

# Beer Parish News

January 2026

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***



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

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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## ST MICHAEL'S ...

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Mrs Y. Hawker 22191

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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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# St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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

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

## Calendar for JANUARY 2026

Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9:30am Morning Praise	Epiphany
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THORNFIELD	
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Reflective Prayer 11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at CHECK HOUSE	
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Pre-Music Makers' meeting at Seaton Church Centre ALL welcome	
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Holy Communion	Baptism of Christ
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm~4:00pm Memory Church at SEATON 5:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Holy Communion at BEER	
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Micke's Music Makers	
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Morning Praise with Baptism	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at NETHERHAYES	
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at LYME BAY VIEW 5:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am Open the Book at School 2:00pm Anna's Place Reflective Cafe style worship with Communion & refreshments 5:30pm Evening prayer at SEATON	
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	10am ~ 12noon Candlemas All Age Craft Activity	
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Family Communion	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THE MANOR	
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THE SEATON 5:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Holy Communion at SEATON	
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	10am~12noon Beer Community SOS Choir (Seriously Occasional Singers)	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Morning Praise	Candlemas

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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

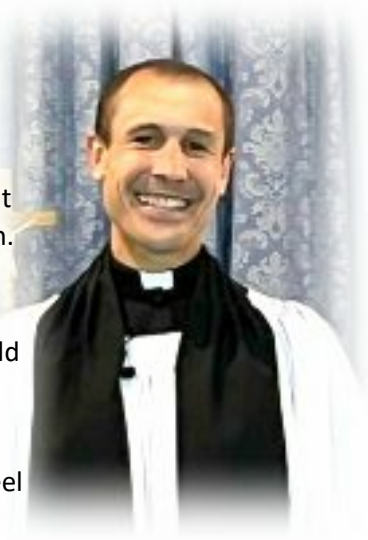
The turning of the year invites reflection. For some, it brings a sense of hope and fresh possibility, whilst for others, a quiet weariness, or even apprehension about what lies ahead. For many of us, it is a mixture of both. Life rarely fits neatly into the promise of a "new beginning" on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The joys and challenges of the past year do not disappear overnight and the world we step into feels no less complex or fragile than the one we have just left.

As we look around our world today, it is hard not to feel unsettled. We continue to witness conflict and suffering on a global scale, divisions that feel increasingly entrenched and a level of uncertainty that affects everything from the cost of living to our sense of security and belonging. The pace of change can feel relentless, and the noise overwhelming. Many people carry a deep concern for the future, not just for themselves, but for their children, their loved ones, and the wider world.

Yet alongside these global anxieties are the very personal stories each of us carries into this new year. There are joys to be cherished: moments of laughter, relationships that have deepened, new life welcomed and prayers quietly answered. And there are challenges too: grief that still aches, health worries, loneliness, strained relationships or simply the tiredness that comes from navigating yet another demanding year. Some begin this year with gratitude, others with questions and many with both.

The New Year often comes with an unspoken pressure to make resolutions to be better, stronger, more organised or more successful. While there can be value in reflection and intention, this way of thinking can also leave us feeling inadequate or anxious, as though the burden of making the year "work" rests entirely on our shoulders. Is it any wonder that most new year resolutions get left behind by the turn of February. The Christian faith offers a gentler and deeper invitation, not to reinvent ourselves, but to walk more attentively with God, trusting that we are met with grace rather than judgement.

A few years ago, I included in this parish magazine a poem that feels especially worth returning to now: *The Gate of the Year*, written by Minnie Louise Haskins. It



was quoted by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast in 1939 at the very beginning of a time of immense uncertainty and fear. Its words speak powerfully into moments when the future feels unclear.

*"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'  
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"*

There is something deeply honest in this message. The request for light is understandable, as we all long to see ahead, to know what will happen, to feel in control. Yet the answer given is not a map or a guarantee, but a relationship. Not certainty, but trust. Not a promise that the path will be easy, but an assurance that we do not walk it alone.

This is the heart of Christian hope. It is not blind optimism, nor a denial of fear or difficulty. Hope does not pretend that suffering will vanish or that answers will come quickly. Instead, hope is rooted in the faithfulness of God, the presence of God who walks with his people through wilderness and uncertainty, who is present in joy and sorrow alike, and who remains steadfast even when the way ahead is unclear.

