

STOKE GABRIEL NEWS

St. Mary and St. Gabriel's Church



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AUGUST, 2026

PRICE 70p (Annual Subscription £7.00)

PARISH OF STOKE GABRIEL

www.stokegabrielchurch.co.uk

Team Rector (Totnes): Revd. Jim Barlow 07775 356652
Assoc. Minister (Stoke Gabriel): E: fr.jim@totnesrectory.co.uk
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Churchwarden: *Isy Ewart isy.sgchurchwarden@gmail.com 07966685503
Vergar Emeritus: *Norman Betts, 4 Church Walk
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Treasurer PCC: *Ian Potham, Hamewith, Duncannon Mead 782311
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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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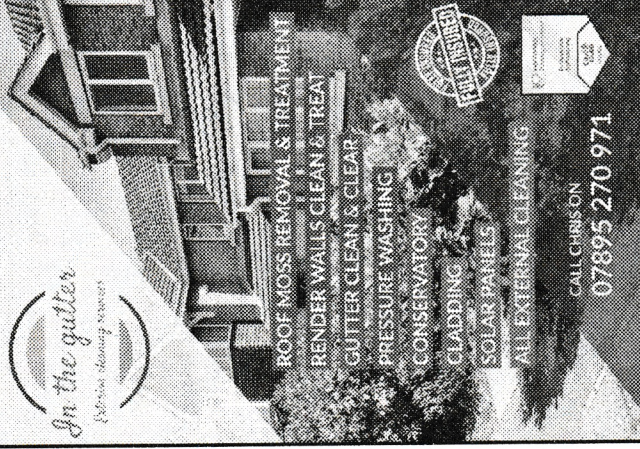
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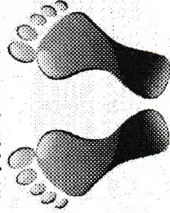
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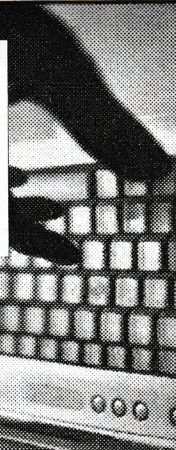
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From the Revd Chris Martin

August 2026

Dear friends,

I am writing this the morning after England's defeat to Argentina in the World Cup semi-final. Naturally, the mood seems flat today and the post-mortem looks like it could last a while!

It's a shame because England's run to the semi-final has been the cause of much celebration across the country. The amount of beer spilt every time England scored a goal would fill several Olympic sized swimming pools I'm sure. And the choruses of '*It's coming home, it's coming home*' sung by late night revellers who managed to drink more beer than they spilt has been a lovely sound. With the Stoke Gabriel carnival on the horizon, there is the opportunity for celebration and fun to lift the mood.

Celebration brings us together. It breaks down barriers and turns a group of strangers into a community united by shared joy. But what if this feeling is just a glimpse of something even bigger?

In the Christian tradition, celebration isn't just an optional extra. It is the very heart of what it means to be connected with the divine source some call God. When Jesus wanted to describe what heaven is like, he didn't use pictures of quiet clouds or harps or a stern judge sitting on a throne. Instead, he repeatedly used the ultimate picture of human joy: a feast.

Jesus compared heaven to a great banquet or a wedding celebration. Imagine your favourite family gathering or a massive street party, but without any of the stress. There are no arguments, no running out of food, and no one is left out. Everyone is welcome to take a seat at the table.

Such was Jesus's insistence on celebrating over food and drink with ordinary, everyday folk, his overly-religious sceptics accused him of being a glutton and a drunkard. Yet he was just seeking to bring us a glimpse of the God who likes to celebrate! So, the next time you see a crowd celebrating a goal, or when you join in with the events at the carnival, savour the moment and wonder at the thought that you are looking through a window into the divine life. It is a reminder that we were made for joy, for community, and to celebrate together. Let it be for you a taster of the joy to be found underneath the surface of our lives. I hope your summer is one to celebrate!

