



OTTERTON PARISH NEWS

MARCH 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 MARCH			
<u>SUNDAY 1st MARCH</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 8th MARCH</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 15th MARCH</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 22nd MARCH</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 29th MARCH – PALM SUNDAY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
Morning Prayer will be said at 9.30am at East Budleigh on Tuesdays and at Otterton on Thursdays			

OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Do you need affordable housing in Otterton, or know someone who does? Every household in Otterton Parish has received a Housing Needs Survey from Devon Communities Together, working with the Parish Council. This short, confidential survey gives local people the chance to say what kind of homes are needed in the parish, now and in the next five years. Whether you're renting, a homeowner, living with family, or looking to downsize or get on the housing ladder, your views really matter. The results will help the Parish Council understand the real housing needs of people with a local connection, and guide any future plans for affordable or other housing in the parish. Anyone needing housing in Otterton can complete the survey, whether they currently live in the parish or not. Please fill in the survey online using the link below, or fill in the paper copy and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided. **Please make sure your completed form is returned by 31st March 2026.** Your information will remain completely confidential, and no individual data will be published, or shared with the Parish or District Council. For extra forms or questions, email info@devoncommunities.org.uk By taking a few minutes to complete the survey, you'll be helping to shape the future of housing in our community — so please do take part!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OttertonHNS>

The next meeting of the Parish Council is at 7.30pm on 2nd March in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

**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**

View from The Vicarage

Dear friends,

In Spring, seeing the first daffodils in my garden emerging from seemingly nothing and then blooming into their familiar form is a sign of faith in the future coming from the natural world. It is a sign to all of us, that no matter how difficult things have been in your life, beauty and new life are always present, though unseen in the winter of our lives. As it is in nature, so it is in life.

When nothing seems to be present or worthwhile, love seems out of reach, and we can feel quite depressed by our circumstances – that resembles the daffodils in the depths of winter.

But under that dark earth, where all seems lost or dead, that germ of new life is still there waiting to be fed and nurtured and burst forth into the beautiful part of creation that is each plant.

So it is with each and every one of our lives. The church of course believes in life after death, but I like to point out that Jesus also came so that we could enjoy life *before* death.

Life after death can be seen as a template for what we believe about this mortal life. We can see true resurrection in the world around us if we would only look and perceive it.

There is no darkness so dark that light cannot shine forth from it. This attitude to pain and suffering, regret, betrayal, loss or despair is unique to Christianity with its belief in the redemptive power of suffering.

The light can take a long time to shine, truth be told, but it is still there in the midst of your pain and can emerge in very different forms, ranging from a greater sense of empathy and compassion to a greater love, clarity or wisdom, a certain calm and peace.

The peace of God that passes all understanding.

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 jessica.bailey@devon.gov.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 LADIES' COFFEE MORNING – 11am Monday 2nd March at The King's Arms

A chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. All welcome. Thanks to Freddie and the team for continuing to host.

OTTERTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Inflation - the curse of all shoppers and especially these days. We work to bring you the best prices we possibly can and many of our items are cheaper than those at any other convenience store within four miles. Don't assume you will save money expending time and fuel in travelling to shop. We stock over 1,350 lines and few of our customers fail to find what they want. Importantly, you also directly support the shop as a village asset and that is almost priceless.

We don't like floods, but on 27th January when the village was marooned by flood water, the shop recorded its highest ever daily turnover, up over 40% on the previous record. We were glad to help, but are not just an emergency service; we are here to serve you every day.



OTTERTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children in Otters class are enjoying their art lessons, learning about different ways to print. This week they explored manipulating objects into playdough and then pressing them into an ink pad before transferring it to the paper. Lots of lovely prints and patterns were explored! They also enjoyed doing some bark rubbings.

The Reception and pre-school children have been doing lots of activities relating to our literacy sequence book, 'Where to hide a star'. They have enjoyed designing and making an alien in a spaceship, spelling out their names on rockets and placing numbers correctly on rockets, and making some shooting stars. Chinese New Year celebrations in Otters class: The children have learnt about traditions, tried writing their names in Chinese, made lucky lanterns and money wallets.

In RE, Herons are learning about Jewish festivals, looking at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We tasted some food that Jewish people eat during Rosh Hashanah and made boats to say sorry for things we've done during the year like Jewish children do during Yom Kippur. They have been using atlases in Geography to learn about rivers around the world and created brilliant posters about them. Over the past few weeks, Herons class have been making and painting clay figurines based on the wonderful characters from Roald Dahl's books and Quentin Blake's characterful drawings.

Places are 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 VILLAGE HALL

Can you spare one evening every 3 months to join us on the Otterton Village Hall Committee? We are currently looking for keen villagers like you! We need general committee members, no particular skills 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? 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.

