

## A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY ?

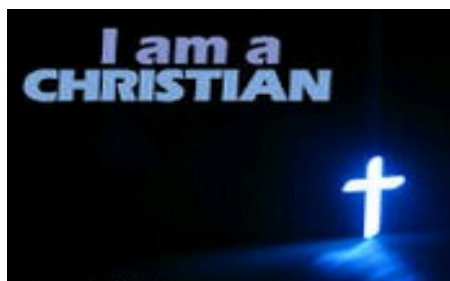
Over recent weeks there has been much discussion about whether or not Great Britain can still be described as a “Christian country”. The Prime Minister started the ball rolling in his Easter message, when he said “I am proud of the fact that we are a Christian country and we shouldn’t be ashamed to say so.”

Some people were quick to agree with David Cameron. Perhaps surprisingly, leaders of Hindu and Muslim communities supported the view that we are essentially a Christian country. But others disagreed. Members of the British Humanist Association protested against the idea, calling it narrow-minded and divisive. The former Arch-bishop Rowan Williams expressed the view that Britain is now “post-Christian”, but he added “that doesn’t necessarily mean non-Christian”. Opinions are clearly divided.

It is undeniably the case that our nation has been massively influenced by the Christian faith. Our legal system has historically been rooted in Christian morality. It was Christians who established many of our important institutions, such as schools, hospitals and charities. Many of our annual

celebrations are Christian festivals. Our language has been shaped by the Bible and the prayer book, and there are tens of thousands of churches across the nation.

This powerful Christian heritage leads many people to conclude that being Christian is part and parcel of being British. In the last census, 59% of the British population identified themselves as Christians (even though fewer than 5% go to church regularly). People often say that they are Christians because they were “born in a Christian country”, suggesting that their religious faith is little more than an accident of birth that can be taken for granted.



There is, however, a very important difference between being a British citizen and being a Christian. All of us who were born in Great Britain to British parents are automatically

British, whether we like it or not. There is no choice or decision to make. Unless we renounce our citizenship, we are British until the day we die. But no-one is born a Christian, even if they are born in a “Christian country” to Christian parents. No-one is automatically a Christian. Being a Christian requires a conscious and deliberate decision or choice.

Jesus Christ calls us to come to him (Matthew 11 v28), to trust in him (John 14 v1), to follow him (Mark 8 v34) and to love him (Luke 10 v27). This makes it very clear that being a Christian is an active response to his word, not an accident of birth or a cultural inheritance.

Around the world, there are many people who do not live in Christian countries but who are Christians and there are many other people who do live in Christian countries but are not Christians. The most important question of all is not whether as a nation we are a Christian country, but whether as individuals we have decided to follow Jesus Christ.

*Steve*

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## Keep Smiling . . .

The Sunday School teacher watched her students while they drew. She walked over to one little girl who was diligently working on her project.

The teacher asked what she was drawing and the girl replied "I'm drawing God". The teacher said "But no-one knows what God looks like".

Without looking up from her drawing, the little girl said "They will in a minute".

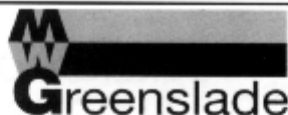
## EDITORIAL

As some of you may know, Ann Crawford - who writes our very interesting and informative Nature Notes - is leaving the area in the Summer. She has told us that her contribution for the August/September issue will be her last. If there are any bird and plant loving naturists in the valley who would like to take on this role, we would be delighted to hear from you.

You will see that we now have a full list of contact names for each Parish. We hope that you will find these useful when you need to get in touch with one another. Please let us know if any of this information changes. Many thanks.

"Keep Smiling ..." is our new short religious joke feature - which we hope you will find amusing. If you have any suitable items that you would like to see included, please send them in to us.

*Jenny and Geoff*



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## THE KING'S HEART IS IN THE HAND OF THE LORD

Proverbs 21.1, K J V

*This Article gives an interesting focus onto what is going on in the Middle East, and is relevant to our current studies in the book of Ecclesiastes.*

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**M**ajor changes are taking place within our world today. Relations between and within nations are being transformed. Saudi Arabia, the centre of Wahhabism, has broken its links with Qatar, the centre of the Muslim Brotherhood. The other Gulf States have rejected political Islam and are now isolating any country, such as Qatar, which seeks to propagate it. Turkey is in turmoil. Egypt's new constitution gives full equality to Christians and Jews for the first time.

At the same time appalling conflicts are now raging in places such as the Central African Republic and the Middle Belt and North of Nigeria. The war in Syria continues unabated, but with the difference that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States have put pressure on Qatar not to send in any rebel forces, nor to fund them, nor to arm them. Momentous changes are in progress as rulers abandon old positions and adopt new ones.

How are we to understand what has happened? How are we to make sense of the changes in our world? The book of Proverbs gives a basic affirmation that the king's heart lies in the hand of God: in other words, that God is the supreme ruler of the universe and this world, that all rulers ultimately owe their authority

to Him, that He will ultimately direct the forces of the nations.

As the Church remembers the Ascension of Jesus Christ back to the Father, we need to remember that in Him the prophecy in Daniel 7:14 has been fulfilled: "One like a Son of Man" (i.e. Jesus) was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

The risen Jesus invests His disciples with authority from God. The gates of hell will not prevail against the Church (Matthew 16:18), for Christ is with His Church (Matthew 28:20) and it is the triune God (Matthew 28:19) who will reign. We sing the hymn The Lord is King, a hymn of affirmation. In the midst of the appalling suffering that exists today, emanating from the confusion of authorities and earthly powers, let us be assured that it is our God who reigns over His suffering people and over this world.

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director, Barnabas Fund

*John Roberts*

### ANN'S NATURE NOTES

**I** was reading an article about alien species. As we are now in a world where people move around freely from country to country, this can result in different species settling where they are not native. The Victorian plant hunters started this and they are responsible for some of our horrors. My pet hate is Himalayan Balsam - that pretty pink

plant which grows quite tall in the summer on the river banks - and shoots seeds everywhere. The trouble is that it is an annual, with a large leaf, which stops things growing underneath. The results of this are that in the winter the banks are bare, and are liable to erode, and there is no cover for small mammals like water voles. The other plant which is much hated by the railways is the Buddleia. It is a wonderful butterfly bush but it does grow prolifically whenever possible, on poor soil. The nightmare in England is the Japanese Knotweed that has the most enormous and invasive roots. It can creep under houses and cause great trouble, as it is incredibly difficult to eradicate. Not a good idea to have it in your garden - or your neighbour's !!

