STOKE GABRIEL NEWS

St. Mary and St. Gabriel's Church



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PARISH OF STOKE GABRIEL

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Stoke Gabriel Welcome Pack: For anyone new to the Parish 782837
contact Patrick Wharton
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May 2026

From the Revd Chris Martin

Dear friends,

I wonder if, like me, you were utterly enthralled by the Artemis II expedition carrying 4 astronauts around the moon and back. I realise many will have regarded the trip as a frivolous waste of money in a poverty-stricken world. There are of course many other good uses for the billions of dollars spent.

But for me the trip inspired a deeper sense of awe and wonder; not just from the astonishing images that came back to earth from space, but from the comments made by the astronauts themselves who, in the moments when they were asked to describe their experience, struggled to articulate the wondrous nature of all that they had seen, heard and felt.

I felt very nervous for them in the 40 minutes of 'lunar blackout' as they passed around the dark side of the moon and lost all contact with the earth. And I felt the relief as engineer Christina Koch marked the moment of reconnection by saying, "It is so great to hear from earth again", adding later, "We will explore (space), but ultimately, we will always choose Earth. We will always choose each other."

Pilot Victor Glover, shortly before lunar blackout, reminded listeners of Jesus' summary of how to live well, to "love God with all that you are" and to "love your neighbour as yourself". He described Earth as a specially designed "spaceship" created for us to live in together, urging people to remember "you are special" in a vast, empty universe.

Perhaps it's not surprising that the view and experience of space profoundly deepened their love and gratitude for the earth and its inhabitants. Given the state of our world right now, how we could all do with such a profound change in perspective.

But we needn't travel that far! This month the church continues its journey through the season of Easter towards the feast of Pentecost (or Whit Sunday). At the heart of the Easter journey is a grand change in perspective, from sealed tombs of darkness and despair to open spaces of hope and life and love. And its culmination at Pentecost is the reminder that we needn't travel to the edge of space to find God waving back at us; instead, God dwells within by the Spirit, if we dare to really look within ourselves and are open to seeing God in each other.

Blessings to you all, *Chris*

May Services 2026

Sunday 3rd 5th Sunday of Easter
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 6th 10:00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th 6th Sunday of Easter
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 10th 10:00am Holy Communion
Thursday 14th 9.15am Ascension Day Communion (said) service

Sunday 17th 7th Sunday of Easter
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Matins
Wednesday 20th 10:00am Communion by extension

Sunday 24th Pentecost
8:15am Holy Communion
11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 27th 10:00am Communion by extension

Sunday 31st Trinity 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 the love of God for you when you come.

Waddeton Chapel Services
Sunday 24th May □ Holy Communion
Please drive in through the gates and park behind the chapel.

Book of remembrance of loved ones

On view in the Lady Chapel, the Book of Remembrance of Loved Ones is a record of family members associated with the village who have died. Their names are recorded in the calendar year according to the week of their death and are remembered before God by being read out during the prayers at the principal weekly Sunday morning Church service near the anniversary of their death. Later this year we plan to update the book: if you would like a family member to be recorded and remembered in this way, please let me have their full name and date of death. We will then arrange for the Book to be updated. There is no cost associated with this. *Revd Chris*

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Thursdays - Galmpton 09:15, 10:30

