

Crediton Rural Ministry Hub

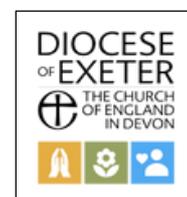
Post

Churches joyfully working together with a generous spirit reaching out to the churches, communities, villages and hamlets around Crediton

January 2026



The Diocese of Exeter
Pray - Grow – Serve



Welcome to the 33rd edition of the Hub Post

Starting 2026 with Prayer

Happy New Year everyone! Yes it really is 2026. And with it comes a whole bunch of expectations around starting as we mean to go on. Don't worry. I'm not going to add to them. But I do think the start of a new year deserves a faithful review, even if it doesn't include resolutions.

So, what is important to you, when it comes to your faith?

Taking walks around our home in Mid Devon has offered a very welcomed new perspective. It is stunning around here. and as such we have been wonderfully blessed with what I would call 'Christian Calendar' moments and the opportunity to pray more.

For those that struggle to pray sometimes, and I include myself in that category, it is often to do with either not having the words or not hearing anything back.

Firstly, God doesn't need to hear your words spoken aloud. Prayer is something that is done from the heart and the gut, not the vocal chords. Holding a time of silence with a lit candle, or taking a walk around Mid Devon, are both legitimate ways to pray. But then so is screaming at the top of your voice in lament. The point here is that God doesn't set conditions.

Secondly, prayer is a two-way thing. That's why it's so frustrating when you feel your prayers are falling on deaf ears. Listening is crucial to a healthy prayer life. Yes, you can give over all your concerns, petitions and intercessions but like any correspondence unless you get a reply it feels incomplete. So how do we listen for God's reply? Maybe this will help...

A lady was walking down a busy street in London. It was filled with people, cars were beeping their horns, the double-deckers were screeching as they stopped to pick up passengers, and sirens were wailing as ambulances drove by. Suddenly, the lady stops and says, 'I hear a cricket.'

Her friend is astounded. 'What? You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all of this noise!'

'No, I'm sure of it,' the wise lady said.

She paused and listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the road to where some shrubs were growing. She looked into the bushes and sure enough, there was the cricket. Her friend was utterly amazed. But the wise lady said 'My ears are no different from yours.'

'I could never hear a cricket in this noise,' said her friend.

'Yes, you could,' came the reply. 'Here, let me show you.'

She reached into her pocket, pulled out a few coins, and dropped them on the pavement. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed every head within 5 metres turn and look to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs.

'See what I mean?' asked the wise lady. 'It all depends on what's important to you, on what you're listening for.'

So, what is important to you? If God isn't, then you're probably not going to hear what God is saying to you. If he is, then listening for him in the busyness of our lives is the most important thing we can do.

Revd Jeremy Putnam

What's on

**Deadline for articles for the
February edition - 25th
January**

Coffee Mornings

Cheriton Fitzpaine

31st January from 10 - 12

Sandford

Wednesday mornings
from 10:30 - 12

Are you planning an event in
your Parish?

Email: northcreedy1@gmail.com to
let us know and we'll add it into the
What's On List.

Please send posters in either
Word, PDF, png or jpeg format.

St Swithun's Sandford
join us every Friday at
10.30am for
Contemplative Quiet
Time

Make space in your week
for half an hour and
enhance your well being.

St Swithun's Sandford

Join us every Wednesday at
10.30am for
Coffee, Cake and Company
all welcome





St Matthew's
MESSY CHURCH

faith friendship fun food

Wednesday

14th January

4pm - 5.30pm

"Starlight"

No need to book, just come along

Ring Alice for more info

07484 704777

“TEA & COFFEE STOP” at St Matthew’s Cheriton Fitzpaine

*Drop into St Matthew’s Church,
Peruse the second-hand books,
help yourself to a drink and a biscuit,
enjoy the quiet and stillness
of the historic building.*



There's also a toilet!

COFFEE **MORNING**

CAKE, PRODUCE AND
BOOK SALE

SATURDAY 31st
JANUARY

10.00 – 12.00



ST MATTHEW'S
CHURCH

PLEASE NOTE: NO PRESERVES THIS TIME
BACK IN FEBRUARY!

