



THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

THE INDEPENDENT VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk/news/latest-morchard-messenger

No.366 DECEMBER 2025

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY A. E. PARTRIDGE & SONS

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

**Merry Christmas
and A Happy New
Year
to all our readers
from the
Morchard
Messenger!**

**An enormous
THANK YOU to
our sponsors and
advertisers, and all
those lovely
people who
deliver the
Messenger around
the village!**

**Thank you so
much!**



DECEMBER 2025 DIARY

If you would like details of your event or meeting to appear in the January '26 diary, please let Sue Eaglen know by **December 10** at sue_eaglen@fastmail.co.uk or text Sue on 07854745791. You may also like to use the section below to publicise a future event.

St. Mary's All welcome at our services.

5/6/7th. Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 7th. 4pm Carol singing from Emmanuel to St Mary's

5.30pm Evening worship with carols

Sunday 14th. 10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 18th. 6pm Carol Service

Saturday 20th. 6pm Candle-lit guitar recital by David Cottom

Sunday 21st. 10.30am Family service

Christmas Eve 9.30pm Christmas Eucharist

Christmas Day 10.30am Christmas worship

Sunday 28th 10.30am Morning worship



Third Sunday of the month, Joint Bible Study Group with Emmanuel at 18.00

Emmanuel All welcome at our services. Morning services start at 11.00, coffee from 10.30. Visit www.emmanuel-morchard-bishop.org for detailed information about services, Sunday School for primary age children, youth clubs and other events. **Joint Bible Study Group with St. Mary's: third Sunday of the month. And for December CHRISTMAS WINDOW TRAIL!**

BOOK SWAP: Wednesday December 3, 15.00 – 16.30 in the Memorial Hall

PARISH WALK: Usually final Saturday of the month, 11.00 start at the Memorial Hall.

Future Event/s

SEED SHARE March 7, 2026, organised by Sustainable Morchard.

Mon	1 & 8, 15	09.00 – 10.00	Pilates -basic – intermed.	Memorial Hall
	1	19.00	Parish Council – Budget & Precept - first consideration	Memorial Hall
		20.00	Skittles	MBSSC
Tues	2 & 9, 16, 23	10.00 – 11.00	Café Emmanuel	Emmanuel
	2 & 9	17.15 – 18.00	Dove Dance Academy	Memorial Hall
	2 & 9, 16	19.30	Bridge & Pool	MBSSC
Wed	3 & 10, 17	10.30– 11.15	Chair Pilates	Memorial Hall
	3	15.00 – 16.30	Book Swap	Memorial Hall
		17.30 – 19.00	Brownies	Memorial Hall

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Thurs	4, 11, 18 4 & 11 4 4 & 11, 18 4 & 11	09.30 – 10.30 16.00 – 16.30 10.00 – 15.00 18.30 – 19.30 19.00	Toddler Group – newborn to 4 years Junior ballet – Dove Dance Academy Can't sew won't sew Pilates: basic – intermed. Men's Darts	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Emmanuel Memorial Hall MBSSC
Fri	5 & 12, 19 5 5, 6, 7	13.30 – 14.30 17.30 – 19.00 19.00	Visiting Post Office Max & Mike's Street Food Prime Youth Group – primary age Christmas Tree Festival	London Inn War Memorial Emmanuel St. Mary's (see times in poster on page 15)
Sat	6 6 & 13, 20	09.30 – 11.30 09.30 – 11.00 19.30	Coffee Morning – Parish Council Togs & Toys Giveaway Bar, skittles, pool	Memorial Hall Emmanuel MBSSC
Sun	7	16.15	Carol singing	Emmanuel start
Wed	10	14.30	Christmas Craft & Social	Memorial Hall
Sat	13	09.30 – 11.30	Produce Market & Coffee	Memorial Hall
Sun	14	17.45	Bus shelter lights on	Afterwards London Inn for chips and soup
Mon	15	18.30	Footpaths / P3	MBSSC
Wed	17	12.30 19.30	Over 60s Lunch Tractor Club	London Inn – Contact Many Tapp 877459/mandytapp@folk21.com Memorial Hall
Thurs	18	19.30	Pennymoor Singaround	London Inn Skittle Alley
Fri	19	19.30	Darts Presentation & Draw	MBSSC
Sat	20	09.30 – 11.30 18.00	Coffee Morning – St. Mary's Guitar concert – seasonal music, mince pies, mulled wine & juice	Memorial Hall St. Mary's
Sat	27	11.00	Parish Walk	Start at the Memorial Hall

NOTICEBOARD

Copy for Publication in THE MORCHARD MESSENGER

The deadline for articles, adverts and notices for the next issue is:

12th December 2025

The Editors retain the right to reject, edit, alter or correct articles which are sent in for publication.

The opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors. We do not publish anonymous letters.

Copy should be sent **by email** to
morchardmessenger@gmail.com

Hard copy may also be delivered to
Colin Crewdson at the address below.

Postal Service.

