



# TODAY

The Parish  
Magazine  
for the  
Exe Valley  
Mission  
Community

February / March, 2011

Price 25p

## A NEW START?

This time of year is often one in which people try to make a new start in some area of their lives. Perhaps they try to exercise more or to eat less, to go to the gym more often or to go to the pub less often, to give up a bad habit or to take up a good habit.

We all know how hard it can be to stick to these kind of resolutions. The stress of returning to work combined with the gloom of dark Winter days soon tests our resolve to breaking point. Are you still keeping your New Year's resolutions, now that we are a few weeks into the year?

Some people don't bother trying to make a new start. They recognise that they don't have it within themselves to change themselves. And yet most of us are still strangely drawn to the idea of a new start in life. We like the idea of putting the past behind us and pressing on towards some new vision or goal. We may even hope to become a different person – a new and improved version of ourselves.

The Christian faith offers to do exactly this for us. The Apostle Paul wrote these words: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5v17). By turning to Jesus Christ and putting our trust in him, we experience the ultimate new start: the past is gone and we are made new.

Paul goes on to emphasise that this is not something that we can ever achieve by our own efforts. He says, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5v18). The gospel of Jesus Christ does not simply provide a new list of rules or a new set of resolutions – it offers a restored relationship with the God who made us. And this new relationship transforms us from the inside out.

Those who are cynical about our ability to change ourselves are probably wise. Experience teaches that we can't simply re-invent ourselves. But we can all be made new, if we stop relying on ourselves and start trusting in the Saviour who was born as one of us in humility, who died for all of us in agony, but who now reigns over each of us in glory. Jesus Christ alone has the power to make us new.

*Steve*

???

### Difficult Questions?

On Wednesday evenings in February at Stoodleigh, we will have the chance to consider some of the difficult questions that the Christian faith raises. Why does God allow suffering? Has science disproved the Bible? Do all religions lead to God? Is God against sex? Look out for the fliers for more information.

### THE BEST LAID PLANS

There is no doubt that the weather provides us with a talking point without which the conversation would, at times, be severely lacking! And yet, we never seem to be satisfied. Any other year we would have been "dreaming of a white Christmas", then when we get one, the dream quickly becomes a nightmare (or should that be 'whitemare'?).

Planned service in our churches, and other events, became subject to cancellation or rearrangement, as much from the safety point of view as the difficulty of getting about. Our churchwardens suddenly found themselves faced with difficult

**Copy Deadline for the April / May issue - Monday 7th March**

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decisions; none wanted any of their congregation to injure themselves while trying to get to or from a church event.

Then, of course, there were many whose personal and family plans for the festive season had to be abandoned, due to the conditions or to the bugs which descended with a vengeance.

And, as we contended with the coldest December on record, the talk is still about global warming!

But it's all relative. The snow may have been an inconvenience, but our situation has been nothing compared to that faced by so many people in Queensland; it's hard to comprehend an area the combined size of France and Germany submerged by the flood water, and all that it carries.

Maybe our maker is trying to tell his world something. Maybe, on a smaller scale, is there something he is trying to tell us here in the Exe Valley?

Man proposes, God disposes.

*Paul Iliff*

**FISH CLUB REPORT**

**A**t the beginning of December we held our first open afternoon and Christingle Service. Despite the weather conditions we were pleased that so many people were able to make it. We were pleased to welcome Reverend Steve Goodbody and his

wife Sarah to share this afternoon with us. Adults and children enjoyed making their Christingles together ready for the service, and enjoyed card making with Alison, and making Christmas Holly Wreaths. The children put on a puppet Nativity play which was very much enjoyed. The children did really well, especially as two of the families were snowed in and were unable to make it. Anna ably stepped in to play the part of the Angel Gabriel. At the end of the service, £12.00 was collected for the Children's Society.

The children enjoyed a Christmas party on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, playing party games, and all sitting down for a delicious tea which included the favourite jelly and ice cream. Thank you to Shirley, Myrtle and Anna for putting the tea together.

If you have children who would like to join us at Fish club to play games, take part in crafts, singing and learning about what the Bible tells us, please contact Cindy Trick on 01363 866621. We are always happy to welcome new children.

This year's holiday club will be held at Calverleigh, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of August, a little later than usual as some of the schools are later breaking up for Summer. If anyone is interested in helping this year, please contact Cindy.

Fish Club and Toddler group are having a coffee morning on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of February at Calverleigh Village Hall, please see advert for details.



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## DEANERY VISIT TO EXETER CATHEDRAL

26th February, 2011  
1.45pm - 4.30pm

The Rural Dean and I hope that the forthcoming Deanery visit to Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 26th February will be well supported by church members and their friends. The programme is:

- 1.45 pm Assemble outside the west front of the Cathedral (If wet, just inside the entrance door)
- 2.00 pm Tour of the Cathedral
- 3.00 pm Choral Evensong
- 4.00 pm Tea in the Chapter House

We are asking each church community to provide a signing up list in church from 23rd January, and to let the Lay Chair, Dr. Fern Clarke (email: fernclarke4@hotmail.com) the numbers of people who wish to come by Monday 14th February. We need to let the Cathedral Chapter know as soon as possible after Monday 14th February how many are coming so that they can provide the right number of guides and teas.

We are also asking each church to make arrangements for transport. The nearest car park is the Cathedral-Quay car park.

