

What Do We Worship?

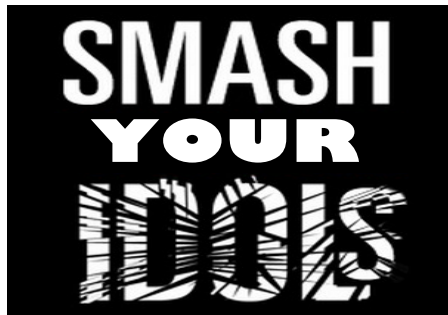
The Bible constantly warns us about the great dangers of worshipping idols and false gods. It is surely significant that in the first two commandments God says, "You shall have no other gods before me" and "You shall not make for yourself an idol".

We may well feel that this is not a huge problem for us – you'd never catch us bowing down to a statue of a god or worshipping things that are not truly worthy of our worship. But the danger of idolatry lies in its subtlety. If our idols were more obvious they would be much easier to avoid, but we are easily deceived by the less direct forms of idolatry:

- when we are more interested in the things that God gives us than in the God who gives them, we are in danger of idolatry; loving the gifts more than the giver.
- when we ascribe a successful harvest to 'mother nature' rather than to our heavenly Father, we are in danger of idolatry.
- when we pay attention to horoscopes, fortune telling, tarot cards and other forms of

superstition, we are in danger of idolatry.

- when we act as if all religions are equally valid or speak of them as different paths up the same mountain, we are in danger of idolatry (as well as breaking the first commandment).



- when we refuse to accept the God who is revealed in the pages of scripture, and worship a god who we are more comfortable with or who fits in better with our contemporary culture, then we are already committing idolatry (and breaking the second commandment).

One of the reasons that we are warned so often about idolatry is that ultimately we will become like whatever it is that we

worship. Psalm 115 gives a graphic portrayal of how useless and powerless idols are, before delivering the killer blow: "Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them" (Psalm 115v8). So we must be careful what we give our hearts to and put our trust in, because we will all become like our idols.

The good news is that those who worship the Lord Jesus Christ will find that day by day we become more like him. In other words, we will become the people who God created us to be in the first place.

This should spur us on to follow the example of the Christians in Thessalonica who "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath" (1 Thessalonians 1v9-10).

Steve

EDITORIAL

It is exactly one year since we visited Paul and Elizabeth Iliff to discuss the possibility of taking over as Editors of the TODAY magazine but we didn't "go solo" for another two issues. We've made plenty of mistakes but we're still here!! It has been a challenge and a huge learning curve but we seem to be getting the hang of it now - famous last words !! Paul and Elizabeth have been enormously helpful to us, with their on-going advice and we find it reassuring to know that they are only "up the road!"

We would like to welcome "Thomas More" and thank him for his first "Nature Notes". His interesting article reminds us that we live in a glorious part of the country but we don't always take the time to look at all the beautiful and nutritious things growing around us.

Jenny and Geoff

Thanks to Oliver Nicholson (Washfield) for this contribution.

I have enjoyed Ann's Nature Notes over the years and was pleased to see that in her swan song last quarter, she mentioned the way that peregrine falcons are finding nesting places in the niches of our churches. As far as I know, no peregrines nest on Exeter Cathedral or any of the Exe Valley churches but St. Michael's Mount, Dinham in Exeter was actually the first English church on which peregrines nested. The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently funded a web-cam which is trained on the nest in the spire during the nesting season.

You can watch the birds, their eggs and then their young brood live every spring and early summer (and recorded videos at other times of the year) at <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/peregrine-falcons/>

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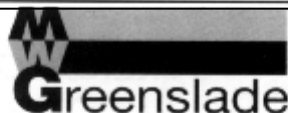
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NATURE NOTES

It has been a good summer and I have a memory of wandering far afield, in cooling breezes and under sunny skies. I have walked by fields of ripening wheat, barley and rape with the latter already too tall to see over and the cereals so densely planted that they could hardly move. Fittingly, in a year when the Great War is being especially remembered, I saw extraordinary fields of poppies, which were so dominant that you could see them miles away.

At that distance these fields tend to take on a brownish hue rather than red. As I looked at them, I wondered what great turmoil caused their birth and growth. Apparently, and surprisingly, the element in the disturbance that causes them to break their dormancy, is exposure to light. The various annual seeds I bring on every year live a life of luxury by comparison and do not fare as well, so I have threatened them with the 'poppy treatment' if they don't buck up next year.

Another companion along the trails I've walked has been Hogweed and this has towered over me, making my head and face gritty with pollen and dust. I suppose we take this and other members of the carrot family for granted, and we indiscriminately call them Meadowsweet or Cow Parsley depending on family tradition and past comments from parents. They brighten our hedgerows and meadows for a considerable period and some in this family have edible leaves that can be used in salads. However, this shouldn't be encouraged as one member of the family is Hemlock, so there is a risk of following in the steps of Socrates. Not that he made a mistake when made to drink the poison, and even though his followers were in tears, he seemed to be quite philosophical about it.

After such a wonderful Summer and glowing Autumn we need not forage for the more obscure edibles in our countryside, as good harvests are predicted everywhere. Indeed there were so many flowers on the brambles, that the noise from the bees has made me wary on several occasions. The various fruits of the forest now cluster and gleam from their tree or hedgerow setting, like some medieval jewellery, and in such embarrassing abundance that no-one or no-thing seems in a rush to pick them.

Thomas More

Sunday, 7 September was Rob and Alison's last Sunday in the Exe Valley. We pray for God's blessing on them as they move on to pastures new, in Chadderton, Lancashire where Rob will be combining part-time ministry with studying for a PhD.

A Reflection on Curacy

As I reflect on my time here I think it is only natural to reflect on what I am called to do as a priest in the church of God. Thankfully this calling is not difficult to find but is contained within the ordinal, something you will find towards the back of your prayer books, it's called the "The form and manner of the Ordering of Priests."

It says my job is: "to teach, premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family" Sunday preaching, small-group teaching, lay leaders meetings.

