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December 2025 & January





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## From The Rectory

*"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'"* (Matthew 1:20-21)

I've just spent an hour re-arranging my office. I am not sure if I like the new arrangement yet, but it feels a little like a fresh start, a new way to look at things. My mind is toying with the possibilities. December and January are a time of new starts. Obviously, there is the ticking over to a new year, 2026, a chance to make resolutions to change, to do next year better than the last one. To start with a fresh slate (well maybe a fresher one!).

Christmas too is the celebration of a fresh new start. With the arrival of baby Jesus, God the Son come in human flesh, everything had shifted in the universe. God had arrived in his world. God was going to live with us, taste the life of joys and hopes; suffering and pain, that we all face. He would go so far as to taste that ultimate fear that we all face: death. Christmas is wonderful because it is an announcement that God cares and God has not left us alone. But not only that, it is the beginning of something even better. Jesus came on a mission. A mission he was named after:

*"... you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Jesus came on a mission to save us from our sins – to make

divine forgiveness for all our wrongdoing, all our guilt, all our shame, possible. It is the ultimate fresh new start – a new world opened through this gift of a reset of our lives. A gift made possible by Jesus, the man who was God, going as far as tasting death for us. The chorus of one of my favourite Christian songs, *Second Chance* by the Rend Collective, puts this amazing truth well:

*Oh Your cross, it changes everything  
There my world begins again with You  
Oh Your cross, it's where my hope restarts  
A second chance is Heaven's heart*

### St Peter's Church is closing (for a time!)

Another fresh start in January is the start of building work inside St Peter's to reorder the West End of the church and provide fresh modern facilities and larger meeting spaces. Our last service in the church will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and we hope to reopen the church in Summer 2026. In the meantime, the plan is that our main services will take place in North Tawton primary school. Other groups who meet in the church building will be meeting elsewhere – please do ask your group leader or look out for details in the Roundabout.

- David Spence

# Christmas Services 2025

## St Peter's North Tawton

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 6:30pm

\*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December Christingle Family Service 11am

\*Christmas Eve Nativity Service 4pm

\*Christmas Day Family Service with Communion 10am

*Do not fear.  
I bring  
GOOD NEWS  
of GREAT JOY  
for all people.*

*Luke 2:10*

## St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

\*Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Christingle Service 9:30am

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December Carols at the (New) Inn 6:30pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Late Night Communion 11:30pm

Christmas Day Communion 9:30am

## St James' Bondleigh

14<sup>th</sup> December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 4pm

Christmas Eve Late Night Communion 10pm

## St Mary's Honeychurch

21<sup>st</sup> December CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 3pm

\*all age service



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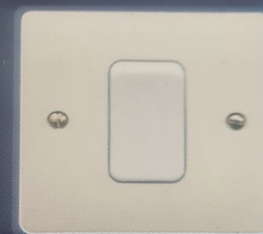
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# Midweek Communion

**St Peter's, North Tawton**

**12pm — 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

**North Tawton Community Centre**

**12pm — 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Please do join us for a traditional said communion service from the Prayer Book.

If you would like to talk to one of the team, please contact:



## North Tawton

Ken Bragg 01363 530673  
Jackie Tye 01837 880479

## Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154  
Lynn Robinson 07966 477465

## Bondleigh

Danny Semorad 07814 877151  
Lin Warre 01837 82089

# Roundabout

is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bondleigh and Honeychurch.

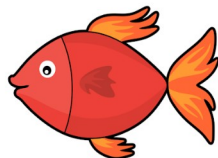
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Contributions should be sent by email to Ruth Smith at [nt.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:nt.roundabout@gmail.com) or at The Pottery, 5, The Square, North Tawton, EX20 2ER (tel. 07810 590954)

no later than noon on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication is required

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## LITTLE FISHES

Baby & Toddler Group

**Thursday Mornings (Inc. school holidays)**

**9am - 11am @ St Peter's North Tawton (Dec 2025)**

**North Tawton Town Hall (Jan-Jun 2026)**

Little Fishes provides a FREE, fun, safe space for children (aged 0-4) to play and make new friends whilst parents have a hot drink and a chat. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact Wez Cutler on 07540127827



## Tuesday Chat

**Drop in anytime between  
10.30 a.m. – 12 noon  
in the Mortimer Room at  
St. Peter's Church**

**2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month:**

**9th December, but not on the 23rd.**

After Christmas we will be in the community centre whilst the church is closed, starting on 27th January.

**For more information contact**

**Jo Fear 01837 82553**

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*(There is no Be Still in December)*



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# NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Caroline Ellis  
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[deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10.30 a.m.- 2.30 p.m.  
*The Office will be closed from 22<sup>nd</sup> December to the 5<sup>th</sup> January.*

## 'Tis the Season

As many of us turn our thoughts towards Christmas, here at the Town Council Office we are busy working on the Christmas community events we have scheduled. From mid-November, for £1, you can make a donation to enter the Christmas Lights Competition, to win the very important role of switching on the lights. The winner will be announced at the Town Council office on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.15pm, just before the start of December's Full Council Meeting. Prizes include donations from local businesses and all the pubs. We would like to thank them for their kind donations. We would also like to thank Councillor Jen Palfrey, and Councillor Sarah McKnight, for all their hard work on our Christmas celebrations and for overseeing and arranging the Christmas lights, which made their first appearance last year. Our Town Clerk was successful in securing a grant to cover last year's cost. They were enjoyed by so many in the town, and this year's display promises to be even better!

