

WILLAND MAGAZINE

February & March 2026



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

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WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS

		<i>Secretary/Contact</i>
Allotment Holders	Sylvia Statham	peterandsylviastatham@hotmail.com
Bridge Club	Wendy Boothroyd	01398 331219
Brownies	Bridget Pearse	07814 569054
C.A.M.E.O. Ladies Grp	Peta Jackman	07900 904822
Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom	01404 47200
Garden Club	Sylvia Statham	peterandsylviastatham@hotmail.com
Tiny Tots	Karly Holley	willandtinytots@gmail.com 07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmilldevon@gmail.com 820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher	07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner	07775 550436
Willand Crafty Family and Friends	Emma Worth	willandcraftyfamily2021@gmail.com 07843811230
Willand Community Composting		willandccs24sec@outlook.com
Willand Health & Community Centre		info@whacc.org.uk
Willand History Group	James Morrison	jamorrison235@gmail.com 01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	Janey Parrett	07593 996991
Willand Theatrical Society		witsthesecontact@gmail.com 01884 32152
Willand United Charities		clerk@willandunitedcharities.co.uk
Youth Club (35218)		willandyouthclub@outlook.com

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham	34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev Nick Lakin nicholas.lakin@methodist.org.uk	07895 740286
Quakers	Pat Bell	840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon Kristian Paver - St Boniface, Cullompton	252292
St. Mary's Church Churchwarden	Lesley Smith	07944 295002
Rector	Rev Ben Maynard ben.culmvalleychurches@outlook.com	07777 177112
Cullompton Community College		33364
Uffculme School		840458
Willand Pre-School		33711
Willand Primary School		820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolpta@gmail.com

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Rachel Gilmore	(M.P.)	rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk	
Simon Clist	(Devon County Council)	simon.clist@devon.gov.uk	07855 027595
Andrea Glover	(MD Dist Councillor)	aglover@middevon.gov.uk	07908 734368
Cathy Connor	(MD Dist Councillor)	cconnor@middevon.gov.uk	07548 872107
John Poynton	(MD Dist Councillor)	jpoynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
Parish Council	Parish Council Website	www.willand-pc.org.uk	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.gov.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.gov.uk	07795821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.gov.uk	07496 113135
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.gov.uk	07971 808423
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.gov.uk	07733 083158
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	Jason.scott@willand-pc.gov.uk	07818 045215
Helen Jones	(Councillor)	helen.jones@willand-pc.gov.uk	07454 510573
Sam Sycamore	(Councillor)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.gov.uk	07429 266786
Stevie Anne Hutter	(Councillor)	stevie.hutter@willand-pc.gov.uk	07710226139
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.gov.uk	07920 014407

MEDICAL

Bramblehaies Surgery	33536
College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
Gables Road Pharmacy	32604
N.H.S. DIRECT	111
Out-of-Hours GP	111
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
Urgent Care Centre (Currently open 08.00-20.00 7 days a week)	01884 235400

TRANSPORT

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
Traveline	0871 200 2233
Stagecoach Devon	01392 427711
Devon Bus (All bus timetables are displayed outside the Post Office)	01392 382800
Culm Voluntary Car Scheme	07546 525683

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau, Tiverton	03444 111 444
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Devon County Council	0345 1551015
Environment Agency (24 Hour)	0800 807060
Fire, Police, Ambulance, Coastguard	999 Or 112
Gas	0800 111999
Injured Wildlife Exeter	01392 439898
M.D.D.C./Dog Warden	01884 255255
R.S.P.C.A	0300 1234999
Samaritans	116 123
Western Power Distribution (Power Cuts etc)	105 Or 0800 6783 105
South West Water	0344 346 2020
Street Lighting/Highways	0345 155 1004

DEFIBRILLATORS - Can be accessed outside the Post Office, the Pre School buildings and Pencarrie dial 999 to get the access code.