Chris

Parish Register

Interment of ashes

9th July: Christine Margaret Davey of Maddicks Orchard, aged 86

August Services 2026



Sunday 2 nd	9 th Sunday after Trinity 8:15am Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00am Choral Eucharist 6.30pm Carnival Songs of Praise on the Quay (in the church if wet)
Wednesday 5 th	10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 9 th	10 th Sunday after Trinity 8:15am Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00am Choral Eucharist (celebrating Mary Summer, founder of the Mothers' Union)
Wednesday 12 th	10:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	11 th Sunday after Trinity 8:15am Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00am Matins
Wednesday 19 th	10:00am Communion by Extension
Sunday 23 rd	12 th Sunday after Trinity 8:15am Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 26 th	10:00am Communion by Extension
Sunday 30 th	13 th Sunday after Trinity 8:15am Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00am Choral Eucharist 6:30pm Team Choral Evensong (remembering the life of John Bunyan)

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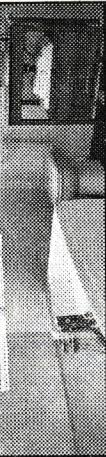
You are very welcome at our services and we hope you will experience the love of God for you when you come along.

The church is open for Private Prayer daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Waddeton Chapel Service

Sunday 23rd August 9.30am + Holy Communion
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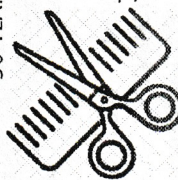
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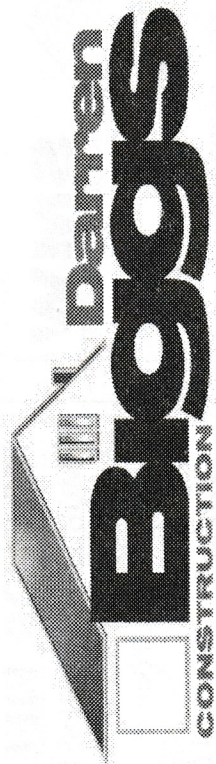
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2026

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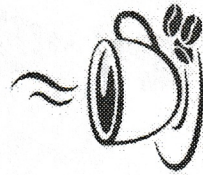
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Community Coffee Morning!

Old Schoolroom, Church Walk

Thursday 13 August 10.00-12.00



Our warm and friendly Community Coffee Mornings continue: please come and join us. A warm and friendly welcome awaits everyone. Our coffee mornings offer various beverages - Coffee, and **toast**ed **teacakes**, and a variety of homemade **cakes** and **biscuits**, all available throughout the morning. Why not bring a friend to enjoy your coffee with - or you may make some new friends to have a chat with? We also have a mezzanine area which gives lovely views of the river. 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

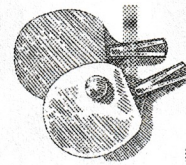
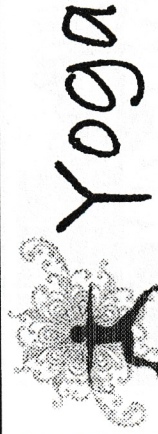


Table Tennis Club

Following the notice in last month's Parish Magazine regarding the possibility of setting up a village Table Tennis Club. There has been interest from a number of village folk. It would now be a good time to have a meeting of all interested parties. Players, novices, non players and those who would just like to be part of a welcoming social club. We can discuss/agree together the next steps. **A meeting will be held on - Tuesday 8th September @ 14.30 in the Old School Room, Church Walk.** Should you be unable to attend and would like to receive details of the meeting, please provide your email contact details. Also advise if you would like to be a part of this new venture (we need to have an idea of numbers) Any questions/queries contact: **Sue Clement** 01803 782565 or email: merryclement@gmail.com



Yoga

Monday 7.30 – 8.30pm

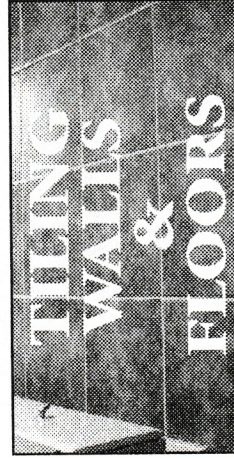
Friday 10 – 11am

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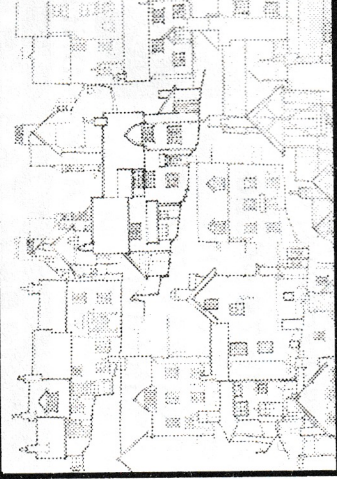
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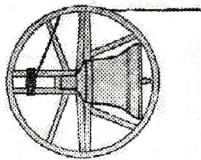
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Bell Ringing News