*Fern Clarke*  
(Lay Chair, Tiverton Deanery)

## ANN'S NATURE NOTES

By now the snowdrops should be showing their heads above the soil, so spring must be on the way.

The Yellow Aconites are out, the first to show their colours in the New Year. I would suggest that a trip to Snowdrop Valley near Wheddon Cross is well worth while. It is a lovely walk, or there is a bus that drives down for those not wanting to walk.

The birds by now are getting into gear, singing to attract a mate or to

proclaim to others where their territory is. It is said that pairing starts on St Valentine's Day, but my local Blue Tits started to sing in January. The winter Thrushes are still around. There were a great many Redwings and Fieldfares this year, which gorged themselves on the windfalls before the snow covered them. Luckily it was a good year for berries so that when the apples disappeared under the white stuff, there were still red berries in the hedgerows. All Thrushes would appreciate cut up apple cores and skins into the spring, so put some out on unbreakable dishes. Another thing to do at this time of the year is to take

### Exe Valley Fish Club & Toddler Group joint

### Coffee Morning

on

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011

10.30- 12.30

at Calverleigh Village Hall

Please do join us for refreshments, raffle, cakes and produce stall, toys, books, new and good second hand items.

If you have any items you would like to donate they can be handed in at Fish Club or Toddler group on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Contact Cindy Trick on 01363 866621  
or Liz Heywood on 01884 881583



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a tour on the Stuart Line Cruise from Exmouth up the river Exe, and along the shore. There is always so much to see, and it is a good time to get in before the waders return to their breeding grounds. If you go on one of their special bird trips, the guide is very instructive and interesting.

Ann

## CARBON MANAGEMENT

(by Alastair Mumford)

First you need to understand your carbon footprint. Then you need a plan to get that footprint smaller whilst reflecting the limited time and money you have. Then you start the plan. This, in very simple terms, is carbon management.

Carbon management means managing greenhouse gases (GHG) produced by your business through doing what it does. The main GHGs are carbon, methane and nitrous oxide. Whether it's using electricity or sending your waste to landfill, GHGs are tied into nearly everything you do. By managing them you can understand them and then reduce levels. Not only is this good for the environment but it's increasingly becoming good for your wallet through increased carbon taxes and the rising cost of energy.

Organisations need to calculate their GHG emissions using a robust methodology and often finding data can be tricky. Although we know how much carbon is produced for every unit of electricity we may not know the figure for producing a book of prayers. Both play a part in a church's overall GHG emissions. However, it is important not to get bogged down in detail when sometimes an estimate is good enough. This is where experience comes in and developing a good argument so stakeholders can see and agree with your rationale.

Additionally, although you may know the level of GHG emissions per mile driven by a petrol car you may not know the total mileage of your organisation. This knowledge gap needs to be overcome and a monitoring procedure put in place.

Calculating the carbon footprint is easy compared to making it smaller, and you need to develop a strategy in line with your ambitions but reflecting the limited time and money available. By understanding which parts of your organisation are the most carbon intensive and which are the easiest to decarbonise, activities can be prioritised and milestones set to reach your goal.

For more information on carbon management and how it can benefit your organisation please contact Alastair Mumford at Global Action Plan, on 07852 913703 or [Alastair.mumford@globalactionplan.org.uk](mailto:Alastair.mumford@globalactionplan.org.uk). [www.globalactionplan.org.uk](http://www.globalactionplan.org.uk)

## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Calverleigh

A very Happy and healthy New Year to you all. Hope everyone managed to keep warm and well in the recent very cold weather. We in Calverleigh are blessed with some good young people who were willing to do shopping, etc., for the more mature in the community, so they would not have to venture out in the ice and snow. Thank you; it was really appreciated.

We must apologise to Betty Slade, she was actually 90 years old back in October, not 80 as was stated in the last magazine. I suppose we do not

think of you as being that extra 10 years older, Betty.

We held our Autumn Fayre back in November, and, once again, it was a great success. There were many varied stalls and competitions, and the kitchen was kept very busy producing hot and cold food and drinks. It was good to see so many people there, and, at the end of the day, the grand total of £1,036.20p was raised. Well done to everyone who manned the stalls, all who donated prizes, money and items for sale. A big thank you to all who came and supported us so generously.

Our Christingle service was held on the 5th December, which was led by Nicky Goldsworthy. A good number attended, but the weather was not good for travelling.

Katy Orford played the lead role in Tiverton High School's performance of West Side Story. It was a wonderful show, with many talented performers taking part. Tony and Lisa must be very proud of their daughter. Nick Lineham was greatly involved in putting the show together; what a lot of hard work but it was well worth it. Congratulations to all the cast and backstage crew.

This year, Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol singers could not do their usual rounds because of the dreadful weather. We did miss you, perhaps next time it will be ice and snow-free.

Our Carol service was held on the 19th December. The weather was still very tricky, with deep snow, and icy roads, but 80 people managed to get to church. It was a wonderful service, led by Steve. We had the pleasure of welcoming a group from Loxbeare Church as their evening service was cancelled due to weather conditions. During the service our new Altar Cloth was dedicated by Steve, in

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

memory of our dear friend Carole Hayes. Jackie gave a short talk, explaining that Keith and family had given the church a donation from Carole's funeral, and entertainment evening that had been organised in memory of Carole. It was good that Keith and the family could be with us on this memorable occasion. This year our Carol service started as usual with the Grand Carol, "Once in Royal David's City", and our soloist for the first verse was Katy Orford. What a wonderful voice she has. Thank you Katy, Steve, the Choir and all the readers. Tea and mince pies were served after the service, before we all made our slippery way home.

