

WHAT DOES EASTER MEAN TO YOU ?

A long weekend off work? A chance to spend time with family and friends? An excuse to eat too much chocolate? A time to finish off that DIY project which you started last Easter?

For followers of Jesus Christ, Easter means so much more than this. It is the greatest celebration of the Christian year and it focuses our minds on the heart of the Christian faith.

Easter means that our sins can be forgiven.

When the Son of God died on the cross, he was dying in our place and paying for our sin. He suffered what we deserve to suffer. He paid the price that we owe. He received in his body the punishment for our wrongdoing and our rejection of God. God's Son was treated like a sinner, so that sinners can be treated like God's sons. And because Jesus has died for us, there is no price left for us to pay. Forgiveness of sin is offered as a free gift to all who turn to Jesus in repentance and faith. The Bible says: **"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"** (2 Corinthians 5v21).

Easter means that death has been defeated.

By his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ has conquered death itself. Jesus has overcome our greatest enemy and made safe our greatest fear. For those who trust in Jesus, death is not an end, but a beginning. It is not a dark doorway to an unknown future, but the pathway to our heavenly home.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death, believers will fear no evil, because Jesus is with us and he has power over death.



The Bible says: **"We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him"** (1 Thessalonians 4v14).

Easter means that Jesus is alive.

Jesus Christ only died once. After his resurrection, he did not die again. He is alive today at God's right hand. Jesus lives forever as our representative and advocate before God. Jesus lives forever as our Saviour and Redeemer. Jesus lives forever as our Lord and King. One day, we will all stand before the risen Lord Jesus as our judge. For those who love and follow him, that will be a wonderful day, but for those who reject and ignore him, it will be a dreadful day. The Bible says: **"God has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead"** (Acts 17v31).

In our services of Holy Communion, we often proclaim the simple summary of the Christian faith which says: **"Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again"**. Easter teaches us these foundational truths and Easter also reminds us that we are called to be active and devoted followers of the one who died for our sins and then rose from the dead.

Steve

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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www.exevalleychurches.org

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of its readers

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This box is reserved for the contact details of all the Exe Valley Central Churchwardens but I could not obtain the "Go-ahead" and Information before my deadline ~ so here is a poem written by David Axtell, who is a North Devon Poet and Author

Dawn Chorus

As the warmth returns to Spring
And the days grow long
In the early morning light
Birds fill the air with song.

To join the Great Tit's rocking sound
The Robin and the Wren
The Song Thrush sits on the highest branch
And sings each phrase again.

Green and Chaffinch join the throng
Blackbird and Dunnock too
For right to forage and a mate
Their boldest notes renew.

The collared dove, which has its mate
Croons with a gentler tone
Warbler and Chiffchaff may be heard
But the Thrush retains the throne.

EDITORIAL

Derek McManus (Advertising Co-ordinator) and I have been working hard since the last issue, to standardise the advertisements and bring them back to the pre-set regulation sizes. We would like to thank everyone we have contacted for their co-operation. We had received several enquiries from new advertisers but we found ourselves short of space. Over time, when space had not been at such a premium, some of the old adverts had "grown" and several were taking one and a half "slots" and this was effectively stopping us accepting new adverts bringing in a potential of £85 p.a. for each large box.

There were also some adverts where the text was very small and difficult to read but, where possible (to save asking for new jpgs), I have added text overlays using a larger font. Some people have moved from small to large boxes and we have also started a new size box, which is effectively two small boxes side by side. There is a new price for this size.

Jenny

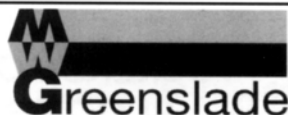
DEANERY SYNOD

27 February, 2014

The meeting was opened by Simon Friend from Cullompton, who introduced himself as the new Lay Chair of the Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery, with a brief background of himself. Before the opening prayer, he referred us to Psalm 16 verse 5, "Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure".

A questionnaire had been circulated to members asking them, about what they felt that Deanery Synod should be. The main points arising from the feedback received were:

* Deanery Synod should be the voice of the local churches.



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* It should be about – learning together, growing together, going together – in other words, working together.

* The main aim should be mission, and there is a need to identify priorities and resources.

There then followed a presentation on 'The Marriage Course', a DVD based course aimed, not just at those considering or embarking on marriage, but also on those already married (and may have been for many years!) and those living together.

The key to the course is hospitality, and is about, amongst other things, building strong foundations, the art of communication, resolving conflict, the power of forgiveness, the impact of family and love in action.

Courses have already been run in both the Tiverton and Cullompton areas, and further are planned for the near future. Copies of flyers from a previous course, detailing what it is all about, are available in our churches for those interested.

Despite a fall in the number of couples committing to marriage, the evidence points to the fact that far more children end up in single parent homes, where their parents are living together, than within a marriage.

Paul Iliff

CHATter – update from Churches Housing Action Team

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland - Isaiah 43:19

Many of you will be aware that – due to austerity measures - CHAT has lost most of its statutory funding, and is phasing out the Youth Housing Project. From April we will no longer receive any Local Authority funding for our Tenancy Support services either. We are very blessed that we won't need to close, but we now need local support more than ever.

Our "Giver of Hope" scheme is a way to give monthly, helping to ensure the sustainability of our vital work. We know that CHAT started as a 'heart' movement – being moved by local need into action - and we believe in God's faithfulness and his heart for the disadvantaged. We want to expand, not contract, as needs grow ever bigger and the safety net grows smaller. Please consider prayerfully whether giving a small amount monthly is something that you could commit to. Thank you. Find out more from theooffice@chatmid.co.uk 01884 255606.

Good news stories

Not only do we see God providing for our organisation, importantly we see ways being made in the wilderness for those we help. 'G' came to CHAT last summer following a long spell of homelessness in his home town. He continued to be homeless and was sleeping rough. CHAT provided him with a tent, bedding and food. We supported him in his search for affordable accommodation and made the appropriate referrals to other helpful agencies including SHOT (Street Homeless Outreach Team for Devon & Cornwall). He has recently viewed and been offered a 1 bedroom flat and has applied for the Deposit Guarantee scheme. Once settled, he will be offered and referred to Tenancy Support to enable him to gain the skills to successfully maintain his tenancy.

