



The First Netherexe Jamboree Saturday 9th August 2025



The sun shone, the tractors gathered, and the people came.

And they came. And they came.

What a wonderful, extraordinary, amazing day it was. The vision, the planning, the hard work, all coming together to deliver the (almost) perfect event. Smiles and laughter, chatter and cheer filled the field. As I looked around the site, all I could see was hundreds of people just so relaxed and at ease, enjoying some great food and drink – the local burgers, beers and ciders, the wonderful cakes and ploughman's; joining in some traditional country fair 'fare' as it were – welly wanging and skittles, the dog show and children's activities, riding the railway - and all just taking a moment to enjoy being part of a great occasion.

The day was a celebration of the amazing incredible and essential work done by the farmers and farm workers across our area. And at the centre of it all were fifty incredible machines, celebrating over 100 years of the vehicles that shape our land. As people walked down the immaculate line of machinery, they began to appreciate what was once a relatively simple, small engine has become a complex, technological marvel. But still, at heart, the ubiquitous workhorse of the farms and fields all around this beautiful part of Mid Devon.

But this Jamboree was more than just a great collection of tractors! We were also able to showcase the wonderful variety of rural and traditional skills and talents related to this way of life – and all found within our seven parishes! An array of artists and artisans – of fly-fishing and blacksmithing; of cheese production and honey production; of lino cutting and cushion making. A real plethora of skills were on display.

I know, though, that farming isn't all about the wonders and joys of our glorious countryside. It is hard, demanding and at times incredibly lonely. So, much of the focus of the day was on highlighting **FCN – Farming Community Network**, who provide essential support, advice and guidance to the whole farming community, particularly in times of deep struggle. And as a mission community we were pleased to offer our support to **FCN** – and the people who came did too, being very generous with their donations.

An event like this, though, doesn't just happen, it takes a lot of willing volunteers, time and determination. I can come up with an idea – but then others are needed to make it happen. My very grateful thanks go to the wonderful people of the Netherexe Parishes, but in particular to Helen, Ross, Jilly, Claire, Dave, Ed and Doug. Without them, this wonderful day enjoyed by so many would not have been possible.

All blessings

Tim

Revd Tim Collins

Rector

Netherexe Mission Community: the parishes of Brampford Speke, Cadbury, Newton St Cyres, Rewe with Netherexe, Stoke Canon with Huxham, Thorverton, and Upton Pyne