As a community, this matters deeply. The Church (your church) is not simply a place for those who feel confident and certain, it is a place for real people, living real lives, bringing their whole selves, that includes our doubts, hopes, griefs and joys, before God. It is a reminder that none of us are meant to carry life alone. Together, we learn to place our hands again and again into the hands of God, trusting that his love is stronger than our fear and his light sufficient for each step.

As this new year unfolds, my prayer is not that it will be trouble-free, but that we will discover personally and together, a deeper awareness of God's presence. That in moments of joy, we will give thanks, in moments of struggle, we will find support and in moments of uncertainty, we will have the courage to trust and keep the faith.

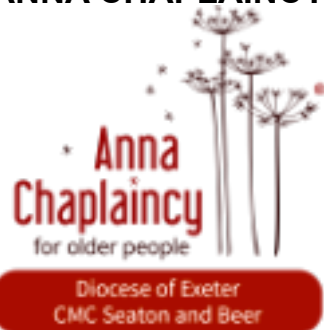
May this be a year in which we walk gently, love generously, and hope quietly but confidently, not because we know what lies ahead, but because we know the One who walks with us.

Grace and blessings for 2026

*Revd Justin*



**ANNA CHAPLAINCY** – Mary and Sue are wishing you all a Very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New year. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all who have supported the ministry of Anna Chaplaincy during 2025, particularly our wonderful volunteers. If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer, or training to become an Anna Chaplain, please contact Mary or Sue for an informal



chat and learn more about this wonderful ministry with older people in our communities of Seaton and Beer.

**JANUARY worship and events** – If you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, please consider joining us for our monthly worship. You would be most welcome. Kindly check with the care home prior to your visit in case anything changes at the last minute.

Monday 5 January THORNFIELD 10.45 a.m.

Wednesday 7 January – CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

**Tuesday 13 JANUARY– 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

Monday 19 January – NETHERHAYES 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 20 January - LYME BAY VIEW 10.45 a.m.

**ANNA'S PLACE at St Michael's Church BEER.** Please join us on Wednesday 21 January 2.00 p.m. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments, everyone welcome. A space for carers and those cared for at home.

Monday 26 January – THE MANOR 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 27 January – THE SEATON 11.00 a.m.

If you know someone living at home or a resident who would like a one-to-one visit in a care home, please contact either Mary or Sue on their mobile numbers. You will find Information leaflets about Anna Chaplaincy ministry displayed at St Gregory's and St Michael's churches. Thank you for your support and prayers.

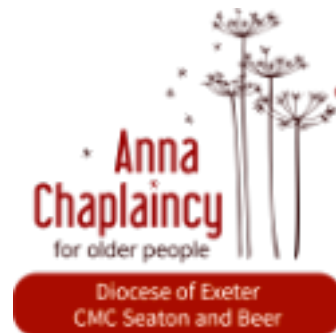
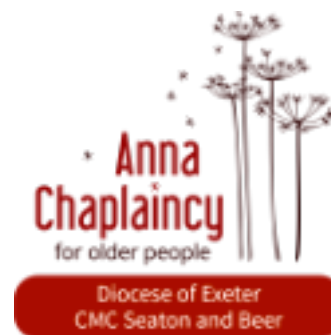
**Anna Chaplain Mary - 07805655335 Anna Chaplain Sue – 07802649155**  
The church office - CONTACT 01297 23656

**ANNA'S PLACE**

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

**21st January  
18th February**

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.

**13th January  
10th February  
10th March**

2nd Tues of the month  
**2-4pm**

St Gregory's Church Centre,  
Colyford Rd,  
Seaton EX12 2DF

**Dementia Supportive  
Disabled Facilities**

Contact: Mary Casey caseymary13@gmail.com  
Church office: 01297 23656  
www.stgregoryschurch.org.uk

**A Very Happy New Year to you all,**  
and a huge Thank You to everyone  
who has supported Beer Village  
Heritage over the past year.

By the time that you read this we likely will have welcomed in 2026 with our traditional Beach Clean. Our thanks, in advance, to everyone who came to help, and to everyone who takes time to pick up rubbish throughout the year. It is so gratifying to hear how litter-free the beach is on a daily basis. We are proud of you all.

The Fine Foundation Centre will be closed from New Year until Easter, during which time we will be looking at some of the displays and deciding on various changes. Some of them date back to when the centre was opened and are showing their age!

Once again we will be supporting Axe Valley Runners when they stage The Grizzly, this year named "One Step Beyond", on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Before that the Branscombe Project talk on January 26<sup>th</sup> will return to Vindolanda, by Hadrian's Wall, to find out how climate change is affecting the excavations. Many of the artefacts about which we heard last January are preserved by being in boggy land. The bogs are gradually drying out, and the Roman remains, especially those made of wood, such as the correspondence written on bark, is being destroyed.