"to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and his children who are in the midst of this naughty world that they may be saved through Christ for ever". Evangelism, telling non-christians the gospel that God's elect might come to faith, preaching at services where people who are not yet Christians are present (that's every week in our parishes, and especially at

the festivals).

"to bring all ... unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to the ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness of life". This is the call to correct and teach people using the bible, in sermons and small groups, lent-courses, etc., so that we all grow into the unity of like belief, love and behaviour.

"to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit" and to do my work by teaching only what can be "taken out of the holy scriptures". Not to give opinions on political events, or to teach church tradition, but to explain passages of scripture week by week.

To be "studious ... in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners both of yourselves, and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the scriptures". Making sure that I am studying the bible and conforming to it in my life and that my family are too,

"by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, ye may wax riper and stronger in your ministry". The call to personal bible study.

This is my calling: to prayer and to the word. Not primarily to a sacramental ministry. Not to running services for the sake of it but making sure the people of our parishes hear the gospel, making sure that those who repent and believe grow in the knowledge of God and to do all that by teaching the bible. You can decide whether I've been faithful to my calling! Personally I have found it a privilege to perform these tasks.

I am very thankful for time I have had with Steve and John. Their support has been invaluable and a great blessing. To work with colleagues who share Jesus' vision for ministry, lead to a

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

happy and harmonious staff team and a real sense of partnership in the gospel.

Another joy was seeing people come to appreciate bible teaching and desire to know Christ in his word. To see the "lights turn on" so to speak, as some people for the first time began to know that God was speaking to them as his word was taught, was a huge delight and the great privilege of my ministry.

Over my third year here, I became increasingly thankful for the weekly presence of EVC. It was a great blessing to be able to go to a congregation where all the people wanted to meet to hear God's word, sing his praise and get to know each other, because they loved to do so. Love is never better experienced than by two people who know they are helpless sinners saved by the faith in the cross of Christ. For when people are brought together through the cross, pretence is stifled, honesty grows, forgiveness rules, kindness flows, and joy increases as we find ourselves loving the same Lord and delighting in the same word. I am thankful to those who attend and pray that you go from strength to strength.

For me, as for many, a particular highlight has been the yearly holiday club. It was great to work with all the volunteers who make it happen and to feel that we really were presenting the gospel to those who have never heard it, or responded to it. Further, I treasure the memories of being part of a team which found its identity in proclaiming the scriptures, beyond giving the kids a great time (which I am delighted to say they always had!)

Finally, can I say "thank you" to all those people who have showed us real

kindness. Those who baby sat, those who invited us over for dinner, those who took the time to get to know us. It is sad to leave and it is sad that ministry across many parishes prevents deeper and better quality relationships.



As I reflect on my time here, honesty demands that I confess my sadness that so few in our churches have come on in their faith. This is seen in the lack of hunger for bible teaching (or the boredom with bible teaching), exposes a lack of desire to know Christ because Jesus comes to us clothed in the scriptures. I ask, that you consider how you might change for the sake of Christ and the gospel, not just how others might or need to.

So farewell, I hope and pray that the gospel goes forward and that you get behind Steve and John and give them your full support, they need it - and as far as I can see the gospel in the Exe Valley needs it too. It's been a privilege to play my part in advancing the cause of Christ in this place. Long may it continue. Love and God bless, Rob

PARISH ROUND-UP

Calverleigh

The 16th of July was a big day for one gentleman in Calverleigh. Clive Hopper celebrated the big 80 with a gathering of family, friends and neighbours on the lawn of his home. It was a wonderful setting, many lovely flowers were in bloom and the vegetables were at their peak - and the sun shone. Diane and family must have been baking for days to have produced such a tasty homemade tea - it was delicious. Congratulations Clive, good health and happiness to you.

On 19 July the Inter Village "It's a Knockout" took place at Rackenford. We must praise the organisers from Rackenford Club for preparing such a good and varied programme. It was a very pleasant afternoon for the spectators as well as the participants. Congratulations to the Calverleigh team who won the shield. Well done. There were five teams taking part.

Myrtle Webber has become a Great Grandma once again. Grandson Adrian and Sophie presented her with a little Great Granddaughter Rosie, a sister for Freddie and Daisy. Derek and Mary Herniman have also become Great Grandparents again. Granddaughter Michelle and David presented them with another Great Grandson- Noah John. A welcome little brother for Joshua. Barbara Hill has also become a Great Grandma again, this time Granddaughter Charlotte and Adam presented her with a Great Grandson Corben Charles. We wish to

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PARISH ROUND-UP

congratulate these families on their new arrivals.

It was a sad day on 2 August when we were told of the death of Michael Waddington at Pippins. His funeral service was on 14 August in our Church and he was laid to rest in the Churchyard. We send our love and sympathy to Sally and all the family. We know he will be sadly missed by you all and everyone who knew him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are ill at the present time. Alan Holder has had a stay in Hospital but is now home recovering. Derek Herniman also had a stay in Hospital and he is also home now and recovering well. Derek wishes to thank his family and the many well-wishers who sent cards, phoned and visited him and offered help in many ways.

A big pat on the back for Rita and Sheila - who organised Calverleigh's first Produce and Flower Show. What a success it was with over 120 entries. The exhibits were of excellent quality and it must have been quite a difficult task for the judges. We wish to thank the judges for coming and making their decisions - also for staying in the afternoon to help sell some cakes and produce. At 2.30pm a queue was forming outside the hall door ready for the opening. It was good to see people from other Parishes joining us for the viewing of the exhibits and enjoying the cups of tea, scones and cream and cakes that were on sale. It was an enjoyable afternoon with a very happy atmosphere with no disputes by anyone about judges' decisions!! The Church benefited by £246 from this event. Many thanks to everyone involved.

On Sunday 7 September we said our farewell to Rob, Alison, Nicholas and Anastasia as they head to the North of England where Rob will take up a new post. We wish them all the very best in their new venture and we hope they will soon settle into their new home.

We give a big welcome to David and Jenny Grove who have moved into Rose Cottage, we hope you will be very happy in your new home here in Calverleigh. We also have to say a sad goodbye to Pam Anslow who has left Calverleigh.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 10 October. Bingo at Calverleigh Village Hall for Church Funds. Details on posters or ring Barbara Hill on 01884 252572.