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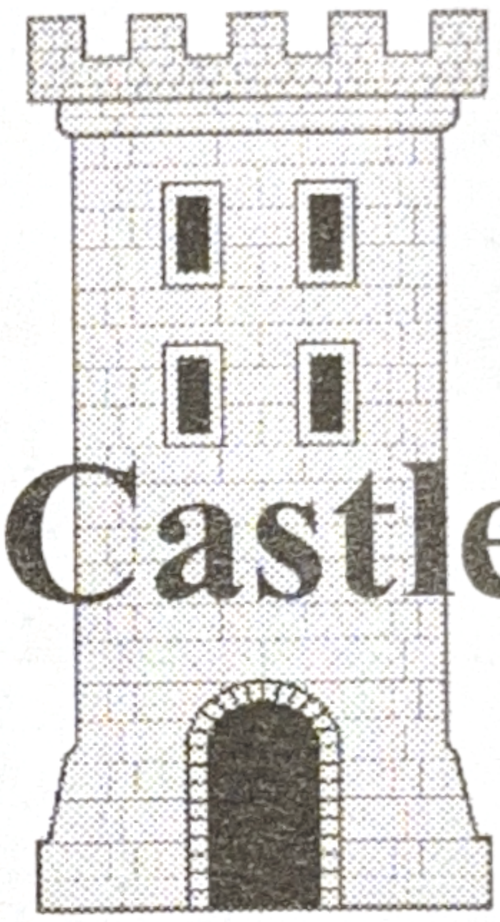

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NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN THAT AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

THE FRIENDS OF STOKE GABRIEL CHURCH

WILL BE HELD

ON WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2026 AT 6PM

THE OLD SCHOOLROOM, STOKE GABRIEL

The business to be conducted will include the following:

Welcome to all

Apologies

Approval of minutes from 2025 AGM

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

Election of officers

General Business

Please do try and come along and find out what the Friends have achieved in the past 12 months.

If you wish to raise any item for inclusion under General Business or make a nomination for any position or committee membership, please send these to the Secretary, anngibbons@hotmail.co.uk

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Join the Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church

for their

summer garden party

at Middle Well



Tuesday 16 June 6-8pm

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

'The Surprising Mrs Beeton'

By Dr Rosemary Yallop

Village Hall, **Thursday 7 May** 7pm

£5 entry for members, £7 non members

Dr Rosemary Yallop, architectural and cultural historian, will take us through Mrs Beeton's fascinating but tragically short life and reflect on the real Isabella Beeton.

Stoke Gabriel Concert Series

Sat. May 16

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 6: The Lyric Trio.

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

All concerts in Stoke Gabriel Parish Church 7.30pm.
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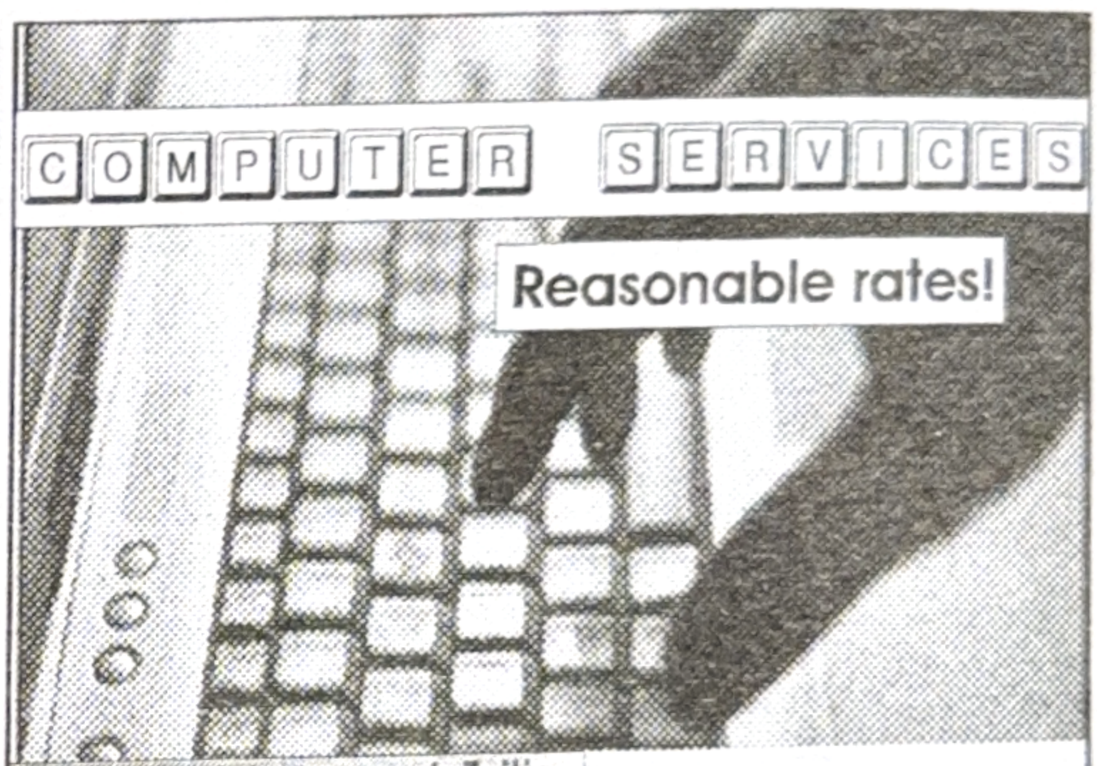