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December, the 'Christmas Lights Grand Switch On' event will take place. The day will start off with a Santa Run, at the school from 11am. FONTS Christmas Fayre will be held at St Peter's Church from 1pm-3pm, and Tawlands Christmas Fayre will be in the Town Hall from 2pm-4pm. This year, we will also be doing Memory Stars, which will be hung on the Christmas tree in the Town Council Office. As we are keen to listen to residents in the Town, this year, the lights will be on timers to minimise environmental impact, and will light up The Square each evening. We can't wait to see it all. Please do give feedback to us on how this years lights are.

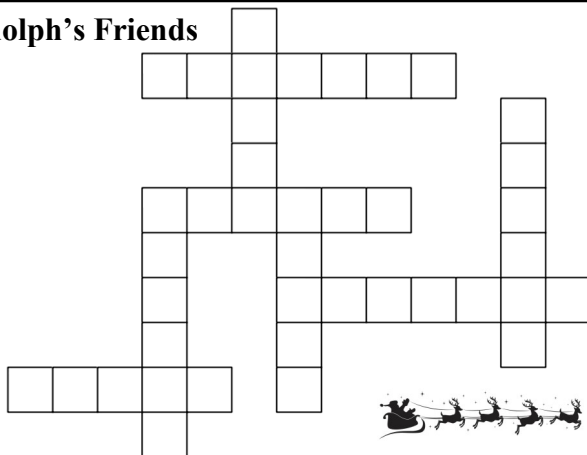
In The Square, there will be carol singers, the Town Crier, the Café, Barzotelli's Gelato and EcoMojo will all be open, and Mulled wine will be available and supplied by from The Fountain Inn, and around 5.30pm, there just might be a visit from our Very Special Guest. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 6pm. It's going to be an eventful day!

It is important to remember that for some, Christmas, and this time of year, can be particularly difficult. The residents here in North Tawton look out for each other and bring real community spirit to the town. So, however you are celebrating, be it Christmas, Yule, Bodhi Day, or Hanukkah, to non-religious celebrations with friends and families, the North Tawton Town Council Team wish you all a very joyful season, and a very Happy New Year.

The "Getting Ready for Christmas" event in St. Peter's Church was advertised last month to start at 5.15 p.m.. This has been changed to start at **6.30 p.m.** immediately following the Town Council's event to light up Christmas in the Square. The music in the church will also be light in character, from carols to red nose reindeer and having lit up the Square we hope folk will come with their families for an hour of music in a relaxed atmosphere, to join in singing if you wish or else just to listen to the fun.



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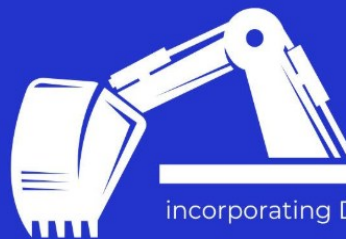
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## Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

It's got me thinking. Devon Federation of W.I.s is putting on a writing competition. They want us to write a short story entitled 'Childhood Memories'. And it's got me thinking. And remembering. And I started to wonder about the naughtiest thing I ever did as a child. And – more importantly – the naughtiest thing that husband ever did as a child. Me first.

It feels like it could have happened only yesterday. My mum is standing at the kitchen sink, looking through the window, watching me, and wagging a finger at me as if to say 'don't you DARE do what I think you're about to do'. And I did it. I slowly started unwinding the washing line from where it was attached to one of the supporting poles. The washing line that was full of freshly washed laundry. It was never going to end well. It was all over so quickly. Suddenly, the weight of the wet washing whipped the line out of my fingers and – somehow – gravity got involved. In other words, the freshly laundered laundry – still carefully pegged to the line – was beautifully draped over the grass and assorted vegetables. At this point I was going to write 'oops' but I don't think 'oops' quite gives the situation, I then found myself in, enough impact.

Bronwen Stephens-Harding, our November speaker, started her talk with childhood memories. Having grown up surrounded by her musical family she declared, at the tender age of five, that she wanted to be an opera singer. Following years of working in corporate marketing, busking on the London Underground, choral and opera singing plus studying singing as well, she founded Rogue Opera in 2018, with the idea of sharing her passion with new audiences and finding more intimate venues for their performances. Bronwen, and her team of artistes, chose Carmen as their inaugural performance with Bronwen taking the title role and also directing the production. She loved it. This was followed by a very successful contemporary re-imagining of Don Giovanni in 2019. Then Covid arrived and everything had to change - Bronwen set up online streaming performances which involved dealing with a lot of unfamiliar technology – it was a huge relief to go back to live performances eventually but with nervous audiences she started putting on outdoor events to avoid crowded indoor venues. Apart from performing in traditional spaces, Bronwen is keen to take Rogue Opera into schools and even do pop-up performances in shopping centres and parks – any venue is a possibility!

And then – what an absolute treat and privilege it was, to see and hear Bronwen transform herself into Carmen and sing the Habanera. With the simple addition of a rose in her hair and a scarf tied around her waist, she became Carmen. Her voice, movements and facial expressions were spellbinding. But there was more to come – Bronwen sang Home Sweet Home, which was originally made famous by fellow Australian Dame Nellie Melba, a beautiful, emotional rendition. Bronwen's final song was taken from the opera Orpheus and Eurydice – Che Faro Senza Euridice – which translates as What Will I Do Without Eurydice? And it was fabulous. Questions followed and Bronwen shared how she looks after her voice – lots of sleep, lots of water and minimal alcohol – she also shared a dream of singing at Carnegie Hall one day or even closing down Grand Central Station, New York [temporarily of course] and singing there. Why not??!

