Useful Information

DOCTORS

Doctors Surgery: 01647 24272 or 24025

Patient Participation Group, Contacts: Jean Martin 24586, Caryn Tripp 24582

Surgery (No Appointment Necessary) 8 - 9.30 am Monday to Friday.

Out of Hours: Ring 111 **IN EMERGENCY RING 999**

MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Okehampton Hospital, open 7 days a week, 8 am - 10 pm

EMERGENCY SERVICES

For all non emergency contact please ring 101 0800 365 900 Electricity Gas 0800 111 999 0800 555 111 Crimestoppers Water 0344 346 2020

Neighbourhood Watch: 24586 **Highways Agency** 0300 123 5000 Jean Martin Brian Bryon-Edmond 24696 Streetlights, potholes etc: 0345 155 1004

csc.roads@devon.gov.uk

SCHOOL, PRESCHOOL, YOUTH and OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Cheriton Bishop Primary School 24817 (termtime only) Federation Head: Mrs Sue Levman

Head Teacher: Miss Joanna Nation Fed. Chair of Governors: Terry Tume (fax) 61338 Secretary: Mrs Linda McCracken PTFA Chairman: Sarah Walker 24009

Cheriton Bishop Preschool Play Leader: Christine Grist

01647 252375 281205 Cubs: Karen Morris Young Farmers: Emily Sizmur 07792 518439 Scouts: Ollie Milverton 07706 695928

Walking Group: Jane Hancock 24092

LOCAL CHURCHES

Anglican Team Ministry: Rev. Martin Wood, The Rectory, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop 24119

Church Wardens: Alan Greenslade 24002, Janet Jeffery 24414

Crockernwell Methodist Minister: Rev. David Easton, 21 Dunsford Road, Exeter, EX4 1LG. 01392 255791

Church Secretary: Mrs A MacDonald 24446 West Down Chapel: Derek Coren

HALLS & MEETING ROOMS

VILLAGE HALL SPALDING HALL

Bookings: Tim Gorringe 24789 Bookings: Les Gare 24639

Key: Jan Mitchell, Underhill, Church Lane.

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR: Sylvia Tripp 24267

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Mid Devon District Councillors Parish Councillors

Chairman Gill Westcott 24789 Derek Coren 24264 Vice Chairman Tim Vooght 24593 Peter Heal 01363 884277

Councillors

Paul Mitchell

07966 478054 Kim Bastyan Chris Carter 24774 Phil Dicker 24450 **County Councillors**

Peter Endacott 24580 Nick Way (CheritonBishop) 01363 777903 Sasha Metters James McInnes (Crockernwell) 24146 01837 861364

Member of Parliament Parish Clerk

24405

Derek Madge Mel Stride MP (Central Devon) 01392 833969 Write to: House of Commons, London, SW1 1AA

Mob: 07780 826516 derekmadge@btinternet.com

49 Crockwells Rd, Exminster

Crockernwell

Crockernwell Ward Parish Councillors: Bill Savage, email: bill.savage@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

Bella Snook, 01647 231046 clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk Clerk to Drewsteignton PC:

West Devon Borough Councillor: Paul Ridgers 01822 813600, email: cllr.paul.ridgers@westdevon.gov.uk

LOCAL SERVICES (Paid adverts)

CHIROPODY HOME SERVICES Mrs Julie Chatfield NMChs SRCH 24382

FUNERAL DIRECTORS C. Burrows & Son Tel: 01363 83258 Mob: 07803 142357

[Updated February 2016]

The News Letter, December 2015 & January 2016

If I had been writing this a week ago it would have felt unseasonably early to be talking about Christmas and the winter months ahead. However, in the last twenty-four hours there has been a complete change of temperature! I have just come in from sweeping up leaves in a cold northerly wind and it suddenly seems totally appropriate to be looking ahead to the season of wood fires and crisp mornings...

Tuck up your garden for winter

Last month we had a good tidy-up of the churchyard and left it in readiness for winter and the spring to follow (see page 10). Now there's a bit of last minute attention to our own gardens and it can be very satisfying to spread shovels full of wholesome farmyard manure around those plants who really appreciate it. This year you can do so in a doubly good cause because the Young Farmers have got a scheme that will also help the church roof. Turn to page 8 to see what's on offer!

Stock up your larder

The best things in life are very often those found close to your own doorstep. All year Rachel and her team have been rewarding visitors to the village hall, on one Thursday morning each month, with a tempting array of locally produced food. December there is a special Christmas Market, two days earlier than usual, on the Tuesday before Christmas - perfect timing for getting your supplies of fresh produce ready for the festivities. There will be hot mince-pies and "Folkus" will be providing some background atmosphere with traditional and Folk Please see page 9 for details of the carols. Christmas Market and what Rachel has planned for the months ahead including a change of day to Saturdays!

Decorate for Christmas

Do you hanker after a house filled with garlands? Do you yearn for new ideas when it comes to turning greenery into something decorative? Be wistful no longer! Simply turn to page 18 for news of how you can transform your home into something similar to the pages of Country Living while venturing no further than the Village Hall on a Monday evening. There might even be something mulled for you to sip and something spicy for you to nibble while creating your masterpiece in holly and ivy.

Another opportunity for those who enjoy doing decorative things with flowers and foliage arises on page 9 with details of how you can join in a communal decorating of the parish church. This time the lure is coffee and mince pies!

Keep busy through the darker days

Now that you have your stash of books (see book sale report on page 7) you are halfway there to having your fireside evenings sorted. However, if your fingers get a bit twitchy and you want to be doing something more active, please take a look at page 18 for a run down of a number of classes at next year's Village Show that you can do well in advance. This year the theme of the show is "Whatever the Weather" so there are quite a few references to "weather" in the classes! (By complete coincidence the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter have come up with exactly the same title for their new exhibition. They must have had the Hort Soc Committee room bugged...)

Stride out for a breath of fresh air

If you are one of those "I'm not going to let the weather stop me" types there are two opportunities ahead for you to take to the woods, hills, and even, possibly, the beach. See page 19 to hear where the Walking Group have recently been and where they are going next. They are an intrepid lot, but you can be sure that at the end of every not-so-very-gruelling walk there will be a teapot and a piece of cake very close to their destination.

What a lovely parish we live in!

Every month I see article after article come in for the newsletter always interspersed with such phrases as "you'll be very welcome", "new members are welcome', "come and join us.." etc. And there are also the organisations that are quite simply all about caring: Acorn and Neighbourhood Watch, as well as the wonderfully friendly "pop in for a chat and a drink" afternoons. How reassuring that at Cheriton Bishop the season of goodwill lasts all year round!

