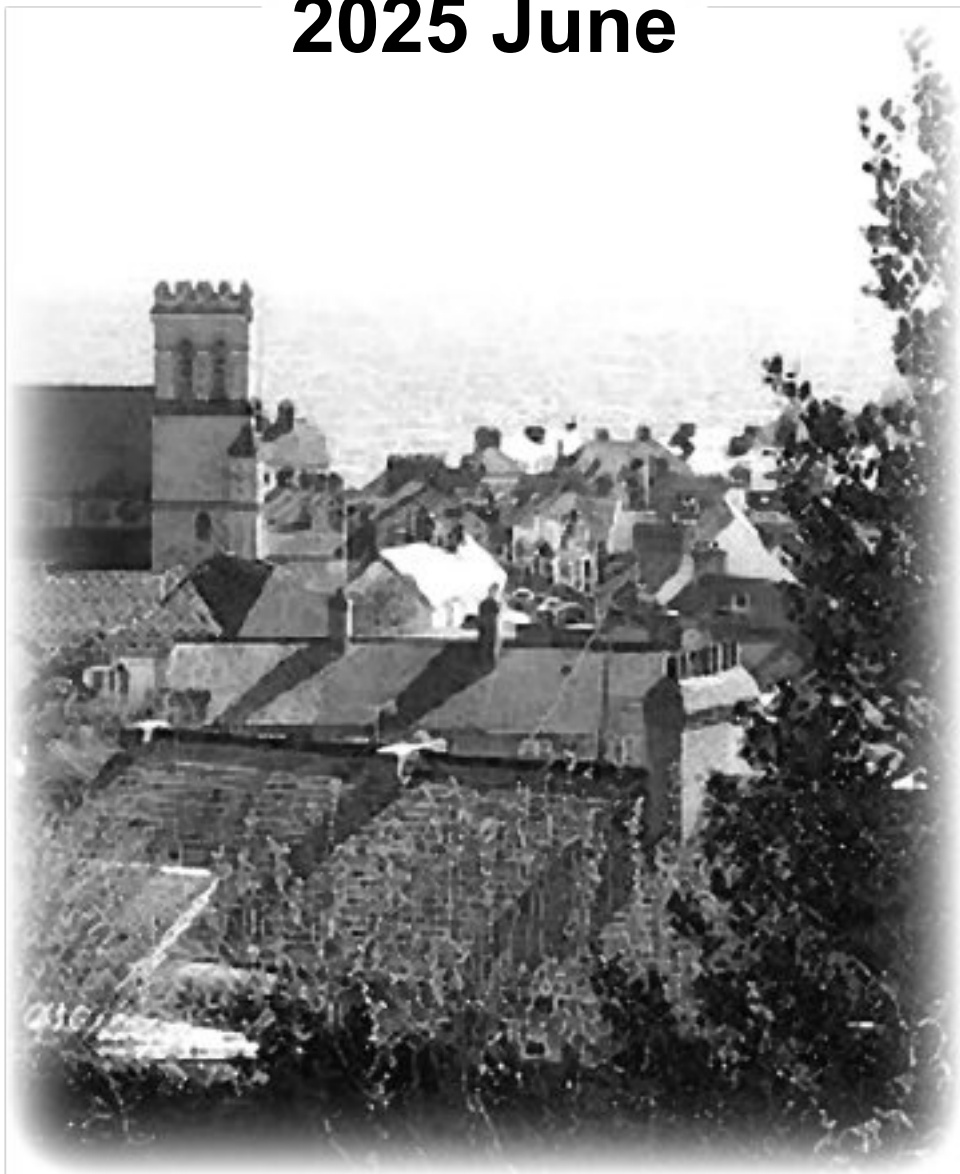


Beer Parish News

2025 June



St Michael's... ..*and* Village

CHURCH DIRECTORY

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

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Local Pioneer Minister Rev Shuna George Pritchard shuna.art@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S ...