MOBILE LIBRARY - visits four weekly

Thursday	Townlands	10.35am - 11.20am
Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.25am - 12.25pm

LATEST POSTAL COLLECTIONS

Post Office (01884 32430)	Mon to Fri	Saturday
Currently a Priority Post Box on Sat and Sun.	5.00pm	11.00am
Meadow Park	9.00am	7.00am
Station Road	9.00am	7.00am
Fir Close	9.00am	7.00am
Willand Moor Road	9.00am	7.00am

COMMUNITY POLICE - Non-crime events can be reported to **101** by telephone or by email to 101@dc.police.uk Any crimes need to be reported through **101** by telephone or on the web-form in the link:
www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting

MAGAZINE

Please send Editorial items to willandparishmag@gmail.com
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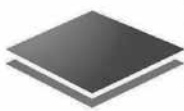
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Happy New Year to all our readers.

Please take a minute to look at the Parish Council's Precept for 2026 in the centre pages. It always amazes me how small the purse is to administer such a large village.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Happy New Year to you all. I know it is a bit late but it is the first chance I have had to give my good wishes to all via this means,

We have had a little snow at the time of writing and may get more if all the promised rain turns to snow this far down. The Christmas lights have been and gone with only a short outage on one lamppost due to a mains cable fault which took a few days to resolve. Thank you once again to those generous businesses and organisations who contributed towards the cost. Your generosity is recognised in another section of this magazine.

Whilst on the subject of thanks can I convey thanks to Helen Jones and her team of volunteers, the generous local businesses and organisations and everyone else who organised and provided the excellent Christmas lunch at the village hall just before Christmas. It gave those who spend a lot of time on their own a chance to get out and share their time with others in the same boat and at least we know that they had a good meal that day. I wondered why I was invited and the only printable reason that was given to me was that I was old or something like that.

At the time of writing we seem to have a number of water leaks in the village and it has affected water pressure for some. Road surfaces have also been lifted causing even more potholes. One in Old Village required a road closure and the diversion of the busses. All have been reported but if you spot a problem please report it yourself and not leave it hoping that someone else will do it.

The Parish Council has been busy awarding various contracts for the next two years to help keep our village tidy and safe. All prices have gone up but with the extra houses at Fox Mill Gardens and some careful financial management, the Parish Council has been able to set a precept that will mean no rise in the Parish Council section of the Council Tax bill. I make no comment as to what will happen with the rest of it. The precept detail is set out elsewhere in this magazine.

We still know little of what impact the proposed Local Government reorganisation will have on the Parish but one thing you can be sure of is that it will cost us all more money. The Parish Council has taken the precaution of putting some monies aside to try and avoid a major one-off shock when it happens. [Should I be cautious and also include 'if it happens'] We are also exploring as to whether or not to fully take some assets from MDCC under the wing of the parish with a view to protecting their future for our community. We are looking at play and open space to try and stop future building on the land.

Although MDDC have suggested it certain officers are a bit slow in responding to our approaches – which they sought in the first place.

There has not been much movement on the applications for the two proposed developments of 130 and 170 houses that will affect the village. Various consultees have now responded and some have raised concerns and recommended refusal on the information provided. Applicants usually get around those issues by paying consultants to come up with other ideas or try and negate the arguments put forward. What I have noted is the very few local residents who have registered their views either in support or by way of objection. It is no good moaning about it after it is approved and then it causes you problems. All the papers are on the MDDC Planning Portal so you can read them online. If you need the reference number please look on the Parish Website where the information is available.

There have been more amendments to the plans for the development of the modular homes at Somerlea. You may feel that it only affects the residents in and around Somerlea who are having problems BUT it affects all we Council Taxpayers as errors in access and land ownership all have to be sorted out and we all end up paying the extra cost for someone else's foul up. What has been going on with the modular homes sites could affect, you particularly if more bits of MDDC owned land or garage sites are identified to be built on. For the Christmas and New Year period Somerlea had its own version of stone circles as large stones had been placed on the verges to stop vehicles parking on them. One problem – this was not legal and when it was raised it turns out it was an idea put forward by 'the council' but not followed up but the contractor did it anyway. No consultation with residents, the Parish Council or Ward Councillors so 'the council' was most probably an officer(s). They were eventually removed on the 12th of January 2026. I wonder who will be paying for that 'idea'?