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Jenny and the Newsletter team.

DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!: THURSDAY 21st January 2016 at 6PM. Copy should be left in the newsletter box at South Orchard, Woodbrooke Rd, or sent by email (word .doc please) to:

jennygrist@talktalk.net

Enquiries: Editorial – Jenny 281110

Advertising - Patience 24350

The News-letter Production Team

Advertising: Patience Netherway 24350

Assisted by Jan Mitchell 24405

Production: Jan Mitchell, Patience Netherway,

Caryn Tripp.

Collation: Anne Welham, Paul Mitchell,

Patience Netherway, Thomas,

William, Adam and Matthew Barclay.

Editor: Jenny Grist 281110

Front cover: designed by Richard Bower

Regular Meeting dates

Parish Council every second Monday evening in the month

Contact: Derek Madge 01392 833969

Coffee Mornings at Crockernwell every second Saturday in the month

Contact: Mrs A MacDonald 24446

PreschoolMon, Tue, 9.00 – 11.30, Wed, Thurs 9 – 3.15
Contact: Christine Grist 281205
"Lunch Club" until 12.45 pm on Mon/Tues.

All during form time only

All during term time only

Scouts every Monday evening during term time

Contact: Ollie Milverton 07706 695928

Cubs every Thursday during term time

Contact: Karen Morris 01647 252375

Pilates every Friday morning, 8.55 am and 10.00 am,

Contact Adele 07976 427941 during term time

West Down Bible Study & Prayer every Monday evening from Oct – May

Contact: Derek Coren 24264

Horticultural Society usually the third Monday evening in the month

Contact: Jenny Grist 281110 during the Autumn and Winter

West Country Embroiderers every first Tuesday afternoon in the month

Contact: Janet Grist 281637

Contact: Sue Bloomfield 24840

Short Mat Bowling every Wednesday, Sept – May
Contact Nos: Pat Hill 24201 or David Tripp 24582 (Membership full at present)

Contact 1103. Fat Fill 2420 For David Tripp 24302 (Methodiship full at present)

Baby Clinic every 4th Wednesday of the month 2 – 3 pm

The Surgery 24272 (Clinics held in CB Surgery)

Cheriton Bishop Baby and Toddler Group In the School Hall every Friday 9-10.30 am

Contact: Find us on Facebook Term time only

Young Farmers every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings

Contact: Emily Sizmur 07792 518439

Art at Caribarn Studio, Pitton Barton usually every last Friday of month 9.30–12.30

Spiritual Discussion Group
Contact: Penny Gare 24639

Monthly

Walking GroupUsually 3rd Sunday in month 1.30 pm
Contact: Jane Hancock 24092

(see posters and CB Website for details)

Has your organisation been left out? Please let us know so that it can be included on this regular page. Has someone just moved in next door? Why not pop round with this newsletter and let them know what goes on in Cheriton Bishop and Crockernwell?

The Mobile Library: Monthly on Tuesdays (in week 3 of each month in 2016)

Crockernwell:Stanbury's OrchardArrives 14.35Departs:14.55

Cheriton Bishop:

Glebelands Arrives: 15.05 Departs: 15.35 Hescane Park 15.40 16.10

[amended February 2016]

Diary Dates for December

Tuesday 1st West Country Embroiderers Village Hall 1 - 4 pmWednesday 2nd Acorn Trip to Sainsburys Thursday 3rd Acorn Christmas Lunch Woodleigh CH 12.30 pm Saturday 5th Christmas Coffee Morning Spalding Hall 10.30 -12 noon Monday 7th Hort Soc Christmas Decorations Village Hall 7.30 pm Sunday 13th Parish Church Pre School Nativity 11 am Sunday 13th Walking Group December Walk YFC Office 10.30 am Monday 14th Parish Council Meeting Spalding Hall 7.30 pm Tuesday 15th School Christmas Play Wednesday 16th Acorn Trip to Sainsbury's Thursday 17th School Christmas Fayre Saturday 19th Christmas Decorating at the Church Parish Church From 10 am Sunday 20th 3pm Carols by Candlelight West Down chapel Sunday 20th Carols by Candlelight Parish Church 6 pm Tuesday 22nd **Christmas Produce Market** Village Hall 10 – 12 noon Christmas Dav Christingle Service Parish Church 10 am Family Service West Down Chapel 10.30- 11.15 Wednesdy 30th Acorn Trip to Sainsbury's

Diary Dates for January 2016

Saturday 2 nd	Hort Soc Seed Collection	1 Woodpecker Way	10.30-12 noon
Thursday 7 th	Acorn Lunch	Woodleigh C H	12.30 pm
Monday 11 th	Parish Council Meeting	Spalding Hall	7.30 pm
Tuesday 12 th	West Country Embroiderers	Village Hall	1.30 – 4 pm
Wednesday 13 th	Acorn Trip to Sainsbury's	-	
Saturday 16 th	Local Produce Market	Village Hall	10 – 12 noon
Sunday 17 th	Walking Group January Walk	YFC Office	1.30 pm
Monday 18 th	Cuppa and a Chat	Spalding Hall	2 – 4 pm
Monday 18 th	Hort Soc Quiz Night	Spalding Hall	7.30 pm
Sunday 24 th	Churches Together CHAT Service	West Down Chapel	3 pm
Sunday 31 st	Sunday Afternoon Open Mic	Old Thatch	4 pm

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 11th February
Saturday 13th February
Cheese & Wine Party
Saturday 12th March
Sat/Sun 16th & 17th April
Spring Embroidery Fair

Village Hall
7.30 pm
Hillside
Village Hall
Village Hall
Village Hall
10 – 4 pm

If your organisation has a one-off event planned for 2016, why not let other organisations know in advance so that dates don't clash?

For much more information about Cheriton Bishop, Crockernwell and the surrounding area please visit the Cheriton Bishop Web Site: www.cheritonbishop.org.uk
Contact for Website: Tony Bott email: anthonydbott@aol.com

Cheriton Bishop Parish Council

Report on Parish Council Meeting 9th November 2015

Our District Councillor Derek Coren reported that in the light of cuts during the last few years of 40% in Mid Devon District Council's grant from central government, the Scrutiny Committee is seeking feedback from Parish Councillors and residents about whether and how they have been affected by changes in Council services.

- How do you feel about the current level of services provided by Mid Devon District Council?
- If you have noticed a reduction in the services provided in recent years; and, if so, please provide details and the impact this has had. Please give an example.
- What services you consider to be poor.
- What services provided are good.

