the 21st December 2020 at 18.30

All winners will be notified within 24 hours of draw

Closing date for ticket sales Midday 20th December 2020

**All proceeds of the raffle will go towards internal, structural
strengthening of the hall, which is urgently required to provide a
safe social venue, for the community to enjoy for many years.**



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FHT



Village Hall

I have just spent some time reviewing the last year's entries I have submitted to the Parish News.

First thing that struck me is how lucky we are to have a Parish News Magazine which so successfully provides a point of communication and information for us all. So thanks to the Parish News from the Trustees of the Village Hall.

Second thing that is clear is that the topics of the entries I have submitted have by and large remained the same.

With the varying degree of uncertainty surrounding us all at present, perhaps some continuity is no bad thing.

The Village Hall Trustees have continued to consider what is best for the Hall going forward, and plans are emerging on potential renovation and refurbishment.

The social activities and events have of course been put on hold but I am sure we would all welcome the return of Fred's House, the Community Lunch, quiz and jazz nights amongst other social events.

The village green continues to provide an outlet for many parents and children and we are confident that with sensible and sensitive acceptance of the guidelines in place, this area can remain open. There are plans for additional play equipment, some more benches and seating areas and possibly the provision of a garden area for the use of Drakes School.

Moving to Trustee and General meetings we have met all of our statutory duties and built upon our Charitable Incorporated Organisation standing, with a robust business structure.

Our Trustee meetings are open to anyone from the East Budleigh and Bicton community and we now publish the minutes of our meetings on our web site and the dates and times of our future meetings can be found here.

A couple of final thoughts. Thanks as ever to our supporters and hirers, the various groups maintain the vibrancy of the Hall.

We as Trustees are always open to suggestions on the use of the Hall, there is a correspondence box in the V I P room next to the shop. Just drop a few lines down, pop them in the letter box, we would be happy to consider all views.

Finally I for one look forward to the return of many of the social events mentioned above.

Chris Dearsley, Chair, Trustees of the Village Hall.

Watercolour at East Budleigh Church Hall

We are starting a new term of art classes at East Budleigh Church Hall on January 4th at 2pm, hoping to brighten up a dismal winter by studying some classic watercolour techniques. All abilities catered for, and the classes are Covid safe. The ten-week term costs £70/ £67 (over60s).

Further information from 01626 891245, or visit mikemcdonald.co.uk

Mill Water is a special needs school educating 115 pupils, aged 3 to 19, with severe and complex learning difficulties. Originally based in Honiton in Devon (since 1975), we moved into a new purpose built school in beautiful grounds adjacent to East Budleigh in 2015.

Surprisingly, many local people have never heard of us. Perhaps this is because we are tucked away behind Bicton College and children travel to school from across east Devon. However, we always strive to forge close links with our immediate communities and engage in inclusive activities at any opportunity. It is essential that our pupils get into the local community and become successful citizens rather than secluded in the school site. You may therefore sometimes see a few supervised pupils enjoying a clamber in East Budleigh playground, in the town or down the seafront.

We are hugely grateful, and often humbled, by the local support that we do receive – whether from parents, their friends and family or the wider community. An example of this was at the initial outbreak of Covid-19 when a social media request went viral, resulting in an army of people sewing tonnes of protective masks and scrubs for our staff. Then, when it was identified that our SEN pupils and their families were struggling with the isolating nature of lockdown, we received thousands of pounds in donations towards resources that helped children keep occupied and safe while at home. Our parents, who sometimes feel isolated due to the nature of their child's condition in ordinary times, were deeply moved by this wealth of community support and said that it felt that they "weren't forgotten".

Bolstered by this support, our return to school for the Autumn term has gone as smoothly as possible (touch wood!) and we have been able to operate relatively normally, with pupils in class 'bubbles' and adhering to all the guidance. Our goal is ultimately for pupils to have as happy and safe an experience as possible at school and to create pathways for them to live the healthiest, most independent and fullest lives possible.

All staff are committed to providing the care and support our pupils need to reach their full potential. As well as specialist classrooms, soft play and sensory areas and a hydrotherapy pool, the school benefits from our spacious rural grounds and outdoor play areas. We always celebrate the smallest steps of achievement as well as being committed to delivering a purposeful education, while actively supporting pupils' physical and emotional wellbeing. We are Ofsted rated Good and Outstanding for personal development behaviour and welfare.