There is a village pantomime on the way – Oh yes there is – so that is something else to look forward to. All our local clubs and organisations are organising events so please support them where you can.

One really sad event is that we have lost our village Butcher through retirement and illness/injury. I am sure that there are a lot of us who will wish Steve and Andrew well for the future. I am already missing the banter that went with the visits let alone I have now got to find another supplier of proper sausages and the like. I thought I would go to the Butcher at Sampford Peverell Farm shop only to find that that one has gone as well.

Another issue that needs help and support is our village youth club which is struggling through lack of volunteers to run it. Anyone with any time to spare or ideas which would help to get this very important and much needed asset/service in the village up and running again? I am certainly too old to do a 'shift' now but in my early twenties, and as a young single policeman, I spent a lot of my off-duty time helping in the YMCA youth club at Exmouth and I still have the wedding present they gave me when I got married over 60 years ago.

When a detective at Tiverton I was a Trustee of the Tiverton Adventure Playground with another policeman and a local solicitor. Luckily there we had funding to pay a worker to lead the team of volunteers. It was all very rewarding. There is more 'red tape' to it these days but there are over 3,000 voters in Willand and surely someone could find a few hours to help out in one way or another – PLEASE.

Some good news to finish on. We have at least one person who has come forward to be coopted as a Parish Councillor. If we are lucky there may be two which will be a great help for our community moving forward. There are three vacancies and so there will be room for at least one more.

Keep safe and I make no apology in repeating my saying – The question is 'How can I help?' NOT 'What's in it for me?' **Barry G J Warren Chairman**



The Mid Devon Singers

We hope you had a joyous, peaceful and relaxed Christmas and are looking forward to all that 2026 may bring.

On Friday 9th January we returned after the Christmas break and kick-started the year with our delayed special Beatles-themed week. We sang through a great mix of songs by the Fab Four, including: "Let It Be", "Hey Jude", "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da", and the "Hello, goodbye" medley comprising "Say Hello", "Ticket to Ride", "Penny Lane", and "Can't Buy Me Love". A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all - what a great way to start the year.

As can be seen, we are well & truly underway for the Spring Term – with the early Easter, the last rehearsal of term will be on 27th March, with our half-term break being on 20th February. We'll be meeting at Halberton Village Hall as usual, starting promptly at **7.30pm** and ending at **9.30pm**, with the all-important tea/coffee/biscuit chat break about halfway through.

Our friendly & fun rehearsals are a great way to unwind at the end of the week, so why not come along & give us a try? New members are always very welcome, with no auditions to join our sociable singing group. Your first 4 regular rehearsals are free with absolutely no obligation – if you want to sign up after that, membership subs are a very reasonable £15.00 per month. To find out more, either drop us a line on our socials, or email us at **membership@mids.org.uk**.

We're putting together our 2026 performance calendar, so if you'd like to book us, please send an email to **concerts@mids.org.uk**.

Otherwise, be sure to keep an eye on our social media feeds for general news & performance information/updates:

Facebook [themiddevonsingers](https://www.facebook.com/themiddevonsingers)

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Michael Cuthbertson

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See also **www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/**

for information about the range of volunteering opportunities available



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Please check our website
www.tivertontheatre.com
 to see what's on.

TCAT, Bolham Road, EX16 6SQ. On the Tiverton High School campus.