CONTACT HAZEL NORTON FOR DETAILS
01363 866232

ST MATTHEW'S CHERITON FITZPAINE

Sunday 4th January 11.15am

Communion

Sunday 11th January 11.15am

Story Sunday

Wednesday 14th January 4pm

Messy Church

Sunday 18th January 11.15am

Communion

ST MARY'S STOCKLEIGH ENGLISH

Next service

Sunday 8th February 4pm

Communion

St. Swithun's **Sandford's January Services**

Sunday 4th January 9:30am
Communion

Sunday 11th January 9:30am
Communion

Sunday 18th January 9:30am
Morning Praise

Sunday 25th January 9:30am
Communion

Wednesday mornings 10:30-12
Coffee & Company

Friday mornings 10:30-11
Contemplative prayer





BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS & CEILIDH



**SHOBROOKE VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 2026**

Dust off your dancing shoes and join us for a festive evening of Burns Night traditions, music and a lively ceilidh!

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW – SAVE THE DATE!





FAITH *Empowered*

CHURCH ARMY
-ORG

Share the
GOOD NEWS

Talk to people about
JESUS

Training for
EVANGELISTS

10 Session Course

Delivered by the CHURCH ARMY, designed to equip local lay leaders in evangelism. Ideal for those looking to share the gospel and to lead others to do the same.

Starts 7th Nov

Full details here -

tinyurl.com/faithempowered

For an initial conversation about the course please contact Diocesan Mission Enabler - Jeremy Putnam 07889 523766

SCAN ME



DIOCESE
OF EXETER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON

All profits St Petock's, Clannaborough

Saturday 14th February

THE FLEETWOOD MAC SONGBOOK

THE ONLY FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE YOU NEED TO SEE

***** "MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE". REGAL THEATRE

***** "ASTOUNDING SHOW". STRODE THEATRE

Bow Village Hall

DOORS 8PM

LICENSED BAR

*Tickets **£24** Early Bird **£19.50** (before 30th Nov)*

email richardsmik1@gmail.com Tel 01363 82379

Wegottickets or



Scan Code

Do you have used or old candles that you want to recycle?

Visit the **DMHay** website at

<https://dmhay.co.uk/pages/dm-hay-candle-recycling-service> to find out how easy it is to recycle our used church candles





‘Working together to enable all to live life in all its fullness’ - John 10:10

BE A GOVERNOR

You can make a difference to the lives of children in Devon’s Church of England Schools, helping pupils to flourish.

**DIOCESE
OF EXETER**



 exeter.anglican.org/be-a-governor





You can make a difference

As a governor, you'll get the opportunity to help schools give children the best start in life. School governors come from all walks of life. Governors have different skills, experiences and backgrounds, and together use them to make a difference.

You don't need lots of experience in education and you don't need to be a parent. You just need to be over 18 and have a commitment to serve schools with joy.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you.

 exeter.anglican.org/be-a-governor

 beagovernor@exeter.anglican.org

 01392 294950

   @BeAGovernor



You are invited to

Held Together

**An accessible service
for older people & carers**

**followed by tea, coffee
cake, biscuits & chat**

Boniface Centre

10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

**On the third
MONDAY of
each month**

**Led by Anna Chaplains:
Eileen Brassington &
Caroline Smith**



**Anna Chaplains
offering spiritual care to older people**

We continue to pray for the situation in the Holy Land.

A Prayer for the Holy Land from Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem:

O God of all justice and peace,
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of
violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we
pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and
for all people of the land.

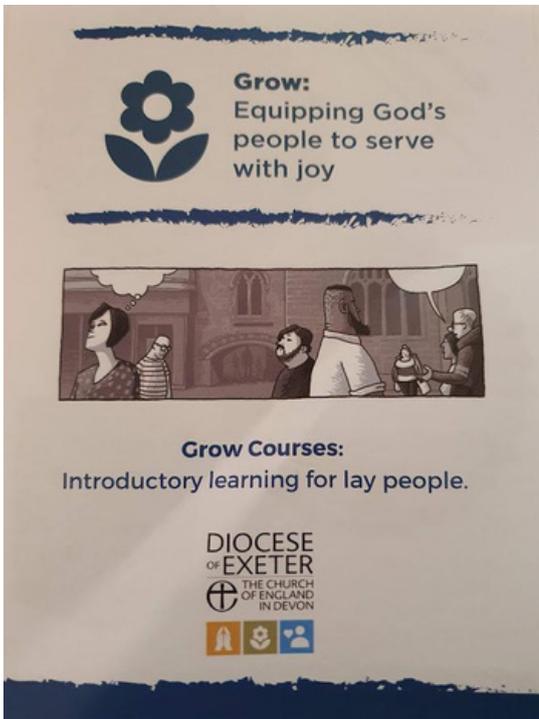
While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the
establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice
and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where
all people are treated with dignity and honour as your
children - for to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