Please let Derek or one of your Parish Councillors know if you can help with these questions.

A new Devon Communities Resilience Forum has been set up to help Parishes with their emergency plans for things like bad weather, transport emergencies, power cuts, fire etc. It was felt that Cheriton Bishop's Emergency Plans need renewing, even if only at the level of a register of who has what equipment that could be used in relevant circumstances. It would be a great help to have one or more volunteers from the community to help get this done. Please let one of the Parish Councillors know if you might be interested (eg. Ring the Chair, Gill Westcott at 01647 24789).

Peter Heal reported that Mid Devon is having a new Chief Exec: Stephen Walford from Buckinghamshire; and that Mid Devon is looking again at whether they should retain band E on Devon Home Choice and the housing waiting list.

Tim Vooght and Peter Endacott wished to thank people for their help during the Village Clean Up Day.

District Councillor's Comments

It is that time of year again when we look back to see what we have achieved over the past 12 months and look forward to see what may be ahead in the next.

In May, the people of Cheriton Bishop were one of only a few Parishes that had to vote at three levels: for an MP in the General election and both District and Parish Councillors.

Since May the workload for both Peter Heal and myself has increased and we are both expected to take on more responsibility and sit on extra committees. Some of these committees are outside Mid Devon District Council, e.g. I sit on the Dartmoor National Park Committee at Parke, Bovey Tracey.

One of the major changes instigated by MDDC this autumn has been with the recycling scheme. Like many other councils, Mid Devon has not been able to raise its recycling rate above 50%. For some time I have not favoured refuse going to landfill and apart from anything else, it costs MDDC £120 for every tonne which is dealt with in this way. The charges (£35pa - small, £47pa - large) for Brown bins for taking garden waste has not been well-received by all, but 'thank-you' to those that have purchased a permit. So far 5,000 permits have been sold in MDDC area. If you are still considering it, why not share a bin and the charge with your neighbour(s).

Another change at Council HQ, Phoenix House in Tiverton, is that our Chief Executive, Kevin Finan is retiring in January. He has served the Council for many years and the new Chief Executive will take up the post in mid February.

Again it was good to join the enthusiastic group of people for the litter pick. In fact it is much more than a litter pick and includes cutting grass, trimming back hedges, digging and pulling weeds around the war memorial and other places. Also thank you to the kind person who supplies us with tea, coffee and biscuits!

The community spirit is very evident in Cheriton Bishop and is also seen in the many groups and activities available throughout the year. I would like to mention again the Woodleigh Coach House staff for the way they maintain the grass and shrubs on the roundabout and island. It always looks tidy and gives a beautiful approach to the village.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Derek Coren (Councillor, Yeo Ward MDDC).

News Round up

Book Sale is back!

Love for the printed paper page is alive and well! News that there was to be a book sale spread like a ripple and 'friends' from far and wide made the event such a success. Friday night in the Village Hall was an area of calm with a gentle murmuring of pleasure.

As many full boxes of books were returned to my garage as were transported to the hall. And yet some £265 plus village hall rent was donated. The monies will go to the Church Roof Appeal. The remaining books will be collected in their large tranny van by FORCE to be sold in their revamped Heavitree shop. Many thanks to all those involved.

Persis Bower

Remembrance Day Collection

The collection from Remembrance Sunday was £244.25 (£293.60 in 2014), which this year will be given to Help for Heroes.

Martin Wood

Village Hall News

After many years Joyce Ganderton has had to come off the Village Hall Committee. Thanks to her for all her hard work. We would like new members, especially from any regular users of the Hall. *Please contact Tim Gorringe (24789) or Pat English*.

Advance Notice: Our next Villages in Action Event is 11th February in the Village Hall, when the Balagan Café Band will be playing Gypsy Jazz, Medieval music, Balkan folk music or the band's own atmospheric originals at 7.30 pm. Check them out on YouTube.

Tim Gorringe

Stamps for Charity

Goodwill children's homes is a charity based in Bristol that supports destitute and orphan children in Southern India. As part of their fundraising, I collect used postage stamps. They must have at least a 1cm border and can be any denomination or from any country. If you would like to recycle your stamps and help to support this small charity, please pop them in an old envelope through my letter box anytime before next March!

Elaine Clark - Sunnyvale , Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop. Tel : 01647 24218 Sunnyvale is the house with black and white railings at the bottom of the hill below the school. Come and join

The Spalding Hall Committee

or

Saturday 5th December, 10.30 - 12 noon

Christmas Coffee Morning

Seasonal fayre to enjoy and buy

Mince pies, mulled wine, raffle and more

Cheriton/Tedburn YFC

It has been a great start to the Young Farmers' year for Cheriton and Tedburn YFC with lots of new members joining this club for what promises to be a fun and successful year!

Members have been practicing hard for the County round of the ballroom dancing competition as part of the Haldon group dancers.

Coming up we have a dung sale to raise money for the Cheriton Bishop village church! We are selling dung at £3 per bag and will be delivering on Saturday the 28th November. To order you can fill out our sheets posted in all the local village message boards or alternatively you can leave a message with David on 07792 518439.

December looks set to be a busy month with the annual Christmas ball, the cheque presentations and talks from last year's charities, and a talk from our chosen charity for the coming year – Dravet's Syndrome UK – and much, much more!

David Rowell

Sunday Afternoon Open Mic at the Old Thatch Inn

Open Mic evenings have been running on the last Sunday of the month at the Old Thatch for a few years now. For those of you unfamiliar with these sessions, they provide an opportunity for anyone who wishes to play or sing a few songs to come along and do so.

A small PA system is set up in the lower room at the pub (though playing purely acoustic is possible too), and musicians and performers get a slot to sing, play or recite. You can of course just come along to enjoy the music. These evenings provide an opportunity for established and aspiring musicians to practice playing in an intimate, friendly environment, pick up tips and swap information, and see who else is playing music in the area. Jamming sessions sometimes develop at the end, depending on who is there at the time.

In recent months numbers attending have been on the low side – for many, Sunday evening isn't favourite for a night out with thoughts of work on Monday – so we are changing the time of these sessions to Sunday afternoons with music starting around 4.00pm.

Anyone wanting to keep up to date with the Open Mic events can "like" the Facebook page "Open Mic at the Old Thatch Inn, Cheriton Bishop" for news and updates.

The next session will be Sunday 31st of January, hope to see some live music lovers there. If you have any ideas, views or comments on Open Mic at the Old Thatch, I am keen to hear from you. Steve Colderick (colderick@btinternet.com or 24818)

Local Produce Market in Cheriton Bishop Village Hall

This month it's a

Special Christmas Market
10am - 12pm

Tuesday 22nd December

Each market day there is a theme to the refreshments and we ask for a donation, which will be given to a different charity each month. For December it's a hot mince pie.

