

# THE COLDRIDGE CALENDAR

EDITOR: John W Smith, Rockfield, Coldridge, EX17 6AX: Email: [biggles1047@gmail.com](mailto:biggles1047@gmail.com)

SUPPORTED BY OUR ADVERTISERS & PRINTED BY COLDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## DIARY FOR MAY 2026:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PARISH EVENTS, PLEASE ALSO VISIT OUR **PARISH WEBSITE** AT: [www.middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge](http://www.middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge) AND OUR "WHAT'S ON IN COLDRIDGE, DEVON (WOICD)" FACEBOOK PAGE AT: [www.facebook.com/groups/coldridge](http://www.facebook.com/groups/coldridge)

### VILLAGE HALL 'REGULARS':

**TAI CHI: CLASSES RUN FROM 4.00pm, EVERY MONDAY**

**PILATES & CHAIR PILATES: RESTARTING ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH@ 5.30pm**

- Friday, 1st**  
7.30pm HALL: SOCIAL/FILM NIGHT:  
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY (4<sup>th</sup>)  
2.30pm: SQUARE: MAYPOLE DANCING, etc..
- Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup>**  
7.00pm: HALL: ADULT TABLE TENNIS
- Friday, 8<sup>th</sup>**  
8.00pm: HALL: COLDRIDGE ARMS
- Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup>**  
10.30am: CHURCH: MORNING PRAYER
- Monday, 11<sup>th</sup>**  
7.30pm: HALL: GARDENING CLUB
- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup>**  
2.00pm: HALL: COLDRIDGE QUILTERS:
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>**  
7.30pm: HALL: WI: CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING
- Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>**  
7.30pm: HALL: ADULT TABLE TENNIS
- Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> (WHIT SUNDAY)**  
10.30am CHURCH: HOLY COMMUNION
- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup>**  
10.00am-3.30pm: HALL: COLDRIDGE CAFÉ  
11.00am: CHURCH: HISTORY TALK & TOUR  
7.00pm: HALL: CRIB CLUB
- Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup>**  
10.00am: CHURCH: MISSION TEAM EUCHARIST, (Hosted by St Matthew's)

### NEWS FROM ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH:

There is **NO CHURCH CAFE**, this month as we will all be outside enjoying the Bank Holiday Maypole Dancing and Refreshments, starting at **2.30pm on the Square.**

COLDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL GROUP PRESENTS




**FRIDAY 1 MAY** | DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR A 7.30PM START

**COLDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**THIS MONTH'S MAIN FEATURE...**

In late 16<sup>th</sup>-century England, Agnes, a healer sensitive to the world around her, builds a home with William, a local tutor and aspiring playwright. As their lives fracture, they are tested by distance, silence, and grief

**"H\_mn\_t" (6)**

Starring: Jessie Buckley Paul Mescal Zac Wishart

Historical/Drama/Romance/Tragedy  
Cert. 12A Release 2025

LICENCED BAR, SNACKS AND ICE CREAMS AVAILABLE

Coldridge Village Hall Social Group invite you to come along and take part in the fun of Maypole Dancing!



A selection of hot and cold refreshments along with cakes, scones & cream teas will be available to buy

**PLUS**  
our Licenced Bar in the Hall will be open, serving May Day PIMMS along with all your other favourites.

**Maypole Dancing**  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 2.30pm  
Coldridge Village Square  
EX17 6AX  
Audience participation desired  
No experience necessary - tuition provided

Cash & Card payments accepted.





**ADULT TABLE TENNIS**


**May 2026 Dates:**  
**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7.30 – 10pm**  
**Coldridge Village Hall**

FREE – ALL ARE WELCOME



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### CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY:

This month, our usual service pattern is slightly different: **Morning Prayer** as usual at 10.30am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, but our service of **Holy Communion** will be at 10.30am on Whit Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>, led by Rev. Peter Rapsey.

**At 10.00am on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> (Trinity Sunday),** St Matthew's is once again hosting the **Mission Team Combined Eucharist**. Everyone is very welcome to attend and to 'meet our neighbours' from our wider Christian community.

We offer **refreshments and companionship** after all of our services, to which everyone is always very welcome.

**PCC NEWS:**  
At the Annual Parish Church Meetings (APCMs) last month, John Smith finally retired as Churchwarden after 24 years in one earlier stint and a further 2 years in his most recent episode. The newly-elected Wardens are now Andrew Green and Malcolm Bedford. The other members of the PCC were re-elected *en-bloc*. However, our PCC Secretary, Keyth Richardson, also announced his retirement from this ex-officio post. Please see this 'Sits Vac' notice...

