

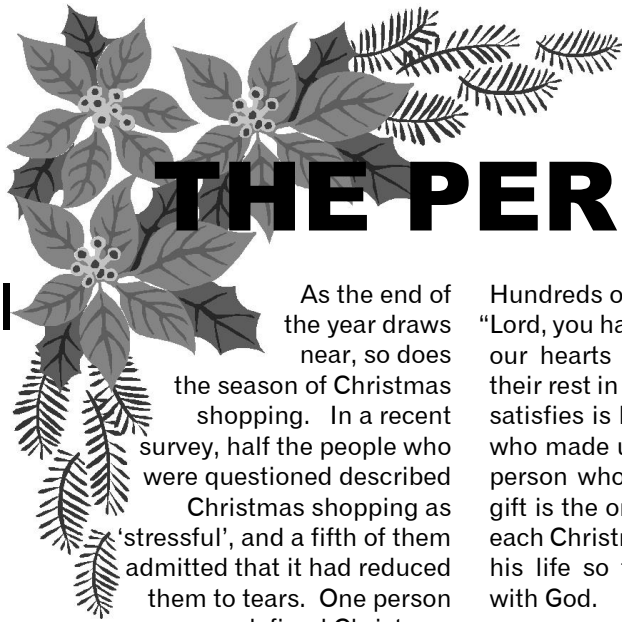


# TODAY

The Parish  
Magazine  
for the  
Exe Valley  
Mission  
Community

December, 2011 / January, 2012

Price 40p



## LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT PRESENT

As the end of the year draws near, so does the season of Christmas shopping. In a recent survey, half the people who were questioned described Christmas shopping as 'stressful', and a fifth of them admitted that it had reduced them to tears. One person even defined Christmas shopping as 'buying people you don't like things they don't need with money you don't have'!

We always hope to find gifts which are truly memorable and long-lasting - gifts which will make Christmas that little bit more special. We convince ourselves that somewhere out there is the perfect present for our loved one, and we set out to track it down. Perhaps this year we will discover a gift that fully satisfies and is not forgotten by Boxing Day?

Deep down we know that there is nothing in the shops that will ever bring true satisfaction and fulfilment to the human heart. The trinkets and baubles are all very well, but for the perfect gift and for lasting contentment we must look elsewhere.

Hundreds of years ago Augustine wrote, "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you". The only gift that truly satisfies is being at peace with the God who made us for himself. And the only person who can grant us this precious gift is the one whose birth we celebrate each Christmas - the one who laid down his life so that we might know peace with God.

God's Word tells us that "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6v23). May we know that gift this Christmas.

*Steve*

### THE APPRENTICE.....

Having been working for the Exe Valley for a month now, you may have come across me - the new apprentice for the Mission Community. I'm helping out specifically with the youth and children's groups, but also serving where I'm needed. I hope that I can be of help where I am serving, and a support and friend to the children and young people with whom I come into contact. I am also attending a Bible course in Plymouth every Monday, which is run by the Peninsula Gospel

Partnership, and which is where a mixture of people from different churches across the south-west meet together and receive teaching, both theological and practical, which then equips them for their individual ministries wherever they are. It's a great encouragement to get to know a diversity of Christians who are also seeking to learn more about God's Word, and I hope this will lay biblical foundations for my faith and enrich my own ministry in the Exe Valley.

I originally come from a small town in Dorset called Christchurch, right in the middle of the south coast, and five minutes from the beach. Over the past three years I've been studying at the University of Exeter, reading English and finally graduating in July. Village life is now a bit of a change, but I'm slowly settling in. Everyone has been so welcoming and I am very grateful for that! There were some obstacles which had to be overcome before I arrived here - passing my driving test and obtaining a car being a couple of them! But with a lot of prayer - and even some fasting - God has brought me here. I'm now living in Stoodleigh with Rob, Ali and baby Nicholas, and enjoying it immensely. Thank you all for your welcoming words and prayers; I'm looking forward to getting to know you all better over the year!

*Katie Benjamin*

*Wishing you the Joy and Peace of Christmas*

**Copy Deadline for the February / March issue - Mon 9th January**

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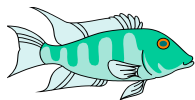
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## FISH CLUB REPORT

Fish Club continues to meet at Calverleigh each Friday after School during term time. We welcome Jack and Jon Venn and Sam Webber who have joined us this term. We also welcome Katie Benjamin who is helping at fish Club each Friday.

On Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be holding an open afternoon, where we invite you to join us for crafts, teas, Christingle making, and a service in which the children will be taking part. All are welcome to join us. As we lead up to Christmas we are learning about the Christmas story in preparation for this service.

We shall be holding our Christmas party on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Calverleigh village hall.

If you have children who would be interested in joining us at Fish club, or if you are able to offer help, please ring me: Cindy Trick, Tel: 01363 866621

## DEANERY SYNOD

Perhaps the most significant thing on the deanery agenda at the October meeting was the uniting of the Cullompton Deanery with that of Tiverton. It is something that has been talked about for a while, There seems to be no problem, but organisational details need to be sorted out, like having one rural dean, one chairman and one secretary rather than two, and uniting the finances. There also should be a Deanery website.

The main speaker was Tony Lane, from Uffculme parish and the mission community of the Culm Valley. He talked about

his growth as a Christian, and the development of his mission community - the good points and bad ones, and the way forward, in his view. I did like his turns of phrase, like "submarine Christians" who pop up every now and then, like at Christmas, Easter and funerals! What he had to say was more relevant to town communities than to village parishes who have quite different problems; often villages have certain individual quirks and are fiercely independent.

He divided Christian life into what goes on in church buildings, meetings with food, and outreach. The easiest to cope with is the first, where the church does not move and the services usually are at the same times, so people know what is going on and where. It can become a bit cliquy and it tends to stagnate. The one involving food, be it breakfast, cake or beer is often the best mission opportunity. Outreach is the most difficult and possibly the most important. His message was to play to your strengths and use the best from each area.

*Ann Crawford*



## Christmas CHATter

Christmas is a time of giving, this year think about how you can give to someone who is homeless or suffering because of inadequate housing.

