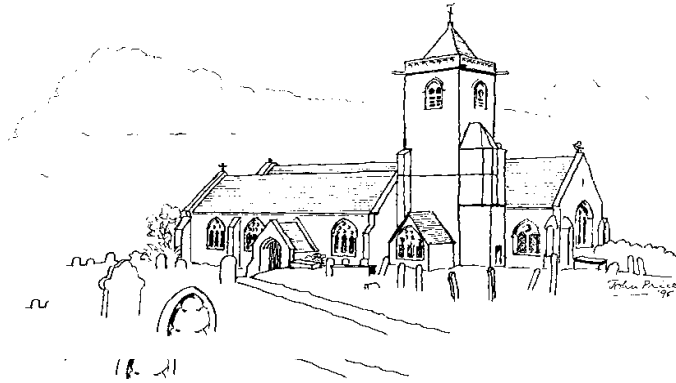




OTTERTON PARISH NEWS
MAY 2026
A member of the Raleigh Mission Community



VICAR:

CHURCHWARDEN:

RMC PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Ms Anne Radcliffe BEM (568059)
 Mrs Fran Mills - raleighmc@gmail.com
 WFH Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am – 1pm; (07880 331465)
 RMC office at St Peter’s Church open Wed 10am-12noon and
 Fri 10am-2pm (01395 443397)

SERVICES FOR MAY

<u>SUNDAY 3rd MAY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Morning Prayer		Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 10th MAY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 17th MAY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 24th MAY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
<u>SUNDAY 31st MAY</u>			
9.30 am	Holy Communion	CW	East Budleigh
11.00 am	Holy Communion	CW	Otterton
Morning Prayer will be said at 9.30am at East Budleigh on Tuesdays and at Otterton on Thursdays			

OTTERTON PARISH NEWS – MOVING ON

My 30 years as Editor of the Parish News – May 1996 to May 2026 - comes to an end with this edition. However, I am delighted that the future of the publication is in the very safe hands of an editorial team led by Stevie Mears. I am certain that contributors, distributors and readers will continue to support the new team as generously as you have all supported me for so long, and I look forward to seeing the Parish News going from strength to strength.

Please send all entries for future editions to ottertonparishnews@gmail.com

With my thanks and very best wishes, Jill

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY

“You can see the entire globe from pole to pole...It was the most spectacular moment, and it paused all four of us in our tracks...” Words spoken by Commander Reid Wiseman from the Artemis II space mission recalling “the spectacular view of Earth from space”. NASA can rightly be proud of their recent achievement, 53 years on from the last ‘mission to the moon’, now to the far side of the moon, where no human has ventured before into space.

In 2015 Sue and I were treated to a ‘VIP Tour’ of the Johnson Space Centre, Houston, on our way to Belize, a diocese partnered with St Albans Diocese and my Archdeaconry of Hertford. Our hosts were American friends, both retired lawyers (or Attorneys) in the USA. They also had interests in Belize; Gary in a fruit farm, and Lizbeth as a Self-Supporting Priest. Through their incredible generosity we were entertained to lunch in the Astronauts Dining Room, met astronauts in their rigorous training, including dealing with weightlessness in a water tank, and coping with being ‘tossed around’ in the sea on their ‘return to earth’. We visited the Mission Control Centre for the first moon landing with its tiny TV monitors (I sat in the seat of “Booster Control”) and we looked in on the construction of the future Mission Control being prepared for the Mission to Mars. In all an unforgettable experience. Surrounded as we were with remarkable technology and brilliant minds, there was a deep respect for our planet earth, our solar system and those beyond. And further, beyond respect, a deep sense of awe and reverence for the created order.

There are many lessons we can draw from the remarkable Artemis II Mission. The planet Earth the space voyagers looked down on from space is for us earth dwellers our ‘common home’. Viewed at a distance, it is a place of beauty and peace; harmony and tranquillity. Yet human pride, greed, ambition and treachery promise to unbalance our Earth and tear it apart; war, terrorism and violence disrupt the rights and freedoms of others who share our common humanity in our common home. Ultimately, it is our life choices in the small things that cumulatively will make a difference; our right actions in the daily routines of living that will bring hope in the midst of adversity.

The Venerable Dr Trevor Jones

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OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the AGM of the Parish Council, Ian Simpson kindly agreed to continue as Chair for the next year. He will be ably deputised by Richard Witherby as Vice Chair. Both Ian and Richard are well supported by a group of Councillors that are passionate about the village and together strive to hold agencies to account and create a safe and peaceful environment for all residents. During the meeting, Geoff Porter gave an interesting update into the work being done to test the water quality of the River Otter. It was also noted that some of the chemicals currently found in the river can be harmful to dogs and owners should be cautious about letting their dogs swim in the river.