This newsletter can be posted to you
monthly at a cost of £12 per annum.
Please contact :

Colin Crewdson
Wayside Cottage
Frost
Morchard Bishop EX17 6SF
Phone: 07926 625120

ADVERTS

Open the door to new business by
advertising in the
Morchard Messenger

Adverts up to 1/8 page are £5 a month
Adverts up to 1/4 page are £7 a month
Adverts up to 1/2 page are £10 a month

(Larger sizes negotiable)

Please email your copy or draft to the
editor (address above)

Morchard Bishop Sports & Social Club

Bar open to all members
Annual membership £2 per adult, due
1st August 26

December Opening Times

Mondays – 1st skittles 8pm
onwards.

Tuesdays – 2nd, 9th, 16th. dates open
for pool & Bridge 7.30m

Wednesdays – Possible Ladies'
darts practice all dates not
confirmed.

Thursdays – 4th 11th, Men's Darts
7.30pm

Fridays – 19th open 7.30pm for
Friday night darts presentation &
the GRAND PRIZE DRAW. Tickets
available at the bar.

Saturdays – 6th 13th 20th open
7.30pm

We are closed from Sunday 21st
December until Saturday 3rd
January. As we are all volunteers,
we would also like to spend time
with our families over the festive
period. With this in mind, **we
would like to wish the Members ,
Sports Teams & all who use &
support the club A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM US ALL at the MB Sports &
Social Club. A Big Thank You to all
of you.**

For more information contact
morchardsportsandsocialclub@gmail.com

Church Street Stores

Opening Hours:

Sunday & Monday: 8.30am-12noon
Tuesday- Friday: 8.30am-5pm
Saturday: 8.30a- 2pm

**Christmas opening see page 11
01363 877826**

www.facebook.com/churchstreetstores

Matthew & Clare

Bus Service 369

Outward

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):
07.12, 09.40, 11.50, 13.55, 16.07
Saturdays 0730,0945 1200 1405 1613

Crediton High St: 07.46, 10.14, 12.21,
14.24, 16.39

Crediton Train station /Redlands:
07.51, 10.19, 12.26, 14.28, 16.43
Saturdays 0805 1024 1236 1441 1646

Exeter City Centre (Sidwell St):
08.17, 10.39, 12.45, 14.48, 17.05

RD&E Hospital 08.26, 17.14
Saturdays 0833 1714

Return

Exeter RD&E: 17.15/ 17.15

City Centre (Sidwell St Stop 40):
08.40, 10.50, 12.55, 15.00, 17.30
Saturdays 0845 1055 1305 1515 1730

Crediton Train station/Redlands:
09.02, 11.11, 13.17, 15.23, 17.55
Saturdays 0907 1119 1327 1536 1755

Morchard Bishop (Greenaway):
09.38, 11.48, 13.53, 16.05, 18.34
Saturdays 0942 1156 1401 1609 1828

Witheridge: 18.59 (not Saturdays)

Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Available for birthday and celebration
parties, family meetings/get
togethers/wakes/wedding receptions.

Bookings - Contact **Debbie Ticehurst**
dticehurst@icloud.com
07875359563

General - Contact **Anton Heal**
antonheal@yahoo.co.uk
07970 227753

Produce / Table Top booking –
contact **Robert Moore**
07455 896589
robert@lydcottnursery.co.uk

LETTERS – MESSAGES – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morchard's Weather

The wettest day was 17th April, when 29 mm (1.1 inches) fell. The heaviest downpour was on 9th September, when it rained at a rate of 108 mm (4 and a quarter inches) per hour - just for a short period thank goodness. Wettest month so far was January, but that was before the latest storm Claudia. So far, we have had about 600 mm (23 inches) of rain, compared to over 1000 mm (40 inches) last year. It has certainly been a dry year. Warmest day was 10th July at 30.4 C (86.7F).

It's difficult to say whether this is an ongoing trend or not, but it does appear that this type of weather is occurring more often at these latitudes. As write this, Monmouth is almost completely flooded and the River Ouse in York is at breaking point. The line between Barnstaple and Exeter - the closest one to us - was also closed due to localised flooding.

We have a way to go though to catch up with the wettest places. Top of the list is Columbia with 3,200mm (126 inches) per year!

Snow wardens

One of the best things about village life here in Morchard Bishop is the way local people get on with the jobs that need doing. For example, we have a potholing team and a snow warden team. And we need more helpers. Are you willing and able to keep your village running?

Currently, we need more snow wardens for this winter. This entails spreading a little salt onto the footpaths in your area when icy conditions are expected. The salt is provided by the council and the parish council distributes the sacks all around the village. We just need a little help to spread it. We particularly need volunteers for Greenaway, and around the main pavements in the centre of the village. If you are interested, please let Bob Robinson know on 07761 281155 or email bob@bayhouse.myzen.co.uk. And thank you.

Stephen Leese

Editor's Note

The January issue, produced in December, is printed early because of the printers' holidays, so contributors and writers please note that articles and information need to be with the Messenger by the **12th December** for inclusion. Anything after that might miss the boat...
Diary entries by **10th December** please.

