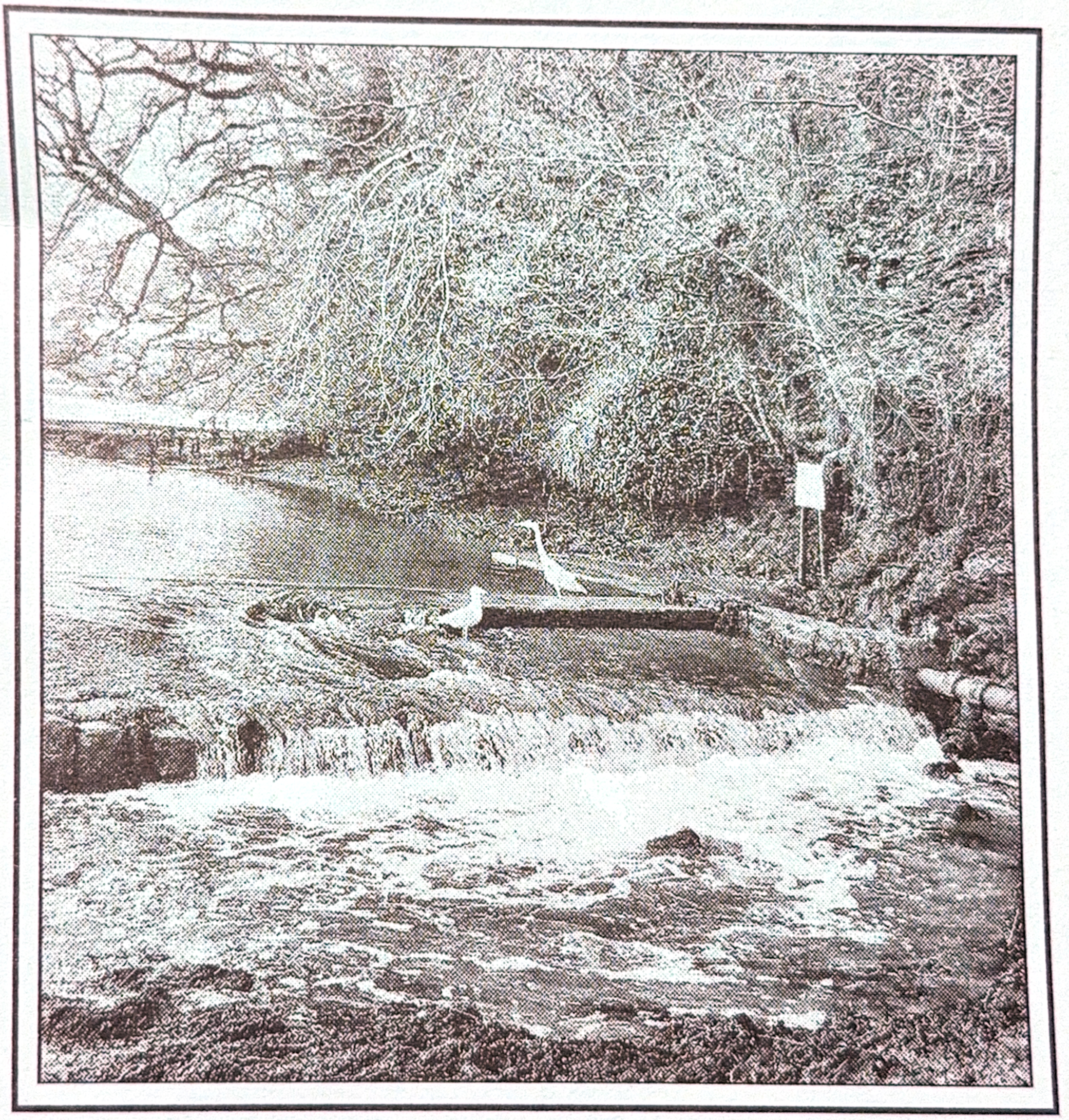
STOKE GABRIEL NEWS

St. Mary and St. Gabriel's Church



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MARCH, 2026 **PRICE 70p (Annual Subscription £7.00)**

PARISH OF STOKE GABRIEL

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Team Rector (Totnes): Revd. Jim Barlow 07775 356652
E: fr.jim@totnesrectory.co.uk

Assoc. Minister (Stoke Gabriel):
Revd. Chris Martin, The Vicarage, School Hill 01803 302457
E: revchrisstokegabriel@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister: *Alan Hill, 9 Kings Rydon Close 340924
Churchwarden: *Gerald Watson, Croft Cottage, Duncannon Mead 782506
Churchwarden: *Isy Ewart isy.sgchurchwarden@gmail.com 07966685503
Verger Emeritus: *Norman Betts, 4 Church Walk
Parish Council Clerk: Rosemary Rowe 07730332904
E: clerk@stokegabrielparishcouncil.gov.uk
Hon. Sec. PCC: *Liz Ball, Far Well, Vicarage Road 782429
Treasurer PCC: : *Ian Potham, Hamewith, Duncannon Mead 782311
Safeguarding Rep.: *Liz Ball, Far Well, Vicarage Rd. 782429
Capt. Bellringers: Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close 782591
Gift Aid: John Ball, Far Well, Vicarage Road 782429
Hon. Sec. Electoral Roll: Isy Ewart, Sweets Meadow 782740
Mothers' Union: Eileen Wain, Fair Tor, Long Rydon 782468
Flowers: Christine Hunt 4 Orchard Way 782693

Chairman: Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church:
Di Lugg, Longhay Orchard, Hillfield 782271

The PCC comprises those marked * above and those listed below:

Evelyn Watson	782506	Michael Brown	782371
Val Proctor	782589	Patrick Wharton	782837
Jan Nott	340622	Mike Stott	782475