Sometimes we hardly notice we've helped! 'J' came to only one drop-in advice session, yet has become an unofficial ambassador for CHAT at Tiverton High School (he's an ex-pupil), as he credits CHAT's help with turning his life around.

old folk lore names of birds and here are a few. There are birds named because of their colour, like the Blue Tit / Blue Bonnet or Blue Spick; Robin / Redbreast or Reddock and the Goldcrest / Marigold Finch. Then there are names connected with where they live, like the Whitethroat / Nettle Creeper; Linnet / Gorse Bird and the Meadow Pipit / Moss Cheeper.

Birds are also named after their call, like the Yellow Hammer / Little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheese and the Stonechat / Stoneclick. Others are named after their nest, the Blackcap / Haybird or Jack Straw and Long-tailed Tit / Jack in a Bottle. Others are called after the pattern on their eggs, like The Yellow Hammer / Scribbling Lark. Others by their behaviour, like the Mistle Thrush / Storm Cock, as it sings from the tops of trees in stormy weather or the little Grebe / Divvy Duck. Others have affectionate nicknames like the Jenny Wren.

Now it is all change in the bird world and the Butterflies are flitting in the garden and flowers are starting to shoot. Spring is in the air and summer is not too far away.

Ann

RT REVD ROBERT ATWELL

Article dated January 2014



The next Bishop of Exeter is the Rt Revd Robert Atwell, currently Bishop of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester.

continued overleaf →

ANN'S NATURE NOTES

I read somewhere that the Redshank is called the guardian of the marsh, as it is very wary and, when disturbed, makes quite a racket. I know for similar reasons that the Jay is known as the Guardian of the Woods and I would say the Oystercatchers could be the guardians of the shoreline. So I thought about some of the

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His appointment was announced by the Prime Minister's Office. Bishop Robert will become the 71st bishop of the Diocese of Exeter which comprises more than 500 parishes across the county of Devon.

Aged 59, he spent ten years as a Benedictine monk at Burford Priory in Oxfordshire and then served as a parish priest in London before becoming Bishop of Stockport in 2008.

He said: "I'm immensely honoured and a little bit daunted to be chosen as the next Bishop of Exeter. From family holidays, I know Devon to be a beautiful county, large and full of variety and I'm looking forward to getting to know it better and above all getting to know the people of the county".

"I realise that the picture postcard image many have of Devon isn't the whole truth. There are communities facing great hardships, through poverty and lack of employment, as well as the recent flooding which has affected many people and caused problems for the farming community. I've been moved by the stories I've heard of churches and individuals across the county getting stuck in and helping people."

He pledged to spend time listening to people and explained that his priority will be to lead the Diocese in prayer, witness and service. He said, "My ten years as a Benedictine monk taught me that all growth is rooted in prayer. God doesn't want us just to exist or to fritter our lives away. He wants us to be fully alive and to serve people with joy." He is passionate about the church's role in providing education for all and looks forward to supporting the 130 church schools serving families all over Devon.

In his spare time he enjoys gardening and writing. He is the author of a number of books including Pilgrim: a course recently launched by the Church of England to encourage people to explore the Christian faith. Bishop Robert will be installed in Exeter Cathedral in July and will be living in Exeter.

He succeeds Bishop Michael Langrish, who retired last year.

EXE VALLEY MARKET BUS

We have a new Exe Valley Market Bus !



Using voluntary drivers it runs each Tuesday and Friday morning from Oakford to Tiverton. To travel on this service, please telephone Colin Radford on 01884 881351 for more details and to reserve your seat.

On Thursdays it runs from Oakford to South Molton or Barnstaple (alternate weeks) via Roachill and Knowstone. The journey to Barnstaple stops at the car park at Moortown Cross enabling passengers from other parishes to pick up the bus there. Ring Olwen Smith on 01398 341764 to book your seat. Concessionary Bus Passes can be used on both these routes.

The Bus is also available for private hire, ring Ann Roberts of 01884 254501 for details.

We also run regular trips on the 1st Wednesday of each month and we do sometimes have spare seats - more information from Judith Govier on 01884 256325.

Our AGM is on Wednesday 21 May at 7.30pm in The Stoodleigh Inn. If you wish to attend, please telephone the Secretary, Ann Roberts, on 01884 25450. All details are also on our website www.exevalleymarketbus.btck.co.uk

THE MID-DEVON MESSENGER

The *Mid Devon Messenger* ~ the talking newspaper for the blind and partially sighted ~ is recorded every Tuesday evening, by a team of four reader volunteers, with a technician who is responsible for the recording

A digest of the news from the Tiverton and Culm Valley Gazettes is enthusiastically read at our recording studio in Heathcoat's factory on Leat Street, Tiverton and then transferred, on Wednesday morning to memory sticks, which are posted to those who need them.

We need some help !

This vital service is in urgent need of support. We are looking for volunteers to help with the duplication and dispatch of the memory sticks. The process can be completed in an hour and a half by a team of two people. If you could spare this time on a Wednesday morning, once a month, then we would be very grateful. Full training for this straightforward process is available, so have no worries ! If you would like to know more, please contact the Chairman, Allan Weller on 10884 820697

We need some more help !

We have a shortage of male readers ! If you have a strong, clear voice and would like to volunteer to read once every two months (recordings normally take about an hour on Tuesday evenings) ~ or to fill in for those on holiday or absent through illness ~ please contact our Team Co-ordinator, Jill Robson on 01884 254729.

If you know anyone who is partially sighted, and who would like to receive *The Mid Devon Messenger*, please contact our Chairman

PARISH ROUND-UP

Calverleigh

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Betty Slade on 21 January. Betty and her late husband Arthur had been regular worshippers in Calverleigh Church. In Betty's latter years she had been a resident of St George's Care Home in Tiverton, where she had been very happy. She was in

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PARISH ROUND-UP

terrible pain, but never complained. She was a tonic to all who visited her. Betty's funeral took place in Calverleigh Church on 30 January and she was interred in the churchyard. The Church was full of family and many friends including one resident and many staff of St George's. We send our sympathy to all the family, she will be sorely missed by all.

