

# TODAY

The Parish  
Magazine  
for the  
Exe Valley  
Mission  
Community

April / May, 2012

Price 40p

## HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

Many people doubt or disbelieve the Bible's account of the Easter story. In particular, many people question whether Jesus Christ really did rise from the dead. Even amongst members of the clergy, there are those who find it hard to accept that he conquered death. Those who do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus need to answer three questions:

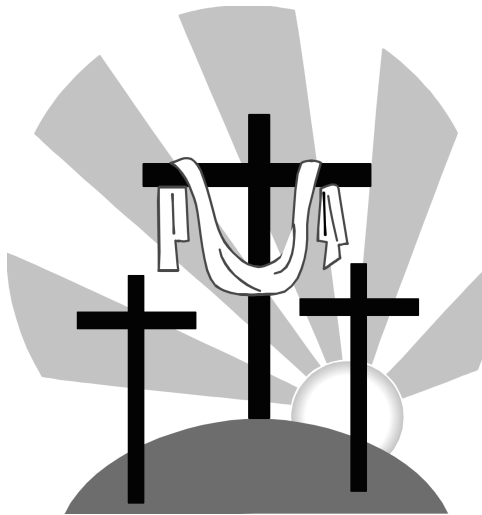
### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY?

How do we explain the empty tomb? Where did the body of Jesus go? If the enemies of Jesus stole his body, why did they not produce it when his followers began to claim that he had risen? That would have put an immediate end to the Christian faith. If the disciples of Jesus stole the body, why did a number of them later die for claiming that he was alive? Who would be foolish enough to suffer imprisonment or even death for what they knew to be a complete lie?

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISCIPLES?

How do we explain the utter transformation that took place in the lives of his followers? When Jesus was arrested and put on trial, his followers abandoned him and fled. They went into hiding because they were so terrified. What happened to turn them from craven cowards to courageous preachers of the resurrection? As I

mentioned earlier, some even died for their faith in Jesus. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then what produced this remarkable change in the lives of his followers?



### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WORLD?

Within weeks of his death, thousands of people were following Jesus Christ. Within a few short years, there were churches planted all across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. And today the church of Jesus Christ continues to multiply and grow all over the world. How do we explain this extraordinary global community of faith, if Jesus did not rise? How did the

church explode into life, if its Lord and founder was dead and buried?

On Easter Sunday, hundreds of millions of people will declare: "He has risen indeed, hallelujah!". I hope you will join us in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Steve*

## REDEFINING MARRIAGE

I know that many people are very concerned about the government's plans to redefine marriage in such a way that two people of the same gender would be able to be married. This would clearly be an unprecedented move away from the Bible's teaching that marriage is intended to be a life-long, exclusive commitment between a man and woman, and that every marriage is a kind of living parable of Christ's relationship to his church (see Ephesians 5v31-32).

A strong case can be made to say, not simply that homosexual couples *should* not be married, but that they *cannot* be married, as marriage is by very definition heterosexual. The institution of marriage will be fundamentally weakened if this legislation is passed.

**Copy Deadline for the June / July issue - Mon 7th May**

### THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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The government has said that churches will not be obliged to conduct same-sex marriages if they have a moral objection to doing so. However, it is highly likely that this exemption would be challenged and eventually rescinded. This would obviously put many clergy in a very difficult position, and may well discourage some people from becoming ordained.

We are currently in a period of consultation, during which the government is seeking the views of the general public about this important issue. It is an excellent opportunity for Christians to voice their objection to the proposal, and to speak up in favour of marriage as God intends it.

A group of organisations has come together in order to make it easy for us to register our views. The *Coalition For Marriage* is organising a petition, in which people are invited to show their support for the simple statement: "I support the legal definition of marriage which is the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. I oppose any attempt to redefine it".

Over one-hundred-and-twenty-thousand people have already signed the petition, including Bishop Michael. If you would like to add your voice to the protest, you can sign the petition on-line at [www.C4M.org.uk](http://www.C4M.org.uk).

If enough of us speak up, the government will have to pay attention to our views.

*Rev Steve Goodbody  
Rector*

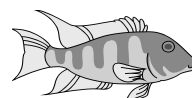
### EDITORIAL

The Churchwardens' Council, at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February, formally approved the Mission Action Plan for 2012. This has involved a good deal of input from a number of people, and sets out how we

see ourselves moving forward in mission during 2012. Mission is all about moving forward; to not be moving would be to stagnate, and each parish is asked to consider what it can do in this respect. The Mission Action Plan is reproduced on page 15.

With this issue of TODAY, you will find a subscription envelope. Whilst, once again, wishing to stress that any contributions towards the cost of the magazine are gratefully received, all contributions are voluntary. Our thanks to all who support us in this way.

*Paul*



### FISH CLUB REPORT

Fish Club continues to meet at Calverleigh each Friday after School during term time,

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the coffee morning a great success. It was a lovely sunny morning and so many people came to support this event. Thank you to everyone who made cakes, especially the toddler Mums who made some really yummy bakes. The Coffee morning made £460, which was divided between Fish Club and the Toddler Group - this goes to help pay the Hall hire and other expenses.

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

### HOLIDAY CLUB 2012

This year's Holiday Club will be held from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July, with a service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a sporting theme, appropriate

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to the forthcoming Olympics, and will be an action packed week of learning about Jesus through fun activities and games.

More details will follow in the next issue of Today magazine.

If you are able to offer help for the week or would like to know more about Holiday Club, please contact Cindy Trick 01363 866621.

*Cindy*

## EXE VALLEY YOUTH GROUP AND BIBLE STUDY

The Exe Valley Youth group and Bible Study meet each Wednesday during school term time from 6.30pm until 8pm. It's an evening for young people of high school age where they can hang out, eat tuck, play pool, table tennis and other games. Each evening we also have a short bible study session on current issues and living life as a Christian. Until Easter we will be meeting at Loxbears Village hall, but in the summer term we'll be meeting at Lower Ingrams Farm Games Room. If you'd like to come along, please contact Dave or Nikki on 07817 851856.

## ANN'S NATURE NOTES

Now, at last, spring has come, and I do love the spring with the Daffodils; the young green corn is waving ....and the lanes are starred with Primroses, and loud the Cuckoo shouts, not that there are many Cuckoos nowadays. They seem to be getting rarer, and there is a lot of research going on as to why the numbers are reducing, whether it is here, during the migration, or in their wintering grounds. Five Scottish Cuckoos have been tagged

to see where they are going, as the Cuckoos in Scotland are thriving, whereas those in England are reducing in number. Recently they discovered that there is a different route that they take when going south, and that is over Spain, rather than Italy.