Saturday 22 November. Annual Autumn Fayre at Calverleigh Village Hall. Posters and details will be available later.

Cruwys Morchard

HARVEST WEEKEND is on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September. On Saturday there is a short service in the church, taken by the Rector, with the help of the YFC, followed by sports, tea in the parish hall, and a social at 7.00pm.

THE CHURCH FETE went very well this year. It was lovely to have the music played by the Tiverton Concert Band. We would like to say a big thank you to them. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the whole afternoon, we were thrilled to raise just over a £1000.

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported us, and to all the helpers. We could not do it without you!

The CHURCH BELLS. On Monday 5th August we decided to dedicate our practice night to the Cruwys Morchard men who died in the First World war. At the start of the practice Ann read out the names on the plaque in the church. We then stood in silence for a minute, after which Les tolled the tenor bell. As this was the day when the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war was being commemorated, we felt this was a suitable way to begin our ringing that night.

HOLIDAY CLUB.

A big thank you to the ladies of Cruwys Morchard who provided a cooked meal for the Holiday Club team, it was delicious and much appreciated after a busy day teaching and having fun with the children as they learned more about Jesus.

In July we welcomed to our church the family of Annabelle Milton for a service of thanksgiving. In August we welcomed into our church for baptism Henry Barker and Monty Sadek.

During October and November services continue on second, third and fourth Sundays. November has a fifth Sunday when we have a joint service with the The Congregational Chapel, watch out for details and times.

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13 / 20 Oct	Ann Gillbard & Judith Taylor
27 Oct / 3 Nov	Sue and Pauline Guscott
10 / 17 Nov	Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton

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Cindy Tel: 01363 866621 or Diana Tel: 01363 860227

CHURCH YARD MOWING ROTA

September Roland and Sonia Notley

A big thank you to Peter Lake who has just joined our team of mowers, and also to Dave and Diana Vincent who have mown both yards for so long.

THE FLOWER SHOW

What an excellent Flower Show we had this year, the New Hall looked magnificent, with all the entries. The Committee would like to thank all those who entered and also the judges who came and judged them all. Well done to everyone who helped make this a brilliant display of vegetables, flowers, cooking, crafts etc. We look forward to seeing you all again at the show next year on 8 August 2015.

PENNYMOOR FESTIVAL

The Festival was a fantastic event that was enjoyed by everyone who attended. There was a brilliant turn out, particularly as it was the festival's first year. The beer went down well accompanied by a wide range of music which had many people dancing by the end of the night. Clive Pig, our storyteller, had all of the children (and some adults) laughing and participating with his interesting and unusual stories. The tea tent was also a massive hit and was full for most of the day as people enjoyed their tea and cakes. Hopefully we will have raised a bit of money for charity too!

THE YOUNG FARMERS

The Club took part in the Exe Valley Group Rally held at Mid Devon Show in July. Prizes were won for the Club's scrapbook, promotion board, cubicle and "pimp my sheep". Many members won prizes for their individual entries with the junior boys comprising of Ross Parkhouse, William Palmer and Luke

Parkhouse coming first, second and third in the members with the most junior points. The Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall at 8.00 pm. If you are aged between 10 and 26 years old and would like to come along to see what Young Farmers is all about, please feel free to do so.

Saturday 6 September saw a very successful clay pigeon shoot at East Ruckham, for the Parish Hall, thanks to all who came and helped. It was a lovely afternoon in the sun!

FUTURE EVENTS

SENIORS LUNCH, the very popular free Church Senior's Lunch is to be held again on **WEDNESDAY 22 October**, in the Parish Hall, at 12noon.

To book a place, and or transport, please ring Sonia on 01363 866864.

If you leave a message on the answer phone please also leave a contact telephone number.

There will be a raffle.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Saturday 22 November, at 10.30am to 1.30pm, with many stalls, refreshments, including mince pies, teas, coffees and hot soup,.

JUST a reminder: 6 December is Dave and Di's quiz in the Parish Hall.

PARISH LIBRARY- It is free for everyone.

We have just had an extremely generous gift of a library of books, both reference and fiction, for the church. The County Council Library Service only visits our village once a month now, and is likely to stop altogether. It is an ideal opportunity to start a "bring and borrow" and/or reference book service, (including cookery and gardening books) in the church, as it is the only building in the parish which is never locked. However we are very short of children's books, so if you have any which you would like to donate, do ring 01363 866864. Watch this space for the start of the service, and do come and use it.

We would like to welcome Tom and Sam Gardiner who have just moved into the parish, and congratulate Mary Davey who has just moved to

Witheridge, and wish her many happy years in her new house.

Our prayers are with all those who are not well, or going through troubled times.

Loxbeare

A Group tea was held on Sunday 7 September at Loxbeare Village Hall to say farewell to Rob, Alison, Nicholas and Anastasia Brewis who have been with us for three years. We wish them all well and pray for God's blessing and guidance on their future ministry.

At the time of writing this, we are looking forward to our Harvest Thanksgiving services due to be held on the 20 & 21 September with a service, sports and tea on the Saturday, Songs of Praise on the Sunday at 6.30pm. The Harvest Supper on the Thursday 25 September when Brian Warren - who has been connected with Farm Crisis Network and the Chaplaincy team at Exeter Market - will be our after supper speaker.

On the 13 July we held a picnic service at 3.00pm in the fields at Nigel & Ella's. John took the service and we all enjoyed the fellowship together, the lovely views & the picnic. Thank you Nigel & Ella.

On 17 August we had a BBQ at 1.00pm followed by a service led by Steve. This was held at Ron & Margaret's and we thank them for their hospitality and to all who helped in anyway. A very enjoyable time, spent together.

A Tear Fund Service is planned for the 10 October at 6.30pm when Helen Williams from Tear Fund will be the speaker.