Morchard Bishop Playing Field Association

Our 100 Club membership for 2026 is now open to EXISTING members for renewal....any remaining numbers for 2026 will be open to NEW members from December 8th.

We've really enjoyed running our 100 Club this year, there have been 11 lucky winners so far this year, each winning £100. The rollcall of winners: Denise Cann, Henry Cooper, Paul Hayman, Lisa Vogwill, Massimo Proietti (twice!), Kathy Alder, Ria Hasler, Sheila Sinclair, and Pauline & John Chater. November's winner unknown at the time of writing. December's draw will take place on 17th at the Over-60's lunch at The London Inn. It could be YOU We must say a very big thank you to our trustee Dawn Parkhouse who has arranged all of the monthly draws this year.

We will be running the 100 Club next year; all existing members should have received an email inviting them to roll over their number to next year. We really appreciate the support this gives us. The 100 Club raises £1,200 annual profit, all of which goes towards running costs to keep your playing field and all its facilities open. We hope you enjoy a bit of fun in following the draws and the winners, photos of every monthly draw are posted on our facebook page.

If you are not currently a 100 Club member but you are interested in joining, please get in touch via any of the contact details below. We will operate a waiting list for new members; the 100 Club has been fully subscribed this year, but it is worth letting us know if you would like to join if numbers become available. We ask for £2/month for the whole year, total £24 which you can either pay in a lump sum or as a monthly standing order. For every £2 we receive, £1 goes into the prize pot and we keep £1 to contribute to our charity running costs. We will hold a draw once per month in 2026, with £100 cash on offer (if we are fully subscribed) to the winning number every month. We are extremely grateful for everyone that is so generously supporting this village facility – THANK YOU.

Toni Robinson Treasurer

Morchard Bishop Playing Field Association

Facebook page: Morchard Bishop Playing Fields Association

Email: mbplayingfield@gmail.com

Tel 877523

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Volunteer needed from January 2026 to deliver the Morchard Messenger on Church Street once a month.

If interested, please contact Dawn at dawnparkhouse62@gmail.com or 07851043766.



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MORFEST 2026

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SATURDAY 23RD MAY
2026

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: **home** – 01363 877803.
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Believe it or not, Christmas IS ALL ABOUT **Love!**

It's about how much **God** loves you.

You may not feel it but it's there.

As you walk around the village please look out for a pebble
that will remind you that God loves & cares for you,

NO MATTER WHAT!

See how many you can find...



For more information or to talk to someone
please contact Rev. Peter Brown 07355 211520

Emmanuel Church
invites you to join us

Carol Singing

Sunday, 7th December
4.15pm

*Starting at Emmanuel's Star and finishing at
St. Mary's Carol Service. We shall be stopping
on the way to share the joy of Christmas!*

Please listen out for us!

Everyone welcome to join!

Christmas @ EMMANUEL 2025

This is LOVE

Sunday 30th November

3.00pm Carol Singing at Ridge House

*Join Emmanuel & St. Mary's Churches as we sing favourite Carols
with our friends at Ridge House.*

Sunday 7th December

11.00am Christmas Café Church

*Everyone is welcome to our café style Family Service with
lots of Christmas treats and craft for the children.*

4.15pm Carol singing around the village!

*Starting at Emmanuel's Star and finishing at St. Mary's Carol Service.
We shall be stopping on the way to share the joy of Christmas!
Please listen out for us!*

Sunday 21st December

4.00pm Nativity Carol Service 'THIS IS LOVE!'

*The Christmas story told by the children.
Christmas supper to follow!*

Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Day Celebration

*A short, relaxed family celebration and a chance to bring
along your favourite Christmas present!*



Christmas@ Emmanuel

This is Love...

join us at our

Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday, 21st December
@ 4:00pm

Followed by a Christmas Supper



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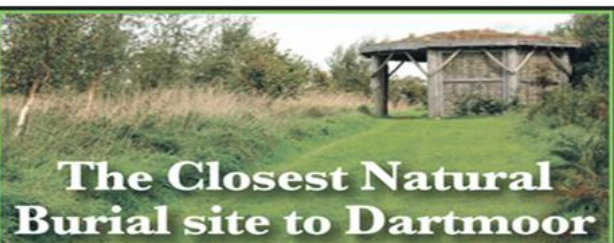
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Set in the heart of the village, this early years setting offers a fun-filled approach to pre-school education for children aged 2-4 years.

Situated in the grounds of Morchard Bishop Primary School, this purpose-built facility also has access to fantastic outdoor space, and regular visits to school ensure smooth transition to the reception class.

OPEN

9.00am - 3.30pm, Monday - Friday

For full details and to arrange a visit call us on 01363 877328

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Wed CLOSED	Sat 8.00 – 2.00

No appointment needed Monday & Tuesday.

All other days appointments are necessary – please use booking app Nearcut or phone to book.

Christmas @ Church Street Stores 2025

The festive season is in full swing, and we're here to help make it local, fresh & tasty.