**PCC SITUATION VACANT:**  
The PCC is currently seeking to recruit a new Hon. SECRETARY, upon the retirement of Keyth,

who has filled the role magnificently for many years. It is a voluntary, ex-officio role and the successful candidate will be given a secure, separate PCC email address. It is an enjoyable and rewarding (although not very demanding) role, working with a very proactive PCC. Meetings are usually no more than once per month. The position is open to anyone, church-goer or not, just to be a competent 'scribe'! For more details, please contact Malcolm Bedford on 01363 83530 or Andrew Green on 01363 83791

## COPPLESTONE COMMUNITY CHOIR

### In Concert in St Matthew's:

The Wardens and PCC were delighted to welcome the Copplestone Community Choir to perform at St Matthew's on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April.

This was the first time that the Choir has performed in Coldridge and, thus, many of us did not know quite what to expect.

All those of you who were there (and happily there were very many) enjoyed a real musical treat, all in support of the Amber Foundation at Chawleigh.

As someone who has 'done a bit of singing' myself, I feel qualified to commend this choir for their enthusiastic ensemble, for their clever observation of rhythm and dynamics, especially in some of the more technically difficult pieces (Beatles' numbers are notoriously hard to perform well) and for the delightful choral arrangements written, I believe, by one of the choir members. These arrangements had obviously been written to suit the available voices. A master-stroke and very cleverly done! The choir also offered us a couple of quartets, performed by members of the group. These were balanced superbly and the close harmony work was truly magnificent: tight, harmonious and very accurately sung.

"You'll never walk alone" is a ditty that conjures up images and sounds of raucous football fans yelling discordantly from the terraces, with scarves, cans and bottles flying in all directions. At Friday's performance and in complete contrast, the Copplestone Choir's quartet transformed this popular and vernacular piece into something quite ethereal, soft and magical. "You'll never walk alone" might very well be the *lief motif* of all choral groups like this. Joining together to sing in happy collective harmony should guarantee that singers in such groups, with this common interest, will never, ever walk alone.

The evening finished with a Russian Orthodox hymn (sung in what I think was 'Church Slavonic') It was in complete contrast to most of the rest of the programme. The rich harmonies and heartwarming, mystical cadences, typical of this musical genre, were superbly rendered by the Choir and offered a fitting end to a wonderfully varied feast of choral music.

It was all utterly brilliant. Thank you all. Please come back and do it again sometime soon.

Finally, thank you to all who, behind the scenes, made this great event happen. **JWS**

## COLDRIDGE GARDENING CLUB:

In April we had our own 'Allotment Aficionado', Pat Allard, speaking knowledgeably and passionately about her allotment and the

planning that goes into each year of planting and harvesting. Once again she showed us how the months of graft and dedication pay off, especially with the judicious use of secret weapons; jam jars and toilet roll innards. Pat has also acquired another plot, so we hope to get her back in the diary one day for the next instalment...

May's meeting sees the return of speaker Caradoc Doy. In 'Plant Hunters & Pioneers' we'll hear a brief history of the remarkable Veitch family nursery of Exeter and Chelsea, which sent twenty-three plant collectors to numerous countries – mainly during the Victorian period.

The presentation highlights some of the well-known and interesting varieties introduced by these pioneering plant hunters who discovered many hundreds of new species. So successful were they that there is scarcely a garden in the British Isles that does not contain a plant derived from their introductions. Find out more on **Monday, 11th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Non-members are very welcome (£3).**



Everyone is welcome to join Coldridge Gardening Club - a family membership is only £15 for the year. Keep an eye out for news of upcoming events on all the usual village channels. If you are not (yet!) a member of the Coldridge Gardening Club, and would like to see what it's all about, please drop us a line on [coldridgegardeningclub@ecomail.uk](mailto:coldridgegardeningclub@ecomail.uk) for more details.

**Tracy, Teresa and Nick.**  
**Gardening Club Committee**

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE:

In April, Coldridge WI welcomed Kate Fitch as she gave an eye-opening and moving talk about her role as a Street Pastor. Volunteering during the small hours in the city centre to provide compassion and care to anyone in need, these kindly souls, working closely with the emergency services, ensure everyone gets home safely.

May's meeting sees us introduced to the art of Chinese Brush Painting with artist and teacher, Mary Moul. A gift of a set of chinese brushes encouraged Mary to expand her horizon from watercolours to inks, and the wonderful world of this stylised Oriental artform. She also runs art workshops using chinese brush painting techniques. We will be encouraged to give it a go and all materials will be provided. Find out more on **Wednesday, 13th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall** about this gentle and relaxing artform.