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Stoke Gabriel Bell Ringers



Totnes Deanery Festival - 2 May

The Totnes Deanery Ringing Festival will take place at Diptford on Saturday, 2nd May, from 4 to 6 pm.

Ringers of all abilities are warmly encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ringers within the Totnes Deanery to come together, so please do join us, whether as part of your team or as an individual if your team cannot make it. Tea and cake will be provided, along with the chance to ring at Diptford. We hope that ringers will make a concerted effort to attend this festive ringing and social occasion.

Report from the Competition Held at Ide on 4 April

The Ide competition is widely regarded as the first invitation competition of the year, offering an excellent opportunity for ringers to come together and test their skills after the winter period. This year, the event attracted sixteen teams, all keen to refine their striking techniques and compete with others. The teams were divided into two sections, with a local ringer judging the rhythmical striking of the bells during a set piece lasting a minimum of 15 minutes. Bow emerged as the overall winners with just 9 3/4 faults, where each minor error is counted as 1/4 fault. This competition not only allows participants to showcase their abilities but also provides a wonderful chance to socialise and foster camaraderie within the ringing community.

Celebrating Bell Sunday: Honouring the Role of Bell Ringers

Bell Sunday is an annual occasion to celebrate the invaluable contribution of bell ringers to the life of the Church and to acknowledge the role that bells play in worship and community throughout the year. This year, Bell Sunday will take place on 17th May. The date of Bell Sunday is always set on a Sunday close to St Dunstan's feast day on 19th May. St Dunstan is recognised as the Patron Saint of Bellringers due to his significant experimentation with casting bells in the 900s and his advocacy for the use of bells in parish churches. This day aims to raise awareness of bell ringing and underscore the importance of bell sounds in fostering community spirit and bringing people together through worship.Legend has it that Dunstan even predicted the date of his own death, showcasing the timekeeping skills of bell ringers. Canonised in 1029, he has long been beloved and has other patronages, including those of blacksmiths, goldsmiths, locksmiths, and musicians. St Dunstan is buried at Canterbury Cathedral, where his legacy continues to inspire.

Swapping Rock for Heavy Metal: A Journey into Bell Ringing

Bass guitarist Guy Pratt, known for his work with Pink Floyd and Madonna, is embracing a new challenge by learning to ring bells at St Andrew's in Alfriston (6, 8–1–16). His inspiring story has been featured in both The Telegraph and The Times… *(continued page 7)*

Stoke Gabriel WI

This month 26 ladies attended our meeting at which Francis Burroughs spoke to us about his life producing and directing amateur operatic productions in the South West. With a lifetime of experience, he was able to enthral us with a wealth of anecdotes on the lighter side of such productions, including a runaway donkey and quite intense rivalry with the local amateur dramatic group. Due to a wide range of contacts within the music world, he seemed able to create near professional productions, with large casts. Francis was a very able speaker whom we all found very entertaining.