Stoke Gabriel News:
Hon Treasurer: *Sue Roach 782677
Editor: Georgina Foss, Starlings, Hillfield 782018
stokegabrielnews@gmail.com

Distribution: Robert Stewart-Bam 782243
(£7 for 12 issues, delivered to your door- contact Robert) *alexrobert@btinternet.com*

Stoke Gabriel Welcome Pack: For anyone new to the Parish
contact Patrick Wharton 782837
Welcome Packs are also available in the Church

Old Schoolroom hire: *Sue Clement 782565
Village Hall hire: Jane Tarr E: 19rrat44@gmail.com 782483



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March Services 2026

Sunday 1st 2nd Sunday of Lent
8.15 Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 4th 10:00am Communion by extension
Sunday 8th 3rd Sunday of Lent
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 11th 10:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 15th Mothering Sunday
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Mothering Sunday Morning Worship
Wednesday 18th 10:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd 5th Sunday of Lent
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 25th 10:00am Communion by extension
Sunday 29th Palm Sunday
8.15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
6.30pm Choral Evensong
Always a warm RECEPTION
You are very welcome at our services and we hope you will experience God's love for you when you come along.
The church is open for Private Prayer daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

VILLAGE WELCOME PACK

The Village welcome pack can now be found in the Church, on the cross aisle. If you know of anyone who is about to, or has moved to the Village, please feel free to pick up a pack and give it to them.
Many thanks. PCC.

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Thursdays - Galmpton 09:15, 10:30

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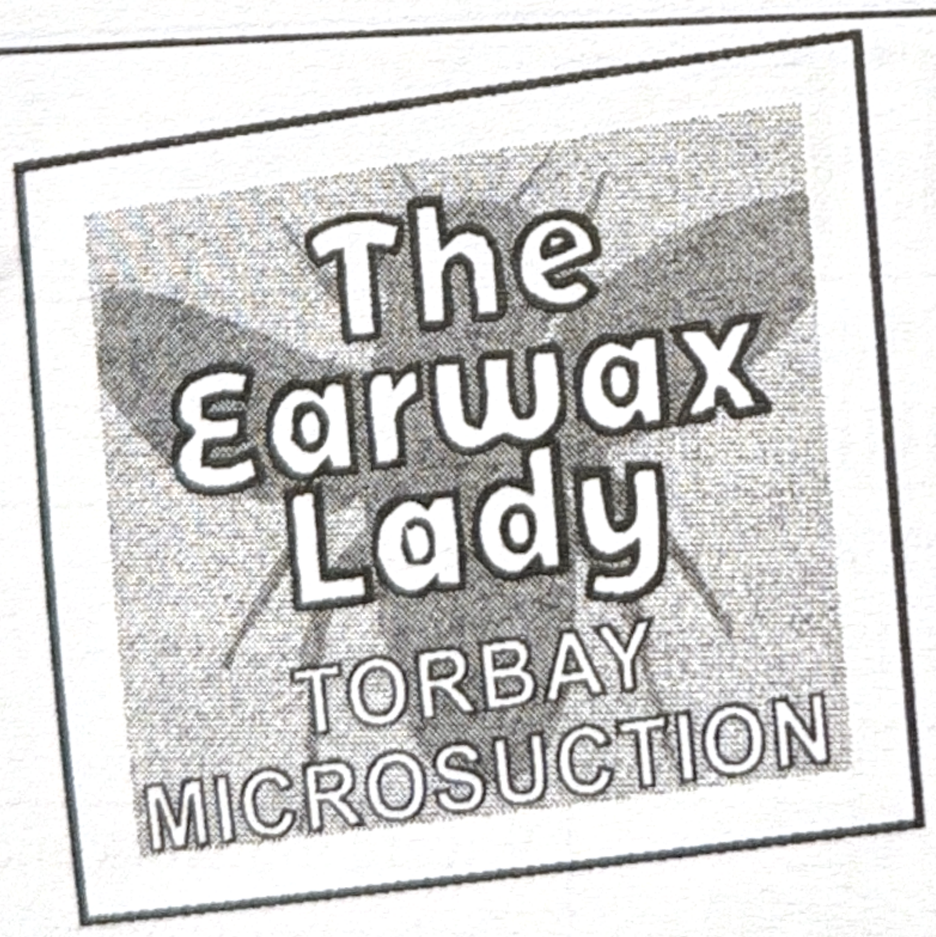
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Church Flowers,



We will be doing the Easter Flowers on **Saturday 4th April**, at 9am.
If you would like to join our merry gang of flower arrangers we would be pleased to have your help
As usual I will be getting the flowers on the Thursday and all you need to do is bring your secateurs and maybe some greenery.
Once again I would like to thank everyone who gives to the flower fund: it makes such a difference to how our amazing Church looks in festive seasons. If you wish to help please let me know.
With Many Thanks - *Christine Hunt*. Phone 01803782693

Happy New Year - Coffee Morning



The Old Schoolroom will be hosting a coffee morning on **Thursday March 12th** between 10.00 - 12.00. There will be no charge, but any small donation will help to cover the costs. Everyone is welcome! Coffee, tea etc will be available all morning together with toasted tea cakes and biscuits (unless we run out)! If you feel you may like to just bring a book and sit and read, that's fine. Or perhaps you may make some new friends to have a chat with? Our first coffee morning in January proved to be popular so we will be continuing to offer these coffee mornings on a regular basis throughout the year. **Dates for your diary April 16th, May 14th, June 11th, July 16th, August 13t!h, September 10th, October 15th, November 12th**

We would love to welcome you all!

