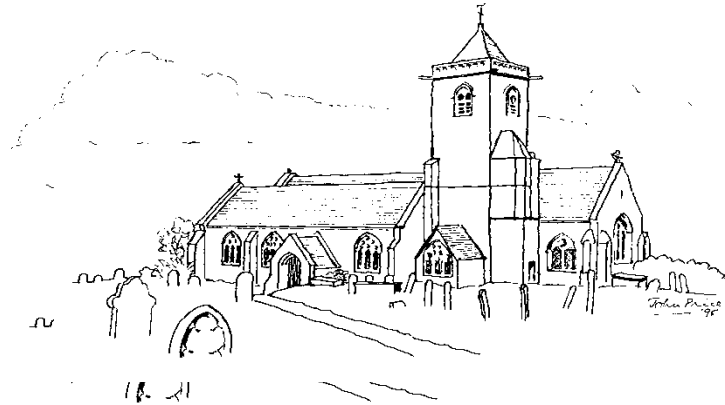




OTTERTON PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 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 JANUARY			
<u>SUNDAY 4th JANUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 11th JANUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 18th JANUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 25th JANUARY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY</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			

PARISH NEWS – from Jill Becham

By the time we reach May 2026, I will have been producing the Parish News for exactly 30 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed (almost!) all aspects of getting it published every single month during that time, and it has been good to see the steady increase in the nature and variety of items that are sent in to interest and inform residents of the Parish. HOWEVER – I have finally decided to retire and **the May 2026 edition** will therefore be my last as Editor. I do hope there is someone, perhaps a contributor or reader, who would be interested in seeing that it carries on in its current or any other form, and who would like to find out more before finally volunteering. I will be very happy to talk through what it has involved for me.

Please contact me on 07974 991193 or jill@becham.co.uk if you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming Editor for at least some of the next 30 years.....!!

View from The Vicarage

January is a cold and dark month so perhaps we need something to brighten it up?

It is a curious fact that secular culture pre-loads the Christmas season, so we are singing carols in November – so that when we get to Christmas Day we are emotionally, physically and sometimes financially spent.

Whereas in the church, the Christmas season only starts on Christmas Day and goes on all the way through January and finishes on 2nd February with the celebration known as Candlemas.

Along the way we celebrate Epiphany which is one of my favourite Christian festivals. It poses the question that if we are making such a huge meal out of Christmas, what then does it actually mean and does that make an impact on our lives? This is where the Magi, otherwise known as the three wise men or the three kings come in – not strictly part of the nativity scene at all, but now eternally co-opted to the Christmas cause.

The Magi, using their Persian untranslated titles, were Zoroastrian priests from Persia (from the East), who were also experts in astronomy and astrology. Even more mind-blowing, they were also looking for a messiah born of a virgin.

They brought gifts that weren't chosen randomly from an Argos catalogue but had true significance. Gold told us that this child was to be a king. Frankincense tells us that Jesus will have a priestly function which means he will act as a kind of mediator between mankind and God. Finally, we come to Myrrh. A strange word, but it is a spice used for anointing dead bodies and it tells us that the death of Jesus will be significant.

Yes, it may be cold and dark outside, but we are kept warm and intellectually and spiritually stimulated throughout it all in the churches.

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 C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we come to the end of another fantastic Autumn term at Otterton C of E Primary School, we reflect with happiness and joy. The children have attended some fantastic sporting events, hosted and organised by the Link PE team. They've been to Exeter Gymnastics and Exeter University for Link Fit Games which inspired the children for future events. To top off the term though, the performance of Sparkle was an absolute joy to watch. A small school who put on a mighty performance, worthy of a large audience. Sparkling acting, actions and singing; no one left without a smile on their face. A true picture of our vision of 'growing stronger together'. We would like to extend our thanks to the Parish Council who generously covered our hall hire costs.

A heartwarming example of collaboration was the generosity and compassion shown by families, donating presents for the present appeal in collaboration with the Budleigh Salterton Lions Club. The children worked hard to wrap 62 presents this year to share with those in need in our local area.