The next meeting of the Council will be the **Annual Meeting on 11th May** in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm, when a presentation will be given on the results of the recent Housing Needs survey for Otterton. Everyone is welcome to what should be an interesting and informative meeting.

**Francesca Mills, Clerk to Otterton Parish Council; Sandycross Farmhouse, Yettington, Budleigh Salterton EX9 7BW
mobile: 07880 331465; email: clerk@otterton.info; website: www.otterton.info**

COUNTY COUNCIL

Contact: **Jess Bailey**, Lark Rise, Elsdon Lane, West Hill, Ottery St Mary EX11 1TZ 01404 814056 jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Contacts: **Charlotte Fitzgerald** – charlotte.fitzgerald@eastdevon.gov.uk; **Melanie Martin** – melanie.martin@eastdevon.gov.uk;
Henry Riddell – henry.riddell@eastdevon.gov.uk



OTTERTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children at Otterton have been challenged to have plastic free lunchboxes. They will find out what is easy or tricky about going plastic free, and will see if there are any particular companies that need to improve the way they package their food in order to make it easier for us to pack environmentally friendly lunches.

The year 3 children had a wonderful morning at The Firs Residential Home in Budleigh. They spent time with the residents planting sunflower seeds, making bookmarks, colouring, reading and playing games. It was lovely to see the residents and children chatting and working together so beautifully!

Easter Around the World Day in Otters class was enjoyed by all. The children flew to 5 different countries to experience the celebrations that Christians in that country take part in. They made colourful palm leaves in Poland, flew kites in Bermuda, made clay pots in Greece, created their own candles in the Philippines and then ended the day with a yummy picnic in Italy. The children in Otters shared all the ways that they celebrate Easter with their families and reflected on how different it was for Christians around the world. A really wonderful day with lots of wow moments along the way! The children also made Easter cards and delivered them to the residents at The Old Vicarage.

Places available in pre-school which is open Monday to Friday, and all year groups. For further information please contact adminotterton@thelink.academy Keep up with us on our Facebook page and website.

OTTERTON LADIES' COFFEE MORNING – 11am Monday 11th May at The King's Arms



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AS 4th MAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY

A chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. All welcome. Thanks to Freddie and the team for continuing to host.

OTTERTON COMMUNITY SHOP

We want to know how we can improve the shop and encourage everyone to make more use of it (and perhaps **win £30.00** of Gift Vouchers). We are particularly keen to hear from those who only rarely or perhaps never use the shop so please **see our flyer** and access the survey via the web link, or on your mobile via the QR code. It will only take a few minutes and will be of real help and importance to us. Make it your good deed for the day!

Finally, very special thanks from the OCS to **Jill Beacham** for editing the Parish News over so many years and for giving us such an important means of connecting with the village. Thank you Jill for all your help and support.

OTTERTON VILLAGE HALL

No entry for May.

OTTERTON GARDEN CLUB

No entry for May.

THE KINGS'S ARMS – from Freddie and The King's Arms Team

What's happening at The King's in May?

On **Saturday 2nd May** we're hosting **Karaoke** here at the pub from 8pm! This will no doubt end up going late into the night, and it's a Bank Holiday weekend as well! So, clear your throat and get on down here on Saturday 2nd for a lot of fun, dancing and singing!

We're gearing up for the Sidmouth Jazz Festival and we're delighted that **Silence in the Court of Blues** will be playing on **Sunday 24th May** with a BBQ at The King's! Here's hoping for some lovely weather so everyone can make a day of it like in previous years! It's a fantastic day for the pub and the village and I hope as many of you as possible will attend.

It is with a heavy and sad heart that I have to write that Tuesday 5th May will be my last day at The King's Arms.

I cannot sum up in a paragraph adequately how much this community and the people that make it matter to me. You've welcomed me into the village and supported me so much. We've enjoyed some amazing highs together and in turn, it has been my privilege to support everything that happens in Otterton; you really have made my job a pleasure.

Otterton is a truly magical place to live and work. The things this community does for each other genuinely leave me floored. From the Open Gardens to Reindeer Runs, village flower shows and summer fêtes, Soapbox Derbies and even Father Christmas on the back of a Land Rover and Ben Jones hanging off a tractor ferrying people around the village. The reason I have tried to support as much as I can is because of all of you. The people TRULY make Otterton what it is. When times are good and fun, like the above, but also in times of great hardship and strain. The responses to the floods and to the house explosion come to mind as the community came together as one, and each resident should feel a great sense of pride living here just as I feel a great sense of pride working here. I feel connected to you in a way that is difficult to describe, but as a community you have been fantastic to me both personally and professionally, and in turn I have tried my best to return in kind to all of you by trying to make the pub the best it can be.

