

PARISH NEWSLETTER
April 2025



*St Winifred's Church,
Branscombe
Holyford Mission Community
www.holyford.org*



ST WINIFRED'S CHURCH, BRANSCOMBE

APRIL SERVICES

6 th	11.15am	Holy Communion
13 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer
18 th	12.00pm	Good Friday Service
20 th	11.00am	Holy Community
25 th	2.30pm	Branscombe School Easter Service
27 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer



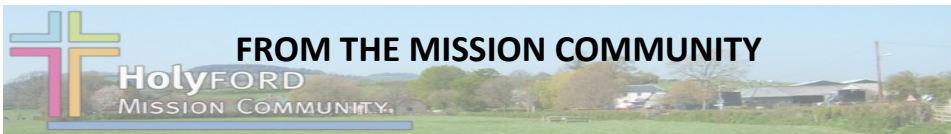
There is no longer Evening Prayer on a Thursday in St Winifred's

For any questions regarding St Winifred's, please contact the
Churchwarden: Ross Willmington 680264

For the latest information across the Mission Community,
consult the website www.holyford.org if possible, or see the relevant
Church Noticeboards

HOLYFORD MISSION COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Holy Communion	Every Wednesday 10am St Andrew's ,Colyton
Morning Prayer	Weekdays Monday - Friday 8.30am St Andrew's Colyton
Transport to/From Church:	Please contact a churchwarden
Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals:	Call Administrator 01297 552307 or email office@holyford.org
Holy Communion at Home:	Please call a Minister, Reader or Churchwarden



FROM THE MISSION COMMUNITY

HolyFORD
MISSION COMMUNITY

From the Rector

As I write, spring is getting going and the daffodils are out. We have a line of daffs across the Vicarage lawn, which come up every year. This year, unlike last year, all of the flower heads are facing away from the house. I find this odd and asked my wife if she thought someone had played a trick on us: 'someone must have dug them all up last autumn whilst we weren't looking and turned them all around' I said to her. She did a double-take before the penny dropped and she rolled her eyes at me.

Looking back at photos of previous years, sometimes the flowers have faced towards the house, or in different directions. A slightly strange phenomenon...all to do with the sun and the time of year the bulbs and flower buds emerge, perhaps. The direction of the daffodil flowers is a bit of a mystery. There is doubtless a practical and rational explanation for it.

At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many regard it as a strange phenomenon. Out of death, life. An empty tomb. God on a cross. Very irrational, you could say. There were many who have doubted it took place, both at the time and since. In the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene thought a gardener was playing a trick on her; some thought the body of Jesus had been stolen; some believed that he had faked his death. For myself, I am utterly convinced that Christ died and Christ rose again from the dead. Given the Gospels and the effort that has gone into creating such remarkable and detailed accounts of the events of the death and resurrection of Christ, plus the fact that so many Christians have witnessed to the resurrection even to the point of being martyred for their faith and losing their own lives, it is all too compelling to be regarded as just a fanciful story.

We have people like Saint Peter, who turned this way and that, until, faced with the risen Christ, realised his journey with Christ had not been in vain. Paul, for example, didn't believe in the resurrection at all, and he actively persecuted Christians who believed in Easter. Yet despite this scepticism, hostility and indifference, God didn't give up on Paul. The risen Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus and not only convinced him but chose him as an apostle—an ambassador—and he became one of Christ's most inspiring followers.

Placed in the narrative of redemption we find in the Bible, charting the relationship between humanity and God, the Easter story boldly shows us that the God who created us was prepared to give up everything for what he created, such is his love for us.

Faith in this loving creator isn't fanciful, far away or distant. It lives in the heart of our communities, as we shall be reminded this Easter. If there had been no resurrection there would be no Church, anywhere. No Christian people or even places. Looking around us, we can see that our forebears went to an enormous amount of trouble to create the amazing church buildings we have. They remain the largest, most impressive and distinctive buildings in our towns and villages. I don't think they would have gone to that effort to create them without a firm conviction that what they were doing was for God, who had been revealed to them through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is why being in church during the journey of Holy Week to Easter one can still experience a meaningful journey of transformation, from the bareness of the building, stripped of flowers and finery on Maundy Thursday, to the glory of the decorations and flowers which fill the church for Easter Day. You are welcome to join us at any of the services across the six churches of the Holyford Mission Community. We are very fortunate to have a visiting preacher this year. The Reverend Lucy Gardner is a theologian from the University of Oxford and tutor in doctrine at St Stephen's House, who will be giving the addresses during Holy Week.