Christmas Hampers

- Ready-made hampers filled with local goodies start from just £20
 - Or handpick your favourites and we'll wrap them up for you
- We love a bit of reuse — bring in your own basket or choose from our selection.

Christmas Homemade Tarts & Pies

*** Our homemade tarts are available to order for the Christmas period. If you want to try beforehand, we bake them fresh every Saturday morning.

Choose from:

Goat's Cheese, Pesto & Caramelised Red Onion
Chestnut, Leek, Sundried Tomato & Mature Cheddar
Roasted Squash, Red Onion & Stilton
Local Ham, Cheddar & Tomato

Also available: **Homity Pies** -
Cheesy Potato with herbs, garlic & Cream in our sesame pastry cases.

*Gluten-free option available.
£3.85 each or any 6 for £22.00

Collect your tarts and pies on Tuesday 23rd (from 11am).
They'll keep well for 5 days (easy to reheat or freeze).

Our Pasties & Sausage Rolls can be ordered any time, choose from:

Steak Pasty- £3.95
Christmas Turkey Pasty- £3.85
Chicken, Bacon & Leek Pasty - £3.75
Cheese & Onion Pasty - £3.5
Sausage Roll - £3
Vegan Sausage Roll - £2.25
and
Home made coleslaw £1.75

Come and join us for our Christmas Shopping Afternoon/Evening!

Saturday 29th November 3pm till 7pm

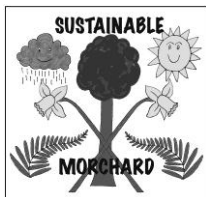
- Lots of samples to try including Lyme Bay Christmas Mead and Chutneys, Cheeses and Brownies
- EXCLUSIVE offers!
- Spend £100 & enjoy a free bottle of Lyme Bay Mulled Wine on us!

Over the Christmas period our opening times will be as follows:

We will close at 12 noon on Christmas Eve (Wed) and reopen on Saturday 3rd January 2026.

Thank you for your incredible support this year.
Wishing you a warm, joyful Christmas from all of us at Church Street Stores

Matthew, Clare, Leon & Hilary



Sustainable Morchard

CALLING ALL GARDENERS



Sustainable Morchard are asking all gardeners to start saving seeds from their flowers, vegetables and herbs, not only for your own use next year but also for Morchard Bishop annual seed share to be held on the 7th of March 2026 in the village hall, make a date in your diary and come along to pick up some free seeds. The Saturday morning café will be open as usual. This event is free but we ask for a donation to cover our cost and to go towards future events.

What is a seed share and why are we doing it?

A seed share works by people bringing seeds they have saved or have left over, and taking away other peoples' seeds to use. If you don't have any seeds, please come along anyway and take some seeds, grow the plants and perhaps save seeds for next year. We have information about how to save seeds. Pick up a leaflet from the stall, or go to:
<http://www.realseeds.co.uk/seedsavinginfo.html> - they have lots of advice.

Good reasons for saving seeds include:

Helps protect biodiversity and keeps the diversity of locally adapted varieties going.

Maintains and develops growing skills.

Gets around the National List, which makes it illegal to sell varieties not on the list. This is why we do not charge for the seeds, voluntary donations are only to cover our expenses and go towards future events.

Seed shares keep seed production local and help resist the privatisation of plant genetic material.

Seed shares introduce you to other local gardeners and help to develop a sense of community.

Saving seeds can also save you money! 😊

You can bring vegetable, flower and herb seeds. It would be helpful if you label packets with type, variety and date collected e.g. **Tomato. Money Maker. 2024.** Surplus commercial seed packets are also welcome as many older seeds are still viable. Please only bring seeds that are 3 years old or less.

Useful Books

The Seed Savers' Handbook; Jeremy Cherfas et al.

Seedswap: The Gardener's Guide to Saving and Swapping Seeds; Josie Jeffery.

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- **Thursday morning:**
 - 10:45 – 11:45 – yang & yin yoga flow
- **1st Monday of every month** - 18:00 - 19:00 - deep relaxation soundbaths
- **3rd Thursday of every month** - 18:00 - 19:30 - candlelit yin yoga & soundbath sessions

We have a variety of special wellbeing events on throughout the month, including other healing therapists, such as, Reiki. Please check our website for more details, or get in touch to be added to our WhatsApp group for updates.

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Many Happy Returns

My sympathies to those of you born on 25th December. It must be difficult having your special, once a year day, a day that is just for you, be totally eclipsed by the celebrations for someone else's birthday. And you can't even moan about it because he's a bloomin' demi-god. I offer you this small level of comfort, or at least schadenfreude: Jesus had to put up with the same problem when he was a kid.



Sol Invictus

Because the 25th of December has moved a couple of times with respect to the actual solar year it is not quite the day it once was. It used to be more firmly attached to the winter solstice and was the day of the new born sun after the night of deepest darkness. Thus it has been a popular day for deities and demi-deities to breathe their first breath in their prophesied mortal incarnation for at least three millennia.