I am so grateful to you all for supporting me through my ventures here. I've wanted the pub to become a space where people can feel welcome; a hub for meeting, a hub for community and a hub for laughter and good times. I really do believe it has become that and will, I hope, remain that for all of you.

Thank you for being such a huge part of my life for the past 3½ years. There are too many people to thank individually but those that have been with me through it all, staff and customers, you know how much you mean to me. Friendships with many of you (for my part at least) will last a life time.

You won't see me as frequently, but I'll be around, just not behind the bar, or running frantically around with food. Maybe, just maybe, I'll get to enjoy one of those sunny late afternoons outside with you with a Devon Red!

Thank you for everything, from the bottom of my heart.

Freddie

EVENTS COMMITTEE (from Jerry Fry)

We are fast coming up to the **Otterton Grand Soap Box** event and it promises to be a great day out with lots of carts already entered, and lots of food stands and a bar on site to feed and water you all! It's on **20th June** so please come and support this event; it's our third and hopefully our best one so far, with an exciting new and challenging course! On a different note, we would also like to thank Jill for all her hard work in producing the Parish News for the last 30 years and wish her a great retirement.

OTTERTON MILL

News - our fish and chips and pizza evenings are proving as popular as ever; do pop in; for pre-orders please ring the Restaurant (01395 567041). We have a good variety of plants and herbs for spring planting and we are open throughout the May bank holidays, 9.30am-5pm.

Music - 21st - Tannahill Weavers - The Tannahill Weavers are one of Scotland's premier traditional bands; their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, original ballads and lullabies, and humorous tales of life in Scotland. Tickets available online via our website or from our Mill Shop.

Milling - 3rd & 17th - come and see history in action; our merry millers are happy to answer any questions; entry is free. Milling 11am-12.30pm and 2-3pm.

THE LOOKOUT FROM LADRAM

With our season well under way, we are hoping for some sunnier weather for the rest of the year. We have a discount running this month where you can save 20% off any holiday; simply use the code DEVON20 on our website; if any family or friends want to come for a visit, please pass on the code.

We also have summer jobs available for any students returning - please email jobs@ladrambay.co.uk for more details.



Over the past year, Otterton Relief in Need Charity has continued its quiet but vital work supporting individuals and families within our parish allowing us to make grants totalling £6,592 to those facing financial hardship. This is all possible thanks to generous donations gratefully received from the Film Club, Open Gardens, individuals and other village events.

These grants have helped with essential household items, heating costs, and other everyday needs, offering timely support to residents during difficult moments. While we are grateful to have been able to assist many, we are aware that there may be others in our community who could benefit but have not yet come forward.

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing financial difficulty, we warmly encourage you to consider applying. All enquiries are handled **in confidence**, and the application process is straightforward. Please do not hesitate to reach out and make use of this valuable local resource.

www.orinc.org.uk orin.charity@gmail.com

Paper forms are also available in the **village hall foyer** and **church**.

Drop completed forms in the ORINC post box in the village hall foyer.

CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Rural estates play a vital role in tackling Britain's countryside housing shortage, with Clinton Devon Estates leading efforts to create sustainable communities in East and North Devon.

Building on a legacy dating back to the 1800s, when Mark Rolle developed farms and cottages which are still a very visible part of the local area today, the Estate continues to balance heritage with modern needs. It manages 230 homes for local residents and is preparing to adapt to the Renters' Rights Act 2025, ensuring safe, secure housing. The Estate works closely with tenants, contractors, and local councils to maintain and improve properties while planning future developments. By engaging in local planning consultations and supporting housing tailored to community needs, it aims to help people remain in their villages and enable rural businesses to thrive. Through responsible development, Clinton Devon Estates demonstrates how landowners can support both communities and the environment.

Read full length article under Countryside Learning at www.otterton.info and for further information about the Estate's activities and available properties, please visit www.clintondevon.com

POLICE – Exmouth Neighbourhood Team: Mark.Edwards2@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Emergency 999; General Enquiries number 101; exmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk; <http://www.ukcrimestats.com/>

TAXI SERVICE: Available for local and long-distance journeys, including airport runs. Contact Barry on 07925 933100.

Entries for Otterton Parish News should now be sent to ottertonparishnews@gmail.com

Additional contact: Stevie Mears 07376 258241

PLEASE NOTE - Deadline for June edition is Wednesday 20th May latest. Thank you.