Christmas day dawned with fields, hedges and most roads still covered with snow. Our 9.30am communion service was attended by 25 people, which was very good as travelling was still quite a problem. The service was led by Ben Luck. It was good to have Ben and Kathy with us on a Christmas morning. About 17 people gathered at Derek and Mary's after the service for mulled wine and snacks, and it was a very happy gathering. The service and this gathering of friends made a very good start to a wonderful Christmas Day.

This winter has brought a lot of sadness to many of us, losing friends and family. We send our love and sympathy to the family on the loss of John White. John will be remembered as the past Landlord of The Rose and Crown, a very popular and well liked man.

Another great sadness was the news that Annette, widow of the late Tony Goldsworthy, had died on Christmas Eve. Our love and sympathy go to the family.

We were all so sad when we heard of the passing of Ron Rowe on January 6<sup>th</sup>; he had been ill for some time. Our love and sympathy go to Pat and all the family. Ron was born in Calverleigh, and lived here all his life. He will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends.

Get well soon to all who are poorly at this time. We hope that Patrick Amory will soon recover from the injury to his hand.

## **Cruwys Morchard**

The Christmas Craft Fayre held in November was a great success with a good selection of stalls and items made by local crafts people. The hall was packed, and everyone was able to buy some gifts for Christmas. Many thanks to those who provided delicious homemade soup, which went down well at lunchtime. Also a big thank you to all those who helped, in particular Liz for the bunting, which decorated the hall and who also helped to organize the event along with Anne and Teresa. Also a big thank you to everyone who came on the Friday to set-up and gave their time on the day.

December saw some heavy snowfalls. A special thank you to Dave Vincent for clearing the snow from the path and the church roof. A big thank you to all who help with the upkeep of the church and churchyard throughout the year.

It was good to see so many people brave the weather to get to the Christingle and the Carol Service. It was also lovely to see so many families at church. Thank you to all who decorated the church and provided food for the refreshments, Mr Strachan for supplying oranges and Val and Marilyn for providing the refreshments. The hot coffee was very much appreciated on such a cold day. Thank you to John Harris for playing the organ and also to the team who rang the bells for the service.

As you may have heard, Nellie has decided to take a break from playing the church organ. We thank her for all the years that she has played at our services and for leading the choir so successfully. With much appreciation, John Harris and Gill Timmins have kindly stepped in to play the organ for us at church. Many thanks to Louisa Carter who played for us at our 10pm service on Christmas Eve.

We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to all who have been unwell or have had a stay in hospital recently. We welcomed into church for baptism on Sunday 9th January, Susan Thompson, daughter of Robert and Dawn of Way Village. We send our



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

prayers and condolences to the family and friends of John Handley of Way Village who passed away on November 25th.

Please feel free to give a call or send an e-mail, if you have any news that you would like included in the newsletter. Please contact Teresa Grant on 01363 860124 or email [Tesstranscripts@aol.com](mailto:Tesstranscripts@aol.com)

### Forthcoming Events

Ladies Committee Tuesday 15th February at 7.30 at Hilary Tosdevins, Rockfield, Pennymoor

PCC meeting on Tuesday 22nd February at 7.30 at Wringsland House  
Annual Church Meeting - Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm at the Church, all are welcome to attend. If anyone would like to join the Church Electoral Roll, please ask Cindy for a form or more information.

### Parish Hall events:

Fri 28th January. Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall presents 'The Men of Morchard' - An evening of Music Mirth & Magic, (different program to last year). Admission by Ticket only, £8.50 to include supper of Soup and rolls and fantastic desserts. BAR & hot drinks, draw. To reserve your ticket please ring Mary on 01363 83030 or CONTACT US on the parish Website

[www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk](http://www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk)  
For new hall funds.

Sat 29th January YFC charity Bingo at the parish hall 7.30 for 8pm

Sat 26th February. YFC charity Bingo at the parish hall 7.30 for 8pm

Sat 26th March. PINK BINGO at the parish hall for Breast Cancer Care & hall funds. Hot drinks from 6.30pm  
Eyes down at 8pm. PRIZES FOR THE 'PINKEST' PEOPLE! (Fancy dress).  
CLUB DRAW

For information on any of these events: Telephone Mary on 01363

83030 or e-mail to [cmparishhallmary@btinternet.com](mailto:cmparishhallmary@btinternet.com) or contact at [www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk](http://www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk)

### Flower and Cleaning Rota

February 14th and 21st -

Sue and Pauline Guscott

February 28th and March 7th -

Denyse Standen

March 14th and 21st - Lorna Warren

and Margaret Southwood

(Lent - No Flowers)

March 28th - April 4th -

Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

### Stove Rota

February - David Edmonds

March - Jim Lake

Please light the fire on Saturday morning if possible, any problems contact Cindy Tel. 01363 866621

## Loxbear

The frost and snow in December, although beautiful to look at and fun for the children (and not so young!) to play in, caused much disruption to work, Christmas plans and activities. We trust all who had mishaps are now fully recovered.