Our P.C.C. meeting was held on Tuesday 4 February. Fundraising was discussed and there were quite a few suggestions and we are trying to work out some dates for them. The first one is a Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy, cakes, plants etc at the home of Derek and Mary Herniman at Blue Cedars. The date for your diary is 26 APRIL - 10am until 12noon. Please try and join us.

Our Annual day of prayer this year is on 24 May. If you wish to take part please contact Aubrey or Jackie or write your name and time you wish, on the form which will be on the font, nearer the day.

We are holding our Annual Open Air Service on Sunday 22 June at 3pm. This year the popular duo "AD-LIB" will be joining us with their lovely music. Last year we had to go indoors for the service but we are hoping that the weather will be kinder to us this year. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We welcome Peter and Sarah Dummett and daughter to Oak Tree View. We hope that you will soon settle in and be happy in your new home here in Calverleigh. We wish the Luffman family happiness in their new home.

We send our love and sympathy to Gerry and Kath Winchester on the death of Kath's sister Eileen Farrow. Eileen had been a worshipper at our Church for many years.

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Paul Henson. Paul was the father of Paula Webber and Grandad to Samantha and Marcus. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Tuesday 15 April in Church at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come to this meeting.

We send our best wishes to all who are ill at the moment. We are thinking especially at this time of Trisha Hussell, who has recently been into hospital for an operation but is now home again. Trisha is still in a lot of pain but chin up Trish we are sure you will soon be up and running again.

Some of our young people in the village took part in the Whimble and Broadclyst Young Farmers and Withleigh Young Farmers Charity Show at the New Hall in Tiverton on 9 March. It was a wonderful show with loads of talent. These young people must have worked so hard to put on this excellent entertainment. Our young people and many more from villages in the Exe Valley Community are members of The Withleigh Young Farmers Group. Keep up the good work.

The Calverleigh Village Hall committee are organising three events to take place at the Village Hall in the next few months. The first one is a coffee morning on 10 May. Then "Tea on the Green" on 21 June. Then a Sequence Dance on 9 August. Please put these dates in your diaries, the details will be available later. **The committee wish to say that if there is anyone who could help in any way at any of these events they will be welcomed.**

Cruwys Morchard

Cruwys Morchard's New Parish Hall is now in full use, and becoming a very busy place. To book the Hall please contact Diana Vincent on 01363 860227. High Banks, Pennymoor, Tiverton. EX16 8LQK

Services have continued at three a month through February. In March we have MOTHERING SUNDAY on 30 March. It is a Family Service, shared with the Congregational Chapel and lead by the Rev Ruth Green. Hopefully, weather permitting, we will have poppy seeds for the children to scatter in the church yard after the service.

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

March 31 & April 7 - Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

April 14 - Decorators for Easter

April 21 - Sonia Notley

April 28 - Decorating for Flower Festival

May 5 & 12 - Cindy Trick and Pat Cross

May 19 & 26 - Diana Vincent and Val

Randerson

June 2 & 9 - Marian Kingdom

CHURCH YARD MOWING ROTA

April - Guy Cruwys

May - Les and Hilary Tosdevin

June - Steve Guscott

July - Dave and Shane Berry

August - Dave and Diana Vincent

September - Roland and Sonia Notley

If you have a lawn mower, preferably a ride on one, and would like to volunteer to help mow the church yard, please ring: Sonia Notley on 01363 866864.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Thank you very much Rod for all your hard work, over the years, mowing for the month of September. And thank you everyone who helps so happily to keep our Church Yard looking so lovely.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

This year sees the return of our Flower Festival at the Parish Church. Also come along and see our fantastic display of Scarecrows, displayed around the Parish. These events will take place on 3, 4, and 5 of May, 10am - 4pm. There will also be an Art / Craft exhibition at the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be available. If you have any queries please phone Pauline Guscott on 01363 866754

BELLS

We are still receiving help from experienced ringers from Tiverton at our Monday night's bell ringing practice, which has allowed us to improve our method ringing. Some ringers from Rackenford Tower have also joined us for further practise and assistance.

FLOWER SHOW

The Annual Flower Show will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 9 August. Please take a look at the schedule enclosed, as we would like to encourage new exhibitors, to ensure we have another great show again this year. The buckets are now available for children under 16, to grow their potato. Any questions please contact Pauline Guscott on 01363 866754.

THE NIGHTMAN OF NEVERMOOR

Those of you who may remember seeing a film crew around the village in March last year may like to know that the film *The Nightman of Nevermoor* is now completed. Richard Standen, who grew up in Pennymoor, wrote and produced the film, and spent a week filming on location around Cruwys Morchard, Rackenford and Huntsham, along with a group of his fellow graduates from UCA Farnham. The film is a 55 minute science fiction mystery, and had its first screening in February at the Central

Cinema Torquay, followed by a second screening in London. Richard and the team are looking at the possibility of showing it in the new Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall at some time in the future. Having previously won a regional Royal Television Society award for his film *The Beach House*, which was also filmed in Devon, Richard has now gone on to win the award for best fiction film (18-25) at the BFI Future Film Festival 2014 with his short film *Status 2*.

YOGA CLASS

The new yoga class in the CM Parish Hall on the 6 March was extremely well attended, it was a delight to see so many people there and the new hall full to capacity. Due to the numbers there may be a second class organised. For further information contact Hilary on 01363 866245 or hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com

YFC NEWS

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club held a Mouse Racing Night on 18 January at the Parish Hall; the hall was full with a wonderful crowd of children and adults - all have said "had a great time". This was an extra special night as it was the last Mouse Racing for John and Sue Robinson and Rod and Carol Chisholm - they started about twelve years ago for Cruwys Morchard YFC in the Parish Hall and felt it appropriate to finish off in the same way. A grand total of £1,200 was raised to be split between The Devon Air Ambulance, R.A.B.I. and Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall.

