

December 2015/ January 2016

Price 40p

## IMMANUEL ~ "GOD WITH US"

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

**W**hat a rush. Shopping, presents, then there's the tree, the decorations, the cards to write, the pudding to make, the turkey to cook & then there's .....

We all know the feeling - this mid-winter festival causes so much stress, apparently Christmas is the prime time for family friction. But if the Christmas cards are to be believed, this is meant to be the season of peace & goodwill - the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace!

We must ask - was it meant to be like this? It was intended to be something rather different. The Gospel writers showed little interest in the exact date of Jesus' birth. It was not until the 3rd Century that the matter was debated, various dates being championed such as 15 January, 10 June and 2 February.

No, what the Bible writers were interested in, was the meaning of Jesus' birth. Much had been prophesied centuries before; the Virgin birth prophesied by Isaiah, the birth at Bethlehem prophesied by Micah, and that

God Himself, Immanuel, would come to us - Isaiah.

Just as the rush and business of our festival is not envisaged in the Bible, neither is much of the romance and sentimentality that surrounds it. The Gospel writers are concerned with the reality and the implications of Christ's coming.



And the facts are not always pleasant. The Roman census took no account of Mary's advanced pregnancy, she had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, presumably on foot but just possibly by donkey, a distance of about 100 miles. Then Jesus' birth led to the massacre of all the children under 2 in Bethlehem because of King Herod's famous paranoia about being deposed, so Jesus' family became refugees in Egypt. Despite all this, peace was announced to God's people by

the angels, as they appeared to the despised shepherds. And Jesus is the Prince of Peace to those who come to Him for forgiveness and new life. He has come to bring human beings peace with each other as they find their peace with God.

Christmas is indeed about Immanuel, "God with us", in our homes, in our villages, in our churches, but at a great cost. We must remember that one of the Magi's gifts was myrrh - the stuff of burial! Also that the aged prophet Simeon warned Mary that "a sword will pierce your own heart". Jesus' purpose in coming, was to die as a sacrifice for each of us.

As we open wide our churches to welcome all who come to the Carol Services and Christmas celebrations and as we quite rightly wish each other a peaceful and joyful Christmas, let us remember what it cost the Lord Jesus to come to this earth to save us. Immanuel - God with us - at so great a cost but oh! in such great love.

May you all have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.

*John Roberts*

## THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

Calverleigh, Cruwys Morchard, Loxbeare, Oakford, Rackenford, Stoodleigh, Templeton, Washfield and Withleigh

www.exevalleychurches.org

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## EDITORIAL

It is that wonderful time of year again when, as the year draws to a close, we send our thanks to everyone for all their help, support and hard work for the magazine throughout the year.

Where would the magazine be without our Contributors, Distributors, Advertisers ... and anyone else we've missed? We may not always tell you but you are all most warmly appreciated.

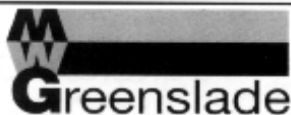
We are very pleased to welcome Wendy Cook to our magazine. She has taken over Derek McManus' role as Advertising Co-ordinator and her details are on the left of this page. Thank you Wendy.

We have decided that it would be sensible to change the magazine e-mail address to today@exevalleychurches.org This will make it easier to keep all incoming magazine correspondence separate from our personal emails. It will take effect from 1 January 2016.

Having thanked our Contributors earlier, we would like to put in a plea on their behalf. This is a request to all the people who send items to them, for inclusion in the Round-ups. It would be so helpful if you could get everything in, several days before the Deadline, so that they have enough time to collate everything together and still get it to us by the correct date. Thank you.

We hope you all have a warm and comfortable Christmas and everything you wish for yourselves in the coming year ~ maybe even a new Rector.

*Jenny and Geoff*



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## MOVING ON PART 5

The 'Section 12' - 'Preparation for Appointment Meeting' was duly held in Calverleigh Village Hall on the evening of 13 October, and was attended by Bishop Sarah, the Archdeacon, Lay chair, patrons, parish representatives, and by members of all PCCs.