Available each month:

Meats - Game - Cheeses - Bread - Ready Meals - Vegetables English & French Cuisine - Soft Fruits - Flowers - Crafts Tea, Coffee and Bacon Baps will be served

Future Dates for 2016, PLEASE NOTE: The Market is moving to SATURDAYS 16th January, 20th February, 19th March

Come and support YOUR local Market!

Anyone interested in a place or for more information telephone: *Rachel on 01647 24566*

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

at St Mary's Church Saturday 19th December from 10.00am

Please come along to help decorate the church for Christmas. Bring your own flowers and foliages, berries, pot plants, cones, baubles etc. – whatever you would like to use. But seasonal colours please - red and green with silver and gold for some added sparkle!

Prepared trays will be in the church (by the Font) from the 12th December, if you prefer to do your arrangement at home.

There will be coffee and mince pies!

Juliet Dymoke-Marr

(Tel: 24415)

ACORN CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THURSDAY 3rd December 12.30 p.m.

THE COACH HOUSE

Turkey & Gammon Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips Brussel Sprouts, Root Mash Pigs in Blankets or Vegetarian Nut Roast

Christmas Pudding
Christmas Pudding Ice cream
Trifle

Glass of Wine
Tea or Coffee
£15.00 per person
PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER BY 26th November
with Jean 01647 24586

Churchwarden's News

First I would like to thank all those who helped with the churchyard clear up. There was a goodly number of people who came, the weather held up and a lot was accomplished.

I would also like to thank all those who ring bells, sing, arrange flowers, read, provide coffee, or clean and polish to help the church. If there is anybody who would like to be involved in any of these activities, please contact either Alan or me. There are vacancies particularly in the cleaning rota. We work in pairs, look after the church for two weeks at a time, and usually only twice a year if we have sufficient volunteers.

We have met the criteria for getting 'Permission to Start' on the roof repairs and are now gathering tenders. The fund-raising is continuing, as we have to pay VAT on the work, and while this can be reclaimed later, we still have to pay upfront. Many thanks to Persis and her team who donated the profits of the Book Sale to the Church Roof Repair Fund.

One date for your diary - the Cheese and Wine Party will be hosted by Sally and Neil Sellick on Saturday 13th February. Full details in the next newsletter.

We are planning an 'Open Gardens' day next year. If you are willing to let people look around your garden please contact one of us, so that we can fix a date convenient to all.

Janet Jeffery 24414

Alan Greenslade 24002

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHERITON BISHOP

AND OTHER CHURCHES IN THE NORTH KENN MISSION COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2015

10.30 Pathfinder Holy Communion Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 6th Advent 2

9am Whitestone Holy Communion Canon John Tutton
9.30 Holcombe Burnell Holy Communion Revd Prof Tim Gorringe
11am Tedburn St Mary Family Service Revd Martin Wood
3pm Pathfinder Holy Communion Revd Martin Wood
6pm Cheriton Bishop Evening Prayer Revd Martin Wood

Thursday 10th

10.30 Pathfinder Holy Communion Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 13th Advent 3

9amTedburn St MaryHoly CommunionCanon John Tutton9.30WhitestoneParish CommunionRevd Martin Wood9.30Holcombe BurnellHoly CommunionRevd Prof Tim Gorringe

11am Cheriton Bishop Pre School Nativity 3pm Pathfinder Prayer and Fellowship

3pm Oldridge Carols Revd Martin Wood

Thursday 17th

10.30 Pathfinder Holy Communion Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 20th Advent 4

11amWhitestoneChristingle and CarolsRevd Martin Wood4pmTedburn St MaryCarolsRevd Martin Wood6pmCheriton BishopCarolsRevd Prof Tim Gorringe

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve

4pm Tedburn St Mary Crib Service Revd Martin Wood
11pm Tedburn St Mary Midnight Revd Martin Wood
11.15 Whitestone Midnight Revd Prof Tim Gorringe

Friday 25th Christmas

10am Holcombe Burnell Family Communion Revd Martin Wood
10am Cheriton Bishop Christingle Communion Revd Prof Tim Gorringe

Sunday 27th Christmas 1

10.30 Pathfinder Team Communion Revd Martin Wood

3pm Pathfinder Carols

4pm Holcombe Burnell Carols Revd Martin Wood

Please come and join us for our Christmas Services, you'll be very welcome!

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHERITON BISHOP

AND OTHER CHURCHES IN THE NORTH KENN MISSION COMMUNITY

JANUARY 2016

Sunday 3 rd		Christmas 2	
9am	Whitestone	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
9.30	Holcombe Burnell	Holy Communion	Canon John Tutton
11am	Tedburn St Mary	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3pm	Pathfinder	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
6pm	Cheriton Bishop	Evening Prayer	Lay Led

Wednesday 6 th		Epiphany
7.00	Halaasalaa Dussall	11-1-0

7.30 Holcombe Burnell Holy Communion Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 10 ^{···}		Baptism of Christ	
9.30	Holcombe Burnell	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood

9.30 Whitestone Parish Communion
 11am Cheriton Bishop 3pm Pathfinder Parish Communion
 Family Service Revd Martin Wood
 Prayer and Fellowship

3pm 9 Millers Way TSM Tea and Fellowship Revd Martin Wood

Sunda	ay 17 th	Epiphany 2	
9am	Tedburn St Mary	Holy Communion	Revd Prof Tim Gorringe
9.30	Cheriton Bishop	Parish Communion	Revd Martin Wood
11am	Whitestone	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3pm	Pathfinder	Evensong	Revd Martin Wood
6pm	Holcombe Burnell	Evensong	Lay Led

Sund	ay 24 th	Epiphany 3	
8am	Cheriton Bishop	Holy Communion	Revd Prof Tim Gorringe
9.30	Whitestone	Christian Unity	Revd Martin Wood
11am	Tedburn Methodist	Christian Unity	

11am Holcombe Burnell Family Service Revd Martin Wood 3pm Pathfinder United Service

3pm West Down Chpl Churches Together CHAT Service

Sunday 31 st	Candlemas	
10.30 Tedburn St Mary	Team Communion	Canon John Tutton

10.30 Teaburn St Mary Team Communion Canon John Tutton

Revd Prof Tim Gorringe to preach

Each Thursday
10.30 Pathfinder Holy Communion Revd Martin Wood

or Canon Geoffrey Moore

A warm welcome to all who attend our services.