In the bird world there are the Parakeets - noisy, cheerful birds from Africa, which seem to have taken over the South East of England. They are prolific bud eaters which is not good for those who have fruit trees, and they also take over other birds' nests. The classic case of man causing upset to nature is the, usually accidental, introduction of rats to places. New Zealand's ground nesting birds really suffered and the authorities are making a tremendous effort to eradicate them on certain off-shore islands. Ascension Island is doing the same - to save, among others, the Albatrosses which nest there, because the numbers were getting very low. On the Galapagos Islands they are trying to get rid of the feral goats that eat the vegetation and so upset the natural order of things. Hedgehogs were introduced to Uist to reduce the number of snails but what happened was, they took to eating the ground nesting birds' eggs, resulting in a prolific number of very fat, happy hedgehogs and considerably fewer birds. The introduction of Grey Squirrels to

continued overleaf →



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England has had a catastrophic effect on the native Red Squirrel. I am all for variety in this life but we do need to be careful.

*Ann Crawford*

## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Calverleigh

After our 3pm Evening Worship on 23 March we went to the village hall - by kind invitation of the Guides which are run by Nikki and Tash. We were entertained by them and given tea and cakes, which they had made. There were also some competitions where we had to exercise our brains. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and a big thank you to all who were involved in organising this event.

Our Mothering Sunday service which was led by Jackie was very well attended. Many thanks to all who made the pretty posies that were handed out during the service. Refreshments were served after the service

Congratulations to Jason and Rachel Ogilvy on the birth of their little son Freddie Jason on 24 March. Hope you do not get too many sleepless nights !!

We have to thank Hilda Forward for standing in and playing the organ at some of our services. Myrtle has been having a little trouble with her eyes lately, but is hoping to be a lot better after she has an operation. All the best Myrtle.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in Church on 15 April. Aubrey Goldsworthy and Jackie Herniman were re-elected as Church Wardens. The

standing P C C members were re-elected with the addition of Rita Tapp, who was warmly welcomed. Our Treasurer Jackie and our Secretary Julie were both re-elected. A short P C C meeting followed this meeting.

This Easter, the ladies once again did us proud with the floral arrangements in the Church. It was good to smell all the Spring flowers and blossom. The east window told the story of The Crucifixion with the three wooden crosses on the green hill and the tomb with the stone which was rolled back on Easter Sunday. Very impressive. Thanks to everyone who provided and arranged the flowers making our Church look so beautiful. Our Easter Day communion service was led by Rev. Keith Gale was very well attended.

Derek and Mary Herniman opened up their home at Blue Cedars to host a coffee morning for Church funds on 26 April. The weather was a little wet but that did not deter nearly 50 people coming to support us. Many cakes, pasties and pies were on sale also Plants and Bring and Buy. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way, by making cakes etc, donating items for the draw, selling and of course, buying. Everyone's efforts enabled us to raise the magnificent sum of £315.10 for our Church funds.

We wish Clive and Diane Hopper a very Happy 50 Wedding Anniversary on 9 May. They celebrated this happy occasion with a family meal. Many Congratulations to you both.

On 9 May the Village Hall Committee organised a coffee morning and sale at the Village hall. They are pleased to say that they raised, in the region of, £256 toward the cost of repairs etc to the village hall. They wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way.

Church Coming Events.

Open Air Service on 22 June at 3pm. We will be joined this year by the popular Duo Ad Lib. Everyone is welcome to join us. In Church if it is Wet.

Calverleigh Produce Show at the Village Hall on Saturday 30 August. Entry forms available from R.Tapp 01884 252601 or S. Greenslade 01884 254579.

Bingo at the village hall on 10 October. Details later.

Village Hall Coming Events

Tea on the Green 21 June 3pm - 5.30pm. Entertainment by New Waves at 4pm. Tickets to include tea £5. Available from village hall committee members.

### Cruwys Morchard

Cruwys Morchard had the most marvellous Flower Festival on 3- 5 May. The theme was Nursery Rhymes, there were 78 floral arrangements. Did you know there were so many Nursery Rhymes? At the same time there was a fantastic display of Scarecrows around the Parish, over 40 of them. The winner was Sue Guscott with Yankee Doodle Dandy, well done Sue. The whole event was wonderfully organised by Pauline Guscott, Lynette Parkhouse and Marion Kingdom - with the very able help of the Young Farmers and the Ladies committee. Thank you very much Pauline, Lynette and Marion, and congratulations. It has been suggested (by visitors) that we continue to have the Scarecrow displays annually, perhaps we could link them with the Church Fete on other years? What do you think.? Please ring 01363 866864.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Services for June and July are continuing at three a month, with the fifth Sunday in June being a joint service with the Congregational Chapel, in their Chapel, after the success of the Mothering Sunday service on the fifth Sunday in March, when the Rev Ruth Green took the service in our church.

### FLOWER and CLEANING ROTA

June 2 and 9 Marion Kingdom  
 June 16 and 23 Sarah Cruwys  
 June 30 and July 7 Wendy Lake  
 July 14 and 21 Mrs J Townsend  
 July 28 and August Wendy Lake

### CHURCH YARD MOWING ROTA

June Steve Guscott  
 July Dave and Shane Berry  
 August Dave and Diana Vincent

### CHURCH FETE

This year the Fete is on Saturday 12 July in the New Parish Hall. Please note the NEW TIME 12 noon – 3.00pm. There will be a barbecue, for lunch, the usual stalls and refreshments and The Tiverton Town Band playing. The new time is due to a wedding booking in the evening.

### ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

The Annual Flower Show will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 9 August. Please take a look at the schedule, as we would like to encourage new exhibitors, to ensure we have another great show this year. Any questions and schedules, please contact Pauline Guscott 01363866754.

