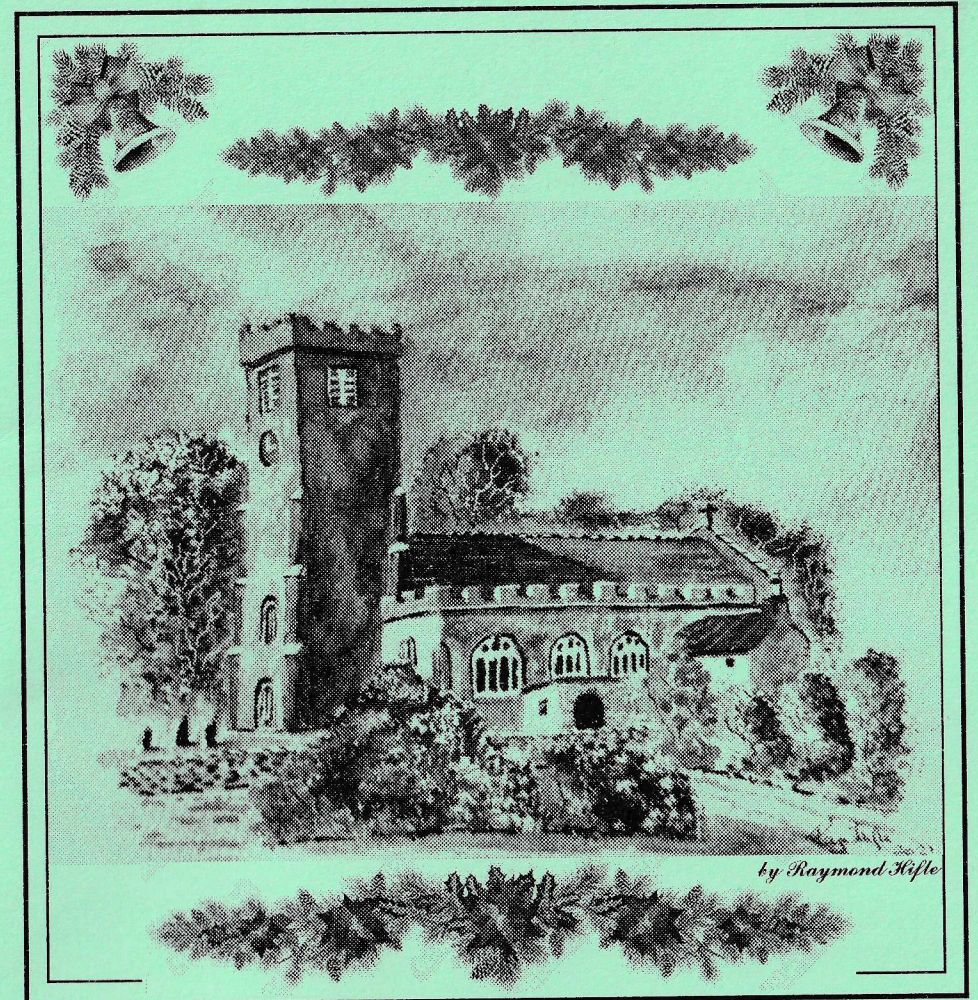


Mike Stott

STOKE GABRIEL NEWS

St. Mary and St. Gabriel's Church



DECEMBER 2024

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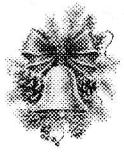
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Team Rector (Totnes):	Rev. Jim Barlow	07773 33653	
			E: jbarlow@totnesrectory.co.uk
Assoc. Minister (Stoke Gabriel):	Rev. Chris Martin, The Vicarage, School Hill	01803 303437	
			E: revchrisstokegabriel@gmail.com
Licensed Lay Minister:	*Alan Hill, 9 Kings Rydon Close	340934	
Churchwarden:	*Gerald Watson, Croft Cottage, Duncannon Mead	782306	
Churchwarden:	*Mike Stott, Silver Springs	782473	
Vergger:	*Norman Betts, 4 Church Walk	782003	
	- Currently on long term leave		
Parish Council Clerk:	Rosemary Rowe	07730332904	
			E: clerk@stokegabriel.co.uk
Hon. Sec. PCC:	*Liz Ball, Far Well, Vicarage Road	782439	
Treasurer PCC:	*Ian Potham, Hamewith, Duncannon Mead	782311	
Safeguarding Rep.:	*Liz Ball, Far Well, Vicarage Rd.	782439	
Capt. Bellringers:	Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close	782301	
Gift Aid:	John Ball, Far Well, Vicarage Road	782439	
Hon. Sec. Electoral Roll:	Isy Ewart, Sweets Meadow	782740	
Mothers' Union:	Eileen Wain, Fair Tor, Long Rydon	782408	
Flowers:	Christine Hunt 4 Orchard Way	782093	
Chairman: Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church:	Di Lugg, Longhay Orchard, Hillfield	782371	
<i>The PCC comprises those marked * above and those listed below:</i>			
Evelyn Watson	782506	Mark Yallop	
Val Proctor	782589	Sue Clement	782363
Jan Nott	782060	Michael Brown	782371
Stoke Gabriel News:			
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Stoke Gabriel Welcome Pack:	For anyone new to the Parish		
	contact Jan Stott	782475	
Old Schoolroom hire:	Ian Potham	782311	
Village Hall hire:	Jane Tarr	E: 19rrat44@gmail.com	782483