Did you just ask what we're doing? Well – not only are we signing up for our annual trip to Clarks village, the Theatre Royal Plymouth Panto, a tour of the Devon and Exeter Institute, our carol service at Exeter cathedral and various lunches, we are also heading down to Tavistock to raid a flapjack factory, sailing up the River Exe estuary in pursuit of wildlife and planning another Produce Show so we can show off our crafting, baking and floristry skills. And there's more – we've got woodworking skills to learn, Xmas baubles and stars to make and skittles to knock down. There's so much going on I haven't got time to sit here telling you about husband's naughtiest childhood memory but I know he would be severely disappointed if I didn't. And when he confessed it to me I looked at him and said 'you're not the man I married – if I'd known you were capable of such a deed I would never have said I do'. Let me set the scene.

He was four years old. He loved digging. He snuck into his Auntie Greta's garden and, with his bare hands, he pulled up every single cabbage plant that she had just finished planting.

Seriously. That's it. That's the naughtiest thing he ever did.

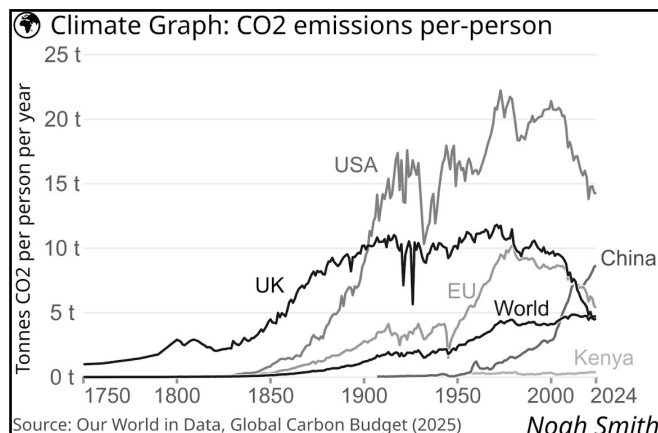
Oh – the shame.

- Sue Knott

### BONDLEIGH RAINFALL

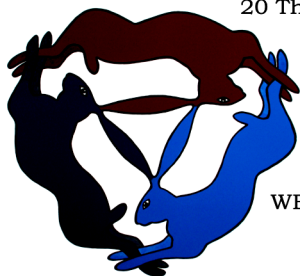
The total rainfall in October was 96.7mm which is a fairly average amount for the month. However, it was another month in two halves. The first half was mostly dry, but from the 18<sup>th</sup> it rained every day. This is continuing into November, but still very mild. Global warming is certainly affecting our temperatures. Will this mean another mild Winter?

- Danny Semorad



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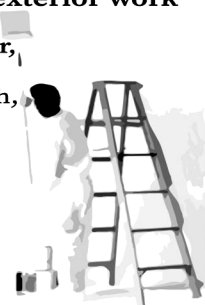
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## Okehampton and District Local History Society Talks:

Alan Endacott

### *'The Prehistoric Ritual Landscape of North-eastern Dartmoor Project'.*

7.30 pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Ockment Centre, Okehampton  
All Welcome. Visitors £3.00.

Alan will be giving an update on his research findings, including the excavations of the two 'new' stone circles near Taw Marsh. Alan is well known locally, having lived all his life in this area. He is a PhD researcher with the University of Exeter, as well as the founder Curator of the Museum of Dartmoor Life, Okehampton.

## BOW & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Jenny Bennett "The Exe Through Time"

7.15 for 7.30pm Monday 26 January 2026

Bow Village Hall, EX17 6HU  
Everyone welcome: Visitors £5  
Annual Membership £15.  
Enquiries 01363 82468

## NORTH TAWTON- 'PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE'

A community history of our town with pictures and including the words of several local residents and schoolchildren has just been published.

Copies of the book – an ideal stocking-filler – can be purchased (£7) from local sales outlets or directly from the author, Alan Parkinson, on 01837 880497 or email: [alanfrancisparkinson@gmail.com](mailto:alanfrancisparkinson@gmail.com)

The author will also be signing copies of this book at the town's **Cafe in the Square** on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30 am.**



## The Journey of the Magi

T. S. Eliot (1888 – 1965)

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
and running away,  
and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out,  
and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill  
beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly  
We had evidence and no doubt.  
I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different;  
This Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us,  
like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

1927

*Poetry column co-ordinated by Kate Thompson  
We invite you to send in suggestions of poems that particularly move you, or poetry you have written yourself, to [nt.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:nt.roundabout@gmail.com).*

the **Samuel Beckett** omnibus

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Living Room Theatre presents  
**The End is in the Beginning**  
performed by Philip Robinson (*Washing Machine Of Destiny/Every Brilliant Thing*) and Sarah White (*Four Of Swords*) directed by Nikki Svéd (*Theatre Alibi*)

tickets from **ECOMOJO** in North Tawton or call Amanda 079 4038 4038 for reservations  
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for a 60 second video about the show


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These workshops are for beginners and the more experienced. The intention is to demystify and to inspire confidence with watercolours, combining Chinese brush techniques with traditional materials.

If you would like to try this form of painting come along to one, two or more sessions and enjoy painting!



**Winkleigh Community Centre**  
Fridays 10.00 - 12.00 a.m  
12 December  
23 January  
20 February.

**Coldridge Village Hall**  
Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.  
4 December  
15 January  
12 February

All materials and equipment will be supplied  
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**Interested?**  
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Call Mary on 07758 653201 or email [mary@marymoult.net](mailto:mary@marymoult.net)



**CHRISTMAS GATHERING & OPEN MIC**

**10TH DECEMBER**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH**  
**NORTH TAWTON**

Sign ups from 7PM - Music from 7:30PM  
Mulled wine and mince pies!

**RED MUD ARTS**

**NICHOLS NYMET HOUSE**

**ANNUAL CHARITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Friday 5th December 2025  
at 7.30pm

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER CHAPEL CHOIR**  
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**CHRISTMAS READINGS BY**  
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An evening full of Christmas music, home made sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine with a Christmas raffle.