The churches we have here are places where this faith lives and breathes. The daffodils will have gone over by Easter Day, but the faith will be in full bloom, turned toward the Son. Join us this Easter. Enter the mystery.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven



**St Winifred's Church, Branscombe,
Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is open to anyone living in the relevant parish. At this short meeting the Churchwardens are appointed.

This meeting is followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at which members of the church Electoral Roll of their parish are entitled to attend and vote. The annual reports and accounts are received and members of the PCC are appointed.



Join us for Holy Week and Easter

The week leading up to Easter is known as Holy Week. It is designed to be a pilgrimage which starts on Palm Sunday, when we hear about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. As the week progresses, we journey with Jesus from the Last Supper to his Passion and Cross which leads to the victory of God's love which triumphed over darkness Easter Day when we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection.

We have a number of services during that week across all six churches within the Holyford Mission Community. You are welcome to attend any of them. The Reverend Lucy Gardner, tutor in doctrine at St Stephen's House and theologian from the University of Oxford, will be giving the addresses. There will also be activities for children on Good Friday at St Andrew's, Colyton at 3pm.

Services in the Holyford Mission Community Holy Week and Easter 2025

Palm Sunday, 13th April

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8.00am | Eucharist (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>), St Andrew's, Colyton |
| 9.30am | Procession with Donkey and Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton |
| 11.15am | Morning Prayer, St Winifred's, Branscombe |
| 11.15am | Eucharist (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>), St Michael's, Musbury |
| 11.15am | Eucharist, St Lawrence's, Southleigh |
| 6.00pm | Evensong, St Giles's, Northleigh |
| 6.30pm | Evensong, St Michael's, Colyford |

Monday 14th April, Monday of Holy Week

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 8.30am | Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton |
| 10.00am | Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton |

Tuesday 15th April, Tuesday of Holy Week

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 8.30am | Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton |
| 10.00am | Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton |

Wednesday 16th April, Spy Wednesday

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8.30am | Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton |
| 10.00am | Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton |
| 4.30pm | Stainer's Crucifixion, St Andrew's, Colyton |

Maundy Thursday 17th April

- 8.30am Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
- 7.30pm Sung Eucharist to include the washing of feet, St Andrew's, Colyton *followed by the all-night Watch*

Good Friday 18th April

- 8.00am Stations of the Cross, St Andrew's, Colyton
- 10.00am Liturgy of the Passion, St Andrew's, Colyton
- 12 noon Good Friday Service, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
- 12 noon Good Friday Service, St Winifred's, Branscombe**
- 12 noon Good Friday Service, St Michael's, Colyford
- 12 noon Good Friday Service, St Michael's, Musbury
- 3.00pm Good Friday Messy Church, St Andrew's, Colyton
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer, St Giles's, Northleigh

Holy Saturday 30th March

- 8.00pm Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, St Andrew's, Colyton

Easter Day 31st March

- 6.00am Dawn Service, Hillhead Picnic Site, Colyton
- 8.00am Eucharist (*Book of Common Prayer*), St Andrew's, Colyton
- 9.30am Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
- 9.30am Eucharist, St Michael's, Colyford
- 10.00am Eucharist, St Michael's, Musbury
- 11.15am Eucharist, St Winifred's, Branscombe**
- 11.15am Eucharist, St Giles's, Northleigh
- 11.15am Eucharist, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong, St Andrew's, Colyton



The Parishes of Colyton with
Colyford, Branscombe,
Musbury, Northleigh and Southleigh.

*For details of forthcoming services and events
across our Mission Community please visit our website: **Holyford.org***

Branscombe C of E Primary School



We have been incredibly busy at Branscombe C of E Primary with lots of events and celebrations taking place.



We started with our Shrove Tuesday celebrations where the children had the opportunity to make pancakes and take part in a series of fun-filled events and races! It was great fun to see the children enjoying the celebrations together.