### YOUNG FARMERS

Cruwys Morchard YFC have had a very busy couple of months; raising money for the Parish Hall. A "Full Length and Fabulous" Ball, Exe Valley Group Show and Sale, Outdoor Activities Day and the Disco Dancing team, preparing for their

forthcoming trip to The Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Good Luck to the team. After many years of not being held, the Exe Valley Group held a Show and Sale, with Stewart Chapple and Richard Stanbury, they had great success with their stock - well done to them. If you are interested in becoming a member, the Club meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Parish Hall. Do come along.

### YOGA

Classes continue in the New Parish Hall on Thursday mornings. There are two classes, both of the same content, the first from 10.00-11.15am, with the second following at 11.30-12.45pm, both are almost full, so please phone Hilary 01363 866245 or e-mail [hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com](mailto:hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com) if you would like to come.

### CIRCUIT TRAINING

Every Sunday evening in the New Parish Hall at 6.30pm-7.30pm  
 To enquire, ring Julie 01363 866664

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 14 June Di and Dave's Quiz.  
 Parish Hall - Doors/Bar open 7pm

### BINGO and 200 Club Draw

Saturday 28 June Eyes down 8pm. Also Saturday 26 July.

Saturday 12 July, Church Fete. New time; 12noon – 3.00pm

Saturday 2 August, Breakfast and Brunch. In the Parish Hall, starting 7am.

Saturday 9 August Cruwys Morchard Annual Flower Show In the Parish Hall at 2.30pm. Details and schedule from Pauline 01363 866 754

To book our New Parish Hall ring Diana Vincent on 01363 860 227.

We would like to welcome Stuart and Sam Pollington and their family who

have recently moved into Moor View, and Harriet who is now living in North Street.

Our condolences to Elizabeth and Frances Archer upon the very sad passing of Bernard.

### RURAL CHILDMINDING

Jill Cousins now has her child-minding business in Pennymoor up and running. She would like to thank all the Mums and Dads for their support.

Dead-line for the next issue 11 July.

## Loxbear

Our Mothering Sunday Breakfast Family Service was held in the Hall and was well attended and enjoyed by all, with a special slot for the children taken by Linda. John led the service and gave the message. This was preceded by an excellent breakfast cooked by the men. Thank you to all who helped in anyway.

The Easter Services began at Templeton Village Hall on Maundy Thursday with the Fellowship Meal and Communion. On Good Friday there was a Meditation Service at Loxbear Church - taken by Steve. The Easter Day Service was very well attended with many children present. He is risen. Halleluiah. The service was led by John, with Linda taking the children activities - explaining the Easter story, and later hunted for Easter Eggs hidden around the Church. Coffee/tea & biscuits were served by Carol before and after the service. Thank you to all who helped to make the morning enjoyable and

continued overleaf →

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

meaningful – and also thanks to those who decorated the Church so beautifully.

The annual PCC meeting was held on the 22 April in the Village Hall, where various church matters were discussed. Margaret Tidball was thanked for the many years of being Treasurer which she has now relinquished. Many thanks again Margaret and also to Carol Radford who has agreed to take up this role. Marion Roberts is to continue as Secretary and Ron & Jean as Churchwardens.

The women's Bible Study Group continue to meet alternate Tuesdays from 2 - 4pm. The last one before the break for Summer will be on 3 June. An Afternoon Tea is being arranged for Tuesday 1 July - venue to be decided. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

On 8 June there will be a Pentecost Praise Service in the Village Hall at 11.00am. Do come and join us.

### Future Dates:

A BBQ service is planned for 17 August.

### Harvest dates:

The weekend of 20 - 21 September and the Harvest Supper on Tuesday 23 September.

A picnic service to be arranged.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Rob & Alison on the birth of their little girl. We pray God's blessing & guidance on their family.

Also congratulations to Dawn & Lucy who have both passed their driving tests and to Josh Britton who completed 55miles Ten Tors & Libby Britton on completing the 45mile Ten Tors. Well Done.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in June/July and very best wishes to all celebrating special anniversaries /occasions.

We send our thoughts and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. To William, Clare & Alison on the loss of their Dad, Geoff Hensman. Geoff lived & worked in Loxbeare for about 43 years at Loxbeare Garage, Also to

## Exe valley Mission community Holiday Club 2014

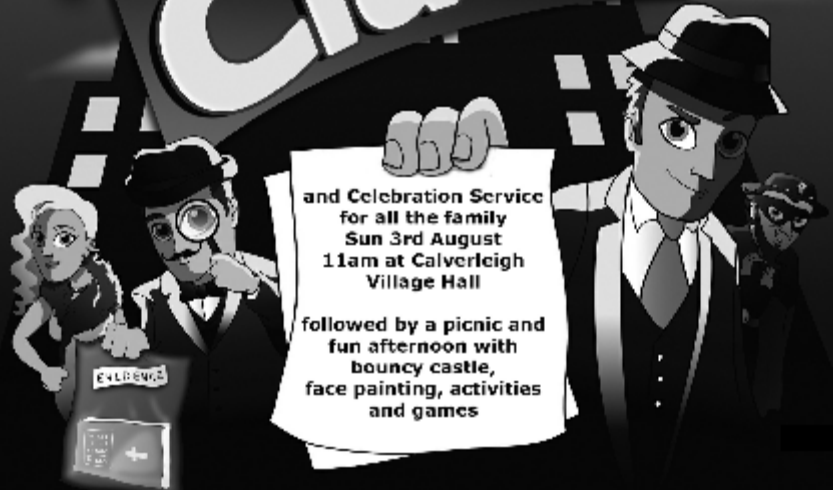
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Kathy, David Britton & Family & Kathy's Dad Harry on the loss of Ruth (Kathy's Mum).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Geoff Pack who has been in hospital for several weeks, Jean who has suffered a fracture to the elbow, Jack Page undergoing treatment, Marjory Mildon and any others who are unwell.

We say a fond goodbye to Pat, Pip & Anna who have left Loxbeare to live in Tiverton and Richard & Jill Gibbons having left Higher Haydon. We welcome

David Paxon & Becky Brind into Daw's Cottage and Mark, Emma & Lucy Jones from Bampton into Higher Haydon. We hope you all settle in quickly and will be very happy living in Loxbeare.

