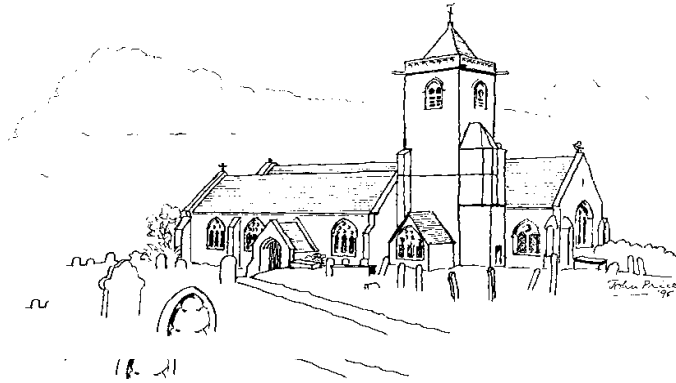




OTTERTON PARISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 2026
 A member of the Raleigh Mission Community



VICAR: Revd Martin Jacques (443473 & 07795 025016)
 revmartinjacques@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDEN: Ms Anne Radcliffe BEM (568059)

RMC PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Fran Mills - raleighmc@gmail.com
 WFH Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am – 1pm; (07880 331465)
 RMC office at St Peter’s Church open Wed 10am-12noon and
 Fri 10am-2pm (01395 443397)

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY			
<u>SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 1st MARCH</u>			
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			

WINTER WARMER SUPPER
 In support of Otterton Church
 Tuesday 24th February at 7pm
 Otterton Village Hall
 Tickets are £10 and are available from Anne Radcliffe (01395 568059)
PLEASE BOOK BY 21st FEBRUARY
 Please bring your own drinks and glasses
 Donations for **THE RAFFLE** gratefully received
EVERYONE WELCOME



OTTERTON LADIES’ COFFEE MORNING – 11am Monday 2nd February at The King’s Arms
 A chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. All welcome. Special thanks to Freddie and the team for continuing to host.

View from The Vicarage

February has the reputation of being a cold, bleak month and is only made more palatable for me by also being my birthday. Last year my birthday and wedding anniversary were celebrated in India and Sri Lanka respectively and this year both will be celebrated in India.

We leave the day after Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent. Lent could also be characterised as being a cold and bleak season, but I prefer the word austere. Pared back and more reserved worship was to act as a deliberate counterpoint and contrast to the joy and excesses of Easter.

Contrary to what many Christians believe, Lent has nothing directly to do with Jesus in the wilderness. Originally it was a period of study, prayer and preparation for people preparing to be baptised on Easter Sunday. Eventually the church realised that it would be useful for the practice of prayer and study to be extended out to a wider constituency.

“Giving up” things became a thing, which attracted its own theological rationale and fitted well into the austerity theme already mentioned. Giving up something for Lent has been proven to have been the longest lasting impact on society as a whole and might be called cultural Christianity.

In more catholic countries the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, is the excuse for wild parties and excess – because that is the last opportunity before Easter. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in New Orleans and Carnival (literally meaning take away meat) in Latin countries.

In Britain’s cooler and more temperate way we celebrate Shrove Tuesday – which comes from Shrivng or making confession, though I doubt much confessing is done nowadays - and it is celebrated mainly by making pancakes, so using up all the rich foodstuffs before Lent.

So, Carnival, as in Rio de Janeiro, or pancakes in Budleigh Salterton, provide a splash of colour and partying in an otherwise cold and bleak month. And after weeks of cold, rain, fog and ice – boy, do we usually need something!

Martin

* * * * *

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 C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

To kick start their new art unit all about Print, the children in Otters class explored printing with their hands and feet which was great fun!

In PE, Otters Class are enjoying gymnastic lessons this half term in the village hall, and Heron Class are having a six-week block of swimming lessons at the LED in Exmouth.

Reception and Pre-school have enjoyed making patterns and rolling a die to put the correct spots on the ladybirds.

In Geography, Heron class are learning about rivers. This week, they learnt about the water cycle and how rivers play a part in this. They had a go at acting out the water cycle as a way of showing their understanding of the process. Soon they will be having a walk along the river Otter as part of their learning.