Stoke Gabriel Ringers Excel at Diptford
 Stoke Gabriel has been recognised as the best striking team in the Totnes Deanery following their impressive performance at this year's bell-ringing competition. Hosted by South Brent at Diptford on 4th July, the event attracted teams throughout Devon, with Stoke Gabriel placing third overall. **The South Brent competition**, traditionally held on the first Saturday in July, was relocated to Diptford this year due to essential maintenance work at South Brent. The church there is currently dealing with rusting of the foundation girders that support the bell frame, which necessitated moving the venue to Diptford.

About the Competition

Ringing did take place at South Brent, though without the rise and lower—a decision made to avoid placing unnecessary strain on the affected frame. The rise and lower is a technique particularly characteristic of this part of Devon, and very few teams have mastered it to perfection. The technique involves following the bell in front whilst gradually increasing the distance between the bells as they begin to ring into a full circle, as occurs during normal ringing—that ringers typically refer to as "top" ringing. It is a demanding skill that requires considerable practice and precision. Congratulations to all the ringers from Stoke Gabriel on their well-deserved success.

Ringing World National Youth Contest – 435 Young Ringers Attend

The 2025 Ringing World National Youth Contest, held on 4th July in Nottingham, proved a resounding success, featuring five different ringing competitions alongside numerous other events. The occasion showcased the enthusiasm of approximately **435 young ringers** representing 42 teams. Participants must be under 19 years of age on 31st August in the year of the contest. Throughout the day, competitors and supporters enjoyed a variety of activities, including ringing on the twelve bells at St Mary's in the Lace Market. Nottingham's tram system proved popular with visitors making their way around the city. The event reached its climax with a lively results ceremony at St Mary's, which drew such a large crowd that standing room only was available. It is most heartening to see so many young people engaged in the ancient art of bell-ringing, ensuring a vibrant future for the hobby.

Competitions at Stoke Gabriel and Collaton St Mary postponed

Due to activities within the church we postponed the Stoke Gabriel and Collaton St Mary competitions usually held annually on the 2nd Saturday of July. A new date will be published when alternative dates have been found.

Continued over page...

Bellringing, continued...

Carnival Entry-1 August

The bell ringers, under the leadership of Steve, are planning to enter the Stoke Gabriel Carnival. A considerable amount of preparation and work has gone into this entry, and we would encourage parishioners to watch out for our entry as it makes its way in procession around the village.

Buckfast Abbey - Summer Fair 6 - 8 August

The Summer Fair will be returning this August for three days filled with an array of food, music, crafts and entertainment. Running from Thursday to Saturday the Summer Fair will offer a mix of independent stalls ranging from crafts to local artisan food and drink producers, as well as engaging, live food demonstrations along with the Abbey bells being rung in the afternoon.

181st Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta - 22-29 August

The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta celebrates life in the enchanting seaside town on the River Dart. The Regatta attracts thousands of visitors to Dartmouth during a week-long celebration each August, and whether you're a sailor or land lover, there's something for everyone.

Key Dates: Family Fun Weekend & Opening of Regatta: Saturday 22nd August. Opening Ceremony: Wednesday 26th August. Closing Fireworks: Saturday 29th August, 9pm. Rowing Events: Sat 22nd - Sat 29th August

Bell Ringers' Involvement

Stoke Gabriel ringers traditionally join with other ringers to assist the Dartmouth ringers in ringing each morning at St Saviour's, Dartmouth, from 8am on Thursday 27th through to Saturday 29th August. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of Regatta week and support our neighbouring ringers. For further details see dartmouthregatta.co.uk.