Sue Clement

The Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church
invite you to a talk:

'My life in Crime, and a bit on the side'

a colourful and entertaining journey
through the trials and tribulations of
a busy criminal Solicitor
by Mike Marlow

Village Hall, Thursday 12 March 7pm

£5 entry for members, £7 for non members

And another talk:

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33 exciting years in uniform
by Commodore Julian Williams CBE, Royal Navy

Village Hall, Tuesday 31 March 7pm

£5 entry for members, £7 for non members

Come and sing with Village Voices! Wednesdays 10.30, Village Hall. More info from Jo Mannering, 782279

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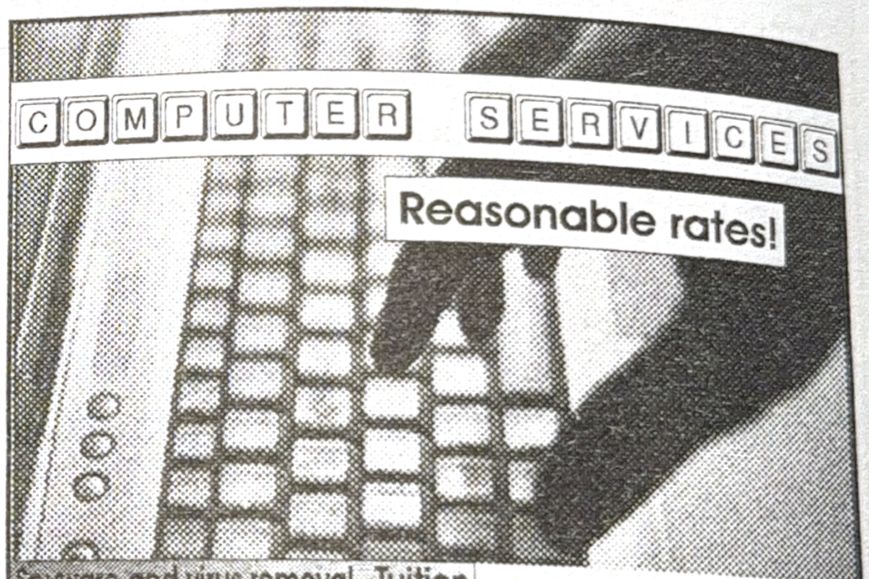
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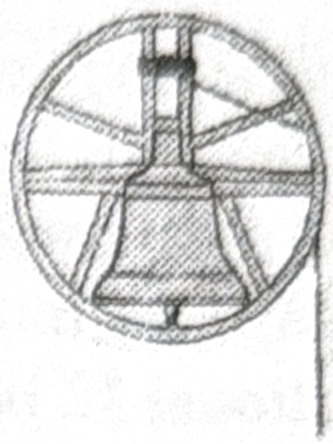
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Bell Ringing News



Clocks go forward

29 March will be the day the clocks go forward. This means that we'll be losing one hour of sleep as we switch to British Summer Time (BST) and benefit from more daylight in the evenings.

Sunday, 15 March 2026

Mothering Sunday is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent and this year on 15 March. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or early April.

Easter Day, 5 April

Easter Day will be on April 5 this year and is one of the most important Christian holidays. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and symbolises hope, renewal, and new life. In the UK, people celebrate by attending church services, organising Easter egg hunts, and sharing meals with family and friends. We hope that churches with bells will have them ringing out to celebrate this significant date in the Christian calendar.

International Women's Day (IWD) is on Sunday March 8.

The theme this year is Give to Gain. Together, we can achieve gender equality through generous giving. The IWD 2026 Give To Gain Campaign promotes generosity, collaboration, and the power of reciprocity. What will you **give to gain** gender equality?

Commonwealth Day - 9 March 2026

Commonwealth Day will be observed on Monday 9 March with the theme of 'Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth.'

Upcoming Telecommunications Anniversaries in March 2026

7 March will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first two-way transatlantic phone call. This historic communication connected the Post Office in London with Bell Labs in New York and took place in 1926.

10 March marks the 150th anniversary of the first telephone call, made by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.

26 March marks the 50th anniversary of the first monarch to send an email. In 1976, the late Queen Elizabeth II sent her email during a visit to the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment in Malvern.

Totnes Deanery competition - March

The Totnes Deanery is planning to host a competition and social event in March. The Les Stone Memorial and Deanery competition usually takes place at Diptford, starting at 3 pm. After the competition, there has been an open ringing session, where everyone is encouraged to join in and experience the joy of bell ringing. *Continued, page 6*

Bellringing, continued....

In the past, teams and friends have gathered at a nearby hall for refreshments and a fun game of a quiz after the ringing. While the plans for this year are still being confirmed, I am hopeful that this wonderful tradition will continue.

National 12 bell striking contest 28 March and 20 June

The National 12-bell Striking Contest is taking place this year with the final being held on June 20 at York Minster. The Exeter Cathedral team will first compete in the eliminator round at Leicester Cathedral on March 22 and we wish them every success.

Notable Dates, Competitions and Events

1 Mar - St David's Day
7 Mar - Intermediate competition at Bow
14 Mar - Assn novice competitions at South Tawton and Belstone
15 Mar - Mothering Sunday
17 Mar - St Patrick's Day
29 Mar - BST begins. Clocks go forward
5 Apr - Easter Day
23 Apr - St George's Day
9 May - Qualifiers: Bigbury (S) & TBC (N)
23 May - 6-bell Minor Final
6 June - Proposed date for Stoke Gabriel outing
13 June - Major Final at Drewsteington

Michael Webster, Tower Captain. 782591.

Ukrainian Action's Table Top Sale

planned for 14 March **will not take place.**

The Village Hall is not available.

However, the fourth **Mid-summer Ceilidh** for Ukraine will definitely be held in Hunts Events Barn on the evening of **Friday 26 June**. Music by our own Steve Banks's Blue Jewel Ceilidh Band. Cider etc by Hunts, of course, and barbecue food available. Tickets online in due course.