Advertising has since taken place, with the closing date for applications being 11 November. The Archdeacon's office received eight enquiries, and vacancy packs were sent out. Regrettably enquiries do not equal applications and, on that count, we have drawn a blank. It will, therefore, be necessary to re-advertise, but it is most likely that this will not happen until the New Year, since revised potential dates for short-listing and interviews have to be arranged with all concerned, and we have the small matter of Christmas almost upon us! Whilst this may seem an obvious setback, and an unfortunate delay, let us keep faith in God's timing rather than our wishes.

Please continue to pray for all involved, in confidence that God will provide the right person, at the right time, for our needs, here in the Exe Valley.

On a brighter note, the Group Services continue to draw us all together, reflecting a sense of unity within our Mission Community. By the time you read this, Oakford and Rackenford will have played host to the October and November services, respectively. December will see us at Stoodleigh, and January at Templeton. Please do try to join us for these services.

It would seem appropriate at this point to thank all the retired clergy who continue to help us maintain our pattern of services throughout another year, and who will be especially in demand over the Christmas season. Our grateful thanks to you all.

*Paul Iliff*

### BILLY GRAHAM INTERVIEW

I recently came across this Question and Answer from an interview with the 97 year old Evangelist, Billy Graham. Whilst we might want to make some allowance for the American idiom in which it is expressed, it seems to me to say something important for all Churches in this country, not least the Exe Valley. I know I for one have been guilty of being critical of our ministers at times.

**John Roberts**

#### Question

Why do some people seem to enjoy criticizing their pastor? I'm in a civic organization with a couple of friends from another church, and it seems like all they talk about is their pastor's shortcomings. Should I say something to them about this?

#### Billy Graham Answer

No pastor is perfect, of course - but if God has called someone to be a pastor and has sent them to serve a particular church, then they should be helped and encouraged in every way possible. The Bible says, "Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?" (1 Samuel 26:9).

Does this mean pastors should always be above criticism - even if they neglect their responsibilities or otherwise are at fault? No, it doesn't - but most churches have ways of dealing with such matters through their ruling board or denominational structure. Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth that "everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Sadly, I have known of church members who seem to enjoy criticizing their pastor - and sometimes they keep doing it pastor after pastor. I've never known why; perhaps they do it just to get attention. But whatever their reason, it is wrong, and it is a sin in the eyes of God. Not only does it cause dissension in the church, but it means their heart and mind are closed to the teaching of God's Word.

Pray for an opportunity to speak with your friends about their attitude, urging them not only to avoid criticizing their pastor but to do all they can to support and help this individual. Especially encourage them to pray for their pastor. Pray too for your own church and its pastoral staff, that they truly may "Be shepherds of God's flock ... eager to serve" (1 Peter 5:2).

*John Roberts*

## HAVE YOU READ ? ...

### The House of Bishops' Pastoral Letter's comments on FAMILY

"It is important to move away from the focus on the individual, to a

continued overleaf ➔



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richer narrative of the person in Community ... individuals flourish best when they belong with confidence to networks of relationships.

"We are most human when we know ourselves to be dependent on others. That is something we first learn in families ... Families are not only for children. They are also about making old age creative and happy... They flourish best when there are networks of friendship, neighbourliness and mutual support around them."

**and also ...**

**The House of Bishops' Pastoral Letter's comments on PLACE**

"The Church of England has always had a strong commitment to "place" through the parish system. We are present in every community of England.

"We therefore see day by day how important "place" is to all kinds of people. Social policies which assume that everyone is happily mobile and footloose miss the crucial point that "place" is not just about territory - but about informal networks which people build to make life sociable, neighbourly and worth living."

*Seneca*

**NATURE NOTES**

As we approach the depths of Winter and the festive time, tradition dictates that we invite nature into our homes by cutting and displaying all types of greenery. Even those wedded to glass, steel and concrete, value the notion of nature and life outside, as represented by these decorative takeaways. It is not just the visually festive effect on our rooms but also the subtle smell that invades the home, evoking memories of Christmas past and jealousy from air freshener manufacturers.

Honouring nature when it has apparently gone to sleep, dates back to pagan times and it is said that our St. Boniface was particularly incensed by a group of people praising an oak tree in a forest. Some say that the Saint cut down the tree and the people, who were instantly converted, adopted the replacement fir in ensuing commemorative events and hence today's traditions.