On Friday 24 January the Club's Disco Dancing team took part in the County Round of Disco Dancing and won this competition. The team will now represent Devon at the South West Area Competition to be held in Newquay in March. Good luck to the team!

The following night, the Club held a Bingo at the parish hall and raised £240.

The Club have been rehearsing most evenings for the Entertainments Competition and a performance will take place on Friday 11 April at the

parish hall - details to follow which will be available on the Cruwys Morchard website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 29 March, Pink Bingo and 200 Club Draw. Doors open at 7.30pm

Sunday 30 March MOTHERING SUNDAY Service 11am in the Parish Church

Wednesday 2 April, Free Seniors Lunch, 12 noon in the Parish Hall

Friday 11 April at 7pm An Evening of Entertainment by Cruwys Morchard YFC & All, at the Parish Hall. Pay on the door, £6 adult, £3 children

Saturday 12 April YFC Ball in the Parish Hall

Sunday 20 April at 6.30pm - 7.30pm Circuit Training for details please Ring Julie 01363 866664.

Saturday 26 April Prize Bingo, 8pm, doors open at 7.30pm.

Saturday 3 May – Monday 5 May Flower Festival in the Parish Church & Scarecrow Display around the Parish - with refreshments in the Parish Hall. Please ring Pauline Guscott 01363 866754

Tuesday 20 May the Church PCC meeting at Wringsland House 7.30pm.

Saturday 31 May 8pm, Prize Bingo.

Saturday 14 June, Di and Dave's Quiz, doors/bar open 7pm.

Saturday 28 June Bingo 8pm.

Saturday 2 August BREAKFAST & BRUNCH. Starting at 7am.

Volunteers to help please contact Mary on 07773362305 or speak to Marilyn.

Easter 'Holiday at Home'. Fun for all ages. Crafts, Easter egg hunt & short film. Tuesday 15 April from 1.30 pm in the Congregational Chapel.

Puppet Church. Sunday 4 May at 4.30 pm. in the Congregational Chapel

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This is such a very special time of year. As we continue through Lent and prepare for the wonderful celebration of our Lord's death and Resurrection may we invite you to come in and look for ways in which you can share with others the joyous Easter story.

There is a choice of Easter Cards with uplifting designs and messages of hope ; Gift books or devotionals; prayer cards or holding crosses ; or Christian jewellery – all will help to bring the receiver closer to God.

If you give Easter Eggs, give the **REAL EASTER EGG**, the only one to celebrate the meaning of Easter, which has a new box design. It contains a new illustrated version of the Easter story, a high quality milk chocolate egg, and a 25g bag of Meaningful Chocolate Chunky Buttons - all at last year's price of £3.99

Also available to order is the Real Easter Egg Sharing Box (20 x 20g each egg) for £20 and the Real Easter Egg Special Edition (280g) for £9.99

Toilet Twinning

We are now 'twinned' with a latrine in Uganda!
Latrine no.30269 is in Rubaya, Kabale District.
Please see the photo in our bathroom

Penny's **SPECIAL OFFER** for April is a Fairy Cake and a cup of Tea, Coffee, or Squash for £1.45

This year **Spring Harvest** is at Minehead from 5 to 18 April
They welcome day visitors as well as weekly guests. You will experience great teaching and meaningful worship. Find out at www.springharvest.org

HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Could anyone offer us a couple of hours, on a flexible basis, to cover for sickness and holidays?

If you feel you would enjoy serving people in this oasis provided by God in our town please call in and we will be grateful for any time you can offer.

May God bless you all

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Welcome to Tony and Sally Butler-Roskilly who have recently moved to the village. Congratulations to Sarah and Guy Cruwys on the birth of their grandson, Monty, son of Belinda and Christopher Sadock. Congratulations to Jill Cousins for starting her childcare business in Pennymoor. Best wishes to all who are not well in the Parish, or who are grieving.

9 May is the deadline to receive items for the June / July issue of TODAY.

Loxbear

At the time of writing this, is it so good to have a quieter time weather wise, with it being sunny and dry after all the terrible wind and rain we have experienced. We do hope this will continue.

Our Mothering Sunday Service on Sunday 30 March will be held in the

PARISH ROUND-UP

Village Hall at approximately 10.30am preceded by a full English breakfast cooked and served by the men - from 9.30am. Do come and join us. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

Our Easter Services, a time to reflect on our Lord's death and celebrate his resurrection, begin as we join with the Community at the Maundy Thursday Fellowship Meal in Templeton Village Hall on 17 April at 7.30pm. On Good Friday there will be a Meditation Service on our Lord's death in Loxbears Church at 11.00am. The Easter Sunday Service on 20 April will be Family Communion at 11.00am, preceded by tea/coffee at approximately 10.30am with activities for the children.

The Woman's Bible Study Group continue to meet at Pauline's ~ Highgate Cottage, alternate Tuesdays from 2 - 4pm. This session we are studying the first 7 chapters of Romans using a study guide entitled 'The Gift of God'. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 22 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Congratulations to Charles Hibbert on his 18th birthday and Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in April/May and best wishes to those celebrating special occasions.

We send our love and sympathy to Donna & family and Pat & family and anyone else who have lost loved ones recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are feeling unwell, and have had accidents or operations.

The Progressive Meal will be on 9 May with First and Main courses in various homes, and with puddings and tea/coffee in the Hall. More details and offers of help contact Richard on 881234 or Carol on 881480.

Continued on Page 10 ➔



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**MISSION
COMMUNITY**

**Fellowship Meal
Thursday 17 April
Templeton Village Hall**

**Ascension Day
Service
Thursday 29 May
Oakford 7.30pm**

**MISSION
COMMUNITY
HOME-GROUPS**

(Alternate Wednesdays)

See fliers for details

HOME GROUPS

COFFEE PLUS

Alternate Thursdays
9.30am - 10.30am.
Prayer for the Exe Valley
at Church Cottage, Stoodleigh
(Tel. 01398-351364)

**LOXBEARE PRAISE AND
PRAYER MEETING**

3rd Tuesday in month
At 7.30pm.
(Tel.01884-881362 for
venues)

**EXE VALLEY WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm at
Highgate Cottage, Loxbeare
Contact Marion 01884
256302, or Alison 01398
351552 for details.