The birds are singing their hearts out. They are not necessarily singing for the joy of it, even though it sounds like it. There are two reasons to sing, it is believed. One is to announce to others that he is in charge of a certain territory and it is one full of food; the other is to attract a mate and to show he is the alpha male of the area. The louder he sings the more attractive he is. Sadly the Thrush is not as common as it used to be, so one does not hear the repetitive call so often. The leaves are not yet out, so it is the best time to bird watch.

In May the Bluebells come out. They are in deciduous woods and need the light to grow so that they come out in flower before the leaves appear. They like the damp ground which is undisturbed, and it is a very quintessential English sight. The best wood near here is above Ford farm, East of Bampton. It is on a footpath and well worth the walk.

Incidentally, Jennyanydots spent an awful lot of time throughout January and February on the shelf behind the Aga.

*Ann*

## DEANERY SYNOD

The main speaker at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February was Rev. Patrick Parkes, the new Diocesan Mission Resource Advisor, about how the Diocese spends its money, for example on maintaining Church of England schools, as well as community activities, to complement the obvious expenses like paying clergy and maintaining churches.

The report on general synod was a look ahead, as it was to take place the following week. The main topic for debate was to be on assisted dying. Maybe we could discuss this at Deanery Synod too, as it is such an important and personal subject?

There was a presentation on the development of the Tiverton Mission Community (the four Tiverton churches and Chevithorne), and which was to be Celebrated during February. There had been historical differences between the town churches, and the fact that they had now reached the point where they could work more closely together, is no mean achievement, and something to be welcomed.

There is to be a new Archdeacon, Rev. Chris Futcher, who is coming from the diocese of St Albans.

*Ann Crawford*



## Spring CHATter

Spring is in the air and CHAT has been out and about... 29 January was Homelessness Sunday – the

start of Poverty and Homelessness Action Week; CHAT speakers visited 16 churches over 2 weekends. We received many positive responses and have been encouraged that many people have been moved to become Givers of Hope - giving £10 (or other amount) a month by DD will make a real and lasting difference to our clients' lives: as government cut-backs begin to bite, we are seeing an increase in demand for our services.

Supermarkets are promoting Spring-Cleaning materials at present – now is a good time to buy extra and put them in your church's CHAT box; we are particularly in need of dustpans and brushes. We are always grateful for donations: our food store is in almost daily demand at present

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– writing this on 20<sup>th</sup> February, we have already given food out 23 times this month! If your church does not have a CHAT box yet, please contact our office and ask us to get one for you – it's such a simple, yet effective, way to help improve the lives of others.

Are you ready for The CHAT Big Sleep-Out 2012? On May 11 churches at each of the main towns in Mid Devon will be organising a Sleep-Out in order to raise awareness and funds for CHAT – get sponsored at least £10 or pay £10 to join in an organised event. Anyone raising over £25 will be given a free CHAT wristband. If you prefer, do the same to sofa-surf on a friend's floor or be a Back Garden Camper. For details see our website or contact Ruth on 01884 250914.

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 Centre, Pye Corner from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Crediton Mondays 2 - 4.30pm Council Offices, Market Street Tuesdays

Advice by phone 01884 255606 or email [theoffice@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:theoffice@chatmid.co.uk)

## EASTER CONCERT

The Easter Concert in Witheridge this year is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April and will be in aid of St. John the Baptist Church (in which the concert takes place) and the Royal Society of Musicians.

The international violinist Nigel Kennedy has agreed to be Patron and the programme will take us from the austere magnificence of Bach to the effervescent romanticism of Mendelssohn. The performers are, an octet of strings, the Silkstreet Musicmakers (graduates of the Guildhall School of Music), the mezzo soprano Katie Stevenson and the flautist Rosamund Harpur.

Further information and tickets (£15 reserved, £12 unreserved) can be obtained from Graham Allum at [grallum@networksong.com](mailto:grallum@networksong.com) or 01884 860132.

## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Calverleigh

Congratulations to Sir Ian and Lady Louise Amory on becoming Grandparents for the first time. Their son William and wife Tatiana presented them with a Grandson, Jacobi in February. Our very best wishes to you all.

It was sad to hear of the death of Elizabeth Harris from Frogwell. The funeral service took place at Calverleigh Church on 2nd February prior to interment at Bradley Cottage cemetery. Our sympathy goes to her husband David and the family.

There was a good congregation for the Ash Wednesday communion service held here at Calverleigh. Everyone had the opportunity to get together after the service and have a chat with neighbours and friends over a cup of coffee or tea.

Our first PCC meeting of the year took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February at the home of Derek and Mary Herniman. Many important issues were discussed, such as the importance of fund raising events to raise funds for our Church. The PCC are arranging some; but has anyone else got any good ideas? We would welcome ideas from anyone. Sadly we lost Lester from the PCC last year so hopefully we will be able to get a new recruit soon.

Clive Hopper has been quite poorly recently and he has had a couple of stays in Exeter Hospital. He is now home and making good progress. Keep it up Clive we are all thinking of you.

We send our prayers and love to all who are not so well at the present time. Many people have had dreadful coughs and colds and some have had nasty falls this winter, hope you are all recovering well. Spring will soon be with us.

We were sad to hear of the death of Revd. Richard Steele Perkins. Many of you will remember when he was here with us in the Exe Valley. Some of us had the pleasure of meeting him again last year when he made a short visit.

We are pleased to hear how well the Withleigh Young Farmers are doing in the Talent contest. They qualified in Tiverton then went on to Exmouth and on to Weston Super Mare. Fingers crossed for them. What great Talent we have in the area and they must have a marvellous team in the background.

#### Dates for your diary:

April 17<sup>th</sup> - The APCM (Annual Church Meeting) takes place at 7.30pm in Church. This is a meeting when everyone is invited to attend and you will be very welcome.

April 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Spring Clean of the Church, We start at 9am until about midday. You are welcome to come and help even if you only have a half an hour to spare.

May 19<sup>th</sup> - Day of Prayer.

May 26<sup>th</sup> - A Coffee Morning at the home of Derek and Mary. Draw, produce and cake stall, plants. 10.30am until 12pm.

June 24<sup>th</sup> - Annual Open Air Service. 3pm in the Churchyard (In Church if wet). Details later.

June 29<sup>th</sup> - Cheese and Wine evening at Calverleigh Court by kind permission of Sir Ian and Lady Louise Amory 7pm until 9.30pm

November 17<sup>th</sup> - Annual Autumn Fayre at the Village Hall. Many stalls, usual refreshments etc. 10.30am until 2pm.