The Ancient Egyptian gods Osiris, and his son, Horus were both born on a day that can be translated as the 25th Dec. Due to the conflict between Set and Osiris, Isis gave birth to Horus while hiding in exile but he still went on to become the solar deity, which is not bad going since Ra was already doing that job.

The Greeks celebrated the births of both Dionysus, god of wine and parties, and Hercules, son of Zeus and all-round heroic strong man, on the 25th December. The birth of Dionysus was a decidedly odd affair since his mother, Semele, was burned to death while pregnant as a result of some typical machinations by Hera, and Zeus sewed the miraculously unharmed foetus in to his thigh, from which Dionysus burst when he was sufficiently grown. Hercules, in contrast to his half brother's premature exposure and paternal incubation, was born a week late as Hera sent her daughter, Eileithyia, goddess of child birth, to sit with her legs crossed outside the room where Hercules' mother, Alcmene, was in labour in order to kill Hercules in the womb. Realising what the problem was, two friends of Alcmene, called Galanthis and Historis, tricked Eileithyia by suddenly crying out in joy and announcing the birth, which rather surprised the goddess who then stood up and ran in to the room to see what had happened, thus uncrossing her legs and allowing the infant Herc to be pushed out. Phew!



December programme

Thursday 4th	7.00pm	Jazz on the Green Music and Food
Friday 5th	7.30pm	The Jeremiahs Music
Saturday 6th	10.00am-4.00pm	Crediton Heart Christmas Craft Fair
Friday 12th	7.30pm	THE BIG Christmas Quiz
Thursday 18th	7.30pm	Moon Jazz Music
Friday 19th	7.30pm	Solstice Live Lounge Music

Come the Roman period at least three more gods had got in on the mid winter birthday shenanigans: Mithras, who had previous form as Persian Mithra and Indian Mitra, was either born of a virgin goddess, Aditi, the "mother of the gods", or he had no mother and was born from a rock; Sol Invictus, the Invincible Sun, who incorporated a number of sun gods, becoming so amorously generic that it's hard to say anything definite about him; and Saturn, who you may notice is definitively not a sun god but nevertheless had Saturnalia, a two week period of wild festivity, dedicated to him over the solstice season.

So, dear Christmas babies, your discomfort and annoyance is not a new thing... except... originally the Christian church celebrated Christ's birth on the 6th of January, but the festivals of Sol Invictus and the rest, were so popular that too many Christians were getting in on the act, so the Church simply moved Christmas to the twenty fifth of December where it has been ever since.

...here's to living happily ever after, until the next adventure.

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www.thetravellingtalesman.co.uk





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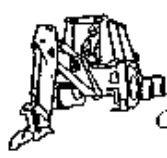
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Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones

As I write this the Foreign Office is advising against all travel to the Philippines as it prepares for the arrival of Super Typhoon Fung-Wong.

Typhoons, cyclones and hurricanes are the same thing - they're all tropical storms. Their geographical location determines which name is to be applied.

Tropical storms only occur in certain locations, as only certain parts of the globe meet the requisite conditions for such storms to occur. The key factor in hurricane development are ocean temperatures in excess of 26 degrees Celsius. These warm seas provide the energy to heat the overlying air which expands, and becomes less dense; as it is heated it starts to rise, creating low pressure. Strong winds high in the atmosphere (10-12 km altitude) help draw this rising air even higher.

Hurricanes often start as a cluster of low pressure thunderstorms. Providing there is low wind shear i.e. similar wind speeds at different heights, these clusters may converge to form deeper, faster rising air.

The final factor is the Coriolis force. The Earth's rotation impacts on liquids and gasses moving across the Earth's surface. It is the Coriolis force that makes water spiral down a plug hole. The Coriolis force is strongest at the Poles and non-existent at the Equator. Air is sucked into the centre of the low pressure system in an anti-clockwise direction (clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere). The Coriolis force is too weak between 0 and 5 degrees of latitude for hurricanes to form. Beyond 30 degrees the seas are too cool for hurricanes to form. So hurricanes are found in two distinct belts between 5 and 30 degrees north and south of the Equator.

As the air rises in the centre of the hurricane two things happen: air from surrounding areas of high pressure is sucked into the storm to cause winds (the deeper the depression the stronger the wind); and as the air cools on rising, the water vapour condenses to form clouds and rain, as well as releasing more heat during the process of condensation which further fuels the rising air mass.

Typhoon Hung-Wong recorded sustained wind speeds of 115 mph, and gusts of 140 mph. These wind speeds uproot trees and telegraph poles, rip off roofs from homes and buildings, severely damage the country's infrastructure, and destroy crops. Heavy rainfall causes flooding, disrupting communications and industrial output as well as forcing people to temporarily abandon their homes. The heavy rainfall can help induce landslides and mudflows as rock and soil become lubricated and weaken the stability of steeper slopes. The strong winds contribute to the creation of storm surges.