Neil Millward

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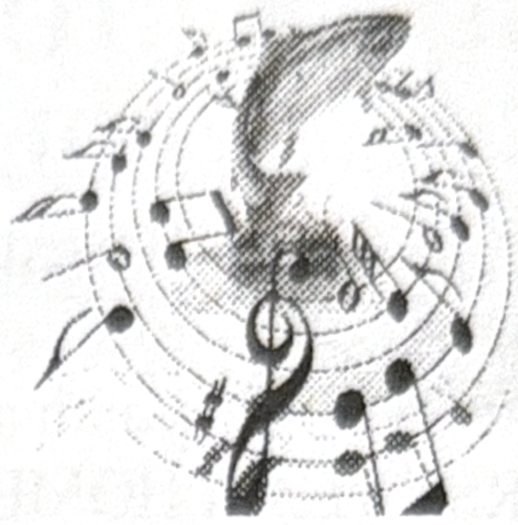
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Stoke Gabriel Concert Series 2026



Sat. March 21st Tilly Coulton - flute, & Sophia Lim - piano

Tilly is a flautist, improvisor and teacher from Devon. For this concert she teams up with Sophia Lim, a pianist from Malaysia based in London.

Sat. May 16th Matt Davies & Ian Curror - organ and piano

The twenty fingers and four feet of Matt & Ian have delighted us in previous years with programmes of organ and piano duets and solos, We look forward to another scintillating concert from them.

Sat. June 6th The Lyric Trio.

The Lyric Trio make a welcome return to Stoke Gabriel.The trio features: Patricia Calman - violin, George Roberton -viola & Jeremy Capey - Cello

Sat.July 11th La Vie en Rose Gypsy Jazz.

La Vie en Rose last entertained us 2 years ago. Five musicians with wide ranging individual backgrounds in classical music, traditional jazz, rock, blues, country & ragtime pulled together by the shared pleasure of gypsy jazz & hot swing.

Wed, Sept.23rd Geoff Robb 'Music of Trees'.

Guitarist Geoff Robb introduced an album in 2019, The Music of Trees. In his gigs he began to include facts about trees and talked about his experiences with them. Research for his compositions included the folklore and the medicinal properties of each tree. He presents a musical illustrative talk in the Village Hall, Come to find out more!!

All concerts held in Stoke Gabriel Parish Church at 7.30pm (except September 23rd, 7.30pm in the Village Hall)

Season Tickets £35. Tickets for Individual Concerts £12.

Both available at the door.

Our chosen charity this year is Devon in Sight, supporting those affected by sight loss.

STOKE GABRIEL &TORBAY POLICE FOOTBALL CLUB

We extend a warm welcome to everyone for the coming season to support club teams on a Saturday and Midweek and several youth and ladies/girls teams on a Sunday.

FIRST TEAM HOME LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR MARCH

Saturday 7th: NEWTON ABBOT SPURS 3pm

Saturday 21st: BRIDPORT TOWN 3pm

Former players, supporters, committee members etc are invited to attend this match for a club reunion.

SECOND TEAM HOME LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR MARCH

No fixtures confirmed at the moment

WOMEN'S TEAM HOME LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR MARCH

Sunday 8th: BIDEFORD AFC 2pm

MINI KICKERS - Ages 4-8 EVERY SATURDAY All abilities welcome Start your football adventure with The Bees! SG & TP FC, Broadley Lane, Stoke Gabriel Saturdays 09:00-10:00

Contact Ben for details on 07725 779738

GIRLS FOOTBALL SESSIONS - Ages 6-11 EVERY SATURDAY

All abilities welcome Start your football adventure with The Bees!

SG & TP FC, Broadley Lane, Stoke Gabriel Saturdays 10:15-11:15

Contact Ben for details on 07725 779738

NATIONAL LOTTERY BONUS BALL: Club runs two draws with a £10 per month entry. Spaces available so please contact Tim Perrin on 07736 428296 or email tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com for details how to enter. **Winners:**

Saturday 17th January: Dan Sell £75 and Rollover - (Winning number 4)

Saturday 24th January: Rachel Fleming £150 and Andy Houghton £75 - (29)

Saturday 31st January: Tim Perrin who won both £150 - (Winning number 11)

Saturday 7th February: Janet Hill £75 and Rollover - (Winning number 40)

Saturday 14th February: Linda Hazelwood £150 and Adam Limmer £75 - (14)

CLUBHOUSE IS AVAILABLE TO HIRE for Birthday Parties, Weddings, Social Events etc. Please contact Tim Perrin on 07736 428296 or email tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com

LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND HELP CLUB!

We are always on the look out for helpers at the club either on a Saturday or Sunday in the running of the bar or kitchen.

Also anyone who fancies helping to maintain the three pitches we have would be welcome. Please contact Vice Chairman Tim Perrin on 07736 428296 or email tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com with any times you would be available

Ray Tucker

Stoke Gabriel WI

In January we are always asked to take a vote on the proposed resolutions for the coming year. This is the first part of the process at which we discuss 5 possible themes for this, proposed by WI's throughout the country and then we vote for our favourite. The most popular countywide is then put forward to our National meeting in June and if accepted will be the cause the WI throws its weight behind for the coming year. This year 2 of the propositions were of more interest to us, making public toilets more accessible, given the cut back in these by local authorities and a proposition called every child needs a friend, linking in to those volunteers who befriend children through the care system. Having dealt with this and other issues of the day we moved on to a quiz afternoon, testing our knowledge of Devon. It was a lovely, social afternoon. We are always looking for new members and would encourage you to come along and see what we have to offer. This month you could have spent a lovely and companionable couple of hours enjoying soup and a roll in the Church House Inn, before the start of our meeting.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th March when we will be taught the art of glass engraving by Jackie Bufton, a local crafter. *Pia Barrett*

Musical afternoon in Galmpton

You are invited to an afternoon of musical entertainment in aid of **Dart Sailability**, with Hedgehogs' Brawl folk band, Missin' Tackle shanty crew, Carport Extension four-part harmony and Galliard recorder ensemble.