From the Revd Chris Martin

Dear friends,
There aren't many commands that my dog Welly responds to. However, credit where credit is due, he does pretty well with the word 'Wait.' When we put his meals into his food bowl, we ask him to wait, and he does, before devouring it in about 8 seconds; and when he has run off into the garden with one of my shoes, or a tea-towel, we ask him to wait, and he does (usually!) to allow us to retrieve it.



Welly is better at waiting than I am. Waiting is not something many of us do well. Waiting can be hard, whether it be for a bus, or news from a loved-one, or a diagnosis from a doctor. Sometimes, if we have to wait a long time to see any hoped-for change, waiting is disappointing. And waiting is so counter-cultural to the frantic pace of life in the twenty-first century; we live in a world of instant gratification and wait for nothing.

On Sunday 1st December, the Church enters the season of Advent, a time of waiting and longing, when we look forward in anticipation to remember the first coming of Christ, and wait in anticipation for his return when, in the Christian tradition, history will be brought to the glorious fulfilment Christ longs for. Waiting is an important part of Christian history and experience. God's people are often asked to wait. They have to wait to be delivered from slavery in Egypt, to wait to inherit the Promised Land, to wait to return home from exile, to wait for the promised Messiah; and the Psalms and the Prophets are littered with the instruction to 'wait patiently' for the Lord. The disciples of Jesus are asked to wait by Jesus for the promised Holy Spirit. Waiting seems important for humanity and creates the possibility of something new.

Waiting is not the same as doing nothing. It's purposeful. It's an activity that requires alertness and attention and needs us to be present, to lay down what we are doing, or think is important, and instead look for what new thing may be arriving to us as we wait.

On the Tuesdays in Advent (3rd, 10th and 17th), from 6pm until 7pm in the church, I intend to spend an hour in quietness, with a few candles, just to wait...and see. Want to join me? All that will be asked of you is your silent waiting. And, when the waiting is over, have a blessed Christmas,

Chris

Parish Register

Holy Baptism: October 27th Dulcie Annie Wilson of Paignton

Interment of ashes : October 20th : Peter William Day previously of Brixham, aged 86 years; October 29th: Marilyn Mary Stewart of Paignton, aged 71 years

December Services 2024

Sunday 1 st	Advent Sunday
8:15am	BCP Holy Communion
10:30am	Team Service at St John's Bridgetown (a farewell to Rev Canon Deborah Parsons)
6:30pm	Advent Carol service (bring a torch!)
Wednesday 4 th	10:00am Communion by extension
Saturday 7 th	2:30pm Crafty Advent in the OSR - all young children welcome, please bring an adult
	4:00pm Christingle service in church
Sunday 8 th	2 nd of Advent
8:15am	BCP Holy Communion
11:00am	Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 11 th	10:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	3 rd of Advent
8:15am	BCP Holy Communion
11:00am	Choral Matins
Wednesday 18 th	10:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	4 th of Advent
8:15am	BCP Holy Communion
11:00am	Choral Eucharist
6:30pm	Christmas Lessons and Carols followed by Mince pies and mulled wine
Tuesday 24 th	Christmas Eve
4:00pm	Christmas Crib Service (followed by 'Santa on the Quay' at 5pm)
11:00pm	Christmas Midnight Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 25 th	Christmas Day
8:15am	BCP Holy Communion
10:00am	Choral Eucharist for Christmas Day
Sunday 29 th	1 st Sunday of Christmas
8:15	BCP Holy Communion
11:00	Choral Eucharist

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CRAFTY ADVENT

There will again be an afternoon of children's craft activities for Advent on **Saturday 7th December 2024, from 2.30pm in the Old School Room.** This will be followed by a lantern procession to the church for a **Christingle Service at 4pm** and children's tea back in the Old School Room at 4.30pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

REMINDERS FROM THE CHURCH CHOIR!