This led into our Ash Wednesday service at the Church, which was led by Father Steven.

The children had the opportunity to take part in the service and build on the understanding that they have been developing in school. They have spent time thinking about Lent and how some people choose to sacrifice or give something up during this time but also those who choose to take something on such as giving time to charity or raising awareness of causes that are special to them.



On 6th March, we celebrated World Book Day and the children were able to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. It was inspiring to see the children so enthusiastic about books and sharing their passions for different authors. This was followed up by spending time with a visiting local author Anne Parsons. Her books, based on her pet Airedale Terrier Archie, were a real hit for the children and we were grateful to the PTFA for buying some copies for us to continue to enjoy back in school. It is important for our children to have inspiring experiences and I am sure that it will help to motivate the children within their own writing.



Our new baby and toddler group will continue to run every other Thursday from 9:30am-11am. Thank you to everyone who continues to support and spread the word about our group.

On a personal note, it has been great to begin to get to know the school community and I am grateful to you all for making me feel so welcome. I am looking forward to meeting more of you and continuing the great work that is happening at the school. Branscombe C of E Primary is a special place and I am privileged to be able to a part of the journey in enabling the school to grow and flourish.

Best wishes.

Mr Butler
Academy Headteacher





Church Floodlighting

If you would like to sponsor the lights, perhaps in memory of someone or to mark a special occasion, please contact Pat Ayles (680328). The suggested donation to church funds for a week of floodlighting is £15.00

9th to 22nd March

In loving memory of our parents John and Irene Pearson, and John Shorthouse. Gone, but never forgotten, especially at this time of year. Jill and Graeme Shorthouse and grandsons James and Ben

20th to 26th April

In loving memory of Margaret Alison Rogers 20th April 1929-9th April 2017 and Douglas Noel Rogers 16th December 1925-23rd June 2005. Very dear and much loved parents. Nick.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Would you like to try your hand at flower arranging ?

We need people with a love of flowers to join our teams to decorate St Winifred's. You do not need to be experienced as help will always be at hand

If interested please contact Sallie Herniman tel. 01297 553482



DONATIONS NEEDED

The Food Bank needs non perishable food, toiletries, washing powder or liquid etc. They particularly need: cold meat (eg ham/corned beef/Spam) *tinned/ jars of hot dogs* chilli con carne*long-life whole milk*baby wipes* toilet rolls*toiletries.

We are still happy to pick up any items from your house if that is easier. For financial gifts the bank details are available on the Mission Community website

Thanks again!!

Jill & Tony Johnson

Naked Larder

Love food but hate plastic waste??

Naked Larder Sidmouth, based in Weston, is a unique plastic and packaging-free grocery service offering re-fillable dry food goods, eco-friendly cleaning & personal care products ethically, and sustainably sourced at affordable prices. Simple to use - order online & collect using your own containers once per month.

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CAKE AND CHAT

**Wednesday 16th April 2025,
2pm-4pm in Branoc Hall.**

All are welcome for a cuppa, a chat and of course a slice of cake.

Come along and meet with friends, and even make new ones.

We look forward to you joining us



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Camps International Cambodia 2026

As part of my fundraising, I will be continuing to make Fudge. Below are this month's flavours.

After Eight Mint Fudge £3.50
Terry's Chocolate Orange Fudge £3.50
Mini Egg Fudge £3.50
Rum & Raisin Fudge £3.50
Available for delivery

Thank you for your support & watch this space for further events

E-Mail: gracecamps2026@gmail.com

Tel: [01297 680447](tel:01297680447)

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Branscombe Parish Council

For further information please visit:

<http://www.branscombe-pc.org.uk/>

Clerk to the council: Nicky Ingarfield

clerk@branscombe-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07814 521538

Next Meeting: Thurs 3rd April – Branoc Hall Social Room 7pm

Donations raised from the First Aid course amounted to a fantastic £92.00, and the Red Cross have written thanking us for it. So a big Thank You to everyone who came along—and donated!

Also, huge thanks to Caroline and Emily who have replaced the Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy oak in “the triangle” on the beach path. The original sapling was supplied to us at very much the wrong time of the year for planting, so never really stood a chance.