We also looked forward to the WI year ahead, as our programme for the year until July 2027 was available for members. In the near future we look forward to an outing to Hunts Cider and an afternoon tea at Emma's.

Our next meeting on May 12th at 7.30 pm is called a Surgeon's Eye View of Surgery, by Stoke Gabriel's Anne Davis. This is an open evening – so open to everyone. *Pia Barrett*

A Surgeon's View of Surgery

Anne Davis FRCS

Stoke Gabriel Village Hall

Tuesday 12 May

7.30pm



All welcome; non-members £5.

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Singing voices needed for a Gilbert & Sullivan production in July

This is a plea for anyone who may be interested in taking part in an amusing adaptation of ' Treasure Island ' using well known songs from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas in July this year at the theatre in Toquay. The Torbay G & S society which has been going for more than 50 years is like a lot of societies suffering from the loss of older members and though we now have some younger ones we really do need extra voices in all parts.

The show will be built around an amusing narrated visual backdrop some of which can be found using this link -'' Gilbertandsullivantorbay.org.uk ''

We rehearse on a Monday night at St Luke's church hall at the top of Sheddon Hill in Torquay from 7.30pm and tea and coffee are available at break time. You do not need to be a music reader to learn the songs that we will be using and as some of the original words have been changed score sheets will be available to you. If you are interested in joining or finding out a bit more about the show please ring us on 01803782533 (we have call minder so please say your name and press the hash key). Lifts for at least three persons are available now and we would love to hear from you. *Roger & Bronwen Baron.*

(*Bellringing, continued from p 5)* Guy began his bell ringing journey last year while writing his memoir and immersing himself in village life. In an interview with The Oldie magazine, he revealed that bell ringing encompasses far more than he had initially realised. "Pretty much none of my musical knowledge seemed to be of any use," he admitted. Although he is now performing for a "smaller and less animated audience than in the past," he is thoroughly enjoying the unique experience of ringing church bells.

Developing New Skills

Learning to ring church bells is a fantastic way to connect with a community while developing new skills. If you're curious about this rewarding pastime, consider joining us to explore the joy of ringing. Call into the church when you hear the church bells ringing or contact the undersigned whose details are on the inside of the front cover of the magazine.

Notable Dates, Competitions and Events

2 May: Totnes Deanery Festival at Diptford; **4 May:** Early Spring Bank Holiday; **9 May:** Qualifiers: Bigbury (South) & (North)
17 May: Bell Sunday; **23 May:** 6-bell Minor Final.
25 May: Late Spring Bank Holiday; **6 June:** Proposed date for Stoke Gabriel outing; **13 June**: Major Final at Drewsteington.

Michael Webster, Tower Captain.