STOKE GABRIEL CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY SERVICE

The Christmas card delivery service in aid of the Children's society, runs between **Friday 6th December and Friday 20th December** you simply drop the Christmas cards for your friends and family in the village into the Christmas Card Box at Stoke Gabriel Stores (NOT the Post Box outside!), enclosing with them your donation for the Children's Society in a separate envelope and we'll deliver them for you. The deliveries will be made in 2 tranches. To assist us, please ensure that the name and address of the recipient is written clearly on all your cards. Many thanks to Roz for once again kindly providing the collection point and we hope that your cards will bring much Christmas cheer.
Stoke Gabriel Church Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

We once again hope to be carol singing at the Church House Inn, outside by the Christmas Tree, weather permitting at approximately 8 p.m. This is always such a wonderful community gathering and we do hope that you are able to join us.

CHURCH FLOWERS

I would like to say a big thank you to all the flower ladies who made the church look amazing for the Harvest Festival: it was kind of everyone to give their support. I also wish to thank everyone who made a donation towards the flowers: without you it would not happen.

The next event is **Christmas** so I am asking for your help again, this is for donations towards the flowers and please give me the names of loved ones whom you wish to remember at this time and we will do the rest.

Also if you wish to help please get in touch and I will give you times and the date which is around the 13th December in the morning. Many thanks - *Chris Hunt.*
(More over page....)

Book of Remembrance of Loved Ones

On view in the Lady Chapel, the Book of Remembrance of Loved Ones is a record of family members who have died. Their names are recorded in the calendar year according to the week of their death and are remembered before God by being read out during the prayers at the principal weekly Sunday morning service near the anniversary of their death. (To avoid any confusion, this is not the same as the Book of Remembrance of Servicemen and Women that Richard Harris and Mike Stott are compiling). If you would like a family member to be recorded in the Book and remembered in this way, then please let me have their full name and date of death. We will then arrange for the Book to be updated in the New Year. There is no cost associated with this. *Revd Chris*

Stoke Gabriel

Royal British Legion Remembrance Services

We would like to thank all those who took part in our Remembrance Day service on Sunday 10th November, what a wonderful turnout with a full to bursting church and to Revd. Chris for taking such a lovely service following which a large proportion of those attending proceeded up to the War Memorial where our wreaths were then laid. Special thanks must go to Gareth for stepping in at such short notice and carrying the RBL flag. We would also like to thank those who decorated the church with flowers and poppies which made the occasion even more special and also to the Scouts, Beavers, troops and leaders for their active participation within the service. As usual we must also thank Tony our bugler who has given so freely of his services for many years. Hopefully next year with a little help we may be able to bring back the custom of having some refreshments on return from laying our wreaths at the war memorial. On Monday 11th November at 11.00am we held our customary two minute silence ending with a prayer from Revd. Chris. It was well attended as usual and our thanks go to our car marshals for stopping the traffic during the silence.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Firstly we would like to thank Roz for all the hard work she put into the wonderful Remembrance display in her shop window this year, we are sure some will have recognised a few faces of village folk from past years. As most people will know now, due to a lack of available collectors within the village we are no longer doing house to house collections and are reliant on our collection boxes placed within the pubs, restaurants, village shop, school and the church and are very pleased to announce that you have raised around £1500 with a few yet to come, our grateful thanks go to these outlets for their help and to all of you who donated and also to those who have donated online, not counted in our totals as we are not made aware of how much is donated. *Bronwen Baron & Robert Stewart-Bam*

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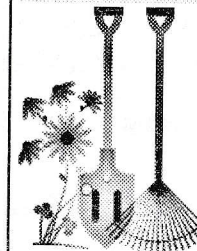


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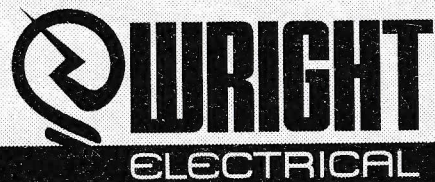
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Stoke Gabriel Bell Ringers



Christmas Services

What an exciting time of year December is! The church has a variety of services and events throughout the month. It all begins with the Advent Carol Service on Sunday, 1 December, at 6.30 pm. A more light-hearted start to the Christmas season is the Annual Carol Concert being held in Church on Friday, 6 December, at 7 pm.

