



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

August / September, 2011

Price 40p

HAPPY HOLIDAYS?

What does the word 'holiday' mean to you?

To some of us, it means a break from the old routine, a change of scenery, and some peace and quiet. But to others it means traffic jams on the link road, over-crowded beaches, and a distinct lack of peace and quiet. Some of us may even agree with the cynical person who said that all a holiday provides is a different place to be miserable.

But holidays were originally 'holy-days': those occasions in the Christian calendar when workers were given an extra day off to mark an important religious festival, like Christmas or Easter. So a holiday was not just a break from the old routine, it was a chance to remember the Lord Jesus and to celebrate all that he has done for us.

The problem with calling some days 'holy-days' is that it implies that all the other days are 'unholy-days'. So we may pay Jesus some attention on the holy-days of Christmas and Easter, but we feel at liberty to ignore him the rest of the time. We may even end up thinking of our Lord as a bit like an elderly relative of whom we are not very fond. We do our duty by visiting him from time to time, but in between visits, we forget all about him.

When Jesus was asked 'What is the greatest commandment?', he replied that it is to "Love the Lord your God

with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12v30). He obviously expects more from us than an occasional visit on a holy-day. He calls us to be committed to loving Him with every aspect of our being: heart, soul, mind and strength. He wants to be intimately involved in the whole of our lives for the whole of the time, because he loves us so deeply and values us so highly.

For followers of Jesus Christ, every single day is to be a holiday: a day when we remember him and celebrate all that he has done for us.

Steve

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO

..... breakfast in Oakford Village Hall on Sunday 4th September! This will be part of a Mission Community Service on that day, which will incorporate both a good continental breakfast and an informal service for all the Group.

One or two of our parishes have tried this type of informal service and found that it is a good way to invite friends and neighbours who may not be churchgoers, and introduce them to

the life of the church and the Christian faith.

Breakfast will start at about 9.30am with croissants, various fruits, cheeses and cold meats together with the traditional toast and marmalade. Tea & fresh coffee will be served. Then at about 10.30 we will be moving into our worship time whilst remaining in the hall, and with Rob, our new Curate, preaching his maiden sermon amongst us.

People will be welcome to come at any time during the morning, and there will be no pressure to stay for longer than they might want. Some might prefer to come and meet friends over breakfast and then leave; others may be unable to come until later in the morning.

Proceedings will be complete by about 11.45 but, of course, we can continue to chat and maybe help with the clearing up.

All will be guests of the church; there will be no charge and no collection plate but there will be a "bowl" by the door so that those who so wish can make a contribution towards the cost.

So please join us in Oakford Hall on September 4th and use this opportunity to invite your friends to come with you – we would love to see them.

John

Copy Deadline for the October / November issue - Monday 12 September

**THE EXE VALLEY
MISSION COMMUNITY**

Calverleigh, Cruwys Morchard,
Loxbeare, Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton, Washfield
and Withleigh

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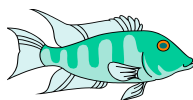
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EDITORIAL

Having now been editing the magazine for two years (where has that time gone), it would not be unreasonable to expect the production to run smoothly. As if to prove the fallacy of any such theory, the gremlins seemed to conspire against the June / July issue of 'Today'. Having resolved a problem with one of the photos, a minor change, made after reading through had taken place, resulted in headings being misplaced. If that were not enough, due to missing one button on the tool bar, over half of the Rackenford notes were replaced by '9.5'! It should have been obvious to me but, clearly, wasn't, so I can only grovel, and offer my apologies to Rackenford. Having a beard does, at least, conceal part of the red face! Then the Printers had problems with the folding and stapling! Hopefully, this issue will go smoothly.....

Paul



**FISH CLUB
REPORT**

During this half term Fish Club have been learning the story of Jesus from when he rode into Town on the Donkey to when he rose from the tomb. Each week we have followed the story on DVD and through songs.

Fish club finished for the Summer Holiday's on Friday 15th of July, with sports and picnic. We say goodbye to Anna who has been a great help to us. Anna will be helping with Holiday Club but has decided to step down from Fish Club; we thank her for her commitment to the Fish Club. The Fish Club meets again on Friday the 9th of September.

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 Tel: 01363 866621. We are always happy to welcome new children.

Holiday Club

Holiday Club will be held at Calverleigh Hall, from Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th of August, The title will be 'Mission Rescue' and promises to be an action packed four days of fun activities to help us learn more about Jesus. During the mornings we shall discover how God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, and how God continues to rescue people today through Jesus. In the afternoons there will be sports and craft activities for the children.

The theme is very much based around a spy theme, with secret agents and code cracking, secret writing and gadget-making, to name but a few of the activities in which we will be involved.

Activities will include modelling from recycled materials, so if you have any packaging, cardboard boxes, etc., we would be grateful for them; in particular we need a large quantity of cardboard tubes from the centres of Kitchen rolls. We are unable to use toilet roll middles.

The holiday club is open to all children 5-11.

We will be pre-registering children again this year, and registration forms are available from : Cindy Trick 01363 866621. Please return all registration forms by Friday 29th July to ensure a place. We will still register children during the week, if there are spaces.

On Sunday 7th August at 11.00am, there will be a service in Calverleigh Hall to celebrate the end of Holiday Club, All

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**Exe Valley Mision community Holiday club
Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th August
at Calverleigh Village Hall
11.15am-3.30pm (bring a packed lunch)**

**For all children aged 5-11, limited spaces,
for registration forms:
Contact Cindy: Tel. 01363 866621**

they hide to protect themselves from predators.