East Devon Local History Groups held their annual conference recently. As usual there was a round-up of information from around the area which again illustrated the eclectic nature of the interests of the individual groups. For instance, the Blackdown Hills group organized guided tours to RAF Culmstock and Dunkeswell Abbey as well as talks and workshops on archaeological finds locally including lumps, bumps, pots and clay pipes. They held an exhibition celebrating the first Young Farmers' club amongst other things. Their next project is recording non-conformist chapels in the area.

Fairlynch Museum had new exhibitions this year on the history of shops in Fore Street; Women's dresses of the Georgian period; and textile art by a local artist.

The group in Lypstone produced a history of the village in specially composed song for a 40-strong choir alongside costumed actors. They offered 3 performances in the church as well as selling programmes which

contained the words of the songs as well as the spoken material. One of their members has produced a number of books on village characters and events while another has put together a programme of old films about the village.

East Budleigh History Society staged a Maritime Heritage Event during the year, which made use of the Otter Valley Association archives. In May 2026 the group is staging a Peacemaker Festival to celebrate Roger Conant, who lived in the village and who founded Salem, in Massachusetts in 1626.

Barbara Farquarson reported on the Branscombe Project and talked about the talks held during the year.

The Sid Valley Local History Group reported on a variety of research projects undertaken by different members. These included information on the "Defoe" storm on 1703, which is still believed to be the worst storm ever experienced in the U.K.; an account of the collapse, in 1924, of the esplanade and its subsequent rebuilding; and the history of the £12 paid annually since 1641, originally by the feofees and now Sidmouth Consolidated Charities, to the church for communion wine. The group has now been wound up by the Sid Valley Association but their digitised materials will continue to be accessible at:

<https://www.sidvaleassociation.org.uk/about-us/local-history>

As you can tell, history and heritage cover a wide range of subjects! If you have an urge to research something specific, please let us know. We may be able to offer support and help to display your findings.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on annual subscriptions and 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. We would particularly love to hear from someone who would be prepared to help with the website.







We are delighted to report that the total donations and sponsor money received for our RNLI Annual Autumn Ramble is now £530 and includes £196 from Alastair's Justgiving.com fundraising page. We thank everyone who supported our walkers and

contributed to the total.

We attended the Seaton Chamber Independent Christmas Indoor Market at the United Reformed Church Hall on Saturday 29th November and during the Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony at Marine Place our volunteer Ann Roberts received a certificate to thank her for her work in the community including at St. Gregory's Church and our branch of the RNLI. Ann has had a book stall in her driveway over the past few years from Spring to Autumn and in 2025 it raised over £550 for the work of the RNLI.



Ann Roberts receiving her certificate

We took our RNLI Christmas Cards, calendars, diaries and gifts to Axe Yacht Club on Friday 28th November, Colyton Christmas Fair on Wednesday 3rd December and Beer Festive



Pat Watterson and me at Colyton Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December. We returned to Axe Yacht Club on Sunday 7th December. After the seventh of December our Christmas cards and other items were transferred to the Lyme Regis Shop and we will re-open our shop at Beer in the Spring. At the time of writing my report we were

looking forward to our Tesco Seaton Christmas Collection on Friday 19th December.



As we move into 2026 our first event of the year is our RNLI SOS Table Top Sale on Saturday 31st January at the Mariners Hall, Beer. There will be bacon baps, tea, coffee, cake and a variety of stalls. The doors will be open to sellers from 8am and open to buyers from 9am to 12.30pm. Stall holders are welcome from Beer and around our area. Details are available by contacting me on [wac500@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wac500@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone message to 07790861531.

As we progress through 2026 we are looking forward to our Review of the Year and assisting at the Grizzly Drink Station at Beer Head Caravan Site in March, taking part in the RNLI Mayday Appeal, our Beer Lifeboat Weekend in July and going to the regular and additional events that we may attend.

We hope that everyone had a good Christmas and we send our best wishes for 2026.

Wendy Cummins  
Secretary Fundraising/Events  
Seaton Beer and District Branch RNLI

## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

St. Michael's church Altar Guild Team would like to wish everyone a Very Happy and Healthy New Year and hoping 2026 brings happiness, love and peaceful times.

Big thank you to everyone for their kindness, generosity and for supporting our events. It is always very much appreciated.

