



**LAPFORD PARISH CHURCH**  
**Christmas 2025**



**CRIB**  
**SERVICE**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**4.00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST**  
**10.00 a.m. Christmas Day**

**All welcome - Seasonal refreshments**



## MILITARY VS CANCER

On 1st September a team of military and veteran personnel began the challenge of pulling a one ton Field Gun from John O'Groats to Land's End, a distance of over 1,000 miles. Their aim was to raise awareness and funds for those affected by cancer.

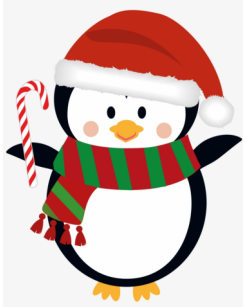


We were fortunate that their route brought them through Lapford on 22nd October. They stopped for a short comfort break at the Orchard Centre before making their way down through the village to end for the day at Lapford Garage. They left shortly after 7.00 a.m. the following morning, coincidentally Poppy Appeal Launch Day, their route taking them up Kelland Hill, on to Bondleigh, and then via Hatherleigh to Holsworthy.

Their extraordinary challenge was completed when they arrived at Land's End forty-five days later on Friday 31st October.



Images courtesy of Julie Down



### FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

We would like to send Season's Greetings to everyone connected in any way with the monthly production of the Lapford Lookout. This includes our printers, our advertisers, our contributors, our deliverers, and all our readers. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

### THANK YOU

A big "thank you" to the extra volunteers who helped with the Remembrance Poppies on the Church Green this year. It was a wonderful example of the old adage Many Hands Make Light Work and, once again, they have been a sight to behold. Thank you.



### THANK YOU

The 2025 Poppy Appeal was, once again, an amazing success, raising a grand total of £2,067.79. This includes cash donations from Coldridge, Nymet Rowland and Lapford, all donations paid direct using the QR code, payments for wreaths, and the retiring collection from the Remembrance Sunday service at Lapford Parish Church. Thanks to all who collected and all who donated, Grace for counting and her valued support, and John at the Post Office for cheerfully banking all the proceeds!

Caroline Noon  
Poppy Appeal Organiser



POST  
OFFICE

## Suggested last posting dates for Christmas 2025

via Royal Mail & Parcelforce

Australia	Fri 5 Dec
Canada	Fri 12 Dec
France	Mon 15 Dec
Germany	Mon 15 Dec
Ireland (R.O.)	Mon 15 Dec
New Zealand	Mon 8 Dec
Poland	Mon 8 Dec
Spain	Mon 8 Dec
USA	Fri 12 Dec

These dates are for guidance only.

Royal Mail and Parcelforce remain fully operational up until Christmas, but we strongly recommend posting as early as possible to allow items to arrive in time.

For a full list of last posting dates, visit [www.postoffice.co.uk/last-posting-dates](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/last-posting-dates)



## DATES TO LOOKOUT FOR

### December 2025

- 6th Toddlers Christmas Party, Parish Church, 11am
- 6th Lapford Christmas Fayre, Lapford Primary School, 2pm
- 6th Christmas Bingo Night, Victory Hall, 6.30pm, ED 7.30pm
- 9th Lapford Gardening Club, The ARK, 7.30pm
- 9th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 10th Copy deadline for January Lapford Lookout, 6pm
- 11th Messy Church, Lapford Congregational Church, 3.30pm
- 12th The ARK is closed
- 12th Lapford Pensioner's Lunch, Victory Hall, 12.30pm
- 13th Men's Breakfast, The ARK, 9-10.30am
- 16th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 18th Ladies of Lapford Meal at the Old Malt Scoop Inn
- 19th Last café at The ARK before closing for Christmas
- 21st Carols by Candlelight, Lapford Congregational Church, 6.30pm
- 22nd Carol Service, St. Bartholomew's Church, Nymet Rowland, 6.30pm

### January 2026

- 6th The ARK reopens after the Christmas break
- 9th The ARK is closed
- 9th School renaming day
- 13th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 14th Copy deadline for February Lapford Lookout, 6pm
- 15th Ladies of Lapford Games Night

### February 2026

- 10th Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 14th Copy deadline for March Lapford Lookout, 6pm

### Future Dates

- 10th Mar Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 14th Apr Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 12th May Lapford Parish Council, Orchard Centre, 7.30pm
- 10-12th July Lapford Revel 2026
- 5th Sept Gardening Club Annual Show 2026

Please send your Dates to Lookout For to  
[lapfordlookout@gmail.com](mailto:lapfordlookout@gmail.com)

# Don't Miss the

Lapford  
Lookout

# DEADLINE!

10th  
December  
for the  
January 2026 issue!





### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Evelyn Passmore will not be sending Christmas cards this year. She wishes all her friends in Lapford happiness and peace this Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.



### CAROL SERVICE

St Bartholomew's Church, Nymet Rowland

Please join us for our Carol Service

6.30 p.m. Monday 22nd December

Everyone is welcome

## CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN LAPFORD WELCOME YOU

*All the Churches welcome everyone to any of their services and social events.*

*We look forward to fellowship with you.*

### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

*All are welcome—Refreshments served after services*

**Contacts: Churchwarden:** Joan Graham - (e) [jemg47@aol.com](mailto:jemg47@aol.com) (t) 01363 83047

#### Services:

Sunday December 7th	Advent 2 9.30 a.m. Lay Led Morning Prayer
Wednesday December 10th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
Sunday December 14th	Advent 3 9.30a.m. Lay Led Morning Prayer
Sunday December 21st	Advent 4 9.30a.m. Lay Led Morning Prayer
Wednesday December 24th	4.00 p.m. CRIB SERVICE
Thursday December 25th	10.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST
Sunday December 28th	9.30 a.m. PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST



### LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

#### Contacts:

Cat Seymour **884432** Helen Wyatt **07964 855677** Carol Worsdell **07368 860835**

**email:** [lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com)

**www:** [facebook.com/lapfordcongregationalchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lapfordcongregationalchurch)

#### Services:

Services every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.  
Communion will be held on the second and fourth Sundays

#### Preachers for this month:

7th Dave Taylor  
14th All age service (Deacon led)  
21st No service, Carols by Candlelight (6.30pm)  
28th No service

Messy Church 11th December 3.30-5.30pm



### LAPFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

#### Contacts:

Briony Clinch - Tel: **83666**

**Email:** [admin@lapfordcc.org.uk](mailto:admin@lapfordcc.org.uk)

**www:** [lapfordcc.org.uk](http://www.lapfordcc.org.uk)

#### Services:

The Church meets every Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. in the Victory Hall with refreshments served from 10.00 a.m.