This happened in a German forest and it is amazing how traditions and customs spread whilst others, concerning natural elements, remain very much 'home grown'. Almost uniquely in Devon is the ritual of the ashen faggot which was a source of merriment and good cheer whilst also keeping the Devil and all his works at bay.

The faggot was a bundle of ash twigs and sticks which were bound with several withies [flexible stalks of green ash].

Unmarried girls would choose a withy and the first that burnt and exploded was indicative of the next likely marriage. In every case each bursting withy was carefully monitored and toasted with a drink.

The most fascinating tradition though, must be that concerning the mysterious mistletoe [*Viscum album*]. I would suggest not everything is understood about this parasite - starting with the extraordinary observation that its growth on bare branches [only] is mostly confined, in the UK, to the counties of Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester and Somerset. There are many fine patches by the approach roads to Taunton which can be admired in Winter, whilst waiting for the traffic to move. Again there is much confusion over which host tree it favours, with apple and lime being the most consistently quoted.

In terms of decoration and tradition, the sprigs were originally mounted as part of a much larger ball of greenery together with holly, rosemary and ivy. These were wrapped around two hoops to form an open sphere but the mistletoe was always at the base of the kissing bough and within reach.

I would remind those trying to steal a kiss today that they should, if successful, remove one of the berries. I would also encourage them to try to propagate them in the Exe Valley as it does not seem to harm the host and when in oak trees is said to be particularly fortuitous.

*Thomas More*

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### CALVERLEIGH

On 29 September, Aubrey and Sheila Greenslade celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. On 4 October, they spent a lovely afternoon with family and friends at Calverleigh Village Hall. Our congratulations go to you both.

Congratulations to Joan and Gerald Blackmore, on the safe arrival of their beautiful new great-granddaughter, Francesca Joy.

Congratulations also go to Tom and Sam Gardner (nee Webber) on the arrival of a son, Oliver. He is the first grandchild of Paula and Graham Webber and fifth great-grandchild for Myrtle. Our best wishes are sent to you all.

There was a full house at the 'Friendly Bingo' held at the newly refurbished Calverleigh Village Hall in October, which resulted in a profit of £306 for Church funds. Special thanks to Barbara Hill, Margaret Tapp and her family for all their help on the night. Besides being a fund raising event, the organisers were thrilled that everyone present had such an enjoyable evening.

The following afternoon the Church congregation were invited to attend a fund-raising tea party with 5th Tiverton Guides, run by Nikki Burton and Tasha Goldsworthy. The Guides spent the morning preparing a wonderful feast for their families and invited guests. The afternoon was spent taxing brains with their quizzes, being waited on by very polite young ladies, eating their

delicious food and being entertained with their singing.

On 18 October, Jackie Herniman led a Sankey Service, where many well known Sankey hymns were sung. Jackie gave a brief history, telling the congregation, about how they came to be written. Mrs Forward ably played the music, which she is well accustomed to playing. This all made for a very enjoyable service.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Gerry Winchester who, when able, liked to attend the occasional service at Calverleigh. Our condolences go to Kath and family at this sad time.

Our thoughts and prayers go also to all those who are unwell or grieving at this time.

#### Events Coming Up...

Our annual Christingle service will be held on Sunday 6 December at 3.00pm. This is a lovely service for all ages and all are welcome to attend.

At 3.00pm on Sunday 20 December, we will be holding our traditional Service of lessons and carols. Refreshments including mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards.

The Christmas Day Holy Communion service will be held at 9.30am.

Over the Christmas period a collection of non-perishable foods and toiletries for CHAT, can be placed under the Christmas Tree. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and passed on to the charity early in the New Year.

The Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singers will be singing around the local area in the week running up to Christmas. Please contact Ron Tidball for details.

#### Church Cleaning Rota

23 Nov / 5 Dec - Miss J Herniman  
7 Dec / 19 Dec - Mrs. M Furneaux  
21 Dec / 9 Jan - Mrs. J Goldsworthy  
11 Jan / 23 Jan - Mrs. A Webber  
25 Jan / 6 Feb - Miss S Goldsworthy

#### Flower Rota

6 Dec / 13 Dec - Mrs. M Herniman  
3 Jan / 10 Jan - Mrs. M Webber  
17 Jan / 21 Jan - Lady L Amory  
28 Jan / 5 Feb - Mrs. B Hill

If you have any items for the magazine or the Calverleigh website pages to Dave Burton by calling 07817 851856 or email:

[calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org](mailto:calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org).