Please note that the Spalding Hall is open for the use of the toilets during service times.

From the Rector

Who was Joseph?

At the heart of the Christmas story, there are Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It always strikes me that the focus is often on Jesus or Mary.

The Christmas cards have a lot of pictures of Jesus and Mary together. Quite often Joseph is left out of the picture. Have a quick think and try to name a carol with Joseph in it? Compare that process with Mary! There may be two things going on here. Culturally men were not part of the childbirth process, it was women's work, men being part of the birthing process has only happened in our living memory. Secondly scandal, people would have easily worked out the baby came before the marriage. We still love a good scandal, it still sells our newspapers and magazines. We might enjoy reading about other people's misfortunes but none of us would want that attention for ourselves.

So what do we know about Joseph? In Matthew's gospel we are told that Joseph is a descendant of the great King David, do you remember the long list of names that forms Jesus' genealogy? Joseph was engaged to Mary, but found out that she was pregnant and was going to break off the engagement quietly so as not cause a scandal. He was told by an angel not to break off the engagement and to call the child Jesus. Joseph did as the angel bid him and married Mary. Later an angel appears to Joseph to warn them to flee to Egypt because King Herod wants to kill the baby. Lastly an angel tells Joseph to return from Egypt after King Herod dies and he gets warned in another dream to go to Nazareth. In Matthew's gospel Joseph is directed by dreams and angels four times. Many more than anyone else in the gospels, it shows how important Joseph was to God's plan and how obedient he was to God's bidding.

In Luke's gospel Joseph is engaged to a pregnant Mary (no mention of marriage yet!) and returns home to Bethlehem to be registered. There is no room for them in town. I had always thought it was because there were just too many people to accommodate, but maybe it was because of the scandal of a baby before marriage. Joseph was unwelcome with his own family and that is why he was looking for somewhere to stay, because his family could not be part of Joseph and Mary. What would their neighbours and friends think of them allowing the scandal to continue in their own home?

How many of us would have the courage not to walk from something that is going to cause gossip and scandal of which we are totally innocent? Joseph, in marrying Mary, shoulders the scandal and gossip that surrounds Mary. He gives her stability and a future that she may never have had on her own. Joseph shows qualities of integrity and decency that are all too often missing or absent.

In Jewish society it is the father who connects the son to the fore fathers. Joseph connects Jesus back to King David. Jesus the son of God reconnects us back to God. Christmas is just the start to that process.

Rev. Martin Wood. The Rectory, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HY 01647 24119 (Tuesday to Sunday)

WEST DOWN EVANGELICAL CHAPEL

Yeoford Road, Cheriton Bishop. Telephone 01647 24660/24264

Services for December 2015

Sunday 6th December 11.am Morning Worship 3.p,m Family Service with

Mr Ron Todd

Sunday 20thh December

11.am Morning Worship 3.pm CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

with Rev David Cole

Sunday 27th December 11am Family Service with Communion No Afternoon Service

Sunday 13th December 11.am Morning Worship 3.pm Family Service with Mr Danny Chipps

CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Service 10.30am - 11.15am

Home Prayer fellowship on 7th. Prayer Meeting on 14th at 7.30pm. Dec 21st The Farmers Carol Service at the Exeter Livestock Centre. All welcome

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL

Services for January 2015

Sunday 3rd January 11.am Morning Worship 3.p,m Family Service

NEW YEAR PRAISE

Sunday 17th January 11.am Morning Worship 3.pm Family Service with

Rev David Cole

Sunday 10th January 11.am Morning Worship 3.pm Family Service with

Mr Denis Hayes

Sunday 24th January

11.am Morning Worship

3.pm COMBINED CHURCHES

with Mac Bridger from CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team)

Sunday 31st January Morning Worship 3.00pm Family Service with Mr Phil Symonds

Prayer meetings on 4th,11th 18th and 25th at 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Yeoford

A very moving and thoughtful service for Remembrance Sunday was compiled and taken by Revd Peter Rapsey; we thank him very much.

Names to host the crib that travels around Yeoford during Advent will be taken at Messy Church on 21st November. The crib will then visit many homes and be brought to the crib service on Christmas Eve. The children will put the figures into the crib during a short service with the telling of the Christmas story and Carols.

The Community Carol Service will be held in the Village Hall on 20th December at 3-00pm. The whole community is welcome and the service will be followed by refreshments.

The early Midnight Mass is at 9-00pm on Christmas Eve.

Café Company 9-30 till 11-30 on Mondays. Good coffee and homemade cakes served. A craft morning will be held on December 7th when we will be making Christmas table decorations. All materials provided.

December Services

Sunday 13th Holy Communion 9-30 **Sunday 20th** Community Carol Service in the Village Hall at 3.00pm. All very welcome.

Christmas Eve; Crib Service 4-00 pm

Holy Communion for Christmas at 9-00pm

January Services

Sunday 10th 9-30 Holy Communion in the Village Hall

Sunday 24th Holy Communion 9-30

Carol Price 01647 24468

National Homeless Sunday

The Combined Churches of Cheriton Bishop are holding a Service at West Down Chapel on 24th January at 3.00pm

Mac Bridger from CHAT (Churches housing Action Team) will be giving a talk on the work undertaken by this organisation

Collection for CHAT Tea and Biscuits at close Please come and support this worthwhile organisation The Cuppa is taking a break for December so we will not be meeting in the week before Christmas But do

Pop in for a chat and a drink

provided it is not too icy or snowy!

on Monday 18th January 2016

at The Spalding Hall any time between 2pm and 4pm

Everyone is very welcome! Choice of hot and cold drinks

There is no charge but we do put out a pot for any donations towards costs

Need a lift from your home? Not sure about weather conditions? Ring Jean on 24586 or Paul on 24405 beforehand.

ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Are now having 1 lunch a month which is the first Thursday of each month. This month it will be 3rd December, which will be a lovely Christmas Lunch, followed 7th January 2016. If you would like to come along and meet new people, please phone Jean Martin 01647 24586 for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 2nd, 16th, 30th December then 13th January. Please phone Sylvia on 01647 24267 or Jackie on 01647 252701. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. The fare is £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be 10th December our Christmas Party, then we will be back 14th January. Please call Margaret on 01647 252622 for more details. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Acorn Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. This month it will be Tuesday 1st December. On the 15th December we will be having a Christmas Lunch, which has to be booked in advance, so please ring Jackie to book your place. This will be followed by our usual coffee morning on 29th December and 12th January. Please do pop in for a coffee and a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. Please ring Jackie on 01647 252701 if you need a lift.