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Nichols Nymet House, North Tawton, Devon EX20 2BP

## THE ART BOX – Dec 2025 & Jan 2026

In association with Ruth Smith Gallery and Red Mud Arts. If you would like to contribute, please send to Ruth at [ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk](mailto:ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk)



Our Christmas Gathering will be an Open Mic Night special at St Peter's Church with mulled wine and mince pies 7.30 on Wednesday 10th December. Come for creative catch up and some Christmas numbers!

Things are coming together for The Smocked Building Project. In January New York based artist Annie Coggan is coming to create a huge textile art installation which will cover the façade of Ruth Smith Gallery in the Square, North Tawton from 16th January for a month. It uses the traditional technique of smocking, which is a process of pinching fabric at regular intervals to create patterns of folds.

Annie will be leading two workshops at the Community Centre, 2-4pm on 11th & 17th January, with Exeter/Berlin based artist, Sam Godfrey, who was here at the gallery for an Art Residency last October. Sam is working on a short film which will be screened at the workshops, and in the gallery window, showing archival imagery of farming smocks.

Get your tickets now for the Smocking Workshops at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/red-mud-arts>.

Also in January, we have our first Portrait Session, 10am-1pm on 17th January, which will hopefully become a regular feature on the third Saturday of the month. Get in touch with [shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk](mailto:shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk) if you're interested in coming along!

### Red Mud Arts dates for your diary:

Artists' Critique Group: Second Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm at Ruth Smith Gallery, North Tawton. Email [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com).

Open Mic Night: Second Wednesday of the month, music from 7.30. Christmas Special Art Gathering on Wednesday 10th December at St Peter's Church, North Tawton. Find out more on the Facebook group.

Life Drawing: Last Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm at the Community Centre, North Tawton. Email [ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com](mailto:ruth.helen.smith@outlook.com).

Portrait Sessions: Third Saturday of the month, starting 10am-1pm 17th January at the Community Centre, email [shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk](mailto:shelley@shelleysaxonunmasked.co.uk).

Smocked Building Project: Workshops 2-4pm Sunday 11th January & 2-4pm Saturday 17th January.

Art Installation, façade of Ruth Smith Gallery, 16th January - 15th February 2026

Join our mailing list to hear about upcoming gatherings, talks and workshops at [redmudarts@gmail.com](mailto:redmudarts@gmail.com)





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## News from North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery



As I write this, many of our Year 5 and 6 children have just returned from an inter-school cross-country run at Castle Drogo. They all did brilliantly and had a great time. We were treated to a rare break in the rain too, with some beautiful autumn sunshine for the event. How lucky we are to have such amazing places on our doorstep.

Our next run however will be through the town rather than across country! The Santa Fun Run – or walk, or gentle dawdle – will be held on the morning of December 7<sup>th</sup>, starting and finishing at the school. It will be my first time, and I'm very much looking forward to donning the Santa suit... and perhaps even more to the refreshments waiting at the school afterwards!

Sunday the 7th is a full day of festive fun in North Tawton as the town marks the start of the Christmas season. Our school Christmas Fair will take place in **St Peter's Church**, from 1pm and we'd love to see you there. The children are working hard on items for the stalls, and there will be festive fun, seasonal treats and carols! Please do come along.

A huge thank you is due to the wonderful Friends of North Tawton (FONTS), who do so much for the school, especially at this time of year. Thanks to them, the whole school will be heading to the pantomime at the Northcote Theatre in Exeter, and they are organising the Santa Run and the Christmas Fair. We're incredibly grateful to all the parents who give their time and talents for the benefit of our children and our school community.

The Christmas term is always a magical (if occasionally exhausting!) time in primary schools. The children's growing excitement is channelled into lots of lovely traditions while teachers work hard to make sure great learning continues every day as well.

This year our Early Years children will perform a Christmas concert for their families. Years 1, 2 and 3 are busy learning lines and songs for our Nativity – *The Great Bethlehem Bake Off!* Year 6 is preparing for the Christkindl Service in the church. We'll wear Christmas jumpers for Christmas dinner and have a whole-school festive sing-along on with families to finish off the term. And of course, everyone and everything will be covered in glitter!

From everyone at North Tawton Community Primary School and Nursery, we hope you have a very happy Christmas. Thank you for your support this year and we look forward to keeping you updated with our news in 2026.

Mrs Clare Vincent, Headteacher



**Take Note**  
A Community Choir

### Feel Good Family Christmas Concert

with Take Note Community Choir


DECEMBER | DOORS OPEN | FREE  
**12th** | **6:45pm** | **Entry**  
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## NTRFC FIXTURES 2025/2026

### SEPTEMBER

6TH TBC (H)  
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20TH SIDMOUTH II (A)

### OCTOBER

4TH TIVERTON II (A)  
11TH CULLOMPTON II (H)  
(VP LUNCH)  
25TH OKEHAMPTON II (A)

### NOVEMBER

8TH EXETER ATHLETIC (H)  
(PAST PLAYERS LUNCH)  
22ND EXMOUTH II (A)  
28TH EXETER ENGINEERS (H)

### DECEMBER

6TH NEWTON ABBOT II (A)  
13TH NEW CROSS (H)

### JANUARY

10TH CULLOMPTON II (A)  
16TH OKEHAMPTON II (H)  
24TH EXETER ATHLETIC (A)

### FEBRUARY

14TH EXMOUTH II (H)  
28TH EXETER ENGINEERS (A)

### MARCH

7TH NEWTON ABBOT II (H)  
21ST NEW CROSS (A)

### APRIL

11TH SIDMOUTH II (H)  
(SPONSORS LUNCH)  
18TH TIVERTON II (H)



This month's colouring-in page is based on a photo by Ruth Helen Smith.  
If you would like to contribute a drawing, please email it in to [nt.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:nt.roundabout@gmail.com). Happy colouring!