A storm surge occurs when a number of factors work to the same end result - high seas and large waves. Air pressure in hurricane can be as low as 950 mb. Low pressure results in a raised sea level, 10mm for every 1 mb drop in pressure. Sea levels may rise by half a metre due to low pressure. This together with a spring high tide (spring high tides are the highest tides, neap tides being the lowest) and strong on-shore winds, waves several metres high can cause significant flooding.

Given the role of warm seas in hurricane formation it is predicted that the number of severe hurricanes will increase with climate change. Meteorologists and other climate scientists do not have sufficient evidence to declare that the number of hurricanes will increase. However, this would seem a likely result of warming seas as the critical temperature will be met over a wider area than now.

Paul Ticehurst



A Big Thank You Ukraine and Moldova

We really appreciate your ongoing kindness in supporting this fantastic charity cr2ee (Christian response to Eastern Europe). Already this year 8 big articulated lorries have travelled to Moldova / Ukraine packed to the roof with much needed equipment and clothes. These items are distributed to contacts previously sourced by Hugh Scudder (the founder of the charity). Hugh frequently visits these areas and also offers financial help to the disabled, elderly and others when there is no other means of support.

On a personal note a big thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning and the collection of clothes ,toiletries etc. for Ukraine and Moldova. Again the response was absolutely amazing. Thank you also to Matt and Clare who supported the collection with a box outside the shop.

We raised the grand sum of £670 at the coffee morning. There are so many people to thank especially: helpers on the day ; those who donated and made items for the stalls , those who gave monetary donations and all who came along and spent their money! It really was a brilliant village effort. Thank you all once again, and can we reassure you that the money will go directly to help the people of Ukraine and Moldova, and not a penny goes to administration.

Don't forget to look out for our next fundraising effort!

Carol Hutchings & Colin & Helena Sykes

Morchard Bishop WI



Our speaker at the November meeting was the author, Liz Shakespeare. Some of us remembered her from 20

years ago and I met her when she used to speak to the Chulmleigh History Society for which I was treasurer.

Her books bring local history to life. They are all meticulously researched, the facts backed up by newspaper articles of the time. Liz has lived in North Devon for most of her life apart from when she moved to London to study. She brought copies of all her books and signed them for us when we bought them.

She has been writing books for well over 20 years now and kept us entertained by reading passages from her very diverse works. She writes about the whole spectrum of society from farmers and doctors to the illiterate and the clergy.

Our December meeting will be a craft afternoon when we can occupy ourselves with what we are good at. Those of us who are not gifted in that department may be able to learn from those who are!

Sue Pluckwell

Quiz sheet £2 (+2nd class postage if posted)

in aid of Ukraine & Moldova An ideal Christmas stocking filler

1st prize £10, 2nd prize £5 & a consolation prize for anyone who enters whether the quiz is completed or not.

All money raised, apart from the prize money, goes directly to help the people of Ukraine and Moldova.

If you would like a copy the sheet is available at Morchard Bishop Social Club, via post or email contact Helena Sykes 01363 877434. Closing date end of January.

Chair Pilates

Wednesdays

5th November-----17th December [not 12 November]

10.30 am---11.15 am.

Memorial Hall

6 week Course

£36 paid up front

Christmas Window Trail Morchard Bishop



Starts 1st December 2025

Each Christmas the Lighthouse Children's Holiday Club arrange a trail around the village. This year we thought, with your help, we would try something different.

We are looking for volunteers to decorate a window or part of a window in their house based on the theme of the Christmas story. It can depict the Manger Scene, Shepherds on a Hill, the Journey of the Wise Men, the Star, Angels or anything connected with the Bible story. Displays can be colourful or in silhouette. You can give them a modern twist or follow traditional lines; it's up to you!

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as voted by those following the trail.

If you are interested in taking part, please email the following address. We will allocate you a unique number and add your location to the trail map.

Email: info@lighthouseclub.fun



News from your Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Monday 3rd November 2025.

The Parish Council spent £1,305.18 from the main account, £385 from its Reserve account and nothing from the Footpaths account. The items of expenditure over £100 were £1,050.80 for the Clerk's salary for July to September, £166.06 for the winter planting of the village floral displays and £385 for a new tree on the Green to replace the cherry tree that had to be taken down. Again there were no planning applications for the Parish Council to consider – perhaps a sign of the lack of economic optimism.

Reports from our County and District Councillors included:

Pots and Pans Collections Have Started! The permanent collection of unusable metal pots and pans is now in operation. If residents want more recycling containers, please contact Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) and they will deliver them. Also, and if residents want to know how they can recycle more as a household, please contact MDDC's team of advisers who will offer in-person, telephone and online advice. Please email MDDC at bin-it123@middevon.gov.uk or call 01884 255255.

(ii) Awaab's Law was officially introduced on 27 October and brings in new legal duties for social housing providers to investigate and act upon hazards in tenants' homes. Social landlords must address all emergency hazards and all damp and mould hazards that present significant risk of harm to tenants to fixed timeframes.