We’re organising village clean-ups on:

Thursday 27th March

Monday 31st March

Everyone welcome to come along and help, please contact Caroline, preferably by email: caropow55@gmail.com

The annual community meeting will be in the evening of Saturday 31st May—please put it in your diary –format and content is being finalised, we’ll let you know in next month’s newsletter

Finally –if you’ve read your Council Tax bill, you’ll see that the increase in the Parish Precept has been expressed as a percentage—as we said last month, that increase in cash terms is 50p per month for a Band ‘D’ property. Furthermore, the bill says that the Parish precept is 4% of your bill, but that’s the average across East Devon— for Branscombe it’s just 1.45% of your total bill, up from 1.28% last year.

Mike Pellatt
Chair, BPC

Planned Road Closures/Delays

19 May, up to 5 days Road from Higher Barn to the Old Cider House—closure.
Location—outside telephone exchange. Replacement of pole

18-20 June Road from The Square to Great Seaside Farm, outside Glebe Cottage/Old Vicarage—Southwest Water, temporary to permanent reinstatement—traffic management, **NOT** closure

PLANNING

No new planning applications this month, one decided by EDDC. No updates on the others listed last month.

Date	App ref	Description	BPC Response	EDDC Decision
09/01/25	25/0045/FUL	12 Hillside Branscombe Seaton EX12 3BQ Proposed single storey wrap around extension, extended parking, addition of cladding and alteration to fenestration	Support	Approved 25/02/25



THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE INVITES ALL PARISHIONERS AND
REGULAR USERS OF THE HALL TO:

AFTERNOON TEA
AT 3PM ON SUNDAY 6TH APRIL
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE VILLAGE AND DISCUSS
THE FUTURE OF THE HALL.



BRANOC HALL – BOOKINGS OFFICER VACANCY

After 4 years as the Branoc Hall Bookings Officer, Catherine Newman has decided it is time to give someone else the opportunity.

Catherine has done an absolutely superb job, as so many of our customers over the period will testify. She will be sorely missed by both our hirers and the Committee. We are therefore eager to find someone who can take on this interesting and important role.

It is a voluntary position which requires the ability to get on with people, both hirers and other committee members. It requires access to a computer, email and phone and requires a reasonable level of IT skills. The amount of time it takes up obviously varies from week to week depending on the number of bookings but is normally a maximum of just a few hours over the week. It is a matter of taking initial enquiries, confirming bookings, keeping an accurate diary, and producing an invoice to the customer. It is also necessary to liaise with both the bar management and cleaners.

Full information, help and advice, and a thorough and complete handover process will be provided, and Catherine will be on hand for further guidance should it be required at any time.

Branoc Hall remains a fundamental part of life in Branscombe and taking on this role, and joining the Management Committee, will enable you to be involved in ensuring that remains in place going forward.

If you think this position would be of interest to either yourself or a friend or acquaintance, please give me ring and I would be delighted to meetup and discuss what is involved in more detail.

David Lamb. Chairman. 01297 680777 - chairbranochoall@gmail.com

Date		Branoc Hall bookings – April 2025
Tu	1 st	
W	2 nd	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	3 rd	Private hire – main hall – afternoon Parish Council meeting – social room – 7pm
F	4 th	
S	5 th	
Su	6 th	Village Hall Community meeting
M	7 th	
Tu	8 th	
W	9 th	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
T	10 th	
F	11 th	Private hire – main hall – all day
S	12 th	Private hire – whole hall – all day
Su	13 th	
M	14 th	
Tu	15 th	
W	16 th	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Cake and Chat – main hall & kitchen – 2pm – 4pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	17 th	
F	18 th	
S	19 th	
Su	20 th	
M	21 st	
Tu	22 nd	
W	23 rd	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening
Th	24 th	
F	25 th	
S	26 th	
Su	27 th	
M	28 th	
Tu	29 th	
W	30 th	Post Office – foyer – 2pm-3pm Private hire – snooker room - evening