## Christmas Tea Party

3pm - 4.30pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

### **Sampford Courtenay Church Rooms**

You are all invited to a **Christmas Tea Party** with tea, mince pies & cake and good old fashioned party games from your childhood.



There will be a **HAMPER RAFFLE** in aid of **CHURCH FUNDS**; plus an ideal opportunity to share some Christmas Spirit with friends and neighbours

**Put the date in your diary now!**



## Christmas in Bondleigh

### Christmas Coffee Morning at St James' Church - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am

Enter the Christmas spirit and come along to our beautifully decorated Church to catch up with friends and neighbours whilst enjoying a coffee and mince pie or cake.

We will have a variety of stalls including Christmas floral decorations, cakes and the Church Wardens' bric-a-brac stall offering a variety of goodies to tempt you all. Lin will be running her Christmas draw with lots of delightful prizes to be won.

### Christmas Carol Service at St James' Church - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm

With Christmas just over a week away, Sampford Courtenay Choir and members of the Bondleigh Barn Band will be joining us to "set the scene" for the festive season. Tea and mince pies will be served following the service.

### Christmas Eve Service at St James' Church - 10.00pm

We welcome you to join our late night service, if you feel that midnight is a little late for you!



## **Carols at the Inn**

**Tuesday 9th December  
6.30pm**



### **The New Inn**

Sampford Courtenay

*Come and sing your favourite carols  
(to live music)  
as we follow the story of the birth of Jesus*

**Mince pies. Raffle**

In aid of Children's Hospice Southwest



Sampford Courtenay

Advent Window Trail December 2025



We will be running our "Advent Windows" again this December. If you live in Sampford Courtenay Village, and have a window or garden visible from the road and would like to take part - please contact Marion 01837 82285 or [marion174@btinternet.com](mailto:marion174@btinternet.com)



***Come share the light***

***9.30am Sunday 7th December***

***St Andrew's Church***

***Sampford Courtenay***





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## SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

TABLE TENNIS Weekly, ring 01837 851659 for details

FLOWER CLUB 2nd Monday of every month 2.30pm

SKITTLES 3rd Wednesday of every month 7pm

### OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Silent Movie: The Kid (Charlie Chaplin) - 7pm Wednesday 26th November

Indonesian Pop-up Event 6.30pm to 9pm Friday 28th November

Christmas Sparkle and film (Miracle on 34th Street) 2.30pm Saturday 6th December

Skittles 7pm Wednesday 7th January (NB change of day)

Community lunch - 12.30pm Tuesday 13th January

AGM 7pm Wednesday 14th January

Film night- Driving Miss Daisy 7pm Friday 16th January

Diving for Pearls 7pm Saturday 24th January

*Please see separate adverts in Roundabout or visit [sampfordcourtenayvillagehall.co.uk](http://sampfordcourtenayvillagehall.co.uk) and Facebook for more details of all events.*

## Exbourne Village Hall

Our next event will be a **Skittles Evening** on Friday 5th December at 7.30pm. This is a fun sociable event for all abilities. £2 per person for hall funds. BYOB. Tea and coffee available.

There will be another **Board Games** evening on Saturday January 17th 2026 at 7.30pm. Try something new from the selection available or bring your own favourite.

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall  
Management Committee  
[Annual General Meeting](#)

Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.00pm  
At Sampford Courtenay Village Hall  
Come along to find out more about our Hall management this year.  
All welcome.



### **DIVING FOR PEARLS**

ANOTHER GREAT EVENING OF MUSIC AND  
DANCE TO BLAST AWAY THE JANUARY BLUES!

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall  
Saturday 24th January 2026  
doors open at 7.00pm  
music from 7.30pm

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £10.00  
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### **CHRISTMAS SPARKLE!**

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall  
Saturday 6th December at 2.30pm

Join the Village Hall Trustees for free...  
Mulled wine, mulled apple juice, Tea/ coffee,  
mince pies and Christmas carols.

Followed by a showing of the film  
'Miracle on 34th Street' - £3

Wear your Christmas sparkles and bring a  
Christmas mug! Help decorate the Christmas tree.  
Come along to join friends and neighbours to get in  
the Christmas Spirit.



### **Skittles evening**

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall  
Wednesday 7th January  
7pm

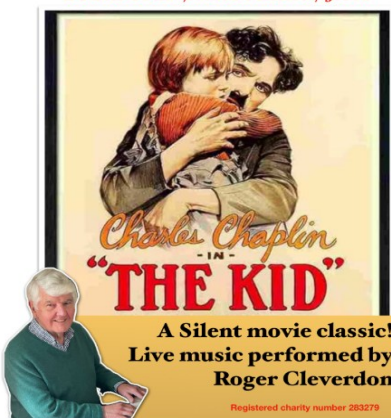
**£2 entrance**

Bar and snacks available

All welcome



SILENT MOVIE NIGHT  
SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL  
Wednesday 26th November  
DOORS OPEN 7.00PM STARTS 7.30PM



TICKETS £7.50  
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SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL  
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025  
DOORS OPEN 2.30 PM STARTS 3.00 PM



TICKETS £3.00  
Book via email: [secretaryvhsc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryvhsc@gmail.com)  
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SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL FILM NIGHT  
Friday 16th January 2026  
DOORS OPEN 7.00 PM STARTS 7.30 PM



TICKETS £6.00  
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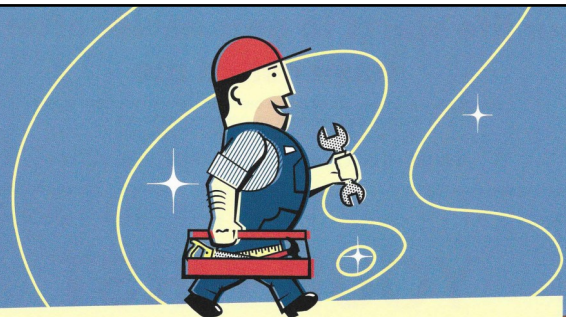
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## **Announcement from Blueberry Hill**

Dear all,

Our beautiful local market garden is in need of a team of enthusiastic participants to return it to its full potential!