There are 12 days of Christmas, here are 12 ways you could help the homeless:

1. Tell someone about CHAT to spread the news of what we do or invite us into your Church to give a talk
2. Find out where Christmas community lunches are being

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- held and pass this information on to those who are lonely and in need
3. Consider becoming a *Giver of Hope* and donating to CHAT on a monthly basis
  4. Tell people about Homelessness Sunday on 29 January 2012 and plan an event in your church to raise awareness and money
  5. Clear out your pantry and give any surplus grocery provisions to CHAT's food store
  6. Find out where the homeless people are sleeping in your community and let them know about CHAT
  7. Offer to take a homeless person for coffee or lunch, sit and talk, get to know the person behind the story
  8. Organise a CHAT morning at your local church to raise money, contact us for more information
  9. Go grocery shopping buy 2 for 1 deals and donate the free item to CHAT
  10. Purchase food vouchers and give them to someone suffering hardship
  11. Check your linen for unwanted items and donate any to CHAT's linen store
  12. Pray for those who will suffer hardship because of housing problems this Christmas

To find out more contact CHAT  
 Tiverton 28 Gold Street Monday 10.30am-4.30pm, Tuesday to Friday 9.30am-4.30pm  
 Cullompton, Mondays 2 - 4.30pm  
 Community House, Fore Street  
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**Exe Valley Mission Community  
Fish Club**  
 After school until 5.15pm



Invite you to join us at our  
**'Open Afternoon'**  
at Calverleigh Hall  
On Friday 2nd December from 3.30pm.  
there will be crafts to enjoy with the children including  
Christingle Making.

Refreshments followed by a  
**'Christingle and Carol Service'**

All welcome, Young and Older, come and see what we get up to.

Contact: Cindy Trick Tel. 01363 866621

time team vicar in the Exe Valley before taking up a post in Bristol. Derek has now joined the big guns, having been made a Canon in September.

## ANN'S NATURE NOTES

Now that winter is upon us, it is all change in the natural world.

The Butterflies have either flown to somewhere warmer or are hibernating in cracks or in houses.

There are few flowers, but there are some flowering shrubs, especially ivy, which are rich in nectar and attract insects - a good meal for birds.

## REV'D DEREK CHEDZEY

Many of you will remember Derek and Clare Chedzey, Derek being a part-



Derek in his Canon garb, in his stall called 'Abbott Newbury' (strangely enough given he comes from Newbury)

The summer breeding migrants have returned to the warmth for their winter holidays, but they have had a long flight to get to their destinations. The winter migrants are now here, mostly the waders, and water birds. Woodcocks are in the woods, but are very shy and are very difficult to see, as they are so well camouflaged, and hide in the bracken. They are waders, though live in damp woods, which is a surprise to most people. The Widgeons have come back in their hundreds. They are brown ducks with a very distinctive yellow wedge at the top of their head. They eat grass and can be seen in large flocks round the edges of ponds and lakes. Their call is a whistle, very distinctive. Over the shoreline, if the weather is fine, one can see flocks of Dunlins, with the silver under-wing shining in the sunlight. The winter thrushes are in abundance, finishing off the berries.

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There has been a bumper crop of berries this year so they should have quite an easy time.

Unless one has picked the holly berries for Christmas and kept them in a cool place in a bucket of water, I guess there will be few for Christmas decorations.

The walk for the month, I would recommend a trip to the Somerset Levels where, looking on the lakes, lagoons and marshes, there are usually masses of Ducks of great variety, as well as the Cranes which have been released there.

*Ann*

## HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY

29<sup>th</sup> January is Homelessness Sunday which will take place at the end of Poverty Action fortnight. This Sunday is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness in our church communities of issues of housing need and homelessness in Mid Devon. CHAT would love to be invited into our churches to talk about rural homelessness and how we can work together to help tackle this problem. For further information, please call Sarah Neyt on 01884 250914.

## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Calverleigh

David Burton and Nicola Goldsworthy were married in our Church on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The Church had been beautifully decorated with autumn coloured flowers and leaves. The bells rang out, but this time the ringers did not include Aubrey and Julie Goldsworthy, it seems that they were busy carrying out other duties in the Church! The young couple had



organised a well thought out service, and what wonderful singing of the hymns. Those Welsh voices from David's family and friends were a treat. The reception and evening party were held in the Village Hall and marquee on the green. It was a memorable day for everyone there, and we wish Mr and Mrs Burton every happiness in their future life together. We are very pleased that they have made their home in Tiverton and are still active members of our Church.

The first Sunday Club was held at Calverleigh Hall on October 9<sup>th</sup> and it was a success. People of all ages attended but it will be nice if we can encourage a few more youngsters to join in, especially some of the young people who annually attend Holiday Club in the summer. There was a welcome cup of tea and cake, and everyone could greet each other before Steve gave a short talk with film, and well known choruses were also sung.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing away of Ken Parmiter. Stella and Ken had been married for 48 years. Stella's family had run Calverleigh Post Office for many years. Ken ran Rackenford Post office and shop for a few years before he had a massive stroke 22 years ago. We give Stella all our love, sympathy and support. Ken's cremation took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October. This was followed by a service of Celebration for his life, at Calverleigh Church. Many people joined Stella in the village hall for refreshments after the service. Ken's ashes were interred in the Churchyard on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Stella had been such a wonderful wife and carer to Ken over

many years. Stella wishes to thank all her neighbours and friends for all their support and help she has received from them over the past years and since the passing of Ken. This, and the wonderful assistance and support from Rev. Steve Goodbody, has been a great comfort to her. Many thanks to everyone.

Mr Pennie was laid to rest in our Churchyard after a Requiem Mass at St John's.

We held our Songs of Praise service on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Members of the congregation had chosen many lovely hymns to be included. Tea, coffee and cakes (made by David and Nikki Burton) followed the service. Nikki led this service and it was most enjoyable.

November 1<sup>st</sup> was a special day for a young couple at Lurley. The wedding and reception took place at Awliscombe of Alison Wilmington and Eric Webber 25 years ago. They came back to Calverleigh for an evening party where they were joined by family and friends. Congratulations to you both, and may you have many more happy years together. They have two very talented sons, Daniel and Robert.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are not so well at the present time. Mary Walker has had a spell in Tiverton Hospital, but is now at home. Our thoughts are also with Mary's husband, Geoff, who is caring for her so well. Look after yourself as well Geoff.

Were you watching the television on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> November? If you were, you would have seen a local lady demonstrating the art of making beautiful jewellery. Rachel Norris from Calverleigh Mill went to Birmingham to take part in this 4 hour long presentation. What a talented young lady she is.

November 6<sup>th</sup> saw the second Sunday Club. There was a very good response again this time, and it was encouraging to see some more new young people joining us.

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

We look forward now to our Christingle service at 3pm on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us if you can.

Again, as last year we are collecting gifts under our Christmas tree for CHAT. Gifts such as toiletries or non perishable foodstuff would be very welcome. The tree will be erected in time for our Christingle service.