STOKE GABRIEL

19 40

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Flower Show

Saturday 6th June

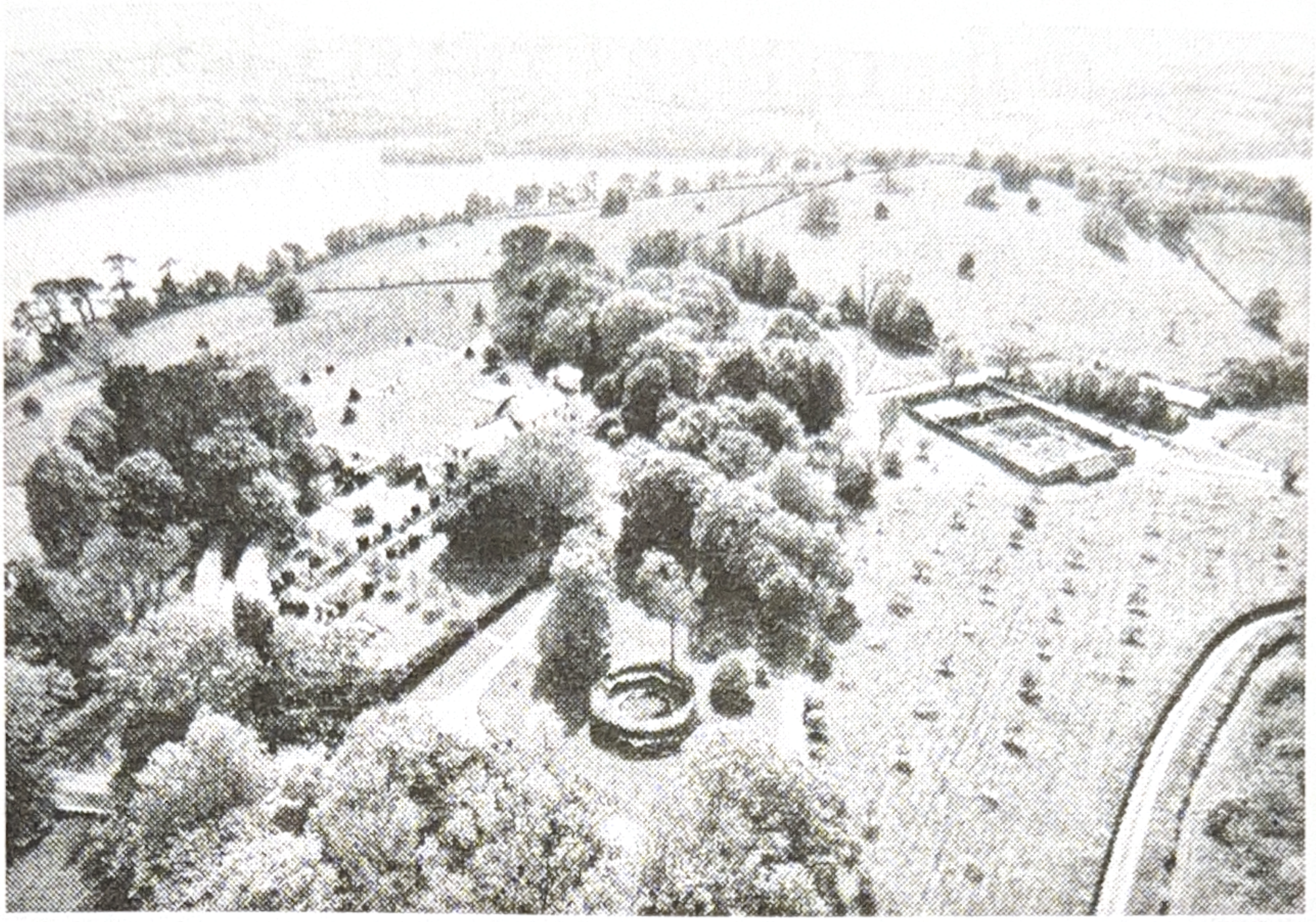
Village Hall

Big charity raffle with all proceeds to Landworks

Staging 8-9.30am
Doors open at 10.30am
Presentation and draw from 11.30am

Entry forms available from Stoke Gabriel Stores, 50p per entry on the day. Non exhibitors £1.50 to include tea and coffee.

stokegabrielhs@gmail.com for any questions



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Entry: £8 single, couples £15, children free. Dogs on leads welcome. Bring a picnic. Refreshments available. Ample parking.



Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club

May sees the start of the season for all sides. The club are looking forward to a successful year on and off the pitch. Lots of cricket to watch this year so come along and support all the teams.

May home fixtures: **Sat 2nd** - 1st v Braunton @ 12.30pm; **Sun 3rd** - 3rd v Lewdown 2nds @ 1pm; **Tue 5th** - U13 v Paignton @ 6pm; **Sat 9th** - 2nd v Kenn @ 1pm; **Sun 10th** - Women HB v Ashburton @ 1pm; **Sat 16th** - 1st v Bovey Tracey 2nd @ 12.30; **Sat 16** - 3rd v Babbacombe 3rd @ 1pm at Stoke Fleming; **Wed 20th** - Women SB v Brixham @ 6pm; **Sat 23rd** - 2nd v Paignton 3rd @ 1pm; **Sat 30th** - 1st v Plymstock @ 12.30pm; **Sun 31st** - Women HB v Tavistock @ 1pm

Outdoor training for senior sides on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm. Message Jack Tolley for details.