Our Christingle service was postponed for a week. It was taken by John, and held in the village hall after a shared breakfast. It was lovely to see so many there, including young families. Thank you to all who helped in any way, and for those who made the Christingles which the children helped distribute, and were then lit for the singing of the last hymn.

The carol service, which should have been on the evening of the 19th, was cancelled, as were the three nights of carol singing around the parishes of

Loxbear and Calverleigh. This is the first time this has happened since it was started some seventy years ago. The singers are sorry that the snow and icy roads prevented them from singing around the two parishes safely. Thank you, anyway, to those who would have provided suppers on the three nights.

Our Christmas Day service, taken by Ron, was quite well attended under the circumstances, and everyone enjoyed singing the carols chosen by the congregation. Thank you to Andrew Hibbert for clearing the church path. Also many thanks to all who have helped in any way, supported and contributed to the smooth running of the Church during the past year.

On the 23rd January we will, hopefully, have had a Songs of Praise Service at 11.00am, preceded by tea/coffee and cake, with hymns and songs chosen by the congregation.

Carol would like to thank everyone who gave filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child.

We trust John Wison is well on the way to recovery after a knee operation. We send our love and prayers to all who are unwell, to Richard Heywood who at the time of writing is in hospital, and to those who mourn the loss of loved ones and to those struggling with the winter months.

In November some of the parishioners, and Steve, bravely walked half of the Loxbear parish boundary. They started at the Church, up to Gibbett and then back to John and Marion's for lunch. It was not an easy walk across sodden fields and climbing banks. Some got stuck in the mud needing a helping hand! They hope to complete the rest of the boundary in the near future (see photo on page 10).

Jenny Pack wishes to thank all who

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## NEW CREATION NEWS – FEBRUARY, 2011

Last month we looked back over 2010, so this month we will look forward to 2011. The most important request for the wellbeing of New Creation is to ask you to continue to pray that we fulfil God's will for the shop.

Please, please keep using us as much as you can for all your Christian needs. As Tiverton's Christian Communities look to new ways of sharing God's word may we remind you we can access all available Christian material. Although we realise the internet is very valuable for information, please try us first when ordering rather than just clicking on that site. The more information you can provide is very welcome. You can e-mail your order or phone us to save you a journey, even delivery can be arranged.

Please always remember the Ministry of New Creation, not just the retail side. The cafe is an ideal place to meet people to chat and share; and is a haven for those in need of a meal who come from CHAT or the street. We are here to meet and greet all whom God sends our way; they may need a kind word, a smile, or just to feel someone cares. Our Prayer Book downstairs, available to everyone, to ask for prayer in difficult times, or indeed Praise when they know God to be in control; the upstairs room, not only provides Second-hand Books, allowing God's word to reach those on the smallest budget, but is used as a Prayer Room at certain times in the week; all are welcome (for more information please ask). We are a resource centre and our window provides a wayside pulpit.

Fairtrade Fortnight starts on 28<sup>th</sup> February and Traidcraft products are always available all year round at New Creation. NB: Fairtrade Easter Eggs will once again be on sale in March – more information next month.

The Jan/Feb edition of "The Christian Marketplace" is packed with information on books of all sorts, CD's and DVD's – this is a market we are looking to expand in the shop in 2011.

We look forward to serving you soon. God Bless.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

helped and donated towards the coffee morning she held in November, raising £250 for the Hospice Day Centre.

Also Carol would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Bingo, in spite of the weather, and to those who gave draw prizes and donations, raising £81.50 for Village Hall Funds.

Eda Gooding has moved from Highgate to live in Tiverton. We wish her well, and hope she will be very happy in her new home.

Last year some of you may remember Natalie Husk, the South West Area Co-ordinator for the Leprosy Mission, took one of our services, speaking very enthusiastically about their work. She has sent information regarding a sponsored walk. She is planning, during May and June this year, to walk 630 miles along the South West Coastal Path, from Minehead to Poole in Dorset. The aim is to raise money for the Leprosy Mission and also to raise awareness of their work. All money raised will go towards giving Leprosy affected people a future through the provision of prosthetic legs and footwear. Just £10 can give someone the gift of being able to walk again. If anyone would like to donate, sponsor, pray or even join Natalie for part of her walk, please contact Ron and Margaret on 01884 881362 for more details.

The Loxbeare Woman's Bible Study continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Highgate Cottage, and the fourth Tuesday at East Sidborough, at 2pm.

In December, Loxbeare Ladies, husbands and friends enjoyed their Christmas meal at The Quarrymans in Bampton. Thank you Sue for

Continued on Page 10 ⇒

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## MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Ash Wednesday**  
**9th March**  
**7.30pm**

## STOODLEIGH

## OAKFORD

### 6th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 13th February

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 20th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 27th February

9.30 am Family Service

### 6th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 13th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 20th March