Saturday 14 March

2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

at Galmpton Village Institute. Tickets £10 include tea and cake. Contact Carrie, socialsec@dartsailability.org / 07790 510509 for availability.

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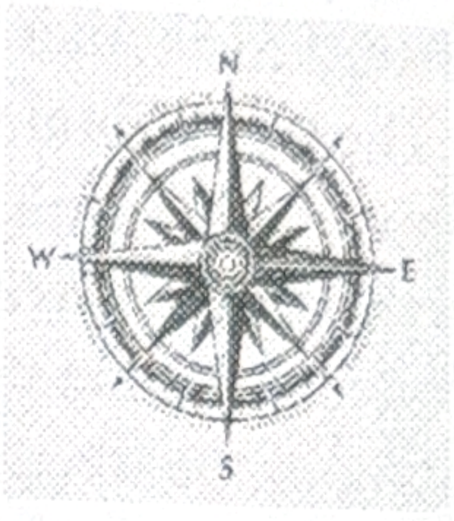
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Rising to the Challenge – Tales of Navigating Tricky Passages Afloat and Ashore

Revd Sarah Mounoury MBE RN (Retd)

Sarah served for over a decade as a Navigating Officer in the Royal Navy and in her talk, will bring to life experiences of high stakes shiphandling in confined waters as well as navigating across the major oceans. She will chart her own experiences of leadership under pressure, unexpected challenges at sea and teamwork in a warship, on a voyage through risk, resilience and the art of navigation, whilst defending our national interest on the high seas.

SGBA members £8. Non-members £10. U-18s free. Advance tickets from SGBA website, or Marisa 01803 782994 or on the door

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WINE AND WISDOM EVENING

SATURDAY 28 MARCH

7.30pm in The Village Hall



Tables of 6 : £12.00 per person

To include a Ploughman's Supper and a glass of wine then sipping more wine (purchased within the hall)

In aid of Village Hall Funds

A very popular event, so book your tables early from Jane Tarr Tel 782483 email 19rrat44@gmail.com

STOKE GABRIEL BOATING ASSOCIATION 2026

The Stoke Gabriel Boating Association (SGBA) is looking forward to another full season of action on and off the water (and sometimes in it).There is **a final winter talk in the Village Hall on 17th March at 7pm when Revd Sarah Mounoury will talk on "Rising to the Challenge - Navigating Difficult Passages". Non-members are welcome.**

Winter race training on Saturdays continues throughout the year, subject to the timing of the frequent storms this winter. We have been pleased to welcome visitors from the Royal Dart Yacht Club who have joined us on the newly introduced "winter membership". Sunday Sailing and Boating will recommence in April with safety cover provided by the new safety boats which are expected to be delivered in late March. New and prospective members are very welcome at these sessions which take place for about 3 hours around High Water on each Sunday.

The Carnival Committee (responsible for the village's annual carnival festival) has made an amazing donation to SGBA this year, in recognition of our support for the Carnival itself (which includes the Mill Pond Challenge and the Carnival Float parade), as well as SGBA's wider contribution to our parish community - including Santa at the Quay, our taster sessions with the Stoke Gabriel Parish School, our bursary places aboard each year's Junior Sailing Courses, and other contributions. This was a very kind and generous gesture by the Committee for which we are deeply grateful, and it will help SGBA offer even more value to our local community going forwards.

Membership of SGBA is open to all with a range of annual subscriptions, starting at £31(Youth age 18-21) up to £145 for family membership to include a couple and all children/grandchildren under 18. All memberships include unlimited use of our fleet of paddle boards, kayaks, canoes, rowing craft and sailing dinghies. Our charitable objective is "the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, in particular by the provision of facilities for participation in the sports of sailing, kayaking, canoeing and rowing." We believe that every child in the village should have the opportunity and the skills to be able to get out onto the river, safely. As well as offering free "taster" sessions to all children in Years 5 and 6 at the SG Primary School, we offer formal Training accredited by the RYA for children and adults in Dinghy Sailing, Power Boats and Shore Based Training, see our calendar for a full list of events – www.sgba.org.uk/events. For more information see www.sgba.org.uk

Peter Waite, Chair of Trustees

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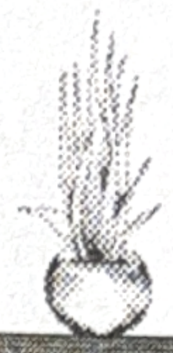
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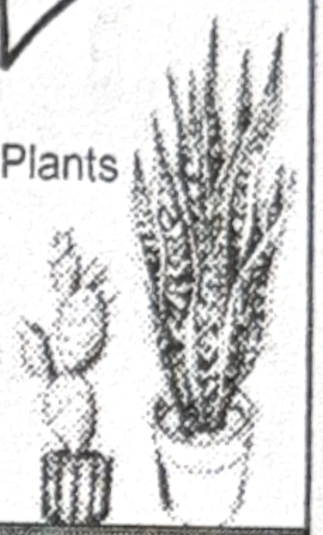