The progressive meal was held on 9 May and was enjoyed by over 40 of us. We thank all those who worked so hard to prepare the wonderful meals. After the starters and main courses in various homes, we met at the Village Hall to sample the various puddings on offer & tea/coffee & cheese & biscuits.

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We are very concerned about the state of our building. It is very old and over the winter many structural problems have been discovered. Our landlords are responsible for this but we have to organize surveys, builders, estimates etc. Please pray for our landlords and us as this work is put in hand and that everything that is done will bring glory to our Lord. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience which you may experience when visiting the shop over the coming months

**In the bookshop**

Next month there will be a special promotion from the LION publishing house. There will be special offers to encourage holiday reading and for Sunday School and Junior Church prizes. Meanwhile, peruse our greeting cards, prayer cards, gift books, CDs and Bibles for that special occasion.

**In the coffee shop**

Penny's special for May:- cheese scone + apple + cheese + drink for £2.50

Soon we will all be welcoming visitors to our homes and church fellowships. Please do encourage them to visit us for a Devon Cream Tea:- a pot of tea, a scone, jam and cream for £2.85. Maybe your Ladies Group or Home Group would like to come in and enjoy fellowship one afternoon – please speak to Val or Penny to book.

**Keep a lookout for our new Loyalty Cards** – e.g. ‘buy 6 drinks, get the 7<sup>th</sup> free’ – which we hope to introduce very soon.

Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May we will be collecting for Christian Aid. War tears lives apart but love can help piece them back together again. Please be an instrument of God's peace and give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week. [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)

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**PARISH ROUND-UP**

Forward Date: 27 September - a Parish Boundary walk is planned. Again more details to follow.

**Oakford**

**O**ur Easter services began with a devotional service on Good Friday and it was lovely to see so many adults and children at a joyful Easter Sunday service. The church was beautifully decorated with spring flowers and our thanks to all who helped to make it such a lovely occasion. After the service everyone enjoyed coffee and Easter biscuits and there were Easter eggs for the children.

We are pleased to welcome Pauline back home after her recent spell in hospital.

**Village events:** The hall was packed for the ‘Strictly Comes To Oakford’ evening. Our congratulations to all the contestants who danced so well. Antony and Wendy were voted the winners. The evening raised £800 towards village hall funds. Many thanks to the organizers and contestants who helped to make it such a glittering success.

**Moorland Club:**

12 June 2pm Walk around the gardens at Knightshayes - tea in the Cricket Pavilion at 3.45 pm

10 July Barbecue 6pm at The Old Smithy by kind invitation of Ann Crawford.

**Oakford Village Fun and Games Afternoon, Saturday 14 June 2pm onwards** - on the playground. An afternoon of games and laughter for all ages. The BBQ will be lit for cooking your own sausages and burgers, plus “bring and share” food for everyone. Bring your own drinks too, to make it a real ‘DIY’ afternoon. ( Not enough people / time / enthusiasm to run a fete this year, so this is a stop-gap, back to normal next year !! ) Just come along

Continued on Page 10 →

The Loxbeare Walkers enjoyed a circular walk from Thorverton to the top of Cadbury Castle.

Anyone interested on going on the rota for cutting the Churchyard please phone Carol on 01884 881480.

**Loxbeare Ladies:**

2 June: A visit to Rosemoor Gardens leaving Loxbeare Church at 10.00am. Book your place by 26 May with Margaret Tidball on 01884 881362.

7 July: A supper with Anne Ackland.

The cost is £10 with “Ladies Only” due to limited space. First come, first served basis. 7.30pm start. All proceeds towards a Charity to be decided. Contact Anne Ackland on 01884 253013.

August: date to be decided with a visit to Yearlstone Vineyard, Bickleigh.

The next Village Hall meeting will be on 3 June at 8pm in the Hall. A Village BBQ will be on 9 August. More details to follow.



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## MISSION COMMUNITY

4 June Homegroup Ephesians 1 v15-23  
11 June Mission Community Prayer Meeting  
18 June Homegroup Ephesians 2 v1-10  
25 June Mission Community Prayer Meeting

2 July Homegroup Ephesians 2 v11-22  
9 July Mission Community Prayer Meeting  
16 July Homegroup Ephesians 3 v1-21  
23 July Holiday Club Prayer Meeting

All meetings will start at 7.30pm -  
and will take place at

East Sidborough - except 9 July,  
which will be at Stoodleigh Vicarage

More details please phone The Rector  
or visit our website

[www.ExeValleyMissionCommunity.org](http://www.ExeValleyMissionCommunity.org)

## 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  
01398 351364

### LOXBEARE PRAISE AND PRAYER MEETING

3rd Tuesday in month  
at 7.30pm.  
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

1 June Sunday Club  
8 June **NO EVC** (Pentecost)  
15 June Holy Communion  
22 June Morning Worship  
29 June Group Service at EVC