Places available in pre-school which is open Monday to Friday, and all year groups. For further information please contact adminotterton@thelink.academy Keep up with us on our Facebook page and website!

OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Otterton Parish Council meets for the first time in 2026 on Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome and if you feel passionate about the work of the Councillors and about Otterton Village, please give consideration to joining. No prior skills necessary but a sense of humour is essential. No doubt everyone is frustrated about the large pot holes opening out all around the area. Just a reminder that these can be reported on <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/> Using this reporting line is the fastest way to get a solution and you can do it more than once. Looking forward to seeing you in 2026

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

JANE’S JAMS

Jane Bennett would like to thank all those who supported Jane’s Jams throughout this year, and especially on 21st December, before and after the Carol Service, when the takings were £207.30, all of which goes as always to Church funds. Unfortunately the cost of jars has gone up enormously this year, although our supplier always gives a discount as it is for charity and keeps it to last year’s prices. The cost per jar, including VAT, is now a horrendous 67p. Jane is therefore extremely grateful to kind customers who return her empty hexagonal jars to the basket in the Village Hall entrance, under the table where the newspaper orders are placed. We can remove labels, sterilize, and use new lids.

OTTERTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Here are two New Year resolutions for 2026:

Support the Shop: In doing so, you support the village by securing the on-going presence of what is a major asset to the whole community.

Buy More Fish - After any Christmas excess, the perfect antidote is fresh fish of which the shop is selling increasing amounts as more customers recognise its real quality and incredible value. The shop's Fish List is always available in the shop or on our website. Order by phone 01395 708324 or email the shop at ottertoncommunityshop@gmail.com by 3pm on Monday or Thursday to ensure delivery on Tuesday or Friday by 11am.

Deliveries - Don't forget that if you are prevented from getting to the shop, we will take orders over the telephone and arrange delivery within the village.

Finally, the Shop's Christmas Raffle raised £250 for the Exeter Leukaemia Fund and was won by Jo Horth. The Loyalty Card Christmas Draw winners were 1st prize – Jan Siddell, 2nd prize – Sue Packer and 3rd prize – Louise Lockley. Congratulations all round.

OTTERTON VILLAGE HALL

Are you looking for a new challenge in 2026? We are currently looking for keen villagers who would be interested in joining us on the Otterton Village Hall Committee. We need general committee members where no particular skills are needed, just an enthusiasm to be part of the Otterton community with ideas to keep our village hall up and running. We meet every quarter. If you are interested or know someone else who would be, please contact our chairman Richard Witherby on 07989 432423 or email chair.ottertonvh@gmail.com

Bookings for Otterton Village Hall can be made on The Hall Master Booking System which enables you to check availability, pricing and make hall bookings easily online via the Otterton Village Hall website. Our hall is equipped with a fully fitted kitchen, wi-fi, sound system, projector, tables and chairs all included for use in the hire charge. We also have a smaller meeting room available for meetings or small group activities. Please consider us for family/birthday/village parties or events! Maybe you are an instructor looking for a space to run your class? There are already regular classes held at the village hall which you may be interested in joining. Please use the 'Hall Booking' link to access the timetable to see what's on when.

HOSPISCARE MEN'S WALK 2026

The 2026 Men's Walk to raise funds for the Hospiscare Charity takes place on Saturday 7th March. Members of the Otterton Community have been very kind in sponsoring several men from the Village in past years.

However, this year we will be walking without Terry Tibbott, a member of the first team from Otterton to enter the Hospiscare Walk which is now in its 16th year. Terry died in September 2025 and received excellent care from Hospiscare in his last days of life. We will be remembering and celebrating Terry's life during the Walk on 7th March. This year Carlo Bove, Jon Kershaw, Geoff Porter, Peter Witherby and Malcolm Crabtree will be undertaking the 7.5 mile walk on the outskirts of Exeter which starts and finishes at the Double Locks Public House.

Please sponsor Carlo, Jon, Geoff, Peter and Malcolm if you can as Hospiscare in Exeter, like other medical charities, is in desperate need of funds. Sponsorship forms will be located in the Community Shop from Saturday 14th February. During the past 15 years the Men's Walk has raised £1,095,000. In 2025, over 1,600 walkers raised £160,000 and the Charity hopes to break this record in 2026.