Church Bells at Christmas

Church bells have long been a cherished Christmas tradition. In church customs, the day begins at sunset, so any service after sunset on Christmas Eve is technically the first service of Christmas Day! Bell ringers traditionally ring for the late Christmas Eve service, often held at midnight, a tradition dating back to the early church, when it was believed that Jesus was born at midnight, inspiring people to gather and celebrate his birth at that hour.

The sound of Christmas bells is associated with excitement, happiness, and joy. Today, bells are used in various ways, beyond worship. They can be found in all manner of decorations, wreaths, garlands, Santa and elf costumes, and handbells are often rung by the Salvation Army and other charities to attract attention to their fundraising efforts.

If you would like to be part of this tradition of ringing church bells, please do get in touch with me, or visit us at the church whenever you hear the bells ringing!

Devon Ringers' Carol Service – 14 December at Crediton

The Devon Ringers' Carol Service will be held at Crediton Parish Church, also known as the Church of the Holy Cross, on Saturday, 14 December, at 4 pm. This special service, open to all (ringers and non-ringings alike), will feature traditional carols along with music by an orchestra and choir, and even handbell concerts, all organised by bell ringers. Come along and experience this unique service!

Remembrance Sunday Service

Remembrance Sunday, held on the nearest Sunday to 11 November, is observed throughout the United Kingdom and Commonwealth as a day to honour the contributions of military and civilian personnel in the World Wars and subsequent conflicts. In London, the national ceremony takes place at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, where a two-minute silence is observed at 11 am, marking the end of hostilities in 1918.

This year on Sunday 10 November King Charles laid the first wreath on behalf of the nation, followed by Major Ollie Plunket, who laid a wreath on behalf of Queen Camilla. Other members of the royal family, including Prince William, Prince Edward, and Princess Anne, joined the ceremony, as did political leaders.

More than 800 military personnel participated in the national commemorations, (continued over...)

(Bellringers continued)

.... with additional services held at Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral. Across the country, local war memorials held ceremonies with wreath-laying and two-minute silences at 11 am. Many church bells are rung half-muffled, creating a solemn atmosphere.

Stoke Gabriel Bell Ringers' AGM – 14 November

The bell ringers held their AGM in the ringing chamber on Thursday, 14 November. The Officers of Captain, Vice Captain, Secretary, and Treasurer, were re-elected unopposed. I am honoured to continue serving as Tower Captain for another year.

Devon Association AGM – 16 November

The Devon Association AGM was held on Saturday, 16 November, at Crediton. Attendance was still lower than in previous years, but the 2025 Association competitions were confirmed.

Devon Association of Ringers' 100th anniversary

The Devon Association of Ringers proudly represents the vibrant community of call change church bell ringers across Devon. Since 1925, this cherished Association has connected over 150 affiliated towers, offering a calendar packed with training events, socials, and ringing festivals. With an emphasis on rhythmic, musical sequences, the call change tradition brings together ringers of all ages and backgrounds to create joyful sounds that echo across the county.

Excitingly, 2025 marks the Devon Association of Ringers' 100th anniversary! Founded by Rev. A.F. McCarthy, it began as "The Devon Association for the Encouragement of Round Ringing," later renamed to emphasise call change ringing, a distinct musical style embraced by Devon ringers. The Association adopted its badge and motto, "We Serve," in 1936, a phrase that still captures its spirit today. In November 1945, a historic meeting between the Devon Association and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers (representing method ringers in the county) sparked talk of a potential merger. While changes could not be agreed upon, it is a proud tradition that Devon continues to have two dedicated ringing societies. The Guild celebrated its 150th anniversary earlier this year, and now, it is time for the Devon Association to shine as it steps into its centenary year!