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 27th March

9.30 am Family Service

## RACKENFORD

### 6th February

11.15 am Morning Prayer

### 13th February

11.15 am Holy Communion

### 20th February

11.15 am Family Service

### 27th February

Join with Loxbeare

### 6th March

11.15 am Morning Prayer

### 13th March

11.15 am Holy Communion

### 20th March

11.15 am Family Service

### 27th March

9.30 am Morning Prayer

## STOODLEIGH

### 6th February

11 am Morning Prayer

### 13th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 20th February

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

### 27th February

11 am Holy Communion

### 6th March

11 am Morning Prayer

### 13th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 20th March

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

### 27th March

11 am Holy Communion



## CALVERLEIGH

### 6th February

11.15 am Morning Worship

### 13th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 20th February

11.15 am Family Service

### 27th February

3 pm Evening Prayer

### 6th March

11.15 am Morning Worship

### 13th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 20th March

11.15 am Family Service

### 27th March

3 pm Taize Service

## CRUWYS MORCHARD

### 6th February

11 am Morning Prayer

### 13th February

11 am Family Service

### 20th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 27th February

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

### 6th March

11 am Morning Prayer

### 13th March

11 am Family Service

### 20th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 27th March

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

## LOXBEARE

### 6th February

9.30 am Family Communion

### 13th February

11 am Family Service

### 20th February

6.30 pm Evening Praise

### 27th February

11 am Family Service

### 6th March

9.30 am Family Communion

### 13th March

11 am Family Service

### 20th March

6.30 pm Evening Praise

### 27th March

11 am Family Service

## TEMPLETON

### 6th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 13th February

No service

### 20th February

11 am Toddler Service

### 27th February

11 am Morning Prayer

### 6th March

9.30 am Holy Communion  
by extension

### 13th March

No service

### 20th March

11 am Family Service

### 27th March

11 am Morning Prayer

## WASHFIELD

### 6th February

3 pm Evening Prayer

### 13th February

11 am Morning Prayer

### 20th February

11 am Family Service

### 27th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 6th March

3 pm Evening Prayer

### 13th March

11 am Morning Prayer

### 20th March

11 am Family Service

### 27th March

9.30 am Holy Communion  
by extension

## WITHLEIGH

### 6th February

11 am Family Service

### 13th February

9.30 am Morning Worship

### 20th February

11 am Holy Communion

### 27th February

7 pm Songs of Praise

### 6th March

11 am Family Service

### 13th March

9.30 am Morning Worship

### 20th March

11 am Holy Communion

### 27th March

9.30 am Morning Worship

# PARISH ROUND-UP



We hope Joyce McManus will be happy as she makes a new life with her family, but we were sorry to see her go. Joyce had been on the P.C.C. and Churchwarden for many years, one of the many things in which she had been involved, as well as running the village shop. We wish her well.

### Village Events

The Moorland Club had a very successful Christmas fayre, and was able to give £600 to Help for Heroes, the cheque being presented at the January meeting, and £600 to Shelterbox, the latter cheque will be presented at the March meeting.

### Dates for your Diary

#### Moorland Club

February 10<sup>th</sup> John Burgess from the B.B.C

March 10<sup>th</sup> Moorland Club Ladies entertain Shillingford Ladies.

February 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30p.m. C. H. S. W: Beetle Drive at the village hall Light refreshments provided. Bring your own drinks.

March 26<sup>th</sup> Village Hall Ctte: 'An Italian Job' Murder Mystery Tickets £10 – includes supper. Licensed Bar. Contact 351525 for details.

arranging the evening. At the time of writing, dates and venues for 2011 are yet to be decided.

Future dates - on the 5th March there will be a men's breakfast at John and Marion's. More details to follow.

A reminder that April 3rd will be Mothering Sunday.

Please sign up in the Church if you would like to go on the Deanery visit to Exeter Cathedral on 26th February 1.45pm-4.30pm.

church. This was followed by the switching-on of the lights on the village tree outside the old shop. Favourite carols were sung, and everyone welcomed the mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine which followed, and allayed the cold.

the church looked lovely for the Carol service, with all the windows and furniture beautifully decorated, and all the pews lit with candles. Everyone stayed for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. Many thanks to all those who helped to decorate, provide mince pies and mulled wine etc., and all the young people who read the lessons; without your support these events would not be possible. Fifty-four people braved the elements but unfortunately the rector was not able to get there. We were able to send £108, collected at the Carol service, to the Children's Society. The Christmas morning service with carols and readings was also well supported in spite of the bitter cold.

## Oakford

Although Christmas seems a long time ago now, we must mention how well the Carol service and the Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services went. In spite of the snow and ice, many people made a wonderful effort to celebrate Christ's birth. The festive season started off with 14 children, not forgetting 9 adults, helping to dress the tree in the

## Rackenford

Happy New Year everyone, we hope you enjoyed your Christmas. November seems a long while ago now, but many thanks to all who helped to organize the bonfire and



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

firework display which was enjoyed by many.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Penny Coleman and family on the sudden death of Duke. He will be remembered by many while living in Rackenford. We wish you all the very best for the future, Penny, in your new home in Witheridge.

Our Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial at 10:50am on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Weston laid the wreath, and two minutes silence was held. Many thanks to Derek Herniman for his kind and moving thoughts as we all remembered, at this sad and difficult time, both past and present. Thanks to Cyril Blackford for providing the music. It was a good gathering of people, and lovely to see the children. The £200 collection was given to the Royal British Legion.

We continue to remember Ken Blackford, Percy Stone and Bill Clark in our prayers, along with Dave Blackford, Mr Highman and Mrs Defew who have all spent time in hospital. We hope you are progressing well. Our very best wishes to Mr & Mrs Sanders, Mr & Mrs Seely and Mr & Mrs Little who have moved. We wish you every happiness in your new homes. We send a warm welcome to all the families that have moved in and near Rackenford.