### Cruwys Morchard

The Parish Council has decided to hold a competition in the parish to find a LOGO, which would suitably represent the parish council. There will be a small entry fee for the competition, with monies going towards the new parish hall. Further details can be obtained from Viv Ray, Parish Clerk, or you can find a leaflet to be inserted in this year's Flower Show Schedule. The results of the Parish Council LOGO competition will be displayed and announced at the Flower Show in August.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Well done to Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club who came second in the recent Exe Valley Group Pantomime Competition. A lot of hard work went into putting on this Pantomime, and congratulations to everyone who was involved in this. Also congratulations to William Palmer, who won the YFC Junior Member of the Year on the same day and will go on to the County Round. Good luck to him. The Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall at 7.30pm. If you are interested, then please come along.

Cruwys Morchard YFC have been extremely busy after the Group Pantomime Competition, and very quickly put together a team for a Street Dance Competition. The team went straight to County Round and they won that competition, and on 10<sup>th</sup> March travelled to Weston-Super-Mare representing Devon at the South West Area Round and they won that!!! A fantastic achievement and a great reward for all their hard work. The team will now go to the National Round which takes place in Torquay at the end of April. Well done to the fourteen Cruwys Morchard YFC members and the member from Witheridge YFC.

**Ringing Nationwide!** - This year Cruwys Morchard bell-ringers will be joining with towers all over the country (including Ambridge!) to ring on St George's day. So listen out at 6pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April wherever you may be, and see if you can hear bells ringing. Or drop in and watch if you're passing.

**A note from 'The Ladies Who Lunch': -**

Dear Ladies - here are the dates for this year to put in your diaries. Our next meeting will be Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March with a Greek lunch. Following dates are Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June, fish and salads, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August with an outdoor lunch, weather permitting, and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Everyone is welcome for a friendly catch-up lunch with some fun.

Usual £5.00 donation for a two course meal and tea or coffee and a raffle. Please can you let Judith or Jenni know if you are able to join them, or are happy to bring a food donation. Suggestions for charities working in Tiverton area would be lovely. Perhaps 15<sup>th</sup> March could be Hospiscare. Look forward to seeing you.

Judith and Jenni  
01363 860056

We were sad to hear that Nona Brown had passed away, we send our prayers and condolences to her family and friends.

The whole community was very saddened to hear that Maureen Tucker had passed away. Maureen was a very popular person in the community, which was clear from the number of people that gathered for her funeral. She was very involved in the parish, especially with the Young Farmers Club and the Flower Show. Our prayers and condolences are with all her family at this sad time.

We hope all those who are unwell or are undergoing treatment have a speedy recovery.

We welcomed Katie Boyles into church for her baptism on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

We welcome two new families to farms in the Parish - the Smith family to Forke Farm, and David and Ginny to Beech Park; we hope you will be happy here.

On Easter Monday – 9<sup>th</sup> of April, a Coffee Morning will be held at the Cruwys Arms, 10.30 to 12.30. Stalls will include cakes, books, bring and buy stall, and there will be activities and competitions for the children.

Gift Aid envelopes are available in church; if you are a tax payer and would like the church to benefit from the gift aid scheme, please would you put your collection/donation in an envelope and

write your name and address on it. For every £1 gift aided the church receives a further 25p.

Ladies Meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Tracey's at Edgeworthy Farm, Nomansland at 7.30pm.

The Cruwys Morchard Flower show is on Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>, and is open to all residents in the parish. With this magazine you should receive a schedule and entry form for this year's show. For further schedules and entry forms, contact Pauline Guscott, telephone number 01363 866754. If there are any children, under 15, who would like to grow potatoes in a pot for the Flower Show, contact Pauline for a pot and seed potato.

If you would like any events or news to appear in the next Today Magazine, please contact Teresa Grant on 01363 860124 or Tesstranscripts@aol.com.

**Flower and Cleaning Rota:**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Decorators for Easter  
April 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> - Sue and Pauline Guscott  
April 23<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> - Marian Kingdom  
May 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Cruwys - Wedding  
May 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> - Vine Spragg

**Parish Hall Events:**

Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June  
Church Fete 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August - Breakfast & Brunch  
Flower Show - 11<sup>th</sup> August

**Bingo Dates:**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May,  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May & Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Loxbear

*He is risen Hallelujah.*

**E**aster will soon be here. A time when we especially reflect on our Lord's death, and celebrate his resurrection. There will be a service of meditation in Loxbear Church at 11.00am on Good Friday and our Easter Sunday Service will be Family Communion. Come and join us, and rejoice in God's great love for us all.

Decorating the Church will take place on the Saturday.

On Sunday April 22nd we will be showing a DVD on the work of Tear Fund.

On Mothering Sunday March 18th we will have had (DV) a Family service led by Rob Brewis, held in the Village Hall, and with flowers given out to all the Ladies. This will have been preceded by a full English Breakfast, ably cooked & served by the men, and enjoyed by all.

The Women's Bible Study Group continues to meet on the second Tuesday at Marion's, East Sidborough and the fourth Tuesday at Pauline's, Highgate Cottage at 2pm. All Ladies welcome. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Our Jubilee Celebrations begin on Sunday the 3rd June at 11.00am, with a Family Service of Thanksgiving. On Monday the 4th June we will be having a celebratory lunch, weather permitting, in front of the Church 12.00 for 12.30pm, with a bring and share finger buffet - savoury and cakes. Bring your own drinks. There will be a presentation of mugs for the children of the village at 1.30pm followed by games. Fancy dress optional. In the evening a BBQ will be held in the field at the top entrance of West Sidborough at 8.30pm. Admission - Adults £2, Children free. Again bring your own drinks. Lighting of the beacon will be at 10.00 to 10.30pm.

We hope Jonathan Bell has fully recovered from his accident. We pray for any who are feeling unwell and that all who have

suffered from Flu, coughs and colds etc are now feeling much better.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to all celebrating during April & May.

The all-age Village Party, held in the Hall at the end of January, went very well and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came, from the eldest down to the youngest! Thank you to Ron & Margaret for all their work in organising it and helpers.

Many thanks to Roger and Viv Abbott for organising the quiz night in February. Over £300 was raised for the Village Hall Funds.

The walking group have recommenced their fortnightly walks, and have enjoyed a walk from Uplowman - Sampford Peverell along a stretch of the canal, and back to Redwoods Inn for lunch. Also Sue organised a local walk at the beginning of March with a lunch in Tiverton. Anyone interested in joining contact Ron on 01884 881362 for details.