If you would like to learn more about the school please visit our website www.millwater.devon.sch.uk and follow us on our Facebook page @MillWaterSchoolDevon.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you around the community, or perhaps at one of our fundraising events, in the not too socially-distanced future.

Sarah Pickering, headteacher.

See photos on page 15.



East Budleigh Community Shop

Newsletter No. 128 – December 2020 and January 2021

FESTIVE FOOD AND DRINK

Don't forget that we will need to get any orders for turkeys, ducks, meat joints etc to Arthurs by 11th December. We can take orders for other seasonal goodies right up until the week before Christmas.

We will be open every day except Christmas Day for your last minute shopping...whether it's the extra bottle of wine (or gin!) needed to get you through it all...or you discover that last gift you forgot to buy....or maybe it's just the foil to wrap the turkey in. We will be here to help you out.

We are still offering a free delivery or collection service for anyone in need. If you need any help at all with shopping or collection/delivery please call us, any weekday morning on 01395 445550.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

LOCAL HONEY SETS: -We are delighted to be able to offer Little Tump's local honey sets again this year, with a pot of local honey and a handmade beeswax candle. They are limited stock, so do grab this lovely gift soon.

MOORES BISCUITS: Proving very popular already are the variety of tins of biscuits. These always go down well at Christmastime and make an ideal gift.

2021 WILDLIFE CALENDAR: Featuring some wonderful photographs taken by David White is on sale at the same price as last year – only £6 – a great gift, and easy to post.

CHRISTMAS ESSENTIALS: We have a wide range of cards, gift wrap, labels, gift bags and lots of other gift ideas in stock. Do come and browse!

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are selling Christmas cards on behalf of Stallcombe House, a fantastic local charity, supporting adults with learning difficulties. There is a pot for cash payments for their cards which, of course, all goes directly to them. Please bring the exact money (or add a small extra donation!). Cards are priced per pack at between £3.00 and £3.75 for 10 cards.

This year our good friend and village resident, Hugh Blagden, has created a series of beautiful Christmas cards all taken from his own paintings of various East Budleigh based scenes. We are selling these in the shop at £1.00 each or five for £4.00. All proceeds from these cards will go to Cancer Research - no profit will be taken by the shop.

SHOP NEWS

Opening times will continue as advertised, unless circumstances change. We will be open every day except for Christmas Day. Bank Holiday opening times will be posted in the shop.

It's a real shame that we will not be able to host our usual festive events, but as we near the end of this strangest of years, here's hoping that 2021 brings us all good news and easier times!

Thank you to everyone that has kept the shop afloat this year – from those stalwart customers who used us all through lockdown to those who flocked back as we were able to reopen, and to our dear volunteers who have worked tirelessly since re-opening in some very stressful situations to serve this village community and make sure that we are still here to look after your needs.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.**

The whole of **Mill Water School** joined forces in marking Remembrance Day. Pupils watched live remembrance services on the news, observed the 2 minute silence and laid dozens of wreaths, poppies and crosses that they had made in advance in class to mark the anniversary. Their Class 12 pupils did themselves particularly proud in representing the school at East Budleigh's memorial. Here they laid a wreath made in class and they were joined (at a social distance) by Mill Water school governor and East Budleigh resident Andrew Canning, who is also a former Royal Marine.

Headteacher of Mill Water special needs school Sarah Pickering said: "It was important that we paid our respects at the epitaph of our local community and remembered those that sacrificed their lives for future generations. In these challenging times, it is as crucial now as it was then that our communities pull together." Photos by G White



Bottom two pictures: Due to Covid restrictions, wreaths were laid individually at the village War Memorial. A private wreath laying by the local Royal British Legion Chairman Roger Bass and Treasurer Richard Morgan was held in Budleigh Salterton. Photos by Peter Bowler



Wildlife pictures by David White - some local visitors...

Teal Drake

Curlew



Redshank



Wigeon Drake



Fungi in the churchyard - Snowy waxcaps, Slimy waxcaps and a delightful group of Scarlet waxcaps



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Testimonials

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Denis and Diana (an elderly couple)

Thanks Tom, the hard work from you and your team coupled with your expert knowledge and ideas is transforming "Seaway" from a rather nice garden to something stunning that we know we will enjoy for many years.