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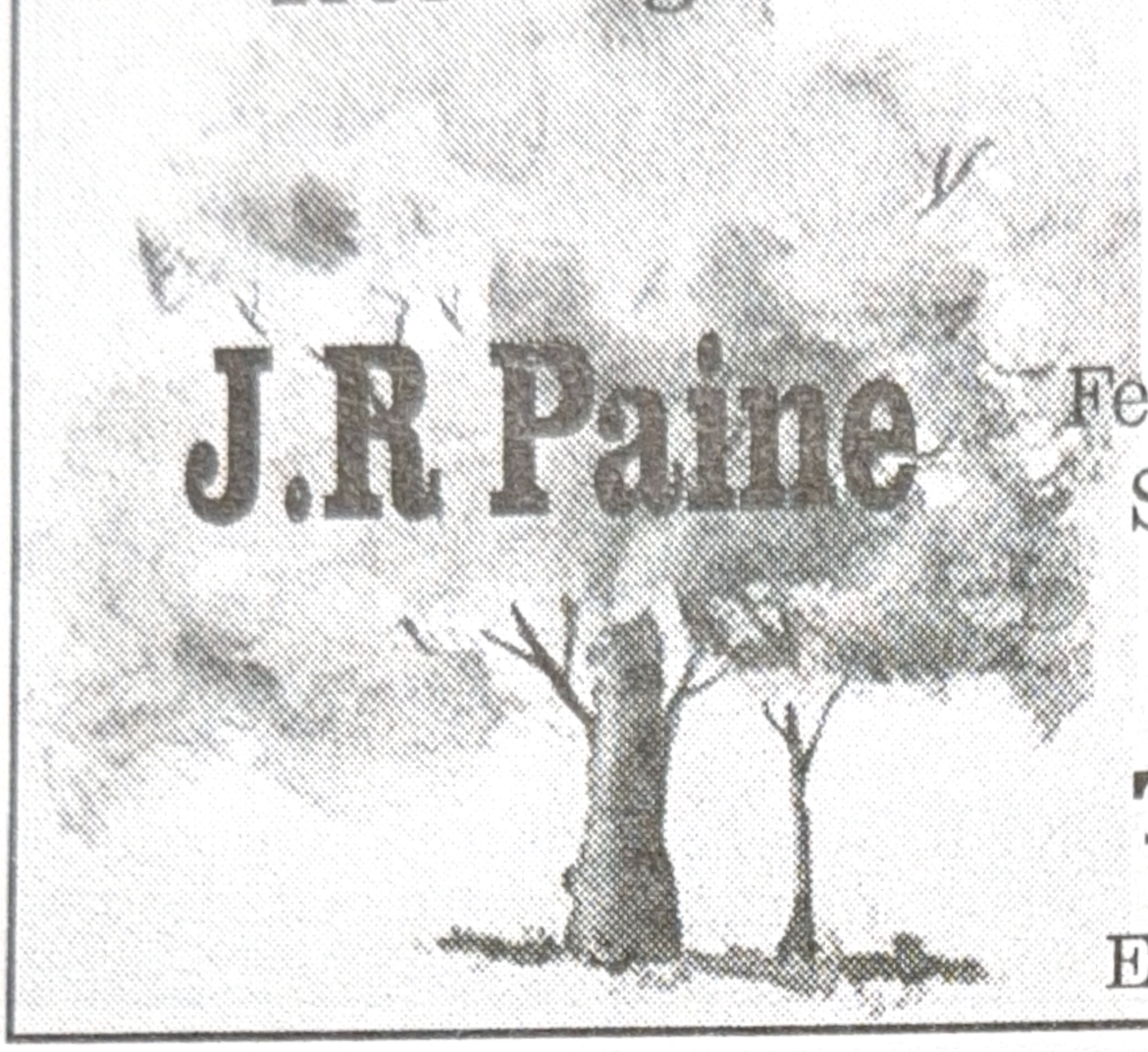
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This year, the recipient of our fund raising is **Landworks** a local groundbreaking resettlement charity which helps people who have served a prison sentence develop new skills and in so doing to reduce reoffending. The directors are coming to give a talk on the work they do.

The talk will be entitled : LANDWORKS -
reducing reoffending and transforming lives.
Speakers : Chris and Julie PARSONS
Stoke Gabriel Village Hall
13th March 7.30 pm
Charge £3.00 members, £5.00 non-members

Stoke Gabriel
Home & Allotment
Compost Workshop

Free Event

Learn how to:

- *Turn food and garden waste into nutrient rich compost*
- *Speed up decomposition with the right mix of materials*
- *Troubleshoot common composting problems*

Sunday 29th March

2pm – 4pm

Stoke Gabriel Village Hall

For more information contact Emma Clark:
stokegabrielhs@gmail.com

Suitable for all levels of compost knowledge, both experienced and first-time composters will learn something from this event!



Ben Bryant is a gardener specialising in compost and soil building. He has supported Devon Community Composting Network for over 15 years and is Chair of Marldon Community Composting

Sustainable South Hams

South Hams District Council

Stoke Gabriel Art Group

As I write this there is a rare glimpse of beautiful sunshine amidst the miserable never-ending rain. I have everything crossed that we will go into March with ever more sunshine and just enough rain to keep everything fresh and growing.