To book the hall please contact Catherine Newman 01395 579317



As spring coincides with us entering our last 12 months on the farm, I've started reflecting on some of the things that I will (and won't) miss when we leave. As well as all of the practical conversations about how things will change for us, where we might live, how many cows Ian will keep, etc. I have also found myself wandering the fields and knowing where I am going to find the first snowdrops, primroses and wild daffodils. I didn't realise how well I knew the fields: the ones that offer a bit more shelter and catch the early morning sun and the ones that don't get any sun until later in the year so therefore the flowers are somewhat delayed. I will miss being able to walk the farm and see the signs of spring appearing. Of course, I shouldn't be sad about this; these signs of spring are visible in many places and certainly from the footpaths that cross the farm, so leaving Manor Mill won't stop me seeing them. But what about my favourite field? It's shaped like an amphitheatre, full of wild daffodils and with a view of the sea. There is no public access here and I am certainly visiting much more frequently at the moment, trying to soak it all in and commit to memory just why I love it so much. I will certainly miss my morning walks to see these spring flowers emerging through the grass to welcome the warmth of the sun.

As I walk the dogs through the fields around Manor Mill I find myself thinking that I certainly won't miss being ankle (or even knee) deep in muddy water. These fields seem to spend more days waterlogged now than they used to, with the footpath soggy and slippery most of the time from October until ... well, who knows when. I won't miss having to leave my house in welly boots every day because of the mud right outside the front door or telling people who are coming to visit that they need to meet me in the yard or bring appropriate footwear to walk along the driveway to the house. If we were lambing this year, I would currently be thinking about bringing the ewes back to Manor Mill and getting them used to coming into the shed, but as has been the case in the last couple of years the fields in the valley are sodden and I know we would be debating where the ewes should go and contemplating the potential foot problems and lack of grass that we may be facing. I am grateful we are not lambing and not just because it means I can sleep well in April.

Then I see and speak to my friends who are starting to lamb, and we have our last calf of the season, and I think of the joy of bringing new life into the world. I think of the pleasure that seeing the lambs and calves has brought to so many villagers and visitors, over the years. I think of the times that I have looked out of my living-room window and seen a crowd gathering on the footpath. Who needs a Wi-Fi enabled camera to tell them that a ewe is lambing?

I think about how much I have enjoyed chatting to people about the farm, about the sheep and cows and particularly about lambing and calving. I think about the times that I have debated organic versus conventional farming with passersby.

A friend sends me a link to an article in The Guardian about the rise of weekend breaks to experience lambing – with a note that says, “Well, you were way ahead of that trend”. I receive messages and emails from people asking if we will be doing our lambing experiences this year, because they would love to come again, and I feel sad that isn’t part of my life anymore.

Reflecting on all of this is helping me focus on what I might want to achieve over the next few years, but then there is the current day-to-day that needs to be addressed too. Ian and I attended a farm group meeting about grants and funding for the coming years. Ian will need to tap into these to access funds to cover the income that will be lost from the Basic Payment Scheme (which has been stepped back over the past few years), and to continue to address the environmental work that we have been doing within the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Our current scheme will end in December 2025.

Our wonderful team of citizen scientists have completed the winter bird survey. They identified 39 species in Branscombe and 25 at Salcombe Regis – this is quite a large range of birds for farms that don’t feature any arable crops. Six red-listed species were identified: Skylark, Herring Gull, Marsh Tit, Yellowhammer, Greenfinch and Linnet, and four Devon Species of Conservation Concern: Redwing, Song Thrush, Reed Bunting and Kestrel. There is real value in these surveys; they help to influence management decisions. The Manor Mill area provides a great refuge from bad weather, with a number of trees and woodland edges, but many of the hedges will need better management going forwards to stop them getting gappy, tall and straggly, so that they can continue to provide a quality habitat for the smaller birds. Fruit has been in short supply, and any new planting should include berry-bearing species such as hawthorn and blackthorn. Some areas of the farm were grazed less this year (due to drainage issues, access to drinking water and problems with fencing). Interestingly, there were fewer birds identified here this year, and we thought this may be due to the fact that the seed from the grass falls into the thicker thatch below and the small birds are less able to access it. If we want to support the bird populations, this information can help to influence the choice of grazing regime. We always share our findings with the local National Trust team, but this year we also met with one of the team so that we can begin the handover of the survey work to ensure that the National Trust have this available to support their decision making.

Over the next few months, we will sell the remaining ewes and hogs, start on some of the more boring tidying jobs around the farm and prepare some grant applications. We have now stopped supplying In My Back Yard and will no longer be selling meat from the farm.