The progressive meal this year will be held on Friday 20th April. Sittings will be 7pm & 7.45pm. For more details and booking contact Pat Dalby on 01884 881332.

Carol Radford is organising a 100 club draw for the Village Hall. Membership will be £15.00 a year with Twelve monthly draws starting at the above meal on 20th April. First prize £15.00, second prize £10 and third prize £5. Contact Carol on 01884 881480.

Easter Bingo will be on April 2nd - Loxbear Ladies night, who will be involved in this evening. This will be held in the Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm. Details from Carol on 01884 881480.

May 14th Loxbear Ladies will be walking, weather permitting, from Withypool to Tarr Steps. Meet at Loxbear Church at 9.00am. If anyone would like to join them for Lunch meet at Tarr Steps Hotel. There will be a need for drivers to drop off at Withypool and then to drive to Tarr Steps for pick up. If interested and for more details contact Margaret Tidball on 01884 881362.

### Oakford

**W**e welcome everyone to our Easter services:

April 6th Good Friday There will be a service of hymns and readings at 2.30pm  
 April 8th Easter Sunday A Holy Communion service of celebration at 9.30am.

It is with sadness we record the funeral of Nesta Poles, which took place on 6th February, 2012. Although Nesta lived a few miles away at Bury, she had always supported Oakford Church. She bore her illness with great courage, and it is a testament to her that so many family and friends gathered to embrace her life.

On Sunday, 3rd June, in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, a 'Songs of Praise' - hymns and readings with the Oakford Jubilee Choir taking part, will take place at 6.30pm. Wine and 'nibbles' afterwards. All are welcome to come and join in this joyous occasion.

Annual pancake race. On Saturday February 18th our annual pancake race was held. A total of £128.40 was raised. Elaine Trump, our former postie, gave her support,



and a cheque for £100 was presented to her for Hospiscare. Many thanks to all who helped and supported this event.

Moorland Club: On March 8th the Moorland Club entertained other local ladies' clubs to an evening of singing and dancing by Jenny Parnell, a competition 'Tea for Two' which was won by the Moorland Club and a lovely supper completed the evening.

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## NEW CREATION NEWS

**SPRING – Yes:** Spring Harvest at Minehead will be a destination for several, either to stay or visit for a day. Whilst there you will have seen and heard of NEW books, CD's and songbooks, and others that are recommended. Please remember to order any of these items through us on your return. If you were not able to attend, we always have the new Spring Harvest items in the shop as soon as they are available.

The shop has had a quiet start to the year, and we once again ask you to consider buying some of the following from us.

In **CARDS** we have a range to suit all occasions: Birthdays (incl. children, youth, adults, family, age—even humorous): Special Occasions (wedding, baptism, first communion, positions in Christian Ministry, new arrivals, congratulations, new house): Care & Concern (sympathy, get well, praying for you, encouragement, and many blank for your own message).

**CD's** also cover the music spectrum – groups, bands, solo artists in many different genre, instrumentals, choral; and if we don't stock it we can order it.

**BOOKS** – too numerous to list; ranging from Bibles to Christian fiction, for the adult market and for children and youth. We have been praised for our diversity and choice by visitors, so would encourage you to take advantage, on your doorstep.

**SUNDRY ITEMS** – what we like to call Holy Hardware: these are anything that you may pick up for yourself or as a gift, just to satisfy that need at the time.

All the above come with God's Love - either written, voiced, or pictorial.

Then there is the **COFFEE SHOP** – ready to refresh you at coffee time, lunch time or afternoon tea. If you have visitors, what better than a Devonshire Cream Tea in traditional tea shop surroundings, you will be made most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you soon, God Bless.

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April 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual General Meeting. Please come and support your club, and join any discussions on the way forward.

### Jubilee Celebrations.

The village has put together a cracking weekend of celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, and details of the events can be found on the notice board in the village, and on the web site at [www.middevon.gov.uk/oakford](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/oakford). We will also be organising a Jubilee Choir, with performances at the Dance and party in the Village Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and at the Songs of Praise in the church on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rehearsals will be held on Wednes-

days at 7.30pm in the church, starting on 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to join in, especially men, please come along, or let Kelvin Holdom know on 01398 351573. Should be great fun, aiming for the Royal Albert Hall in 2013!

**Murder Mystery.** After last year's murder and mayhem, there's another murder being committed on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, in the Village Hall, sometime after 7.30pm. A mediaeval banquet, with King and Queen and knights is the setting, and we need your help to find the dastardly culprit. A feast awaits the guests, for just £10 per person. (licensed bar available). Call Dawn on 01398 351525 or Carla on 01398

## PARISH ROUND-UP

351609 for tickets. Last year was a sell out, make sure you book early!

**Oakford Players.** For over 20 years, Oakford Players has been entertaining audiences from the area with their pantomime and spring reviews. Since the first panto in 1988, they have donated over £20,000 to local charities. But we are now in need of some new actors and actresses, adults and children, to keep this lively group going. Come along to our 'Open Evening' at the Village Hall, on 11<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm for a glass of wine and nibbles. You can meet the other members, and hear more about what we do. If acting isn't your forte, we always need people to help behind the scenes. We look forward to seeing you, but if you can't make it but would like to join in, please call Patrick on 01398 351286, or Sue on 01398 332035.

Best wishes to Trish Luxton, who is starting her epic pony and carriage drive from John O'Groats to Lands End on April 17<sup>th</sup>, to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust. Oakford groups have provided help and support, and so far donated over £2,500 in sponsorship funds - £1,000 from Oakford Players' Christmas performance, £600 from the 2011 village fete, and £700 from the Halloween dance in October. With funds from a very enjoyable Ukulele Band concert, and many individuals, sponsorship is currently over £8,000. All in a very good cause, but there's always room for more and, if you would like to contribute, go to the web site at [www.ponydriving-end2end.co.uk](http://www.ponydriving-end2end.co.uk). Good luck Trish, Oakford is 'rooting' for you.

Congratulations to Martin and Mel at The Barkhouse, Oakfordbridge for their Silver medal in the 2012 World Marmalade Championships, held in Dalemain, Cumbria. It's delicious marmalade, and is available from the Barkhouse.