Dorothy & David, Exmouth

'I have no reservation in recommending that if anyone has a jungle which they want transformed into a garden, then these are the people to do it.'

P.W Frewn- Smith, Exmouth

'We employed Plantation Gardening to dig out and replace an old hedge with a new beech hedge. Tom did a thorough and professional job, on time and on budget. We would definitely use Plantation Gardening again.'

Ken and Tina Garrod, Budleigh Salterton

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East Budleigh with Bicton WI

it seems a long time since our last meeting in early March. We are hoping, depending on how things progress to re-start sometime in the New Year.

Due to the results of a Questionnaire sent out to all members recently, an overwhelming majority favoured afternoon meetings in future. All options are being considered by the Committee, but no decision will be made until our normal meetings resume.

The winner of the October Flower of the Month Competition was Sandra Wallace with her beautiful Zinnia. Well done Sandra!

A surprise is being planned for all members prior to Christmas!

We hope everyone is keeping well and we look forward to seeing you all soon. You are all special, loved & missed. Rosemary Jerrard



East Budleigh Bunny...



This wild rabbit was dumped in our garden in the Spring and grew up into the fine bunny you see here. When the warren gets overcrowded each year, we tend to get a male baby bunny left for us to foster and about now they tend to go back to the warren. Growing up in our garden they have plenty of our flowers to eat and I leave some fallen apples for them as well and so they always grow into big bunnies, well able to look after themselves back in the warren. Peter Bowler



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Village Hall Refurbishment Project

Firstly, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Here's to a more positive year ahead with lots of occasions to celebrate what a wonderful village we all live in.

As you might be aware, the Village Hall Committee canvassed your opinions last year regarding extending the hall to safeguard its future and also help with its increasing popularity with hirers and village events. Unfortunately, due to Covid, this had to be put on hold. However, we're pleased to say we are now in a position to take our finger off the pause button! In light of what has happened in the past year we have decided to make a fresh start. We're sure you'll all agree recent events have made us all sit back and think about new priorities and how we want to enjoy different aspects of our lives and embrace our lovely community.

So we took on board the success of the East Budleigh Village Green Project and formed a new subcommittee from the Village Hall. This will enable us to look more closely at ways in which we can work with the local community to refurbish and improve the space. We are delighted to say some of the members of the EBVG Project are on this committee.

Therefore, in the following weeks we will be asking for your ideas again as to how the Village Hall could be improved, and if we did extend how the extra room could be used. So keep an eye on the notice board and Parish News for further details. We are all very excited about the many possibilities for the hall in the future, and your opinions really matter. We can't wait to hear your ideas!

Village Hall Refurbishment Project



News from Salem Chapel

Thank you to all those who supported the Chapel over the years. Warmest wishes for Christmas and have a safe and peaceful New Year. Salem Chapel and Schoolroom remain closed indefinitely, For emergencies (only) please contact 07544 239289.

Next edition of the Parish News

Please send items for the February 2021 issue of the magazine
to ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk
by 6pm on Sunday 17th January. Thank you

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CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Nature's comfort in hard times

The latest restrictions and uncertainty may have impacted our normal seasonal preparations, inconvenienced Christmas shopping, and prevented sociable festive get-togethers. However, nature has continued unabated in its annual readiness for wintertime.

Evergreens are symbols of life, being always green, even in the depths of winter. Anyone making the most of countryside walks will have noticed the wealth of fruit including rowan, black-thorn, hawthorn or the dog rose and it's hard to miss the scarlet displays against glossy leaves on broom and holly.

Folk legends or old wives' tales claim you can tell how harsh a winter will be, by the number of berries on rowan or holly. But plants cannot predict the future and this abundance has more to do with a combination of favourable conditions, such as the wet spring and a warm summer we experienced this year. So, whilst this natural bounty cannot help us forecast with certainty how cold or bleak the winter season will be, the splash of bright berries against bare or evergreen branches can hopefully bring solace in these dark times.

Holly produces a proliferation of red berries (or drupes for any botanical purists) to sustain wildlife especially mistle thrush and several mice species through the colder months. Garlands of holly were hung by our pagan forebears

to entice woodland spirits into their homes. Sacred to the Roman god, Saturn, who was worshipped at the midwinter festival of Saturnalia, holly keeps us warm as a good firewood when seasoned and can even provide heat and a good flame when burnt green. This evergreen with its spiked leaves and blood red berries was then adopted by Christians to represent Christ's thorny crown and sacrifice, forever securing its link to Christmas.