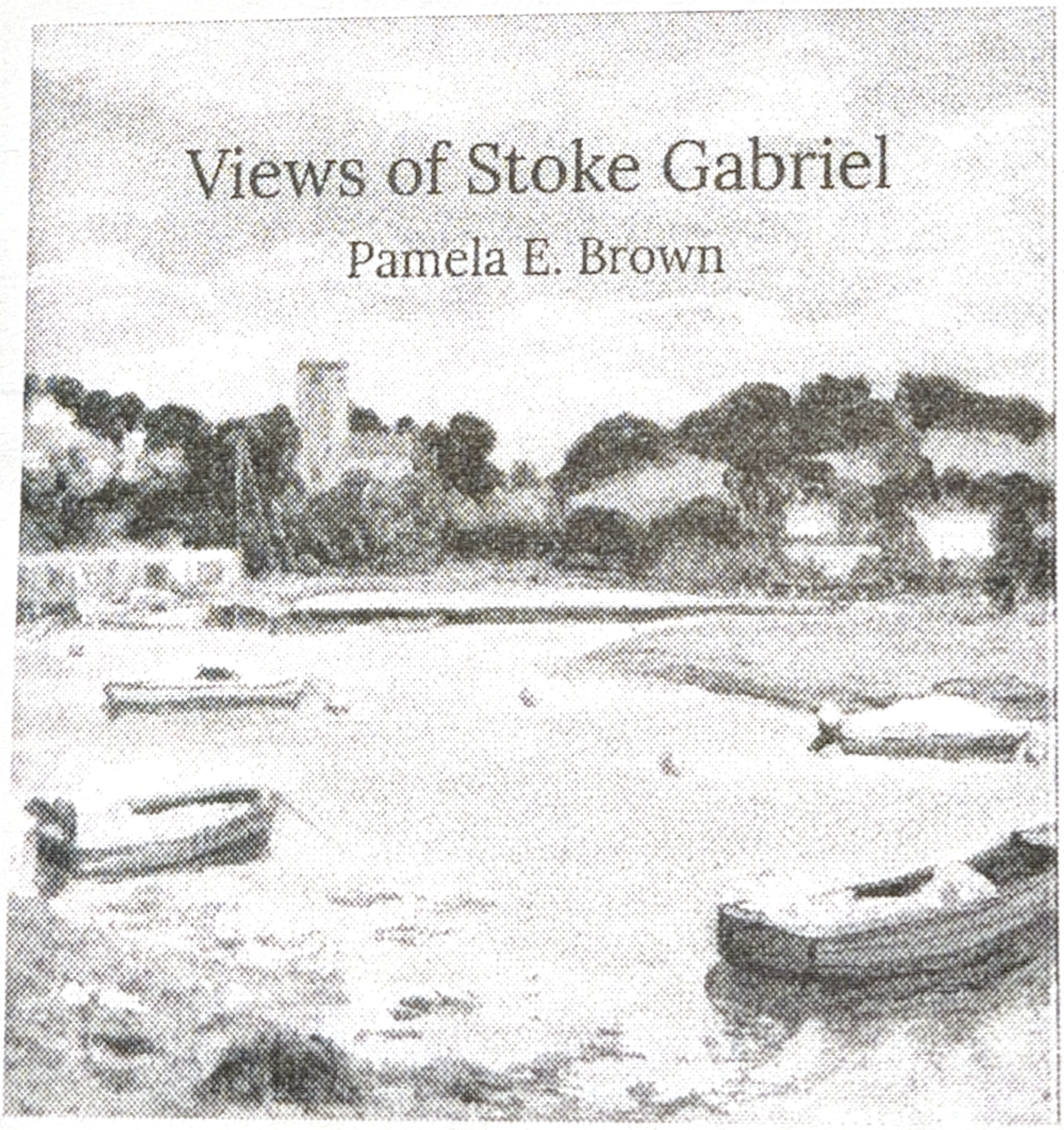
Tuesday 3rd March we have our first evening Art Demonstration of 2026. Anita Nowinska, from Harberton, will be our guest and show us how she creates her unique art in Oils and Acrylics on a large scale.

Stoke Gabriel Village Hall at 7.30pm. Refreshments. £2 members, £3 non-members. We look forward to welcoming you.

A date for your diary is our April demo on Tuesday 7th by a student from South Devon College.

Please feel free to pop in to the Village hall on a **Thursday morning** when we have our Art Sessions from 9am 'til 12noon. See the different medias, abilities and range of work plus quite a bit of chat that takes place on these informal mornings!

For further information and details contact Jackie Tucker by email at tucksatarvu@yahoo.co.uk Thank you *Jackie Tucker*



"Views of Stoke Gabriel" is priced at £16.00 Available from the River Shack, or Contact Pamela Brown on 01803 782 672



Yoga

Monday 7.30 – 8.30pm

Friday 10 – 11am

Stoke Gabriel Scout Hut

Beginners welcome

Contact Kate: 07833 163159

katesyoga@hotmail.co.uk



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Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club



Will it stop raining? That is the question heading into March. Ground preparation for the soon to start season depends on a bit of dry weather. Hopefully the end of the month will see the use of outdoor nets and training again. **Pre-season friendlies starting in April.**

Winter nets - Totnes pavilion, Saturday mornings from 11.30 am to 2.30pm. Women's, Men's and Juniors sessions. Contact for details. £4 per session.

Women's Cricket The indoor league started in January at Paignton. The side lost their first game against South Devon by 7 runs. Game two saw a win for Stoke by 1 run over Abbotskerswell. Next up are games against Paignton and Torquay on Feb 15th.

Junior Girls Cricket Following on from the success of establishing our first ever Women's team a couple of seasons ago. The club are delighted to announce that we will be setting up our first junior girls team. The team will be under 13's softball cricket and is open to everyone, from complete beginners to those who have played some cricket before. Contacts for more info Matt Kerr and Jason Gonifas

Allstars and Dynamos Registration will be open 12th March for this year's Allstars and Dynamos sessions. Sessions will begin 29th May. Contact Matt Kerr for more details.

Social events: AISH FEST - This is going to be bigger and better this year. Staged across two days with some amazing performances.