Get the latest at:

[www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh).

### CRUWYS MORCHARD

The weather was good for our Harvest Festival celebrations, beginning with the Service on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to the members of Cruwys Morchard YFC for leading the prayers. Following the service we had sports. Thank you to Jim Carter and Geoff Littlefield for organising the games and races. Around 100 people sat down to a delicious tea - thank you

continued overleaf →



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

to all the ladies who helped to prepare and serve the tea. In the evening the children and adults enjoyed a disco with Brian and Maureen Gibbs and games organised by Jill Cousins, Sarah Kingdom and Helen Keeble. Thank you to all who decorated the church so beautifully for Harvest.

It was with great joy that we welcomed James Thompson into the church at his Baptism, on 18 October.

**Christingle and Carol Service on Sunday 20 December at 11am.** Cindy or Diana would love to hear from you if you would like to take part in this service, read, sing or for children to take part in the Nativity. We will have a rehearsal for the Nativity on Saturday 19th in the morning. Ring Cindy Tel. 01363 866621 for details and time. **Coffee and mince pies will be served after the Service.**

Christingle making at 2pm on Saturday 19 December at Cindy's house. Please come along and enjoy a sociable afternoon, chat, mulled wine and refreshments supplied, as we make the Christingles ready for Sunday's Service.

We will be collecting basic non-perishable foods and basic toiletries for CHAT, which will be distributed throughout the year, to those in need in the Tiverton area. We are not able to distribute Christmas Gifts or perishable items.

The Christmas Eve Service this year is Holy Communion with Carols at 9.00 pm.

### Flower and Cleaning Rota.

If you are unable to do the cleaning and flowers please will you let Cindy know:

Tel. 01363 866621. After decorating for special Services, please would you remove from Church, your pots, baskets and other flower arranging accessories that you have used? If you would like to join our Cleaning and Flower rota please let Cindy know. We would value your help.

November 23 / 30 - Carole Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell  
December 7 - Lorna Warren  
December 14 - Decorators for

Christmas  
December 21 / 28 - Diana Vincent and Val Randerson  
January 4 / 11 - Cindy Trick  
January 18 / 25 - Judith Taylor and Anne Gillbard  
February 1 / 8 - Sonia Notley

### Stove Rota – 2015/2016

November - Mr D. Vincent  
December - Mr J. Carter  
January - Mr M. Trick  
February - Mr G. Cruwys  
March - Mr J. Lake

Please light the church stove on Saturday (Morning if possible). If you are unable to, please contact: Cindy Tel: 01363 866621 or Diana Tel: 01363 860227

**YOGA** is continuing with the one class for now 10am - 11.30am every Thursday.

### YOUNG FARMERS

The Club have been rehearsing for a ballroom dancing competition to be held in early December; look out Strictly Come Dancing! Members are also taking part in the Exe Valley Group Drama Competition taking place on Sunday 31 January 2016 at Tiverton

High School, so it is a very busy time. The Club held their AGM recently; with Jake Hill taking the role of Chair. The Club have welcomed several new members and if you are interested in joining, please come along to the meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall. Please note that the Club are holding Bingos on the last Saturday of January and February next year at the Parish Hall, doors open 7.30 pm, eyes down 8.00 pm.

### Pennymoor Congregational Church. Sunday Services at 4.30 pm

1st Sun Family Service  
2nd Sun Communion  
3rd Sun Way Village (2.30pm)  
4th Sun Praise & Prayer  
Carol Service 2.30 Sun 13 Dec Way Village  
Community Christmas, Tree Festival 4-6 Dec  
Tree decorating Thurs 3rd,  
Kids crafts after school club Fri 4th  
Carols & cake around the trees Fri 4th,  
Open day to view trees Sat 5th  
Puppetivity, Nativity done by puppets Sun 6th  
Christmas Day short Service at 10.30  
**Pennymoor Pop-In**  
Sat 2nd Jan Coffee morning 11-12.30  
Ladies Club (non Church)  
Tues 15 Dec 7.30 Christmas Carols

### Cruwys Morchard, Withleigh and District Ploughing Association annual ploughing match and show.

This year's event was held on the 5 September at Thongsleigh Farm, Cruwys Morchard - home of Yeoman haylage. The wet spell abated and over 50 ploughmen competed in almost perfect conditions. Competitors came

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## **New Creation News** **December 2015**

*Proclaiming the Gospel since 1988*

...today, in the city of David, there has been born for you a Saviour who is Christ the Lord...”  
(Luke Ch. 2, v 11)

It's December once again, and the wonderful season of Christmas is almost upon us!