Connect Groups meet during the week at either 7.00 p.m. or 7.30 p.m.

Please visit our website for information about the Foodbank and The ARK. Our website will also give you more information about other Church activities.







# Lapford Weather Review

## Lapford Weather October 2025

Mild, thanks to cloudy nights, and dry-ish.

The warmest day was the 1st with a maximum of 19.5°C, and the coolest was the 29th with a maximum air temperature of 10.6°C. The coolest night was on the 24th with a minimum of 5.1°C. There were no grass frosts during the month as opposed to September when there were several.

Rainfall was a little below average with a total of 85.9mm. The wettest day was the 3rd with 16.9mm. Rain amounts were not great, there was a 12 day dry spell, but it did manage to rain every day from the 18th until the end of the month.

The windiest day was the 4th with a gust of 50 mph.

Andy Epstein



## LAPFORD BOOK CLUB - BOOK REVIEW TWO BROTHERS BY BEN ELTON

Two Brothers, written by Ben Elton, presents a powerful narrative. It centres on Otto and Paulus Stengel, born on 24th February 1920 in Berlin to a Jewish family.

The Stengel family is composed of Wolfgang and Freida, both artists. Wolfgang is a talented musician caught in Berlin's vibrant nightlife. Freida, a compassionate Jewish doctor. They must navigate a society that increasingly oppresses Jews while simultaneously trying to protect their sons.

The boys forge deep friendships during their childhood, particularly with Dagmar and Silke. They form "The Saturday Club," emphasizing their bond in a time of upheaval. Their romantic entanglements with Dagmar create tension.

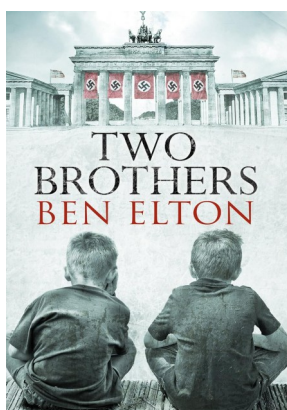
Through the years, the brothers face harrowing decisions. The story vividly depicts the systematic dehumanisation faced by Jews as restrictions intensify.

The ending of Two Brothers is deeply poignant and thought-provoking. It raises the question of identity and sacrifice amidst a society fueled by hate.

In conclusion, Ben Elton's novel, while fictional, resonates strongly with historical truths and in the face of humanity's darkest times.

This is the first book by Ben Elton that I've read. I found it a very well written novel, but at the same time the subject was deeply disturbing. The general opinion of other Book Club members was mixed.

Jane Epstein



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Barbara Stentiford will not be sending Christmas cards this year.

Wishing friends a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**centre**  
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*Theatre, Film, Music, Classes*

## DECEMBER PROGRAMME

Thursday 4th, Music and Food, Jazz on the Green, 7.00pm

Friday 5th, Music, The Jeremiahs, 7.30pm

Saturday 6th, Crediton Heart Christmas Craft Fair, 10am-4pm

Sunday 7th, Crediton Heart Christmas Craft Fair, 10am-4pm

Friday 12th, THE BIG Christmas Quiz, 7.30pm

Thursday 18th, Music, Moon Jazz, 7.30pm

Friday 19th, Music, Solstice Live Lounge, 7.30pm

## CHAWLEIGH MARKET

There will be no market in January or February so the next one will be Saturday 21st March 2026.

Jan

## A SPECIAL REQUEST PLEASE!



We are always grateful for your support; whether you live in North Tawton or if you're one of the loyal customers who travel to visit us (choosing us above more local POs to your home). Also those of you who support our Outreach Post Office services at Lapford and Spreyton.

We are blessed daily by comments and thanks received by our wonderful J-Team at North Tawton; June, Jackie, Jayne and John. The four of us are North Tawton Post Office; we are the reason why you choose to support us!

We treat people as we would wish to be treated ourselves; giving you all the options available to you, to ensure your transaction is right for you. We do our utmost to ensure that our Post Office sells items that you wish to buy, within our limitations.

Please can you help us, so that prospective customers and the 'Powers that be' can see how we make a difference to you and the community of North Tawton and surrounds....

We now have a QR code that will take you directly into the Google Reviews for North Tawton Post Office. Please leave a review for us on Google, even if you have been kind enough to take part previously on our other Google record. If you can also leave a review on our Facebook page, that would be wonderful!



Thanks so much for helping us to stay as the J-Team in the heart of the community, here for you.



## THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

It's wonderful to see the community coming together and enjoying time with friends.

### Opening Hours:

We're open Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

(Please note: the kitchen closes at 1:30 p.m.)

### Holiday Closures:

Closed: Friday 12th December and 9th January

Our last café day in December will be Friday 19th, after which we'll be closed for two weeks over Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you on the 6th January.

### Don't forget!

Our well-stocked library, located upstairs, is open whenever the café is open — be sure to pop in for a browse!

### Lapford Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to flourish with all the incredible donations - thank you so much for the food, time and finances that are being generously provided by so many in our community. Please bear in mind that Christmas is coming so any treats or special contributions to spread some festive cheer and love would be gratefully received in the next few weeks.

Thank you all so much and God bless.

### The ARK Ladies



## LADIES, BIKES AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

I wonder if some of you, like me, without giving it much thought, tend to assume that hospitals are ready with whatever supplies they may need in the event of an emergency. Not perhaps ready for a large-scale emergency but ready for every accident or a less common medical condition that perhaps requires some lab sampling.



At our meeting in October, we discovered that this is not always the case. We had with us, Rob from the organisation known as South West Blood Bikes. He told us about the birth of this group back in 1962; Margaret Ryerson's husband was in hospital and in need of medical supplies that could only be accessed at some distance. There was no immediate way of getting this quickly so Margaret, a biker, said she would go and fetch it. She did so, her husband benefitted and was soon well again. After this experience, the two of them decided that this was a much-needed service and through their efforts, the organisation came into being.