Friday 4th September from 5pm **Saturday 5th September from 1pm**

Come along and support the ESSW Charitable Trust, helping children in humanitarian crisis around the world. www.esswcharitabletrust.org

Our Social membership is a great way to support your local club and enjoy some great events. Come along and sign up at one of our social events or email the club secretary. £25 for the year. You can also sign up through the website www.stokegabrielcricketclub.co.uk

The club has also launched a **100 club draw**, with a chance to win cash prizes each month. A great way to support the club and have the chance to win cash prizes each month. Sign up at the club or https://stokegabrielcricketclub.co.uk/100-club/

For general club hire for parties etc please contact Tom or Tony, they will be very happy to speak to you.

Contacts Tom Hannaford-Hill (Chairman) 07540 222439 tomhannafordhill@gmail.com
Tony Rowe (President) tonydrowe47@gmail.com Club Secretary stokegabrielcc.secretary@outlook.com
Pat Duke (Women's cricket): patrickduke1@sky.com/ 07545 550430
Matt Kerr (Allstars) (Women's cricket) 07875 056150 Jack Tolley (First team captain) 07913 166776
Jason Gonifas (Dynamos and Juniors) 07758 802507 Bella Kent (Women's cricket) 07929 186445
Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club J E Eastley Memorial Ground Hoyle Lane AishTQ9 6TF 01803 782307

Matt Kerr

Directory of Services

CLEARING the CLUTTER ? Books, DVDs, bricabrac, toys, clothes needed for **Save the Children** shop. **Ring 782582 (Barbara Deacon)** - she will come and collect from you.

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DEVON BAROQUE

Sunday 8 March 3pm Dartington Great Hall

A fabulous concert to energise our audience as spring (hopefully) starts to break through with snowdrops and crocus at Dartington. Titled 'Spotlight on Strings' the programme does exactly that.



Muffat: Derlirium Amorosi Vivaldi: Concerto for Violin & Cello in Bb major
J S Bach: Double Violin Concerto in d minor (featuring Persephone Gibbs and Sharon Lindo as soloists)
Vivaldi: Concerto for 4 violins and strings J S Bach: Violin Concerto in a minor
Handel: Concerto Grosso Op 6 no 7 in Bb major

Tickets are on sale now from Dartington Box Office: www.dartington.org/whats-on and are priced at £24/£10 students & under 18's

DEVON TELEMANN ENSEMBLE

Sunday 22 March 3pm St Johns Totnes

Lively and beautiful music by Telemann, Vivaldi, Durante, Greene and Mozart played by violins, recorder, viola, cello, double bass, organ and harpsichord

Tickets £15 on the door, under 18s free, refreshments included

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Contributions for the April magazine by the Ides of March please.

Georgina Foss, Editor

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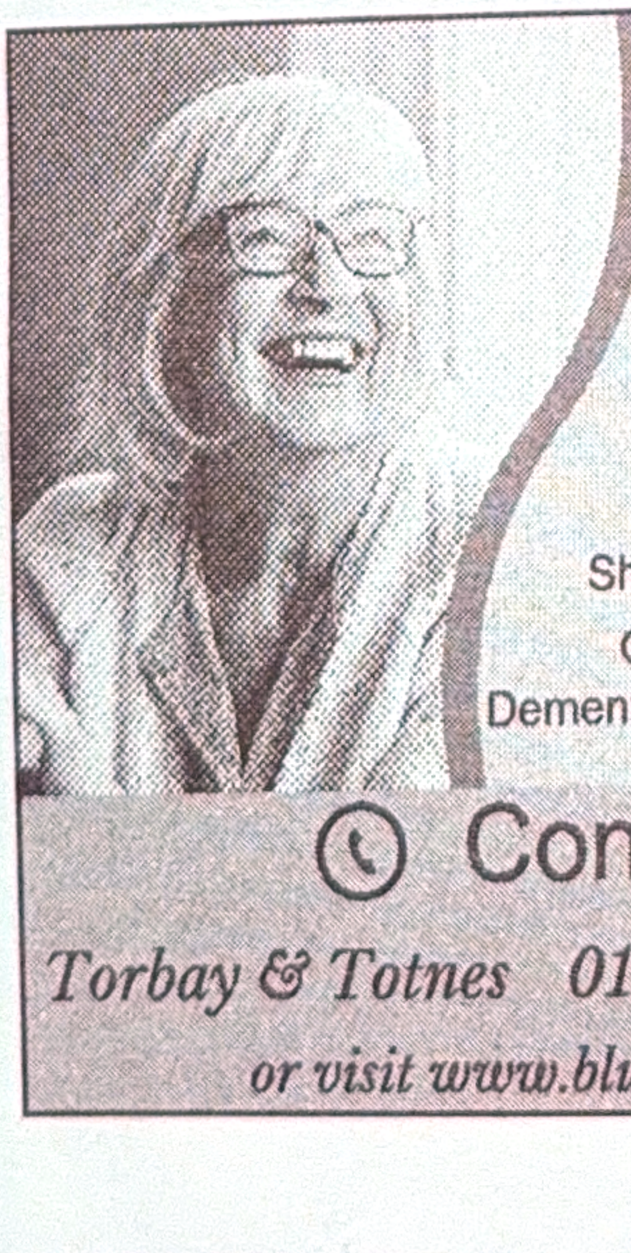
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Paignton Zoo, Totnes Rd	0915	1120	1320	1520	1720
Collaton, Parkers Arms	0917	1122	1322	1522	1722
Whitehill	0922	1127	1327	1527	1727
STOKE GABRIEL	**0927**	**1132**	**1332**	**1532**	**1732**
STOKE GABRIEL	**0930**	**1135**	**1335**	**1535**	**1735**
Whitehill	0935	1140	1340	1540	1740
Collaton, Parkers Arms	0940	1145	1345	1545	1745
Paignton Zoo, Totnes Rd	0942	1147	1347	1547	1747
PAIGNTON Bus Station	**0955**	**1155**	**1355**	**1555**	**1755**
Marldon School	1010	1210	1410	1610	1810

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