Heritage Open Days 11 - 20 September

Each September, thousands of volunteers invite you to explore local history, architecture, and culture—all for free. This year features a variety of free events, including those at National Trust properties. The website will show what is happening in our own area for this annual Heritage event. More information is at: www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Recruitment - more ringers are required. It is all about technique.

Learning to ring a bell is all about technique, rather than strength or mathematical ability. My details are shown inside the front cover.

Forthcoming competition dates and events

1 August- Widecombe in the Moor; 6 - 8 Aug -Buckfast Abbey Summer Fair; 27- 29 Aug- Ringing at Dartmouth Regatta; 11 - 20 Sep- Heritage Open Days

Michael Webster, Tower Captain.

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Stoke Gabriel WI

This month we welcomed 21 members and several guests to our meeting on wheels, when we go out from the village for our meeting. This year we visited **Hunt's Cider**, with a guided tour of their cider press and new bottling plant, before sharing a pasty supper in their barn. Roger

shared with us his family's history in cider making and the changes which have been made since their children have taken over the running of the cider business, whilst showing us around the various barns and explaining how all the equipment worked. Then back to the barn for the cider tasting, before our pasties, followed by strawberries and cream. Roger and Chris Hunt made us very welcome and a lovely evening was had by all.

Later this month we will have a produce stall in the carnival mini-market and then in August members will attend our President's tea-party, this year taking the form of a cream tea at Emma's.

Our next meeting is on September 8th at 7.30pm, when we will have a talk by a speaker from Totnes Caring. Ladies, do join us if this is of interest to you.

Pia Barrett



SALES, TOURS AND TASTINGS!

Family, Tradition & Heritage

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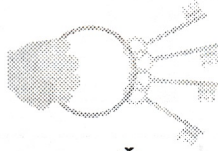
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more than 200 years.

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Sunday 6 September 3pm
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John Garth *Cello Concerto in Bb major no 4*
William Boyce *Concerto Grosso in E minor*
Charles Avison *Concerto grosso no 4 in A minor*
Mathew Locke *Suite no 6*
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for 23rd August was an error, it took place 3 yeNGS OPEN
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and his brilliant granddaughter Emma.*

Family memories, growing up, getting old, the Troubles, quirky personalities, Covid-19, cancer, 9/11, Mr Trump, friendship, loss, love, the pangolin, a toad and even the humble potato find a place in this grandfather– granddaughter collaboration of prose and poetry. Sixty- five years between them but a special bond brought about by a shared passion for writing. “A dazzling and unique anthology of poems and prose pieces from a grandfather and his talented young granddaughter. Peter has the wry wit of the lively old-timer while Emma has the fresh voice and delightfully clear and tremulous vision of the young. Mix it up and you have a heady and scrumptious poetry trifle.” – Wanda Whiteley
(Emma Johnson has been shortlisted for the post of Southwest Young Poet Laureate for 2026/2027)
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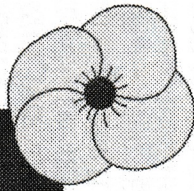
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STOKE GABRIEL BRANCH

For over 90 years there has been a Branch of The Royal British Legion in the village of Stoke Gabriel.

Unfortunately that is about to change as County Head Office in Exeter have started the process to close the Branch. For the last 10 years or more we have been unable to attract new members. Whether it is due to our location, lack of affordable housing or lack of employment I do not know. For a long time we have questioned "Do we keep going?" - Unfortunately it is out of our hands now and a decision will be made centrally.

Under current regulations our Standard will have to be laid up and this means even though I plan to have the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance on the Sunday close to November 11th we cannot display the British Legion Standard. I hope the Uniform Organisations in the Village will still be able to carry out the process with their Standards. Likewise I need to get clarification about a short service at The War Memorial on November 11th at 11.00am and the 2 Minute Silence.

For our current members whose number currently stands at 14 I would like to thank you for your past support. In the present climate at least one local Branch is closing every week. Dartmouth has already closed- Totnes is considering it. I am exploring the possibility of becoming a sub section of the Paignton Branch and if so can we keep our Standard. *Robert Stewart-Bam*



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

Stoke Gabriel & Torbay Police Football Club

Football has started again at Broadley Lane, Stoke Gabriel, with a number of friendlies and first team start home fixtures on Saturday 8th August v Ilfracombe Town, 3pm k.o.