Ringling World

In the 8 November 2024 edition of The Ringing World, a weekly magazine, there is a two-page article titled "Bells and the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta" by a Dartmouth Ringer and a member of the Royal Regatta Committee, John Lagdon. It also features a selection of photographs from Dartmouth, including one with several Stoke Gabriel ringers, captured in a previous year. You may recognise some familiar faces! See: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/issueno/5924>

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Stoke Gabriel Church Choir
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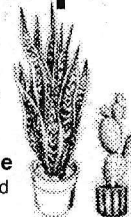
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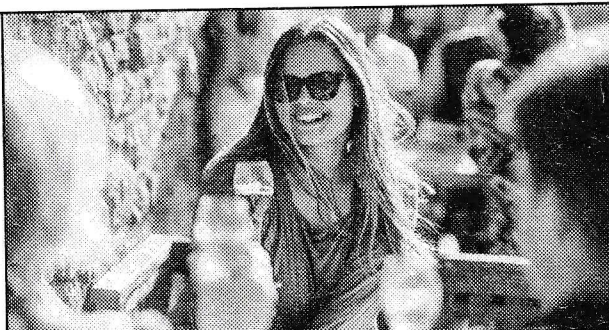
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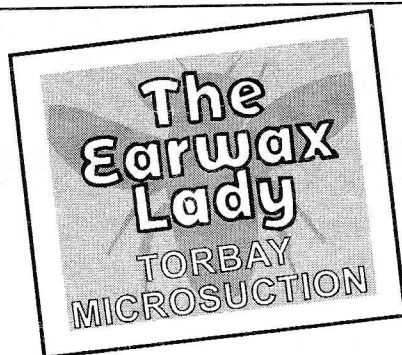
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AD7

All hail, Stoke Gabriel Wassail!

South Devon's long love affair with the humble apple echoes through the ages and is full of superlatives. The South Hams was once crowned the cider capital of England, Stoke Gabriel has one of the region's oldest producers, Hunts Cider, which is 200 years old and now in its eighth generation.

The county's history is soaked in this amber nectar for at least as long as - if not longer than -- anywhere in the British Isles. This is something to celebrate, and that's what the wassail is all about. Come **Saturday, 18th January**, traditionally twelfth night in the old Julian calendar, hundreds of people will crowd around the hallowed boughs of apple trees, ancient and new, in the village orchard.

Be prepared to parade with lanterns and hear blasts of shotguns in a bid to scare away evil spirits, as well as awaken the trees from their winter slumber. "It's about community and it's an amazing tradition celebrated down the generations," says Adam Lay, the master of ceremonies.

The term *waes-hal* -- or wassail -- dates back to Anglo-Saxon times and means "be in good health." and that's the main aim, to hold up a bowl of mulled cider and give a toast to the apple trees, wishing them a bumper harvest. Expect to serenade the apple trees with tuneful song, such as -- "here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green." Cider is poured around the roots in respect.

At the same time, toast soaked in cider is hung in the branches to attract robins -- the guardian spirits of the trees. It's crucial to be as noisy as possible. Through such rituals, there's no doubt that the wassail touches chords deep within our culture. This celebration remains faithful to tradition where a Wassail King and Queen -- school children -- crowned with wreathes of leaves, lead the parade. A wassail song is central to the ceremony. Morris dancing and Mummers plays, an ancient type of folk play, also get in on the act.

We shouldn't forget that Stoke Gabriel's economy was once rooted in vast orchards and cider production. Such celebrations were central to rural life with many people dependent on the fruits of these trees for their very existence. They lived and worked among the boughs, blossoms, barrels and presses on a daily basis.

So do join us again on **Saturday 18th January**. Nick Easen

*The event is organised by the **Friends of Stoke Gabriel School**. If you want to keep the tradition alive and volunteer to help with the event, please contact*

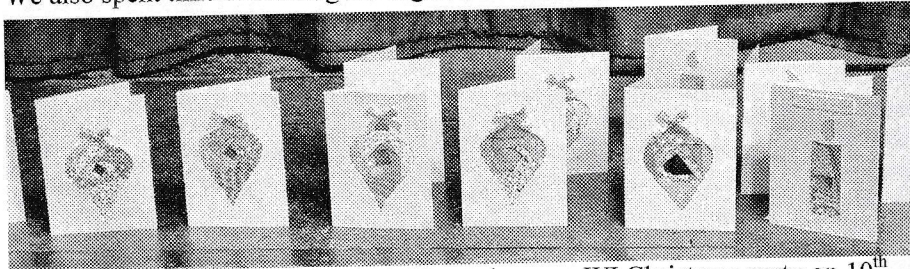
Nick Easen, on 07837 965 399 or email nick.easen@futuretravelforum.com