This is the time for Butterflies. They are on the wing and resting in the sun, if there is any. It is worth walking the footpaths, and looking at the hedgerows and verges; you would be surprised what you can see. Brambles attract many insects, as do their fruits - the Blackberry.

Now you can see Hoverflies, which as their name implies, they hang motionless in the air, in a sunny spot. There are over 250 different species in England. They have only one pair of wings, which twist and flap at over 300 times a second; quite amazing. They come in different shapes and sizes, but the most common are the yellow and black and white ones that look like wasps, which put them in danger of their biggest predator,

man. They are quite harmless, so should be cared for, and they eat nectar and pollen and are one of the most efficient pollinators. The larvae or maggots eat a wide range of food, including rotting vegetable and animal material. They are good guys so need to be cared for.

For an outing this month, why not go to Aylesbeare Common? It used to be a good place to find the rare bird, the Dartford Warbler, but they have really suffered in the past two very cold winters, and I believe that there is only one pair left actually on the common, though another 5 pairs or so are in the area. It is a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack. They eat spiders, and can be seen flying low over the gorse, look-

ing for food. They are resident in the South of England. It is also a good place to find Butterflies and Moths. At dusk Nightjars can be seen if you are lucky. They are very silent fliers.

Ann

CHOOSING TO DIE

The Bishop of Exeter's comments on BBC Choosing to Die programme, broadcast on 14th June 2011

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Rev'd Michael Langrish, took part in a BBC2 Newsnight debate on Monday 13th June, following the BBC programme 'Choosing to Die' presented by Sir Terry Pratchett. Bishop Michael's main comments from the debate are below:

"I did not change my mind (after seeing the programme) but my expectations changed. I expected I would disagree with the outcome and expected to welcome the film as a contribution to a really important debate but the more I watched it the more concerned and indeed disturbed I became by it. It was very one-sided, a nod to hospice care but no showing the alternative ending, no indication that the two principals Peter and Andrew needn't have been living the life they were leading and right at the end I questioned the whole ethical basis of programme. I felt that Peter and indeed his wife and perhaps Terry Pratchett as well had been caught up and become trapped in the storyline of programme. I felt there was a deeply coercive atmosphere in room in the end and I

are welcome - come along and see what we have been doing during the week.

Cindy

ANN'S NATURE NOTES

August is the time of high summer; will we get those last, hazy days of summer, or a wet squidgy holiday? This is when the first migrant birds start to return to warmer climes, most of the nestlings have fledged and their parents are moulting, replacing worn feathers and generally recovering from those months of nesting breeding, and feeding their young. At this time one often only sees a few birds in the garden, as

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felt quite emotionally blackmailed by it."

"I think Terry makes a very important distinction talking about the dignity of life - (I prefer dignity to sanctity) - dignity is about what gives worth to every human life. It has to bear on every life not just on a few and my problem here with the emphasis on choice, is that it is alright for us here who have a choice. But take someone like my daughter whose experience of life is having others making choices for her, she's just had her house sold around her with very little choice; it leaves you with a poor sense of self esteem and self worth. What for me gives dignity of life is to say, each of us has a value for what we are not what we do, it's not an instrumental thing and we also find our value in a network of social and community relationships. I want to see much more emphasis on supporting people in living rather than assisting them in dying."

"One of the things that really worried me was right at the end (I realise we probably saw an edited version) Peter lifted the glass of poison and said 'when do I take it?'. I think many doctors, priests, counsellors who had been present at that point would have thought hang on, there's a moment of hesitation here. And the answer was - Do whatever you want"

"On the whole I think the law is clear and the guidelines do broadly work. At present suicide is not a crime but it is not a right. The law still enshrines that sense of the intrinsic value of life. But the law ultimately is not there to constrain individual choice. It's there to constrain third party action and complicity in another person's death. That remains illegal, there may be ameliorating circumstances that can be taken in to account. But the law remains clear and is there to protect the vulnerable. It seems to me the very basis of English law is there to do two things. It is there to protect the

vulnerable in society and should give expression to the deepest values that our society holds."

"I would want to talk about good dying and would love to challenge BBC to do a similar documentary tracking someone like the cabbie through to a good death."

PARISH ROUND-UP

Calverleigh

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place at St Andrews Church in Tiverton, with Calverleigh being well represented at this service.

We are looking forward to two weddings in our Church, one in August and one in September. We are thinking of the two couples, Jason and Erica, David and Nikki as they prepare for their weddings.

We have to thank Alison Webber for updating the Baptism Roll on the wall. She really makes a very good job of it.

The electricians have made great progress with the new wiring and lighting, and it will soon be completed. No doubt we will have to freshen up the walls when these new lights are installed.

The Hopper family have to be congratulated on their success at showing their Charollais sheep at recent shows. At the Devon County Show they had male Champion. At the Royal Cornwall Show they achieved 3 first prizes. Res. male Champion and female Champion and interbreed ram lamb champion. They also had Champion female Charollais at Worcester premier sale. Well done.

Congratulations to David Luffman, who has been awarded a rowing scholarship to Harper College in their Sports Academy Centre.

We hope that Rob, Alison and baby Nicholas have settled in well at

Stoodleigh Vicarage, and that Nicholas is well again.