(iii) MDDC Residents' Survey 2025 is open. The more people that take part in this survey, the better the Council can respond to your needs! Please find details of the 2025 Residents' Survey at this address: <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/resident-survey-2025> and do please take part: this is used to assist the Council in deciding how much to precept and how best to spend your money.

Conversations continued about how to get Devon Highways to respond to the Parish Council's concerns about drains, flooding and signposting. A meeting had been diarised with the local Highways Officer. The Parish Council agreed to purchase a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign to encourage drivers to stay within the speed limit as a minimum.

A Crab Apple Tree has now been planted on the Green by the Bus Shelter.

The lighting of the Bus Shelter and the Village Nativity would take place on Sunday 14 December at 5.45pm at the Bus Shelter.

Devon Countryside Access Forum – call for Members. The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a statutory local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, with a remit to give independent advice on improving public access to land and the enjoyment thereof. It has eighteen members appointed by Devon County Council who represent the interests of access users, for example walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and trail riders; landowners or managers, and people with other relevant expertise such as conservation, tourism, planning and health.

Devon County Council is currently advertising to fill places on the DCAF – If you would like to join the forum please give your name to the Clerk who will forward your name to the DCAF.

The preparations for our Music Festival **MorFest** are going apace with all the bands booked. The Festival will take place on Saturday 23rd May 2026 so make sure you reserve the day in your diary. The Parish Council agreed that in future its meetings would commence at 7.00pm.

If you want to read the full minutes of Parish Council meetings, they are available on the Parish Council noticeboard on the London Inn Skittle Alley. They can also be read on the Parish Council Website: <https://www.morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk/>. We hope that the new website is a useful tool for everyone in the village, please do let us have your comments and contributions.

If you have any views or issues regarding life in Morchard Bishop, please do let me know.

David Parker
Parish Clerk

Contact Details for the Parish Council:
David Parker: 01363 877008 / 07794 362591 email: clerk@morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk

ARE YOU AN UNPAID CARER FOR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY?

As a Parish Council, we are becoming increasingly aware that a significant number of people living in Morchard Bishop are caring full-time for a parent or partner.

We are planning to put in place a support system which will offer practical assistance to the carer so that they can have a quality of life too.

We have spoken to several unpaid carers already and they would welcome this help, but we would like to speak to as many carers as possible to guide us as to what help is needed and how we might best organise it.

If you are a carer and would like to become part of this support scheme, please contact

Sheila Sinclair
01363 877597

Cllr.sheila.sinclair@morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk

Debbie Ticehurst [07875 359563]

Cllr.debbie.ticehurst@morchardbishop-pc.gov.uk

MORCHARD BISHOP FOOTBALL CLUB

Devon & Exeter Football League Division 2



December Fixtures

Saturday 6th December Dawlish Utd (A) 3pm k.o
Saturday 13th December Exeter University (H) 2.15pm k.o
Saturday 20th December Alphington (A) 2.15pm k.o

October/November Results

Saturday 18th October Morchard Bishop 0 Dawlish Utd 1
Saturday 1st November Alphington 5 Morchard Bishop 2
(Ben Betts 1 Liam Tucker 1)
Saturday 8th November Heavitree Utd 4 Morchard Bishop 1
(Ben Betts)

Light refreshments on sale during the match

For all updates on fixtures please visit
The Devon and Exeter Football League website
www.defleague.co.uk

THANK YOU... Morchard Bishop Football Club would like to thank everyone who has supported our club in 2025, to everyone who has attended our fundraising events, every business that has jumped on board with our pitch side boards, to every business or individuals who have sponsored a player.

Last but not least our loyal supporters who are there every week come rain or shine.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our supporters and sponsors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
See you all in 2026 M.B.F.C.

Garden Tips for December



- Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
- Check that greenhouse heaters are working
- Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
- Prune open-grown apples and pears now or next month (but not those trained against walls)
- Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops
- Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
- Take hardwood cuttings
- Keep mice away from stored produce
- Reduce watering of houseplants
- Remember to water your Xmas tree (if it's a real tree)
- Harvest the new potatoes you planted in midsummer

Jo Coffey

MB Parish Council

Help Keep an Older Person Safer in 2026



Did you know? While cold calling itself is allowed, traders must respect "No Cold Callers" notices - it's actually against the law if they don't!
As a dedicated home care provider since 1980, Able Community Care has made it their mission to help protect older and disabled people in our community. They have distributed over 250,000 of these protective stickers since 2019.
If you would like one of these, a supply of them has been placed in the Village Shop, The London Inn and will be available at Coffee Mornings.



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON !

We would like to welcome you all to celebrate Christmas with us at one of our Christmas events and to

Wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very blessed New Year

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Countryfile

Conifers, especially firs

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,
How faithfully you blossom!
Through summer's heat and winter's chill
Your leaves are green and blooming still.
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,
How faithfully you blossom

O Tannenbaum -Ernst Anschütz 1824

(based on 16th century Silesian folk song credited to Melchior Franck)



What is a conifer? It is a gymnosperm (as opposed to angiosperm which is the flowering plant) meaning naked seed. The other gymnosperms are ginkgos, cycads and geophytes, but conifers are the most familiar of the woody, cone bearing families of the naked-seed plants.