**We also continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and other
places where there is war.**

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace
proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of
peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those
who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in
tranquility your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled
with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your
Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen



GROW COURSES offer introductory learning opportunities for a wide range of roles over Zoom. Primarily for lay people, these courses can be accessed by anyone and may be used as part of their discernment process or as learning for a current or future role. This project aims to help our church members to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy through practical and specific learning.

Courses are certificated and can be undertaken without prior learning. Some participants join before or after undertaking Foundations in Christian Ministry, but these courses stand alone. Public recognition of this learning is really valuable, so we'd encourage all churches to acknowledge those who complete Grow courses. These courses can also be arranged as in-person training, if we have enough people to run a course in the Deanery.

Current courses include Digital Ministry, Prayer, Sharing our Faith, Children, Youth & Schools, Leading from the Front, Carbon Literacy, Creation Care, Pastoral Care, Social Action, Administration, Preaching, Small Group Leadership and more. These are always being added to and suggestions of new subjects are welcome.

Jon Curtis is Lay Leadership Project Manager for the Diocese of Exeter and can be contacted via email at jon.curtis@exeter.anglican.org

If you are interested in doing one of these courses, please speak to Janet May or Laura Armstrong.

To advertise in the Hub Post, please contact Revd Janet May on northcreedy1@gmail.com

Church Services Across the Hub

SUNDAY SERVICES ROTA JANUARY 2026	4th January Epiphany	11th January Baptism of Christ	18th January Epiphany	25th January Epiphany 3/ Conversion of Paul
Cheriton Fitzpaine St. Matthew's	Communion 11:15am	Story Sunday 11:15am	Communion 11:15am	
Kennerleigh John the Baptist	Evensong 6:30pm		Communion 11:15am	
New Buildings Beacon				
Poughill St. Michael & All Angels				
Puddington St. Thomas A Becket				
Sandford St. Swithun's	Communion 9:30am	Communion 9:30am	Morning Praise 9:30am	Communion 9:30am
Stockleigh English St. Mary the Virgin				
Stockleigh Pomeroy St. Mary the Virgin				
Upton Hellions St. Mary's				
Washford Pyne St. Peter's		Communion 11:15am		Matins 11:15am
Woolfardisworthy (Woolsery) St. Mary's				
Bow	Morning Prayer 10:30am		Communion 10:30am	
Clannaborough				Communion 9:30am

SUNDAY SERVICES ROTA JANUARY 2026	4th January Epiphany	11th January Baptism of Christ	18th January Epiphany	25th January Epiphany 3/ Conversion of Paul
Coldridge	Plough Sunday Service 10:30am	Morning Prayer 10:30am	Communion 10:30am	
Colebrooke	Communion 11am		Morning Prayer 9:30am	
Down St. Mary	Evensong 4pm	Communion 9am	Morning Prayer 10am	Morning Prayer 10am
Knowle	Communion 10am		Morning Prayer 10am	
Lapford		Morning Prayer 10:30am	Morning Prayer 9:30am	Communion 9:30am
Morchard Bishop	Morning Worship 10:30am	Communion with Baptism 10:30am	Family Service - 10:30am Joint Bible study at Emmanuel Church - 6pm	Morning Worship 10:30am
Nymet Rowland			Communion 9am	
Zeal Monachorum	Family Service 10am	Communion 6:30pm		Evensong 3pm
Shobrooke		Family service (Plough Sunday) 11am		Communion 11am
Yeoford		Communion 9:30am		Christingle 11:15am
Posbury	BCP Holy Communion 11am		BCP Holy Communion 11am	
Crediton	BCP Communion - 8am Celebrate at the Centre - 9:30am Evening Prayer - 6pm	BCP Communion - 8am Parish Communion - 9:30am	BCP Communion - 8am Parish Communion - 9:30am Baptism - 11:30am Sacred Space - 6pm	BCP Communion - 8am Parish Communion - 9:30am Compline - 6pm
St Lawrence Chapel		Evensong 6pm		