For many years, I have managed Blueberry Hill by myself at a very basic level, with some help from hired labour and kind volunteers such as Nicola King, who still does much of the pricking out. In order for the garden to thrive though, it really needs a larger number of people to be involved in running it.

For those of you who haven't yet seen the garden and would like to, we invite you to visit. It is a tranquil retreat, surrounded by fields and birdsong, and it has all the necessary infrastructure for growing a large amount of healthy produce for the local community, including 2 polytunnels, 1 net tunnel, 1 large greenhouse and 2 sheds. There are low raised beds and mature fruits trees and bushes too. The potential in our small piece of paradise is huge; it just needs some T.L.C. to get it back into shape!

Local gardener Sophie McIntosh has recently volunteered to take this project forward and we keenly await some like-minded gardening companions to join us. We have recently sought support from an agricultural advisor working for Business Information Point and are feeling inspired about bringing the market garden back to its former glory (and beyond - with new ideas for sustainable ways of expanding and diversifying the business).

If you enjoy being outdoors, are interested in growing vegetables, fruit and/or flowers, have some spare time, and would like to join with us, we would love to hear

from you! This could be a way of getting some fun exercise, meeting new people, utilising your growing or carpentry/building skills, having some quiet "you" time, or learning more about health and producing your own delicious food. It can be what you make of it.

Everyone is welcome if they are enthusiastic, conscientious and honest, as these are the most important qualities for this to succeed. The site is unfortunately not well-suited to people with mobility issues, but we will welcome input, ideas and skills outside of physical work down the line too, such as creative design ideas, flower arranging, relevant research and marketing etc.

For answers to any questions, or to receive further information, please email [blueberryjacqui@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blueberryjacqui@hotmail.co.uk) or [sophie.mc@hotmail.com](mailto:sophie.mc@hotmail.com), or text/WhatsApp/ring Jacqui on 07932 083623 or Sophie on 07754 987282.

Kind Regards,

Jacqui



**A space to meet people, have a coffee (or tea!) and get broken things mended**

### **North Tawton Repair Café**

North Tawton Repair Café would like to thank everyone that comes along to our events – it makes us all happy when we can fix something that would otherwise be thrown away. Did you know that you don't have to have anything to fix in order to come along? We will be open on the dates below, and always have hot drinks available, and often soup, so please just pop along for a cuppa and a chat – we love meeting new people!

We are also now able to offer repairs to computers and to bikes. Bikes must be booked in – please drop us a message on Facebook, or call Ruth 01837 82207.

**13<sup>th</sup> December – 10am to 12.30**

**10<sup>th</sup> January – 10am to 12.30**

**At the Community Centre, Barton Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HN.**

For more information go to <https://fb.me/NTRepairCafe>



### **North Tawton Library of Things**

Join for £5 a year and borrow any of the items we have in the library for free.

Open 5.30-6.30 every Thursday, in the Chapel of Rest.  
Not open 25th December

You can join online or with a paper form (available in the Post Office).

Our library includes household tools, gardening equipment, beer and wine glasses, hoover and carpet cleaners, prams, travel cots, pet carriers, food dehydrator, dehumidifier and craft equipment! Why not pop along and have a look?

[www.northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/](http://www.northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/)

We also have a mini scrapstore – come and take away some new craft materials and see what you can create! (The scrapstore will also be at the Repair Café for you to have a rummage).

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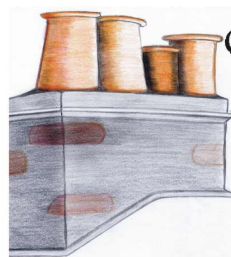
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## Little Seedlings Playgroup

North Tawton Primary  
School Hall

Every Tuesday during term-time  
9 - 11 a.m.

For babies & toddlers 0 - 4 yrs  
Admission £2 per family  
payable at the door

## QUAKERS

Ockment Centre

North Street

Okehampton

EX20 1AR

Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

*All visitors welcome*

## Devon Sensory Outreach Service

NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Free, confidential and impartial service for people  
with hearing and or/visual impairment provided by the  
Sensory Team, Devon County Council.

Available on the third Thursday of each month in  
North Tawton Community Centre,

Barton Street.

10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

For further information contact:

Care Direct 0345 155 1007 or 07966 596881

## Badminton Club

North Tawton Town Hall

All levels

Beginners welcome

Ring Andrew on

07950373103



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAN YOU HELP FOR A FEW HOURS?

SHOP, BARISTA, COOKING, POST OFFICE

(TRAINING GIVEN)

01837 851928

SHOP@THEUNDERGROUNDSHOP.CO.UK

## NORTH STREET CHAPEL SEWING CLUB

(also knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc.)

For further information contact  
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or  
[charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com)

6.30-9pm

8th December

12th & 26th January

## Sampford Courtenay Flower Club



2.30pm 8th December

Pat Penno

Pedestals, Traditional & Modern,  
Demonstration

12.30pm 19th January 2026

Annual Lunch - Tom Cobley

For more information contact the Chairman,  
Anne Gordon on 07824 549056.



## The Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

meets on the third Saturday of the month at The Cop-  
per Key, Fore Street, North Tawton, For 10 a.m.  
We are open to all Armed Forces and Reservist Veter-  
ans of all three Services.