6 July Sunday Club  
13 July Morning Worship  
20 July Holy Communion  
27 July Morning Worship

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

## OAKFORD

**1 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**8 June**

9.30 am Morning Prayer

**15 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**22 June**

9.30 am Family Service

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**13 July**

9.30 am Morning Prayer

**20 July**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**27 July**

9.30 am Family Service

## RACKENFORD

**1 June**

No Service

**8 June**

9.30 am Morning Praise

**15 June**

11 am Family Service

**22 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

No Service

**13 July**

11 am Holy Communion

**20 July**

9.30 am Family Service

**27 July**

9.30 am Holy Communion  
Service of Commemoration  
of start of WW1

## STOODLEIGH

**1 June**

11 am Family Service

**8 June**

11 am Morning Prayer

**15 June**

11 am Holy Communion

**22 June**

6.30 pm Evensong

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

11 am Family Service

**13 July**

11 am Morning Prayer

**20 July**

11 am Holy Communion

**27 July**

6.30 pm Evensong



**CALVERLEIGH**

**1 June**

No Service

**8 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**15 June**

11.15 am Morning Worship

**22 June**

3.00 pm Outdoor Service

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

No Service

**13 July**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**20 July**

11.15 am Morning Worship

**27 July**

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**1 June**

No Service

**8 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**15 June**

11 am Family Service

**22 June**

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

No Service

**13 July**

9.30 am Holy Communion  
by Extension

**20 July**

11 am Family Service

**27 July**

4 pm Evening Prayer  
with Baptism

**LOXBEARE**

**1 June**

9.30 am Family Communion

**8 June**

11 am Family Service

**15 June**

6.30 pm Evening Praise

**22 June**

No Service

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

9.30 am Family Communion

**13 July**

No Service

**20 July**

6.30 pm Evening Praise

**27 July**

No Service

**TEMPLETON**

**1 June**

11 am Family Service

**8 June**

11 am Morning Prayer

**15 June**

No Service

**22 June**

9.30 am Morning Prayer  
with Holy Communion

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

11 am Family Service

**13 July**

No Service

**20 July**

No Service

**27 July**

9.30 am Morning Prayer  
with Holy Communion

**WASHFIELD**

**1 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**8 June**

11 am Morning Prayer

**15 June**

11 am Family Service  
with Baptism

**22 June**

6 pm Evening Prayer

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

11 am Holy Communion

**13 July**

6 pm Songs of Praise

**20 July**

11 am Family Service

**27 July**

No Service

**WITHLEIGH**

**1 June**

No Service

**8 June**

11 am Family Service

**15 June**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**22 June**

11 am Morning Worship

**29 June**

**GROUP SERVICE**

**6 July**

No Service

**13 July**

11 am Family Service

**20 July**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**27 July**

11 am Morning Worship

## PARISH ROUND-UP

and join in - or just come along and enjoy.

Oakford & District Flower and Produce Show. Saturday 16 August Oakford Village Hall. A chance to show off your carrots, cakes and lots of other things too! There is also a colouring competition for children and a great cake bake-off - for men only! Have a go at something - it will be great fun. Schedules with colouring pictures and entry forms are available from the Red Lion and Brenda Burrows (3 Manor Cottages). The Show is open to visitors from 2.30pm onwards, with light refreshments available. Further information from Chris Holdom on 01398 332039.

### Rackenford

Congratulations to Freda Berry who was 90 at the end of May and also to Richard Harris who was recently 70. We hope you both enjoyed these very special days.

Many thanks to Rackenford Club for donating £30 towards the Easter Egg hunt, which was organized by the Village Shop. We hope you all had good fun searching for the eggs. Many thanks, also, to all at the shop for organizing this for the children.

It came as a real surprise for Natasha Hagley, to receive an unexpected call from the Tottenham Hotspur's Office - to inform her that she had been chosen, at random, as a mascot to walk onto the pitch on 19 April, with the players. Prior to the match Natasha was able to meet the team, get their autographs and she walked onto the pitch holding the hand of Christian Eriksen, before enjoying

seeing Tottenham beat Fulham 3-1 A very memorable day, enjoyed with her Mum and Dad. This match was televised live and Natasha was seen briefly later on Match of the Day.

Our very best wishes and congratulations to Ryan Hallet of Meadow View who married Natalie on 17 April. We wish you a long and happy married life. So glad the sun shone for you .

The coffee morning held at church on 5 April was a great success and £541 was raised for the funds. Such a good idea to have it in church within easy walking distance for many to enjoy the variety of stalls, a really good draw, games etc and not forgetting the delicious cakes available. Thank you to everyone who came and to all the helpers.

It was very kind of Glenn Hookins to put up the flag for St George's day and also for winding our clock. Many thanks for doing this unpaid job. It is very much appreciated.

Well done and congratulations to Connie Isaac on passing her Grade 8 flute exam with merit. You are doing so well.

The family of the late Frank Clark would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended his funeral on 4 April and for the donations totalling £300, in his memory, for Rackenford Church. Frank died on 22 March at Harrogate Hospital after moving to Yorkshire 4 years ago - with his partner Barbara. He was brought home and laid to rest with his late wife Hilda. Frank and Hilda lived for many years at Hedgelands and for several years ran the Shop, Post Office, and newspapers.

Our deepest sympathy to the widow and family of the late Mr Crowe, who once

lived at Manor Cottages. A thanksgiving service took place at The Baptist Church at Tiverton, and he was laid to rest in our Churchyard.

Also our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Thelma Snell (nee Gunn) whose funeral service and burial took place at our church on 10 May. Thelma grew up in Rackenford many years ago, with her parents and family, who lived at Boyces.

We also send our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of the late Bill Dart who died recently. At the time of going to print the funeral arrangements had not been arranged.

We continue to remember and pray for our friends Percy Stone, Ken Blackford, Mrs Clark and Mr Weston, and also Muriel Blinman - who at the time of going to print, is in Crediton Hospital, after suffering a stroke. You are very much in our thoughts Muriel.

So sorry to hear that Tracey Howlett had a fall at home and broke her leg. We hope you will make a good recovery and we wish you well.

Derek Stone has given a beautiful seat in memory of his dear wife Gwen. It is now in place near the church porch. It has replaced the old seat which, after being given in memory of the Queen's Jubilee in 1977, was now falling to bits. What a kind and generous gift and we are most grateful to you, Mr Stone, and we are sure it will give people a lot of restful moments - as well as being a special tribute to your late wife. Thank you from us all.

It was lovely to hear the bells calling us to the special Easter Service. Our church looked beautiful with lovely vases and displays of Spring flowers. Thank you to

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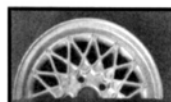


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## PARISH ROUND-UP

all who helped with this. William Blackburn played the organ during the service - thank you William. After the service, the children were given Easter Eggs to enjoy and some adults maybe !!!

By kind permission of David Moy Scott, our cream teas are once again being held at Rackenford Manor on 12 July at 3pm. We hope you will come and enjoy the delicious home made scones and cream and strawberries. Of course various stalls, games, a draw will be available and if you would like to run a stall or have any different ideas to make it a success, please contact a member of the PCC, Herbert, Liz, Jenny, Mary - they would be pleased to hear from you.