## Rackenford

Rackenford Club's pantomime, Cinderella, was a laugh from beginning to

Continued on Page 10 ⇨

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## CHILDREN'S GROUPS

### TODDLERS GROUP

(for under 5s)

Every Friday during term time  
at Calverleigh Village Hall  
10am - 12 noon

For information phone  
Liz Heywood (01884 881583)

### FISH CLUB

(for ages 4-11)

Every Friday during term time  
3.30-5.15pm  
In Calverleigh Village Hall

LEADER

Cindy Trick (01363 866621)

### YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays at 6.30 pm.

For more information phone  
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)

### LOXBARE PRAYER MEETING

On 3rd Tuesday in month

(Tel. 01884-881362)

### LOXBARE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Alternate Tuesdays at 2pm

2nd Tuesday - East Sidborough

4th Tuesday - Highgate Cottage

## MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Maunder Thursday - 5th April

7 pm Agape Meal

At Washfield Village Hall

### Good Friday - 6th April

Loxbeare - 11am Service of  
Meditation

Oakford - 2.30pm Devotional  
Service

Templeton - 11am Easter Garden  
Service

Washfield - 3pm Service of  
Meditation

Withleigh - 10am Informal Service  
in the Village Hall

**Sunday 29th April, 6.30 pm**

### Confirmation Service

at Oakford

**Thursday 17th May - 7.30pm**

### Ascension Day Service

At Withleigh

**Sunday 27th May, 10.30am Group**

### Rogation Service at Rackenford

**Sundays 1st April and 6th May**

### Sunday Club Service

4pm at Calverleigh Village Hall

## OAKFORD

### 1st April - Palm Sunday

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 8th April - Easter

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 15th April

9.30 am Family Service

### 22nd April

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 29th April

6.30 pm Confirmation Service

### 6th May

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 13th May

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 20th May

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 27th May - Pentecost

See Rackenford

## RACKENFORD

### 1st April - Palm Sunday

11.15 am Morning Prayer

### 8th April - Easter

6 pm Holy Communion

### 15th April

11.15 am Family Service

### 22nd April

9.30 am Morning Prayer

### 29th April

See Oakford

### 6th May

11.15 am Morning Prayer

### 13th May

11.15 am Holy Communion

### 20th May

9.30 am Family Service

### 27th May - Pentecost

10.30 am Group Rogation  
Service

## STOODLEIGH

### 1st April - Palm Sunday

11 am Family Service  
and Holy Communion

### 8th April - Easter

11 am Holy Communion

### 15th April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

### 22nd April

11 am Morning Prayer

### 29th April

See Oakford

### 6th May

11 am Family Service  
and Holy Communion

### 13th May

11 am Morning Prayer

### 20th May

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 27th May - Pentecost

See Rackenford



**CALVERLEIGH**

**1st April - Palm Sunday**  
11.15 am Morning Worship

**8th April - Easter**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**15th April**  
11.15 am Family Service

**22nd April**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**29th April**  
See Oakford

**6th May**  
11.15 am Morning Worship

**13th May**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**20th May**  
11.15 am Family Service

**27th May - Pentecost**  
See Rackenford

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**1st April - Palm Sunday**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**8th April - Easter**  
11 am Holy Communion

**15th April**  
11 am Family Service

**22nd April**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**29th April**  
See Oakford

**6th May**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**13th May**  
11 am Family Service

**20th May**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**27th May - Pentecost**  
See Rackenford

**LOXBEARE**

**1st April - Palm Sunday**  
11 am Family Service

**8th April - Easter**  
11 am Family Communion

**15th April**  
6.30 pm Evening Praise

**22nd April**  
11 am Family Service

**29th April**  
See Oakford

**6th May**  
9.30 am Family Communion

**13th May**  
11 am Family Service

**20th May**  
6.30 pm Evening Praise

**27th May - Pentecost**  
See Rackenford

**TEMPLETON**

**1st April - Palm Sunday**  
11 am Family Service

**8th April - Easter**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**15th April**  
No Service

**22nd April**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**29th April**  
See Oakford

**6th May**  
No Service

**13th May**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**20th May**  
11 am Toddler Service

**27th May - Pentecost**  
See Rackenford

**WASHFIELD**

**1st April - Palm Sunday**  
6 pm Evening Prayer

**8th April - Easter**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**15th April**  
11 am Family Service

**22nd April**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**29th April**  
See Oakford

**6th May**  
6 pm Evening Prayer

**13th May**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**20th May**  
11 am Family Service

**27th May - Pentecost**  
See Rackenford

**WITHLEIGH**

**1st April - Palm Sunday**  
9.30 am Family Service

**8th April - Easter**  
8.30 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Family Service

**15th April**  
11 am Morning Worship

**22nd April**  
9.30 am Morning Worship

**29th April**  
See Oakford

**6th May**  
11 am Family Service

**13th May**  
9.30 am Morning Worship

**20th May**  
11 am Holy Communion  
by Extension

**27th May - Pentecost**  
See Rackenford

## PARISH ROUND-UP

end. If you didn't leave with a smile on your face and your sides aching, somehow, you must have been asleep! What great fun. Well done to everyone involved in making this such a good two days of entertainment, and to all the cast for giving up their time for us to enjoy. We never expected 'Cheryl Cole' to make an appearance in Rackenford!!! So look forward to the next one... £175.19 given in donations at the Club were very kindly given to Rackenford School.

Congratulations to Gary Muchmore and Jo Kidner on their marriage on 7<sup>th</sup> January. We wish you every happiness.

Our very best wishes to Richard Harris, who has undergone another operation. Also to Brian Peace who has been in hospital. Hope you will both be fit and well again soon.

Jean Hill (nee Crocker) died on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Jean used to live in Rackenford many years ago with her parents and, although she has lived in South Molton for years, she still supported Rackenford Church when she could. She gave bibles to the Church in the 1990s, and latterly enjoyed supporting church bingos. Jean was laid to rest in South Molton beside her parents and son. Our deepest sympathy to Bill, family and friends.

During our service on 19<sup>th</sup> February, Herbert Smith was presented with a gift from Rackenford Parochial Church Council for his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and was also thanked by Liz Paxton for his 37 years as church warden with which he is continuing. Cakes were enjoyed after the service. Herbert thanked everyone, and recalled taking his first Communion at Rackenford along with Princess Margaret who, at that time, used to stay at Rackenford Manor with Lord and Lady Elden.

We were saddened to hear in February of the death of Reverend Richard Steele-Perkins. Richard was our vicar here from 1965-1968. He was loved by many here, and a good friend which continued until his sudden death. He would always visit various friends in the Exe Valley Parishes on his trips to Devon. Only last June he enjoyed an afternoon with Hilda and Roy Nott at a family and friends get together. His funeral service took place at Grayswood, Haslemere. Our love and deepest sympathy to Barbara, Joy, Mary, Patrick and family, and friends near and far.