Junior training Wednesday and Fridays. Contact Jason Gonifas

Women's Cricket: The women's side finished off their indoor season in 3rd place and had a very positive winter. The attention now turns to the hardball and softball seasons. **Women's outdoor training** on Wednesdays 6.30pm. Message Bella for details and info.

Junior Girls Cricket: 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 Jason Gonifas

Allstars and Dynamos : Registration is live for Allstars (5-8 years) and Dynamos (8-11 years). Sessions start on **Friday 29th May** and run until the end of August. Contact Matt Kerr for more details

Social Events: Sunday lunch - 24th May, 21st June Contact Tom for booking

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. This is a great way to support the club and also have the chance to win cash prizes each month. Sign up at the club or online 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.

Matt Kerr

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 and Dynamos)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 Aish TQ9 6TF

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Stoke Gabriel &Torbay Police Football Club

We extend a sincere thank you for your support during this season. There are still some Saturday and Sunday games in May to be rearranged so please look on the Stoke Gabriel Good Neighbours Facebook page for updates.

2026 YOUTH TOURNAMENT

2nd-4th May, Broadley Lane
Stoke Gabriel TQ9 6RR
Saturday 2nd May - U8, U10, U12 (Mixed)
Sunday 3rd May - U7, U9, U11 (Mixed)
Monday 4th May - U9, U11, U13 (Girls)
Gates open 9am - All support welcome
Various food options and Licensed Bar open
First Team Home LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR MAY: No fixtures
SECOND Team Home LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR MAY
No fixtures confirmed at the moment
WOMEN'S Team Home LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR MAY
Sunday 17th: TIVERTON TOWN 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

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 21st March: Ray Tucker £75 and Rollover (Winning number 46)
Saturday 28th March: John Banks £150 and Matt Vanes £75 each (number 18)
Saturday 4th April: Kris Chapman and Karen Collins £75 each - (number 52)
Saturday 11th April: Both Rollovers (Winning number 31)

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 to help.

Ray Tucker

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 – 17 MAY 2026

This year's Christian Aid collection is to help poor farmers in Kenya and Zambia with drought resistant crops and training, amidst climate crises.

If you can contribute to the annual collection this week, as you have done so generously in previous years, it would be fantastic. Stoke Gabriel has a wonderful record of generosity for this cause - £1,006.67 last year + £186.50 in Gift Aid.

You will receive a red donation envelope through your letter-box, delivered by kind Stoke Gabriel volunteers, but in the majority of cases we will not be knocking on your door to collect it. Please leave contributions in the red Christian Aid bag with Roz or a member of staff in the Village Shop/PO by the end of May.

Anne-Marie Curror, tel: 01803 555448.

Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

Coffee Morning!

Old Schoolroom, Church Walk



Our coffee mornings continue with our next one on

Thursday 14 May - 10.00-12.00

Everyone is very welcome. Coffee, Tea etc, together with toasted teacakes, a variety of cake and biscuits will be available throughout the morning. If you would just like to sit quietly and read a book/newspaper, that's fine: we have a quieter area on our mezzanine. Perhaps bring a friend to enjoy your coffee with - or you may make some new friends to have a chat with? We look forward to welcoming you all: those who have been before and those who may be thinking of trying out our community coffee mornings for the first time. (There is no charge, but any small donation will help to cover the costs) *Sue Clement*

Gardening jobs for May

May is one of the busiest months for gardening as everything is growing fast. Here's a practical guide to what we can be focusing on:

Planting & Sowing • Sow outdoors: carrots, beetroot, lettuce, radish, spinach • Plant out (after last frost): tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins, sweetcorn, runner beans • Sow flowers: sunflowers, cosmos, nasturtiums, marigolds • Plant summer bedding plants for colour

Fruit & Veg Jobs • Protect strawberries with netting from birds • Earth up potatoes as they grow • Support peas and beans with canes or trellis • Start hardening off plants grown indoors before moving them outside

General Maintenance • Weed regularly, growth is rapid now - note to self ;-) • Mulch beds to retain moisture and suppress weeds • Water seedlings and newly planted crops consistently • Check for pests like aphids and slugs

Wildlife-Friendly Tips • Leave some areas a bit wild for pollinators • Plant nectar-rich flowers (lavender, foxglove) • Put out water for birds and insects. We may have our very own village community composting site at some stage in the future but for now, please remember, if you're having to buy compost to make sure it is 100% peat free.



Have a gardening question? Want to join? Get in touch (stokegabrielhs@gmail.com) - No previous experience needed, we're just a group of like-minded people who like growing things and sharing our knowledge

Kate Medhurst on behalf of Stoke Gabriel Horticultural Society

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DON'T FORGET THE PLANT SALE
SATURDAY 2ND MAY 10 – 12
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Vegetable plants, herbs, flowers, perennials, pollinator-friendly bedding and more, all grown by HS members. Hot bacon rolls, cakes, tea, coffee.

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katesyoga@hotmail.co.uk



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STOKE GABRIEL ART GROUP

Hopefully May brings you sunshine and warmth after the April showers. The Art group has a busy time in the next few weeks.

MAY MONTHLY DEMO

We have our monthly demonstration on **Tuesday May 5th** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Dawn Jordan usually paints en plein air and is inspired by light. Painting in Oils she finds inspiration from living in the South West. All welcome. Refreshments. (£3 non-members, £2 members)

SPRING SOCIAL EVENT

On the 8th of May the Art group will be enjoying their Spring Social event with lunch at the Dainton.

EVENING OF ART

Our 'Evening of Art' on **Tuesday June 2nd** in the Village Hall 7 – 9pm invites you all to come along to see various members of our group demonstrating their particular art medium. Painting in watercolour, oil, acrylic, pastels, drawing in charcoal, pencil. All are welcome and anyone visiting us on that evening is invited to bring along a piece of their own art to create a display and show how our Village has an array of talent beyond just our little group. Come along and be inspired! Free entry.

A glass of wine, tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

THURSDAY MORNING ART SESSIONS

Of course our usual Thursday morning Art sessions will be taking place from 9am 'til 12noon in the Village Hall and anyone interested are welcome to pop in and take a look at what goes on.. normally a lot of chatter!

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION 2026

Then our big event for the year is our 65th Annual Art Exhibition which is being held earlier this year and starts on **Tuesday July 7th** through to Monday **July 13th.** Look out for our Posters around the Village!

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

Thank you, *Jackie Tucker*

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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STOKE GABRIEL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting will take place on Monday 18th May 2026 at The Village Hall, Stoke Gabriel at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served from 6.30 p.m.

This is your Annual Parish Meeting when many clubs and organisations are invited to come along and give us an update about themselves, their achievements over the past year and their future plans for the coming year.

The Guest Speaker will be Susie Colley from The Torbay Heart Campaign to Save Torbay Hospital Heart Department.

The Parish Council look forward to seeing you there.

Rosemary Rowe. Clerk Stoke Gabriel Parish Council

Contributions for the June magazine by 15th May, please.