News from around the Team

News from Holy Cross, Crediton



Since I last wrote, the Crediton Church Christmas Tree Festival has taken place. Well over 4,000 people visited this year's Festival which is a wonderful illustration of the importance of this community event, as also shown by the two-page spread in the Crediton Courier. In financial terms, a fairly accurate estimate at this stage of the sum raised net of costs is in the region of £5,000. Thanks in considerable part are due to the Christmas Cracker Café team whose superb efforts were enjoyed and praised by visitors. Funds raised at the Christmas Tree Festival are vital in the maintenance of our beautiful church building. In addition, the concerts on Thursday and Saturday raised funds for Hospiscare, the Town Band and our choir. Many thanks to all the volunteers for all their hard work.

The two weeks following the Christmas Tree Festival have been focused on the local schools as we hosted a number of school Carol services at both Holy Cross and St Lawrence Chapel. On Friday 19

December, there was another of our churchyard giveaways as the school term ended at Haywards. There were Freddos, fruit, cakes and mince pies on offer together with a template to make a paper Angel and a JOY bookmark.

The Church Choir posted a message on their Facebook page every day during Advent. They were also selling raffle tickets to win a festive hamper with the proceeds going towards the cost of a choir trip in 2026 to sing at Truro Cathedral. Do take a look on their Facebook page even though Advent has passed - <https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossChoirCreditonDevon>

Details of services, events and all that Holy Cross has to offer can be found in the parish diary on our website – www.creditonparishchurch.org.uk

Washford Pyne

The sound of bells rang out for 3 hours, as a full peal attempt was completed at St Peter's on the morning of Friday 12th Dec. The ringers were all members of the Exeter Cathedral bell ringing team.

St Peter's held it's atmospheric Candlelit Carol Service on the 18th Dec, a very festive evening enjoyed by a good crowd who were very happy to stay and chat over their refreshments.

Grateful thanks to Matthew Tregenza for leading the service so well and all who ventured out to join us - over £300 was raised for Little Bridge House Childrens Hospice.

Thank you

Shobrooke

HUGE thank you to all who braved the weather, (18th Dec.) to pop by to our Open House in aid of the Princess Basma Centre for disabled children and their families from, The West Bank and Gaza. On the day £610 was collected with lots more pledges to come in. We hope to make the £1,000 mark, more details next month. The Winter newsletter will be available in early January, please email me, sandracollier57@gmail.com if you would like a copy emailed to you.

New Year blessings to you all, Steve & Sandra Collier

St Lawrence

Advent Reflections on the 3 Wednesday afternoons leading up to Christmas brought lively discussions and thought provoking and tranquil moments away from the busy world, a beautiful setting to escape.

The QE 6th Form Carol Service was packed to the rafters.

January 11th will commence the New Year at St Lawrence with Evening Prayer at 6pm. All Welcome.

Shobrooke

11th January Plough Sunday 11am service at, The Red Lion, tractors welcome. Bring n Share lunch afterwards.

25th January 11am Holy Communion at St Swithun's, Shobrooke

Wednesday 28th, 2pm Village Hall, an initial meeting to get the Friendly Club up and running once more. Do come and enjoy some tea & Cake and discussion.

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, COLDRIDGE



THE CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW
COLDRIDGE

We welcome you all to enjoy the peace, beauty and iconic location of our ancient and historic church. The church is open between 10:00am and 4:00pm each and every day. Guided visits are available on request. Please contact John Smith (Church Warden) at biggles1047@gmail.com or call 01363 83436 to make an appointment.

CHURCH TOWER ILLUMINATION: "LIGHTS ON @ ST MATTHEW'S"