The Woman's Bible Study Group will be starting again from 16 September at Pauline's, Highgate Cottage from 2-4pm. We meet alternate Tuesdays and future dates are 14 & 21 October, 11 & 25 November & 9 December. For the next few weeks we will be looking at Life Changing Encounters with Jesus from the Gospel of John. All ladies, from any Parish, are welcome.

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October again! Our 26th Birthday is on the 4th – our grateful thanks go to our loving Heavenly Father. He has enabled and encouraged us, and all our dear customers and friends who have worked in and prayed for this ministry and supported our efforts, to get the Gospel out to Tiverton and beyond. Like ripples in a pool, no-one knows what effect a scripture verse, a book or a card may have on the receiver. We pray that the vision given years ago is still being worked out to His glory.

Christmas stock is coming in. Every year we endeavour to stock the widest variety of cards, books and gifts as we possibly can – but we need YOU to come in and choose to purchase from US. This is the time of year when we can easily share the Christian message. All our Christmas cards, calendars, diaries, books and gifts display that message – often lasting longer than the festive season. Lion Publishing has a special Christmas promotion with 15% discount on Children's books. Do come in and browse for this may be an opportunity to make sure the good news of Jesus is not packed away like a decoration.

Penny's Special for October

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Have you thought about bringing you small group here for supper?

New Creation is available as a Supper Venue for groups of up to 14. Who knows, a change of surroundings may be a source of inspiration to your group. In years gone by, the coffee house was a place to discuss and share - maybe we could be that place for you.

So do get in touch on 01884 255769 as we are now taking bookings for your Christmas or New Year Celebration.

Prayer Topics - Please join with us in prayer for:-

1. More volunteers, especially for Wednesdays and Saturdays
2. That the Landlords would repair the roof quickly, before the winter
3. Help to repaint the kitchen
4. Thanks to our Lord for all those who have helped us over the summer. We are so grateful. God bless you all.

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web site: www.newcreationtiverton.org.uk
email: shop@newcreationtiverton.org.uk**

There will be a PCC meeting at 7.30pm on 30 October at East Sidborough.

We send our sympathy to Steven, Carol & family on the death of Carol's father, Gerald Palfrey in July. Also to Chris, Jan & family on the loss of Chris's mum recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have lost loved ones recently.

We pray for Muriel Ferris who is recovering from a hip operation and for Jack Page and anyone else who is undergoing treatment, feeling unwell or recovering from operations.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in October/November and congratulations to those celebrating special ones. Ron who was 80 in September and Dawn & Lucy Radford who will be 18 in October, and anyone else. Best Wishes to all celebrating anniversaries and special occasions. Well done to all those who have had exam results and we wish you well on the next step in your lives. We pray for all young people as they face the challenges of leaving school, finding employment or going on to College or University - and for the younger children who have just started

PARISH ROUND-UP

school and the older ones as they change schools.

We welcome Louise Chadburn into Bovie. We hope you will soon settle in and be happy living in Loxbeare.

Jean wishes to thank everyone for their generosity and support of the evening held in July to raise money to support the campaign to prevent child trafficking. A special thank you to Stephen Perry for all he did and gave. A very amazing total of £500 was raised.

On 27 September a Parish Boundary walk is planned, starting at John & Marion's at East Sidborough at 9.00am for breakfast. Lunch will be at the Village Hall & tea at Maurice & Marlene's. The total walk will be about 9-10miles. Anyone wishing to take part for all or part of the walk or more details contact Richard Vickery on 01884 881234. The cost to cover the expense of the meals will be £10 for adults and £5 for under 11's.

Loxbeare Ladies.

6 October. An evening in the Village Hall at 7.30pm when someone from Quikes' Cheeses at Newton St Cyres will give us a talk on the cheeses they produce and there will be the opportunity to taste and buy some of their products. Cost £3 a head which includes food and drink. Please book your place with Carol Radford by 30 September on 01884 881480.

3 November Christmas Craft in the Village Hall at 7pm. Ladies only. Come with ideas to make items that could be sold in the Christmas Fayre at the end of November.

21 November Bowling at Amory Park. Tiverton at 7pm. Buffet. Contact Gerald Heywood 01884 881279.

29 November Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall 10.30am-12.30pm.

1 December Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm.

8 December Our Village Christmas meal. Contact Sue Troake on 01884 259496 for more details.

Continued on Page 10 ➔



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ExeValleyRector@Btinternet.com

HOME GROUPS

COFFEE PLUS

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Prayer for the Exe Valley
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01398 351364

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at 7.30pm.
01884 881362 - for venues

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Marion 01884 256302, or
Alison 01398 351552
for details

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Witleigh Home Group
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EXE VALLEY CENTRAL

**Each Sunday
in**

**Templeton Village Hall
At 11 am**

5 October Sunday Club
12 October Morning Worship
19 October Holy Communion
26 October Morning Worship

2 November Sunday Club
9 November **NO EVC** -
Remembrance Sunday
16 November Holy Communion
23 November Morning Worship
30 November Group Service

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

MISSION COMMUNITY HOME-GROUPS

(Alternate Wednesdays)