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone is very welcome.

## Cruwys Morchard

It was lovely to see so many people having a good time at the annual Harvest Festival. The sunny weather was very welcome, and a big thank you to all who decorated the church and provided the refreshments and helped in any way. We had about 120 people sat down to tea in the hall, provided by the Ladies Committee. The costs of the Harvest celebrations are met through the generous donations of parishioners.

Thank you to Geoff Littlefield for coming back each year to run the sports, and to those who helped him. A great time was had by all, young and old. A special thank you to Linda Lake and Alice McShane for providing activities and games for the evening social. Thank you to Brian and Maureen Gibbs who provided the disco for the games and dancing. The harvest produce that was kindly donated was taken to Charlton lodge in Tiverton who were very appreciative.

The Variety Show in September was fantastic. New WayV and Friends entertained us with a wide range of songs to suit all tastes. The evening raised £255 for FORCE Cancer Charity, and also raised £73 each for New Hall funds and Way Village Restoration Fund. A big thank you to everyone for coming, and those who provided nibbles and draw prizes, but especially New WayV and Friends for all their hard work, including hours spent on rehearsals and costumes.

We will be hosting 'The Christmas Jazz Concert' on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Cruwys Morchard Church at 8pm. Enjoy an evening of live music with Jazz band 'Just Misbehavin' and three professional singers, Mike Long, Emily Wraith and Lynn Thornton, performing the fine Jazz tunes you know and love, alongside some Christmas classics, including songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Nina Simone and Billie Holiday. Tickets £10.00 on the door; includes mulled wine, mince pies and Dave's delicious shortbread. Bring your friends and family, have a great night out, and get in the mood for Christmas.

**Christmas Services** - This year our services are to follow a different pattern. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11am we shall be holding a service of Carols and Readings. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of December, we will be holding a Christingle service with Carols, followed by coffee and mince pies. Christingle making will take place again this year at Cindy's on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm. If you can spare some time, please do come and join us. At this service we will be collecting food and toiletries for CHAT to distribute to those who are in need. Food items need to be non-perishable such as biscuits, dried goods or cans (with ring pulls). Please no fresh food. These are distributed through

the year. Christmas Eve Holy Communion service is at 10pm

We welcomed into our church for baptism on Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>, Oliver Barker and Toby Winterton, grandsons of Cindy and Michael Trick.

Here is a note from Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers – "At the recent Annual General Meeting held by Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club, a representative from the Devon Air Ambulance was invited to come along to be presented with a cheque for £500, which the Club had raised over the past twelve months. The money was raised by various fundraising events. If you are aged between 10 and 26 years old and you would like more information about becoming a member of the Club, please contact the Chairman on 07969134101 or come along to the monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall."

We send our prayers and good wishes to those who have had operations or are undergoing treatment for illness; we hope you will soon be well.

If you would like to have anything added to the next newsletter for February/March, please can you forward them either by email to [Tesstranscripts@aol.com](mailto:Tesstranscripts@aol.com) or telephone on 01363 860124 by January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012.

### Parish Hall Events:-

Di & Dave's Annual Quiz - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Bar opens at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm prompt, at the Parish Hall for New Hall Funds. Please book your team with Mary - £5 per person to include light supper, bar and draw.



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### BINGO DATES

Christmas Bingo at the Village Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. 200 Club Draw at 7.45pm, with extra prizes.

### Flower and Cleaning Rota:

December 5<sup>th</sup> - Lorna Warren and Margaret Southwood (cleaning only - Advent)

December 12<sup>th</sup> - Decorators for Christmas

December 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> - Diana Vincent and Val Randerson

January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> - Cindy Trick and Pat Cross

January 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> - Judith Taylor and Anne Gillbard

January 30<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February - Sonia Notley

### Stove rota:

December - J. Carter

January - M. Trick

February - D. Edmonds

March - J. Lake

Please light the church stove on Saturday (Morning if possible). If you are unable to, please contact:

Cindy Tel: 01363 866621 or Diana Tel: 01363 860227

## **Loxbeare**

It was good to see many people at the Harvest Celebrations when we once again gave thanks to God for his unfailing provisions in our abundant harvests. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Church, and to all who gave in any way. Linda led our Saturday afternoon Service and Rob spoke, followed by sports and tea, this year at Ron & Margaret's due to work being carried out at the Village Hall. Thank you to them for the use of their premises. Thankfully the rain held off for most of the sports, and we all enjoyed a lovely Harvest Supper on the following Thursday. Thank you also to Derek who showed slides he had taken of the

sports. Derek Ursall, a farmer and ordained minister, gave a short talk at the end. A profit of £176.00 was given to the Village Hall funds towards the alterations.

Christmas will soon be upon us, with many services and celebrations of Christ's birth. Our Christingle Service will be on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am, and the Carol Service will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm with the offering being donated to the Children's Hospice South West. Carol Singing will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, meeting at Loxbeare Garage at 6.30pm for the first two nights, and at Calverleigh Village Hall at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve. The collection will be for CHAT and 'Help for Heroes'. The Christmas Day Family Service will be at 11.00am.

At the time of writing this we are planning a supper at New Creation on November 17<sup>th</sup> and a browse amongst the well stocked shelves for cards, books, CD's etc.

We will be holding a prayer day on November 26<sup>th</sup> at the Church between 11 and 4 o'clock praying for the Parish, the Exe Valley Community and the many needs in our Country and the World.

Many thanks to the Radford Family for cutting the grass in the churchyard during the year, and to anyone who has helped in any way with the general maintenance of the Church and the churchyard. Also thanks to all who helped, supported and contributed to the smooth running of the church during the past year.

We send our love and prayers to any who are feeling unwell, and to all who are mourning the loss of loved ones as well as those who feel lonely and struggle with the dark winter months.

Congratulations to Gerald and Linda Heywood on the birth of their third granddaughter, Tim and Amy's first child. Love and best wishes to you all. Also congratulations to Steve & Sue Troake and Jack and Jan Page who are celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversaries on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and to Robin and Sheryl Vickery on their recent Marriage. Happy Birthday

to all with birthdays during December & January.

The Loxbeare Women's Bible Study Group has just completed the series on 'Contentment' and will be sharing a Christmas Tea on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will begin a new series in January from Hebrews entitled 'Consider Jesus'. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 2.00pm. All ladies welcome. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Marlene Taylor held a coffee morning in October, and raised £136 for Village Hall funds.