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Sacristan Mrs L. Bees 21723

& Head Server: Mrs P. Bewick 21954

Altar Guild: Mrs Y. Hawker 22191

Choir: Dr G. Butler (Practice Tuesday 6-7pm) 21375

Organist: Dr G. Butler, Mullions, New Road, Beer 21375

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Families Worker: Amy Dare mrandsdare22@gmail.com

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Worship Team: Gayle Chapple, Lynne Bees, Penny Grant, Yvonne Hawker, Angela Ould, Jenny Ross

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Mrs Y. Hawker, Mrs P. Bewick,

Mrs E. Singleton,

Mrs S. Anderson

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Area code for all phone numbers above is 01297 unless shown otherwise

In an emergency, parishioners should contact the Churchwarden (see above for phone number).

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www.coastalchurch.org.uk



St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Coastal Mission
Community



[St Michael's Church, Beer](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelChurchBeer)

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

Calendar for JUNE 2025

Sun 1 st	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Morning Praise	7 th Sunday of Easter
Tues 3 rd	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 4 th	10:00am Prayer Group	
Fri 6 th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 8 th	9:30am Sung Communion	Day of Pentecost
Mon 9 th	1:00pm 'St M's Moving Forward' meeting	
Tues 10 th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 11 th	8:30am Open the Book at School 10:00am Holy Communion at BEER 12:30pm Worship Team meeting 1:00pm PCC Meeting	
Sun 15 th	9:30am Morning Praise	Trinity Sunday
Tues 17 th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 18 th	2:00pm "Anna's Place"	
Fri 20 th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers 3:30pm~5:30pm Messy Church	
Sat 21 st	10:00am~12noon Safeguarding Course at Kilmington	
Sun 22 nd	9:30am Family communion	1 st Sunday after Trinity
Tues 24 th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 25 th	8:30am Open the Book at School 10:00am Holy Communion at SEATON	
Thurs 26 th	2:00pm House Group	
Fri 27 th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sat 28 th	10:00am~12noon Seriously Occasional Singers	
Sun 29 th	9:30am <u>United</u> Communion Service at BEER	2 nd Sunday after Trinity

Sunday services in Beer are often on Facebook. If you can't come to church, you can watch and hear them there, either live or later at a time convenient to you!

From Justin... Rev's Ramblings -

Following Easter, Melissa and I took some annual leave, 144 hours of which were spent running round in circles in the South of France with people from nations across the world for the 6-day World Championships. The course was in fact more L-shaped than circular, and I must confess, there were several occasions during the 660 laps that I completed, where I did question my life choices! That said, it was simply an incredible experience, with many highlights, memories made, and lessons learnt from the highs and lows of an endurance event such as this.

The on-course camaraderie was second to none, with high fives aplenty and words of encouragement shared across the multi-national field of competitors: willing one another on to get the best out of ourselves. One source of motivation was the spectator signs, particularly the snappy slogans created by our friends from Denmark.

It never ceases to amaze me the creativity of supporters on the sidelines, and the signs they crafted to cheer their loved ones on or to simply give a timely boost to any runner in the race. Some of the inspired efforts I've seen through the many years I've been running include, 'May the Course be with you', 'Go random Stranger', 'It's ok, the end is beer', 'On a scale of 1-10 you're a 26.2', 'I trained for months to hold this sign for you', 'Toenails are so overrated', 'Pain is weakness leaving the body', 'Pain Is Temporary, the finish line Is Forever', as well as the obvious 'Run Forest Run' mostly reserved for the group of gents spilling out of a pub after a few shandy's as I run past.

Straight to the very top of my list of favourites for ingenuity and context was one from our aforementioned Danish friends during said race above, who created a sign saying, 'Pain is just French for bread'. This certainly made my heart smile for quite a few of those laps.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus says, 'When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?' (Luke 18:8 NIV), not simply **signs** or symbols of faith, but 'real' faith, faith in the hearts of men, women, boys and girls. Jesus here is speaking of his second coming, following his death, resurrection and ascension.



It's a haunting question, isn't it? Jesus doesn't ask it to cast doubt, but to stir reflection in us. What does true faith look like today—in our homes, in our community, in our churches? There are **signs** and symbols of faith everywhere we look. People gathering on Sunday's, singing songs in beautifully ornamental historic church buildings with stained glass windows, people serving the needs of communities through food banks and outreach cafes, fellowship events, meetings and projects, and these are all fantastic and point to faith. However, real 'faith' is firstly a matter of the heart, because of course we don't need faith to simply 'do' any of these wonderful things. But when faith is the driving force, amazing things can happen.