See fliers for details

OAKFORD

5 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

12 October

9.30 am Morning Prayer

19 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

26 October

9.30 am Family Service

2 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

9 November

10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

23 November

9.30 am Family Service

30 November

Group Service

10.30 am Rackenford

RACKENFORD

5 October

9.30 am Family Service

12 October

6.30 pm Harvest Festival

19 October

6.30 pm Join with Loxbeare

26 October

11 am Holy Communion

2 November

No Service

9 November

10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November

11 am Family Service

23 November

11.00 am Holy Communion

30 November

Group Service

10.30 am Rackenford

STOODLEIGH

5 October

11 am Harvest Festival

12 October

11 am Morning Prayer

19 October

11 am Holy Communion

26 October

6.30 pm Evensong

2 November

11 am Family Service

9 November

10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November

11 am Holy Communion

23 November

6.30 pm Evensong

30 November

Group Service

10.30 am Rackenford

CALVERLEIGH

5 October
No Service

12 October
9.30 am Holy Communion

19 October
11.15 am Songs of Praise

26 October
No Service

2 November
3 pm Evening Prayer

9 November
9.30 am Holy Communion

16 November
11.15 am Morning Worship

23 November
3 pm Service of the Word

30 November
Group Service
10.30 am Rackenford

CRUWYS MORCHARD

5 October
No Service

12 October
9.30 am Morning Prayer

19 October
11 am Family Service

26 October
6.30 pm Holy Communion

2 November
No Service

9 November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November
9.30 am Holy Communion

23 November
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

30 November
Group Service
10.30 am Rackenford

LOXBEARE

5 October
9.30 am Family Communion

12 October
No Service

19 October
6.30 pm Tear Fund Service

26 October
No Service

2 November
6.30 pm Evening Praise

9 November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November
9.30 am Family Communion

23 November
No Service

30 November
Group Service
10.30 am Rackenford

TEMPLETON

5 October
11 am Harvest Festival

12 October
No Service

19 October
No Service

26 October
9.30 am Morning Prayer
and Holy Communion

2 November
11 am Family Service

9 November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November
No Service

23 November
6 pm Taizé Service

30 November
Group Service
10.30 am Rackenford

WASHFIELD

5 October
9.30 am Holy Communion

12 October
11 am Morning Prayer

19 October
11 am Family Service

26 October
No Service

2 November
9.30 am Holy Communion

9 November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November
11.00 am Family Service

23 November
3 pm Evening Prayer

30 November
Group Service
10.30 am Rackenford

WITHLEIGH

5 October
No Service

12 October
11 am Informal Worship

19 October
9.30 am Holy Communion

26 October
11 am Morning Worship

2 November
No Service

9 November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

16 November
9.30 am Holy Communion

23 November
11 am Family Service

30 November
Group Service
10.30 am Rackenford

PARISH ROUND-UP

Oakford

In August we said goodbye to Alec and Ann Crawford, who have now moved to their new home in Dorset. We thank them very much for all their support on the P.C.C. with Alec as secretary and Ann as Deanery Synod representative.

Our love and prayers go to Pam Lester for her continuing recovery in hospital and also to Patrick and the family.

Our Harvest Service takes place on 28 September at 2.30p.m. Gifts of produce, jams etc most welcome. Tea and cakes after the service at the back of the church. Please join us in this harvest celebration. The produce etc. will be auctioned at the **Harvest Supper on Monday 29 September at 7.30p.m.** Supper £6.50. Please ring Mike or Wendy on 351383 if you would like to come. Proceeds from the auction will be divided between Tearfund and the church.

The Remembrance service will be on Sunday November 9 at 10.50a.m. at the War Memorial followed by a service in the church.

Help needed. As a number of people have moved away this year, the number on the Cleaning Rota has dropped. Would anyone be willing to be put on the rota to clean the church? It is usually about 2 to 3 times a year and it takes about an hour or so to Hoover and polish. So if anyone can spare the time please contact Wendy on 351383.

Christmas Tree Festival Saturday December 13 at 2.30p.m Decorate a small Christmas tree (3ft max) to put in the church. Decorate it how you wish, a theme would be nice (if you want lights they must be battery-lit.)

Come and enjoy a cream tea. More details later.

Village Hall

The 'Spooky Quiz' night will take place on 1 November at 7.30p.m. Licensed bar and supper. Please look out for details.

The Village Hall Committee would welcome anyone who would like to be on the Committee. We need members that are willing to participate in the upkeep of the hall and the planning and assistance at fund-raising events. If interested please phone Carla on 351609

The Moorland Club is a friendly, informal, social club for ladies of all ages. New members are always welcome to come along to meetings. Modest annual subscription. Autumn meetings 7.30p.m. at the village hall **9 October** 'Experiences of a Nurse' with Vicki Belam. Open meeting free to anyone interested in joining.

13 November 'Travel' with Ivan and Sue Godfrey

Christmas Fayre 15 November Village Hall. Official opening 10.30 a.m. Closes 2p.m. Stalls, raffle, coffee and cake, delicious lunches. All welcome. Proceeds to support the charity PSPA (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association)

Friday 12 December: Christmas Lunch, 12 noon at Petroc, Tiverton.

Monthly Lunch Club dates and venues, Autumn show or cinema outings to be confirmed. Contact Jean Marcus on 351241. E-mail Barvanjack@aol.com

Oakford Players Christmas Show 5 / 6 December. Please look out for posters.

Rackenford

The schools, colleges and universities have all resumed and we wish you all great success and happy days wherever you are. Congratulations to everyone who has done well in their exam results, anxious times over!

The Rackenford School Concert at the end of July was a delight to watch, the acting, singing and costumes were amazing. So much talent on stage, well done everyone. We were lucky to have two performances with full houses. At the end of the evening concert Helen Hyland (School Governor) presented the leavers (mentioned in the last issue) with Bibles, Framed Photographs and T-Shirts. The leavers and P.T.F.A. presented the school with Sportswear as a thank you for their time at Rackenford. The children were congratulated by Claire Joyce for all the hard work they had put into the concert and thanked the staff for all their help and encouragement

A Service of Commemoration of the start of World War 1 was held on 27 July at 9.30 am. It was uplifting to see so many come together and give thanks and to quietly remember those who served our country. Members of the congregation read lessons and the hymns chosen were a reflection of many thoughts that came to mind. They were emotional to sing at times simply because of the content and the sacrifices made by so many. The service closed with the National Anthem. Refreshments were enjoyed afterwards and the chance to chat and view various photographs and paper cuttings on display relating to the service. The collection of £82.92 has been donated to Help the Heros. Many

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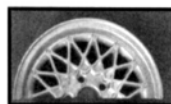
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PARISH ROUND-UP

thanks to the bell ringers for the muffled peel, very thoughtful.

Congratulations to Oliver and Rachel Matthews who were married at our church on 23 August. What a beautiful day, the sun shone on the happy couple and the bells rang. We wish you a long and happy life together.

Vera Sutton would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to her family and friends for the lovely cards, gifts and flowers received on her 90th birthday in August. Liz Paxton and Herbert Smith went to visit Muriel on her 90th birthday and presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the PCC which she served for many years. We send our congratulations to both ladies and to anyone else who is celebrating birthdays or anniversaries.