Myrtle Webber will be celebrating her 80th birthday on the 9th September. To mark the occasion her family would like to welcome all friends to an open tea party at Calverleigh Hall on Sunday 11th September from 2.30pm, ahead of the Harvest Service at 6.30pm in church.

We send our love and prayers to all who are ill at the present time, thinking especially of Clive Hopper, Aubrey Greenslade, Gerry Winchester and Joan Blakemore who has just broken her wrist. Hope that you will all be fit and well in the near future.

The sun shone and the temperature was very pleasant when we held our flower festival on 2nd and 3rd July. The Church had been beautifully decorated by our Church members, and the stories of the Bible were wonderfully illustrated in the displays. The Toddler group and the Fish Club made their displays in the village hall, where there were also many photographs showing Calverleigh and inhabitants past and present. A great deal of interest was shown in these photos as people were trying to recognise themselves and others. A choice of refreshments was available in the Hall all day Saturday and most of Sunday.

The finale to this very successful Flower Festival was the Open Air Service held in the Churchyard on Sunday afternoon, with over 50 people attending. Our guest singers were "In Harmony," three young ladies with beautifully blended voices. After the service everyone was invited to the village hall for tea and refreshments.

The whole weekend was perfect, and well over 200 people visited us. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and there were many comments on the displays; many people thought that we had employed professional arrangers. We have talented people here!! To add more success we also raised £617.72 plus £176.00 collection for Calverleigh Church. We wish to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this weekend such a success; there were so

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PARISH ROUND-UP

many that worked so hard, too many to name individually. As a matter of interest, it was 30 years ago that we held a flower festival here in Calverleigh, our Vicar at that time being Rev. Martin Honeybun.

We wish to thank Lester and Rita Tapp for the gift of a wrought-iron Pedestal to be used in the Church for floral displays. This is very much appreciated, and it was used for an arrangement at the festival.

On Friday 8th July the 29th potato competition was held at The Rose and Crown. This was organised by Gillian and Mary. We all had a very pleasant evening and great excitement when the potatoes were being weighed, especially the Greenslade family as their children won many prizes, very well deserved. A draw was held and a guessing competition, and Derek Herniman auctioned the potatoes. The evening raised £190.00 for Calverleigh Church. A very big thank you to the Rose and Crown for giving us a potato supper, with many dishes of different cooked potatoes, very much appreciated by all. Thank you also to Gillian and Mary for their hard work.

This year, for a change, we are having a Harvest Supper on the evening of Saturday 10th September at the village hall, with guest speaker Farmer John Greenslade. For details and tickets for the supper, contact Derek Herniman on 01884 258549. Our Sunday Harvest service will be at 6.30pm on 11th September.

Cruwys Morchard

The church ladies organised an evening of entertainment by the singing group 'In Harmony' in May. The evening was very much enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who provided the amazing range of puddings for everyone to try, and enjoy.

The Church was full for a concert which was arranged by the bell ringers to raise money towards the refurbishment of the Church bells. The bell ringers also provided delicious refreshments. This was a very entertaining evening of music and anecdotes performed by the West Gallery Quire of Crediton. It was lovely to hear the sort of music which was played and sung here in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the group dressed in costume and played instruments appropriate to the period. Thanks are due to all who came and those who helped to make it a very successful event. The total raised for bell restoration from the quarterly meeting and the concert was £30 short of £1,000, a fantastic result!"

Our annual church fete was held at the beginning of July, which turned out to be a bright and sunny day. It was great to see so many people. Colin Andrews, who also did some dancing for us, provided the music. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day such a success.

The Royal Wedding festivities raised just over £1,500, which will be shared equally between Devon Air Ambulance

Trust & Cruwys Morchard New Parish Hall. A very big thank you to all who helped in any way, especially the walkers. A brilliant day and a fantastic result!

Guy Cruwys, from the parish Bell-ringers, has asked for the following to be included in this edition of the magazine:-

"The Bell-ringers have been very busy lately. We again entered the annual St Peter's Shield competition and although the result did not look flattering, we were actually very pleased with our performance, on bells that are acknowledged to be very difficult, at Burlescombe.

Four of us went on the Devon Guild of Bell-ringers local branch outing, and had a lovely day ringing at five different churches - very good experience. This year, as members of the Guild, our Tower was asked to take a turn at hosting one of the Branch Quarterly meetings. This involved ringing at Cruwys Morchard (about 28 people came) followed by tea and cakes, and then an evening social activity. We decided to have a barbecue. It was a great success and everyone enjoyed a beautiful summer evening.

It was with great sadness that we heard that Sandra Ogden had passed away suddenly on Thursday 16th June. We send our prayers and condolences to Bob and all the family. Sandra was a great supporter of the parish.

We welcomed into our church for baptism on Sunday 3rd July, Millie, Inès and Romain Molina, Grandchildren of Jonathan and Vine Spragg.



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PARISH ROUND-UP



Mothering Sunday Breakfast Service

Congratulations to anyone with birthdays or celebrating special occasions during August & September.

Welcome to the new family who have recently moved into Horsdon Farm, and we hope you will be very happy in your new home.

A small group of walkers supported Natalie Husk on two occasions as she walked the Southwest Coastal path. She has completed the walk and exceeded her target of £10,000 for the work of The Leprosy Mission. Well done Natalie and thank you to all who sponsored her.