Congratulations to 14 year old Connie Isaac on passing the ABRSM Grade Seven piano exam, passing with merit. This is a great achievement for such a young person. Nell Baillie also

passed her Grade Three theory of music with merit. Well done girls.

We were shocked and saddened about the sudden and untimely death of John Blackford on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was only a few months prior that John was our auctioneer at the Harvest Supper. We send our love and deepest sympathy to Ann, Tom, Joe and Olive and family at this sad and difficult time. John's funeral took place at our church on December 18<sup>th</sup> in the midst of the severe snow we were experiencing. John's family would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who made it possible for John's funeral to take place. Despite the weather, there was, amazingly, standing room only, as family and friends gathered to pay their respects and support the family. John was laid to rest close to his dad, George. Donations of £970, to date, will be divided between Rackenford Churchyard Fund and Devon Air Ambulance.

Rackenford Primary School children performed 'The Late Wiseman' at 2pm and 7pm at our church on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The children did so well, and we enjoyed every minute. They worked so hard and battled through the numerous bugs going around that kept many from taking part. The singing and acting was a delight to see; well done everyone.

Our Carol Service took place on Christmas Eve and it was good to see families and friends gathering to celebrate together. Once again, many

thanks to all who helped clearing paths etc.

Many congratulations to Bella Scott (daughter of Mr & Mrs David Scott) and William Barrie from Barnes, London, on their engagement. We wish you every happiness.

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church ready for our Christmas celebrations; it looked beautiful. Also thanks to Tim Paxton for the tree, and to all who decorated it. Thanks to all the ladies on the flower rota for all their beautiful flowers throughout the year, and to Glenn Hookins for keeping our clock ticking. Also to Jenny Sleep for keeping our church so clean and polished.

We hope anyone who has experienced any of the horrid bugs, or have been poorly, are now on the mend and will enjoy better health.

God Bless.

## Stoodleigh

With nearly a foot of snow on the ground, the run-up to Christmas was how we imagine it to have been long ago – and it was wonderful (if highly inconvenient).

We had not considered the possibility of snow and ice in such abundance when we advertised the dates for the Christmas Fayre and for the Carol Service in the last issue of *Today*. Both events had to be postponed and



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

much re-arranging and notifying took place.

But despite all, these two happenings were incredibly well supported.

Having to postpone the Christmas Fayre from a Friday evening to a Saturday morning proved providential, as we had greater numbers including, noticeably, more children. We also broke into four figures for the first time, raising £1,112 for church maintenance – a very pleasing result. The 'Mostly made in Stoodleigh' theme helped to ensure a very high standard of village products, ranging from Christmas wreaths to preserves, all of which demonstrated the high calibre of local talent.

A big thank you to all who came, both to bring and to buy, and special thanks to Peter Broadbent for his skilful masterminding of this event.

The church, once again, was beautifully decorated for Christmas and our thanks go to those who managed to reach the church to do this.

And again, thank you to all who came to the Carol Service to contribute or join in. The service presented a lively, balanced celebration of Christmas, with music, choir and congregation singing, readings, poetry and play.

Despite icy paths and roads, the Christmas Day Holy Communion Service was fairly well attended and we were grateful that the Rev'd

Steve Goodbody was able to reach us from snow-bound Withleigh.

We send our love and prayers to Enid Hamadullah who is recovering from a spell in hospital, and to Pam Barnes who is currently in Crediton Hospital.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in the church at 2.30pm on Wednesday 16th March. Any parishioner is welcome to attend.

### Church bells

*A brief note from Jennifer Rowlandson:*

Time has flown since September when the bells and frame were removed and now, by the time this is printed, all should be back in place, which is really exciting. My thanks to all those tough labourers who have helped the bell-hangers, and also all those who have delved deep into their pockets to ensure the completion of the project. In May, Hugh Harrison and Madeleine Katkov will be working on the 15th century roof bosses and foliate wall-plates, and, by the time the Bishop of Crediton comes to rededicate the bells on 26th June, the church will be looking fantastic, especially with the new lighting put in last year.

Anyone interested in purchasing wood from the old bell-frame should contact Jennifer (01398 351402) as there is still some left. We hope to set up a regular ringing night every week or fortnight, probably on a Thursday, so if you would like to learn to ring, contact either Gerald Palfrey or Jennifer.

### Parish Hall

We were disappointed that we had to cancel the Christmas Bingo due to the severe wintry weather. However, thanks to Lizzie at the Club, we were able to hold the Grand Draw on 21st December in a friendly, warm atmosphere with many villagers present. Congratulations to all those who won Christmas poultry, spirits, wine and chocolates, etc. Over £250 was raised, so a big thank you to all those who supported the Draw.

Date for your diary - Easter Market and Coffee Morning on Saturday 23rd April from 10am. If you would like more details or want to book a table, see contact details below.

For hiring or other information about the Hall, contact Geraldine on 01398 351391.

### Line Dancing

There is line dancing in Stoodleigh Parish Hall every Thursday morning at 11am. New members would be very welcome from all the parishes in the Exe Valley.

### Mobile Library

The Mobile Library comes to Vialls Corner, Stoodleigh, on a Friday every fortnight from 11am to 11.20am. The first date in February is Friday 4th – do use it, or we will lose it!