Many thanks to Alistair Baillie and his helpers for continuing to keep our churchyard cut, not an easy job, especially when the weather is bad and the ground is so uneven in places - you do a great job. Also Jacque Cann was spotted outside the Lych gate with a shovel clearing the mess and mud that had built up over time. Many thanks Jacque - all help gratefully received.

Congratulations to Rob and Alison Brewis and family on the new addition to the family. We hope you are all doing well.

Our best wishes go to John and Debbie in their new home. Sorry you have left the village but still hope to see lots of you both.

We are in the midst of planning a very special service to commemorate 100 years of World War One. The date will be Sunday 27 July, as this is the nearest date and time available to us. If you would like to contribute, or take part in any way, maybe with a reading, poem, memorabilia, flags, singing - involving all ages from the very young upwards - that would be such a tribute. Once again

Herbert, Liz, Mary or Jenny would welcome any ideas you may have. Please get in touch. Maybe the church bells could be rung - will leave it with you all, to come up with your ideas !!

To all the ladies who are on the Flower Rota - thank you so much for keeping the brass clean and providing the lovely flowers. You don't have to be an expert in flower arranging to join the rota - the more the merrier. Please get in touch if you would like to help, it only works out to be 3 or 4 times a year..

To all who are feeling, sad, lonely, depressed or are having to attend hospital, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

## Stoodleigh

How lovely to have the church so full on Mothering Sunday, 30 March, for the Baptism of Eve Amelia Northam, who was so happy and responsive throughout. We warmly welcome her into the family of the church. She joined with other children in presenting Mothering Sunday posies to all the ladies present. Our thanks to Revd. John Fairweather for leading this combined service.

The church was filled with delightful Spring flower decorations for the Easter weekend. Once again we send thanks to all those who gave of their time and talents to produce such beautiful arrangements, including the Easter Garden. We thank Revd. Ken Blythe for leading the Easter Day Family Holy Communion Service, which was well attended.

There was a poignant moment after Evensong on 27th April when, in commemoration of all those who gave their lives for our freedom in the Great War which began a hundred years ago, poppy seeds were sown in a corner of the churchyard below the tower.

Looking further ahead, please note the following in your diaries:

**Saturday 9 August:** Stoodleigh Dog Show at Vials Corner.

**Monday 25 August:** (Bank Holiday) Ploughman's Lunch at Parkhouse Water.

**Sunday 14 September:** 6.30pm Choral Evensong with The Heritage Singers and Bishop Martin Shaw (formerly Bishop for the Highlands and Islands) preaching.

Further details on these events will follow in the next Today edition.

### Stoodleigh Village Day

The hugely popular Stoodleigh Village Day is on Saturday 14 June from 3pm at the cricket ground. As usual, it is a free event with all kinds of games, sports and competitions for the young and the young at heart! Our famous free teas and delicious cakes will be available throughout the afternoon. It is a chance for people from around the parish and their guests, especially those with young families, to get together and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. In the evening, everyone will be welcome at the Stoodleigh Inn. Let's hope for good weather and an even bigger turnout than last year.

### Parish Hall

A great big thank you to everyone who supported the Easter Market and Coffee Morning, helping us to make it a fantastic community success and

Continued overleaf →



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

raising a total of £437.87 for Parish Hall funds. Local businesses visited to sell and promote their goods and there were stalls with a selection of bring and buy produce and crafts. We had our very first Community Plant Stall which proved to be a great success. There were competitions and prizes, an interesting display by the History Group, a local councils' surgery and buskers who provided entertainment inside, while the alpacas and chickens provided great interest outside the Hall. As usual, great coffee, tea and delicious cakes were on offer - to the delight of our visitors. Whether you were a buyer or seller, a village volunteer helping with our stalls or one of the local businesses supporting the Hall, your contribution was very much appreciated and made this a happy and successful community event.

**Family Dog Show:** St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall are pleased to announce Stoodleigh's Third Family Dog Show on Saturday 9 August at Vials Corner. Registration will begin at 1.30pm and the various classes will be advertised shortly. In addition to the Dog Show, there will be fun for all the family with side-shows, bring and buy, competitions and refreshments. We're looking forward to another successful event, so we hope that you will be able to join us for a great afternoon. Please look out for the full details on posters nearer the time and on the website as soon as possible, at [www.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh) or you can contact Margaret on 01398 351252 or Geraldine on 01398 351391 for more information.

### Children's Hospice South West

Huge thanks to Emily Lucas for 'helping to make the most of short and precious lives'. Emily took on the junior Exmoor

challenge, a really tough sponsored walk of 16 miles over Exmoor raising £183 to date for CHSW. We are all really proud of her achievement. Also to wish Steve James all the very best for his sponsored bike ride covering 210 miles over three days supporting the three children's hospices in the South West. Sending love and huge thanks to them both from CHSW, its children and families.

### SWAG

Tiverton Town Trail - Event postponed until later in the year.

Tuesday 24 June - Visit to Topsham and - by Ferry to the Turf Inn.

In prospect - Visit to Met Office in Exeter.

### Stoodleigh Inn

A massive thank you to all who supported the recent charity auction for Devon Air Ambulance and Exeter Cancer Trust. The impressive £1,500 raised was presented to the two charities on 25th May.

### Stoodleigh 100 Club

Prize-winners for April:

1st Cathy Thorpe, 2nd David Wotton, 3rd Geraldine Talbot, 4th Mervyn Brice. If you wish to join for the next year, membership is £15 for the year. With twelve monthly draws the prizes are 1st £20, 2nd £10, 3rd £5, 4th £5.

Contact Christine Palfrey at Knightwood.

### Church Flower Rota

1 / 8 June Corinne Miller

15 / 22 June Fiona Rolfe

29 June Dorothy Ayre

6 / 12 July Weddings

20/27 July Dorothy Ayre / Betty Wotton

The Community Agape Meal on Maunday Thursday was held at Templeton Village Hall. It was good to share, through tradition and imagination, Jesus' Last Supper, to begin His Easter journey. Our Easter services were well attended and the church was beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday. Thank you to the ladies for this and also to Gloria and Jan for the Mothering Sunday flowers.