The Loxbeare Women's Bible Study Group visited New Creation in June, as they have a break for the summer. Thank you



to Penny and helpers for a lovely cream tea, followed by a browse amongst the wide variety of books etc. We will meet again on Tuesday 20th September at 2 pm at East Sidborough, when we shall begin a series of six studies on "Contentment – Healing the Hunger of our Hearts". All ladies are welcome to come and join us!

The walking group have enjoyed walks in the area, including along the canal, finishing with a meal at The Globe, Sampford Peverell, and, in July, a walk at Rackenford, with lunch at The Log Cabin on the picnic site of the North Devon Link road.

The Progressive Meal on July 1st, in aid of the Village Hall fund, was very enjoyable! A big thank you to all who hosted the two sittings, and provided the lovely food. On August 20th there will be a Village BBQ at Ron & Margaret's from 7 pm. Tickets from Pat Dalby on 881332. Adults £5, primary school children £3.

Loxbeare Ladies:

August 1st: Charity Dinner at Marlene Taylor's in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance, 7 pm. Contact Marlene to book – 881339. Places are limited.

September 5th: A walk following the Tiverton Merchants Trail, starting at 11 am, followed by a Pub lunch. Details from Jenny Pack on 881307.

NEW CREATION NEWS

Summer is a wonderful time in Devon, how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country. It is a time to welcome visitors, maybe just for the day or a longer stay. We will almost certainly meet a few at church services and other events held throughout the summer months. May we ask you to invite them to find New Creation, either in your company or just telling them we are here (not always easy to find as we are out of the town centre).

Over the years we know how delighted people have been to find a Christian Book and Coffee Shop. If they have one in their area they like to compare and discuss different aspects: but, especially these days, they have nothing similar where they can browse among God's word in written form, musical or visual (DVD's), and even on the 'Holy Hardware' (gift items to the uninitiated).

A Devon Cream Tea always goes down well and the cafe is always serving right up to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. One ladies group has decided on a social afternoon and are meeting in New Creation to enjoy a cream tea with friends. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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Oakford

It seems some time ahead, when everyone is thinking about summer holidays, but the time for harvest soon comes around.

The Harvest Festival service at Oakford will take place on Sunday 25th September at 2.30pm, followed by tea and cakes at the back of the church. We would be grateful for any produce which will be

Continued on Page 10 ⇨

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(for ages 4-11)

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In Calverleigh Village Hall

LEADER

Cindy Trick (01363 866621)

YOUTH GROUP

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2nd Tuesday - Highgate Cottage
4th Tuesday - East Sidborough

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MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sunday 7th August

Holiday Club Service

in Calverleigh Village Hall
at 11 am

Sunday 4th September

In Oakford Village Hall
9.30 am **Group Breakfast**
followed by
Service at 10.30 am

Sunday 11th September

At Exeter Cathedral
Ordination of Rob Brewis
as Curate

OAKFORD

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

9.30 am Morning Prayer

21st August

9.30 am Holy Communion

28th August

9.30 am Family Service

4th September

9.30 am Group Breakfast
followed by Service at 10.30 am,
both in Village Hall

11th September

9.30 am Morning Prayer

18th September

9.30 am Holy Communion

25th September

2.30 pm Harvest Festival

RACKENFORD

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

11.15 am Holy Communion

21st August

11.15 am Family Service

28th August

9.30 am Morning Prayer

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

11.15 am Holy Communion

18th September

11.15 am Family Service

25th September

9.30 am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

11 am Morning Prayer

21st August

9.30 am Holy Communion

28th August

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

11 am Morning Prayer

18th September

9.30 am Holy Communion
By extension

25th September

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

CALVERLEIGH

7th August

11 am Holiday Club Service
in Village Hall

14th August

9.30 am Holy Communion

21st August

11.15 am Family Service

28th August

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

6.30 pm Harvest Festival

18th September

9.30 am Holy Communion

25th September

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

CRUWYS MORCHARD

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

11 am Family Service

21st August

9.30 am Holy Communion

28th August

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

11 am Family Service

18th September

9.30 am Holy Communion

25th September

11 am Harvest Festival

LOXBEARE

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

11 am Family Service

21st August

6.30 pm Evening Praise

28th August

11 am Family Communion

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

11 am Evening Praise
with Holy Communion

18th September

11 am Harvest Praise

25th September

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

No Service

21st August

11 am Family Service

28th August

11 am Morning Prayer

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

No Service

18th September

11 am Holy Communion

25th September

11 am Toddler Service

WASHFIELD

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

11 am Morning Prayer

21st August

11 am Family Service

28th August

9.30 am Holy Communion

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

2.30 pm Harvest Festival

18th September

11 am Family Service

25th September

9.30 am Holy Communion

WITHLEIGH

7th August

See Calverleigh

14th August

9.30 am Morning Worship

21st August

11 am Holy Communion

28th August

11 am Morning Worship

4th September

See Oakford

11th September

3 pm Harvest Festival

18th September

Join with Templeton

25th September

9.30 am Morning Worship

PARISH ROUND-UP

auctioned at the Harvest Supper on Monday 26th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets - £5.00. Everyone is very welcome. Please contact Mike or Wendy on 351383 to book for the Harvest Supper.

Another service of note. A Group Church Breakfast will take place on Sunday 4th September at 9.30am, at Oakford Village Hall. This will be followed by an informal service at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Anyone who has visited the church recently will have noticed that the path around the churchyard has been re-surfaced. This makes it much safer, after the damage of the last few winters, for all residents and visitors attending graves or visiting the glebe. The money raised from the 'Wedding Belles' weekend went towards this being repaired, and we say a big thank you to all those who supported it.