Stoke Gabriel WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

This month we held our craft meeting, led by Jackie Bufton who demonstrated the art of Iris folding and in particular, making a Christmas card. This was a skill largely unknown to our members who were pleasantly surprised with their achievements after an afternoon of practice. Jackie showed us examples of the finished cards before leading us through the process of creating very beautiful cards. Her clear instructions and calm leadership helped us all to make the most of the afternoon. We also spent time discussing the organisation of 3 upcoming events – Our WI



Christmas Fayre to be held on 30th November, our WI Christmas party on 10th December and then our New Year Lunch on 26th January 2025. The Fayre is our primary fund-raising event, to help us with the running of the WI throughout the coming year. Ladies will be making crafts, wreaths, cakes and other produce as well as running a bottle stall, raffle and guess the weight of the cake competition. Please come along and support us with this. There will be plenty of lovely gift ideas available.

Our Competitions were well supported this month.

Bloom of the month: 1st Jan Nott – A rose. 2nd Chris Bradbury – a dahlia. 3rd Sandy Lloyd – A kaffir lily

Monthly competition: - A homemade Christmas card. 1st Dianna Sheppard; 2nd Jan Nott. 3rd Sheila Rest.

Our next meeting is our **Christmas party on 10th December, 2pm.**

This is for members only. *Pia Barrett*

STOKE SENIORS' NEW YEAR LUNCH

The Parish Church invites all Stoke Seniors to the New Year Turkey Luncheon at The Village Hall, Stoke Gabriel on **14th January, 2025** at 12.00 Noon. An enjoyable social event with a raffle. There is no charge but a donation would be appreciated.

Please contact Jan Stott 782475 by 7th January, 2025.



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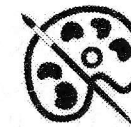
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STOKE GABRIEL ART GROUP



Seasons greetings from all in Stoke Gabriel Art Group. The festivities are beginning and we shall be enjoying a Christmas nibble on our last session of 2024 on Thursday December 19th.

We had an excellent presentation after our morning's Art on 7th November from Adrian Parker, an Air Ambulance paramedic on how to use the nearby Defibrillator if an emergency should ever occur. We certainly learnt a lot, and left feeling more confident if a situation confronted us.

We enjoyed a fun Social evening on 16th November, with Ploughman's supper, gateaux and drinks, along with games and quizzes. Our **Dugmore Cup** competition based on 'Autumn' was won by Dave Horden, with his wonderful picture of Birch trees in the Autumn light. Well done Dave. (See photo, right., Dave with Penny Harrison)



We look forward to our Demonstration by Allan Shaw on **Tuesday 3rd December**, in the Village Hall at

7.30pm where he'll be painting a portrait of who knows who!..everyone most welcome, £2 members, £3 non-members to include refreshments.

Our sessions begin again in the New Year on Thursday January 9th. 9am - 1.00pm in the Village Hall. How about taking up something new and joining us? You'd be most welcome. Membership to join our lovely Art group is £20 a year.

Hope you all enjoy a happy, peaceful Christmas and wish you all the best for a happy, peaceful New Year. Jackie Tucker

Please feel free to contact me for further details or information ..

Tel, 07564 227250. tucksatarvu@yahoo.co.uk

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you very much to those of you who made up shoe boxes of gifts or gave other contributions for Samaritans Purse Charity: 'Operation Christmas Child'. We took the donations to the wonderful collection team in St Marys Church, Brixham. This year the boxes will go to children in Malawi who have nothing. One of the Brixham Ladies has visited there and told us how they have absolutely nothing tho are very inventive in their games. It sounds a warm climate to us but because the temperature drops 20C in winter they do appreciate hats and gloves as well as the toys, school materials and hygiene items. A big thank you and we hope more of you would like to join in next year. *Helen Caseldine*

Come and sing with Village Voices! Wednesdays 10.30 in the Village Hall. More information: Jo Mannering 782279

Page 13

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Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club

The club would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. It has been a great year for the club with many highlights.



- The 1st and 2nd teams having positive seasons.
- The first ever women's sides at the club.
- Growing of our junior section.
- Great social events throughout the year.
- Better than ever support from the village and community.
- Here's to 2025!

SGCC Women: The women's side are keeping themselves busy over the winter by entering the indoor women's league with games in the new year. Games in January, February and March.