We continue to post club events on Stoke Gabriel Good Neighbours Facebook page and a new Village Calendar.

Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 4th August, 7pm at the Clubhouse, Broadley Lane, Stoke Gabriel.

SWPL PREMIER EAST DIVISION HOME FIXTURES, AUGUST

Saturday 8th: ILFRACOMBE TOWN, ko 3pm

Saturday 22nd: ILMINSTER TOWN, ko 3pm

Tuesday 25th: TEIGNMOUTH, ko 7.3pm

Saturday 29th: HONITON TOWN, ko 3pm

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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 20th June: Dave Thomas and Ben Norton £75 each (number 44)

Saturday 27th June: Lee Langley and Tori Waite £75 each - (number 24)

Saturday 4th July: Dominic Rea £75 and Rollover - (Winning number 47)

Saturday 11th July: Julian Watts £75 and Rollover - (Winning number 41)

Clubhouse is available to hire for Birthday Parties, Weddings, Social Events etc. Please contact Tim

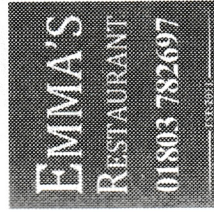
Perrin on 07736 428296 or email
tim@stokeandtorbaypolicefc.com

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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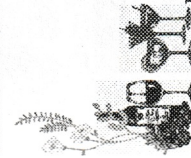
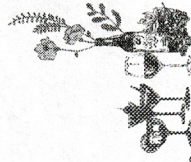
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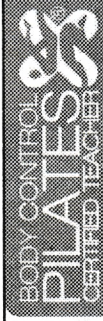
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Thursdays - Galmpton 09:15, 10:30.

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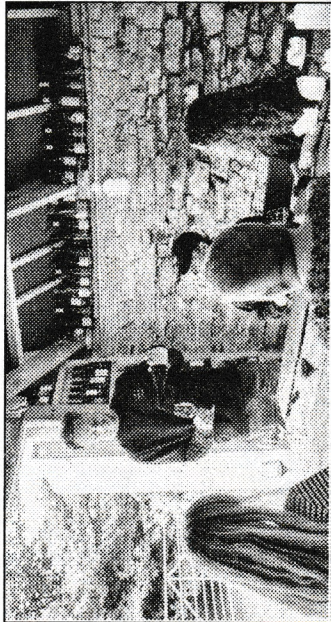
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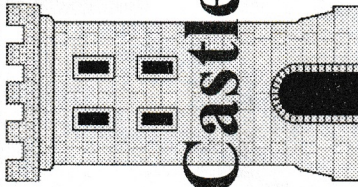
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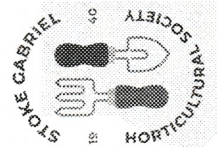
Key gardening jobs for August

After the recent hot, dry weather across Devon, it's important to focus on keeping plants healthy whilst enjoying the garden. August is a month of harvesting, light maintenance and planning ahead rather than tackling major jobs.

- ☐ Deadhead roses, dahlias and other summer flowers to keep them blooming.
 - ☐ Harvest vegetables and fruit regularly to encourage continued cropping.
 - ☐ Sow autumn salads, spinach and other leafy crops for later harvests.
 - ☐ Take cuttings from favourites such as lavender, rosemary and salvias.
 - ☐ Prune summer-fruiting raspberries and tidy strawberry plants.
 - ☐ Keep bird baths and water dishes topped up during warm weather.
- Most importantly, August is a month to enjoy the garden. Sit back with a cup of tea, admire the successes, and start dreaming about next year's displays while everything is still looking its best. ☐ ☐
- 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





Stoke Gabriel Art Group

PHEW!!!... that's all I can say after our successful Art Exhibition at the beginning of July in all that heat! There were sales of Artwork and cards, hot off the displays and we thank all of you who came along to see the wonderful variety of Art on show and the talent there is in our lovely Group. The local artist Anita Nowinska was our judge this year and very kindly donated one of her Original Art pieces along with two prints as raffle prizes.

The winner of first prize was Kati Ord whose Mum Pam picked up her prize, (see photo) second was Helen from Paignton and third prize was Sue Massey.