A donation of £253 has been given to Rackenford Churchyard fund from the funeral of William Dart, for which we are most grateful.

Our family service on 5 October will be taken by The Bishop of Crediton, it would be lovely if you could come along to welcome and meet him.

Our Harvest celebrations begin as usual with the decorating of the church, which will take place on Thursday 9 October - probably late morning onwards as the school children may be going in with their gifts earlier. If you would like to help or have any flowers, foliage or produce you would like to give, we would be most grateful. Our Sunday Songs of Praise will be on 12 October at 6.30pm and Rev Godfrey Bell will be taking the service for us.

The Harvest Supper will once again be held at Jacques and Mary Canns, Lower Tidderson Farm on Monday 13 October.

Tickets available from Mary Cann 881696 or Herbert Smith 881375, or look out for the posters. Look forward to yet another get together with you all and good fun at the auction.

Correction from the last issue, it was Grade Eight piano with merit, not flute that we congratulate Connie Isaac on passing. Well done Connie.

At a recent service the organ decided not to work!! Graham Fennell kindly found the fault and temporarily repaired it. Many thanks Graham.

Sadly Ruth Fennell's mother has had a stroke and is very poorly in Wonford Hospital. We send Ruth and Graham our thoughts and prayers.

Francis Dart has been in both Tiverton and Exeter Hospitals but, at present, we are pleased to hear that he is home again.

To anyone who has been in hospital or is poorly you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Some may remember Ern Manning who, many years ago, lived at Little Rackenford with his wife and family. Sadly Ern passed away on 11 August, aged 92years. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

As always we remember our friends Percy Stone, Ken Blackford, Mrs Clark, Mr Weston, Muriel Blinman and Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline.

Stoodleigh

The church was packed, and many had to stand in the churchyard, for the funeral service of Gerald Palfrey at St Margaret's on Monday 21 July. As the

congregation assembled, Jennifer Rowlandson tolled the tenor bell 76 times at half-minute intervals, to mark the 76 years of Gerald's life and his 40 years as a bellringer. His grandchildren Andrew Radford and Nicola Palfrey gave readings and the tribute was given by Roger Hill. We send our love to Christine and all the family, and thank Revd John Roberts for taking this service so sensitively. Gerald's family thank everyone who came to the funeral (just over 300 were there) and who sent messages of sympathy: "Special thanks to Revd John Roberts, Audrey Rigg (organist) and Jennifer Rowlandson; and to Betty Wotton, Pat Aplin and Phyllis Hill for the flowers in the church; and to Valerie Drew for the refreshments." Donations, which were for the church, amounted to £1300.

The Ploughman's Lunch held at Parkhouse Water on August Bank Holiday Monday was extremely well attended despite the continuous rain for most of the day. Great thanks must go to all those who wallowed in the wet to erect gazebos and arrange the tables and chairs in them and in the large garage. This unusual setting only added to the enjoyment of all who came and enabled just over £400 to be raised for church funds. Thank you, Margaret and Julian, for hosting this event in your home and garden.

We send our prayerful best wishes and thanks to Revd Rob Brewis, his wife Alison and their two children, Nicholas and Anastasia, as they prepare to move from Stoodleigh Vicarage. Rob's deep knowledge and spiritual understanding will serve him well in his new post at Chadderton, near Manchester.

Continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

It was a joy to see so many children in church at the Baptismal Service on Sunday 7 September for Bertie and Daisy Faulkner. It was a very happy, fulfilling service and we were delighted to welcome them both into the family of the church. May God be with them.

Dates to remember:

- 5 Oct Harvest Service, 11am, preacher Bishop Nick McKinnel.
- 6 Oct Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7pm.
- 4 Nov Coffee Morning, Furze Cliff, 10.30am.
- 6 Dec Christmas Fayre, Village Hall from 10.30am.
- 19 Dec Carol Singing round the village.
- 21 Dec Carol Service in church, 6pm.

Dog Show

There were more than 140 class entries at Stoodleigh's third Family Dog Show, which took place on 9 August. The classes culminated in an obstacle race – much enjoyed by dogs, owners and spectators! There were also many stalls and competitions. The event raised £760, shared between St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall. The organisers would like to thank all who helped to make the afternoon such an enjoyable success. Many thanks also to the sponsors including Burnett's Sheds and Fencing, Castle Hill Dog Grooming, Creature Comforts, Heard & Sendell, Pets At Home, Stoodleigh Inn, Twyford Coal & Country Supplies, Vale Veterinary Group and Waterman's.

Garden Show

Once again Stoodleigh had a successful Garden Show with many and varied exhibits. We again attracted entries from those new to Stoodleigh, which bodes well for the future.

Category winners – Flowers: Michael Honnor's succulent paintbrush plant; he also won the Rose Bowl for best specimen rose. Produce: Elaine Morison's tray of mixed produce. Flower Arranging: Betty Wotton's very jolly pineapple arrangement. Craft: Phil Bird's photograph portrait. Cookery: Elaine Morison's fruit jelly. Children: Lotte Rigamonti's plate of homemade biscuits. Potatoes in a Bucket: Fred Robinson with 1150 grams, followed by Margaret Cuninghame 1100 grams and Pat Pennington 1000 grams. Reserve Champion was Pat Aplin and Overall Champion was Elaine Morison. The full results are on the Stoodleigh website.

Parish Hall

The Autumn Market and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 25 October from 10am until 12 noon, with a variety of stalls including cakes, vegetables and books. Refreshments will be on offer as usual. The Parish Hall AGM is on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm. All Stoodleigh residents are invited to attend and have their say.

SWAG: Visit to Bath Market, Wednesday 3 December. There may be still some places on the coach. Contact Geraldine Talbot on 351391.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Prizewinners, July – 1 John Fewings, 2 Philip Turner, 3 Joyce Lacey, 4 Clare Torrance; August – 1 Brian Palfrey, 2 Catherine Hawke, 3 Cathy Thorpe, 4 Roger Hill.

