

Holy Cross: Churches Together in Topsham

1. The 'Churches Together in Topsham' group includes representatives from Holy Cross, St Margaret's (Anglican) and St Nicholas' (Methodist) churches. Its purpose is to organise and encourage ecumenical activities in Topsham and provide opportunities for the different church communities to get to know each other.
2. There are normally two Holy Cross representatives (currently Frances Nieduszynska and Diana Smithson). The priest responsible for Holy Cross is also invited to attend meetings of the group. The group is currently chaired by David Batty from St Nicholas.
3. The group normally meets once a year, usually in October, to plan joint activities for the forthcoming year. The regular events are:
 - a. January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is hosted by a different church each year. On weekdays during the WPCU there are daily morning prayer meetings and a joint service on the Sunday afternoon.
 - b. Lent lunches: there are six bread and cheeses lunches provided on Fridays during Lent, two by each church, which offer fellowship and raise money for each church's chosen charity.
 - c. Lent courses: these are sometimes organised by one or other church and usually made available to all.
 - d. March: World Day of Prayer (previously World Women's Day of Prayer). There are services in Exeter or Exmouth but no longer in Topsham.
 - e. Good Friday Walk of Witness: a walk with Gospel readings, hymns and prayers, starting at Holy Cross and finishing with hot cross buns and coffee at either St Margaret's or St Nicholas' church.
 - f. July: St Margaret's patronal flower festival. Holy Cross contributes a flower arrangement.
 - g. November: Remembrance Sunday. St Margaret's and St Nicholas' hold a joint service at 9.30 a.m., followed by an act of remembrance at the Topsham War Memorial outside St Margaret's at 10.50 a.m. A priest or lay person representing Holy Cross is one of the leaders of the act of remembrance.
 - h. December: St Nicholas' Christmas Tree festival. Holy Cross contributes a decorated tree.
 - i. Christmas carol singing: Saturday before Christmas outside St Nicholas' church, followed by mince pies and coffee.

March 2025