The Pyncombe Trust

Anyone who has been resident in Oakford for over a year, and is going on to further education, may be eligible for a small grant. Please contact Sue on 351338.

Other dates for your diary:

Moorland Club: Thursday August 11th at 7.15pm. Colour consultant Suzi French: Talk and demonstration.

Oakford and District Flower and produce Show will be held on August 13th at Oakford Village Hall. Open to anyone in Oakford and the surrounding areas. Organized by the ladies of the Moorland Club. Open to visitors at 2.30pm. Adults 50p. Children free. Refreshments available: tea, coffee and cakes. For schedules and entry forms, contact Chris on

351573. Please come and support your local Show.

Moorland Club: Thursday September 8th at 7.30pm. Inside Canary Wharf : talk



Village Fete



and slides with Nigel Arnold
Village Hall Fund-raising event September 17th Look out for posters for details later.

Oakford Village Fete

Oakford residents and visitors enjoyed a lovely afternoon. Children's games, a fun tug of war and the ever popular egg throwing competition provided fun for all to join in or watch - and messy for the egg throwers! All the usual side shows and stalls plus a display of military vehicles, teas and cakes and a BBQ provid-

ed all the ingredients for another successful show. A rearranged evening barbecue and music were enjoyed by a few residents - we'll be more organised for next year! Thanks to all our helpers, supporters and visitors.

This year's chosen charity is the Teenage Cancer Trust. Locals, Trish and Karl Luxton, are planning to drive a pony and trap from John O'Groats to Lands End at Easter 2012 to raise funds. Trish brought the horses onto the show ground for visitors to see, and we wish them every success next year. If you would like more information, or to support them, please go on line to: www.ponydriving-end2end.co.uk.

Oakford Parish Council

The new Parish Council held its first meeting in May, and elected Kelvin Holdom as Chairman and Simon Edwards as Vice Chairman. Other Councillors are Mary Baker, David Bannister, Lee Cartwright, Paul Marcus and Richard Stevens. The Council would like to thank retiring Councillors Jayne Archer and Ann Crawford for their services, and particularly Ann for her many years as Chairman. We have a vacancy for a Councillor and, if you would like to help in Oakford's future, please contact the Clerk on 01398 351236, or any Councillor. Although there were only a few members of the public at the parish assembly, - we are looking at how we can improve that for next year! - a number of concerns and issues were raised, including road safety at the Black Cat junction, which the Council will be pursuing over the coming months.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Rackenford

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family and friends of Bill Rottenbury who sadly died in May. Bill was well known to many people, and a very good friend to many in our village. He is greatly missed. His service and burial took place at North Molton where the church was full of those who had come to say 'goodbye' to a real character.

We were so sorry to hear about Martin Bucknell's accident. Although still in hospital (at the time of going to print) we understand progress is being made. We send you our very best wishes, Martin.

Also our very best wishes go to Mike Lane who has had a stay in hospital.

On a much happier note, many congratulations to Helen Hyland and Mike Lane on their wedding in May. We wish you both continued happiness.

Our best wishes to the Perkins family, who have left Rackenford and moved to Oakford. We hope you will all be happy in your new home.

We would like to send a warm 'Rackenford welcome' to the new curate and his wife Rob & Alison Brewis and congratulate them on the birth of their son Nicholas. We look forward to meeting you all.

It was good to see so many scarecrows in and around Rackenford. What a lot of effort went into our enjoyment. Well done everyone, prize winners or not!!

A darts competition in memory of Neil Cole was held at Rackenford Club on 20th May. £140 was raised for Devon Air

Ambulance and Cancer Research. Many thanks to Rackenford Club, and to Darren & Karen Lawrence who organized it, and, of course, all supporters. It's very much appreciated by Neil's family. The trophy was won by Mark Fleming.

Our thanks to Mr & Mrs David Scott for welcoming us to their home at Rackenford Manor for our cream teas and strawberries. Thanks to all the stall holders, waitresses, helpers and all who came to support. £629 was raised. Wonderful!! Mr & Mrs Scott were presented with a basket of fruit as a little thank you.

Thank you also to the people who kindly sent in donations towards the church magazine, it's very much appreciated.

It was a lovely day for the annual church walk which began and ended at Withypool. Thank you for all your sponsorship, to the stewards and drivers, and to Liz Paxton for organizing it. Also, of course, to the walkers of the ten mile trip, especially well done to little Holly for completing the walk. £1,376 was raised. Fantastic!!

Mrs Clyde of The Old Rectory, is singing the praises of John Hill of East Devon Metal Detecting Club for finding a very special ring that was lost on her property. A very helpful man, and a very happy ending.

Congratulations to Chris & Fiona Maddocks on the birth of their baby daughter Elenor (Ellie) in June. Also congratulations to Denise & Charlie Stanborough on the birth of their baby Sara. We hope you are doing well.

How lovely to hear that Connie Isaac is Head Girl of Tiverton High School. Well done Connie; a good choice!!

We send our best wishes to Percy Stone, Bill & Joan Clark, Ken Blackford, Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

It's good to know our Community Shop is achieving such high standards. We send our grateful thanks to all who are involved in any way. Also thank you for your continued help with distributing our Church magazines.

A couple of dates for your diary:

Bingo – 19th August, Rackenford Club
Bingo – 16th September, Rackenford School
Both in aid of church funds – all meat prizes.