Box Office - Tiverton Tourist Information - within Tiverton Museum



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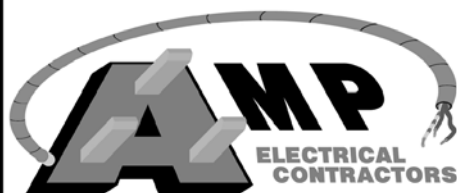
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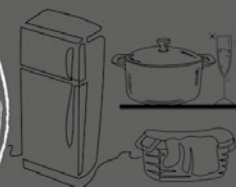
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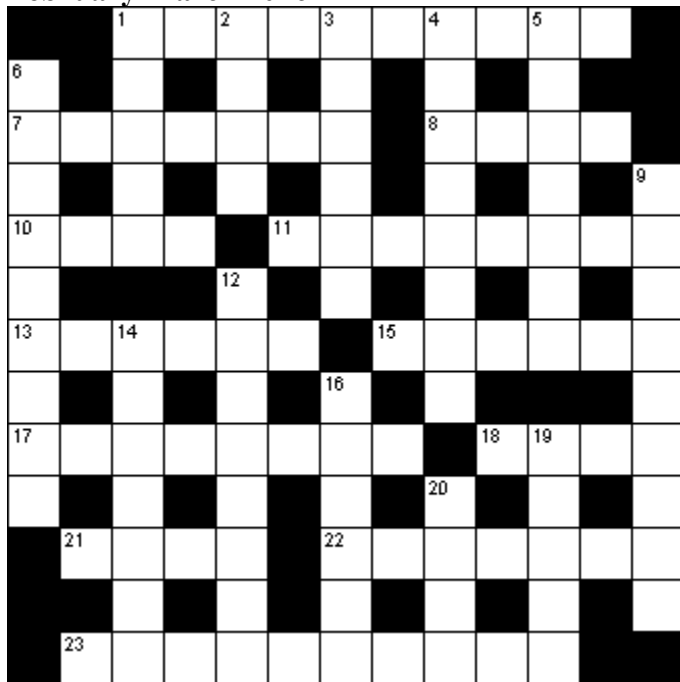
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February March 2026



Quick Crossword
No Cheating now
answers later in
the Magazine

Across

- 1 Miscellany (10)
- 7 Rider's footrest (7)
- 8 Long story (4)
- 10 Depose (4)
- 11 Age of majority (8)
- 13 Frail (6)
- 15 Confer, impart (6)
- 17 Capable of being touched (8)
- 18 Speedy (4)
- 21 Volcanic matter (4)
- 22 Songbird (7)
- 23 Dramatist (10)

Down

- 1 Wrong (5)
- 2 Villein (4)
- 3 Mend (6)
- 4 Naughtiness (8)
- 5 Fail to care for (7)
- 6 Colleague (9)
- 9 Blizzard (9)
- 12 Common, everyday (8)
- 14 Type of pigeon (7)
- 16 Not so fast (6)
- 19 Apportion (5)
- 20 Boast (4)

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We entered 2026 with a mix of new and old trustees – grateful for the continued experience of Gerri Taylor and Tania Edworthy, and the continued backup work on finance from Frances Wilcox as well as the enthusiasm and experience of our new trustees. We continue to be very grateful for all our hard-working volunteers, and recently for the support from Mark Cranney of SpotOn Supplies and Absolutely Brilliant Carpet Cleaning.

Our aim is to support and provide activities which contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of Willand and surrounding neighbourhood. The Centre is set back from Gables Road, opposite the Village Hall and next to the Nursery. We organise activities ourselves or jointly with others within the Centre. We also accept bookings by others which contribute to our overall purpose.

We have times when you are extremely welcome just to drop in: Coffee and Chat on the morning of the first Thursday and third Tuesday of each month; Book Swap and Chat with coffee on the third Monday 6.30-7.30 and last Wednesday 10-11.30; and until June a table games morning on the second Wednesday at 10am. There is also Stitch without a Hitch, on Monday evenings 6.30- 8pm. (Knitting and crochet for all, with help for beginners - £2 per person, including refreshments)

If you want to find out more about the many other organised activities at the Centre, and how to join, they are advertised on Willand Health and Community Centre Facebook page and in other places. You can also find out more, and even see how to book the Centre yourself, by following the link on our Facebook page or by using the weblink <https://hallbookingonline.com/willand>.

Stephen Little

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

Book swap	3 rd Monday	6.30 -7.30pm
Stitch Without a Hitch	Mondays	6.30-8.00pm
Tea & Chat	3 rd Tuesday	10.00 -12.00pm
Book swap	Last Wednesday	10.00 -11.30am
Pilates with Sarah	Wednesday	6.30 - 7.30 pm
Dragonfly Crafts	Wednesday	7.00 - 9.30 pm
Tea & Chat	1 st Thursday	10.00 -12.00pm
Pilates with Sarah	Fridays	8.00 - 9.00am
Pilates with Sarah	Fridays	9.15 – 10.15am

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN coming to Willand Village Hall Thursday 19th 7.30pm Friday 20th 7.30pm & Saturday 21st February at 2.30pm and 7.30 pm.