We can often imagine faith as something dramatic: parting seas, moving mountains, standing firm in the face of lions. But in the parable just before Jesus asks this question, he talks about a widow who simply refuses to give up. She keeps turning up, knocking on the door, demanding justice. That's the kind of faith Jesus praises—not flashy, but persistent. Faith that hangs on, that keeps on praying, that refuses to walk away, even when it would be easier to do so.

So, if Jesus were to walk through our village and town, down the aisles of St Michael's or St Gregory's, or sit quietly at one of our gatherings—what signs of faith would he see, importantly though, what would he see in our hearts?

I think he'd notice the person who prays for their neighbour each and every day, even if they never mention it.

He'd see the carer who shows up again and again, tired but faithful.

He'd see the person who sings the hymns despite carrying grief.

He'd spot the person who doubts, but still chooses to believe—just enough to keep going.

Faith, in Jesus' eyes, isn't about being certain all the time. It's about being faithful. Showing up. Trusting that God is still at work, even when the waves are crashing in, the way forward is unclear, and we can't see His hand.

We all put our faith in something...when the plane leaves the runway, we trust the pilot is competent. When we take the pill to cure our illness, we trust the doctor and manufacturer that the drug is safe and reliable. When we turn on the tap, we trust the water is safe to drink without a second thought.

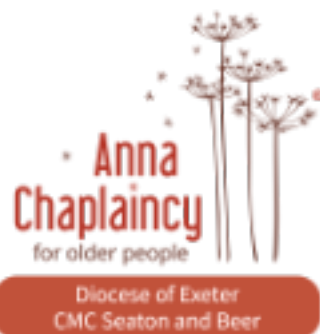
So maybe the better question is: *Where might Jesus already be finding faith among us?* And how can we help it grow? For Jesus also said that having faith the size of mustard seed can enable us to move mountains.

With every blessing,

Justin

ANNA CHAPLAINCY

ANNA CHAPLAINCY – MAY worship and events – If you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, you might like to join us for our monthly activity and worship? Please check with the care home prior to your visit in case anything has to be changed.



Monday 27 May – THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Monday 2 June – THE MANOR 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 4 June CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

Monday 9 June - NETHERHAYES 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 10 June – MEMORY CHURCH 2-4 p.m. Church centre St Gregory's SEATON – For older people who find it difficult to worship in our church buildings. Worship, afternoon tea and making new friends. Interested? Phone 01297 23656

Tuesday 17 June – LYME BAY VIEW 10.45 a.m.

Wednesday 18 June ANNA'S PLACE 2.00 p.m. St Michael's Church BEER. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Monday 23 June – THORNFIELD – 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 24 June – THE SEATON 11.00 a.m.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We really appreciate your prayers and support.

Anna Chaplain Mary – 07805665335

Anna Chaplain Sue – 07802649155

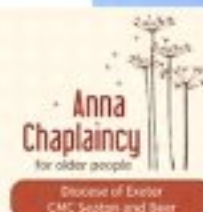
The church office - CONTACT 01297 23656

ANNA'S PLACE

**Special 30 minute
worship for
Older People
Followed by Refreshments
Music and Memories,
Wednesdays from 2pm
at St Michael's, Beer:**

**June 18th
July 16th**

**All are welcome!
Dementia Supportive
Come, receive
God's Grace**



Memory Church

**For Older People and their Carers:
A Place to Meet, Relax & Worship
together.**

**Tuesday 10th June
Tuesday 8th July**

**St Gregory's Church
Centre 2-4pm**

**Dementia Supportive
Disabled Facilities**

Contact: Mary Casey, Anna Chaplain / or Church office
caseymary119@gmail.com 01297 23656

Work at the Fine Foundation Centre continues and the Trustees are hopeful that the new fish tanks will be up and running before long. Although

the centre is closed, the Bomb Shelter is open so that you can read the fascinating story of the bomb which didn't fall on the village. You can even listen to the bomb ticking....