We are hoping to put a small questionnaire in the next issue of the magazine which we hope you may fill in and return, to maybe give us some history of your home and dates of who was living there prior to you, or as far back as you may remember!!! Watch this space!!

Congratulations to all who have, or are, celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

To all those who are unwell, lonely or depressed, we send you our prayers.

Stoodleigh

The sun shone on Sunday 26th June, and it proved to be a wonderful day of celebration. Over a hundred people came to the beautifully decorated St Margaret's Church for a special service of Evensong to give thanks for the new lights and rededicate the bells. John Roberts led the service, and the Bishop of Crediton, Bishop Bob, blessed the



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PARISH ROUND-UP

new lights, preached and rededicated the bells.

There was a choir of twenty-two, who sang two anthems and led the responses, canticles and hymns. While the bells rang at the end of the service, sparkling wine was served. The congregation came from all over Devon, Somerset, London and even Australia, and we were honoured to welcome the President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the President of the Devon Association of Ringers and representatives from some of the Trusts who gave so generously to the bell fund. There were quite a few ringers in the congregation who were able to try out the new bells, and they were all delighted with them.

Our thanks to everyone who helped with this special occasion: flower arrangers, church and brass cleaners, bell ringers, choir, organists, refreshment servers and providers.... the list is endless. And Jennifer Rowlandson would like to record her thanks for the two volumes of *Towers and Bells of Devon* (the case especially made by Bryan Rigg) presented to her during the service by Bishop Bob, on behalf of St Margaret's. She was overwhelmed, she said.

Now the bells have been rededicated there will, no doubt, be many people wishing to ring them and already we have had some visitors. Catherine Thorpe and her group were delighted to achieve their Full Peal on 1st July. Bookings for full peals will be few and very far apart: most visitors will ring for about an hour or less.

Anyone interested in learning the art of bell ringing or just coming to have a go,

should contact either Gerald Palfrey (01398 351271) or Jennifer Rowlandson (01398 351402).

A lovely warm, sun-washed summer's evening was a bonus for the BBQ and Walk from Champles on Friday 1st July. This enjoyable event was well supported and raised £315 for church funds. Our grateful thanks to the hosts, Peter and Christine Broadbent, to all who helped in any way and to all who came.

We were saddened by the death of Bill Hamidullah and send our love to Enid and her family.

Future Events:

On Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August, there will be a ploughman's lunch, and walk from Parkhouse Water (the walk, of course, being quite optional!). This has become a very enjoyable annual event to help raise church funds, and we hope many will come and join us.

Sunday 2nd October at 11am will be the Church Harvest Thanksgiving Service, followed on Monday 3rd October by the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. We extend a warm welcome to any who are able to attend.

Village Day

Stoodleigh Village Day was a great success once again. We were lucky with the weather, finding a decent day in between two shockers. There was an excellent turn-out, and it was particularly good to see so many children, who never tired of competing against each other, and against the adults, in a succession of races and competitions.

The event was made possible by a generous donation from SWAG and by many people including Martine Jaquet, Janet Russell, Sally and John Holland, Roger Hill, Peter Browne, Jennifer Rowlandson, the Palfreys, Margaret Cuninghame, Pat Aplin, Malcolm Jones and Phil and Pauline Bird. But the real stars were all the ladies who brought (and baked) such amazing cakes. "I still can't believe how much everybody ate!" said Martine.

Stoodleigh Club

Lizzie writes: "Thanks to all of you who attended the recent AGM. It was lovely to see you all show so much support for your club. As you were all made aware, the club survives on a 'shoestring', and we need to look at ways to improve this. The new committee that you elected are full of energy and ideas, and they are dab hands with a paint brush! However, functions and events are only successful if they are well attended!"

Sat. 13th Aug., 3pm: Inter-village It's a Knockout. Come along and support your team. Bar open from 2pm, food on sale, free bouncy castle (kindly funded by SWAG and Annette).

Sun. 28th Aug.: Duck Race and Table-top Sale. Rent a table for £5 - a good chance to clear your junk! Sellers from noon, buyers from 1pm. Bar and food.

Sun. 11th Sept.: Auction of Promises with Stafford Sampson. Roast lunches from 1pm, auction at 3pm. If you can offer a "promise" please let me know.

Second Friday of each month – Bingo (eyes down 8pm); third Friday – Take-away Night (food ordered from Bampton fish-and-chip shop).

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Parish Hall

There was a fantastic array of produce and goods with delicious coffee and cakes at the Market and Coffee Morning on 9th July. We didn't see as many of you as we'd have liked – please support our hall events to raise money for improvements. We raised about £140, so thank you to those who were able to attend. The next Market and Coffee Morning is on 15th October – we look forward to seeing lots of you then.

Children's Hospice

Sunday 11th September, Sponsored Tandem Sky Dive in aid of Children's Hospice South West. Please contact Paula on 351342 if you would like to join in.

Templeton

The group Rogation Service was well attended and held eventually at Withleigh Church. The Bring and Share lunch followed at Withleigh village hall. We thank Withleigh for letting us use their hall and kitchen as Templeton was unable to host it because the hall was already booked.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather our open air service took place in church followed by a cream tea. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

The campaign to raise funds for the essential repairs to the church continues to enjoy strong support from everyone. The woods at the Old Rectory were open to the public in early May and although some of the bluebells were just a little past their best and the weather was somewhat threatening at times, many people came from both inside the village and outside and £506.00 was raised. Martin and Phyllida Strong's Ploughman's Lunch in mid

June was another successful event which, along with the excitement of the marquee blowing down, brought in a further £429.00 to the fund.