THE SEA SHANTY BEACH CAFÉ

The Café is open 9.00am to 4.00pm everyday

The shop is open from 8.30am

Breakfast menu is served from 09:00am Last Order - 11:30am

Lunch menu is served from 12:00pm– 2.30pm

Breakfasts, lunches, and **daily specials**.

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Issue of Sept 1913 A rare mention of church politics ... The vicar is delighted that the attempt to pass a Bill to disestablish the Church in Wales. Bill has been rejected by 242 votes to 48. He says, rather trenchantly that *to attempt to force such a mean Bull through Parliament without consulting the people is a most unfair proceeding; in our view the people of this country do not wish the Church to be treated in such a shameful way.... At Swansea 50,000 people were present at a recent meeting to protest against the measure; at Huddersfield 20,000 ... at Cheltenham, 11000 ... As the Bishop of St Aseph says: "It is not pleasant to be driven into controversy, but even a man of peace must defend his house against a burglar."*

In this issue there is also a joyful account of a Sunday School Treat ... *a very large humber were present ... The parachute, which was kindly provided by Mr. B. Tucker, started on its aerial flight with great promise, but unfortunately came to grief soon after it had passed over the field ... The balance sheet broke even: collections etc £8.6.0, outgoings £8.6.0.*

* * * *

HOLIDAYS. The popularity of Branscombe as a resort for those who are in search of a quiet holiday amid beautiful surroundings seems to be increasing. This year a larger number of visitors than usual have found their way to our village, and we trust that one and all will be benefited and refreshed by their rest and change, and will recall their visit with pleasure on their return home. We have been glad to welcome the attendance of so many at the Services of our beautiful Church; such attendance is a most encouraging sign, for it shews that during their absence from home higher things are not forgotten. An excellent concert was given in the Schoolroom on the 13th ult. on behalf of the Branscombe Band, at which most of the performers were visitors; we hear that the net proceeds are about £8.

The vicar was well content that so many summer visitors have attended church - *such attendance is a most encouraging sign, for it shows that during their absence from home higher things are not forgotten*

In the **issue of October 1913** Bell Ringers are to the fore ... because of the distance, the Branscombe Bell Ringers have been unable to attend the Festival of Church Bell Ringers at Plymtree but are intending to ring the peals at Uplyme and Lyme Regis, and the Ringers from Northleigh have paid a visit to Branscombe.



THE SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING for the Harvest took place on Thursday (the 18th ult) and on the following Sunday. The Church was very beautifully arrayed, and our best thanks are due to the donors of flowers, etc., and also to Mrs. Steele-King, Miss R. Dean, and Miss K. Salter, who kindly undertook the work of decorating for the Festival. The preacher on Thursday evening was the Rev. E. Ravenscroft, Vicar of Buckerell, whose words were most stimulating and helpful. The musical portions of the Service were very reverently sung, and reflected great credit upon the Choir and their indefatigable trainer, Mr. Rendal Page; hymn No. 298 took the place of an Anthem, the third verse of which was rendered very sweetly as a treble solo by Master H. Bromfield. The date of writing for the press does not permit us to give the amount of the collections on Sunday, but those of Thursday will be found included in the list of collections below. As a Parochial Tea was held in June we thought it wiser to omit a Harvest Tea this year, but we hope that in future a Tea may become one of the features of our Harvest Thanksgiving.

* * * *

EVENING CLASSES. A sufficient number having signified their intention of joining the continuation classes, arrangements have been made for a series, which will begin this month. The subjects are Arithmetic (with hints on book-keeping to those who are able to profit by them), Composition, and History, the latter subject to occupy fifteen minutes weekly. The local committee hope, also, that a course of lessons on thatching, rope and spar making, will be given, and that at the end of the course a competition may take place for prizes which are offered in connexion with Agricultural Classes by the Devon County Authority. All particulars of these classes may be obtained from the Vicar, who acts as correspondent to the local committee.