WALK THE TALK

Witleigh Home Group
Alternate Mondays at 8pm
(Tel. 01884-253473)

EXE VALLEY CENTRAL

**Each Sunday
in**

**Templeton Village Hall
At 11 am**

6 April Sunday Club all age Service
13 April Morning Worship
20 April No Service (Easter Sunday)
27 April Morning Worship

4 May Sunday Club all age Service
11 May Morning Worship
18 May Holy Communion
25 May Morning Worship

*When there is no service in
Parish churches, all are
encouraged to attend
Exe Valley Central*

OAKFORD

6 April
9.30 am Holy Communion

**13 April
PALM SUNDAY**
9.30 am Morning Prayer

**18 April
GOOD FRIDAY**
2.30 pm Devotional Service

**20 April
EASTER DAY**
9.30 am Holy Communion

27 April
9.30 am Family Service

4 May
9.30 am Holy Communion

11 May
9.30 am Morning Prayer

18 May
9.30 am Holy Communion

25 May
9.30 am Family Service

RACKENFORD

6 April
No Service

**13 April
PALM SUNDAY**
9.30 am Morning Praise

**18 April
GOOD FRIDAY**
No Service

**20 April
EASTER DAY**
11 am Family Service

27 April
9.30 am Holy Communion

4 May
No Service

11 May
9.30 am Morning Praise

18 May
11 am Family Service

25 May
9.30 am Holy Communion

STOODLEIGH

6 April
11 am Family Service

**13 April
PALM SUNDAY**
11 am Morning Prayer

**18 April
GOOD FRIDAY**
No Service

**20 April
EASTER DAY**
11 am Holy Communion

27 April
6.30 pm Evensong

4 May
11 am Family Service

11 May
11 am Morning Prayer

18 May
11 am Holy Communion

25 May
6.30 pm Evensong

CALVERLEIGH

6 April

No Service

13 April

PALM SUNDAY

11.15 am Morning Worship

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

No Service

20 April

EASTER DAY

11.15 am Holy Communion

27 April

6.30 pm Evening Worship

4 May

No Service

11 May

9.30 am Holy Communion

18 May

11.15 am Morning Worship

25 May

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

CRUWYS MORCHARD

6 April

No Service

13 April

PALM SUNDAY

9.30 am Family Service

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

No Service

20 April

EASTER DAY

11 am Holy Communion

27 April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

4 May

No Service

11 May

9.30 am Holy Communion

18 May

11 am Family Service

25 May

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

LOXBEARE

6 April

6.30 pm Evening Praise

13 April

PALM SUNDAY

No Service

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

11 am Service of Meditation

20 April

EASTER DAY

11 am Family Service

with Holy Communion

27 April

No Service

4 May

9.30 am Family Communion

11 May

No Service

18 May

6.30 pm Evening Praise

25 May

No Service

TEMPLETON

6 April

11 am Family Service

13 April

PALM SUNDAY

No Service

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

11 am Easter Garden Service

20 April

EASTER DAY

9.30 am Holy Communion

27 April

No Service

4 May

11 am Family Service

11 May

No Service

18 May

No Service

25 May

9.30 am Morning Prayer
with Holy Communion

WASHFIELD

6 April

6 pm Evening Prayer

13 April

PALM SUNDAY

11 am Family Service

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

3 pm Service of Meditation

20 April

EASTER DAY

9.30 am Holy Communion

27 April

No Service

4 May

9.30 am Holy Communion

11 May

11 am Morning Prayer

18 May

11 am Family Service

25 May

No Service

WITHLEIGH

6 April

No Service

13 April

PALM SUNDAY

11 am Family Service

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

10 am Informal Service

In Village Hall

20 April

EASTER DAY

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Service

27 April

11 am Morning Worship

4 May

No Service

11 May

11 am Family Service

18 May

9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

25 May

11 am Morning Worship

PARISH ROUND-UP

The Village Party in January was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Ron and Margaret who organised it and to all who helped in any way.

Loxbear Ladies dates: 7 April Raclette Evening at Sue Troake's at 7.30pm, Ladies only night. Book with Sue by 1 April on 01884 259496. Cost £3. Could you please bring either a salad or a pudding - letting Sue know which, when you book your place. Bring your own drink.

The May date to be arranged for a wildlife cruise on the River Exe. More details from Margaret Tidball on 01884 881362.

2 June: A visit to Rosemoor Garden Centre. Leaving Loxbear Church at 10.00am. Book your place by 26 May again with Margaret on 01884 881362.

Easter Bingo will be the 14 April - arrive 7 for 7.30pm. Contact Carol on 881480.

Oakford

As Easter will soon be here, we wish everyone a very happy Easter and hope we will have good weather.

The Easter services at Oakford are as follows: Good Friday - Service of Meditation at 2.30 p.m.

Easter Sunday 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service. All are welcome to this celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

The Oakford Parochial Church Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday

8 April at 7p.m. in the church. All are welcome to come and participate.

On Sunday 4 May we are hoping to have a concert by the Tiverton Singers in the church at 7p.m. Wine and nibbles will be provided. Please look out for posters as this is not yet been finalized.

Kelvin and Chris, Simon and Clare, Dennis and Mary have all recently moved from Oakford and we wish them well in their new homes. However, they have not moved far away, so we are sure we will still see them from time to time. Our thanks to them for the various ways they have contributed to the life of the village and church. Thank you Simon for continuing to deliver some of the magazines to the outlying farms and houses. We welcome the new people and hope they will soon settle here.