The end of "No Mow May" is in sight. I anticipate that a lot of mowers will be brought out of their sheds again. Hopefully gardeners in Beer will continue to allow their grass to grow and adapt to having lush lawns, full of insects like crickets. The swifts are certainly enjoying the flying insects and we see them swooping over the garden in the evenings. We have also seen a few dragon flies either darting over the pond or resting on the iris leaves. Last year the dragonfly nymphs emerged on the same plants

I always enjoy hearing the rooks chatting amongst themselves when they return to their nests in the evening. It sounds as though they are discussing the events of the day and having a good gossip at the same time. Recently we have been treated to a similar raucous daytime display by the young birds as they establish their territories.

Axe Valley Heritage Society's talk, on Churchill's Secret Army in East Devon was fascinating. Information on the secret bunkers near Blackberry Camp was integral to the talk, which was given by Andrew Charterton.

I make no apology for re-advertising the Devonshire Association's Discovery Day which will be based in Budleigh Salterton on the 7th June from 1030 to 1630. You will be able to find posters at the heritage centre and on our notice board at the Mariners' Hall. Malcolm Hart is always an interesting speaker and is one of the foremost experts on chalk and microfossils. He was a consultant on the Channel Tunnel project, and guided the

boring machines under the Channel using a particular layer of microfossils. Please note that you need to book for the Discovery Day, via Ticketsource, even though there is no charge. For more information contact:

www.devonassoc.org.uk/wch or telephone 07742 148865.

Dorset and Devon County Councils recently hosted a meeting to discuss the options for managing the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site following the demise of the Jurassic Coast Trust. The meeting took the form of a workshop with representatives from a wide range of organisations including local authorities, fossil collectors, geologists and landowners. The participants were split into groups and asked to look at ways of addressing a series of issues, all relating to the current management plan for the site. As the Fine Foundation Centre is one of the few Interpretation Centres for the World Heritage Site in East Devon, it was encouraging to hear a range of very positive ideas for the future.

Beer Village Heritage and Beer Arts Group's History Group have been considering ideas for revitalising the chapel in the closed churchyard. Hopefully the site meeting at the end of the month will clarify the future for the building.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on donations in order to run the Fine Foundation Centre and the Bomb Shelter. You'll find the Beer Village Heritage walks and I-Spy online via our website: <http://www.beervillageheritage.org.uk>. We apologise that some of the links on the site are not working.

If you would like to be involved with running the Fine Foundation Centre and our other activities, please talk to our Chairman, David Morling on 01297 625045.

BEER FILM SOCIETY

WHEN it came to discussing a film to mark the death of Hollywood legend Gene Hackman and also one that would make full use of our new sound system there was one outstanding candidate: *The Conversation* (1974, 12A, 1hr 54mins).

So, we are delighted to confirm that is the choice for Beer Film Society's next show on Thursday June 19th in the Mariners' Hall.

In the many articles praising Hackman's work after he was found dead in his home in Sante Fe, New Mexico, on February 26th the usual candidates came to the fore.

The French Connection, which introduced us to Popeye Doyle, the disaster movie the *Poseidon Adventure*, a classic western in *Unforgiven* or maybe *Mississippi Burning* about racism in the American South.

Intriguingly *The Conversation* was also prominent despite being less well-known.

Written and directed by the great Francis Ford Coppola during his golden period in the 1970s this film was nominated for three Oscars and five BAFTAS with the quality of its soundtrack recognised by both bodies.

Hackman plays Harry Caul, a paranoid, secretive surveillance expert who, despite being regarded as the best in the business, has a crisis of conscience when he suspects that the couple he is spying on will be murdered.

It is widely recognised as one of Hackman's best screen performances and in an article reflecting upon his long career The Times said it was a scandal that Hackman didn't win the Oscar for best actor that year.

Well, come and see for yourself on Thursday June 19th and enjoy our superb new sound system.

A reminder that the Mariners' Hall doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets cost £5 for members and £7 for guests and are available on the door. Card payment preferred please. The bar will be open and Baboo Gelato ice creams will be available.

Finally, for your diary a reminder of our next two films as well.