Mistletoe has long associations with fertility and links with Ancient Greek and Druid mythology. The Romans associated mistletoe with peace, love and understanding, hanging it over doorways to protect the household. Early Christianity retained these traditions, hanging mistletoe for love, vitality as well as protection against witches. From the 18th century references mention kissing under mistletoe, a tradition which you may continue to this day?

A parasitic plant, mistletoe takes up water and nutrients from its host tree. Although it can inhibit a tree's growth, mistletoe rarely kills it and can be managed to ensure both stay healthy. The female plants bear the white, waxy berries which are favoured by thrushes and blackcaps who in turn help the future harvest by wiping the sticky seeds from their beaks into the bark of trees.

Ivy does not take from or damage trees but simply uses them, or other structures, in its climbing endeavour to reach the light. Ivy's late season flowers enable butterflies to build up reserves of energy to overwinter. The small dark berries provide a valuable source of food for hundreds of

Continued on next page...

species whilst its trailing nature and dense ground cover provides a year-round refuge for small animals.

The slight toxicity of some evergreen fruits means they will be consumed in lower numbers at any one time, so supplies last well into winter. More palatable to humans are those like rose hips, rowan berries or the fruit of the blackthorn, used to colour and flavour sloe gin. If you are fond of foraging remember, like the birds, to take only a small amount from each plant, leaving plenty behind for other creatures to gather later.

Whatever beliefs or symbolism you hold true and however you choose to decorate your homes, bring some evergreen in too, so that hope and life may enter your homes this season. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year from all at Clinton Devon Estates.

Kate Ponting, Countryside Learning Officer 01395 443881
kate.ponting@clintondevon.com

East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council

During our recent 'virtual' Council meeting we were all delighted to welcome Heather Houston to our team of councillors. Just 2 remaining vacancies to fill and we will have a full strength Parish Council.

We have received some great feedback to the Emergency Plan summary guide circulated with the November magazine. The guide is an introduction to our Parish Emergency Plan that is available on the Council website.

Whilst COVID-19 restrictions continue it is vital we all look out for each other, especially those living alone. The Resilience Coordinator, Cllr Mike Walters, and I have refreshed the 'Volunteers East Budleigh' WhatsApp group in readiness for any support that may be needed. If you would like to become a volunteer please do let us know.

We have been asked by Trading Standards to inform all poultry keepers that there is now an Avian Flu Prevention Zone across the whole of the country. More details are on our website.

We don't meet in December and I will be taking a break too, so if there are any urgent matters, please contact one of your Councillors.

And finally, as this is our last opportunity in 2020, the Parish Council wishes everyone a very healthy, happy and safe Christmas.

Judith Venning, Clerk. clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk



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Festive wishes from the Aylesbeare Common team! We hope you have a healthy and happy Christmas period.

The cows have left us. They have returned to their grazier, to be replaced by the herd of Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies for the Winter period. Around the same time, clearance of the track sides down to Woolcombes Plantation took place, primarily to allow our tractors access down to the bottom, but with the added benefit of opening up some lovely views across the mires.

Ash dieback is something at the forefront of our minds at the moment. Along the stream on Harpford there are nearly 50 ash trees, and sadly all of them have ash dieback. Ash dieback is an introduced fungal disease that is fatal to between 75-90% of the European Ash in the UK, as they have no natural defence against the fungus. Young trees often die quickly, but older and larger ash may only succumb after repeated yearly cycles of infection – this can lead to branches in the canopy dying off and becoming brittle over time, which in adverse weather are prone to falling. While the loss of ash trees is a huge blow to the British countryside and represents a tragic loss for many of our native species, where ash trees are present along public footpaths or tracks with severe dieback they can pose a safety hazard to our visitors. Where it is prudent to do so, we will leave what ash we can (in some places that will only be as standing dead wood), but those trees that we have identified as a health and safety risk will have to be felled. Some felling of the ash near the ford has already taken place; the brashy ends have been made into habitat piles to benefit the insects and reptiles on the reserve – nothing is wasted! Ash dieback can affect garden trees as well – but there are plenty of resources available on the internet to teach

you how to identify and deal with any dieback you might find on your property.