Rob explained that though they are known as the blood bikers, they transport much more than blood. The list of what they carry is surprising and includes pathology samples, test samples, stem cells, urgent medication, small medical equipment, breast milk and even medical notes. I was surprised that the latter are not necessarily immediately available via the internet, these days. I was also surprised that hospitals do not all have their own means of testing samples and that sometimes these have to be taken quickly to another place for the testing to enable urgent treatment to begin.

More recently, they have also made an arrangement, limited to a specific hospital, to collect prescriptions from the pharmacy and deliver them to patients just discharged from hospital. Often beds are blocked because a patient needs a prescription and for various reasons this is not available. If the patient has no-one able to come back to collect it later, they are forced to occupy a bed that is needed for the next person. These patients can now go home and later that day or as soon as possible, the bikers will collect and deliver their prescriptions. Rob did explain that they had to be quite firm about this service being for prescriptions ONLY, as they found themselves being asked if they would deliver forgotten items such as pyjamas, slippers or glasses!

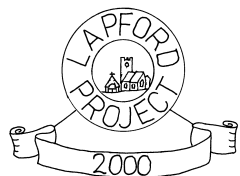
The group has grown since the early days and now has a fleet of 18 bikes, all modified appropriately and all very distinctive with yellow paintwork and red flashes which gets them noticed. They also have five cars for conveying larger items. Everyone who gives their time to the organisation, be it in admin, as coordinators, or as riders and drivers does so voluntarily, no-one is paid. For the expenses in relation to the vehicles, they rely entirely on fund-raising. The riders and drivers all agree to do four shifts a month; these shifts are overnight from 17.00 hours to 7.00 hours and at weekends. The organisation operates all over the country having, at the last count, 4,810 volunteers. Sometimes items are transported long distances by a relay system of riders who create a network connecting north and south.

It is quite something to think of these people across the country heaving themselves out of bed and setting out whatever the weather to provide a service that could save someone's life. Not only are they sometimes saving lives, they are also saving the National Health Service a lot of time and money. Rob was enthusiastically thanked and offered donations by our members. One member was all set to volunteer her services as you can see from the photo. Unfortunately, she didn't have the qualifying licence requirements!

### Sue Raffill







## LAPFORD VILLAGE ARCHIVE

These two postcards were recent additions to our wonderful Village Archive.

The date of the first picture is from circa 1907-1914 and the second is from circa 1908 and was postmarked October 1920.





## LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: PAST, PRESENT, AND OPEN ARMS

Nestled in the heart of our village, Lapford Congregational Church has stood as a place of welcome, worship, and community for generations. We are a small but vibrant congregation, rooted in faith and committed to inclusivity, outreach, and preserving our beautiful Grade II listed building for future generations. Locally, we are affectionately known as “The Light On The Hill” - perched above the village with views across the fields, a beacon of hope and hospitality.



### A Glimpse into Our History

Built in 1846, our chapel on Eastington Lane has been a spiritual home for Lapford for nearly two centuries. Next year marks our 180th anniversary, and we'll be celebrating this incredible milestone with a special event - details to come!

The church was founded by the Independent (Congregational) denomination, part of a rich tapestry of non-conformist worship in the area. The building itself is a striking example of Gothic architecture, with original lancet windows and a rear gallery that still retains its 19th-century charm. We're proud of our heritage - not just the bricks and mortar, but the generations of people who've gathered here to pray, sing, serve, and support one another.

### What We Believe

As a Congregational Church, we believe that the church is:

- **Christ-centred** — rooted in the life, teachings, and love of Jesus, and a priesthood of all believers.
- **Spirit-filled** — open to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- **Worshipful** — gathering in praise, prayer, and reflection
- **Inclusive** — welcoming all people, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, background, or ability
- **Missional** — committed to serving others and sharing hope beyond our walls
- **Well managed and cared for** — stewarding our resources and building with integrity and love.

We are a Church for everyone, not bound by rigid hierarchy or doctrine. Instead, we trust in the wisdom of our community, guided by faith and compassion toward a hopeful future. If you're curious, questioning, or simply seeking connection, you'll be welcomed in with open arms. Inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do. We welcome people of all ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and backgrounds, including those of other faiths who are curious about ours. You don't need to have all the answers, or any at all. Just come as you are.

### Worship and Community Life

We worship at **11am every Sunday**, except the 4th Sunday of the month. Services are a mix of Deacon-led reflections and visiting preachers, offering variety and depth.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Visiting preacher, and Sunday Club — fun and faith-based activities for young people
- 2nd Sunday: All Age Service — relaxed, engaging, and inclusive
- 3rd Sunday: Member-led service with Communion
- 4th Thursday evening: Faith & Fellowship Bible Study Group, 7–8pm — informal, thoughtful discussion and reflection
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Visiting preacher – general service
- Quarterly on a Thursday (term time) we also run Messy Church — after-school sessions for primary school aged children.

We often play music for our worship songs and hymns (a mix of old and new) through videos on the overhead projector, but we would love to welcome musicians who'd like to play live. Music is a vital part of worship, and live accompaniment brings a special energy and connection to our services. *If you're a musician and would like to get involved, please get in touch!*

### Preserving Our Building, Together

As a Grade II listed building, every repair must be done with care and authenticity, using traditional materials and methods. That means costs are high, but the results are worth it.

Thanks to generous donations, tireless fundraising, and provision of grants, we've recently:

- Replaced two of our historic windows, each costing over £5,000 due to the specialist materials required
- Replaced the leaking roof of our Sunday School room, at a cost of £5,600, solving damp issues and protecting a vital space for children and community use

Other essential works we hope to tackle include:

- Replacing our heating system, which is currently inefficient and costly to run
- Updating the kitchen, to make it more practical and welcoming
- Installing a ramp, to improve access for disabled visitors
- Upgrading our sound system, to improve clarity and accessibility during services

...and likely more as we continue to assess the building's needs.



While our technology isn't perfect yet, we're working hard to improve it. We're also actively exploring ways to make our building more accessible. If you have any concerns about attending a service, please don't hesitate to reach out as we'll do everything we can to make you feel comfortable and included.