We held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Rev'd Steve Goodbody thanked Martin Strong for his commitment and dedication to the role of Churchwarden at St. Margaret's for over 30 years. Jan Heptinstall is the new Churchwarden. During the meeting a letter from a parishioner was read out and endorsed by another parishioner at the meeting, criticising the Rector for the reduction in services at St. Margaret's and the fact that he did not make himself known in the parish. The Rector explained that services had now been increased to two a month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

There then followed a wide ranging discussion. This included a debate about the introduction of the weekly Exe Valley Central Service at Templeton Village Hall and one of the main concerns was that, having raised a substantial sum towards the church repairs, it was going to be made obsolete and eventually closed. The Rector explained his reasons for starting the new service and stated there was no danger of the church being closed because that decision was in the hands of the P.C.C. He also said that he would try to make time to attend village events and do more visiting.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

We were sorry to hear that Sheila Henwood had died while visiting her family in Scotland. We send our thoughts and prayers to Ian and his family - as we do to the Primrose family as Maggie Primrose also died recently. They had lived for many years at the Chapel House at Templeton Bridge but had moved into Tiverton some years ago. Ken Reed had an accident and had a short stay in hospital; we are glad to hear he is improving and send our best wishes to him and also to anyone who has been unwell lately.

On the afternoon of Sunday 4 May the weather was perfect, the bluebells at their best and a large number of people came from all around to enjoy walking through the woods at the Old Rectory and taking tea in the garden. Altogether the event raised £400, that will be shared equally between the Church and the Village Hall funds. Our thanks to everyone who came, helped out, made cakes or gave donations.

We had another Scrap Metal Day and added clothes for recycling. So far we have raised £1880. The whole village entered into the spirit with people turning out sheds, barns and wardrobes. Breakfasts were served all morning which helped maintain energy levels to fill 3 industrial Janes skips and to sort 300 kilos of clothes and fabric. Many thanks to everyone who took part.

Future events: The Templeton Village Fete will be held on Saturday 9 August. The gates open at 1.30pm. Please start collecting any clothes, bric-a-brac, books, draw prizes and any items - large or small - (but not electrical items) for the grand auction and think about any ideas that you can pledge for the Auction of Pledges.

The annual Duck Race at Dartcombe Mill is on Saturday 6 September starting at 2.00pm from Great Esworthy Farm where there is parking space - finishing at Dartcombe Mill with cream teas, pasties, plants, books, bric-a-brac and toys for sale. Ducks cost £1.00 - which can be bought well before the event, as well as on the day. Phone Bindy and Roger 01884 860655

### Flower and Cleaning Rota

Ginah Palmer 1 June - 8 June  
 Jan Heptinstall 15 June - 22 June  
 Bindy Linden 29 June - 6 July  
 Teresa Pancherz 13 July - 20 July  
 Gill Rose 27 July - 3 August

## Washfield

*The greatest pleasure in life  
 can come from doing  
 what people say you cannot !*

The Rector, Steve Goodbody, was in the chair for St Mary's APCM. He extended thanks to everyone who helps to keep our church open and functioning. Mrs Jeanne Jones will continue as our Church Warden. We will sadly be losing Mrs Joan McCahon when she and Shaun leave the district. They will be sadly missed. Mr Richard Scholes took over as the Treasurer from Mr Martin Hansford, who is having a break from this office. He was thanked for his many years of sterling work on behalf of the church. Mrs Camilla Albery kindly took on the job of Secretary. A very big vote of thanks was expressed to Mrs Sylvia Balment who has stepped down as Sacristan. Sylvia has commendably been changing our altar cloths for the past 40 years !! She was warmly

thanked for such dedication to St Mary's church.

We are very grateful to Mrs Sarah Tobey who will take over the Sacristan role. The Mothering Sunday service was taken by Joan to a large congregation. It is always a pleasure to see the delight of the children taking part in this traditional service and handing out the posies.

The Easter services began with Anna taking a service of meditation on Good Friday. Many children proudly came to the church on Easter Saturday with their decorated eggs which were then judged by Mrs Mandy Cotter. Congratulations to all prize winners. The eggs were then taken to Brook Lane for the Rolling contest. All the children were rewarded with an Easter Egg for taking part. It was great to see a large number of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents supporting the present generation when many of them had taken part in this age old tradition previously. Our thanks go to the Tobey family for once again organising this popular event. Once again this activity was followed by a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall at which coffee, biscuits and hot cross buns were served. Stalls of plants, cakes, produce and a popular Easter raffle were browsed and goods purchased. It was excellently supported and very sincere thanks to all who attended - with special recognition to those who helped to make it such a success. A profit of £280 was made which goes to the church funds.

The service of Holy Communion held on Easter Day, a very special time in the church calendar, was taken by the Rev. Keith Gale to a large congregation.

Continued overleaf →

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Easter eggs were given out by Mr Gale on leaving the church. As usual our church looked lovely for Easter, adorned with spring arrangements. Thank you to all decorators.

A meeting to plan the church fete will be held in the church on **Monday 9 June** at 7pm. All are welcome to come with your ideas! The church fete will be held on **Saturday 5 July** at 2.30pm. Without your help and presence we could not make such a success of our main church event so, once again, we would like to call for your help: with contributions for our stalls and teatime food. Thank you in anticipation.

We would also be very grateful for your help at our church spring cleaning day on **Saturday 14 June** from 10.30am. The tidy up will involve the interior and exterior so an hour (or a few) would be very much appreciated. Your tools of the trade would be a help too.

Our thoughts are with those people in our parish who have had operations or are undergoing treatments for illness at present and anyone suffering in any way. You are very much in our thoughts and are continually prayed for in church.

Congratulations to everyone with special birthdays or celebrations and also a huge well done to all the young people who completed the Exmoor Challenge and Ten Tors events. Good luck to all those facing exams this summer.

Two Hall events need to be flagged up as the great successes they were. The first Teatime@thehall was held on 1 April and some 25 villagers of all generations met in the hall between 3.00 pm and 5.30pm for games, puzzles and chatter over a cup of tea. The children had a great time, but so did the parents and

grandparents. We plan to make this a regular event so look out for more news.