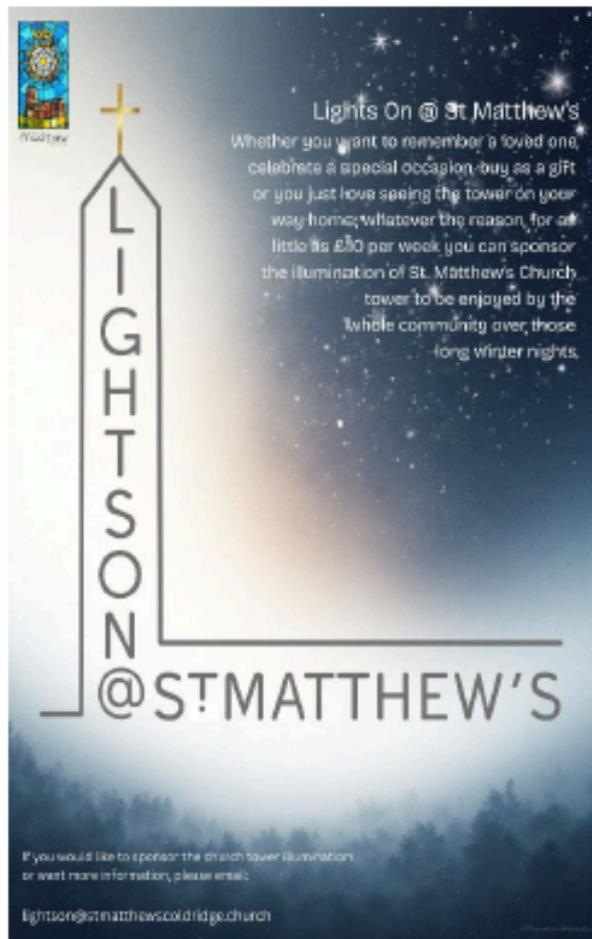
During the Winter season, our church tower is floodlit by public subscription. It is a beacon of welcome and warmth, visible for miles around. We hope that you all enjoy the spectacle.

You can choose to sponsor in memory of a loved one or of a

special occasion, such as a Birthday, Wedding Anniversary or any other occasion significant in your life.

So many tell us how welcoming it is to turn a corner on the road home and spot the tower, beautifully lit-up on the horizon. It tells you that you are safely returned to home, hearth, family and church.

The sponsorship, at just £10 per week, is designed simply to cover the direct cost of the lighting. In the unlikely event of any surplus money, it will be used to support the planned upgrades to church heating and lighting and the renovation of the bell tower through the medium of the Church Fabric Fund, or at the discretion of the sponsor.



Our Pattern of Worship for JANUARY 2026 is as follows:

Sunday, 4thth: PLOUGH SUNDAY: 10.30am: Led by Andrew Green, Churchwarden, Farmer and Tractor Conservator. A traditional, family-friendly service to bless the start of the new farming year, the land, the seeds and the machinery, and to pray for a good harvest and the health and happiness of all who tend the land and grow our food. All to be followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Monday, 5th: CHURCH CAFÉ at 2:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a happy hour or two of friendly chat and fellowship. It's a free Café. It's in the church and it's open to everyone and to any topic.

Sunday, 11th: MORNING PRAYER (Common Worship) at 10.30am: Lay Led. Again, to be followed by refreshments and fellowship

Sunday, 18thth: HOLY COMMUNION at 10.30am: According to Common Worship. Followed by refreshments.

SAVE THE DATE!

"Carved in Time - The Hidden History of St Matthew's".

Saturday, 21st March 2026

Continued.....

Place: St Matthew's Church, Coldridge

Times (all approximate and subject to confirmation):

Doors open for refreshments at 10.00am

First talk 11.00am

Lunch 12.30-2.15pm

Afternoon talk 2.15pm

Finish approx: 4.00pm

There will be Q&A sessions after each talk.

Price: Talks £10, Lunch extra (price to be confirmed)