Thursday July 17th: September 5th (based on the Munich Olympics in 1972).

Saturday August 9th: Our Regatta week film: Paddington in Peru.

A movie poster for the film 'The Conversation' featuring Gene Hackman. The poster has a pink border. At the top, it says 'Beer Film Society' in a stylized font. The central image is a close-up of Gene Hackman wearing headphones and holding a telephone receiver to his ear, looking intensely at the viewer. The background shows a cityscape with a prominent building. Below the image, it says 'GENE HACKMAN' and 'The Conversation' in large, bold letters. At the bottom, it says 'Thursday June 19th' and 'Mariners' Hall' in large, bold letters. To the left of the poster, it says 'Card payment preferred' vertically. To the right, it says 'Bring your own cushions!' vertically. At the bottom of the poster, it says 'Doors open 6.30pm start time - 7.00 pm', 'Members £5.00 non members £7.00', and 'numbers limited - to book tickets email beerfilmsociety@gmail.com'. The rating '12 A' is in the bottom right corner of the poster area.

Beer Film Society

GENE HACKMAN

"The Conversation"

Thursday June 19th

Mariners' Hall 12 A

Doors open 6.30pm start time - 7.00 pm

Members £5.00 non members £7.00

numbers limited - to book tickets email beerfilmsociety@gmail.com

Card payment preferred

Bring your own cushions!

BEER BLAZER

It was a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning on the 18th of May up at Beer Primary School when 162 adults and 82 children arrived to take on the 10 tough, hot, hilly miles and undulating 1.2k fun run of the Beer Blazer organised by Richard Jackson and Sarah Coates. All in aid of Beer Primary School PTFA and other local charities including Puffins preschool.

Amongst the 157 finishers were some brave Beer locals:

James GREEN (AVR) was first home for Beer finishing 5th place. James was also back this year to help support by course marking both trail races.

Jethro GREEN (AVR) 14th, travelled down from a very flat Oxford in support of Sarah to tackle his first multiterrain race.

Next up was Mitch LOWES (AVR) finishing 32nd. Mitch has always supported our local race and has helped promote it through his personal and work social media channels.



Kian THOMSON (AVR) 45th - travelling back from university to take on the race in support of Beer Primary School.

Mike HANCOCK (AVR) finished 56th place and was one of the very few brave parents of Beer school to punish themselves with the stairway to heaven.

First Beer Lady home to the finish line was Lucy CHARD 97th - Lucy was a 2024 split marshal for the Beer Blazer who decided that it would be easier to run the race than split the runners. I wonder what Lucy thinks now.

Colin HAMNETT (AVR) 99th - Colin helped to course mark the 10 mile Blazer meaning he completed the course twice in 2 days. Colin and Nette are also a great sponsor and support for the Beer Blazer.



Dave MUTTER aka Bilco (AVR) crossed the line in position 149, and his first words after he caught his breath were "Sarah, I'm never talking to you again". Bilco encouraged other AVRs to take part and is a great source of wisdom and advice for this event.

Congratulations to them all on what was an extremely challenging course.

Beer Primary school rocked the Fun Run podium with Nate Baldwin finishing 1st place and overall winner and Lottie Lambert taking home the first female award. Well done to our raising stars.

Beer locals also arrived in their masses to support the Beer PTFA by marshalling, course marking, serving refreshments and zauzages, photography, registration, setting up gazebos, promotion, aid stations, bananas, handing out medals, course clearing, scrubbing BBQ's and turning up to spectate.

The Beer W.I supplied delicious cakes and took charge on the finish line aid station, taking good care of our finishers. Other organisations in Beer also came along to support including the Beer Buffs and Beer Men's shed.

Local businesses also played a big part in the event. Sponsors included Humberts Devon Estate Agents, Beer Fisheries, The Anchor Inn, Clinch Plumbing and Heating, Durham House B and B and Cycle life. BIG Thank you to the landowners for your support - Pecorama, the Reeds at Gatcombe farm, the Dormors at Beer Head Caravan park, Steve at The Sea Shanty, The Fountain Head, Nicola at Manor Mill Farm, Pitt Farm, Clinton's and Berry Barton. Thank you to Beer Parish Council for the use of their wonderful gazebos, Tesco's for the refreshment and roll donations, Axe Valley runners and finally, thank you to Beer coastguards for watching over our runners. You have all contributed to a huge amount of money raised for the children in Beer, we will let you all know when we have the final figures.