This year is the mega blockbusting **WIZARD OF OZ**.

New faces new songs new gags new costumes not to be missed.



Live Theatre is one of the few outlets for the kids to see live on stage entertainment, stories and the old folks and children dressing up and larking about rather than on a TV screen. How can little ones be deprived of "He's behind you" "Oh no he isn't" "Oh yes he is" etc. And pass on this traditional fun to their children. So come along and laugh with (or even at) this mid-winter fun to dispel the gloom of the darker days. **Sam Fincher**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

A very Happy New Year to you all, and firstly, we are so grateful for the very many thankyou's given to us, over the Christmas Holiday. We appreciate them greatly. Thank you to the gentleman who plied us with wild bird seed for the next 3 months, after his son found something special in the cupboard by our gates. For the several people who supplied this cupboard at Christmas with the most wonderful (and some hardly used) toys of the highest quality. Please know we have sent them on to some very delighted children, who so appreciate them. Thank you for the several people who thanked us for salting and removing the ice around the pavement between Gables Road and Somerville Road. We aim to please. Thank you to all of you who attended the Carol Service in the Village Hall and helped raise £336, already paid to C.H.A.T. the Tiverton Area Homeless Charity. Thank you, too, to those who have already started knitting and collecting items for our Christmas shoe boxes to Eastern Europe and the Ukraine. All donations gratefully received.

To those who thanked us for the Christmas "Free Lunch" and those of you who commented on the quality and sincerity of our own Christmas Services. Our delight. Busy! Busy!

So, what do we bring to you in 2026. Firstly, is our **Prospect's Worship Group, for disabled people of all ages. On Sunday 1st February at 3pm.** If you know of someone who'd enjoy this Fellowship, then please put them in touch with us. **Our Annual Pancake Party** raising money for Action for Children, our own charity for children all over the country, is on **Shrove Tuesday 17th February 3-5pm.** We'll try and create the special fillings, savoury, sweet and then some, you like to request, as well as traditional lemon and sugar sprinkles. Last year one lady aged 99 ate 5 There'll be Games and puzzles, and best of all, Prizes Hope to see you and the children there.

On Saturday 28th February from 12noon our "Free Lunch" is on. Soup, Sandwiches and Something Sweet.

Again, many accolades about the quality and versatility of the soups and fillings we provide.

With Willand Scouts our joint **Spring Sale** and **Coffee Morning** is in the **Village Hall on Saturday 7th March from 10-12 noon.**

You'll find a plethora of draw prizes, cakes, jams, pickles, books, jigsaws, toys and bric-a-brac. You might even pick up a bargain or just have a quiet coffee and chat. All are welcome.

As you'll see from the Notice Board we meet for Worship every Sunday at 10.30a.m. We'd delight to see you. On the **3rd Sunday** of each month, we hold a **Reflective Time at 3pm.** People find this a quieter space and use it to gently deal with the pressures of life, with an assurance in and through having faith. In God yes, but in oneself, too. If this is something that might sound interesting to you, please come along to see. You can be sure of the sincerest and warmest of welcomes. David Greet. Steward. **greetdj@hotmail.com.**

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2026-27

Below is the precept requested by Willand Parish Council for the year April 2026 to March 2027. The Parish Council carefully considered the current income and expenditure which enables it to carry out the things it must do within the Parish and those that improve the village for everyone. The percentage rise is 2.54%, equating to a nil increase per annum on a Band D Property, this is because the number of properties in Willand has increased following the completion and occupation of further homes on the development at Fox Mill Gardens (Meadow Park), which means that the Precept is spread over a larger number of properties.