### Stoodleigh 100 Club

Prizewinners: November – 1 Di Brice, 2 Margaret Cuninghame, 3 Julian Cuninghame; December – 1 Dorothy Ayre, 2 David Wotton senior, 3 Peter

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Browne; extra prizes – Peter Broadbent, Jack Webber, Phil Bird.

has a special birthday in January, so we send her our congratulations too.

### Templeton

In spite of the snow we held our Carol Service on Christmas Eve, with a full church and a real sense of community. A wonderful start to Christmas.

We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Beer died on 10th November, aged 82. She had lived at Dry Close for a very long time, and cleaned the church for many years. She will be sadly missed.

We were also sad to hear that Brenda Hill passed away on 7th December after an illness bravely fought until the end. Brenda had lived at Partridge Lodge for the last 30 years. Our thoughts are with Martin and the family at this difficult time. She will be missed by all her family, friends and neighbours.

The Toddler Service was cancelled due to the snow. The next one will be in February, see church service details for date.

By the time you read this, Ted and Gracie Layton will have moved to Abbotsham in North Devon. They had lived at Linneridge Moor Farm for more than 30 years. We would like to thank them for all their many contributions to parish and church life over the years, and to wish them every happiness in their new home. Ted and Grace would like to thank their friends for the lovely surprise going away party that was arranged for them, and for their beautiful gift. They appreciated all the hard work, and cannot thank you all enough. Of course they will keep in touch with the people of Templeton.

Fund raising for the church building repairs continues to go well. The first draw for the Church 100 Club has been made, and the January winner was Sylvia Beer. We had a very good response to the 100 club, with 110 people taking part, which meant £1,320.00 was raised. £720 will go to the church fund appeal and the remaining £600.00 will be divided into a £50.00 monthly draw. The draw will take place on the first Monday in the month at the social club. Many thanks to all who helped raise this money.

#### Flower and Cleaning Rota

Ginah Palmer 13th - 20th February  
 Audrey Mcinerny 27th February -  
 6th March  
 (Lent - no flowers)  
 Francis Saunders 13th - 20th March  
 Monica Salisbury 27th March -  
 3rd April

The next fund raising event will be the Village Quiz Night, to be held at the hall in February (details later) - all the usual fun teams of four, a variety of questions, prizes for the winning teams, and refreshments. Perhaps other church or village communities in the Exe Valley may like to enter a team? They would be very welcome.

We send our good wishes to Monica Salisbury who had a stroke in November. She is making a good recovery, and is staying with her daughter, Sue, in Exeter. Monica also

### Washfield

*Remember: Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm!*

As with every other village in The Exe Valley, many of our church and social plans had to be abandoned or put on hold because of the December snow. The Christingle service was cancelled as parishioners could not get out, and likewise others could not get to the village. Thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to clear the church paths so that our Christmas Eve service of Carols and Lessons did go ahead. Despite the atrocious conditions outside, the full congregation was treated to a church brightly lit by the tree, and miraculously arranged with flowers. The service was taken by Frank, and then coffee and mince pies were served. A sincere thank you to everyone who pulled out all the stops and made this possible. The Christmas Day service was led by Rev. Steve Goodbody for the good-sized congregation.

The very reverent Remembrance Day service was taken by Frank, also to a good congregation.

It was with sorrow that we learnt of the sudden, but peaceful, death of Barbara Gill. Barbara was an Essex girl who came to Devon during the Blitz. She loved the country life and, after marrying Dennis, threw herself into helping on the farm. Barbara was a stalwart of the village and local community, recognising the importance of village life and understanding that a good community spirit helped keep the village thriving. As a member of the



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Memorial Hall committee she was a driving force behind the new extension, helped set up the Social Club, was the instigator and Chairman of the Garden Club as well as being a Chair of the Parish Council and President of the Women's Institute. Barbara loved her garden and was a very talented and accomplished painter, potter and woodworker, and had many other talents. Unfortunately, after losing Dennis, her health gradually deteriorated. Barbara was so proud of her family, Carolyn and Peter, Denise and grandchildren William, Abby, Jimmy and Erica and great grandson, Flynn. To them we send our love and sympathy. We, and Washfield, will miss Barbara so much. A full church was a great mark of respect to Barbara who was then laid to rest with Dennis.

We also send sympathy to Heather and John Elston, Katy and Robert, on the sad death of Heather's brother, Nigel who died in a motorbike accident. Our love and thoughts have been with you.

We wish a belated welcome to Jessica Lampard and little Elena, who have come to live in Ash Cottage. It is lovely seeing you out and about in the community.

The Christmas Coffee Morning, hosted by Jeanne and Garth Jones, was another re-arranged event, but was very successful when it did take place, realising £180 for Church funds. Thank you to Jeanne and Garth for all your hospitality, and to all those who supported the event.

Some very plucky Carol singers set out on an icy evening to sing around

the village and, to date, have raised £130 towards the new Tiverton Hospice. WELL DONE!!

During the year, 135 grocery items from the box in the church porch have been taken to CHAT. Thank you to Martin and all who contributed to this. We are pleased to report that the new Health and Safety approved handrail (and electric lighting to illuminate the way) has now been fitted in the church tower.