The Altar Guild chairman Patsy (Bewick) wishes to say huge thanks to the "altar guild ladies" for all their hard work and input in making our events so successful, continued fundraising and all the behind the scenes contributions in supporting St Michael's. You are an amazing group.

The Christmas fair on 5<sup>th</sup> December in the church was a lovely occasion despite the awful weather and thank you to all for supporting this event.

As always St. Michael's offers everyone a warm welcome so please come and join us.

With love and blessings, the Altar Guild Team.

**Date of next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 @ 10am**



### Julian Group

We are a small group who meet regularly in order to grow in the practice of Contemplative Prayer in the Christian tradition.

Julian Meetings welcome people of ALL denominations or none. Meetings usually take place on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.20pm for 7.35pm at St Gregory's

For more information contact: The Church Office on 01297 23656



## The Meeting Place

Come and meet up with your friends and make some new ones at  
**St Gregory's Church Centre every last Wednesday of the month  
starting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 2pm – 5pm**

Enjoy tea / coffee and cake

Sit and chat or play a board game - some provided or bring your own

Bring your craft and relax

Jigsaw puzzles, books and magazines to be enjoyed at your leisure

Donations only –  
all funds go towards the upkeep of St Gregory's Church

For further information please contact:

Helen Knight at the Church Office Tel: 01297 23656

Email: [seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk)

or Julie Newbery Tel: 07812 685897

## ADVERTISING

Looking to increase your business?

Wanting to draw attention to your club or organisation?

**Advertise here in *Beer Parish News***

space is available from as little as £50 for a full 12 months!!!

We are widely read in Beer and surrounding areas and have an online presence - in colour - which attracts viewers from much further afield.

For details please contact the editor:

[henryjaggers@btinternet.com](mailto:henryjaggers@btinternet.com)



# Beer Film Society

SO how do you make your morning bowl of porridge?

Oats and water? Oats with a mix of water and milk? Perhaps add a pinch off salt? Or a splash of cream?

If you want to see how the experts make it then Beer Film Society's first film of 2026 will be have all the answers as we are delighted to announce we will be showing '*The Golden Spurtle*' (2025, 75mins, PG) at the Mariners' Hall on Thursday January 15th.

This charming documentary focuses upon the annual World Porridge Making Championships in the picturesque village of Carrbridge in the Scottish Highlands just north of Aviemore.

The competition attracts porridge-fanatics from all over the world - the 2025 competition boasted entries from Australia, Norway, Pakistan and the Philippines - with just 30 select entries allowed to compete to be the World Porridge Champion.

Amid intense rivalries, steaming bowls of porridge and the lives of charming locals, we see a legacy unfold.

## What the critics said:

*One of those films that celebrate eccentricity and make you downright proud to be British, it's a delight from start to finish.*

**Brian Viner. Daily Mail. 4\***

*This irresistible documentary tells a quirkily, delightful story without ever making fun of its subjects. Good for the soul.*

**Chris Wasser. Sunday Independent. 4\***

*This film is a pleasure to watch - with endearing salt-of-the-earth subjects, a lovely ebb and flow, and a tone that feels just right.*

**Luke Buckmaster. The Guardian. 4\***

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7pm. Card payment preferred please. The bar will be open and Baboo Gelato ice creams will be available.

Finally we can confirm the following films in 2026 to put in your diaries:

February 19th: The Innocent

March 19: I Swear

April 16: The Ballad of Wallis island

Beer Film Society

★★★★  
"Charming,  
a porridge-making  
celebration of the north east."  
THE GUARDIAN

"A deftly  
constructed  
crowd-pleaser."  
SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

THE  
GOLDEN  
SPURTLE

A FILM BY  
CONSTANTINE COSTI

WORLD PORRIDGE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

READY TO SERVE

Thursday January 15th

Mariners' Hall PG

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!



## Some after-Christmas thoughts

### Why is Christmas when it is?

In the depth of Midwinter, when the days are shortest and the shadows longest, comes the winter solstice: the return of the sun. A long time before the Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity, 25 th December — at that time the date of the winter solstice in the Julian calendar — had been chosen as the day on which to commemorate the birth of Christ, and a festival on this date is first recorded at Rome in 336.