To celebrate the new kitchen in the village hall, a 'Breakfast Brunch' was held on Sunday 23 February from 10 a.m. until noon. About fifty people sat down to a great 'fry-up'. Our thanks to the Village Hall Committee for organizing this. £121.00 was raised for funds.

The St. David's Day Pancake Day was a great success. Everyone enjoyed pancakes and coffee and 'Bara Brith'. There was a cake stall and pancake races for adults and children. Our thanks to Carla and Brenda and all who helped. £245 was raised towards the village hall funds.

Other events

Oakford Players present a 'Showbiz Quiz' 26 April at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall. £6.00 to include fork supper. Maximum of six persons per team.

Moorland Club : 10 April 7.30p.m. Annual General Meeting. Please come and support your club.

Rackenford

We hope we are now enjoying Spring weather and the wind and rain that have caused so many problems for people are over.

Sorry the bellringers were not mentioned in the last magazine, but just want you to know that it's always a joy to hear you ringing, keep up the good work and hope to hear you more often in the future.

Sadly we have had some bereavements over the last few months. We send our deepest sympathy to Charlotte West and all her family on the death of her grandmother, also to the family and friends of David Taylor who lived at Broadclose for several years. David died in mid January and his service and burial took place at our Church. Our thoughts and prayers also to Chris and Fiona Maddocks and family on the death of Chris's mum.

Some will remember Paul Henson who for many years was our auctioneer at Harvest Suppers. Sadly Paul has died and we send our deepest sympathy to his family at this difficult time.

A warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Edward Hyland and little Arthur who have moved into the village. Home again Edward !!!

Also many congratulations to Ruth Hyland and Simon Avery on the birth of their baby boy Ptolemy Seth born on Friday 8 February. Hope you are all doing well. Congratulations to Helen on her second grandson.

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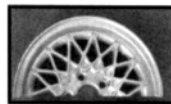
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PARISH ROUND-UP

Rackenford School are holding weekly assemblies at Church on Tuesdays at approx 1.15pm. Anyone wishing to come along and see what takes place is most welcome. The aim is to bring the children into the church, so they become familiar with the surroundings.

Our sponsored walk this year will take place on Saturday 17 May. Route and details later but Liz Paxton is the person to contact if you need any information. 01884 881331 Let's get walking !!!

On Saturday 5 April between 10am and 12am a coffee morning, with bring and buy, cake stall and raffle etc will take place in Church. Everyone welcome, the more the merrier.

The church AGM is being held in Church on Monday 7 April at 7.30pm. A chance for everyone to comment on Church matters, services, graves, bells ~ whatever you have on your mind. This will be followed by a PCC Meeting.

Coffee mornings continue at Rackenford Club Tuesday mornings 10am to 12pm, all welcome.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who run our village shop. You are all very much appreciated - what great service you give us.

Congratulations to all celebrating happy events, anniversaries and birthdays etc. Thinking of George and Jean Cole who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on 30 April.

Our love and prayers to all who are not well, lonely or depressed.

As always we remember our friends Percy Stone, Ken Blackford, Mrs Clark,

Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline , Bill Dart, Tony Weston and Bob Mogridge.

Stoodleigh

After months of almost incessant rain, some fine March days brought out the primroses and the pussy willow and gave us hope that we should soon see the swallows here again.

One family of returning "birds" blew in on the gales a few weeks ago and we send them the warmest welcome. John and Tori Griffiths and the children are back in Stoodleigh, this time at the Old Rectory, after a brief exile in Tiverton. We hope they will be very happy in their new home. We also welcome and wish every happiness to Trevor and Shirley, newly arrived at Rowhill (formerly the home of Peter and Henny Nethercot, who have moved into town).

It is good to have our curate Rob Brewis back with us in the Exe Valley and we hope he has enjoyed and benefitted from a month spent working in the parish of St Leonard in Exeter.

Easter this year is very late - 20 April. The date is determined (as it has been ever since the Council of Nicaea in 325AD) by the predicted cycles of the moon; it is linked to the timing of the Jewish Passover.

The following local events lead up to this supreme moment in the Christian calendar:

* Lent talks and discussion continue every Wednesday evening at 7.30 at Templeton Village Hall, up to and including 9 April.

* The Maundy Thursday Fellowship Meal, on 17 April, will be held in Templeton Village Hall at 7.30pm. It is hoped that many people from Stoodleigh will be able to attend.

* On Good Friday there will be services of meditation. Please see the Mission Community panel in the centre pages for times and churches where they will take place.

* The Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service in Stoodleigh church will be at 11am. The Easter decorations in church, which are always so beautiful, will be eagerly awaited and well worth a visit.

Another important date: the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 April in church at 2.30pm. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Please look out for further details of a Coffee Morning in May to be held at Church Cottage in aid of church funds.

Congratulations to Mervyn and Sue Brice on becoming grandparents. Their daughter Jennifer and Andre, who live in Jersey, had a son on 21 February.

Despite gales and heavy rain, 40 stalwarts turned out to enjoy Jennifer Rowlandson's excellent slide show of Exmoor through the Year and £332 was raised, to be shared between the village hall and church funds.

The History Group in Stoodleigh would like to commemorate the start of World War One by telling the stories of those from the village who served in the war. There are 64 names on the memorial, seven of whom died. If any of these were members of your family, and you

Continued ➔



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PARISH ROUND-UP

have any stories or photos, we would very much like to hear from you. The full list is on the Stoodleigh website, www.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh, and you can contact the group at chris@coalole.eclipse.co.uk

Parish Hall : The Easter Market and Coffee Morning is on Saturday 19 April, 10am until 12noon. There will be a range of local goods and services, as well as local produce and crafts. You can bring and buy cakes, preserves and vegetables or browse through the second-hand books. It's also a chance to enjoy coffee, tea and cakes and meet up with others from the village and nearby. To book a table for your produce, crafts or goods, the cost is £5. Please contact Geraldine on 01398 351391.