Many thanks to Chris & Jan Bardes-Payne who organised the Loxbeare Village bonfire and firework evening on November 5<sup>th</sup>, which was kindly held in Arthur's field. Jacket potatoes, sausages, beans, etc were later provided in Chris & Jan's home at Moss Barn. Thanks to all who helped, and for a very enjoyable evening. A total of £122.00 was raised for the Village Hall funds.

The Village Hall extension, with new kitchen is progressing and we hope soon to have completion.

The Loxbeare Village Hall Christmas Bingo will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> November if the hall is finished. Doors open at 7.00pm. Eyes down 7.30. Contact Carol Radford on 01884 881480.

Loxbeare Ladies Dates: December 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas meal at The Quarryman, Bampton. January 9<sup>th</sup> meet at Sue's 7.30pm to discuss the year's programme. Contact Sue on 01884 259496.

Forward Date: Progressive Meal on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Anyone wishing to host either starters or main, contact Pat Dalby on 881332.

## **Oakford**

It seems a long time since the Harvest Festival, but we must thank all those who came to the Sunday service and tea,

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## NEW CREATION NEWS

Christmas is just around the corner, or maybe many corners after you have trawled the shops to find those special gifts. What a joy to show loved ones we care, in a small way emulating God's great gift of Jesus to His children because he cared so much. So let's be prepared to impart great joy to those we meet; whilst getting sucked in and bogged down with the secular Christmas Festivities, as most of us do!

It may seem New Creation is just another business cashing in on the season. We openly admit it is the most important time for us financially, but we do not apologise for spreading the real meaning of Christmas. Every item in our shop contains a gospel text or an inspirational Christian message, apart from Traidcraft food which supports a Christian Fair Trade organisation.

Any recipient of a card or gift from New Creation receives a blessing from God through his word. For some people it will be the only REAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE they experience. So we unashamedly ask you to shop with us for as many items as possible so that God may bless us all.

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHESES** - still two dates available - Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December. Three courses for £9.50 per head; Roast Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, Christmas Pudding or an alternative sweet, Cup of Tea and a mint to finish; **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

**BAGS OF DELIGHT** -the last one of 2011 will be on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 11.00 -12 noon. Come along with your pre-schoolers and enjoy a story brought to life. Rita and Jan look forward to your company.

**TRAIDCRAFT** have many extra items of Christmas Goodies available. Several are stocked in the shop or can be ordered from the catalogue. There is also a good range of fruit, nuts, sugar, honey, etc. please remember this when baking those special treats.

As Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday this year, New Creation will be open as usual until 1.00pm. Staff and Volunteers will take a break (apart from stocktaking) until after New Year. **The shop re-opens on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012 at 9.30 a.m.**

Our prayer is a Blessed and Joyous Christmas for each household and a New Year of peace in New Beginnings for our troubled world. GOD BLESS.

**New Creation, 58 Bampton Street, Tiverton, EX16 4BP Tel: 01884 255769**  
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and also to the Harvest Supper and Auction on the Monday evening. It was a very enjoyable occasion and a total of £438 was raised and, after expenses, we were pleased to send half (£160) to Tearfund. Many thanks to all who helped and supported it, particularly Mary, Dawn and Brenda, who organized the food.

Now we turn to Christmas, and we hope that we won't have to contend with ice and snow again this year.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, we will be dressing the Christmas tree in the Church, and

we hope children (and their mums and dads) will come along and help. At 6pm the lights on the Christmas tree in the centre of the village will be switched on. Everyone is welcome to come along and sing carols and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine.

On Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> the Church candlelit Carol service with readings and traditional carols will be held at 5pm. We hope you can all come and enjoy this festive occasion with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

## PARISH ROUND-UP

Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a Holy Communion at 11.30pm to celebrate Christ's birth. Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a Christmas morning family service with carols and readings at 10am.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Other events for your diary:

**Moorland Club** Christmas Dinner : Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> .

January 12<sup>th</sup> Fish and Chip supper and Recycling Gift stall. Meeting starts at 7.15pm.

**Oakford Players.** The Christmas production, 'Christmas Crackers' will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Oakford Village Hall at 7.30pm. Songs, sketches, entertainment and guaranteed laughter will be a great way to start off the festive season. Light refreshments will be served between acts, and there is a licensed bar. This year we are supporting Trish Luxton, who will be driving her horses and carriage from John O'Groats to Lands End next Easter, in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. Tickets, priced at £8 and £4 (for under 14s), are available from Dawn on 01398 351525. Festive Fun for All!

**Queens Jubilee Celebration 2012**

The 'Ideas' coffee morning to start thinking about how Oakford could celebrate the Queens Jubilee next year was well supported, with some great suggestions for making it a special event. Ideas ranged from Team Tetrathlon to Village Photo, commemorative mugs to fireworks, and of course lots of partying. There will be a meeting as soon as possible to sort out what we can realistically do, how we fund it, and who does what, so watch out for notices. If you weren't able to make the Ideas session, there's always room for helpers, so please come along, the more the merrier!

Congratulations to Carla Bancroft, Sue Burton and Margaret Clapp for raising over £500 for Marie Curie from their 13

Continued on Page 10 ⇨

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## CHILDREN'S GROUPS

### TODDLERS GROUP

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For information phone  
Liz Heywood (01884 881583)

### FISH CLUB

(for ages 4-11)

Every Friday during term time  
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### YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays at 6.30 pm.

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Nicki Burton (01884-255248)

## HOME GROUPS

### PRAISE AND PRAYER

2nd Sunday in month

At 8.00pm.

(Tel.01884-881362 for venues)

### COFFEE PLUS

Alternate Thursdays

9.30am - 10.30am.

Prayer for the Exe Valley  
at Church Cottage, Stoodleigh  
(Tel. 01398-351364)

### LOXBEARE PRAYER MEETING

On 3rd Tuesday in month

(Tel. 01884-881362)

### LOXBEARE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Alternate Tuesdays at 2pm

2nd Tuesday - East Sidborough

4th Tuesday - Highgate Cottage

### WALK THE TALK

Withleigh Home Group

Alternate Tuesdays at 8pm

(Tel. 01884-253473)

## MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Sunday 27th November**  
**10.30 am**

**Group Advent Service**  
at  
**Cruwys Morchard**

**Sunday 1st January**  
**10.30 am**

**Group Family Service**  
at  
**Loxbeare**

---

**Sundays 4th December**  
**and 8th January**  
**4 pm**

**Sunday Club Service**  
at  
**Calverleigh Village Hall**

## OAKFORD

### 4th December

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 11th December

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 18th December

5 pm Carol Service

### Christmas Eve

11.30 pm Holy Communion

### Christmas Day

10 am Family Service

### 1st January

See Loxbeare

### 8th January

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 15th January

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 22nd January

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 29th January

9.30 am Family Service

## RACKENFORD

### 4th December

11.15 am Morning Prayer

### 11th December

11.15 am Holy Communion

### 18th December

11.15 am Christingle

### Christmas Eve

7 pm Carols & Holy Communion

### 1st January

See Loxbeare

### 8th January

11.15 am Morning Prayer

### 15th January

11.15 am Holy Communion

### 22nd January

11.15 am Family Service

### 29th January

9.30 am Morning Prayer

## STOODLEIGH

### 4th December

11 am Family Service  
and Holy Communion

### 11th December

11 am Morning Prayer

### 18th December

7 pm Carol Service

### Christmas Day

11 am Holy Communion

### 1st January

See Loxbeare

### 8th January

11 am Family Service  
and Holy Communion

### 15th January

11 am Morning Prayer

### 22nd January

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 29th January

6.30 pm Evening Prayer



### **CALVERLEIGH**

**4th December**  
11.15 am Morning Worship

**11th December**  
3 pm Christingle

**18th December**  
3 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Day**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**1st January**  
See Loxbeare

**8th January**  
11.15 am Morning Worship

**15th January**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**22nd January**  
11.15 am Family Service

**29th January**  
3 pm Evening Prayer

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**4th December**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**11th December**  
11 am Carol Service

**18th December**  
11 am Christingle with Carols

**Christmas Eve**  
10 pm Holy Communion

**1st January**  
See Loxbeare

**8th January**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**15th January**  
11 am Family Service

**22nd January**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**29th January**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

### **LOXBEARE**

**4th December**  
11 am Family Service

**11th December**  
11 am Christingle

**18th December**  
6.30 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Day**  
11 am Family Communion

**1st January**  
10.30 am Group Family Service

**8th January**  
9.30 am Family Communion

**15th January**  
11 am Family Service

**22nd January**  
6.30 pm Evening Praise

**29th January**  
11 am Family Service

### **TEMPLETON**

**4th December**  
9.30 am Holy Communion  
by Extension

**11th December**  
No Service

**18th December**  
11 am Family Service

**Christmas Eve**  
7 pm Carols & Holy Communion

**1st January**  
See Loxbeare

**8th January**  
9.30 am Family Service

**15th January**  
No Service

**22nd January**  
11 am Holy Communion

**29th January**  
11 am Morning Prayer

### **WASHFIELD**

**4th December**  
3 pm Evening Prayer

**11th December**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**18th December**  
11 am Christingle

**Christmas Eve**  
6 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Day**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**1st January**  
See Loxbeare

**8th January**  
3 pm Evening Prayer

**15th January**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**22nd January**  
11 am Family Service

**29th January**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

### **WITHLEIGH**

**4th December**  
4 pm Christingle

**11th December**  
9.30 am Morning Worship  
with Baptism

**18th December**  
7.30 pm Christmas Praise

**Christmas Eve**  
11.30 pm Holy Communion

**1st January**  
See Loxbeare

**8th January**  
11 am Family Service

**15th January**  
9.30 am Morning Worship

**22nd January**  
11 am Holy Communion

**29th January**  
9.30 am Morning Worship

## PARISH ROUND-UP

mile sponsored walk across Dartmoor - in the pouring rain too!

### Rackenford

Our Harvest celebrations began on October 6<sup>th</sup> when our church was beautifully decorated by various ladies on the flower rota and church members. Gifts were kindly brought and displayed by the children of Rackenford Church of England School. Thank you to anyone who brought or left items for our Harvest, always very much appreciated. The children of Rackenford School welcomed everyone who attended their service on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, and gave us a very special service of songs and prayers. Curate Rob Brewis gave a talk, and the collection taken was for Oxfam's Water Project. Natasha Hagley played the organ before and after the service. The congregation was invited back to the school to enjoy tea and cake.

Sunday's Harvest Praise service took place on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. It was a pleasure to have the singing group 'Harmony' from Tiverton joining us to celebrate our Harvest. Thanks to them. We also had our own village children playing their wind instruments and singing to us all. Rev. Steve Goodbody took the service as we all joined together to remember this very important time of year.

On the evening of October 10<sup>th</sup> many gathered at the Stag hall for our Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce. Our auctioneer this year was Stafford Sampson, who paid tribute to the late John Blackford before he started our sale. Fun and laughter followed as he encouraged people to part with their money!! A lovely evening. Thank you to all the ladies for the very enjoyable supper, to Annette Reed for organizing the draw, to all who donated

draw prizes and gifts for the Harvest auction, and to all that helped in any way. What a great success it was - over the Sunday and Monday £1,157.45 profit was made. Thank you so much to everyone for your continued support, and thank you to Kate and Sophie for the use of the Stag hall.

Many thanks to everyone who supported Lucy & Vicki on the Quiz Night, held in memory of their brother Neil Cole, and to everyone who donated draw prizes and contributed food - also for donations given during the evening and from people who could not attend. Over £500 was raised for Tiverton Fire Station.

Belated congratulations to Herbert and Marjorie Smith, who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, and to anyone who has celebrated special anniversaries or birthdays.

Our very best wishes to Sue Cole who has been into hospital.

£239.93 has been gratefully received from donations given to the Rackenford Churchyard Fund in memory of Bessie Chapple.

Many thanks once again to Fred, Joan and Brian Phillips and Mervin and Jenny Sleep who kindly gave their time and energy to cutting our church hedge and tidying up the churchyard extension on hands and knees, weeding, not an easy job. So many thanks to you all. We continue to sing the praises of Evan Baillie for keeping our churchyard so neat and tidy throughout the year which is often commented upon!

We were sad to hear of the death of Ken Palminter from Calverleigh. Some may remember Ken used to run the Post Office and Shop at Rackenford as it used to be back in the 1980's! Following a private cremation Ken's memorial service was held at Calverleigh on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Our love and prayers go to Stella at this sad and difficult time.

Sadly we also hear of the death of Paddy Broadbent, who used to live in Rackenford with her husband, David. A service has been held for Paddy, and she has now been laid to rest with David in our churchyard. Our deepest sympathy to Paddy's family and friends.

Many congratulations to Gary Muchmore and Jo Kidner on their engagement. It's lovely to hear your news - our very best wishes for the future.

We welcome anyone that has moved into Rackenford or area. Often we don't know your names but a warm welcome awaits you.

Some of us had scary faces on our doorsteps at the end of the month. We hope you had many treats and enjoyed yourselves and returned home safely.

