

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

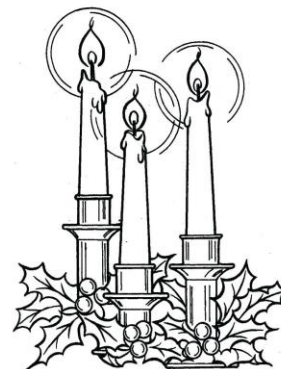
PETERS MARLAND CHURCH

Harvest Festival

Our very successful Harvest Festival in early October was preceded with a peal of bells. Thank you to local and visiting ringers; they were a treat to hear. The service was followed by a bring and share lunch in the hall enjoyed by all who attended.

Christmas Carol Service

So to December and Christmas. Our Carol Service will be held on Saturday 21st December at 7pm. BUT this year it will be in THE VILLAGE HALL as we are having trouble in the Church with the electric heaters, which might take some sorting! We will however still have a collection of gifts for the Torrington food bank and, following the service, port, sherry and mince pies will be on hand for all to start the festive season. EVERYONE WELCOME.



Christmas Day

The service will be at 9:30am in the Church where we can huddle around the gas heaters to keep out the cold.

Forthcoming Church Services & Events

- Our regular Sunday Services are Holy Communion at 9:30am on the first Sunday in the month and Family Service at 11am on the third Sunday. Please check the notice board on the Village Green for other services.
- Carol Service: see above for details.
- Christmas Day Service: see above for details.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Any enquiries on Church matters should be made to:

Rev. Martin Warren (01409 281424) or PCC secretary Christine Ley (01805 601264).

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Forthcoming Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 27th November in the Moore-Stevens Hall.

Bus stop

The roof of the bus stop shelter at East Yarde has recently required extensive repairs due to vandalism. Such work is paid for from parish funds and it is in all of our interests to look after our assets: otherwise we may lose them altogether.

Parish Emergency Plan

In line with many other communities across the country, a plan is being produced for the parish to increase our short-term resilience in the event of an extreme event. Under normal circumstances major emergencies will be dealt with by the emergency services, local authorities, utilities and voluntary agencies in a combined response. The plan will not be intended as a substitute for these services but will cover circumstances where conditions arise that might prevent the emergency services from reaching the scene within a reasonable time, thereby posing a high level of risk to members of the community.

The plan is in its early stages, but in the meantime if you think that a situation arises that requires a response, or if you would like yourself to be registered as a vulnerable person (details will be kept confidential), please contact either Trish Ward (01805 601245) or John Eaton (01805 601852).

As winter is on its way, it may be useful to prepare a kit for use in case of an emergency, containing such items as: torch & spare batteries; candles & matches; first aid kit; medication; toiletries; charged mobile phone; list of useful contact numbers; bottled water; ready to eat food; bottle & tin opener; money.

Also: please check on vulnerable neighbours to make sure that they are okay.

SOCIAL GROUP

We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Moore-Stevens Hall. New members are always welcome and for further information please contact:

Chris (01805 601264), Trish (01805 601245) or Marilyn (01805 601552).

Non-members and guests are always welcome to attend an event for a fee of £4.

Our October meeting saw five teams of villagers and friends competing in a friendly quiz which got quite competitive! All the teams achieved good scores and congratulations go to the winners, Trish and Graham, Anne and Mervyn. Another quiz will be held in April 2020.

In November Janet Few came to talk to us on the subject of 17th century food. Dressed in a costume of that time Janet entertained us with details of what was eaten 300 years ago. We are all pleased that we enjoy a much tastier and varied diet in the 21st century.

Forthcoming Social Group Events

- 🕒 Tuesday 3rd December, Members' Christmas Party.
- 🕒 THURSDAY 12th December, Members' Christmas Meal.
- 🕒 January 7th is the group's AGM & Games Night.
- 🕒 February 4th - Prehistory of North Devon, Simon Carroll
- 🕒 March 3rd - Pets as Therapy, Carol Wakeling

Marland Memories

A date for your diaries:
Sunday 26th April

In the Moore-Stevens Hall,
with tea and cakes!

BELLRINGING

Peters Marland bellringers are entering the Tamar Valley Guild Winter Knockout competition and there will be practise nights on some Wednesdays.

Anyone requiring more information on this, or wanting to learn, please contact the Tower Captain Graham Ward (01805 601245).

SKITTLES

There have been some close matches in the League, with Peters Marland B unfortunately being on the losing side. Wishing them and the other two teams better luck in the rematches. For more information please contact Trish Ward (01805 601245).

SHORT MAT BOWLS

We still have the equipment to run Short Mat Sessions but we need a few more players. If you would like to give it a try contact Chris Ley (01805 601264).

YOGA

If anyone is interested in trying Yoga, Arwen runs a beginners' class in the Moore-Stevens Hall on Wednesdays at 9:45am to 10:45am. Contact Arwen (07488 430566) or Helen (01805 601331).

Fee is £6.00 per session.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops at the church car park at 10:05am to 10:25am on one Thursday each month. Unfortunately, at the time of going to press, the timetable for the next 3 months was not available.

If you plan to use the service contact the library for more information on 0345 155 1001 or on-line

at: <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries>

MOBILE POST OFFICE

This stops in Shebbear village square on the days and times shown below and it offers a wide range of services.

Monday 9am – 11:20am; Tuesday to Friday 9:10am – 11:20am.