In July there was St. Margaret's Feast (a peripatetic supper) on the 20th and Peter Withers' clay pigeon shoot on 23rd. Coming up Nigel Trevelyan Thomas is organising an Auction of Pledges to be held at the Village Fete on 13th August.

We must now hope for a significant contribution from one of the major charities before too long to carry us much nearer to our target. Meanwhile our grateful thanks to everyone who contributes.

The monthly Church 100 draw was as follows: for May, the late Brenda Hill, for June the winner was Ruth Fry from Tiverton and July, Peter Withers

We welcome Raymond and Angela Westcott and family to Templeton Cross and also Kevin and Sharon Squibb and family to Morgans Bradley. We hope that they will be happy living in Templeton.

Congratulations to Hannah and Duncan Nobbs on the birth of their twin boys, George and Freddie, in May.

Our annual Village Fete is on Saturday 13th August with all the usual stalls and games including an auction, cream teas, hot dogs, cakes, plants, and much more. Please come along and enjoy the day starting at 1.30pm.

A duck race will be held at Templeton Bridge on the 10th September beginning at 2.00pm at Esworthy, the home of Bruce and Matt Palmer and ending at Dart Combe Mill the home of Roger and Bindy Linden with cream teas and hot dogs. Funds from this event to be

shared between the village hall and our church.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota:-


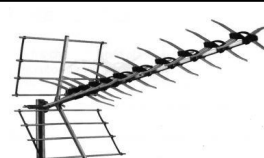
Gill Rose	31st July - 7th August
Hannah Nobbs	14th - 21st August
Lynda Newnes	28th Aug. - 4th Sept.
Clare Trevelyan Thomas	11th - 18th Sept.
Audrey McInerney	25th Sept. - 2nd Oct.

Washfield

Remember: Friendship shows us that we are not alone in joy or in sorrow.

A perfect sunny afternoon, with the church bells ringing out and the Tiverton Concert Band playing in the beautiful setting of the grounds of The Old Rectory, greeted us for our Annual Church Fete. The Fete was declared open by Andrew Herniman and his wife, Sue, and they were appropriately thanked with floral gifts by Sophie and Sam Webber. A large crowd came to support the event, emptying the stalls, enjoying the sideshows, bouncy castle, skittles, etc, and then enjoying a lovely tea, set up and run so efficiently by the 'Tea Ladies'. Thank you all for supporting this event, and for giving so generously of your time, skills and crafts and money. To all who prepared and set up stalls, putting up and taking down bunting, to Denise for the invaluable car, and to Bronson and Camilla who made it all possible by allowing us to use their lovely lawns: WE THANK YOU! The magnificent sum of £950 was raised. Thank you everyone.

The church's consultation exercise, conducted throughout June, was completed very positively, without any improvements to its facilities being requested. The PCC will, however, remain open to ideas.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Harvest Festival short service will be held on Sunday 11th September at 2.30pm and will be followed by sports on The Old Rectory lawns and then a Bring and Share tea in the village hall. We hope many of you will come along. The decorating of the church will take place on Saturday 10th September, so any items of fruit or vegetables can be left for this and will be gratefully received.

It is with much sadness that we have to record the deaths of two long-standing members of our parish. Brian Connor was a committed volunteer within the village, being at the forefront of the sale of the Old Parochial School and the construction of the extension to the Memorial Hall that this sale allowed. He helped set up the Social Club and sat on both committees for many years. Brian was a very efficient Treasurer of the Hall committee and carried out this role through his illness and right up until his untimely death. We have much for which to thank him in this respect, and our love and prayers are with Eileen as she mourns her dear husband's death. Many villagers attended his Requiem Mass at St James' Church.

We also extend our love, prayers and sympathies to Clifford Dixon, Nigel and Angela on the death of a dearly loved wife and mother. Marjorie had not been well for some time, and she was devotedly cared for by Clifford who said she had always been there for him, a steadfast supporter in his life as he moved around as a college Principle. At a service of Thanksgiving for Marjorie's life, the tributes from family, friends and carers were a testament to how dearly loved she was. You are continually prayed for, Clifford, as you come to terms with your sad loss.

The daughter of Richard and Skye Angel, Lily Grace Angel, was blessed and welcomed into God's Church at her Baptism in June. A large congregation of family and friends came to support her at this service.

We send best wishes for much happiness to Dee Arnold and her fiancé, Braden Collins, as they prepare for their wedding in Washfield, in September.

Prayers and caring thoughts are sent to everyone coping with illness, difficult times and sorrow at present.

Robin, Christine and family would like to thank everyone for their continuing kindness and support. Donations given at the service of Thanksgiving for Thomas amounted to £2,100 and this money has been given as follows: £1,100 to Devon Air Ambulance, £300 to Calverleigh Church, £300 for two new bar stools with plaques for Stoodleigh Club with the remainder being used to buy trees which will be planted around The Washfield Shoot, which was Thomas's love; the countryside.

The Social Club's Garden Club's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 20th August. Schedules are available from Angela Bolt (01884 258231). With sixty classes to choose from, there's something for everyone, so why don't you put in an entry or two?