You're all hugely appreciated and will all be thanked individually in due course.

Thank you Beer for helping to keep the Beer Blazer alive!

Sarah Coates.

Beer Primary PTFA secretary.



The thrill of a live performance

Axminster and District Choral Society's 40th anniversary season got off to a flying start on April 5th. As a reviewer commented:

'In this day of instant streaming of often highly manicured performances, the thrill of live performance can easily be lost, but we certainly had that thrill in Axminster and District Choral Society's performance of Josef Haydn's *The Creation*. A triumphant evening of wonderful, REAL MUSIC.'

Other comments included 'a real treat', 'I was speechless' and 'One of your most memorable concerts in recent years'.

The choir's next event, on Saturday June 14th, features two works with a summery atmosphere.

Hiawatha's Wedding Feast by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor is the first of a trilogy of cantatas setting Longfellow's poem *The Song of Hiawatha*. It made the composer's name known throughout the world and has been popular with choirs ever since it was composed. For this piece the choir will be joined by tenor soloist Matthew Jeffrey, well known to audiences in Exeter Cathedral and East Devon.

From the Bavarian Highlands by Edward Elgar sets to music poems by his wife Alice. They are written in the style of Bavarian folksongs with their joyful alpine rhythms. The Elgars spent a succession of holidays in the region, and these songs recapture their enjoyment of the local scenery and folk dances. The concert will be at 7.30 in the Minster Church, Axminster

The choir's autumn concert will be a programme of music by British composers Sir John Rutter and Bob Chilcott, both of whom have significant birthdays this year. The 40th anniversary year will conclude with a Come and Sing Messiah, recapturing the spirit of the event that inaugurated the choir in 1985.

For information about the choir and to buy tickets please visit axminsterchoral.co.uk. Tickets are also available from Archway Books.



We had an excellent time collecting on Saturday 19th April at the Tesco Superstore at Axminster. The staff were very friendly and helpful and the customers were pleased to see us too. We took RNLI Ted and our local plus national RNLI information. We collected a wonderful £449.76 that included a donation to our QR Code.

At the time of writing my report we were looking forward to our RNLI Mayday Appeal and Collection Day at Seaton Seafront on Saturday 24th May. Our aim was to and walk to and fro along the East and West Walks from 10am but with an uncertain weather forecast we had contacted Tesco and obtained permission to shelter and collect there if necessary. Pebbles Coffee House was booked to host the judging of the one hundred and sixty six Colour-in-a-Wellington Boot posters from the pupils of Seaton Primary School. I was still completing my RNLI Mayday Appeal Mayday Miles and walking a mile or more a day at Beer, Seaton, Colyton, Axmouth, other places and even when on a visit to north Wales to watch a Historic Rally Car Championship. Please donate to my fundraising page if you can. Our branch fundraising page will still be open at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/rnlmaydaymiles>

We are now looking forward to our Beer Lifeboat Weekend in July and further details will be published nearer the time.

Saturday 5th July: Street Collection from 10am to 6pm. Additional collectors needed and welcome to collect at their preferred time.

Table Top Sale at the Mariners Hall. Open to sellers at 8am. Open to buyers from 9am to 12.30pm. Table hire is £6 for one and £10 for two. We will be having Bacon Baps, Tea, Coffee, Rock Cakes, Raffle,



Wendy with Kelly, Tesco assistant manager and community champion, at Axminster

Card Tombola plus a variety of stalls with stall holders from Beer and around our area.

Sunday 6th July: Annual Duck Race Day from 11am to 4.30pm. We will be having our Duck Tombola and other duck related stalls and activities. The Inflatable Shannon and Stormy Stan will also be coming to Beer.

We will be having our Duck Art Poster Competition and inviting the pupils of Beer Primary School and visitors to take part. This year the entries will be on display prior to the weekend and winners will be announced with prizes available on Duck Race Day.