Diary date : By popular request Stoodleigh Family Dog Show 9 August

CHSW : There is to be a Pudding Club Evening on 10 May, 7.30 for 8pm, at the Parish Hall, for the Children's Hospice South West, tickets £5. A selection of traditional puddings will be served, with the option to try a choice of pudding wines. There will be a quiz to test your senses, and a chance to meet Steve James, who is going to do the Precious Lives bike ride for the Hospice - 210 miles, 3 days, 3 counties, 3 hospices, starting in Cornwall and ending in Bristol.

SWAG : Events under consideration - Tiverton Town Trail; visit to Topsham and Turf Inn; talk by Mike Sampson on History of Tiverton; visit to Met Office, Exeter.

Church Flowers :

20 & 27 April Easter Flowers - all help please (Continued in next column)

4 & 11 May - Enid Hamidullah
18 & 25 May - Pat Aplin
1 & 8 June - Corinne Miller

Templeton

Our Easter services are as follows :
Easter Garden Service will be held on Good Friday 18 April at 11.00am.
Easter Day Service will be Holy Communion at 9.30am. We hope to see you there.

At our recent PCC meeting it was decided to buy a new gas heater for the church to replace the previous heater which was so efficient. Our church AGM will be held at Templeton Village Hall on Wednesday 6 April at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

We are sorry to hear that Winston Reed has been ill recently and we hope that he and anyone else who has been sick or in hospital lately will have a speedy recovery. Our love and prayers are with you.

We held another very successful village quiz in January which was enjoyed by everyone and raised nearly £300 for the village fund. Over 60 people took part answering questions on local and countryside matters, sport, food & drink, entertainment, word definitions etc. They were pleasantly surprised as to how much they knew. The visiting group from Loxbeare finally gained the highest points but competition was fierce and they were chased all the way by teams led by Chris Pearson and Lynda Newnes. Everyone enjoyed a splendid supper prepared and served by a generous group of ladies and we were

extremely grateful to them and everyone else who helped to put on this enjoyable community event.

We also had a Call My Bluff antiques evening kindly brought to us by Bearnas Hampton & Littlewood Auctioneers. This raised over £500 which will go towards church building repairs. Everyone appeared to enjoy the event and much laughter was heard in the hall. A huge thank you to all who provided the meal and to those who contributed in any way towards the evening.

On 26 April we are holding a Scrap & Fabric Challenge at the Village Hall. So start collecting your scrap metal and fabric and we will arrange a collection of any large items on the Friday or Saturday. Contact Julie or Anthony on 01884 233507. Fabric, if possible, should be sorted into wool, cotton, denim or man-made. Let us see if we can beat the last amount raised of £2,500.

The election for a new Parish Counsellor will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 3 April at 8.00pm.

The AGM for the Village Hall & Social Club will be on 6 May at 8.00pm. All are welcome.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Washfield

*Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates sincerity.
Kindness in giving creates love.*

The primroses and daffodils are beginning to bloom and that tells us that spring is on the way with, hopefully, drier and warmer weather. Our thoughts have, very much, been with all the people and their properties that have suffered from the dreadful flooding we have witnessed in the media.

The time of Lent is now upon us - a time for reflection and maybe a time to spring clean our minds as well as our houses.

Our services continue to be well supported. At the family service we have children and parents taking a major part. In February the theme was 'The hungry and homeless' with items being brought for CHAT.

Easter is as late as it can be this year but nevertheless a busy time. On Good Friday St Mary's will host the usual service of Meditation at 3pm, to be taken by Anna. This service will be followed by tea and hot cross buns. The much looked forward to Egg Decorating and Rolling will take place on Easter Saturday. All eggs need to be in the church porch at 10am. There are classes for children of all ages with Easter Egg prizes for both decorating and rolling contest. Following this there will be coffee and hot cross buns in the Village Hall with plant, produce and cake stalls and an Easter themed raffle. We would be grateful for any donations

towards these stalls. Everyone is welcome and proceeds will go to the church. Could those kind enough to decorate the church for Easter please put their arrangements in on Easter Saturday. Thank you.

We send congratulations to Raymond and Claire Trout on the birth of Sophie Jayne on 14 February, a sister for Noah and grand-daughter for Allison and Paul Trout. God's blessings to you all.

Congratulations are also sent to Joe and Margaret Elston on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary in April. To anyone celebrating special events or birthdays we send best wishes.

Very sincere sympathies go to Heather, John, Katie and Robert Elston on the death of Heather's mum, Mrs Sheila Rowland, who passed away after a long illness at the end of January. Our love and thoughts are with you all at this sad time. Also condolences are sent to Angela and James Wych at Cotleigh on the death of Angela's grandmother, Betty Slade. Betty was a well known and much loved local lady. Our sympathy goes to all her family.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the many people who are not at all well at present. We do hope that the spring weather will help you feel a little better and more able to get out and about.

The Parish Council AGM will be held in the hall on Wednesday 16 April at 7.30pm. The talk will be by Adam Wishart, an award winning director, on 'The drama of documentaries'.

St Mary's Washfield APCM
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ALL WELCOME

The Memorial Hall is the parish's only secular hireable building and so a vitally important community asset and the committee is keen to encourage everyone to feel it is their second home in Washfield. So all are invited to **teatime@thehall** on Tuesday 1 April from 3.00 - 5.30pm. All generations welcome. Come and meet your neighbours, enjoy tea and chatter, borrow books and jigsaws, bring along your games, cakes also welcome. If the idea is welcome, teatime@thehall will become a regular feature in our community calendar.

The Memorial Hall presents '**howdenjones in Concert**' to raise funds towards the new roof it needs. Kate Howden and Paul Jones are songwriters who have been travelling all over the country in their 'Beautiful Music in Beautiful Places' tour. They are gracing our beautiful village with their presence on Friday 2 May. Tickets will cost £8.00 for adults and £3.00 for children (to include a ploughman's supper). The evening will start at 7pm for a 7.30 prompt start and the bar will be open. There will also be a raffle. Tickets must be purchased **before** the evening, so grab yours now to make sure that you do not miss this delightful evening of music (the variety of

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PARISH ROUND-UP

instruments include guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bodhran and banjo) and gentle anecdotes. You can hear examples of howdenjones lovely music by visiting www.howdenjones.co.uk. Tickets available from Anne Moore or from the Social Club.