The income figures are based on our known income for the year. We have received generous donations from local businesses towards the Christmas lights in recent years, but this is not guaranteed income so cannot be factored in. Money has also been secured from Devon County Council towards the cost of verge cutting, which has been included in our income figure, and grant funding was obtained towards weed spraying this last financial year, but that funding will not be available in the coming year.

All contractual and other costs are factored into the precept.

Local Government re-organisation is going to change the political landscape of Devon reducing the number of local authorities in the County with District Councils and the County Council disappearing and being replaced by Unitary authorities, making local government less local. Parish and Town Councils will therefore have a greater role in ensuring that their communities are represented and this may include taking on additional assets and/or some non-statutory services if they aren't to be lost. The Parish Council therefore needs to ensure it has funds available for this purpose and is setting up appropriate reserves and allocating additional funds within the budget. Potential proposals have been submitted to the Government and any new authorities will be in place from April 2028, with shadow authorities being set up in April 2027 to allow for a smooth transition.

Total income expected: £18,461

Total expenditure predicted: £98,871

Precept requested: £80,410 (difference between income & expenditure)

Precept 2025/2026 was £78,418

Increase for Willand: £1,992

Increase for Band D property: Nil

Cost Centre	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Budget	Actuals as at Dec 2025	2025-26 Year End Forecast	2026-27 Budget
INCOME					
Precept	76,555	78,418	78,418	78,418	80,410
Allotment Income	2,292	2,463	2,399	2,399	2,478
Bank Interest	5,300	700	1,650	3,600	700
Cemetery Income	7,630	5,500	6,190	7,310	5,500
Magazine Income	4,595	5,000	4,639	4,580	4,500
DCC - Urban Grass Cutting	4,980	5,129	5,129	5,129	5,283
Totals	101,352	97,210	98,425	101,436	98,871
EXPENDITURE					
Allotment Expenditure	2,499	2,463	1,277	1,983	2,478
Bank Charges	9	60	48	65	70
Capital	4,282	8,000	431	2,500	9,746
Cemetery Expenditure	5,462	6,108	1,775	3,270	5,408
Donations	260	500	310	410	500
Grounds Maintenance	13,439	17,438	14,465	16,588	19,125
Magazine Expenditure	6,015	6,800	5,184	6,296	7,000
Office Admin	4,558	6,670	3,945	5,719	9,131
Play Area Inspections & Equipment	1,530	5,000	1,256	2,854	5,000
Staff	28,090	35,450	22,211	30,534	32,250
Village Services	7,819	8,722	6,328	7,000	8,163
Totals	73,963	97,211	57,230	77,219	98,871

St Mary's Church

New Year, New Things.

It may be February, but this is my first article of 2026, so a very happy new year to you. The beginning of a new year is a great opportunity to try new things or investigate things you have never looked into before. Two new things that lots of people around the country are trying out at the moment are going to church and reading the Bible.

Over the last four years, there has been a change in attitude towards church in the UK with numbers showing signs of growth. Some studies suggest that this interest has been caused by a search for meaning, leading people to explore the deep well of Christianity. Are you someone who is interested? You may feel nervous about coming to church for the first time. Sometimes people think they are not good enough to go to church.

A quick read through the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will help you see that going to church has never been about being good enough. There is a famous story in the Bible (Luke 1:1-10) about a meeting between Jesus and a tax collector called Zacchaeus. He was a guy who knew he didn't deserve to be around Jesus, so he ran and hid in a tree so he could observe Jesus' ministry from a distance. What is more, everyone else in town also knew this outsider didn't deserve to be with Jesus and they did everything they could to prevent them meeting. But Jesus didn't care about those judgemental opinions, and he was not put off by the bad things in Zacchaeus' life either. He walked straight up to the tree and called Zacchaeus to come down and join him for a meal. To eat with someone in that culture signified complete acceptance. Zacchaeus found everything he was looking for in Jesus, and his life became infused with new energy and purpose.

In the same way, I want to reassure you that you are so welcome to come and explore the Christian faith in church on Sunday. I know it is a big step, particularly if you have never set foot in a church before, but you are welcome. In addition to Sunday church, we will also be running some courses for anyone who wants to explore Christianity or understand the Bible better. These courses are aimed at people with little or no prior knowledge. We will have more information about these events on our website, Facebook pages and notice boards in the near future, so please look out for them and come along.