This date was probably chosen not primarily because it was the solstice, but because it fell nine months after the spring equinox (25 th March in the Roman calendar), which had perhaps already gained acceptance as the date of Christ's conception. But the winter solstice was, of course, a meaningful day on which to celebrate the birth of the Creator of light. **As we lookback to our ancient forebears we might ask whether the Anglo-Saxons had a midwinter festival before the coming of Christianity and Christmas?**

Most of what is documented comes, as so often, from the work of the Venerable Bede (c672-735). His references to pagan practices suggest distaste for what he perceived as 'primitive' behaviour and records that there was a month called Blodmonath (*Bloodmonth*) which equated to November. The name came from the fact that this was the time of year at which the pagans slaughtered their cattle, first dedicating them to the gods and making sacrifices. Bede says that **the Old English word for month (monath) came from the word for Moon**, since the pagan calendar was a lunar one (unlike the Roman and Christian solar calendar). He also says that the Winter season, according to the Anglo-Saxons, began after the Autumn Equinox, at the first Full Moon in what is now October. **Winter's first festival was thus the sacrificial feasting celebrated in Blodmonath.** Bede also goes on to say that the pagan year began on a date fixed by the solar calendar. This was the Winter Solstice, on 25 th December, which gave him the opportunity to point out that this same day is now when Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. Bede calls the festival which marked this pagan New Year Modranecht or Mothers' Night.

The text of a letter written in 601 A.D., by Pope Gregory to Mellitus, the missionary who was then going to Britain, is preserved by Bede; and in it the Pontiff wisely tells him not to put a stop to the merrymaking and

feasts of the Anglo-Saxons whom he may convert to Christianity, but to adapt the old pagan customs to the rites of the Church, and to maintain the festivities, only changing the reason for them from a heathen to a Christian impulse. ***This advice was followed; and thus today we have our merry Christmas in England and across the world.*** And who shall say that we are idolaters because we have taken over a heathen holiday, with all its laughter and all its good cheer, and have turned it into a celebration of the greatest event in the world's history? In these dark days, when the world seems cold and many are more concerned about themselves than about their fellow man, we would do well to model ourselves on our Anglo-Saxon forbears, as the great king Athelstan did: to rejoice, to share the bounty of the earth and the goodness which we derive from the Supreme Being and Creator of all things and to be a light of goodness, mercy, grace, hope and generosity.

**May the lessons of universal brotherhood and friendship, at the heart of all the great faiths, shape you and the year that is to come for the better.**

*(With acknowledgement to the Grand Eminent Prior of the Order of Athelstan)*

### Is Santa Claus real?

Well, it's fairly certain that he WAS real. St. Nicholas (literally Santa Claus) was a 4th-century Christian bishop of Myra, a city in the region of Lycia, which is in modern-day Turkey. Born around 270 AD in the coastal town of Patara, he was tortured for being a Christian bishop during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. Later under Emperor Constantine, he participated in the Council of Nicaea, during which he was fabled to have slapped the "heretic" priest Arius (actually not a heretic until after the Council).

Nicholas was known for his deep faith, generosity, and acts of kindness, especially toward children and the poor. One of the most famous stories about Nicholas recounts how he provided dowries for three impoverished sisters - whose father would otherwise have been forced to sell them into slavery, a not uncommon practice - by secretly delivering sacks of gold to their home at night. After his death on December 6, 343 AD, Nicholas was declared a saint, and his legacy inspired the modern figure of Santa Claus. It was probably the story of the dowries which inspired the belief about Santa bringing gifts.

*(With acknowledgement to a LinkedIn post by Arthur Johnson)*



[Beer@devon.WI.org.uk](mailto:Beer@devon.WI.org.uk)

Beer WI once again hosted a Christmas lunch on 4 December for the over 70s at Mariners' Hall. The event was well attended and included our special guest Revd Justin Montague who commenced the proceedings with Grace.

The delicious meal was superbly cooked by Wayne, ably assisted by his kitchen elves, Dawn, Katrina and Lucy.

We would like to extend our thanks to the village volunteers: Bev, Caroline, Diane, Sue and Tim for their help with serving, clearing and especially the washing up! And thanks also to Helen and Colin for acting as sommeliers.

Our special thanks go to the children – and staff – of Beer Primary School for their splendid and enthusiastic rendition of songs from their Nativity play and also for performing Christmas Carols, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Many thanks to Beer Regatta for their generous donation, the Hideaway in Seaton for their donation of ingredients, the Barrel of Beer and 1<sup>st</sup> Beer Scouts for their loan of equipment and the Anchor Inn for the raffle prize. Thank you also to Nigel and Karen in Top Shop. All of this assistance was greatly appreciated.