A Rogation Sunday Group Service will be held here on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

The sponsored walk will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> May. We would love to get as many people walking as possible. You may like to give it a try for the first time, and bring a packed lunch. It's for adults and children. Approx 10 miles (leisurely). For details ring Liz Paxton on 881331. Sponsor forms will be available from Liz and Jane Phillips 881512. Transport available.

Dates for the bingo players – April 27, May 25 and June 22 at 7:30pm at Rackenford.

We are planning to hold an exhibition in our church to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Refreshments available. All welcome. We are asking if anyone has any memorabilia of the Queen's life (that you would be willing to lend) maybe of the Silver or Golden Jubilees or her Princess years – that may be of interest. You can contact Liz Paxton 881331, Jenny Sleep 881280 or Jane Phillips 881512. We will also be having a special Songs of Praise service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to mark this event.

We continue to pray for all who are unwell, lonely or depressed, especially remember-

ing Percy Stone, Ken Blackford, Mr & Mrs Bill Clark, Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline.

Congratulations to all who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Hope all 'mums' had a lovely day on 18<sup>th</sup> March, and were spoilt by your children.

As we approach Easter we remember Palm Sunday, the death of Christ on Good Friday and the risen Christ. We look forward to our Easter Services as we gather together to remember and celebrate this very special time. If anyone would like to help or contribute flowers or foliage for decorating, that would be lovely.

## Stoodleigh

We were all saddened by the death of Pam Barnes on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Since her stroke 15 months earlier, she had been housebound, but was still able to maintain her independence and remained, as ever, happy, alert and positive. Pam was a very regular member of the church and was a most willing helper in many village activities; often a quiet stalwart helping in the background. It was a privilege to know Pam and she will be missed. Her cremation took place at Taunton Crematorium on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and many friends attended; this was followed by tea at the Stoodleigh Inn. We send our love and sympathy to her daughter Margarite.

Calling all young families! The next short informal Family Service will be on Palm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 11am and all are warmly invited. The May Family Service, should be on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, but please check the service details in the magazine.

We look forward to welcoming many to our Easter Day Holy Communion Service, at 11am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### QUOIT-AT-CROSS, STOODLEIGH

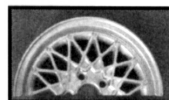


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# PARISH ROUND-UP

There will be a *Songs of Praise* at 6pm on Sunday 3rd June, to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The church will be specially decorated for this occasion.

At long last a date has been fixed for the conservation project on the 15th century roof bosses and foliate wall-plates in the church. Madeleine Katkov, the wall-plate expert, is due to start on 21st August and expects to be around for three weeks. Some time in the week beginning 13th August, scaffolding will go up in the nave and will remain in situ until the work has been completed. Services will take place as usual during this time; it is hoped disruption will be kept to a minimum as all the work is high up.

Church flowers: Saturday 7th April - Decorating the church for Easter; 6th & 13th May - F. Rolfe; 20th & 27th May - J. Fraser; Saturday 2nd June - Decorating the church for the Diamond Jubilee.

### Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Good news here – the popular Rackenford ceilidh band *Lucy Lastic* has been booked to play at Quoit-at-Cross for Stoodleigh's celebration of the Jubilee... so it should be a proper knees-up! This is part of a full programme of events for the afternoon and evening of 4th June.

At 3pm, there will be "The Royal Games" on the cricket field, mainly but not exclusively for children, and free teas and wonderful cakes for everyone.

From 6.30pm, the centrepiece event will be an "indoor street party", in a large barn at Quoit-at-Cross, very generously loaned for the occasion by Roger and Linda Hill and expertly decorated by Chris Lines' team. There will be a hog roast, and live music from *Lucy Lastic* throughout the evening. Be prepared to dance! Tables of various

sizes can be booked in advance for families, groups of friends, etc. Tickets for the hog roast will be available shortly. People are asked to bring their own drinks and any salads, desserts, etc.

All this will go on until 9.30 or 9.45, when the focus moves a short distance to a field near Cold Blow, and the giant bonfire (who will win the chance to light it?). It will be one of thousands of beacons lit that night all over the country and from our prominent hilltop we should see quite a few of them.

### The Stoodleigh Inn

There are two special dates coming up: Saturday 14th April, from 2pm – Grand National afternoon. Come along and cheer on Tom.

Sunday 3rd June, 12 noon till 11.30pm – Raising money for Exeter Neonatal Unit. Lizzie writes: "As I'm sure many of you are aware, we have recently become proud grandparents to Bow – born at only 28 weeks and weighing just over one and a half pounds!! After a long 14 weeks the little fighter is home safe and sound, so we are planning an afternoon of fundraising for the unit with auction, bouncy castle, face-painting, stalls, BBQ, etc."

Opening hours will stay the same through the summer, with the addition from 1st June of Friday lunches, 12.30 to 2.30, with light bar snacks.

"Thank you all for your support. The new sign has made a big difference with many new visitors calling in."

SWAG: The following events are under consideration: 1. Lundy Island - late June; 2. Exeter Underground Passages plus Red Coat Guided Tour and St Catherine's Priory - first week in May; 3. Tour of Dart-

moor - early July or August; 4. Balmoral Sailing - September.

Parish Hall: Easter Market and Coffee Morning – Saturday 7th April, 10am to 12noon. Regular and new local businesses and organisations with interesting goods and tasty fare. Come and meet the special guests - The Alpacas! For more information ring 01398 351391.

Garden Club: The Stoodleigh Garden Club Annual Show will be held at the Village Hall on Friday 7th September 2012. For a list of classes please refer to the Stoodleigh website.

## **Templeton**

The Easter Garden Service will be held on Good Friday at 11am. at St. Margaret's Church. The Easter day service will be Holy Communion at 9.30am.

The repairs to the Church Tower will have begun by the time you receive this. As this is being written, the scaffolding is now in place. The total funds raised so far are £18,288. The total cost is estimated at £25,000. There are several events planned for this year which we are hoping will bridge the gap. It is a great testament to everyone who has helped with fundraising that we have managed to reach this stage in under 18 months. Thank you.

The One Hundred Club started again at the beginning of this year. £600.00 has been donated from this towards the Church Tower fundraising appeal. Thanks to all who have contributed to this, and we hope you will be a winner this time. The winner for January was Donna Hill,



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

February's winner was Ann Richard, and the lucky winner for March was Martin Strong.

Other ideas for fundraising include a community lunch to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 5<sup>th</sup> June to be held at Holmead, the home of Bruce and Christine Pearson. A quiz organised by John Mc Inerney, with an Auction of Pledges, will take place at half time. A Duck Race in September will be organised by Roger and Bindy Linden. There will also be two skips at the Village Hall for anyone with scrap metal that they would like to get rid of over two weekends yet to be decided.