Rev Ben Maynard



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WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of Willand History Group – our Silver Jubilee. We are still at the planning stage for how to commemorate this milestone, but there will probably be an exhibition towards the end of the summer, maybe an organised historical (mystery?) tour around the parish, and it has even been suggested that we enter the twenty-first century by setting up a website. But to give a little context about how the History Group started, it was just over 25 years ago, in the year 2000, when Brian Holmes received a letter from Bill Horner, archaeological officer to Devon County Council, providing a list of all the Willand entries on the recently compiled Sites and Monuments Register for Devon these were mostly the parish's listed buildings, such as Beaufoy House and Woodsmoke Cottage in the 'old village', but also other structures of interest like the old Victorian railway bridges. Anyway, Brian's curiosity was piqued, and so he put an appeal in the November 2000 issue of the Parish Magazine, asking: 'If there's anyone in the village who would like to get involved in trying to find out more, two of us are already prepared to take up the challenge – but we need some help'.

There was a good response, and so Bill Horner was invited to give a talk at the Halfway House, in December 2000, when he explained the story behind the Sites and Monuments Register, telling us what was known about Willand, and what wasn't known, and indicating where there was plenty of scope for local enthusiasts to get involved in research his knowledge and enthusiasm was infectious, and gave us a real taste for exploring the rich history and archaeology this area has to offer. That evening several Willanders put their names forward, declaring an interest in taking things further, and so 'A First Meeting' was organised for 23 January 2001, at the Halfway House. On what turned out to be a '*wet and stormy night*' there was a lively discussion about how to proceed, and about what to investigate first, but all present were agreed that we should establish 'an organisation dedicated to finding out about and recording Willand's history'; a name was agreed upon, and so Willand History Group was born – the rest, as they say, is history

However, if Willand History Group is to continue for another 25 years, we still need your help. We are keen to keep the group growing, by developing our ongoing and new projects, and by building up our membership base. So, if you have an interest in learning about Willand's past or would like to help out with recording our local history, all levels of experience are very welcome. Or if you have any specific skills – maybe in genealogy, or archaeological fieldwork, or historic buildings recording, or experience with computers and websites and the internet – that you would be happy to share, or have a little time to spare, please do get in touch; please do come along and help us delve into the intriguing stories and fascinating past that this parish has to offer.

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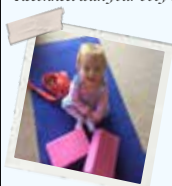
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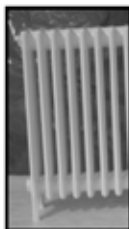
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EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

We are delighted to announce that we have received two sets of funding to help expand and improve what we do at the club. Devon County Council have funded our weightlifting academy for teenage girls for 12 weeks. We held a trial/taster session in December and the girls have started training twice a week with us.

We also received funding from Active Devon to provide extra training for our volunteers. This means even more of our members/ parents are aware of the importance of safeguarding and welfare for children and vulnerable adults, making our club a safer place to be in.

In competition news, we held our annual club competition in December and Adanna Ranson (14) became our new club champion, Ben Gallaway (43) and Andy Taylor (43) came second and third respectively. Head Coach James Marshall retained his England Masters' title at the NEC Birmingham (Men's 55+ 79kg category).

Our athletic development groups are nearly full, but we have space for one more person in each (school years 6-11).

Contact James at excelsiorathleti@gmail.com if interested. **James Marshall.**

WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

If you would like to be more active in 2025 then please come along to Willand Tennis Club. It is a friendly club, located beside the Village Hall. We are always keen to welcome new members and both Adult and Junior membership rates are available at very competitive rates. We have 4 courts of which two are due to be resurfaced in September. Courts can be booked by tennis members and the public all year for 'Pay and Play'. For more details and to book a court, please look at our website: **www.willandtennisclub.co.uk**

Booking and payment is only available online. Junior level coaching with our club coach, Nigel Little takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons (term time only). Minimum age for these sessions is 3 years. Adult coaching is also available either as a group or 1:1. Please contact Nigel on 07951140974 for more information. **Sally Allaway, Club Secretary**

HOSPISCARE

Hospiscare's much-loved Men's Walk returns on Saturday 7 March 2026 at Double Locks, Exeter. Join more than a thousand like-minded walkers for a day of purpose, connection and great company.