The Social Club is organising its first ever Scarecrow Festival! All households in the parish are encouraged to make a scarecrow (or more) within the theme 'OCCUPATIONS' and complete a free entry form (if you haven't already received one they are available from the Social Club). Your entry should then be displayed so that it is visible from the road anytime in April or May but by 24 May at the latest, so that the judging can take place before the Grand Presentation for the winners - that is to take place on Saturday 31 May at the Social Club accompanied by a BBQ and bar. Please enter to make this a fun event for all the village! For further details contact Arthur Shenton on 01884 242008 or Maggie Parker on 01398 351428.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 30 March
Mothering Sunday service 11am

Tuesday 1 April
teatime@thehall 3 - 5.30pm (All welcome)

Monday 14 April St Mary's Church
APCM in hall 6.30 - 9pm

Wednesday 16 April
Parish Council AGM. Talk by Adam Wishart Award winning Director 'Drama of documentaries' 7.30pm

Saturday 19 April Egg Rolling and decorating in the church porch 10am

followed by Coffee Morning in Hall. Stalls including cakes, plants, produce and raffle. Coffee and hot cross buns. All welcome. In aid of church funds.

Thursday 24 April Lunch Club in Hall 12 for 12.30pm

Friday May 2nd howdenjones in Concert. Husband and wife folk duo present their "wonderful songs, gentle anecdotes and delicious leg-pulling" evening. Tickets from Anne 255298 or from the Social Club.

Thursday 29 May Lunch Club in Hall, 12 for 12.30pm

Saturday 31 May Scarecrow Festival Prize-Giving at Social Club with BBQ

Flower Rota

April 20 / 27	Mrs J Parnell
May 4 / 11	Mrs K Bassano
May 18 / 25	Mrs M May

Cleaning Rota

April 6 / 13	Mrs Harding & Mrs Jones
April 20 / 27	Mr & Mrs McCahon
May 4 / 11	Mrs French
May 18 / 25	Mrs Arnold
June 1 / 8	Mr & Mrs Parnell

WASHFIELD WEB SITE

is up and running !!

To access our site: Please type <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/washfield> into your Browser Bar (Internet Explorer, Safari etc NOT Google)

To find it on Google, put in "Welcome to Washfield Website" and it should show up ~ this will become more reliable with use !!

We still have a lot of work to do ~ so "Watch this Space"

Witleigh

At the time of writing these notes, our churchyard is a mass of snowdrops and crocuses, with the daffodils beginning to bloom. This is always a much admired sight and also makes us think Spring is around the corner!

We send our sympathy to the family of Anthony Hill who died recently. Our church was full for his funeral service before internment in our churchyard, uniting him with his wife, Valerie. Anthony will be particularly remembered by us, as he made the wooden cross which is always on the altar, apart from when services are held, when we use the brass cross.

We also send our sympathy to Gerry and Kath Winchester on the death of Kath's sister, Eileen. Eileen lived in Tiverton but attended our Church regularly with Gerry and Kath before ill health prevented her from doing this.

Our sympathy is also with Lyn Judd and her family on the death of Ray, who died in February. Ray was a member of the Village Hall Committee for a while. He also did the floral arrangement in one of the windows in our Church for special services during the year until ill health prevailed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all these families at this time of their sadness.

Congratulations to Witleigh Young Farmers Club who won the Entertainments Competition in the Exe Valley Group. Sadly, they were not

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PARISH ROUND-UP

successful whilst representing the Exe Valley at Exmouth, to go on to represent Devon at the South West Area Entertainments Competition.

Short Mat Bowls has again become a regular event in the Village Hall, now being held every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. We play a variety of competitions between ourselves, and we have friendly matches both home and away ~ usually about one a month. If anyone is interested or would like more information please contact Brenda on 252431.

We were pleased to be able to host the Group Ash Wednesday Service this year, and to welcome friends from the other parishes in our Mission Community. Our grateful thanks to Andrew Herniman for playing the organ for us, and to Rob and Steve for officiating.

The Easter Beetle Drive is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 12 April, at 7.30pm. A good fun-evening for all the family. For more details call Brenda.

Our Easter Services are following the same pattern as last year, with an informal service on Good Friday at 10.00am in the Village Hall, preceded by Hot Cross Buns and coffee. On Easter Sunday there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.30am in Church, followed by breakfast in the Village Hall around 9.30am. There will then be a Family Service in Church, starting at about 10.30am. Please feel free to come to all of these or just one or two. It would also be good if you felt you would just like to come and share breakfast with us. There is a meeting on Monday, 28 April at Bona Vista at 8.00pm, to discuss

arrangements for this year's Fete. The Fete is on Saturday, 19 July. Please come along if you feel you could help or contribute in any way. We will be needing extra help, as we already know of some people who are not going to be around on the day this year, owing to other commitments. We feel it is wise not to change the date as we try to keep the dates for our annual events in the Exe Valley the same each year, so as not to clash with one another.

We send get well wishes to all those not well at the moment and to those undergoing or recovering from treatment. Our prayers are with you all and we also, especially, think of all the flood victims and hope their lives will return to normality soon.

A note for your diary – Witleigh Garden and Produce Show will this year be held on Saturday, 16 August. Schedules will be attached to the June/July magazine. If you wish to know of any schedule alterations beforehand please contact Brenda.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday, 12 April Easter Beetle Drive 7.30 p.m.

Friday, 18 April – Informal service in the Village Hall at 10am, with coffee and hot cross buns.

Sunday 20 April – Holy Communion (8.30am), Breakfast (9.30am), Family Service (10.30am).

Flower rota:

Apr 6)
13) Lent

Apr 20) EASTER

- Apr 27)
- May 4) Margaret Gale
- May 11) Ann Gornal
- 18) & Maureen Stubbington
- May 25)
- Jun 1) Rosie Edmondston-Low

Monthly Diary Dates:

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

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