Finally, I want to mention the possibility of controlled burns at some point during the Winter months. Swaling is the old English term for the controlled burning of large areas of heathland. Overgrown vegetation (particularly large stands of gorse) on the commons can detract from the value of the area for wildlife, and during the dry summer months can present a significant risk of wildfires. Wildfires are difficult to control and can destroy vast areas of sensitive heathland environment, threatening wildlife, grazing animals, and potentially human life and property. Swaling helps us manage leggy heathland vegetation, and clear the ground of dead heathers so that new growth can emerge. Areas on the Commons we intend to swale will have their fire breaks renewed to allow us to safely extinguish them once our target area had been burnt. All our controlled burns take place in an adequate period of dry weather between October 1st and March 31st, with the cooperation of the local fire department. We will put out notice before we intend to swale.

Species feature:

This month the species I want to highlight is the hen harrier. There are historic records of hen harriers roosting on Aylesbeare over Winter, and although they haven't been recorded in recent years, we still go out periodically in evenings throughout the Winter in hope that one may make an appearance. The British Trust for Ornithology run Hen Harrier Winter Roost surveys each year to try and gain a picture of the population of Hen Harriers in the UK, a project which is now in its 38th year, and we have been contributing for the past 33. Hen harriers are one of our rarest birds of prey, yet they continue to be one of the most heavily persecuted. Hen harriers nest on the ground in nests constructed mostly from heather, and, as with many birds of prey, the female is much larger than the male that she can defend her nest from other harriers that try to invade her territory.

200 Club

To make our 200 club more profitable - we would love to welcome more players

The 'Friends of East Budleigh Church' run a monthly raffle throughout the year to help raise funds for the upkeep of the church and churchyard.

Three winning numbers are drawn at the shop at the end of each month with three cash prizes of £40, £20 and £10.

October winners were:

- 1st Mrs E A James
- 2nd Mrs Julie Smith
- 3rd Mr James Pyne

If you would like to subscribe for the 200 Club for 2020, please send your name, address, telephone number and email together with a cheque for £2 per number (£1 per month until the end of 2020) made payable to

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c/o Jenny Hill,
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Who's who in East Budleigh & Bickton

Vicar - Rev'd Martin Jacques -
01395 443473 / 07795 025 016
vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk

Associate Priest – Rev'd Karen Young
01395 488121
associatepriest@rmcommunity.co.uk

Churchwardens -
Marilyn Hobbs 01395 488739
John Neligan 01395 442781
churchwarden.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

RMC Administrator -
Fran Mills - 01395 443397
raleighmc@gmail.com
The office at St Peters church is open;
Mon 1-3, Tues-Thurs 10-12 & Fri 10-2.

Parochial Church Council - Secretary -
Fran Mills - 01395 443397
pccsecretary.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Treasurer -
Maria Malinowska 07773 218582

Bellringers Captain -
Alan Murdoch 01395 445230

Organist - Geoff Aplin 01395 442951

Church Hall bookings – 01395 443609
or church office 01395 443397

Parish News Editor - Jess Hill
ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Services at All Saints East Budleigh - December and January

It's so difficult to plan ahead at the moment, but when the current restrictions are eased, we are **hoping** to hold the following services each week at All Saints throughout December and January;

Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer

With the following services planned for Christmas in the Raleigh Mission Community

Date	Time	All Saints East Budleigh	St Michaels Otterton	St Peters Budleigh Salterton
24 December Christmas Eve	6pm	Carol Service (see page 7)		
	11pm			Midnight Mass
25 December Christmas Day	8am			Holy Communion
	11am	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion

*Please note there will be no service at All Saints on Sunday 27 December.

A Filmed Family Christmas service and Christingle service will be on our website: raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk along with the most up to date service information.

Any changes to the above will also be displayed via a notice on the church gate.



It's been an unusual year for a competition which involves travelling the length and breadth of the county to visit churchyards, but the judges pulled it off. The results are now in for Devon CPRE's

2020 'Devon's Best Churchyard Competition'... St Margaret's at Northam in North Devon is the winner, St Swithun's at Sandford near Cridton was named Runner-up and two East Devon churchyards - **East Budleigh** & Exmouth's Point in View Chapel - were both Highly Commended. Full details available at www.cpredevon.org.uk/devons-best-churchyard-competition-2020-results/



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