Congratulations to two happy couples who have become engaged. Becky Boundy and Ashley Partridge, and Dee Arnold and Braden Collins from Australia. Congratulations to you all.

The Women's Institute dinner and party was its usual success with 45 people sitting down to a three course hot meal. They were then wonderfully entertained by W.I. members.

We are praying for those with ongoing health problems and continuing treatments. You are in our thoughts. If you are one of the many who succumbed to the flu viruses recently, we send our get well wishes.

We have been asked to say thank you to everyone in the parish who put much time and effort into clearing our roads of snow and in gritting them when possible. Also to those who shopped for others and who gave them lifts to and fro in their four-wheel

drives. What a great community spirit shone through. Thank you.

### Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Lunch Club 12 for 12.30
- Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> Garden Club 8pm
- Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> The W.I. presents an open evening of music and comedy with Stogumber's singing group 'The Stoggy Men.' In the hall at 7pm. Tickets £3 (pay on the door) to include light refreshments. All welcome.
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Lunch Club 12 for 12.30



### Church Flower Rota

- February 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Mrs Robinson  
February 20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Mrs Moore  
March 6<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Balment  
March 13<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> LENT

### Church Cleaning Rota

- February 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>  
Mr and Mrs McCahon
- February 20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Mrs French  
March 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Mrs Arnold /  
Mrs Bicknell
- March 20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Mrs Harding /  
Mrs Jones
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Horsey

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Witleigh

**B**elated New Year wishes to everybody.

We ran a Tombola Stall at the Dickensian Fayre held in the grounds of St. Paul's Church, Tiverton, at the end of November. It was good to see some familiar faces from the Exe Valley, all trying to win a Christmas goody. Our thanks to all who so generously gave items for our stall, and those who manned the stall on the evening. £61.75 was raised towards our Redecoration Fund.

Our Autumn Fayre the following day, held in the Village Hall, was a successful and enjoyable event, raising £491.07. Our thanks to all who gave items for sale or for the draw, those who ran the stalls, the catering department, and to all those who came along to spend their money.

Christmas began here in Witleigh with our annual Children's Christmas Party. About 30 children with their parents and grandparents filled the hall for a fun filled afternoon. Their afternoon ended with tea and a visit from Father Christmas. Thank-you Sara for organising the afternoon, Sue for organising the games, and a special thank-you to Father Christmas for finding time in this, his busy time of the year to visit us in Witleigh.

The Christmas Social was not quite so well attended, but the few of us who did attend enjoyed the games, especially Ray's game where we needed steady hands to slice the Christmas pudding!

Our Christingle Service was well supported, raising £65.30 for the work of The Children's Society. Thank you to Mayla, Kata, Florence and Mabel for

taking part, and to those who provided and made the Christingles.

Owing to the snow and ice, it was decided to cancel our Christmas Praise Service on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. We know many people were disappointed, but the safety of our parishioners was paramount. Thank you to those who had agreed to read – please hold on to your “scripts” as we hope to use it this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to collect gifts for CHAT, but a few items were taken into their office at the beginning of the year.

Despite the continuing bad weather, the Christmas Eve Midnight Service went ahead, and our thanks to Steve for officiating. Two members of our congregation were not going to miss this service and arrived, not on a donkey, but by tractor! Thank you to everyone who braved the none too friendly weather conditions to attend. Our thanks also to Cathy and Mark for the gift of the Christmas tree, and to all who decorated our church so beautifully.

The Group Service on Boxing Day, held in St Catherine's, was well supported, and, once again, our thanks to Steve for taking it.

February 5<sup>th</sup> we are holding A Pasty and A Pint evening. A pint of locally produced Real Ale, Wine for those who would prefer wine, or soft drink, will be included in the price of the ticket, which will also include a cheese board as well as a pasty. The evening will begin at 7.30pm, please call Duncan 252949 or Brenda 252431 for tickets.

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February, we will be holding our first Songs of Praise service of the year. Starting at 7pm, this will, once again, be led by Laura, aided and abetted by David and June Muir.

Our PCC will be meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February, and our Annual Meeting (open to all) is to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, in the Village Hall.

Barracuda will be playing for our Spring Dance on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets will include supper, but can you please bring your own drinks. Please call Duncan or Brenda for more information.

We wish Eda Gooding every happiness in her new home in Tiverton, and we hope, Eda, you will be able to continue to visit us at Witleigh.

Several people in our community, or involved in it, were poorly over Christmas and the New Year and we do hope you are now feeling much better. Our thoughts and prayers are especially with those recovering from operations, and those facing long term treatment. We also remember in our prayers, and send our sympathy, to Steve Powles on the untimely death of his mother, and Gill and Mike Williams on the death of Gill's father, Stanley Harries, whose funeral service took place in church on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

#### Forthcoming events.

5<sup>th</sup> February, A Pasty and A Pint, at 7.30pm.

21<sup>st</sup> February, PCC meets.

27<sup>th</sup> February, Songs of Praise, at 7pm.  
5<sup>th</sup> March, Spring Dance with Barracuda.

14<sup>th</sup> March, Annual Church Meeting in the Village Hall, 7.30pm.

#### Monthly Diary dates:

First Thursday – Bingo

Second Monday – Whist Drive

Second Thursday – W.I.



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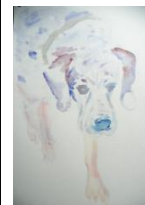
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