OTTERTON GARDEN CLUB

The **Otterton Village Spring Show 2026** is on the **second Saturday in March (14th)**. Entry forms should be submitted no later than **Thursday 12th**; forms are available on line, in the Village Hall Lobby and from Bolts@57. Do come and see this wonderful show between 2pm and 4pm in the Village Hall where teas and cake will be available. The Prizegiving ceremony will be just after 4pm. The Show is a showcase for local amateurs exhibiting Cut Blooms, Pot Plants, Floral Decoration, Home Made Produce and Photography.

The Show is a Community Event for you and run by the Village. Please come and join in; it is free to enter. There is something for everyone – beginners are encouraged, what can go wrong?

We are expecting a lot of Children's entries so please come and admire their hard work. Visit our website www.ottertongardenclub.co.uk

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

Well, January and February were eventful! Here's to some better weather moving forward?! Hopefully we don't all need to get boats moving forward! As usual, LOTS happening here at The King's!

Our **Mother's Day** tables are beginning to fill up. It's **15th March** for those that need reminding! It's a set menu for Mother's Day, so book in with us in person, on 01395 568416 or via our website.

Our **Quiz night** will be on the last Wednesday of the month, 25th: Lasagne and Quiz, YUM!

MURDER MYSTERY: It isn't TECHNICALLY March but it nearly is... Good Friday is 3rd April, and Good Friday would be a good night for a Murder! Same format as October: dinner and a devilishly tricky Murder to solve, thanks to our friends at Moonstone Theatre Company. This event WILL sell out; it was so much fun last time. Full details will be available on the website, or see our menu at the end of February. Pricing will be £35 for 2 courses, with an additional £5 for a third course.

OTTERTON MILL

News - The weather is looking up and we have a lovely selection of spring plants and bulbs to brighten the gardens, supplied by a local producer. There are lovely new goodies in our Farm Shop and new artists in the Gallery. With the warmer weather, it's easier to get out and about again, and we will be open daily 9.30am - 5pm from 14th March. Booking for **Mother's Day** is advised; please call 01395 568521 or use the online booking form on our website, <https://www.ottertonmill.com/contact.html>

Music - we hope to announce the line-up for 2026 soon; so far we have booked Tannahill Weavers, Rigmarollers and Flats & Sharps; more details available on our website soon.

Milling - 15th & 29th - our millers will be milling our wholemeal flour for use in our bakery and for sale in our Farm Shop; milling 11am-12.30pm & 2-3pm; entry is free.

BUDLEIGH ALMSHOUSES are now open for applications.

The Almshouses are affordable homes for pensioners.

Almshouse residents pay a weekly contribution towards upkeep, set below market rents.

You (or perhaps someone you know) may be eligible if you are:

- A pensioner
- In receipt of benefits
- Living in Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh, Otterton, Bicton or Colaton Raleigh

Be among the very first residents of Budleigh's new almshouses.

Don't let rising housing costs force you to leave the community you love.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: FRIDAY 20th MARCH

Find out more and apply at budleighalmshouses.org.uk

EVENTS COMMITTEE (from Jerry Fry)

We have now had our debriefing from the Reindeer Run and it was a great success. We have a new route planned for this year so watch this space! We have had our first meeting for this year's Soap Box Race (20th June) and have an exciting new course planned, with lots of other things happening alongside the main racing! **Anyone wishing to volunteer to marshal or help in anyway, please contact us.** We have now ordered the **memorial bench** for The Green and have had a tree donated by the Parnell family in memory of Clive and Mo (the bench will be called the Clive and Mo Memorial Bench) and will be available for anyone to put a plaque on it in memory of old school villagers!! Just see any of us if you wish to do so.

THE LOOKOUT FROM LADRAM

We are really looking forward to the start of our holiday season which commences on Friday 13th March for holiday makers and Friday 6th March for our holiday home owners.

Thank you to everyone who supported our swimming pool winter opening this year; we are still able to offer children's birthday parties throughout the season; please contact parties@ladrambay.co.uk for more information.



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.

PEBBLEBED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding ways to support the *Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve*. In 2025, volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours, helping with practical management, wildlife monitoring and at public events. Their commitment helps the reserves thrive as landscapes the whole community can feel proud of.

Weekly sessions run on Wednesdays (heaths) and Thursdays (estuary), focusing on habitat creation and improving access. For those unavailable midweek, monthly **Action for Nature** events offer flexible, hands-on activities for all ages, including families.

Our **Youth Ranger Programme** (ages 13-17) meets monthly, giving young people the chance to build skills, gain confidence and explore conservation through surveys and practical tasks.

Whether you volunteer, join events or support our work in other ways, your involvement helps protect these special places for the future.

Learn more at www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk or email mail@pebblebedheaths.org.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 April edition is Friday 20th March latest. Thank you.