Georgina Foss, Editor

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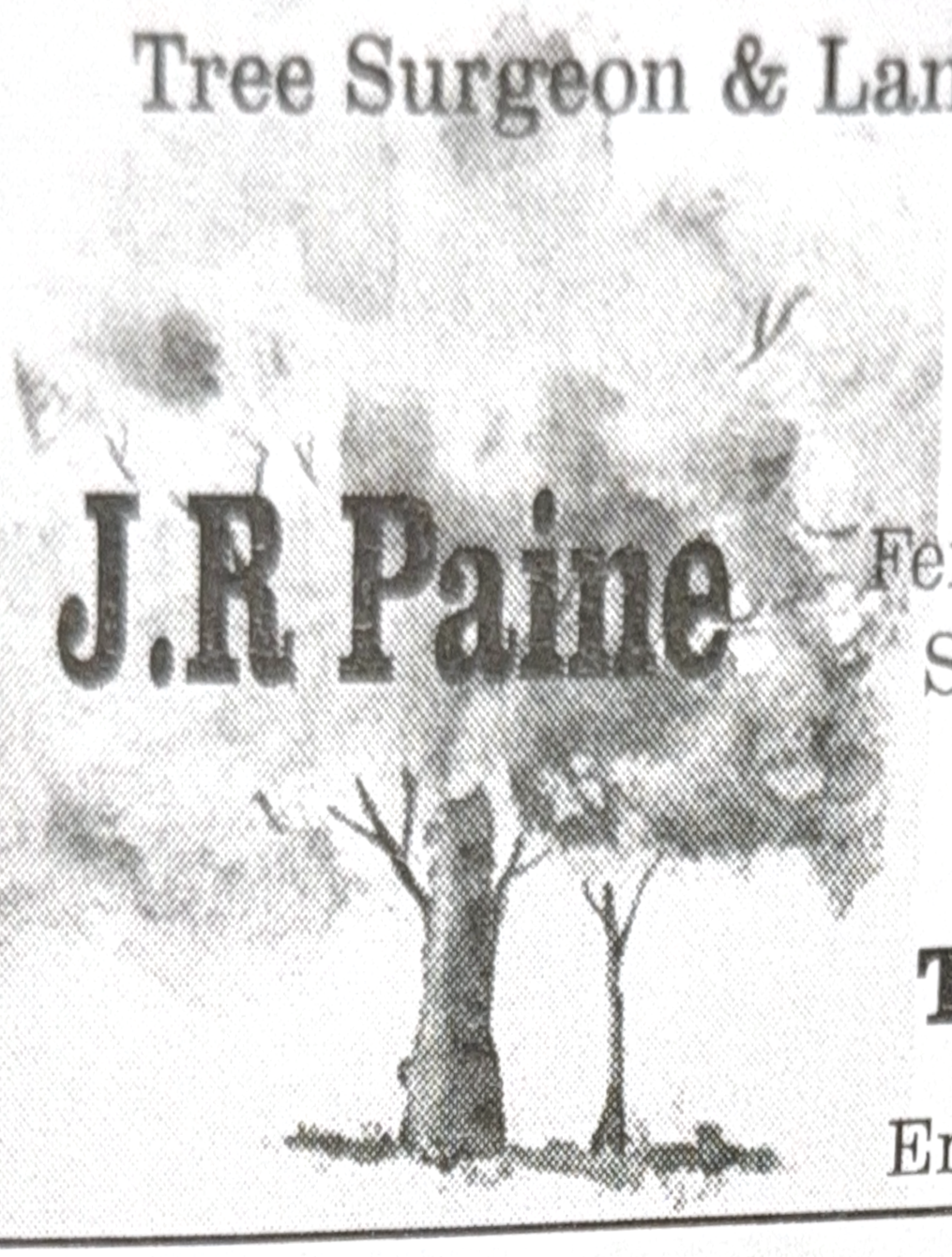

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Collaton, Parkers Arms	0917	1122	1322	1522	1722
Whitehill	0922	1127	1327	1527	1727
STOKE GABRIEL	**0927**	**1132**	**1332**	**1532**	**1732**
STOKE GABRIEL	**0930**	**1135**	**1335**	**1535**	**1735**
Whitehill	0935	1140	1340	1540	1740
Collaton, Parkers 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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