Take on the 7-mile route, celebrate your achievement with a well-earned pint and a delicious pasty, and help make a real difference for local people living with terminal illness across Exeter, central and east Devon.

With five consecutive sell-outs, this iconic event fills fast — don't miss your chance to be part of it.

Sign up now at **www.hospiscare.co.uk/menswalk**. **Martin Niebroj**

RESCUE WILLAND YOUTH CLUB

The youth club has closed due to no adult supervision.

Low level crime and general annoyance can often be attributed to a lack of local facilities for young people.

If you feel like you could help to make a difference, please consider volunteering to help out at the youth club. Call or just send a text message on 07452961040. **Andrew Wilkinson.**



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Defibrillators

In Willand, there are three 24/7 accessible defibrillators located outside the Gables Pre-school, the Post Office, and Pencarrie. Additionally, there's a defibrillator at Willand Rovers Football Club, accessible when the club is open. These devices are part of **The Circuit**, a national defibrillator network that helps the ambulance service locate the nearest device in an emergency.

Defibrillator Locations in Willand:

- **Gables Pre-school:** 24/7 accessible.
- **Post Office:** 24/7 accessible.
- **Pencarrie:** 24/7 accessible.
- **Willand Rovers Football Club:** Accessible when the club is open.
- If you are interested in training on how to use a defibrillator, please contact Dave Maynard on 07447 089498 or email your details to the Parish Clerk on **clerk@willand-pc.gov.uk**

CAMEO

A group of us travelled to Plymouth Pavilions to watch Riverdance after a very nice lunch. The show, costumes etc were well worth the trip.

Our annual Christmas shopping outing by coach was to Clarkes Village, Street.

The December meeting was the annual Christmas dinner at Keepers Cottage. Well, it ended up hilarious. Instead of Secret Santa we had return packages from an online store. One had a doctors bag with real stethoscope and blood pressure monitor plus other bits and pieces. That was a hoot using those. Another had edible body parts. Not going to say what they were!! There was so much laughter the rest of the restaurant must have wondered what was going on. Don't think we will do Secret Santa again, it has to be the parcels. I had men's trousers with a satin strip going down the side plus about four other items.

We have had two coffee mornings, one at Padbrook Golf Club and another at Splendidly Blended, Cullompton. Both were well attended and both were thoroughly enjoyed.

The walking group met for a walk around the back of Uffculme meeting at Magelake Hall. We walked through mud and flood but managed to get around and we then ended up at The Old Well for tea and cake. Our next walk was cancelled due to weather and a date set for the following week where Knightshayes was the venue. Started off in sunshine but then rain descended and everyone got a soaking, with Sandra ending up in the mud. The soup and crusty roll were much appreciated after that.

Unfortunately, the end of the year ended on a sad note. We lost two valuable members. Sue Southgate and Sylvia Beckford. Both funerals were well represented by the Cameo ladies. Our condolences to both families.

Happy New Year 2026 to all readers. Wonder what this year has in store for us? **Valerie Newberry**

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was set up to benefit residents of Willand who were in need.

The money available for distribution is quite limited but the Trustees are able to make small grants to support individuals and local groups each year. The Trustees meet regularly twice a year, usually in September and February. Extra meetings are held to discuss applications outside of these times so people should not be put off from contacting us when necessary.

The current Trustees are the Rector Ben Maynard, Stephen Little, Neil James, Jason Scott and Kate Taylor

If you or someone you know would benefit from some support, then please contact the charity by using our email address unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk or contact one of the trustees, to receive an application form.

Kate Taylor Trustee

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Hope you enjoyed this editions Crossword

CUT OFF FOR NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2026



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