November 5<sup>th</sup> heard the usual bangs and saw the skies light up with fireworks as many gathered around the bonfire to see the Guy Fawkes and pumpkin competition judged. Refreshments were available and we were very lucky to have a dry evening.

Although it's very early, this is the last opportunity we have to wish Mrs Joan Arscott a very happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope you have a lovely day!

A very early Happy Christmas to you all and to all our neighbouring parishes in the Exe Valley and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Stoodleigh

We apologise for omitting from the last magazine news of the two delightful weddings which took place in Stoodleigh Church in July. We send our very best wishes and congratulations to Robert Spetch and Katherine Edmonston-Low, from Witleigh; and to John Northam and Emily Wotton – Emily's family and extended family being well known Stoodleigh people.

Our thanks to all those who decorated the church so beautifully for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 2nd October. The hall was filled for the Harvest Supper on the Monday, and the auction raised £265, to be divided equally between the Devon Air Ambulance and funding for the proposed Stoodleigh celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Thank you to all those who supported this event, and to our two amusing and proficient auctioneers, Peter Broadbent and Alistair Morison.

We had another very enjoyable gathering at Champles Barn, home of Peter and Christine Broadbent, on 21st October, for an evening meal and talk by Deborah Bean, a former member of the personal secretarial staff of the Queen. This raised £357 for church funds and a £50 donation to the British Legion in lieu of the speaker's fee.

A good sized congregation attended the Exe Valley Group Service held on Sunday 30th October. As part of that service the baptism took place of Nicholas Brewis, baby son of Rob and Alison Brewis – Rob being our new Curate, living in Stoodleigh Vicarage. We welcome Nicholas into our church family and remember him and the family in our prayers.

It was a real pleasure to have young families taking part in the Family Service held in Church on Sunday 6th November. The next Stoodleigh Family Service will be on Sunday 4th December.

#### Dates for your diaries

Dec. 18th: Carol Service at 7pm.  
Dec. 25th: Christmas Day Holy Communion Service at 11am.

#### Christmas Fayre

Stoodleigh Christmas Fayre will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 10th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm. There is no entrance fee, but there will be welcoming refreshments on arrival, and hot sausages will also be served. An extensive range of most attractive items following the theme '*Mostly made in Stoodleigh*' and geared to the Christmas season will be on show. Father Christmas will be handing out small presents to children, a new feature this year. Shops and services based in Bampton, Tiverton and South Molton have been wonderfully supportive in providing vouchers for the raffle, which will start at 12 noon. Stoodleigh Fayre is established as a 'must not miss event' and this year is better than ever.

Jennifer Rowlandson has a selection of Christmas Cards for sale, and will have her usual table at the Christmas Fayre. The cards are on display in the church. Single cards 80p or £3.50 for a pack of 5 – all proceeds go to St Margaret's Church. To order, ring Jennifer on 01398 351402.

It is hoped to go Carol Singing round Stoodleigh village on Tuesday 20th December, meeting at the Village Hall at 6pm. Anyone interested should contact Jennifer (01398 351402).

#### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

A working group has come up with exciting plans for celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee here in Stoodleigh next year, on Monday June 4th. On that night, hundreds of communities all over the country will light 'beacons' in honour of this great occasion, and this village will be one of them – with a huge hilltop bonfire.

In fact, we mean to make a proper night of it, with a full-scale "Village Party" earlier that evening, under cover at the centre of the village, offering a sit-down meal (hog-roast, etc) for something like 200 people, and a bar and music. Earlier still, we will get the ball rolling with afternoon sports and games, and teas, for children and adults on the cricket field.

The organisers are keen to hear your ideas – and later on they will be looking for practical help. You can contact Margaret Cuninghame (351252), Geraldine Talbot (351391) or Colin Hiscock (351703). One thing that will be needed is wood for the beacon bonfire. If anyone has any burnable timber, they are asked to get in touch.

#### Stoodleigh Club

Lizzie writes: "Obviously you are all aware that the Club has been closed for some time, but hopefully by the time you read this a date for reopening will have been settled and you will be able to enjoy a Christmas drink where you usually do!"

#### Parish Hall

The Autumn Market and Coffee Morning was a huge success as a community event and showcase for local crafts and businesses, and also raised funds for the Hall. The Christmas Bingo and Grand Draw is on 19th December at 7.30pm. Get your tickets for the Grand Draw for the



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

opportunity to win a luxury hamper, spirits, chocolates and more.

Stoodleigh 100 Club prizewinners: September – 1 John and Sally Holland, 2 Jennifer Rowlandson, 3 Peter Browne; October – 1 Joyce Lacey, 2 Iris Wotton, 3 Malcolm and June Jones.

Church Flower Rota: November 20th and 27th – Phyllis Hill; December 11th and 18th – Corinne Miller; everyone to help, please, to decorate the church for Christmas. Thanks to all the "Flower Ladies" for their willing help throughout the year.

### Templeton

**C**hristmas Services. There will be a Family Service on December 18th at 11.00am. Our Carol Service, followed by Holy Communion, will be on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm.

St. Margaret's was exceptionally well decorated this year for the Harvest Festival service on October 2nd. Thank you to all those who did the flower arrangements so beautifully, and to all who donated the fruit and vegetables. The produce was taken to Charlton Lodge.

We were sorry to hear that Audrey McInerney's mother had passed away, also that Sarah and Graham Floyd have both lost their fathers recently. Our love and thoughts are with you all.

A successful Duck Race was held on September 10th. It proved to be an extremely enjoyable afternoon. The race started at Great Esworthy and finished at

Dart Coombe Mill, where there were cream teas, plant stalls and a raffle. £600.20p was raised, to be divided between the village hall and the church. First prize went to Marianne Duncan, second to Sue Coffin and third to Ron Woollacott. The last duck to come in was Jim Whitehart's for which he also received a prize.

The winner of the 100 Club draw for September was Daniel Pancherz, and for October, Emma Clow.

At the time of writing this we haven't yet had our Bonfire and Firework display but we would like to thank in advance Reg and Sue Coffin and their many helpers for all their hard work and for what we know will be a very successful event.

The usual games and tournaments will start in December. If you wish to take part, please put your names on the lists at the village hall.

Our fundraising for the church tower is progressing well. The Duck Race contributed £300.00, and the charity dinner £210.00. We have received a very generous donation of £2,500 from the Richard Lowes Foundation, for which we say a huge thank you. We await answers to various requests that have been made. The total to date is £11,798.