SGCC Juniors: We have formed a junior side (under 12) to play hard ball cricket in the Devon youth league. This will be a progression for our Dynamos but is also open to anyone else who would like to come along. The side will be entering the Devon youth league next season and the club will be looking to launch more age group sides next season. For more info contact Jack or Jason.

Winter training The club will be looking to book winter nets sessions which will be open to senior, women's and junior players. More information to follow.

Social and Events Monday night indoor bowls will be running through the autumn and winter at the club. Contact Tony Rowe for more details.

Our Social membership is a great way to support your local club. Membership is just £10 for the year. Come along and sign up at one of our social events or email the club secretary.

Thank you everybody who has supported the club over this season with memberships, volunteering, attending events or watching games. It has been great to have so many of you up at the club.

The club has also launched a 100 club draw, with a chance to win cash prizes each month. Sign up at the club or <https://stokegabrielcricketclub.co.uk/100-club/>

For general club hire for parties etc please contact Tom or Tony, they will be very happy to speak to you.

Dates for the diary -

8th December - Christmas luncheon: Please contact Tom for booking a place.

Friday 29th December - Christmas party: Contact Jack Tolley or check out our social media. *Matt Kerr*

Contacts

Tom Hannaford-Hill (Chairman) 07540 222439 tomhannafordhill@gmail.com
 Tony Rowe (President) tonydrowe47@gmail.com Club Secretary stokegabrielcsc.secretary@outlook.com
 Pat Duke (Women's cricket) : patrickduke1@sky.com/ 07545 550430
 Matt Kerr (Allstars) (Women's cricket) 07875056150 Jack Tolley (Dynamos and Juniors) 07913 166776
 Jason Gonifas (Dynamos and Juniors) 07758 802507
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Can I take this opportunity on behalf of the club to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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SOUTH WEST PENINSULA LEAGUE

Sat 14th December: AXMINSTER, 3pm kick off

Sat 28th December: BOVEY TRACEY, 3pm kick off

SOUTH DEVON LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Sat 7th December: DRAKE FC, 2.30pm kick off

Devon Womens Football League

Sunday 1st December: TEIGNMOUTH LADIES 2pm kick off

National Lottery Bonus Ball: Club runs two draws with a £10 per month entry.

Spaces available so please contact Tim Perrin on 07736 428296 or email tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com for details how to enter

Winners:

Saturday 19th October: Tim Perrin £75 and David Harvey £225 (Double Rollover) - (Winning number 25)

Saturday 26th October: Jen Ashington and Mike Howarth £75 - (13)

Saturday 2nd November: Janet Marshall and Sam Biscoe £75 each - (34)

Saturday 9th November: John Banks and Matt Vanes £75 each - (18)

Clubhouse is available to hire for Birthday Parties, Weddings, Social Events etc. Please contact Tim Perrin, Club Secretary on 07736 428296 or email tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com for bookings

LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND HELP CLUB!

We are always on the look out for helpers at the club either on a Saturday or Sunday in the running of the bar or kitchen.

Also anyone who fancies helping to maintain the three pitches we have would be welcome, Please contact Tim Perrin on 07736 428296 or email

tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com with any times you would be available to help.

Ray Tucker

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SANTA arrives with presents for the children 6pm

- - - Editor's Notes - - -

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Email: crev1875@btinternet.com Tel: 01803782825 Price: £18.50.

Copy for January by 15th December please, and a Happy Christmas to you all!

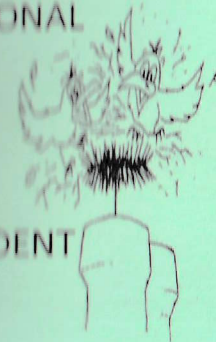
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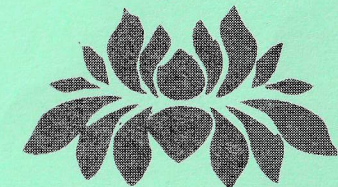
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Whitehill	0922	1127	1327	1527	1727
STOKE GABRIEL	0927	1132	1332	1532	1732
STOKE GABRIEL	0930	1135	1335	1535	1735
Whitehill	0935	1140	1340	1540	1740
Collaton, Parkers Arms	0940	1145	1345	1545	1745
Paignton Zoo, Totnes Rd	0942	1147	1347	1547	1747
PAIGNTON Bus Station	0955	1155	1355	1555	1755
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