Finally, a big thank you also to the ladies from Beer WI who helped with the setting up (and clearing away) and for hosting the event. We hope to see everyone again next year.

Happy New Year to you all.

Chris Paul, President Beer WI, 01297 792129

Some photos of the WI with their creations for Christmas after instruction from Ann Robinson.



- The most valuable thing you can ever give another person is your whole undivided listening attention. Real listening is simply being present and holding the eyes of the speaker. Real listening has all the time in the world. Real listening isn't waiting for the other to stop talking so that you can speak. Real listening absorbs what is being said. Real listening is rare, which is why it is so highly valued.
- Wherever you are it's always Here and the time is Now. Don't be elsewhere. Be Here Now. No mentally projected future can ever be more important than the moment you are in now. If you have regrets for the past and worries for the future, both dissolve in The Present Moment.
- Like many people, you carry anxieties, worries, fears within you – burdens of life. Is the fear out there in the world, or is it in you? If you cannot feel calm and at peace, ask "What is it that I fear may happen? And how much does it really matter?" Your life may bring hardships but not one of them – if you so choose – has to break into your inner peace and calm.
- In the morning, before the putting on of clothes and the brushing of teeth, begin the day with a moment of Inner Stillness. A breath in presence. It grounds you and centres you. It allows a foundation of calm to arise.
- Being still puts you in touch with your essential nature. Everything that happens in daily life is fleeting, but your essential nature is eternal. The most precious of all gifts come from your essential nature: love, kindness, beauty, compassion, peace of mind. They are not of this world. They are free.

## BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SERVICES



Sunday January 4th - 10am Morning Service  
with Holy Communion

Sunday January 11th - 10am Morning Service

Sunday January 18th - 10am Morning Service

Sunday January 25th - 10am Morning Service

Sunday February 1st - 10am Candlemas Service

with Holy Communion

Coffee Mornings in the Hall on January 8th and 22nd and February 5th

## YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

### Parish Council

John Heath	<a href="mailto:cllrjheath@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrjheath@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Maureen Westlake	<a href="mailto:cllrmwestlake@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrmwestlake@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Martin Shobbrook	<a href="mailto:cllrmsdobbrook@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrmsdobbrook@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Timothy Stevens	<a href="mailto:cllrstevens@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrstevens@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Karen Stevens	<a href="mailto:cllrkstevens@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrkstevens@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Simon Reeve	<a href="mailto:cllrsreeve@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrsreeve@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Simon Whitelock	<a href="mailto:cllrswitelock@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrswitelock@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Carole Arnold	<a href="mailto:cllrcarnold@beer-pc.gov.uk">cllrcarnold@beer-pc.gov.uk</a>

Clerk to the Council: [clerk@beer-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beer-pc.gov.uk)

Internal Auditor: Jacqui Peskett - Aalgaard Renshaw Business Solutions Ltd.

### East Devon District Councillor

John Heath 07966 089257

### Devon County Councillor

Paul Arnott [paul.arnott@devon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.arnott@devon.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament Richard Foord

Email: [Richard.Foord.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:Richard.Foord.MP@parliament.uk)

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#### A STATEMENT FROM PECORAMA

It is with great sadness and after much soul-searching we have decided to close Pecorama, our well-loved family attraction, for the 2026 season.

With the challenging economic climate and costs continuing to rise, the PECO parent company cannot continue to support the financial losses of Pecorama. There is sincere hope that Pecorama can reopen in future in a new format which will continue to give lots of inspiration, fun and pleasure to our visitors. But, for the moment PECO will be focusing on growing the core businesses of manufacturing and publishing.

Our sincere thanks go out to all our staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making Pecorama a wonderful, friendly place to visit.

If you hold a Gold Card membership with us, we are happy to offer a refund for any months that cannot be used. Please email us at [info@pecorama.co.uk](mailto:info@pecorama.co.uk) for details.

Finally, we want to thank our lovely visitors for bringing the site to life and we look forward to welcoming you all again in some form in the future.

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# Beer Parish News



**2026**

**Wishing all our Readers  
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We have come a long way in the past 20 years, so don't stop sending me all the things you would like published - news; dates; event reports; poems; short essays - in fact almost anything!

*Editor*

**Copy for February 2026 to be with the Editor  
by Friday 23rd January, at very latest please.**

**henryjaggers@btinternet.com**

**01297 20858 Green Bank, 9 Clinton Rise EX12 3DZ**

\*\*\*\*\*

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