Kate Howden and Paul Jones visited our hall as part of howdenjones 'Beautiful Music in Beautiful Places' tour and enthralled us with their musical talent. What a wonderful evening of humour and hand-crafted music. They gave an encore but still left us wanting more of their special brand of entertainment. A profit of £231 was raised for the hall roof fund.

### Dates for your diary

**Monday 9 June** Meeting in the church to plan the church fete 7pm. All welcome.

**Tuesday 10 June** teatime@the hall 3 - 5.30pm All welcome at this informal social event. Tea, cake, chat and friendship on offer.

**Thursday 12 June** W.I. in hall 7.30pm

**Saturday 14 June** Church Spring Cleaning day from 10.30am. We plan to tackle both the interior and exterior so if you can help, please come along. Thanks

**Thursday 26 June** Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30

**Saturday 5 July** Church Fete at 2.30pm

**Tuesday 8 July** teatime@thehall

3 - 5.30pm All welcome.

**Thursday 24 July** Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30

**Tuesday 12 August** teatime@thehall

3 - 5.30pm All welcome.

### Flower Rota

1/8 June	Mrs Voysey
15/22 June	Mrs McCahon
29 June/6 July	Mrs Robinson
13/20 July	Mrs Arnold
27 July/3 August	Mrs Bicknell

### Cleaning Rota

1/8 June	Mr & Mrs Parnell
----------	------------------

15/22 June	Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones
29 June/6 July	Mr & Mrs Ellis
13/20 July	Mrs French
29 July/3 August	Mrs Arnold

## Withleigh

At our Annual Parochial Church meeting in March, Paul and Brenda agreed to continue as our Churchwardens with Elizabeth and Christine also agreeing to remain as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. We would like to thank them for their continued hard work for our Church. Paul thanked everyone involved for keeping our church and churchyard so clean and tidy throughout the year. Thanks also went to the ladies on the flower rota - as there are always welcoming flowers in our church, except for Lent.

Emily Birts, daughter of Charlie and Pippa, and brother to George and Jamie, was welcomed into our Church at her baptism on Mothering Sunday. It was good to have all the family attending, and it made our Mothering Sunday Service seem more meaningful. The children gave all the ladies in the congregation a potted primrose to take home.

The Easter Beetle Drive held in the Village Hall on Saturday 12 April was a fun evening and enjoyed by those who came, with the winners taking home Easter Eggs as their prizes.

Immediately following our family service on Palm Sunday, a brief service was held in the churchyard as poppy seeds, provided by the Diocese, were scattered around one of our war graves,

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

this was to commemorate the beginning of the Great War. Thank you, David, for preparing the ground at very short notice.

Good Friday saw us meeting together in the Village Hall for an informal service, preceded by coffee and hot cross buns. The theme of this year's service was *three centurions*.

Our services on Easter Sunday were well attended with Steve officiating at our Holy Communion at 8.30am, followed by a good number enjoying breakfast in the Village Hall. This was followed by a Family Service back in our Church led by Paul and Elizabeth with a 'party' atmosphere and Easter eggs! Our grateful thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully; the flower arrangements added so much to this joyous occasion.

Our annual PCC dinner on 9 May was an enjoyable occasion, shared with spouses and other members of our church family, and held this year at The Mitre at Witheridge. Thank you, Margaret, for organizing the evening for us.

We send our sympathy to Peter and Anne Edmunds on the death of Anne's mother. We remember her fondly, as she always came to stay with Anne and Peter with Anne's late father - to attend, and help with, our Church Fete when it was held at their house.

Our sympathy is also with Mike and Anne Gornall whose grandson has died of leukemia, at the age of 23.

Our thoughts, love and prayers are with you all at this time.

Congratulations to Rob and Alison Brewis on the birth of Anastasia - sister for Nicholas.

Congratulations to Richard Tucker who produced the Cheriton Bishop & Tedburn St Mary Young Farmers' entertainment item this year. Having progressed from local competition through regional, they achieved second place in the national finals (England & Wales) on 10 May. Congratulations also to Cruwys Morchard YFC who finished fourth in the Disco Dancing section.

Our Fete is on Saturday, 19 July at Bona Vista - by kind permission of Henry and Shirley Cruwys, to be opened at 2.00 p.m. There will be the usual stalls - bric-a-brac, cakes, plants and preserves, books, £1 stall, tombola, ducat in the bucket, grand draw, china smashing and other sideshows, plus refreshments. Contributions for any of these stalls would be greatly appreciated, and can be left with Janet Sellick, Christine Luxton or Henry and Shirley Cruwys. There is another fete planning meeting on Tuesday 3 June at Bona Vista, starting at 8.00pm. Please come along if you feel you could help in any way. We look forward to, and hope for, a lovely sunny day !!

There is a PCC meeting at Topfield on Tuesday 10 June at 7.30pm.

Witleigh Village Hall AGM is to be held on Tuesday 24 June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

For the parishioners of Witleigh, you will find attached to this magazine a Witleigh Garden & Produce Show Schedule. If you need additional schedules please contact Brenda 252431. The Show will be held on Saturday 16 August - doors open to the public at 7.30pm, there is no charge for entry, and food and drinks will be available.

We send get well wishes to all those not well, especially those who have had to spend time in hospital and to those undergoing treatment. We also think of those who feel sad and lonely. Our love and prayers are with you.

### Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 24 June, Village Hall AGM at 7.30pm.

Saturday 19 July, Summer Fete at Bona Vista, 2pm.

Saturday 16 August, Garden & Produce Show doors open at 7.30pm.

### Flower Rota:

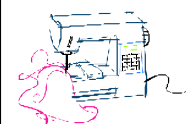
June 1 Rosie Edmondston-Low  
 June 8 / 15 Linda Taylor  
 June 22 / 29 Janet Stacey  
 July 6 / 13 Susie Wade  
 July 20 / 27 Val Kingston

### Monthly Diary Dates:

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

### Keep smiling . . .

A grandmother chatting to her young grand-daughter said - with a touch of pride - that she had been attending Bible Class for nearly fifty years. With a look of sympathy - and patting her hand - the grand-daughter replied "Don't worry Grandma, maybe you'll pass this year !!!"



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