Our last fundraising event was a quiz night which raised £495.00 for the hall funds. It was a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the ladies for organising the food and the draw; also to John McInerney for compiling the questions.

We are very grateful for the generous donation given to the church in memory of Lester Tapp, and we thank his family for this.

Duncan and Hannah Nobb's twin boys, Freddie and George, were baptised in our church on Mothering Sunday.

Thank you to everyone for the altar flower arrangements and for the cleaning of the church. The polish, dusters, etc., are now kept with the Hoover behind the organ.

Our LIBRARY at the church opened on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The people who came were impressed at the variety and quality of the books, DVDs, etc. They also enjoyed their tea and cake. The library will be open again on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April between 3pm and 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

The TEMPLETON BOOK GROUP will have their inaugural meeting at the church at 4pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you can't come, but would like to become a member of the Book Group, please contact Jan Heptinstall by 4<sup>th</sup> April on 255399

**Flower and Cleaning Rota:**

Jan Heptinstall (cleaning only)  
 25<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April  
 Phillida Strong (flowers and cleaning)  
 8<sup>th</sup> April - 15<sup>th</sup> April  
 Jan Heptinstall 22<sup>nd</sup> April - 29<sup>th</sup> April  
 Clare Trevelyan Thomas  
 6<sup>th</sup> May - 13<sup>th</sup> May  
 Lynda Newnes 20<sup>th</sup> May - 27<sup>th</sup> May

## Washfield

*A friend is someone who knows your needs and answers them, before you put them into words.*

The appearance of the primroses and daffodils herald the signs of spring and Easter. The weeks of Lent, a period of quiet, allows us time to reflect on what has past and have hopes of what is to come.

Washfield is now looking forward to hosting the Agape supper and Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening in the Memorial Hall. On Good Friday a short Reflection service will be held at 3pm in St Mary's followed by a cup of tea and a hot cross bun.

As usual, the traditional, and much looked forward to, Egg Decorating and Rolling competitions will take place on Easter Saturday at 10am in the church porch. There are classes for all ages with Easter Eggs as prizes. Following the Egg Rolling, coffee, biscuits and hot cross buns will be available in the hall, with plant, produce

and cake stalls and an Easter themed raffle. We would be very grateful for any donations towards these stalls. Everyone is welcome – proceeds will go to the church. Could those kind enough to decorate the church for Easter please do so on Easter Saturday. Thank you.

We are very fortunate to have St Peter's church choir joining us at our 6pm service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Please come if you can to enjoy this choral delight.

Washfield Church has a Pastoral Care team who will visit anyone in the village, churchgoer or not, who would like someone to visit to chat or help in any way. The contact person is Joan McCahon, Tel: 01884 253468. The church APCM took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March; Jeanne Jones and Joan McCahon were re-elected as churchwardens, Martin Hansford as PCC treasurer, and Joan is also now PCC secretary.

The Parish Council Annual meeting is to be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Elizabeth Fathi on the work of the Tiverton Almshouse Trust. This promises to be a very interesting meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

We extend a warm welcome to Steve and Julie Frost, who have come to live at Kensington Court. We wish you much happiness in your new home. We were delighted to hear that Allison and Paul Trout have become grandparents again. Raymond and Claire's baby son, Noah Rhys, was born on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations and many good wishes to Noah's parents and grandparents.

Very much in our prayers and thoughts are several parishioners who are not enjoying the best of health at this time, including Tony, Frank and Joy. If you are

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

feeling unwell, or a little low at present, we hope the better spring weather will help you feel a bit better. We were very sorry to learn that Mrs Margaret Parsons (née Bowden) has been very ill but pleased to hear she is now at home and recuperating. We send her our love and prayers.

The Social Club has a Skittles Tournament planned in April. The first night is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April when shares can be played for. The second night to get shares and play the Final is Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Come along and try your hand at Devon Skittles.

The Memorial Hall is trying to get a community defibrillator for the village, as research has shown that speed is of the essence when an emergency arises. The defibrillator is expected to cost up to £1,000, so monies will need to be raised to cover this. To prepare for this piece of equipment, two First Aid sessions have been planned to raise awareness of the need to know what to do in a crisis. The first evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April is a two hour 'Save a life' course, and the second evening on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April is a Defibrillator training session. Both are being run by The British Red Cross, and will cost £25 for each evening (places limited – phone Anne 255298 to book). A small part of this fee will go towards the defibrillator purchase.

To have such a vital piece of equipment in the village would be an amazing achievement and, although we'd hope not to have to use it, it would be available to save a life if necessary.

The village is busy planning a programme of celebratory events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. At the time of preparing these notes the programme has not been 'set in stone', but this is how we hope it will happen:

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Fifties Party at the Social Club with barbecue. Children's best crown competition.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - 6pm Songs of Praise service with favourite hymns chosen by villagers and sharing their memories.

Fifties / Coronation themed quiz in Social Club with light refreshments.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Photograph of all villagers, followed by 'Street Party' bring and share tea and children's commemorative balloon launch.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Farm walk followed by cream tea.

We hope to get a flyer out to everyone in the parish when the programme detail is definite. Some events may need to be booked to allow for catering. For more details phone Paul Crease 256284 or Anne Moore 255298.

### Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Egg Decorating and Rolling at church 10am, followed by coffee morning in hall with assorted stalls and raffle. All welcome

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April - W.I. in hall at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Skittles Tournament at SC

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Parish Council Annual Meeting with speaker. All welcome

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April - First Aid 'Save a Life' course in hall 7-9pm

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - First Aid Defibrillator training course in hall 7-9pm

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30 meal..

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May - W.I. in hall at 7.30pm.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May - Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30 meal.

### Church Flower Rota:

April 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Mrs Jones

April 22<sup>nd</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Mrs Horsey

May 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Mrs Cockram

May 20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Mrs May

### Church Cleaning Rota:

April 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Mr and Mrs McCahon

April 22<sup>nd</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Mrs French

May 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Mrs Arnold/Mrs Bicknell

May 20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones

## Withleigh

Our churchyard has been adorned with snowdrops and crocuses, and is now ablaze with daffodils making it a delight to walk through when going into our church. It also makes us realise that Spring is on its way.

Our Songs of Praise on 5<sup>th</sup> February was held in the church vestry, due to a mix-up over the village hall keys! It was, nonetheless, an uplifting occasion, and with everybody joining in with the Play Dough, it was also different! This service was Laura's swan song, prior to her imminent move to Bristol. We wish Laura and Tommy every happiness in their new home. Our grateful thanks to David and June Muir, once again, and for the number of past occasions on which they have travelled up from Okehampton to support Laura and take part in these services.