Changes to these times can be found on-line at:

<https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you/post-office/shebbear-mobile-service-ex21-5ru>

YARDE ORCHARD CAFE REOPENS

We would like to welcome Michelle and Vince Stewart as the new proprietors of The Yarde Orchard Cafe at East Yarde. The cafe will be open at weekends through to Easter from 10am till 4pm and for local groups during the week if they would like to pre-book for coffee and cake or lunches. Also, private parties can be booked for the evenings with a fully licensed bar available.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.yarde-orchard.co.uk/> or Facebook Yarde Orchard Cafe on the Tarka Trail

MARLAND MEATS

We sell frozen, local, quality assured Red Ruby Devon beef. It is 28-day hung and prepared by Graham in our approved facility.

For more information and a price list contact:

Trish Ward on 01805 601245 or ward.marland@gmail.com.

Orders are now being taken for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Reduce Christmas tree miles! Trees available from Winswell fishing lakes for £15, £20 and £25 depending on size.

Contact Jack Andrews on 07866 334950

MOORE-STEVENS HALL

If you wish to hire the hall please contact the Treasurer Howard Wills (01805 601446).



A Personal View of Retiring Back Home

Chris Vooght

On the 4th April 1977 I left home to work in Canada for a year; this became two years and then thirty-five! I kept in touch with family and friends and came back to visit about every two years. In 2012 I decided to retire back to England and, having tried the seaside and urban delights of Westward Ho! and Northam, settled on a more rural setting near to where I grew up and went to school.

Changes in Peters Marland and Petrockstow are subtle. After a long spell away the character of the area has changed but is still recognisable. I moved to Winswell into part of the house at Winswell Farm. The part of the house roadside to where I lived is named the Old Post Office. Strange that, the old post office as I remembered it back in the 60s was farther up the road and the house is still there. The house that is now named The Old Post Office then housed a bailer and was more of an open shed. I remember the garden at the back of the house as an orchard with pig arks and chicken runs, a typical old farm orchard. Shippens and barns have been converted to dwellings housing many new people. Several farmyards have gone the same way. Stone Chapel, which we had a great view of from our farm at Thorne, became a dwelling early on. I can still remember the chapel anniversaries with some of the younger members of the congregation shouting across the valley. We were all younger then! Thankfully many farms remain unchanged and the village of Peters Marland has grown only slightly.

The clay works is still there with the heavy trucks lumbering by. Happily, their usage helps to keep the standard of road repair to a reasonable level in contrast to the state of the roads where the heavy

trucks take shortcuts. I can remember seeing the clay trains going up from the clay pits through to Torrington and beyond. We had a great view of them from Thorne. I can't help thinking this was a more ecologically friendly way of transporting heavy loads long distances.

Almost gone are the days when you were likely to follow a herd of cows going for milking. Fergie 20s, Massey 65s and Fordson Majors have been retired to tractor runs for Sunday afternoon recreation and have been replaced by huge machines which, for the most part, I have no idea what they are used for! Cows and sheep are still to be seen happily munching away in the fields in all weathers. Starlings still swirl around in the winter and rooks get on with their lives.

In the age of the internet, telephone fraudsters and really weird country and international leaders, it is pleasant and relaxing to walk around the lanes of these parishes and be able to appreciate what we have.



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Just a bit of fun: sorry, no prizes! All of the answers are on a Christmas or local theme.

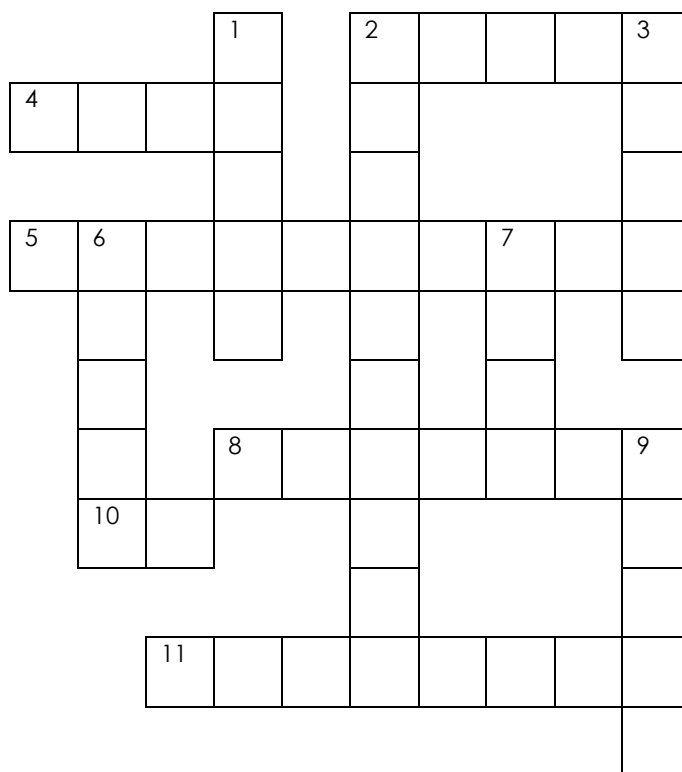


Clues across

- 2. A gift from one of five across (5).
- 4. A guide for five across (4).
- 5. The Magi (5,5).
- 8. Christmas tree decorations (7).
- 10. "Oh come all ___ faithful" (2).
- 11. (and 3 down) Former home of the Moore-Stevens family (8, 5).

Clues down

- 1. Delivered with your Marland Messenger (5).
- 2. You will find these near the village green (4, 6).
- 3. See 11 across.
- 6. Partner to *hedera* in a well-known Christmas carol (5).
- 7. French Christmas (4).
- 9. Christmas Eve visitor (5).



Can you contribute to the *Marland Messenger*?

Do you have a local event to publicise, or an anecdote or tale connected with the parish? Or maybe you would like to write a piece about a subject in which you have an interest and which may be of interest to others? If so, please contact Karen or John (01805 601852) or email k.smitho1@btinternet.com

Copy deadline is Friday 13th March 2020.

We would like to thank Marland School for printing the *Marland Messenger*.