We thought we would extend our Templeton Library to include children's books, CD's and DVD's. We are awaiting your donations before we can start this service, so please take your contributions to either Gloria Woollacott at Church Farm or Jan Heptinstall at The Wolery as soon as possible. Thank you.

### Flower and Cleaning Rota:

Teresa Pancherz - cleaning  
 4th December – 11th December  
 Gloria Woollacott - flowers/cleaning  
 18th December – 25th December  
 Teresa Pancherz - flowers/cleaning  
 1st January - 8th January  
 Gill Rose - flowers/cleaning  
 15th January - 22nd January  
 Hannah Nobbs - flowers/cleaning  
 29th January - 5th February

### Washfield

*Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do – or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.*

**A**s we write these notes Christmas will soon be with us, and then another year gone by; how time flies. Winter, though, has much to offer, with social occasions, gatherings with friends and family and, of course, the church services of Advent, Christingle and Carol services, all leading us to celebrate the joyous birth of Jesus Christ.

The Christingle service will be held on Sunday 18th December at 11am. The Christmas tree will be decorated, and the Christingles made on Saturday 17th December at 10.30am (we are always grateful for offers of help). Please could the Christmas arrangements also be put in the church on that day? The service of Carols and Lessons, which is always a very popular service, will take its traditional form on December 24th at 6pm

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DOMESTIC INSTALLER

# PARISH ROUND-UP

followed by coffee, mince pies and biscuits.

Washfield's Reflection Group continues to meet once a month on a Monday at 2.30pm at Gunshot Cottage. All welcome (phone Joan 253468). We welcome Mrs Catherine Rigby-Jones who has come from Mylor to live at Easterlands with her daughter, Mrs Unwin. We hope you find our climate as temperate as neighbouring Cornwall, and our parish welcoming.

Have you noticed the new seat in the churchyard? We extend our grateful thanks to the donor. It will be much appreciated, as the church paths appear to be getting much steeper! A change also to the ancient yew tree which has been professionally trimmed, and the overgrown bush on the vestry path removed. Martin Hansford did sterling work towards this, clearing up and removing the debris. Thank you so much, Martin, for your hard and dedicated work.

CHAT has written to thank everyone for the 145 food items which were donated to the homeless via the church. The box for donations remains inside the church porch.

We send Get Well wishes to everyone who has not been enjoying good health; you have constantly been in our prayers. Frank, Joy and Grace, you have all been missed in the village very much.

Garth and Jeanne Jones will, once again, host their Christmas Coffee morning on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at The Cottage from 10am. Lots of Christmas goodies including wrapping paper, cards and gifts, produce and cakes. All very welcome – proceeds to Church funds.

The Social Club held an amazing Murder Mystery evening in October, and all who participated had a fantastic evening of fun and laughter. The scenario of the marriage of local girl Lily Pickles to Gl Clarke 'Mitch' Mitchell, acted out so well by the visiting ensemble, led to much

intrigue, code breaking, hilarity and two unfortunate deaths with no-one being above suspicion. The murderer was eventually exposed though, with many of the 'wedding guests' spotting the clues and solving the mystery. Thanks to Arthur Shenton and the rest of the Social Club committee for all their efforts in putting this on.

The Annual Pumpkin weigh-in took place, as usual, at the end of October, with many huge pumpkins being entered. The winner was Harvey Boniface with a weight of 100lbs! Second was David Bowden with 95lbs and third Ruby May with 94lbs. The prize for the best shaped pumpkin went to John Burton. Thanks to David Bowden and the growers, £177 was raised on the night and, with the monies from the collection box, £206.50 was sent to E.L.F.

The Parochial Church Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to everyone who has given time and helped in any way towards our aim of keeping our church and churchyard open and accessible, clean and warm, friendly and welcoming. The seasonal flowers just appear, the bells and organ sing out to greet us; thank you everyone. We get much feedback on how lovely the churchyard and church look, so it is a credit to you all. Also thanks to all who support the fundraising events we put on, and who open their homes and gardens on behalf of the church, and to those who deliver the Today magazine to the many homes around the parish. We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Balment who open and close the church daily; your efforts make the church accessible to those who wish to visit and go in. We wish all our readers, near and far, a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Coffee Morning at The Cottage from 10am. All welcome

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December - W.I. Christmas Party with three course Christmas meal

and entertainment. Please contact a member for details and prices

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Decorating of the church Christmas tree and making of Christingles 10.30am. Helpers welcome.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle service 11am

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - The village Carol singers will be singing. Meet at hall at 6pm

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Traditional service of Lessons and Carols at 6pm followed by coffee and mince pies.

**Church Flower Rota:**

December 4 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs McCahon
December 18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs May
January 1 <sup>st</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Parnell
January 15 <sup>th</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs French
January 29 <sup>th</sup> /February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Tobey


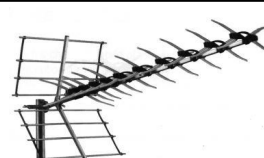
**Church Cleaning Rota:**

December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Horsey
December 18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup>	Mr and Mrs McCahon
January 1 <sup>st</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs French
January 15 <sup>th</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Arnold / Mrs Bicknell
January 29 <sup>th</sup> /February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Harding / Mrs Jones

## Witleigh

It was good to meet together for a relaxed evening in the village hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Although only a few were able to attend, it was good to chat over a drink and a sandwich.

The Safari Supper held on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October was a great success and realised a grand total of £960, which was divided equally between the Village Hall and the Church. A big thank you to all those who hosted meals, gave desserts and draw

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

prizes, helped in the Village Hall or in any other way. We must also not forget all those who supported the supper, making it a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks again to you all.

The weekend was finished off on the Sunday evening, 16<sup>th</sup> October, with our Songs of Praise service - in the Village Hall for the first time - which was well attended. The evening finished with coffee and cake. Thank you David, June, Laura and Paul for another enjoyable Songs of Praise. It is always good to see David and June back with us, and we do appreciate the time they give helping Laura to prepare these services. We now look forward to the next one in February, 2012, again in the Village Hall.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October we held our Annual Team Skittles competition, always a keenly fought competition, won this year by Ron Stacey's team with David Sellick's team being the runners up. Thank you Duncan for organising the competition, and the ladies in the kitchen for the food and drinks.

We were lucky with the weather for the Bonfire and Fireworks evening on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. Withleigh YFC joined forces with our village event, which meant we had a bigger display of fireworks for everyone to enjoy. The Young Farmers had been busy making guys for the bonfire, so this year we had three guys sat upon the fire. It was good to see so many people around the fire and in the village hall afterwards. Thank you to the young farmers for the guys, Duncan, Nigel and Colin for letting off the fireworks, and to all of the people who supplied and served the soup, hot dogs, burgers, etc.