OTTERTON GARDEN CLUB

Winter is over and our gardens are springing into life. What an excellent time to celebrate by entering (free) the Village Spring Show on 14th March. Most people have at least a few daffodils – it only takes one bloom to make an entry. We are expecting a bumper year for the Children's classes – "A Spring Garden on a Tray", "Painting of a Daffodil" and "Spring Biscuits".

If you have never entered before then the Novice Entry class could be yours to win. Did you know there is a Young Growers Trophy for under 18's? Go to the Village Hall lobby and see the posters with more details. There is something for everyone as the Show also includes pot plants, floral decoration, homemade produce (men's class is a Tea Loaf) and photography (themes are "River Walk" and "Otterton"). Website www.ottertongardenclub.co.uk

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

LUNCHTIME REOPENING! Lunchtime will re-open on Monday 9th February, when the pub will revert to normal trading hours. As usual until then, the pub will be open from 8am on Saturday and Sunday, and 3pm Monday - Friday. I am delighted to confirm that the 2-for-£25 on Mains will continue to run throughout February!

Key February dates: We have our Festive menu for Valentine's Day LIVE on our website, so head there to book, or pop in and see us to collect a menu. Tables will go fast for this, particularly being a Saturday.

Quiz night: Quiz night will be on Wednesday 25th February.

Sky at The King's: Just a reminder that we now have Sky Sports at The King's! So keep your eyes on the boards outside for live sport taking place here! Throughout February we'll have an absolutely loaded calendar of sports for you.

EVENTS COMMITTEE (from Jerry Fry)


We have now started to organise this year's Soapbox Race and have an exciting new course! Anyone who can help with marshalling, please get in contact. We are (when the weather permits) going to be doing some work at the play park. We also have several projects in the pipeline in and around the village. If you have any ideas for projects, please let the Committee know or message/phone me on 07855 774436.

THE FORMER LITTLE OTTERS are holding a fundraising jumble sale at East Budleigh Village Hall on Saturday 28th February starting at 10am in support of Exmouth Foodbank. Donations of jumble would be gratefully received at the hall from 9 am on 28th February but if you have difficulty in getting there and need a collection, please call Fran on 07880 331465. Entry £1 - refreshments available.

OTTERTON MILL

News - Renovations are progressing and we are working hard to get the Mill fully back up and running as soon as possible; we are hoping for completion in late February/early March. Watch this space for our Grand Reopening Day. Also look out for our Valentine's weekend specials on the menu.

Milling - 15th - come and see the Mill in action, continuing an age old tradition; our millers are always happy to answer any questions; milling 11am-12.30pm, 2-3pm; entry is free and we look forward to seeing you.



Need Financial Help?
Otterton Relief in Need Charity (ORINC) offers quick, confidential support for local residents facing money troubles.
We can provide grants to help with essentials like:

- Rent or fuel bills
- Electricity and heating costs
- Other urgent household expenses

If you're in financial hardship, please reach out:

www.orinc.org.uk
orin.charity@gmail.com

Paper forms are also available in the village hall foyer and church.
Drop completed forms in the ORINC post box in the village hall foyer.

GET MOVING ON MONDAYS - Join Our Exercise Class at Otterton Village Hall

Looking for a fun and friendly way to stay active?

Come along to our weekly exercise class every Monday evening from 6.15pm to 7.15pm at Otterton Village Hall. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to build on your fitness, our sessions are designed to suit all abilities and ages.

- Varied routines to keep things fresh and engaging
- Welcoming community atmosphere
- All fitness levels welcome

No need to book – just bring yourself, a bottle of water, a mat for toning exercises and plenty of enthusiasm! Start your week on the right foot. See you there! Contact Steph on 07583 988916 for further information

THE LOOKOUT FROM LADRAM

We are looking forward to our 2026 season where we will open our doors for holiday makers and owners from March.

We are still on the lookout for any new superstars to join our team with vacancies ranging from school hours jobs cleaning caravans, to bar/catering positions. Please feel free to email 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. Contact Barry on 07925 933100.

Entries for Otterton Parish News should be sent to Jill Beacham - email: jill@beacham.co.uk – 07974 991193

PLEASE NOTE - Deadline for March edition is Thursday 19th February latest. Thank you.