How wonderful it is to be able to proclaim the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christmas Cards can get the Lord's 'Good News' into our homes and to our family, friends and neighbours and at the same time support various Christian charities. Perhaps you need a few extra cards, or if you are still looking for a gift, diaries and calendars are still available. Although we are in an electronic age, a Bible or a book is still a good choice. We have all kinds: for amusement encouragement and teaching. Looking for that last minute stocking filler? We have a wide range of small items suitable for children of all ages, and we are here to help you. Remember, most of our stock carries a Christian text, message or symbol.

While browsing the shop for those last minute items why not pop into the café for a drink and bite to eat. December's SPECIAL OFFER is "a cup of tea or coffee with a mince pie for £1.50, clotted cream 25p extra".

Sadly there are no SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHESES this year, but we can cater for up to 14 people in the evening if you wish to have a special celebration with your home group.

**Just a thought! What about giving BIBLE READING NOTES as a present for a friend or even for yourself?** We are pleased to receive any order requests by phone (01884 255769) or e-mail ([shop@newcreationtiverton.org.uk](mailto:shop@newcreationtiverton.org.uk)) but to avoid disappointment the earlier your order is placed the better chance you have of receiving them in good time for Christmas.

More good news! We are now a collection centre for the return of flip-flops that the Street Pastors give out. The young people will be given a free drink when they bring them back and a chance to look around the shop. Please pray for them.

### CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

New Creation will be open right up to Christmas Eve but on 24 December, the café will only be serving drinks, cake and biscuits, and both the shop and café will close at 1.00 pm.

After the holiday the shop will re-open on Monday 11 January 2016 at 9.30 am.

This year we are staying closed for an extra week. This will enable us to do necessary refurbishment repairs and painting as well as Stock Taking. (You've probably seen that Bruce has already begun in the bathroom!) We will need some extra 'hands on deck' so if you are able to help, please let us know if and when you can come in. Please pray that everything will go smoothly. We thank our Lord that this summer our landlords have had our roof repaired and replaced the old boiler. At last the building is warm and dry. Thank you for your prayers.

Remember, if you pick up Bible Reading Notes from the shop, please collect your January notes before the Christmas holiday.

May each and every one of you receive blessing this Christmas and may the Spirit remain with you throughout the New Year giving you a heart full of joy and thankfulness.

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

from far and wide including the Isle of Wight and Cornwall. Our local ploughmen excelled and it was particularly gratifying to see so many Young Farmers taking part. Witleigh YFC member Sam Reed from Seven Crosses won the open reversible class and one for the girls, fellow YFC member Dawn Radford from Loxbeare won the local novice conventional plough class. Ploughing association chairman Arthur Heywood from Loxbeare won the trophy for best local ploughman. The Ivan Webber trophy went to Kelvin Phillips in the vintage plough section while overall champion went to Rowland Glanville from Cornwall.

There was an amazing show of produce. The barn looked magnificent. Brian Sharland from Seven Crosses won overall prize for best produce. Shirley Grant from Lower Lugsland won the Baking tray trophy. Winning ploughman Sam Reed proved his ability in the kitchen winning the Man in the Kitchen class with his boiled Cidercake. His father Graham came third. Rumour has it they are taking bookings for tea parties. Simon Sellick came second. Congratulations to all those who won prizes and to everyone who took part both ploughing and entering produce. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all. If you would like to get involved next year, get in touch with the secretary Sarah Reed from Seven Crosses.

**Written by Crooked Furrow**

**Congratulations** to Paul Isaac upon his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. How sad we are that he is no longer living at South Linhay, but we expect to continue to see him at all Parish events.

Congratulations to Sam and Tom on the birth of their baby son.

continued overleaf →

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

We would like to welcome Simon and Katherine Tap and their children into the village.