As a Church of England school, we had our SIAMS inspection this term, which was a wonderful way of showcasing what our small school offers. It was a positive day and gave the children the opportunity to shout about what it is to be a part of our school community. They all showed confidence and pride when displaying our strong vision and values and articulated what belonging to our school community looks and feels like. The collaboration with others within our local community shone through and helps us encourage all who are part of our school to flourish.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2026.

OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Otterton Parish Council members wish all residents a happy & healthy 2026. Just a reminder that the Parish Council does not meet in January but will meet again on **2nd February** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

If in the meantime you wish to report a **Highways concern** please visit:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

South West Water concern:

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/household/help-support/report-a-problem>

Environmental concern:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem>

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 LADIES' COFFEE MORNING – 11am Monday 5th January at The King's Arms

A chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. All welcome. Thanks as always to the pub for hosting.

OTTERTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Christmas Opening hours for the shop will apply from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day as follows:

24th December 08.00 – 12.00 / Christmas Day closed / Boxing Day 08.00 – 10.00 / 27th December to 1st January 08.00 – 12.00 [except Sunday 28th 08.30 – 12.00]. Check our website for any updates.

OTTERTON VILLAGE HALL

The Otterton Village Hall Committee would like to wish everybody a happy and peaceful 2026. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to keeping our village hall up and running through your bookings and attending village events.

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 required, 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?

Any New Year's resolutions? 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.

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

Firstly, I and everyone here at The King's would love to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and an incredible New Year (obviously at The King's...!).

So, for January, a gentle reminder:

Firstly, **opening hours from 4th January** are changing. We will be open from 3pm throughout January, Monday-Friday. There will not be a lunchtime offering at The King's. From 3pm the bar is open, and food will be served from 5.30pm onwards, Monday – Friday. On Saturday and Sunday normal opening hours apply.

New year, same Quiz! The Quiz will be on **Wednesday 28th January**. Book online or pop in.

Throughout January, we're encouraging everyone to **support local** as best they can, so Monday – Friday The King's will be running a 2-for-£25 on meals! Select (I mean, it's the majority, there are 1 or 2 exceptions) mains will be £25 for 2. We all know January can be a slog, but we hope that people brave the cold & the wet to come out & treat someone to 2 delicious mains for £25!

Live Music with Alex Dobson will be on **Friday 30th January** as usual.

Again, we hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and here's to an amazing 2026!

Freddie & Everyone at The King's Arms

OTTERTON GARDEN CLUB

A Happy New Year to all you amateur gardeners. As this article is being written, in mid-December, it is hard to think with the current spell of mild but damp weather that Spring Bulbs will soon be arriving. Hopefully you have carefully marked up your calendars for the **Village Spring Show on 14th March**. This Show has been running since 1929 so please do support your village by showing some of your daffodils and other blooms. 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"). Look out for posters with more details in late January.

EVENTS COMMITTEE (from Jerry Fry)


Well, we have had the Reindeer Run and WOW, what a day it was! After heavy rain the day before, we did it and it was a great success with loads of good feedback from runners and marshals. We raised well over £3,500 so a fantastic day all round. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible. We will be doing several projects in the village in the new year. We would like to wish the whole village a great Christmas and a fun filled new year.

OTTERTON MILL

News - we wish everyone a very Happy New Year from all the team at Otterton Mill. We are offering our winter warmers including our delicious soups, open 7 days a week, 9.30am - 4pm. Work is continuing to restore our kitchen and bakery and if everything goes to schedule, we hope to be able to celebrate our return at the end of next month. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.

Music - we hope to recommence our music gigs over the 3 month summer period; more details to follow.

Milling - 25th - come and see our merry millers, always happy to answer questions; 11am-12.30pm & 2-3pm. If you would like to join our band of millers, milling two Sundays a month, free lunch, please email us at escape@ottertonmill.com and let us know.




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.

THE LOOKOUT FROM LADRAM

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Our swimming pool offering for locals is still available until the end of February 2026, plus our birthday party packages will be offered all through the year, excluding peak times. For more information please visit [Birthday Party Hire Devon | Ladram Bay - Ladram Bay](#) or email parties@ladrambay.co.uk

We also have a number of employment positions available starting from February 2026; please send your CV over to 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.

*Wishing all contributors, distributors and readers
a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year*

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

PLEASE NOTE - Deadline for February edition is Wednesday 21st January latest. Thank you.