* * * *

There's a lovely description of the the Thanksgiving Service ... *The musical portions of the Service were very reverently sung, and reflected great credit upon th choir and their indefatigable trainer, Mr. Rendal Page; hymn No. 298 took the place of an Anthem, the third verse of which was rendered very sweetly as treble solo by Master H. Bromfield.*

And there's an interesting mention of Evening Classes... *The subjects are Arithmetic (with hints on book-keeping to those who are able to profit from them), Composition, and History ... The local committee hope, also that a course of lessons on thatching, rope and spar making, will be given...*

The issue of August 1914 is very short and there is no mention that war had been declared a month earlier ...



Abbeyfield (East Devon) Society Marjorie Baker House

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THE PACHA POSSE

Very exciting times, or maybe not to most, but I have finally received all my processed yarn back from the mill. Whilst I was away in January the mill was hard at work processing all the floss I deposited with them in November and it is quite amazing what I got back bearing in mind my car was stuffed to capacity with bags of floss. The box I received back is approximately 40cm x 40cm x 30cm and contained 11 cones of yarn.

The general process appears to be:

Skirting – this is taking the raw fleece and removing the shorter & coarser fibres plus all the vegetation

Noodling – basically folding and rolling the fleece so all the fibres lay the same way ready for the next stage

Washing – say no more

Carding – basically the floss now goes through a machine that looks like a giant dog brush to separate the fibres, ensuring they lie parallel to one another & removing and remaining impurities

Gilling – which blends together the carded fibres with alternating directions to produce a long line of floss ready for spinning

Spinning – this takes the floss and twists the fibres together to form a consistent & continuous strand (this is the bit I am struggling with, my hand spinning attempts still look very rustic)

Plying – a strand of spun fibre now gets twisted together with another strand – this gives you 2 ply, more strands can be plied to give 3 ply etc.



And there you have it, every stage either photographed or filmed and the process all done by individual alpaca so I now have various different cones of yarn that I can identify by name .

.It turns out Cusco & Lucha are my best for floss with Coca & Imogen coming in next. Jester only produced 1 cone but has a really fine, extremely soft fibre and Polly and Reeya were slightly coarser and combined to produce a very pretty ginger Arun weight yarn. All in all weighing 8,735 grams, with John Lewis selling alpaca @ £9.75 per 50g I was quite amazed.

Imogen is currently being used to make a baby blanket, Jester is being turned into bed-socks and Cusco is being crocheted in a sleeveless jumper. The rest I need to work out what to do with.



Other than that the woollies are all fine, Inti is still a fabulous little chap and is starting to walk very nicely on the halter, although has to be in front of the handler, the second you overtake him he just puts the brakes on & refuses to take another step. He still enjoys his chest scratches and is very generous with his kisses. We have also been going through the process of getting him to eat his morning pellets, up until now he has been just on grass, having weaned himself from mum he really could do with the additional vitamins etc that the pellets provide as the grass is not at its best at the moment although he is a good little eater and is rarely seen without a grass hanging out of his mouth.

Coca is still a very attentive mum and if he is taken for a walk with Lucha for example, Coca is stand at the gate calling to him, although the odd thing is as soon as he is back in the field Coca just ignores him and off Inti goes to check on granny (Reeya) and these two still have mad moments starting with a gentle headbutt leading into running games. However, the time is coming when he will need to leave the girls, he is such a docile little thing I am feeling slightly anxious about the moment he is moved, Cusco can be a bit of a thug, but we will try and introduce them gently and take them for walks together first

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National Trust Countryside Update

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Trust

Manor Mill re-returns...

We're glad to announce that Manor Mill will be spinning its way back into action on Sunday 6th April, and will be open to visitors from 1.00 until 4.00. From that date, the plan is to open it on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons, 1.00-4.00, throughout the spring and summer, all the way to the end of Oct. Obviously, for this to happen, we rely totally on our fabulous volunteers, who bring a mill visit to life by greeting visitors and explaining what's going on. If you'd like to give us a hand in this regard, please get in touch (contact details below).

We're especially excited about the mill right now because for the first time in a few years we'll be properly productive, milling grain into meal for a Sidbury farmer's gourmet turkeys to gobble. If you'd like to see what happens when 1.5 tons of millstones do what they were crafted to do, come see us on April 6th, or a Sunday or Wednesday thereafter. You'll love it – it's a revolutionary experience.