Acorn Services - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered or any other Acorn service, please phone Sylvia Tripp on 01647 24267. Please leave a message on her answering machine if she is not at home and she will call you back. If you have not heard back within 24hours please call Jean Martin on 01647 24586 or Jackie in the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Acorn Community Support would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and to thank everyone for their support throughout 2015.

CHERITON BISHOP & CROCKERNWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Watching & Caring not snooping

So we know what we are talking about.....

A couple of definitions:

A SCAM is an illegal plan for making money, especially one that involves tricking people.

CYBER CRIME is criminal activity carried out by means of the computer or internet.

Thus, Cyber crime is an on-line scam, and why should we be warned of this? Well figures recently released by the Office of National Statistics reveal there were 5.1 million cyber crimes and frauds in the last year! They affected 3.8 million victims of whom 2.6 million suffered financial loss! Getting it into perspective, overall Police recorded 4.4 million "non cyber" crimes last year. **It could be you next for a cyber/scam attack!**

So, we make no apology to remind everyone:

- 1. Criminals want to break into your internet bank account to steal your money by getting you to reveal your personal details. To do this, you may receive fake e-mails purporting to come from your Bank, HM Customs & Excise (tax), Credit Card Companies, etc.etc. They may say your account has been blocked "because of unusual activity"; or you have a Tax Rebate but always they will ask for personal details at some point. The fact is that these e-mails can look so genuine! NONE OF THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL EVER ASK YOU TO REVEAL PERSONAL INFORMATION. So don't.
- 2. The writer had a delightful letter from a Miss Ababoya Cavaly, a medical student in Abidjan, asking me to help her move \$10m left to her by her late father, out of Africa, by sending her my Bank details- she would then transfer the lot to me and I could keep 10% of it.! This is just one example of how not "to get rich quick".
- 3. "But I haven't got a computer, so I'm OK". These scams are being replicated down your 'phone line so don't be duped. The caller will even be generous to you and ask you to press 9 if you want to be "de-listed". Trouble is, you'll then be paying for an exorbitantly priced call. And if your Bank asks you to call them back to prove they're genuine, beware the original caller has probably kept the line open so you're not calling the Bank at all you're calling him!
- 4. We repeat those famous words; If the offer is too good to believe, ignore it!

From the Neighbourhood Watch Team we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Safe and Healthy 2016.

Just remember though, thieves are out to have a prosperous Christmas at your expense so don't leave presents and other valuables in conspicuous places – back seat of the car – in your home windows. Think before you advertise your goodies for stealing!

Brian W Bryon-Edmond Deputy Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch. 01647 24696

CHERITON BISHOP HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

December meeting:

Monday 7th December MAKING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS In the Village Hall at 7.30 pm (please note the venue – we need the extra space!)

We will have demonstrators on hand to show us some Christmas crafts and a wealth of greenery and berries from our gardens and farms. There will be seasonal refreshments to add to the cheer of the evening. Come and join us and go home with something ready to adorn your home for Christmas!

Our January get together is our Annual Quiz on Monday 18th January in the Spalding Hall at 7.30 pm. This is always a fun evening and you don't have to be a gardening expert to enjoy the experience! Come along and you will be placed in a team drawn at random (so no need to come in a ready-made team).

Seed Collection: All the orders are now in with DT Brown and we eagerly await their delivery in the new year. The Seed collection will be at Jean's, 1 Woodpecker Way, on **Saturday 2nd January from 10.30 – 12 noon.** Please bring the green copy of your order with you!

Are you wondering how you are going to fill all those dark winter evenings? Hot off the virtual press we can reveal some of the classes for next year's Village Show, which you might like to start working on now:-

- If you are making preserves keep back a tidy jar of any kind of the following: Jelly, jam, or chutney (And if you make some marmalade in January there will be a class for this at the Spring Show.)
- If you are into Photography we have three classes: "Wet!", "Red Sky at Night", and "A collection of 3 photographs depicting Seasonal Weather".
- In the Art classes we continue the Weather theme with "A Perfect Day (any medium)", "Water (any medium)", and our popular cartoon class this year is "The Forecasters got it wrong.....!".

For other classes in the handicraft section there is a repeat of several of last year's classes with a few slight changes:

- A cushion for a country cottage: patchwork, embroidery, crochet etc.
- A traditional rural craft: basketry, corn dolly, wood carving etc.
- Something made using wool: knitting, crochet, felt, embroidery etc.
- "Sunny Days" an original poem by you.
- "Weather Warning" a limerick based on the weather.
- Something made using recycled materials.

The full schedules for all three shows next year (Spring, Midsummer, and Village Show) will be on the Village Website in due course.

No Plant sale! Every year we have traditionally had a Spring Plant Sale on the first or second Saturday in May. However this year the Hort Soc have decided to have a Plant Table at both the Spring Show (Saturday 2nd April) and the Midsummer Show (Saturday 25th June) instead. If members have plenty of young plants ready at the beginning of May the Hort Soc might have a plant stall at the Local Produce Market. See further reports in the newsletter nearer the time.

Jenny Grist – Secretary

Advance Notice - School Disco!

Cheriton Bishop Primary School PTFA is doing a fundraiser on the 12th March 2016 in the evening at the village hall. We are having an 80's Disco! Open to all. All the details will be in the February Newsletter.

Sarah Walker



Walking Group News

November/December '15 and January '16

This month's walk on Sunday 15th was at Haldon. Fifteen of us and 7 dogs this month. We were really lucky with the weather, Saturday had been grey, wet and miserable but we kept dry on the Sunday and enjoyed a tramp around the Forest. The forest was buzzing and for those of you who haven't been up there for a while the car parking area has been expanded again recently, and the walk we took led us under the 'Go Ape' treetop walk and zip wires. We also passed two groups of people earnestly concentrating on using Segways, two-wheeled upright scooters, under the strict direction of their leader. The route Clive had planned was fairly flat and not too muddy considering it had been raining so much. We started and finished in the big car park and ended up with a drink (plus buns for some!) before setting off for home. By starting at 1.30 we were easily able to get a decent walk in, plus refreshments before the light went. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Now, a change of date and time for December's walk.

It will be on Sunday 13th and start at 10.30a.m., at the YFC as usual.

We plan to go to The Bearslake Inn, beyond Sourton and walk from there on to The Granite Way.

Pete Endacott has contacted the pub and says 'we can park the cars at the pub and walk from the car park. On our return we can either have a coffee or eat, depending on what individuals would like to do. If people wish to stay on for lunch they can book in the restaurant to be sure of getting a table or just take pot luck.'