For more information contact Ian on 07879 881159



# DARTMOOR AUCTIONS

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[www.dartmoorauctions.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorauctions.co.uk)



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# Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council held their last meeting of the Year on 5th November.

The Council were pleased to hear from DCC Councillor Sue Davies on the Local Government reorganisation plans that will be submitted to the Government on 28th November 2025 and we should expect feedback and further consultation in January/February 2026. In the meantime looking at how Parish and Town Councils can work more closely together a Cluster of local Councils held their first meeting in October to discuss matters effecting the wider communities in West Devon. The next meeting is to be Hosted by Sampford Courtenay in January 2026.

Concerns were raised in the Planning section of the meeting regarding the scrutiny and oversight of Planning and Enforcement Policies implemented by West Devon Borough Council. These matters are to be taken up with the Planning Officer and the lead for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

Our Footpath lead Cllr Carpenter was pleased to advise that work is well underway for the upgrade on the footpath leading down the Waterpath and onto the Village Green we will have a celebration in the new year to officially open the path that will provide much improved accessibility onto the green all year round. Future discussion will then take place on the upgrade of the equipment on the green.

An advert has been published for a new Parish Clerk details are on the website or you can contact Cllr Carpenter by email at [cllr.carpenter.scpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.carpenter.scpc@gmail.com)

To thank everyone for their support throughout the year the Parish Council would like to invite people to come and join them on 5th December at 18:30 in Sampford Courtenay Square for the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree followed by carols and refreshments in the Church Rooms.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 21st January 2026 all welcome.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Christmas Message from the Chair** - Thank you for your support throughout the year. As we approach the festive period I have been reflecting that this can be a very difficult time for some and I hope that people would take the time to think of others and remember the fantastic community spirit we have within the Parish. Maybe enter into the spirit of Christmas and consider delivering an act of kindness on every day of advent. The smallest gesture can mean so much to some.

At this time of year becoming involved in spreading kindness, joy and good will costs nothing, and for those that believe will definitely put you on Santa's 'Nice list'!



## Free Farm Support Available

Farmers in Devon can now access free, one-to-one support through the Agri Innovation & Support Programme. Local agricultural advisors provide tailored advice on everything from business planning and funding to soil health, infrastructure, and innovation.

Two types of support are available:

- Agri Innovation Support – for farmers in Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon
- Farm Business Support – for farmers in East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge

Find out more at [businessinfopoint.co.uk/agri-innovation-support](https://businessinfopoint.co.uk/agri-innovation-support) or call 01837 659 059.

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### North Tawton Community Centre

Barton Street

Call Mark: 01837 82608

### Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Available to hire for activities, clubs, meetings, talks, weddings, parties, shows etc. Our hall is freshly decorated, bright and has wonderful country views from a large outside area with picnic tables.

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Joy Tucker 07749 522996

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Secretary: Lin 01837 880031

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Open Thursday through to Friday 10am to 3pm

Saturday 10am to 2pm

Find us on FaceBook, instagram and TikTok.

For bookings please call 07701260091

### Guides Christmas Coffee Morning

10am Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Town Hall

Various stalls including homemade cakes, Christmas, draw, hamper, tombola and refreshments.

Limited table tops available (no food or draws)

@£5.00 contact 89160 to see availability. Proceeds for Guide funds.

### British Legion Coffee Morning

All proceeds for the Poppy Appeal

10am Saturday 22nd November

Town Hall

Draw, Legion merchandise, cakes, tea and coffee available.

If there is anyone interested in joining the North Tawton British Legion please come along and have a chat.

### The Guide Christmas Post

will be running again this year from 1st-23rd December.

The Post Box will be in the chemist in North Tawton until 12pm on 23rd.

25p per card.

Please name and address the cards clearly especially for The Beeches.

We deliver to North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay and Bondleigh only.

The delivery boundaries are Stone Cross, Staddon House, Fernhill, Sampford Chapple crossroads, Sampford Station. Bondleigh boundaries - Council houses, Mill Farm, unable to do Copse Hill Lane. We can deliver to Honeychurch but that would only be on 23rd December. We are unable to deliver outside of these areas.

### Football Club Quiz

7pm for 7.30pm, Saturday 22nd November

Town Hall

Maximum of 6 people per team.

£3 per person. Bar, tea & coffee available.

All proceeds for the clubhouse fund.

## North Tawton Town Council Emergency Plan



### Emergency Plan:

Do you live locally and have a specialist skill that would be of use to the community during an emergency?

Mechanics, electricians, health care workers, animal care workers, child minders etc. could all be of help if ever we need to activate our Community Emergency Plan.

If you can help and would like to volunteer, please contact the Deputy Clerk on: 01837 880121, or email: [deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

### Vulnerable Persons List:

If you would like to be identified as a Vulnerable Person for the purpose of assistance during an emergency situation, please let us know. Your information will be held securely, and confidentially by the Town Clerk, in accordance with data protection laws, and would only be used for the purpose of getting additional help and support to you during an emergency situation. Please contact the Town Clerk on:

01837 880121, or email: [townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Den Brook Community Fund

The Den Brook Community Fund invites Charities, Community Groups and Not-for-Profit organisations who are based in the parishes listed below, to apply for grants which will provide some assistance towards meeting the costs of new Capital Projects.