Church Flower Rota

- 5 Oct. - Harvest flowers, all help please.
- 26 Oct. - Linda Hill
- 2 Nov. - Linda Hill
- 9 / 16 Nov. - Eileen Fewings
- 23 / 30 Nov. - Betty Wotton

Templeton

Our Harvest Supper is being held on Saturday 4 October at the Village Hall at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Good food (pasty, cider & pudding), good company and a fun produce show of the potato most resembling the Pope, largest courgette, oddest shaped carrot, smallest sweetcorn husk, parsnip with most legs, heaviest potato and cooking apple, most mis-shapen vegetable / fruit, most bent pear and smallest marrow. Tickets available on the night.

Our Harvest Service of praise and thanksgiving is on Sunday 5 October at 11.00am when we hope many villagers will attend. If you can bring your harvest gifts of produce to the church on Saturday, that too can be used as part of the harvest decoration. Your gifts will be taken to Charlton Lodge on Monday 6 October and they are always well received.

For a completely different type of service, of quiet contemplation, gentle Taize songs and candlelight why not come to a Taize Service on Sunday 23 November 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

Our Service of Remembrance is on Sunday 9 November at 10.50am.

At our Annual Parochial Church meeting a question of concern was asked regarding our church remaining open. Rev'd Steve Goodbody said that it was for the people to ask the Bishop of Exeter to close it down and not the other way round. However if we are to keep our church open, which I am sure the whole community would prefer, then we have a legal obligation to keep

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PARISH ROUND-UP

it maintained. At present we are having the pointing around the tower repaired at a cost of approximately £21,000 which will leave only £2,500 in our deposit account.

We are glad to hear that Ray Westcott is out of hospital after a serious accident and that Phillipa Laing and Sally Greenslade are out of hospital too, both having had operations. Little George Nobbs has had a broken leg. We wish them a continued recovery; our thoughts and prayers are with them and with anyone else who is ill at this time.

Congratulations to Jake and Jude on the birth of their baby boy, Lucas Michael Robert Pancherz born 23rd July. We also hope they will be happy in their new home at Little Old Meadow, Town Farm – as will Peter and Jacky Withers and their son Tom who have moved next door to them.

We welcome George and Suzanne Faulkner and their family who have moved into Mount Pleasant Farm recently.

On 19 July the annual 'It's a knockout' competition was held at Rackenford. The competition was won by Calverleigh, Congratulations to them. Templeton came fourth out of five teams – better luck next year! Many thanks to Rackenford - the hosts for this year's event.

The fete was a great success raising £3,125.55. A great boost to the total was the Auction of Pledges which raised £1,531.00. A grateful thank you to all who helped on the day and to those who gave so generously.

The Duck Race was held on Saturday 6 September when 417 ducks took part in the race from Great Esworthy Farm to

Dartcombe Mill. The first prize of £30 went to Helena Meeking, the second prize of £20 to Richard and Anita Linden, and the third prize of £10 to Teresa Pancherz.. Chris and Lynda Newnes won £5 for having the last duck to reach the finishing line. £562.65 was raised – many thanks to all the generous participants and their ducks.

Dates for your diary

Bonfire Night - 8 Nov Fireworks
Gates open 7.00pm
Taize Service - 23 Nov at 6.00pm
Christmas Fayre - 28 Nov

Look out for more details of the above on the village notice boards.

Flower and Church Cleaning

5 Oct / 12 Oct Linda Newnes
19 Oct / 26 Oct Phillida Strong
2 Nov / 9 Nov Gloria Woollacot
16 Nov / 23 Nov Gina Palmer
30 Nov / 7 Dec Teresa Pancherz

As we write these notes we are having lovely autumnal days of misty and mellow sunshine. It is harvest time in our gardens, fields and orchards. Another sign of autumn was our Harvest Festival which was held on Sunday 7 September on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Anna took the service in a beautifully decorated church with flowers in shades of autumn, a vast array of fruit and vegetables and, this year once again, traditional sheaths of corn. It was a truly magnificent display to behold. Anna engaged the children and Tilly Lane read the lesson on the theme of Fair Trade and the idea that the last should be treated as fairly as the first. Mrs Adrienne Pannifer played the organ and the Harvest hymns were sung with gusto.

After the service the sports for the children, took place on the lawns of The Old Rectory with mindfulness of Anna's talk. The races were capably organised and run by Claire and William Webber and enjoyed by all. A bring and share tea, laid out in the hall, was then enjoyed by young and older alike. Thank you so much to Bronson and Camilla for once again letting us use their garden and to Claire and William, to those that helped with the teas and to everyone who donated produce and decorated the church so beautifully. The produce was once again donated to Charlton Lodge.

We are pleased to welcome "home again" James and Sarah Herniman, Tilly, Gilbert and Jack after their prolonged house renovations. We missed you all very much in the village and are glad you are back!

Washfield

Friendships show us that we are not alone in any joy or sorrow

It is time to say farewell to Rob and Alison, Nicholas and Anastasia. We thank Rob for his teaching in services and house groups and we thank them both for all their work for the young, at Sunday Club, Exe Valley Toddlers, Sunday School at EVC and for running the very successful Holiday Clubs for the large numbers of children each summer. Alison's cakes have been very much enjoyed too! We wish them all the very best in the next step of their lives.

Continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

A very successful Cream Tea was held in August in aid of Hospiscare at Pine Lodge Tiverton. Marion and her helpers put on a splendid spread and the happy outcome was that £330 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. Thanks to all involved.

The produce stall outside the Hall has been extremely successful since John Burton set it up 5 years ago. John would like to mark its grand achievement with a few congratulatory words. "Yes, our produce stall outside the Memorial Hall has now raised £1020. The donations are shared equally between the hall and the church. fruit and vegetables appear as if by magic, and the money goes in the box. Many thanks to all those who take the trouble to put their spare produce out and to those who make their donations for these via the box." Well done to John too for his efforts in organising this and keeping it going.

A working party to spruce up the hall inside and out was held in September and a loyal crew spent several hours cleaning windows and walls and clearing away weeds and unblocking guttering and cleaning roofs. Well done to you all, the place is as clean as a new pin and attracted many good remarks at the Harvest.