### How You Can Help

Every pound helps us preserve this space not just as a building, but as a living part of Lapford's history. We're setting up a GoFundMe page where you can donate directly to our restoration efforts. For those who prefer regular giving, we're happy to provide bank details. Just get in touch.

Whether it's a one-off gift or a monthly contribution, you'll be helping us keep the church safe, beautiful, and open to all. Take a look at the before and after photos of the work we have undertaken so far (inside the back cover)— we have also created a short fundraising video that brings our story to life. You can find it on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/lapfordcongregationalchurch](https://facebook.com/lapfordcongregationalchurch)

If you would like to join us for a service, learn more about our work, or simply pop in for a chat, we'd love to meet you.

### Get In Touch

Our Deacons help lead and shape our worship and community outreach:

Helen Wyatt - 07964 855677

Cathryn Seymour - 07970 180637

Carol Worsdell - 07368 860835

Email: [lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com)



### LEAP WINTER UPDATE

**Winter** is definitely on the way, bringing the possibility of icy, snowy weather and hazardous conditions on roads and pavements.

**Grit Bins** for public use are situated at strategic locations around the parish, some provided by Devon County Council, others by the Parish Council. They are to be found at:

**Lower Forches; 110 metres past the junction with Rensey Lane; near Saxtons; Forches Cross; Eastington Lane by the telephone box; Eastington Lane – opposite Park Meadow Close; Eastington Cross; towards the bottom of Orchard Way; Highfield; Barris Corner; Mill Hill; Ambrosia Close; bottom of Kelland Hill and Kelland Cross.**

**The Grit** is for use on the nearby slippery roads and pavements – instructions for use to be found attached to each bin.

**Please use sparingly** – one handful will treat one square metre.

**Please respect** the fact that it is **not** intended for use on private property.

**To report** low stocks in a bin please contact the Parish Council.

**Due to the steepness of Eastington Lane going towards the school and the fact the Highways gritting route terminates at the car park, the Parish Council has purchased two additional bins to enable gritting in that area.**

**One will be placed by the junction with Hill Lane, the other by the School.**



**Lapford Emergency Action Plan  
Lapford Parish Council**

### VILLAGE PUBLIC TOILET

Lapford is one of the few villages that still has a public toilet. It is very well used by many people whilst in the village, those providing us with services, or just passing through, for example, Postman, Bus Drivers, Delivery Drivers to name just a few.

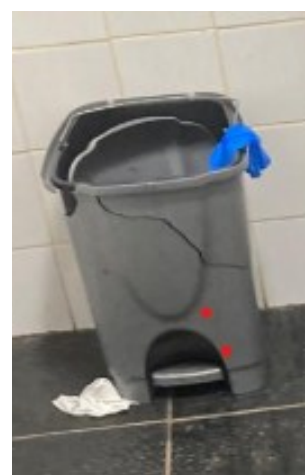
Lately, it has been subject to vandalism, theft and misuse.

- Toilet rolls and soap were 'vanishing' regularly. To combat this, a new lockable toilet roll holder was fixed to the wall, only for the cover to be prised off and bent within days.
- Water has been stolen by people filling up jerry cans for their personal use.
- Most recently, someone felt it appropriate to use the bin, rather than the toilet.
- Items have been pushed into the toilet outlet, eg alcohol cans.

Why should the people who maintain and clean this facility have to put up with this? Would you?

If this lack of respect continues, closure of this facility will be given serious consideration.

### Lapford Parish Council



## S LEACH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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Jack : 07904225234  
Ricky : 07712177710



## Ashridge Great Barn

**Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year  
from everyone at Ashridge Court**

Stay tuned for details of events in 2026 including  
Bluebell walks in May and Wood Fair in June

Ashridge Court Farm, EX20 2DH **01837 352025**

email [info@ashridge.co.uk](mailto:info@ashridge.co.uk) [www.ashridge-court.co.uk](http://www.ashridge-court.co.uk)

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## Abigail's Beauty Retreat

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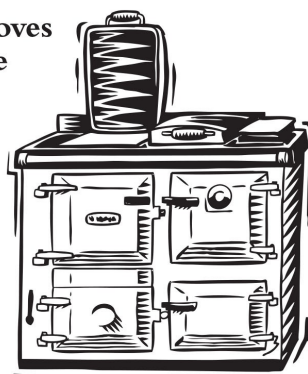
07565 768386

I'm Abi a fully qualified beauty therapist.  
I offer a wide range of treatments with a friendly  
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holds something new. I look forward to welcoming you to my Salon.

[abigailsbeautyretreat@gmail.com](mailto:abigailsbeautyretreat@gmail.com)  
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## Blackberry Lane

Half a mile out of Lapford on the Chawleigh road, selling fresh and tasty fruit and vegetables - **all home-grown**

Come and see, phone, email, check out our website or follow us on Twitter to discover what's ready!

Open Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 to 6.00 (5.00 in winter)

Visit our stall at Lapford Village Market

Dave & Val Taylor, Wilanson, Lapford, EX17 6LY

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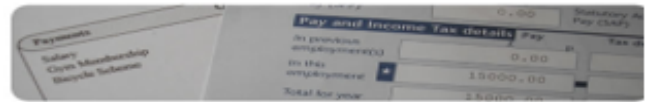
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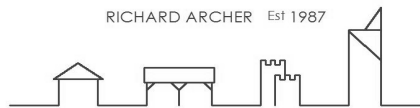
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**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Meal at the Old Malt Scoop Inn

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Games Night

(Always a fun evening)

We always welcome new members—come and join us!



### LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES FROM OCTOBER 2025 MEETING

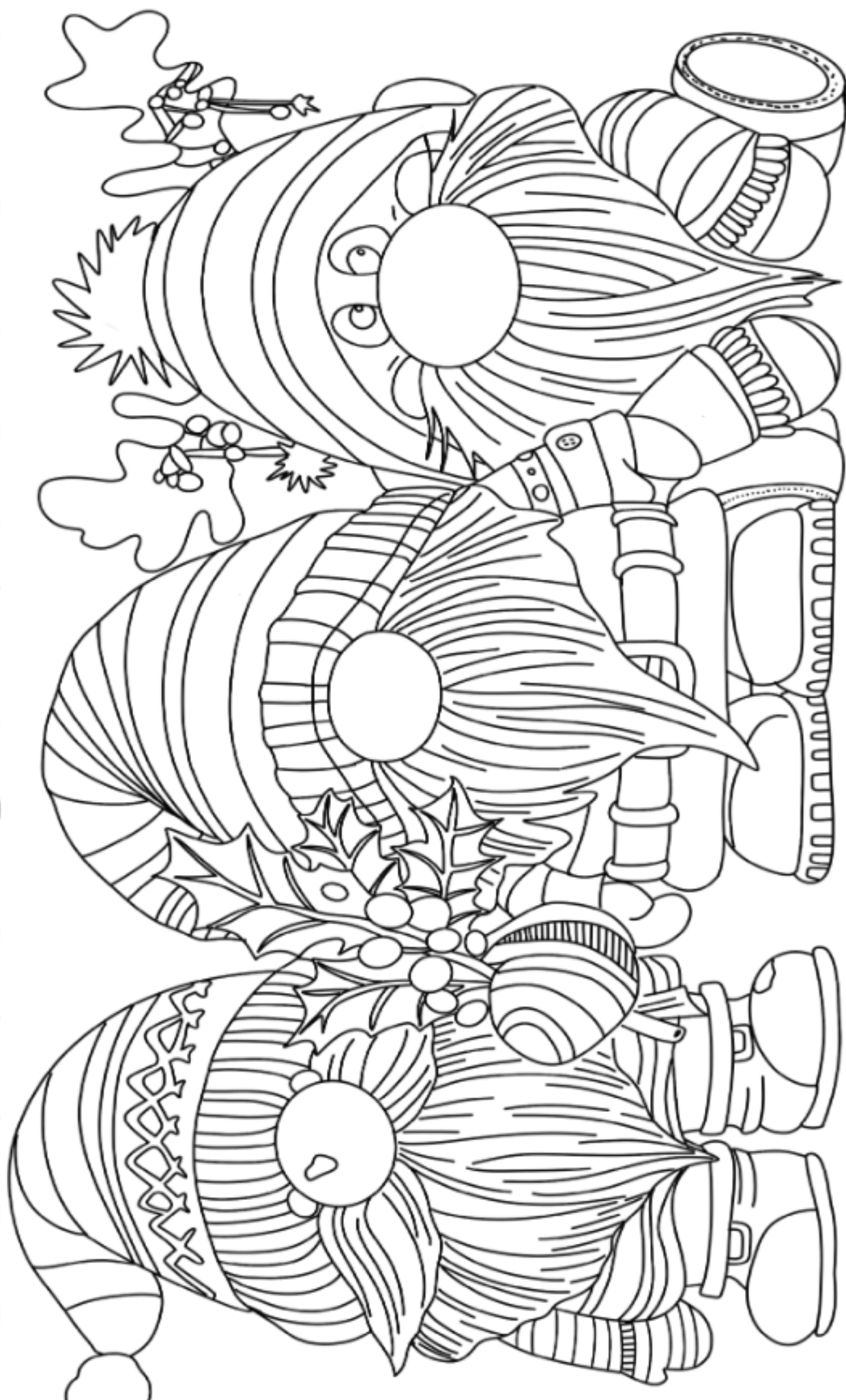
- Four Parish Councillors and six members of the public attended.
- The Clerk was welcomed back after sick leave, and the temporary minute-taker thanked.
- A member of the public offered to volunteer for various projects and would welcome any contributions to a book on Community presently being written.
- The issue of a horsebox parked so as to restrict visibility was raised.
- A young person made suggestions re additional play equipment for the big Playing Field including adult equipment, marking around the football pitch and a pump track.
- Replacement defibrillator pads to be ordered for the unit stationed at the SPAR shop.
- The request to MDDC for 106 funding towards play equipment being progressed.
- Refurbishment of the telephone box is under way. The door has been removed for restoration.
- South West Water has been approached for more information regarding the sewage system serving the village.
- The Trustees of the Church Green were granted £2,000 for maintenance costs for the next twelve months.
- A dying willow tree in Orchard Way to be inspected by the MDDC Tree Officer.
- The launch day for the renaming of the school has been set for Friday 9th January 2026.
- The MDDC State of the District Debate focussed on Local Government re-organisation and the fact that Parish Councils would be asked to take on more responsibility and should prepare for this.
- A Christmas tree for the village to be purchased.
- Flooding issues at the bottom of Orchard Way to be raised with the local Highways Officer.
- Background work re the Neighbourhood Plan initiative was continuing.

### LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING

- A MOP raised various issues many of which were already in hand.
- An update on the sewage spill at Lapford Mill was provided.
- The Parish Council has contacted South West Water re the village infrastructure, reply awaited.
- Grant of £400 given to support the Village Pensioners' Christmas Lunch.
- Lease received for the toddler play area, agreed to proceed.
- DCC has been contacted regarding Orchard Way Willow Trees as one is dead, and one needs pollarding, as advised by MDDC.
- This area of grass to be added to the grass cutting contract next year.
- Two grit bins to be placed on road leading to the school before the winter, as not on gritter route.
- S106 progressing re Playing Field Equipment.
- Weed clearance continues to be a challenge, can you help?
- Council was not aware of Gun Carriage pull through village, otherwise could have done something to support them.
- MDDC needs to increase its land stock for possible housing.
- Neighbourhood plan Chairman to be invited to the January meeting to update Parish Council on progress.
- Speed limits and speeding was discussed, along with pedestrians not wearing suitable visible clothing.
- Orchard Centre toilets have had some vandalism and mistreatment, consideration may need to be given to potential closure.
- Consideration to be given to a motion sensor light on the Orchard Centre.
- Highways have visited Orchard Way regarding the flooding, hedge to be trimmed so drains can be inspected.
- Highways to be advised of previous issues advised, prior to their next visit.
- Initial discussions re next year's precept, decision deferred until December.
- A MOP is going to attend a presentation re possible film locations.
- A question was asked re the development/sale of properties on the Yeo Vale site.