Lyme Regis Water Safety Team and the RNLI F2F Team will be in attendance plus Beer Coastguards subject to operational requirements.

The Lyme Regis lifeboat Spirit of Loch Fyne and Exmouth Lifeboats will be coming to do a display at 2pm subject to weather and operational requirements.

The Duck Races start at 3pm and twelve heats of 20 ducks will be racing from outside the Cream Shop to opposite Bay View Tea Rooms with sponsors and prizes provided by Beer and local businesses.

For details of any of the above, you would like to hire a table for the Table Top Sale or help with collecting please email me at wac500@hotmail.co.uk or telephone a message to 0779086153

Sadly due to retirements we now require additional volunteers for our Shop at Jubilee Gardens. If you can help please contact our Shop Manager Richard Hare on 07752393640, call into our Shop when we are open, see us at our events or at the events we attend. All support to our branch of the RNLI is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes and take care,
Wendy Cummins, Secretary,
Seaton Beer and District
Branch RNLI



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Meeting held Tuesday 6th May

St Michael's Easter fundraising weekend was a great success, very positive feedback from all those who attended and very enjoyable weekend which was very well supported. A big thank you to all involved and everyone who came and joined us, it was very much appreciated and the church as normal was beautifully decorated.

There was a VE exhibition being displayed around the church courtesy of Richard Scott which was very interesting and the church looks very patriotic.

We have our Church Weekend coming up, commencing **Saturday 19th July**, please look out for our posters, Facebook and Heart of Beer posts advertising what will be happening.

Everyone is always very welcome at St Michael's church, please come, enjoy and support us.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th June @10.00am

BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

June 1st - 10am Ascensiontide Service with Holy Communion - Revd

Nigel Freathy

June 8th - 10am Pentecost (Whit Sunday) Service - Mrs Annette

Freathy

June 15th - 10am Morning Service - Revd Nigel Freathy

June 22nd - 10am Morning Service - Mrs Diane Chorley

June 29th - 10am Morning Service - Mrs Annette Freathy

July 6th - 10am Morning Service with Holy Communion - Revd Nigel

Freathy

COFFEE MORNINGS - 10-30 - 12 noon - Congregational Hall

June 12th and 26th

ADVANCE NOTICE

SUNDAY JULY 20th - 4pm

Cream Teas with musical recital by our own Congregational Church Organist. Donations to the Salvation Army

Parish Council Newsletter June 2025

The annual Village meeting followed by the usual Parish Council meeting took place on the 14th May. The former is intended to provide the villagers with an opportunity to come along and talk informally to the Councillors, about any topic relating to the village. Sadly the number of villagers attending this year was very small. The Councillors welcome everyone to come along to all its meetings during the year and to be part of the democratic process of successfully running our village. Under the leadership of the unanimously re-elected Chairman Martin Richards and the re-elected vice Chairman Tim Stevens, the Council operates in the correct and appropriate way but it is also friendly and inclusive of all opinions. During the next year the Council will continue to strive to provide the village with the best services it can and to protect the heritage of the village, whilst embracing the ever changing world in which we all live.

In last month's Parish News we were pleased to report that the Dolphin Hotel had re-opened after undergoing extensive refurbishments. This month we are pleased to see the re-opening of Woozie's Deli, following the ankle injury which Woozie sustained just before Christmas last year. Her shop facilities have been greatly missed in the last five months or so and we wish her good health and continued trading success.

The 80th Anniversary of V E Day was commemorated and celebrated throughout the village during May. Special mention must be made of the organisational efforts made by Mrs Carol Arnold on behalf of the Royal British Legion together with the Council's Chairman Martin Richards, (who despite having recently faced a personal family tragedy), gave up a huge amount of his time to make all the events a great success. He collaborated with the Royal British Legion's representative Mrs Carol Arnold to organise the events. Many other Councillors and residents also gave up their free time to make the commemoration of the sacrifice of the lives of many villagers during the Second World War, a most memorable and respectful event. We thank them all for what they did. The village still has a number of residents who witnessed V E Day and a "special 90's plus dining table" was arranged on the Jubilee, to honour them. Period music was provided

by Devon Daytime Band along with a piper from the Exeter Piped Band, and fortunately for once, the English weather was beautiful all day long! Hopefully future generations will continue to recognise the dreadful events of the Second World War and to commemorate the terrible loss of life and suffering which occurred; all in the fight for the continued freedom of the world.