Cathy Luxton held a coffee morning recently. She writes:- "Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning at the home of Mark and Cathy Luxton on 18<sup>th</sup> February in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. The generous support and donations raised an amazing £835 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you."

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, we welcomed Zack, Lee and Zoe Arthurs' son, into our church for his baptism, and a week later, on 26<sup>th</sup> February, we welcomed Jamie, Andrew and Emma Luxton's son, into our church for his baptism. Both were happy occasions with many young children present together with family and friends of both Zack and Jamie. We send our love and best wishes to both, and to their families.

In view of the fact that those who attended 'Walk the Talk' now attend the midweek meetings at the Rectory on Wednesdays, it has been decided to stop the Tuesday meetings for the foreseeable future.



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Easter Services are following the usual format with a service in the Village Hall on Good Friday morning at 10am (beginning with coffee and hot cross buns), and Holy Communion at 8.30am followed by breakfast and then a short Family Service on Easter Sunday. Please feel free to join us at any one or all of these services.

A number of local people with some guests from Bickleigh have been enjoying our Scottish Dancing classes this spring. We would like to express our thanks to Giles Edmondston-Low for coming along and patiently tutoring our classes and making the evenings very enjoyable. We look forward to resuming our lessons in the autumn; anyone wishing to join us would be very welcome.

Congratulations to Witleigh Young Farmers whose pantomime came a commendable third in the South West Area competition whilst representing Devon at Weston Super Mare. To achieve this stage in the competition, they won twice in different rounds within the County. Well done!!

We are sorry to hear that both Mervyn and Ruby Reed have had to spend time in hospital, and as a result, they have decided to relinquish their duties of cleaning the church. They have been doing this for so, so many years, latterly with the help of their family. We can scarcely begin to express our thanks to them and their family for their loyalty, and for keeping our church so clean over the years, and we hope better health will soon prevail for you both.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sam Butt, formally of Hensleigh. We send our deepest sympathy to all of Sam's family.

This year's Easter Beetle Drive will be held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm.

Entrance is £1 per person; come along and hopefully you can win an Easter Egg.

The Women's Institute would like to invite you to their April meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall, as members think their speaker will be of interest to non-members as well, men included. Stephen Powles, who lives locally, is giving a talk and slide show on 'Otters living in a river near you'. Please come along at 8.00pm if you would like to learn about the otters that live near to most of our homes.

On Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> Sara and Duncan Kittow are inviting everyone to come and enjoy the beautiful Bluebell woods on their farm. We ask that you meet in the Village Hall car park from 2pm to 4.30pm. (Anyone who cannot walk too far will be advised where they can park nearer the woods, but this area has limited parking.) Teas and Refreshments will be served during the afternoon in the Village Hall, but, if you feel you would rather forego the walk, why not just come along for a cream tea and a chat. Dogs to be kept on a lead throughout the walk, please.

Money raised from this event will go to various charities including St Catherine's Church and Witleigh Village Hall. Please wear suitable footwear. For further information please ring Sara on 252949.

Get well wishes go to all those who are not well at the moment, and our thoughts are with those that we know have recently been bereaved. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Congratulations and best wishes to all who recently have been, or soon will be, celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

"Plans to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee have started.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, there will be a Parish Breakfast in the Village Hall, beginning at 9.30am. This will be followed at 11am by a Songs of Praise service in church. As at the Golden Jubilee, we are asking for your favourite hymns. Please let us know your hymn by 6<sup>th</sup> May, along with your reason for choosing it.

The enclosed flyer gives provisional ideas for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, including:

2.30pm - Treasure Hunt followed by tea at the Village Hall

7.30pm - "Diamond" Party at the Village Hall

Also, a "Scarecrow" Queen Competition - Each household is invited to make a Scarecrow Queen and stand her outside their house! Judging will take place during the w/c 28 May 2012

It would be great to see the whole Village decorated and truly entering into the spirit of this special celebration.

We are looking for talented people who may like to perform whatever they do, at the Diamond Party. It is also hoped that we might light a beacon and have fireworks at the end of the evening on 4 June. The next planning meeting is on 26 March at Markara at 7.30 pm. If you would like to be involved, please come along, or contact Brenda Tucker, Cathy Luxton or Paul Illiff. As the next Today Magazine will not be out until very close to 4<sup>th</sup> June please check notices at the Village Hall and around the village for latest news about the events taking place."

### Forthcoming events:

Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> March -Easter Beetle Drive at 7.30pm in the hall.

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> May - Bluebell Walk 2pm to 4.30pm. See notes.

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Parish Breakfast in the



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# PARISH ROUND-UP

Hall from 9.30am, followed at 11am by a Jubilee Songs of Praise in church. See notes Mon. 4th June - Jubilee celebrations. See notes.	<b>Flower Rota:</b> April 8 <sup>th</sup> EASTER April 15 <sup>th</sup> Phyllis Gale April 22 <sup>nd</sup> ) Susie Wade 29 <sup>th</sup> )	May 6 <sup>th</sup> ) Janet Stacey 13 <sup>th</sup> ) May 20 <sup>th</sup> ) Ann Gornall & 27 <sup>th</sup> ) Maureen Stubbington
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## EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

### MISSION ACTION PLAN 2012

Target	Purpose	Means
1. Reaching out to young people and families	To achieve numerical and spiritual growth in our groups for children and young people.	Maintain and develop Toddler's Group, Fish Club & Youth Group. Run Holiday Club with an evening programme for teenagers. Involvement with local primary schools. Investigate the potential for a parenting group.
2. Demonstrating God's love	To meet the pastoral needs within our parishes.	Showing love and concern on a one-to-one basis, with a contact person within each parish who will keep the Rector informed of any specific needs. Parishes to consider developing a more formal pastoral team.
3. Declaring God's love	To draw people from our parishes to a living faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.	Through personal contact and through parish and Mission Community events, activities and courses, as well as alternative forms of worship (e.g. Breakfast service, Sunday Club). Making the most of existing opportunities throughout the year.
4. Deepening our faith	To enable church members to grow into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.	Encourage all church members to take an active part in the life of their Church. 'Calling out' additional lay worship-leaders to be trained to serve within their parishes. Through mid-week Bible study and prayer meetings at both parish and Mission Community levels. Through the teaching of God's Word in all our services.
5. Strengthening our Mission Community	To increase our co-operation between parishes and our commitment to one another.	Seeking more effective ways of sharing resources and experience between parishes, and making better use of existing means of communication – eg website, magazine, prayer diary, notices



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