Jan Mitchell has kindly agreed to lead the walk planned for **January 17th 2016**. Probably either to Teignmouth for a flat walk along the sea wall or a more local one along footpaths close to Cheriton, depending on tides and weather conditions! Watch out for posters and info on the website nearer the time.

For more information please contact Jane on 24092.

West Country Embroiderers in December

Tuesday December 1st - 1 - 4 pm Village Hall

Throughout the past year, our membership has grown and we have embraced new techniques, listened to fascinating speakers and broadened our horizons. Most of all, we have forged friendships and enjoyed many cups of tea and cake! Our December meeting will be a feast of food and chatter, not a needle or thread in sight, although I expect Secret Santa may have a few stitch craft surprises for lucky members. We have an exciting new program for 2016, please contact Nicky if you are interested in joining us.

New members are always welcome, pop in and see if WCE is for you. Our January get together is **Tuesday 12th January**, **1.30 - 4 pm**. If you would like to join us, please contact Nicky Westcott 01835 82517 or westcottnicky@gmail.com for more details.

Flaine Clark

TEDBURN ST. MARY W.I.

JAM, JERUSALEM AND CHOCOLATE!

What more could we want? This month we met to enjoy the usual chat and meeting formalities with the added bonus of a talk about chocolate – along with some sampling. We learnt about the cacao plant and its habitat. Cacao trees grow in a surprisingly small geographical zone and nearly 70% of the world crop today is grown in West Africa. Yield is affected by weather conditions and this has an impact on the price of the raw material – the much prized cocoa bean.

The best chocolates, and the most expensive, have a higher ratio of cocoa to sugar and fat. Most of what we eat in the UK has around 20% cocoa solids but the more exclusive brands have 35% and upwards.

We tasted them all - from pure nuggets of the bean itself through to milk and dark chocolates. Some of us were surprised to hear that white 'chocolate' contains no cocoa at all, hence the lack of colour.

After all that we still found room for tea and biscuits... well it just has to be done. Doesn't it?

2016 - A PACKED AGENDA

We have been looking into the subjects we will be covering in 2016 at the WI meetings. The speakers are now booked and we have a broad range of topics. These will include fashion, physical fitness, the value of jewellery and gold as well as humorous talks about 'growing old disgracefully' and the perils of public speaking.

Each year, in addition to the monthly meetings and talks we will have many outings, some of which are open to non-members as well as an open meeting where families and friends are asked to join us. These are currently being finalised and details will be published in the next issue.

COMPETITION RESULTS

October's meeting competitions results were "Flower of the Month' Di Allcott and the hand made chocolates were a tie between Pat Tranter and Sandra Chomiak.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Four members from Tedburn joined over 600 delegates from all over the County for the Special Council Meeting held in the splendour of Plymouth's Guildhall in October. The new Chairman, Julie Ayre, spoke about the WI Centenary this year and the activities set up and enjoyed by so many. Dame Esther Rantzen gave a moving speech about her new charity, Silver Line, which helps older people combat isolation and loneliness. There was a rather abrupt end to the morning's proceedings because everyone had to evacuate the building when the fire alarm sounded. But order was soon restored in time for lunch. Following this the main speaker, Julie Summers, spoke about her book, *The Jambusters*. The inspiration for her work came from the WI archives that told the story of the organisation's huge wartime achievements. The book was then turned into the ITV blockbuster series "Home Fires". It was an inspirational day enjoyed by all that attended.

Please call the following people if you would like to know more about the W.I. Molly Hutchings (President) on 01647 24866 or Sue Macpherson (Secretary) on 01647 24088

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Devon Grandparents Support Group have just launched a new website: www.devongrandparentssupportgroup.co.uk

There is also a Facebook page that is linked to the website and will enable Grandparents and Grandchildren who have been denied contact to access support with helpful links to further advice and help.

The lead up to the Christmas season is one of excitement, anticipation and joy for millions of parents and grandchildren.

If you are a Grandparent who is not allowed to have contact with your Grandchildren, the picture is somewhat different. The memories of happier times are tinged with sadness and regret. Many Grandparents will be sending cards and presents, not knowing if they will be received by the Grandchildren. Not knowing what the Grandchildren will be told if they do receive them. Some Grandparents will be accused of harassment and stand the risk of legal action against them, even arrest, just for sending cards and presents. This of course assumes that the Grandparents know where their children and Grandchildren are living. Many do not.

If you know someone in this position, please let them know about our Support Group. They will often feel lonely, isolated and extremely low at this time of the year, and it is important that they know they are not on their own. Just sharing the pain with someone who has experienced a similar situation as your own, can be hugely beneficial.

Gloria & Bernie Little Trustees of the Devon Grandparents Support Group

News from Elsewhere

Dunsford Singers present : SING NOEL WITH CAROLS AND READINGS

Teign Valley Community Hall

Saturday 12th December
at 7pm
Guest Appearance - Mervyn Hayes
Accompanist - Mary Ellis
Tickets £6.00 (£3.00 for under 16s), including
seasonal refreshments.
For tickets, please call: 01647 252519
All proceeds to: FORCE cancer charity

Longdown's Pantomime for 2016 is 'Aladdin'

and is being held on 30th and 31st January 2016
Evening Performances will be at 7.30pm,
Saturday Matinee at 2.00pm
Tickets £5

Box office: 01392 811315



Community Christmas Carol Singing

Everyone Welcome!

FRIDAY 18th December 2015

Meet at the Memorial Cross 18:30

Song sheet provided but, please bring a torch and any suitable musical instruments!

Raising money for the School PTFA

Letter to the Editor:

We attended the Hort Soc Annual Supper on Saturday 14th November. It was SUCH a wonderful event as always — a luscious choice of first courses, with 28 puddings??!!!!!! where else in the world would you get that for £8??!! A big thank you to everyone involved for all the cooking and hard work that went on behind the scenes to make it happen.

Jan and Paul Mitchell

CHERITON & TEIGN VALLEY PRACTICE SURGERY TIMETABLE

MAIN SURGERY - CHERITON BISHOP

OPEN SURGERY: 8am to 9.30am Monday to Friday. Two doctors will be available for the open surgery each morning. No appointment necessary.