The artists voted for by Anita were:

The Sheila Graham Cup for Best Watercolour: David Hazelton, highly commended Dawn Hutchings.

The Gwen Russell Trophy for Best Abstract: Petra Lewin, highly commended Hilary Clash.

The Jeff Outterside Cup for Best Pastel: Roy Sullivan, highly commended Sue Miller.

Taylor/Bishop Bowl for Best Oil/Acrylic or Mixed Media Painting: Dee McCleery, highly commended Rob Steen.

The Miniature Cup for Best Miniature Painting: Gill Cockerill, highly recommended Hilary Clash.

Silver Salver for Best Painting voted by fellow artists: Nicci Taylor, highly commended David Hazelton.

Very well done to all the winners and everyone who entered this year to put on such a great show. Big thanks to our committee who put in so much work and time behind the scenes. Thank you too, Valentine at Autovali, Torbay for allowing us to store our equipment for the past year. We all have a few weeks now to chillax and enjoy our summer days, ready to start our Thursday morning sessions in September. For further information and details contact Jackie Tucker by email at tucksatarvu@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you, *Jackie Tucker*



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Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club

The final month of the season and all sides looking for a strong finish to the year. The 1st and 3rd teams looking to maintain positions in the promotion race whilst the 2nd team will be looking to find a few more wins. The women's side will be looking to book their place at finals day for both softball and hardball. The juniors will be looking for a few positive results to complete their year. The girls side will finish off their first ever year of cricket, which they have all enjoyed. It is great to mention so many teams that are now representing the club. Thanks again to all the volunteers and supporters in what has been another successful year.

August home fixtures

Start times are 12.30pm for 1st XI and 1pm for 2nd and 3rd team. Other start times :

Sat 1st 2nd's v Whitchurch ; Sun 3rd 3rd's v Torquay 4th

Sat 8th 1st's v Ashburton ; Sat 15th 2nd's v Bristow 2nd

Sat 22nd 2nd's v Plympton 2nd ; Sun 23rd 3rd's v Tavistock 3rd

Sat 29th 1st's v Barton

Outdoor training for senior sides on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm.

Message Jack Tolley for details.

Junior Cricket: Junior training Wednesday and Fridays. Contact Jason Gonifas

Women's Cricket: The women's teams are still well placed in all competitions going into the second half of the season. They sit top of their hardball group and their softball group. The team have a great chance of making finals day in both competitions.

Women's outdoor training on Wednesdays 6.30pm. Message Bella for details

Junior Girls Cricket: The club would like to encourage girls who want to get into cricket to come along and give it a go at one of the Friday night sessions.

Training Fridays 6pm. Contacts for more info Jason Gonifas

Social Events: Sunday lunch - 16th August 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. Check website and social pages for line up, timings, tickets. 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 100 club draw, 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

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 & 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 Page 15

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Di Lugg writes... Chris was brought up in the midlands with a Welsh heritage that she was proud of. One of three sisters and a loving aunt to her nieces and nephews. She moved to Stoke Gabriel when her husband retired. In the village she taught at the school when David Lusty was the headmaster and also taught children the recorder. She was a member of the WI including being the President at one point. She loved poetry, being in the church choir and was always the first to volunteer to read something at the annual choir Christmas concert. She was a gentle, cheerful soul and will be missed.



And from Peter Cooke:

I wish to thank all our wonderful village people for their support (cards, letters, emails, verbal, personal visits) over the last very difficult 4/5 weeks. Where would I be without you. *Peter Cooke*

--- Editor's Notes ---

Contributions for the September magazine by 15th August please!
Thank you very much.

Page 16

Georgina Foss

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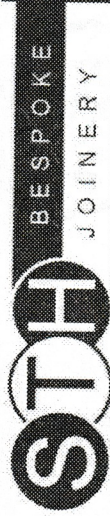
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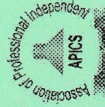


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Whitehill	0922	1127	1327	1527	1727
STOKE GABRIEL	0927	1132	1332	1532	1732

STOKE GABRIEL	0930	1135	1335	1535	1735
Whitehill	0935	1140	1340	1540	1740
Collaton, Parkers Arms	0940	1145	1345	1545	1745
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