Life on the Hedge

Over in the Old Bakery orchard, we've been busy putting up barriers, in a constructive and all-natural way. The keen-eyed among you may have spotted the hedge-laying that's been going on over the past three weeks, taking place thanks to our rangers and volunteers. 'Why on earth would they be doing all that hedge-laying' you might well be asking yourself at this very juncture. Well, there are a couple of reasons.



Firstly, it provides an excellent habitat for wildlife. In a decent bit of hedge, you can find a whole range of creatures enjoying their dream dwelling. Take bank voles, the UK's smallest vole, which just love to hole up in a hedge. And you know who loves a bank vole? Owls and weasels, that's who. But not in a cuddly way.

There are other animals that love hedge life and bank voles are only too happy to make room for them. (They're not hedge hogs.) Ooh, hedgehogs, for instance. We all know and love the humble hedgehog for its unassumingly snuffly lifestyle, and of course we tend to be increasingly protective of them as their numbers plummet.

Careless drivers and habitat destruction have certainly made their dent in a hedgehog's sense of wellbeing, so it's good to know that there's one thing these spiny little chaps never have to worry about: a king cobra bite. This is because hedgehogs have a very rare immunity to the alpha-neurotoxin that makes these snakes such a fearsome predator. And also because, at the time of writing, king cobras were, on balance, more likely to hang out in Bengaluru than Branscombe. But, should one ever find its way hereabouts, a hedgehog coming face to face with it will be laughing.

Another reason for hedge-laying is that it forms natural and sustainable barriers for livestock management and property demarcation.

These barriers continue to grow and therefore replenish themselves should any damage be sustained courtesy of a hefty heifer's hips or a porky pig's posterior (apologies to any livestock feeling body-shamed by this. No judgement here). Any waste material can be harmlessly disposed of, as is the case with the orchard off-cuts, which are going to be turned into woodchip.

So, what do you do to lay a hedge? You cut into a branch of a living tree, but only three-quarters of the way through. You then bend that branch down as near to horizontal as you can, taking care not to snap it off altogether. This section, called a 'pleacher' is then kept in place with a tent-peg shaped piece of wood sourced from among the branches. You then repeat as you need to. This technique's known as the Devon method, and is of course finished off with a good layer of jam on top. Never underneath.

Hedge-laying has certainly stood the test of time. Julius Caesar took time out from all that conquering to note coming across it in Belgium, for instance. 'By Jupiter, these Belgae are really branching out' he wrote in his journal. For all I know.

Baking a living

Would you like to earn a crust at the Old Bakery? Fancy enjoying a slice of life as a central part of the village? Want to meet Branscombe's kneads? If you'd like to try running a small catering business from this historic and much-loved premises, dough's waiting to be made inside by the right person. It's a piece of cake to get in touch with us: send us an email or give us a call (see below) and let's get this thing roll-ing. And that's a wrap.

For any enquiries or if you'd like to get in touch re volunteering, please contact us at branscombe@nationaltrust.org.uk or on 01297 680507.

Martin Jennings-Wright

Volunteering and Community Officer

NT Branscombe



At a Glance Dates for your Diary

April

2nd	7.30pm	Annual meeting of Parishioners & Parochial church meeting	St Winifred's
3rd	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Social Room Branoc Hall
6th	3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	Branoc Hall
16th	2-4.00pm	Cake and Chat	Branoc Hall
25th	2.30pm	Easter Service Branscombe School	St Winifred's



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Branscombe Parish Directory

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Hon. Assistant Priests	Revd Nigel Freathy	647274
	Revd Canon Colin Preece	552154
	Revd Canon Karen Curnock	07460 244475
Churchwarden	Ross Willmington	680264
Readers	Dr Charles Hill	07709 980640
	Emma Laughton	551400
	Sue McCoulough	552446
Youth and Family Worker		youth@holyford.org
Organist	Dr Geoff Butler	21375
Church Secretary	Sue Hawkins	680466
Church Treasurer	Pat Ayles	680328
Friends of St Winifred's	Emma Cox, Chairman	680392
Bells	John Bass	680432
Mission Community Office	Caz Jefferies Admin Tues, Thurs & Friday 9.30 – 1.30pm	552307 office@holyford.org
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