In pre-historic times they were the dominant plant form, now they are in many cases more significant in specific strongholds. In large part these are more extreme climates, colder, higher altitude spaces they are better adapted to survive. Many groups of conifers have developed characteristics which allow them to bear snow safely, and shrug it off more easily with a conical overall shape. Their internal vessels are strong and can withstand impressive levels of ice. Through these and other adaptations, such as resinous sap, they have survived extinctions brought on by environmental challenges, losing ground only where the conditions are easy for the flowering deciduous trees to push in.

Over 60's Luncheon & Get Together

The next Over 60's Luncheon at the London Inn will be A Christmas Special on Wednesday 17th December at 12.30pm.

The menu for this lunch will be Roast Turkey & all the Trimmings with a selection of Vegetables & Roast Potatoes, followed by Christmas Pudding with Clotted Cream or Profiteroles with Hot Chocolate Sauce, followed by tea/ coffee.

The cost is £12.00 inclusive.

Regular and new members will be warmly welcomed in the London Inn.

If you would like to join in please fill in the slip below and return it to me by Tuesday 18th November or email me at mandytapp@talk21.com or phone me on 01363 877459 or just pop in to me at Harries.

Regular members please let me know if you are unable to attend, thank you.

Name- -----

Tel No: -----

Mandy Tapp

There will be a prize for the best Christmas Jumper!



In winter time conifers come to our attention more as a lot of the group are also mostly evergreen; there are a few deciduous conifers (Larch, Dawn Redwoods, swamp Cypress) but the vast majority do not have a winter bald season and so have for a long time been popular for winter decorations.

Abies, the genus of fir, was likely to have been the tree first used for Xmas trees in 16th century Germany, as reflected in the Tanne (fir) baum (tree) song .

Now most common fir species is *Abies normanniana*, the Caucasian, or Normand fir, as it has low needle drop. Many of us will have grown up with Norway or European Spruce, *Picea abies* as our Xmas tree. Its name means that, although it's a spruce (*Picea*), it appears like a fir (*Abies*).

If you happen to be sat around one this Xmas you might remember that *Picea abies* was the first of the gymnosperm (naked seed, non-flowering plants) to have its genome sequenced – it is quite large compared to other plants. When compared to other conifers it turns out they have in large part retained their DNA variations over the years, rather than eliminating bits, and keeping DNA variety for a rainy day seems to be paying off for them. So as you sit around your newly transplanted indoor conifer, in the naked seed family, replete with mince pies and other seasonal feasting, you can wonder at quite how long these trees have been hoarding their genetic variations.

Jo Coffey



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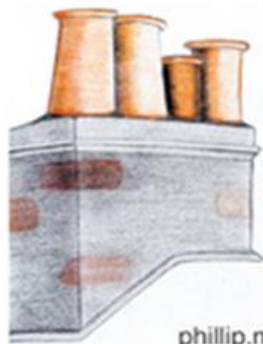


Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall
WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER
3pm - 4.30pm



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Next Meeting: **21 January 2026** 10:00 – 12.00

[The Weirdest Buildings in the West Country](#)

A talk by Robert Hesketh

The West Country has more than its fair share of weird buildings.
This talk explores an eclectic selection.

Venue: [Boniface Centre](#)

Cost: £2.00

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New tree for the Green

On a glorious late Autumn Saturday 8th November morning some of the Parish Council met to tidy around the War Memorial and Bus Shelter in advance of Remembrance Sunday the next day. We were grateful for the newly repainted railings and how smart the planted pots all looked.

This opportunity was taken to officially celebrate the recent planting of a new Malus crab apple to replace the rotten cherry tree. We hope the tree bears much fruit in the years to come for the village to help themselves to.

As always, a big thank you goes to those all those involved in maintenance, planning, preparation and executing these events. Every volunteer is appreciated and please do approach the Parish Council if you've a skill or time to assist with something!

Pictured left to right: Morchard Bishop Parish Council Chairman Simon Baker, Clerk David Parker and Vice Chair Dawn Parkhouse sprinkling the last of the earth to plant our tree.



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School News

Children thriving at School!



Our vision at Morchard Bishop is captured by three phrases - Deeply Rooted, Individually Nurtured, Inspired to Flourish. The Christian faith is deeply rooted in our school, like a tree with roots that provide strength and stability. Individually nurtured within the love and sight of God. We are valued for our unique journey. Inspired to flourish, we seek to live a nurtured and spiritual life. Thriving and bearing fruit in all we do.

Our curriculum and day to day experiences enable us to live out this vision. This term we have been participating in all sorts of seasonal activities. I have always believed that in order for children to achieve their best they need to be happy, nurtured and loved. Our photos in this edition demonstrate this! Outdoor learning, Children in Need fundraising, after school clubs and so much more!

Hannah Bancroft
Head Teacher