Congratulations to Angela and James Wych of Cotleigh on the birth of their baby son, Alistair. We hope he is settling in. Congratulation also to Roger and Liz Arnold on becoming grandparents again to baby Alfie George, a second son and baby brother to Jake, born to Dee and Braden Collins in Australia. We send best wishes to you all. Congratulations to Maurice and Alice Balment who have just celebrated their 55th Wedding anniversary. To

everyone else celebrating special anniversaries and birthdays we send good wishes too.

A big well done to those who achieved the excellent exam results that we have heard of. Good luck as you take the next steps in your lives. Also to those children just starting school for the very first time.

We hope the love and prayers we are sending are reaching everyone who is having a particularly difficult time at present, coping with illness, operations and ongoing treatments. Our thoughts are so much with you all and also with those caring for you. May God's blessings be with you.

Congratulations to the plucky individuals who represented Washfield Social Club at the annual 'Its a Knockout' competition held this year at Rackenford Club. Our team did us proud in the silly games stakes and, although they weren't the victors this year, they none the less did us proud and it was a fun day for all who took part or who went to watch.

Once again two traditional, annual events will be held in the coming months. The first will be the Pumpkin Judging evening to be held at the Social Club on Saturday 25 October and secondly Jeanne and Garth's December Coffee Morning in aid of the church is to be held on Saturday 6 December at The Cottage. Look out for posters with more information about both of these wonderful events.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 14 October teatime@thehall 3-5.30pm All welcome at this informal event. Tea, cake. chat and friendship on offer.

Saturday 25 October

Pumpkin Judging Evening at the Social Club in aid of E.L.F.

Tuesday 11 November

teatime@thehall

2-4.30pm All welcome at this informal event. Tea, cake. chat and friendship on offer.

Saturday 6 December

Coffee Morning at The Cottage from 10am on. In aid of Church Funds.

Flower Rota

5 / 12 Oct	Mrs Boundy
19 / 26 Oct	Mrs A Balment
2 / 9 Nov	Mrs Bolt
16 / 12 Nov	Mrs S Balment
30 Nov / 7 Dec	Mrs E Arnold

Cleaning Rota

5 / 12 Oct	Mrs Arnold
19 / 26 Oct	Mr & Mrs Parnell
2 / 9 Nov	Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones
16 / 23 Nov	Mr & Mrs Ellis
30 Nov / 7 Dec	Mrs French

Withleigh

It seems a long time ago now, but our Church Fete was a great success, raising £1,006 for Church funds. Sadly, this was held in the Village Hall, and not at Bona Vista, due to threatening weather, but we thank Henry and Shirley for all their work in preparing for us. We do so hope to be with you for next year's Fete. Louise Kittow opened the proceedings for us, the day being her 21st birthday. Rhianna Greenslade presented her with a corsage and a little gift as a reminder of the occasion. Thank you to everyone who gave or helped in any way.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Congratulations to Tim Headon and Sarah Chettam on their marriage on 16 August. We send our best wishes for your future life together.

It was really good to see so many at our Garden & Produce Show, held on Saturday 16 August. It was lovely to see the hall full of all the beautiful flowers, vegetables and the works of art in the handicraft, photos and children's classes, not forgetting the scrumptious cakes and savouries. The quality of all of the entries seems to get better and better year on year. Well done to everyone who took part and a very big thank you to all those who worked so hard to put on the event and make it such a success.

The Trophy winners were; Vegetables - Henry Cruwys, Flowers - Shirley Cruwys, Handicraft, Preserves & Cookery - Angela Sellick, Children's - Grace Sellick. This year for the first time we awarded a Special prize for the Best Exhibit in each section, the winners of these prizes were; Vegetables - Margaret Gale, Flowers - Shirley Grant, Handicraft - Christine Luxton, Preserves - Sheila Kerslake, Cookery - Harry Hann, Children's - Grace Sellick.

We have another Informal Service in the Vestry of our Church on 11 October at 11.00am. Please do come along as these are always enjoyable services.

There is a PCC meeting on 21 October at Ditchetts at 7.30pm.

The Annual Team Skittles evening will be held on Friday 31 October at 7.30pm. Teams comprise of 6 players; if you do not have enough people to make up a team just come along and join with a team on the night. For more details please ring Brenda on 252431.

We send our sympathy, thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Mrs Tam Matheson who died recently. Mrs Matheson was a longstanding member of our community, and will be remembered by many people for her gardens - as she used to open them to the public, and raised a lot of money for different charities.

Get well wishes to all those not well at the moment and to all those receiving hospital treatment or recovering from accidents or spells in hospital. We wish you all a speedy recovery.

Once again, Christmas is fast approaching - Oh yes it is! Our Christmas Craft Fayre will be held on Saturday 29 November, as previously, from 10am until 4pm, proceeds to St Catherine's. Come along and find those Christmas gifts with a difference. Refreshments will be available throughout the day - coffee and cookies from 10 -12, soup and rolls from 12 - 2, and tea and cakes from 2pm onwards. Our thanks, once again, to Laura for organising this event. If anyone would like to rent a stall, and has not yet spoken to her, please contact Laura Headon on 07702 270565.

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 29th November,
Christmas Craft Fair 10am - 4pm

Flower rota:

28 Sept & 5 / 12 Oct Shirley Cruwys
19 / 26 Oct & 2 Nov Christine Luxton
9 / 16 / 23 Nov Sylvia Hann
30 Nov & 7 Dec Janet Stacey

Monthly Diary Dates:

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

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KEEP SMILING . . .

Oliver was having a Winter's walk with his Grandmother. It had snowed the night before and everything was covered in sparkling white. There was a blue sky and it was a beautiful scene.

The grandmother said "The scenery looks as though it was painted by an artist doesn't it? Did you know that God painted this just for you?"

"Yes" he said confidently. "I know God did it and I also know that he did it with his left hand ... because we learned in Sunday School last week that Jesus **SITS** on God's right hand "

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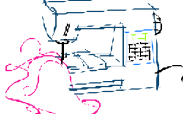
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