New members are always welcome or come as a

guest (£3 - women only). Meetings are held (with the odd exception) on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Subjects range from charities and local interest groups, cookery demonstrations and craft workshops to the arts and wellbeing. Look out for more information on the village socials. Hope to see you soon.

**Lyn Green (WI Secretary)**



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## COLDRIDGE FETE 2026 UPDATE:

For those who were not able to attend the Fete Open Meeting, held on 10/4/2026 at the Village Hall, here is an update:

It has been decided to open the Fete at 11am (the church bells will peal out from approx.. 10.30am)

The Crediton brass band will be playing two or three sessions during the day:...

*Continued.....*

- The dog show will have 7 classes plus Best in Show
- There will be a Bouncy castle and Assault Course for the children and a children's entertainer and sweet stall plus the usual old-fashioned games
- There is also a children's Penalty Shoot-Out in the main ring
- There will be the usual display of Vintage & Classic Tractors, Cars, Motorbikes & Stationary Engines and of course the parade in the main ring towards the end of the day.
- An obedience dog display in the main ring
- The usual selection of hot and cold food options and refreshments will be available throughout.
- A wide selection of Craft & Trade stalls including many local makers
- And of course Free parking in the field.
- Plus more....

We are always looking for volunteers so if you feel you can spare anytime to help us on the day or before/after please let us know. It should be a fun packed day for all ages, we look forward to seeing everyone on the day.

### Fete Flower Festival 2026 'Devon in Detail'



#### Devon in Detail

A wonderful, wide-ranging theme, 'Devon in Detail' represents anything Devon related and allows plenty of scope for interpretation....

**Go on - have a go!**

From cream teas (cream first!) to pasties, tors and moors to beaches, Devon banks to farmland, city landmarks to your own patch of Devon heaven - your garden. Famous Devonians; historical to today. Just a few ideas to get you inspired.

The Flower Festival is held in St Matthew's Church and it doesn't have to be a large display, there are small, very manageable, spaces available too. It's not a competition, just a display of 'homegrown' creativity for our community and fete visitors to enjoy.

Don't consider yourself a 'flower arranger'? You don't have to be, the most effective displays are often the most simple.

No flowers? No problem! You can use dried, faux, paper, yarn or just plenty of garden greenery and as many 'props' as you like.

Do it with a friend, neighbour, group or on your own.

Help and more information is available. Contact Lyn Green at [lyng@stmatthewscoldridge.church](mailto:lyng@stmatthewscoldridge.church)

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## Coldridge Café

### Important News about June 2026

*Dear Café Customers,*

*Owing to our preparations for the Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally, Flower Festival & Dog Show on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June we regret to advise that we are not hosting a Coldridge Café event in June.*

*The next Coldridge Café will be held on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 10am - 3pm.***

*Meantime, we hope you can join us at our Fete where we will be serving a range of hot & cold food and refreshments in the Tea Tent and the BBQ.*

*Thank you for your understanding and continued support.*

*The Café Team*

Coldridge Village Hall

In aid of Coldridge Village Hall & St Matthew's Church Fabric Fund

## Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally Flower Festival & Dog Show

A fun day out for all the family

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026

11am - 5pm Coldridge EX17 6AX

If you own a Classic Car, Vintage Motorbike or Vintage Tractor and would like to take part please contact

Wendy Harmsworth

Tel: 01363 83302 or 07802 223589  
[coldridgevintage26@aol.com](mailto:coldridgevintage26@aol.com)

<https://middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge/>

#### EDITOR'S NOTES FOR MAY 2026:

Thank you for all your News and Notices of all the Coldridge events coming up this month.

The copy deadline for our MAY issue is **SUNDAY, 24th MAY (latest)**. Please may I have all your items, in WORD or JPEG format, no later than then. Calibri 9-Point is the usual font to use, please.

Many thanks; **John W Smith (Editor)**

Email: [biggles1047@gmail.com](mailto:biggles1047@gmail.com)

**ABIGAIL'S**  
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Lapford Village Hall  
Lapford  
EX17 6PZ  
07565 768386  
[abigailsbeautyretreat@gmail.com](mailto:abigailsbeautyretreat@gmail.com)

## Coldridge Café

### Thursday 28th May

10 am - 3 pm

Coldridge Village Hall

You are invited to join us for  
tea, coffee, hot chocolate &  
home-made cake...