Speakers: Hugh Harrison and Jo Cox

Email: events@stmatthewscoldridge.church

for more information

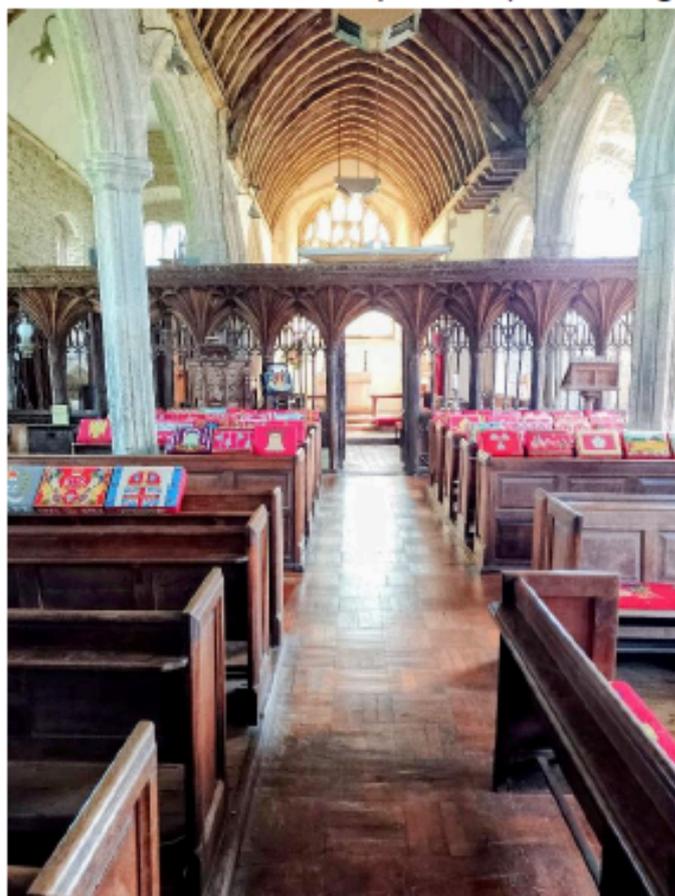
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS:

HUGH HARRISON:

- **Master craftsman and conservator**, trained in traditional carving at St Sidwell's Art Works, Exeter, later leading the firm's transition to museum-standard wood conservation in partnership with the V&A and the Courtauld Institute.
- **Responsible for major nationally and internationally significant projects**, including Washington National Cathedral, Hampton Court Palace, Southwark Cathedral and the Greek Cathedral in London.
- **Recognised authority on historic woodwork**, author, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, long-standing ICOMOS UK member, contributor to international conservation missions, and recipient of the John Betjeman Award for Conservation (2016).

JO COX:

- **Partner at Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants**, co-founder of the practice in 1989, specialising in detailed building analysis, hand-drawn records and Conservation Management Plans across a wide range of historic structures.
- **Extensive field and survey experience**, including work on the Accelerated Survey of Listed Buildings for the Department of the Environment and major projects such as Wells Bishop's Palace, SS *Great Britain*, Glastonbury Abbey, Corfe Castle and Exeter Cathedral.
- **Recognised specialist in church architecture and historic materials**, widely published, joint author of *Devon Thatch* (2001), with a career-long focus on careful observation, scholarship and collaborative learning.



*The Medieval splendour of St Matthew's.....
the subject and venue of these fascinating talks*

John W Smith (Churchwarden)

Colebrooke

Monthly Service Schedule

1st Sunday: Holy Communion Service at 11.00am

3rd Sunday: Morning Prayer Service at 09.30am



Additional Events

A Musical Evening ft Steve Turner and Helena
(Accordion and Violin) with other local musicians on
Saturday 28 February (TBC)

Church Contacts

Team Rector & Rural Dean

(Matthew's day off is Monday)

Revd Matthew Tregenza

01363 894038

matthew.tregenza@gmail.com



Team Vicar North Creedy East & Sandford

(Janet's day off is Friday)

Revd Janet May

01363 779363

janetmay69@gmail.com



Team Vicar North Creedy West

Vacant

Team Missioner

(Jeremy's day off is Saturday)

Revd Jeremy Putnam

07889 523766

jeremy.putnam@exeter.anglican.org



Licensed Lay Ministers

Mrs Antonia Tregenza

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Mrs Laura Armstrong

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**Focal Minister to
Shobrooke**

Revd Sandra Collier
01363 777013
sandracollier57@gmail.com



**North Creedy Team
Administrator**

Tiffany May
01363 779363
northcreedy1@gmail.com

Credtion Parish Administrator

Gill Lee
01363 773226
admin@creditonparishchurch.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING The North Creedy East with Sandford Mission

Community is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer(s), PSOs.

If you have a concern about the safety of someone or the actions of someone working with children or vulnerable adults, please speak to someone.

North Creedy East Mission Community Safeguarding Officer –

Mrs Linda Tonkin - 01363 866857

or The Diocesan Safeguarding Team

- <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-team/>

If you are a young person and you feel unhappy about something happening to you, you can call Childline on 0800 1111

Other useful phone numbers are:

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Devon Rape Crisis 01392 204174

Dear God,

Help us to be a church that loves, welcomes, protects, listens, learns, serves, repents, restores, transforms, values, cares, believes.

God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer.

Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.

In Jesus' name.

Amen