Appointment Surgeries: mornings

Dr Herdman	Monday/Tuesday	9.30am to 10.30am
Dr Herdman	Thursday	8.10am to 11.00am
Dr Vaile	Monday/Thursday	8.30am to 11.00am
	Wednesday	9.30am to 10.30am
Dr Beth Timmins	Tuesday/Thursday/Friday	9.30am to 10.30am
Practice Nurse	Mon/Wed	9.00am to 12.30pm
Practice Nurse	Friday	9.00am to 12noon
Health Care Assistant	Mon/Tues/Wed	8.30am to 12.30pm
	Thurs/Friday	8.30am to 10.30pm

Appointment Surgeries: afternoon

pp	
Monday	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Tuesday	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Wednesday	3.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday	3.00pm to 4.30pm
Monday	2.00pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday	2.00pm to 6.50pm
Thursday	2.00pm to 5.30pm
	Monday Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Monday Tuesday

Evening Surgery: Cheriton Bishop only

We recognise the need for those who work to be able to access a convenient surgery appointment time, so there will be an evening clinic on Tuesdays run by Dr Clunie and Dr Hayter by appointment.

Branch Surgery - Christow - by appointment only

	<i>J</i> /	, 11 ,
Dr Clunie	Monday	8.30am to 10.30am
Dr Beth Timmins	Monday	8.30am to 10.30am
Dr Hayter	Tuesday	8.30am to 10.30am
Dr Clunie	Wednesday	2.30pm to 4.30pm
Dr Herdman	Thursday	3.30pm to 5.40pm
Dr Timmins	Thursday	3.15pm to 5.00pm
Dr Hayter	Friday	3.00pm to 4.30pm
Practice Nurse	Tuesday	8.30am to 11.30am
Practice Nurse	Thursday	2.00pm to 5.00pm
Practice Nurse	Friday	2.00pm to 5.00pm
Health Care Assistant	Monday/Tuesday	9.00am to 11.30am

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR ANY SURGERY OR SPEAK TO A DOCTOR:

Please ring 01647 24272 or 24025 Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm (except Bank or statutory holidays),

OUT OF HOURS When the surgery is closed and you need to speak to a doctor please ring 111. IN AN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE 999

Cheriton Bishop Community Primary School

Snippets from the Classroom and Beyond

No 175 December 2015/January 2016

As a good number of you will know, your correspondent found himself unable to write Snippets for the November newsletter due to a 3 week sojourn in the RD&E in Exeter. This has been followed by 4 to 6 weeks convalescence at home. Now, this is where the script changes from third person to first! I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent get well cards to me. The numbers have almost been overwhelming. This has been followed by the assistance I have received from friends helping me to cope during my convalescence - the number of ready meals from various supermarkets would have to be seen to be believed! The Horticultural Society even managed to do a take-away service for me when I felt unable to attend their dinner. So, to sum up, thank you to the wonderful citizens of Cheriton Bishop for all the help and kindness you have shown me. I assure you that it has been very much appreciated.

In the press and other media, both national and local, it has become very fashionable to knock the National Health Service (NHS) at every opportunity. I can honestly say, after a fairly torrid period of ailments etc., my treatment and care from the NHS has been nothing short of excellent. That goes from our local surgery and dispensary right through to the departments of the hospital who have looked after me and the District Nurses who subsequently took me under their collective wings for a period. I even had occasion to call 111 on a Sunday and that worked extremely well. Yes, there is room to criticise the NHS administration and bureaucracy at times, but let's give praise where it's due and stop harping on about the negative things.

Talking about praise, wasn't it great to read in last month's newsletter that our surgery had been awarded OUTSTANDING status after an inspection. From my experience as a seasoned 'Sick Bay Ranger', it is a very well deserved accolade. Well done and thank you all. The full report is available on the internet for those who might be interested.

As most of you will have guessed by now, I'm back and keen to get going again. I must start with the school. I haven't had much opportunity to liaise with them so things are pretty sketchy. However, the School Calendar looks like this at the moment. Unfortunately, I don't have any information about school activities in January:

30th November-4th December - Bikeability Training - Year 5
9th December - School Christmas Lunch
11th December - Class Christmas Parties - PTFA
15th December - Christmas Play - 1430 and 1800
16th December - Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty
17th December - Christmas Fayre
18th December - PTFA Carol Singing around the Village
18th December - End of Autumn Term
4th January 2016 - Start of Spring Term

The first thing that should be mentioned is the success of the 'Shoe Box' venture which sent off over sixty five boxes this year. This appeal was managed by Adele Stickland so a big thank you to Adele and to all who contributed so generously.

As you can see and might expect to see, Christmas activities feature strongly in the December calendar. Note the pantomime date and be ready to find a coach/coaches to take the children to and from the panto. They are being picked up at 1230. Don't moan if the lane is blocked for a short time by the coach - you have been warned!!! The Christmas play and service will be performed twice as has become the norm, with services at 1430 and 1800.

A final note from the school, after 22 years Bridget Ashplant is retiring from the post of School Nurse in Crediton. I'm sure you would all join me in wishing Bridget a very happy retirement.

On, then, to matters on the Iron Road. I don't know whether any of you are aware that October of this year marked the 150th year since the railway reached Bow and North Tawton. North Tawton was given the name of Okehampton Road. A couple of years were still to pass before it reached the town of Okehampton. To mark this 150th anniversary the Dartmoor Railway Supporters (DRSA) ran a series of special trains down to the DR boundary and back, stopping at Bow for refreshments. Dick and Mel Henrywood, the current owners of Bow station, were on hand dressed in Victorian garb to serve the refreshments. Yours truly was taken from his sick bed by friends to experience one of these trains. In fact, a good time was had by all and the day was deemed to be a success. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who made sure everything went off smoothly.

There has been a fairly major development up at the station over recent weeks. The DRSA has taken on the rooms on platform 2, renting them from Devon County Council. The aim is to have a small shop and information area raising funds for the DRSA. With the small museum already administered by the Association, all the rooms on the platform are now under the same 'ownership'.

By the time you read this the first Polar Expresses will be running. For the railway buffs, the locomotives for Polar Express arrived at Oke recently and comprise a Class 45, a Class 31 and a Class 47. There are two train engines and a spare in case of breakdowns. Trains are at 1700 and 1900 (2 train days) and 1600, 1800 and 2000 (3 train days). It will probably still be daylight for some or all of the 1600 train.

I have had to curtail my singing activities over the last few weeks but I will be joining Mariners Away at the New Inn at Coleford on 22nd November. To all those singers and choristers who are part of the singing fraternity, I hope everything goes well over the Christmas period.

I can't sign off without mentioning recent events. Let us all remember that Christmas is a period of peace and happiness and let us all join with our Muslim and Jewish brethren and people of all faiths in praying for universal peace. Above all, don't forget, Christmas began with the birth of the baby boy in a stable.

PGR