PLUS

...a selection of lunchtime dishes  
served between 12 and 2pm

May's Lunch Menu to be  
advised nearer the date

Takeaway Service Available

Coldridge Village Hall

### COLDRIDGE CAR POOL

Affordable Transport to local medical appointments:

Our Tariff (for return trips) is as follows:

Bow:	£4.00
North Tawton:	£4.00
Winkleigh:	£3.50
Chulmleigh:	£6.00
Crediton:	£7.00
Okehampton:	£10.00
Exeter:	£15.00
Barnstaple:	£17.00

To book a trip or to join the team (we urgently need to recruit new volunteer drivers) please contact:

**John Smith on 01363 83436 or email: [biggles1047@gmail.com](mailto:biggles1047@gmail.com)**

Thanks to all our volunteers. JS

Coldridge Village Hall Social Group Presents

# The Coldridge Arms

## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

### 7 - 11pm

Coldridge Village Hall,  
EX17 6AX

## Licensed Bar Refreshments & Snacks Available

*Pop-in anytime on the night for  
a drink and friendly chat*



Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally  
Flower Festival & Dog Show  
11am  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
(in aid of coldridge village hall & st matthew's church fabric fund)

# Announcing the launch of the 2026 Grand Prize Draw!

0001  
Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally,  
Flower Festival & Dog Show  
11am, 27th June 2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All completed, readable and unaltered tickets to be  
submitted to the promoter by the draw date.

Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally, Flower Festival  
& Dog Show 11am, 27th June 2026

### Grand Prize Draw

**1st Prize - £200 Cash**  
**2nd Prize - £125 Cash**  
**3rd Prize - £75 Cash**  
**4th Prize - £50 Cash**  
~ Plus many more exciting prizes!

The draw will take place in the Fete Field on Saturday 27th June 2026 at 4pm

Promoter: Mrs S. Fitch, Help House, Coldridge, Chalfont, GL11 4LJ  
Prize fund raised by: Coldridge Fete 2025, 4th & 10th October 2025, Coldridge Church Council, Levens No. 10, 11/2023

Printed by: www.villagesocial.co.uk

**Ticket Price £1.00**

Tickets £1 each, or £5/book  
**Top Cash Prizes plus many more....**

**Tickets on sale now!**

Available to buy at Coldridge Village Hall events  
or by contacting Marion Born on 01363 83482

<https://middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge/>

## AMAZING NATIONAL HISTORY NEAR YOU!

**THE PRINCES IN THE TOWER**  
British history's greatest cold-case; St Matthew's Church in Coldridge is home to the John Evans mystery. He may be Edward V, one of the princes presumed murdered... until now! The newest research points to evidence which shows the princes survived... and one of them may have lived out his days in rural Devon. He obviously heard about the legendary Coldridge Café!

**THE MISSING PRINCES PROJECT**  
Spearheaded by Philippa Langley MBE (who found King Richard III in a Leicester car park), the project has captured worldwide interest and Coldridge is featured in a recent book by Philippa. The project was also the subject of a Channel Four documentary in 2023.


FANTASTICAL? Or could there be something in it? Find out on one of the monthly guided tours of St Matthew's Church, Coldridge where you can find all the clues in the church and see one of only two original stained glass portraits of Edward V, one of the 'missing Princes', which survive today.

**Tour Schedule 2026**

26 <sup>th</sup> March	23rd July	22 <sup>nd</sup> October
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	27th August	26 <sup>th</sup> November
28 <sup>th</sup> May	24th September	TOURS START 11AM

**To book your visit or request more details email:**  
[tours@stmatthewscoldridge.church](mailto:tours@stmatthewscoldridge.church)

Individuals and groups welcome. You will receive a slide presentation as well as a tour of the church. A small donation is requested towards church funds. Lunches and refreshments are available at the renowned Coldridge Café in the adjacent village hall.



Coldridge Village Hall

## THE COLDRIDGE CRIB CLUB

**NEXT MEET**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm**  
All are welcome

Can't play want to play. If you would like to learn, come along, beginners are welcome, instruction is on hand.

Attendees to pay £1 to cover the hall hire costs. The bar will be open.

For further details contact Andy.  
[andrewfitch@coldridgevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:andrewfitch@coldridgevillagehall.org.uk)  
07990565973

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**Coldridge Fete & Vintage Rally**  
**Flower Festival & Dog Show**

**11am**  
**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

[middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge](http://middevonparish.co.uk/coldridge)

A decorative banner with colorful triangular flags (yellow, red, white) hangs across the top. Below the flags is a small illustration of a village scene with a church spire and a house on a green hill.

*(In aid of Coldridge Village Hall & St Matthew's Church Fabric Fund)*