The deadline for receipt of applications for this round of funding is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

**The Committee will only consider applications made on the latest version of the form available on request from the e-mail address below.**

As a guide, the total amounts available to cover the current round are likely to be –

Bow - £29,000  
North Tawton - £10,600  
South Tawton - £7,000  
Spreyton £2,000  
Zeal Monachorum - £7,000

An “Easy Guide”, Full Terms and Conditions and our new Application Form are available by e-mail from [denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com)

*The Den Brook Community Fund is administered by representatives of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton, & Zeal Monachorum Town and Parish Councils.*

## The Food Bank & Community Fridge

Drop off all day in St Peter's Church porch

Also at:

At The Merry Go Round on Market Street

Opening times are:

### School Term Time

Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm & Sat:  
10am - 1pm

### School Holidays

Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm & Sat:  
10am - 1pm



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# The Whiddon Mission Community

North Tawton, Bondleigh, Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch  
Chagford, Crockernwell, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Hittisleigh, Murchington,  
South Tawton, South Zeal, Spreyton, Throwleigh, Whiddon Down.

**TEAM VICAR:** North Tawton

**TEAM RECTOR:** Chagford

**ASSISTANT MINISTERS:**

**Rev'd. Dr. David Spence** (01837 89243) revdspence@gmail.com

**Bishop Nick McKinnel** nick.mckinnel@gmail.com

**Rev'd. Rita Bullworthy** (01837 89168) ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk

**Rev'd Joe Moesel** (07470 297287) jsmoesel@outlook.com

**CURATE:** Chagford

**PARISH WORKER:** North Tawton

**Rev'd. Dr. Harriet Every** (01647 432402)

**Mr. Wesley Cutler** (07540 127827) wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

## CHURCH WARDENS

**St. Peter's** North Tawton

**St. James's** Bondleigh

**St. Andrew's** Sampford Courtenay

**St. Mary's** Honeychurch

**Mr. Paul Andrews** (01837 82648)

**Mr. Danny Semorad** (07814 877151)

**Mr. Rory Robinson** (07811 324154)

**Mr. Ray Squire**

**Mrs. Dinah Williams** (07944 428195)

**Mr. Graham Stokes** (01837 82240)

**Mr. Richard Weeks** (07790 636920)

Church web page address:

[www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/](http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/)

## Services at St. Andrew's Church Sampford Courtenay

7th Dec 9.30am Christingle  
14th Dec 9.30am Communion  
21st Dec 6.30pm Carol Service  
24th Dec 11.30pm Late Night Communion  
25th 9.30am Christmas Communion  
28th Dec 9.30am Communion  
4th Jan 9.30 Morning Worship  
11th Jan Communion  
18th Jan 6pm Choral Evensong  
25th Jan 9.30am Communion

## Services at St. Peter's Church North Tawton

7th Dec 11am Morning Worship  
14th Dec 11am Informal Communion  
6.30pm Carol Service  
21st Dec 11am Christingle Family Service  
24th Dec 4pm Christmas Eve Nativity  
25th Dec 10am Christmas Family Communion  
28th Dec 11am Traditional Communion  
4th Jan 11am Morning Worship  
11th Jan 11am Informal Communion  
18th Jan 11am Family Service  
25th Jan 9.30am Toast Church  
11am Traditional Communion

## Services at St. James's Church Bondleigh

7th Dec 9.30am Communion  
14th Dec 4pm Carol Service  
24th Dec 10pm Late Night Communion  
4th Jan 9.30 Communion  
18th Jan 9.30am Communion

## North Street Chapel Sundays

Dec 7 th 11am - Special service with Lloyd Kimber  
Dec 14 th 11am - Breaking of Bread  
Dec 21st 3pm - Carol Service and tea  
Jan 4th 11am - Special service Martyn Friend  
Jan 11 th - 11am - Breaking of Bread  
Jan 18th 3pm Tea and Praise- Matt Jackson  
Jan 25th 11am - Breaking of Bread

Please contact Richard for further details  
07835033062

**ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Devon Parish of Holy Prophet Elias  
For details of services contact  
Celia or Martin Olsson (01837 82796)

## Services at St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

7th Dec 3pm Evensong Communion  
21st Dec 3pm Carol Service

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Burial of Ashes	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Nicky CRAIG	St Andrew's Sampford Courtenay
Marriage	8 <sup>th</sup> November	Rory BASCOMBE and Rosie HIGGS	St Mary's Honeychurch

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### Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:

<http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/>

The website is managed by **Julie Carpenter** who can be contacted on

juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk

or

admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

or by phone:

**07866 605184**

**North Tawton Website: [www.northtawton.org](http://www.northtawton.org)**

### Note to Roundabout distributors:

**Martyn needs carrier bags!**

**Could you give the bag from the previous month back when Martyn calls with the next month's delivery?**

**It would be a great help!**

**Thank you**

"Roundabout" is printed by  
Hedgerow Print  
13-14 Meadow Business Park  
Lords Meadow Industrial Estate  
Credon EX17 1DN

### Church Flowers & Brass

#### Sampford Courtenay

November

Jackie Mardon

#### Honeychurch

December  
January

Karen Squire  
No Service

#### Bondleigh

Nov 30th & Dec 7th     Caroline Stokes  
Dec 14th & 21st     Trees, Windows & Altar  
Dec 28th & Jan 4th     Carol Jones  
Jan 11th & 18th     Bridget Higgs  
Jan 25th & Feb 1st     Caroline Stokes  
(Advent - No flowers brass only)

#### North Tawton

##### Flowers

23rd / 30th Nov - Hilary Edwards  
7th / 14th Dec - Nicola Bucket / Jill Whitely  
21st / 28th Dec / 4th Jan - Christmas Flowers

##### Brass

November     Jo Fear  
December     Amanda Salter

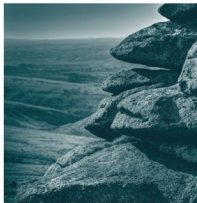
### ROUNDABOUT DEADLINE:

**Community News, Articles, and Events** are published (free of charge) in any edition, but must be received by the Editor no later than noon on the 13th of the month before publication.

Email Ruth at [nt.roundabout@gmail.com](mailto:nt.roundabout@gmail.com)

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