The annual Inter-village It's a Knockout competition (won by the Washfield team last year) is to be held at Stoodleigh Club on Saturday 13th August. Go along and support our team if you are able.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 18th August

Lunch Club 12 for 12.30pm
Saturday 20th August
Garden Club's Annual Flower and Vegetable Show.
Schedules from Angela Bolt

Sunday 11th September
Harvest Festival service 2.30pm plus sports and Bring and Share tea in hall.

Church Flower Rota:

August 7 th	Mrs Horsey
August 14 th /21 st	Mrs Boundy
August 28 th /Sept 4 th	Mrs E Arnold
September 11 th /18 th	Mrs Cockra
September 25 th /Oct 2 nd	Mrs Bolt

Church Cleaning Rota:

August 7 th	Mrs Horsey
August 14 th /21 st	Mr and Mrs McCahon
August 28 th /Sept 4 th	Mrs French
September 11 th /18 th	Mrs Arnold / Mrs Bicknell
September 25 th /Oct 2 nd	Mrs Harding / Mrs Jones

Withleigh

A warm welcome to Rob, Alison and Ababy Nicholas to the Exe Valley. We hope you are settling in at The vicarage at Stoodleigh. We now look forward to your ordination, Rob, on 11th September in Exeter Cathedral, and meeting you in St Catherine's in due course.

Congratulations to Steve Lewis and Claire Down who were married in our Church on Thursday, 2nd June. Our best wishes for your future life together.

We were saddened to learn of the death on 12th July of Pat Shapland, following a long illness. Our sympathy is extended to Eric and family in their bereavement.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

A Coffee Morning is being held on Wednesday 17th August, 10am – 12 noon, at Topfield. There will be a bring-and-buy stall, cakes and a draw. Proceeds will be divided between Force and Riding for the Disabled.

Many thanks to all of those who attended the Village Hall AGM; we hope that you enjoyed the Wine & Cheese afterwards; it was good to be able to sit around and chat. We are sorry to lose Ray and Lynn on the committee, but we hope that we shall soon see Ray well again. Especially thanks to Lynn for acting as our Treasurer and for taking the bookings, a hard act to follow; Thank-you to everyone who has agreed to be on the hall committee for the coming year, especially those have taken on various positions.

Our Harvest celebrations are taking a different format in church this year with a 3.00 pm service on Sunday, 11th September, followed by a tea in the Village Hall. The Harvest Supper will be the same as usual on Monday, 12th September, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm, with an auction of the produce, the proceeds of which will be given to FORCE. A few of our parishioners and their families have received tremendous help and support from FORCE at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, so please give generously to help this charity keep up its good work. Please ring Christine, 257571 or Brenda, 252431 if you would like to attend the supper.

We send our congratulations to Harry and Sylvia Hann on the birth of another grandchild, George. We also send our congratulations to the proud parents, Rob and Lisa and, of course, to Harry (junior) who now has a little brother. Love and best wishes to you all.

Get well wishes go to all those recovering from operations and to everyone not well at the moment. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Our thoughts are with those awaiting exam results and we wish them well in

their chosen careers. We also think of those children starting school for the first time and those moving on to another school or starting university / college in September.

Please note; we shall resume our Social Evenings on Saturday 1st October, this will be an evening get together with the opportunity to have a game of Pool or Table Tennis or to just sit and chat with a drink. (Please bring your own drink).

Future events:

1st October Social Evening 7.30pm
28th October Team Skittles Competition, 7.30pm

Flower rota:

July 31st) Linda Taylor
Aug 7th)
Aug 14th) Ann Gornall
21st)
Aug 29th) Shirley Cruwys
Sept 4th)
Sept 11th HARVEST
Sept 18th) Janet Sellick
25th)

Monthly Diary dates:

First Thursday – Bingo
Second Monday – Whist Drive
Second Thursday – W.I.

FUTURE FOOD

We all take food so much for granted that most of us hardly ever question the sustainability of supplies. However, as the Mayor of New Orleans reminded us a few years ago, we are all just 3 meals away from social breakdown. Furthermore, supermarket supply chains hold only about two weeks of stock and

indeed came close to breaking during the fuel disputes of 2000.

In reality, our food security is not as robust as we might think. In particular, it depends primarily on imported produce, which itself depends on the availability of cheap oil. If oil becomes scarcer and more expensive in future (as it will), our food supplies will be at risk.

Already speculators have been pushing up basic commodity costs on the global markets. This in itself introduces other uncertain factors which we would do well to notice. Are we really like the person who falls off a 10 storey building and, as they pass the 3rd floor on the way down, shouts "so far, so good!?"

Harder times ahead will push us to change two of our practices: firstly, to produce much more food locally in Britain, and secondly, to waste far less than the third of our food that we throw away each day.

The first implies not so much a revolution in farming, but a change towards agriculture which relates more strongly to local people. For instance, there is an increasing number of community food projects in Devon, all of which express greater social involvement in growing our own food and sharing it with others around us. Community farms, garden share schemes, co-operatives, allotments, community food shops, school growing clubs, and so on, are all living examples in our neighbourhoods.

Secondly, as Devon and Cornwall Food Association and other Fairshare schemes demonstrate, there are practical ways to prevent produce from going to landfill or incineration, and can instead be re-distributed at a community level for the benefit of all. We surely cannot keep throwing the future away with our rubbish.

Let's not take the current system for granted but create alternatives that will provide for the future and not for the next fast food meal!

Diocese of Exeter - Martyn Goss



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