The Jubilee cliff area was made ready for the above celebrations by the team of workers organised by the Parish Council under collaborations with the Government's Pay-back Offenders Scheme. Over the last year the village has benefitted from this work (principally organised and administered by Councillors Tim and Karen Stevens) and as a result, the "advancement" of the spreading Alexander weed has been partly curtailed. The Jubilee (referred to by many as "the jewel in Beer's crown") has slowly been restored to its former beauty following its neglect by EDDC over many years. It was originally given to the village by Lord Clinton for the benefit of the villagers and it has now been very extensively used for over 100 years! We must look after his gift befittingly.

The recent "Beer Eates" event on the hard-standing part of the Jubilee was again a great success. A large number of people were able to enjoy a beautifully warm, sunny evening savouring the different variety of foods which were on offer. These evenings are organised by the Parish Council during the summer months in an attempt to raise revenue for the benefit of the whole village. We were very fortunate to attract to Beer, many of the stall holders who had previously traded at Seaton under similar conditions. This was principally undertaken by our incredibly efficient Parish Clerk Mrs Nicky Ingarfield, who has given the village a dedicated service since taking over the role. We thank her for all she does, since despite not living in the village she frequently goes above and beyond her role as our Parish Clerk and is seen helping with many unpaid tasks in the village. We are keen to explain that the Council is not introducing competition-trading with the existing food establishments in the village by staging these events. They take place in the evenings, after many of our own food outlets have closed. Those which are still open can benefit from the larger number of people in the village during those evenings, who are looking for a different variety of refreshments from those available on the Jubilee.

The Parish Council has been asked to join with a group of organisations to discuss the future of the Chapel of Remembrance in

Clapps Lane. This building has not been used for many years and it is sadly falling into neglect. It needs urgent attention to its roof to prevent it becoming a derelict building. The Council is not being asked to contribute to the funding of these repairs; it is merely being asked to be a party in the negotiations about the future use to which the building might be put. It is an historic building and it has played an important role in the history of the village. It would be a tragedy to lose it.

Lastly this month, mention must be made of the efforts being taken by the Parish Council to try to preserve the use of Common Lane. Many residents may not be aware that any further cliff fall at the narrowest part of Common Lane (no matter how small) will necessitate the complete closure of the road from its junction with The Meadows, to its junction with Southdown Road. This risk has been identified by the Parish Council over many years and attempts have been made before to try to preserve this thoroughfare. At its narrowest point the carriageway of Common Lane is only nine feet wide and beyond that there is only a very small extent of land forming the sheer drop to the beach below. If any further rock/soil falls away from the cliff, then Devon Highways will be forced to close the entire road in the interests of public safety. Beer will have a repeat of the situation which occurred in 2010 to the Seaton Hole Road, leading to the inevitable permanent road closure as happened there. If Common Lane had to be closed, then visitors using the Cliff top car park and Caravan Park would face a detour of approximately a mile around Southdown Road, Clapps Lane, Dolphin Road and Fore Street to reach the beach. This would very seriously affect the tourist trade of the village. Further natural cliff erosion is inevitable; all the Parish Council can do is to try to take steps to extend the life of the highway. The principal way this can be done is by preventing the risk of serious vibration damage (caused by heavy vehicles in particular), from using Common Hill. We are attempting to be proactive to prevent this happening, as it will be impossible to be re-active to the situation. It will be too late, the cliff will have gone! It is vitally important that the village has "its voice" heard over this plan. We are currently in negotiations with Devon Highways; EDDC and Clinton Devon Estates to discuss what can be done and all news relating to that will be published later. Nothing will be agreed without public consultation taking place first.

Cllr Martin Shobbrook



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Constituency matters - richard.foord@libdems.org.uk

c/o 118 High Street, Honiton, EX14 1JP

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Copy for July to be with the Editor
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