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## GET CREATIVE AT THE CREDITON HEART CHRISTMAS CRAFT FEST - 6TH & 7TH DECEMBER

If you fancy getting creative this Christmas, by making your own cards and decorations, the Crediton Heart Project is offering some inspiration and guidance at their Christmas Craft Fest.

Following the success of their Summer Arts Festival in August, the Crediton Heart Project has invited back some of their talented tutors to run four Christmas craft workshops on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December.

The workshops will take place at Crediton Arts Centre and are open to anyone aged five and above. Parents and carers are most welcome to join in.

On Saturday the programme includes Block Printing Christmas Cards and Wrapping Paper from 10am to 1pm, followed by Pottery Tree Decorations from 2pm to 5pm. On Sunday there will be Yule Log Decorations at 10am to 1pm, with Wreath Making from 2pm to 5pm.

To add to the fun, on the Saturday evening there will be a free screening of the popular film 'A Muppet Christmas Carol' suitable for all the family. The doors will open at 6pm for festive refreshments and the film will start at 6.30pm.

Workshop tickets are just £3 for under 16s and £5 for anyone over 16 and can be booked online here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project> Although the film is free please do book a ticket so we know how many to cater for.

Children aged 11-15 must be accompanied by an adult or a permission form signed at the venue. Those aged 5 to 10 years must be accompanied by an adult who can participate or watch.

The Crediton Heart Project is a volunteer-led charity working to keep the heart in our communities by running and supporting local projects and events. We are grateful for the support of Arts Council England, the National Lottery, Crediton Town Council and Devon County Council.






**The Crediton Heart Project**

# Christmas Craft Fest

## 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December

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10am-1pm

**Pottery Tree Decorations**  
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2-5pm

**Sunday 7th December**

**Yule Log Decorations**  
Create Yule log decorations  
10am-1pm

**Wreaths and Mini Trees**  
Make wreaths for your doors and mini trees for your table  
2-5pm

and a **FREE** Christmas film for all ages  
**A MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
 Saturday 6th December 6pm for a 6.30pm start  
 A festive evening with Christmas food and drinks before the film

Book tickets at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-crediton-heart-project)



Supported by






Follow us




@creditonheartproject

# CHAWLEIGH COMMUNITY MARKET

JUBILEE HALL, CHAWLEIGH

## SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER

### 10.00 to 12.00

Vegetables and preserves

Meat, sausages and baked goods

Artisan bread

Honey and Beeswax goods

Arts and Crafts

Wine, Cakes, and Gifts

Bric a Brac

Refreshments by Jubilee Hall Committee:  
 Turkey baps, cakes, mulled wine, tea and coffee

Lapford Community Church

# The ARK BOOKS UPSTAIRS

COME AND BROWSE

- to borrow
- to swap
- or to keep

The ARK is open on  
 Tuesdays and Fridays  
 10.00am to 2.00pm  
 Arrangements can be  
 made for access at  
 other times.

Lapford Community Church

invites you to join them for a

# MEN'S BREAKFAST

at The ARK

**DECEMBER**  
13TH

**SATURDAY**  
9AM - 10.30AM



CONTACT RICH ON: 07747 401262

**ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE LAPFORD FOOD BANK**





Lapford Voluntary Car Aid 2011

## NEED TRANSPORT TO YOUR MEDICAL APPOINTMENT OR A PRESCRIPTION COLLECTED?

Lapford Voluntary Car Aid provides the residents of the village (including friends and family staying with you) with courteous, reliable, fully insured drivers to get you to your appointment safely and on time. Bookings can be made by telephoning Grace Hill on 01363 83178. Current fares are as follows:

Bow Medical Centre - £6  
Chulmleigh Dental Practice - £6  
Chulmleigh Health Centre - £6  
Credition (Breast Screening) - £7  
Credition Community Hospital - £6  
Morchard Bishop Surgery - £4  
Redlands Health Centre - £7  
Witheridge Surgery - £6

We have LVCA drivers available to take anyone to have their Covid/flu vaccinations. Please contact Grace as above.

## LIVE IN MID DEVON AND NEED DEBT OR ENERGY ADVICE?

The Citizens Advice's Mid Devon team will be attending The ARK from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on the last Friday of each month to allow people to chat with them about any issues they would like help with, particularly around Energy or Debt issues. There is access to private spaces if necessary.

**Libraries  
Unlimited**

## LIBRARIES UNLIMITED HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Do you have difficulty in getting to Credition Library and carrying heavy books home to read? Would you like us to collect and deliver talking books, or large and normal printed ones of the kind that you enjoy, directly to your home free of charge? If so, I will be happy to help.



**Credition Library - Telephone: 01363 772578**

## LAPFORD'S DEFIBRILLATORS

One is on the outside of  
The Orchard Centre in Orchard Way

What 3 Words app location:  
emperor.stated.stapled

Another defibrillator is at Rose Removals.  
It can be found in the red telephone box  
in front of the building.

Access through the front car park and up the  
stairs, about 200 yards from the main gate.  
(Pedestrian access around the side out of hours).

What 3 Words app location:  
inert.depend.smart

A third defibrillator has now been installed  
at the Spar Shop at Lapford Cross. It is round  
the side to the left as you look at the shop.

What 3 Words app location:  
that.snowstorm.speaks

## LAPFORD WEBSITES

[www.lapfordhistory.co.uk](http://www.lapfordhistory.co.uk)  
[www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
[www.lapfordvictoryhall.co.uk](http://www.lapfordvictoryhall.co.uk)  
[www.lapfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.lapfordvillage.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/lapfordparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/lapfordparishcouncil)



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE FOODBANK

[foodbank@lapfordcc.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@lapfordcc.org.uk)

We would be grateful for the following donations:

Coffee, Tea, Long-life milk, Drinking Chocolate, Rice Pudding,  
Sugar, Custard, Tinned Fruit, Rice, Pasta, Pasta Sauces,  
Tuna, Baked Beans, Tinned Meats, Tinned Tomatoes,  
Vegetables, Carrots, Peas, Sweetcorn, Soups,  
Breakfast Cereals, Toilet Rolls and Hygiene products.



## NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE

Donations can be made at  
Boniface Centre, Credition, or at  
Chulmleigh Community College



Call the donor helpline on 0300 123 23 23  
for more information or to check dates

*Do something amazing - Give Blood!*

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency numbers ~ 999 or 112
- Childline ~ 0800 1111
- Churches House Action Team ~ 01884 255606
- Citizens Advice Bureau ~ 03444 111 444  
CAB Credition ~ 01363 776210 (M, W, Th, 9-3)
- Credition Ring and Ride ~ 01363 773303
- Crimestoppers ~ 0800 555 111
- Dog Fouling/Fly Tipping ~ 01884 255255
- Environment Agency Floodline ~ 0845 9881188
- Farming Community Network ~ 03000 111 999
- Gas Emergency ~ 0800 111999
- Highways (roads/lights/potholes) ~ 0345 155 1004
- Mental Health Support Out of Hours ~ The Moorings  
@Devon ~ Exeter: 07990 790 920 or  
Barnstaple: 07850 927 064
- NHS for non urgent medical needs ~ 111
- Patient Participation Group ~ Bill Graham ~ 01363 83047
- Police Non-emergency ~ 101
- Power cut ~ 105 or 0800 6783 105
- RAB 24/7 Support Line ~ 0800 188 4444
- RSPCA ~ 0300 1234 999
- Safeguarding concerns and Social Services ~ 0845 6000388
- Samaritans ~ 116 123, 01271 374343, 01392 411711
- SHOUT ~ Text 85258 for help from crisis volunteers
- Water leaks or burst mains ~ 0800 230 0561





# LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL — [www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

Cllr Roy Andrews	Old Bakery, Park Road, Lapford, EX17 6QJ	07969 823256 / roy.andrews@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Sue Briant-Evans (Vice-Chair)	Edgerley Cottage, Lapford, EX17 6AH	01363 83763 / sue.briantevans@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Julie Down (Chair)	Rafters, Lapford, EX17 6QP	07756 363678 / julie.down@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Steven Fletcher	Larkrise, Eastington Ln, Lapford EX17 6QE	07891 142436 / steven.fletcher@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Bill Graham	Pear Tree House, Lapford, EX17 6PZ	01363 83047 / bill.graham@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Peter Heal	Ashlands, Lapford EX17 6AE	01363 884277 (home)/01363 775467 (office)/ peter.heal@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Alex Shapland	Homelands, Eastington Ln, Lapford. EX17 6QE	07738 690937 / alex.shapland@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Vacancy	~	~
Vacancy	~	~
Vacancy	~	~
Parish Clerk - Rob Martin	~	07768 829511 / clerk@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
District Cllr Steve Keable	~	07967 655045 / skeable@middevon.gov.uk
County Cllr Steve Keable	~	07967 655045 / steve.keable@devon.gov.uk
Mel Stride MP	House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA	02072 197037 / mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk



## LAPFORD LOOKOUT

Contributions welcome

**lapfordlookout@gmail.com**

**Deadline for inclusion in the next issue:**

**6.00 p.m. on the 10th Dec for inclusion in the January issue**

### TO CONTACT THE EDITOR

#### Write to:

Mrs. Becky Fletcher, Larkrise, Eastington Lane, Lapford, Crediton, EX17 6QE

**Tel:** 07791 989142

**E-mail:** lapfordlookout@gmail.com

**By hand:** Use the box in The Orchard Centre or the Editor's letterbox

*Contributions are welcome, to be used at the Editorial Team's discretion.*

#### Our Editorial Policy:

*Published monthly, the magazine welcomes contributions on any topic of interest. The editorial policy is to exclude anything of a political or personal nature and to avoid unnecessary controversy or ill feeling.*

*Flyers and Inserts must be approved by the Editorial Team prior to publication and shall only be included at the discretion of the Editorial Team and editorial policy.*

*Any requests for placement of articles on particular pages in the Lapford Lookout should be submitted via email to the address above.*

*The views in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Team.*

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### ADVERTISING RATES AND POLICY

Lapford Lookout has a circulation of 600 copies and the advertising of village events is free of charge. There is a charge for all other advertisements and current advertising rates, **payable in advance**, are:

One eighth page:	£7 per month.
One quarter page:	£14 per month.
One half page:	£28 per month.
Whole page:	£56 per month.

Pay for twelve months and you get **one extra month, FREE!** Please send all advertising requests to the Editor in time to make the deadline of the 14th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. Please allow sufficient time to make your advance payment which may be by BACS or cheque. Payment details will be on your invoice.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE COPY DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LAPFORD LOOKOUT IS THE 14TH OF EACH MONTH (except December)**



## LAPFORD OUTREACH POST OFFICE

### OPENING HOURS:

Monday 9.30 - 12.00

Friday 9.30 - 12.00

Sending gifts or goods abroad?

If you're using Royal Mail or Parcelforce, fill in your customs form online while you wait.

Scan here to get started.



A gentle reminder of the services we offer at the Lapford Post Office. These include Car Tax, postage, home shopping returns, bill payments and cash deposits and withdrawals from all the major banks. We also have a great selection of hardware, stationery, confectionery, and greeting cards for that special occasion. Every transaction keeps us in the heart of the community. Why not pop in, say "Hello", and receive a warm welcome?

### LAST POSTING TIMES AROUND THE VILLAGE



	<u>Mon-Fri</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Eastington Cross	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Woodland Cottage	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Industrial Estate	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Highfield	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Orchard Way	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Saxtons	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Morchar Road	9.00 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
Copplestone	4.30 p.m.	11.15 a.m.

In addition, items left at the Post Office during opening hours will be posted that day via North Tawton.