This year's Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 3pm to 5pm, in the village hall. This party is always a fun afternoon, and all children 11

years and under are welcome, along with their parents and grandparents and friends of Withleigh. Father Christmas will look in during the afternoon, as he will be on his rounds, taking his Christmas orders. For more information please ring Sara on 252949.

Our Christingle Service is on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 p.m. with Christmas services starting on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm with a Christmas Praise service (postponed last year due to the weather), singing all our favourites carols, and followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at these special services.

Scottish Dancing classes will begin on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in the Village Hall, and will continue every other week for approx 6 sessions. Beginning at 7.30pm, we will break for a mid-session drink, and end at 9pm. Please wear sensible shoes for dancing. For more details please ring Giles or Rosie 257123 or Brenda 252431.

Withleigh W.I. won the first round of the Devon Federation of the Women's Institutes' skittles competition and, at the time of writing, members are about to play their second round match. We wish them well in this competition.

We think of all those who are bereaved at the moment. Get well wishes also to everyone not well, receiving treatment, in hospital or recovering from stays in hospital. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

### Forthcoming events:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dec Christmas Bingo,  
Eyes down at 7.30pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December Children's Christmas  
Party at 3pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> December Christingle Service  
in church at 4pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Poultry  
Whist Drive at 7.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Praise  
in church at 7.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> December Service of Holy  
Communion in church at 11.30pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> January Scottish Dancing  
Classes begin at 7.30pm

### Flower rota:

- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> ) Christine Luxton
- 11<sup>th</sup> )
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS
- 25<sup>th</sup> Cathy Luxton, Tree.
- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> )
- 8<sup>th</sup> ) Margaret Gale
- 15<sup>th</sup> )
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> )
- 29<sup>th</sup> ) Shirley Cruwys
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> )

### Monthly Diary dates::

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

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## HOLY TIME

One of the often overlooked insights from our Christian teaching is the wisdom that not only is space (the created order) sacred as a gift of God, but so also is time.

Biblically, this is expressed partly in the Sabbath (Shabbat) tradition as explicit, for example, in the fourth commandment. The seventh day is to be remembered and respected as a special period of holiness. Some theologians would even say it is the pinnacle of Creation – the completion of God's work in shaping the Universe.

The need for our society to have a time of rest and re-creation, in which we review our lives, and in which debts can be written off, land re-distributed and all wrongs put to right, is central to our faith and found in the words of the Lord's Prayer.

It is also extremely relevant in today's 24/7 culture where there is no stopping the consumer-driven urges to shop all day and all night. The onslaught of a busy society in which we value ourselves by what we possess – we are what we have - is incessant. We work only to own more "play things". Thus we become involved in idolatry – when our possessions possess us. Meanwhile, the energy required from fossil fuels to allow us to do this is enormous and wasteful, with one of the by-products being Climate Change induced by greenhouse gas emissions.

Some use the term 'time-pollution', when the activity we do next is seen as more important than what we are doing now! Surely we need to re-examine our attitudes.

A holy time apart, whether in a few minutes, a whole day, an entire year or a liturgical season, calls us away from the driven-ness of insatiable lifestyles, and points us in the direction of more sustainable ways of living. Our human potential is not to be found in what we own and how we hold on to it, but in our ability to develop caring relationships with other people and with the Earth, through which God is experienced as a force of love.

Happiness is ultimately to be discovered in how we live meaningful, engaging and joyful lives. To this end we all need time away from the images and messages of advertising and to reduce the impact we

have on the poor and on the planet. Holy time is indeed time for a change. MG

## A GUIDE TO MODERN LIVING

"Make do and mend" –not just because it's more "eco-friendly" but because it's better for your mental health. Working with our hands is ingrained in our DNA and the self-esteem and confidence that result from fixing something that was broken or making something from scratch have measurable effects on mental and also therefore, on physical well-being.

"Stop multi-tasking". We can't think of more than one thing at a time. Trying to do so just leads to stress and lowers your ability to do anything properly. When access to social networking sites was turned off at Harrisburg University as an experiment, students initially complained but afterwards reported greater attention and understanding of lectures and found they were more out-going and sociable.

"Get out and about more". Get yourself out in the garden or go for a walk. Being confined by the walls of a building or a car is not very stimulating for the brain; everything you see is more or less predictable whereas in the natural world everything is constantly changing. The brain reacts well to this seeming randomness so that for example, people learn better after a walk in the countryside than they do after an urban walk and patients in hospital recover better if they can see trees outside their windows.

"Keep electronic communication in its place" Sociable people live nearly four years longer than people who are unsociable, - but this means face to face communication, not the "Facebook" type. Remember much of our communication is non-verbal!

"Be happy at your work". Often easier said than done but researchers find that people are up to 12% more productive after being shown a film that makes them feel happy. If you're lucky enough to be a manager of other people you'll surely find them being more productive if they feel valued and appreciated.

And what's all this got to do with being environmentally friendly? Not a huge amount, except that we seem to have lost

our way in so many ways, of which the above ones are only a few,-and we are worse off as a result. We don't really seem to know it yet because we've been seduced by the good life, paid for by cheap energy. The really big thing we're getting wrong and only just beginning to see, is that we're wrecking the planet. The planet will adapt and survive of course, but many humans will struggle...

## THE GREEN BIBLE

The Green Bible was first published by Collins in 2008. It is a special edition of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) which is printed using sustainably produced resources with a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

It is particularly remarkable as it highlights in green ink those texts which are more obviously explicit references to the Earth and the Environment. These include familiar passages such as Genesis 1, Psalm 104 and Romans 8, but also many more less known which together give a stronger ecological sense to these Jewish and Christian scriptures. Over 1,000 creation care comments are identified.

The book contains a Green Bible Trail Guide and a myriad of other references and resources. A collection of quotes from a variety of writers from the Early Church through to the current Ecumenical Patriarch is very useful compilation of complimentary voices to the Biblical texts.

Finally, essays contributed by respected conservationists and theologians emphasise important creation themes and how to read the Bible through a 'green lens'.

This is a great tool for anyone wanting to reconnect faith and ecology, and exploring the significance of scripture for this much needed adventure.

The Green Bible is available in most bookshops. It is accompanied by the Bible Society's 'Poverty and Justice Bible' (Contemporary English Version), which indicates the thousands of references to social justice and exclusion central to the biblical message of hope and life for all.



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