NAME OF SOCIETY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE / EMAIL
Adventure Gaming	Mr Warren Clayburn	01363 83095 / wmclayburn@gmail.com
Community Equipment	Mr Darren Crump Mr Steve Keable	07960 715553 / darrencrump99@hotmail.co.uk 07967 655045/ steve.keable@btinternet.com
Friends of Langannerie (twinning)	Marion Pratt	01837 82285 / marion174@btinternet.com
Friends of Lapford Mill	Mr Alex Gater	07815 795918 / alex@lapfordmill.uk
Friends of Lapford School	Mrs Stacey Lumsdon	07891 556884 / friendsoflapfordschool@gmail.com
HOLD	Mr Bill Graham	01363 83047 / bg4847@aol.com
Home Library Service	Crediton Library	01363 772578
Ladies of Lapford (LOL)	LOL Team	ladiesoflapford@gmail.com
Lapford Allotment Society	Mr Raymond Waldron	01363 83894 / ednawaldron@btinternet.com
Lapford Amateur Dramatic Society	Mr Ian Wilkie	01363 83437 / i.wilkie45@btinternet.com
Lapford Association Football Club	~	lapfordafc@gmail.com
Lapford Book Club	Mrs Jane Epstein	07779 926342 / jane.epstein@hotmail.com
Lapford Celebrations Working Group	Mrs Sue Briant-Evans	01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com
Lapford Church Green Trust	Mr Steven Fletcher	07891 142436 / steven.fletcher@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Lapford Community Church	Miss Briony Clinch	01363 83666 / admin@lapfordcc.org.uk
Lapford CP School and Nursery	~	01363 83292 / admin@lapford-primary.devon.sch.uk
Lapford Congregational Church	Cat Seymour	01363 884432 / lapfordcongregationalchurch@gmail.com
Lapford Dog Club	Mrs Sara Thurgood	01363 83081 / info@lapforddogclub.co.uk
Lapford Emergency Action Plan Committee	Mrs Sue Briant-Evans	01363 83763 / sue.briantevans@lapfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Lapford Foodbank	Mrs Sue Yendell	07925 410172 / foodbank@lapfordcc.org.uk
Lapford Handbell Ringers	Mr Steve Munday	07798 684225 / steve@themundays.org
Lapford High 5 (ages 7-11)	Mrs Cat Seymour	01363 884432 / cathryn_seymour@outlook.com
Lapford Gardening Club	Mrs Trish Mumford	01363 83911 / james@mumfordj.plus.com
Lapford Lookout	Mrs Beccy Fletcher	07791 989142 / lapfordlookout@gmail.com
Lapford Over 60 Club	Mrs Jeanne Whittaker	01363 83068 / jeanne.whittaker@btinternet.com
Lapford Parish Church	Mrs Joan Graham	01363 83047 / jemg47@aol.com
Lapford Poppy Appeal Organiser	Mrs Caroline Noon	01363 83863 / lapford.pao@gmail.com
Lapford Project 2000 (LP2K)	Mrs Sue Briant-Evans	01363 83763 / susanbriantevans@gmail.com
Lapford Revel	Mrs Stacey Lumsdon	07891 556884 / staceyannlumsdon@gmail.com
Lapford Victory Hall & Lower Town Place	Mr Darren Crump	07960 715553 / darrencrump99@hotmail.co.uk
Lapford Village Archive	Ms Audrey McCormack	01363 779462 / archivellapford2022@gmail.com
Lapford Village Market	Mrs Stacey Lumsdon	07891 556884 / lapfordvillagemarket@gmail.com
Lapford Voluntary Car Aid	Mrs Grace Hill	01363 83178 / lvca2011.19@gmail.com
Lapford Youth Club Management Committee	Mr Steve Keable	07967 655045 / lapforyouthclub@gmail.com
Lapford Youth and Playing Field Trust	Mr Roy Andrews	07969 823256 / roy.andrews1950@icloud.com
Lower Town Place Gardening Group	Mr Andy Epstein	amepstein55@gmail.com
North Creedy Choral Society	Mrs Patricia Robottom	01363 884495 / patricia@serafim.eclipse.co.uk
Nymet Rowland Village Pump	Liz and Roland Smith	01363 884446 / pump@incywincyweb.com
The ARK	Ms Lorraine Kigongo	07543 695258 / theark@lapfordcc.org.uk
The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury	Mrs Prue Lambert	01363 83150 / pruelambert@yahoo.co.uk



## WORK UNDERTAKEN AT LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



### LAPFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

October has rushed by in a flurry of learning and fun at Lapford Community Primary School and our first half term concluded with some exciting trips and visits for all classes.



Hérons travelled to Chulmleigh College to take part in a handball festival, alongside their peers from East Worlington and Chulmleigh primary schools. This was a great opportunity for the children to put into practise the skills they have been developing in their PE lessons recently. The children were placed in mixed teams from across the three schools so had to demonstrate their teamwork when working with children they may not know so well. Herons were a true credit to Lapford. They worked hard, played fairly and really stood out for being able to demonstrate excellent sportsmanship.



Robins had a very special visitor to complete their learning on 'People Who Help Us'. They were joined by Captain Wright from the Royal Marines who talked to the children about his job and showed them the equipment he would need to survive in the field. The children were captivated and enjoyed taste testing samples of military rations!

We also came together to share the learning that each class had completed for Black History Month. The children were really enthusiastic to show their work to others and could talk really well about discrimination and racism. I was incredibly proud of the compassion that children of all ages were able to demonstrate.

Finally, Herons spent the day at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, trying to return an ancient Egyptian child to his correct time period using exciting augmented reality time travel technology! The children had to solve puzzles and challenges using artefacts from around the museum to help them. This was a really engaging way for the children to explore the museum and really helped them to bring their learning to life.

**Mrs J. Wright**  
**Head of School**





RAISING FUNDS FOR FRIENDS OF LAPFORD SCHOOL,  
LAPFORD VICTORY HALL AND  
LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# Christmas BINGO NIGHT

**GREAT PRIZES AND FUN FOR ALL**



please join us -  
all welcome!

# Toddlers Christmas PARTY

**SATURDAY DEC 6th  
11.00 - 12 noon**

• SANTA & GIFTS • SNACKS & DRINKS



**in the  
PARISH  
CHURCH**



## Lapford CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**WHERE: LAPFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY  
SCHOOL HALL**

**WHEN: SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER - 2-4PM**

**\* STALLS \* CRAFTS \* GAMES \*  
\* SANTA \* RAFFLE \* CAKES \*  
\* REFRESHMENTS & MORE \***

STALL PRICE £6  
FREE ENTRY FOR VISITORS - DONATIONS SUGGESTED  
IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A STALL PLEASE CALL OR TEXT STACEY ON  
07891 556884