It is with sadness that we said "Good Bye" to Vernon Gunn at his funeral on Tuesday 3 November, and that we have to announce the passing of Ron Street on 6 November. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and all they loved.

### Future events

**BINGO** 28 November and 18 December. Eyes down at 8pm. 01884 860620/07773362305

12 December Charity Quiz in the Parish Hall. Teams of 4 to 6. £5 p/p to include a light supper. Doors and Bar open 6.45pm. Start 7.30pm **PROMPT**.

To book:- **Text only** on 07773362305, or phone 01884 860620 or visit [www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk](http://www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk)  
20 December Christingle and Carol Service

Christmas Eve 9pm Holy Communion with Carols

£152 and were given to Tear Fund and £89 was donated to Chat from the auction.

On 10 October a 'Prayer Gift' day was held with a ploughman's lunch & cream teas served during the day in the Village Hall.

A PCC meeting was held on 22 October and the next meeting will be on 14 January in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Exe Valley Woman's Bible Study Group continue to meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons, the 2nd & 4th, at Christine Weatherley's, Churchill House from 2-4pm. All Ladies welcome. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

At the time of writing we are planning an evening at New Creation Christian Bookshop on 12 November with supper and a browse amongst the well stocked shelves for cards, books, cd's etc. Well worth a visit.

Christmas will soon be upon us with many Services and celebrations of Christ's birth. Our Christingle Service will be on 13 December at 3pm in the Church with a "bring and share" tea after the Service. Carol Service will be on 20 December at 6.30pm with the offering going to Vranth House, Exeter. Christmas Day Service will be at 10.30am with a Family Communion. Carol Singing evenings will be on the 19,22,24 December, meeting at Loxbeare Garage at 6.30pm for the first two nights and Calverleigh Village Hall at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve. The collection will be for Cancer Research and Open Doors.

We are having a Family Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11am beginning on 10 January.

Many thanks and appreciation to Steve and Shaun Berry who have cut the grass, keeping the Churchyard looking so nice during the past year and also to all those who have helped in anyway

with the general maintenance of the Church and the Churchyard. Also thank you to all who have helped, supported and contributed to the smooth running of the Church and to those who have taken services.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the many in Loxbeare who have, in the last few weeks, had operations and are now home recovering and also to those receiving treatment - John Roberts, Derek McManus, Chris Bardes-Payne, Matt Shaw, Mike Ackland and Trish Bending. We also continue to remember Steve Goodbody and anyone else who is feeling unwell. We hope you will all be feeling much better soon.

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in December/January and congratulations to those celebrating special occasions. We send our congratulations and best wishes to David Paxon and Rebecca Blind who are getting married on 14 November at Cruwys Morchard.

Thank you to Arthur and Liz who hosted the Bonfire Evening on 6 November, to Richard Vickery who organised the food and to all who helped.

On 12 December there will be a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall from 11-12.30am. Christmas Bingo will be 7 December in the Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm. Contact Carol on 01884 881480.

The Village Party will be on 9 Jan 7pm. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

### Loxbeare Ladies

28 November Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall 10.30am-12noon.

10 December Village Christmas Meal at Bickleigh Mill. A meeting to be arranged in early January to discuss 2016 monthly activities. Contact Sue on 01884 259496.

## LOXBEARE

It was good to give thanks to God for a plentiful harvest this year at our Harvest Celebrations which were held over the weekend 19/20 September. Our speaker at the Saturday Service was Rev. Philip Porter from the Tiverton Baptist Church, followed by sports & tea which were enjoyed by all. Our Sunday Service was a Songs of Praise evening at 6.30pm taken by John, with various people having chosen hymns.

The Harvest Supper was held on the following Tuesday when Dave Britton gave an interesting and informative talk on the Street Pastor's work. Steven Radford very ably auctioned the produce with help from Ron. Many thanks to all who helped in anyway and for decorating the Church. The offerings on the Saturday amounted to

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

## OAKFORD

In October we were sorry to say goodbye to Tigs and Gaile Pearson-Miles, who have moved away from Oakford. We thank them for their support in the years that they have been here.

In November we will be saying goodbye to Brian Stone who is moving to Bampton and we thank him for the valuable contribution he has made, especially in opening and closing the Church every day and getting the Church ready for Services. We wish them all well and hope they will be happy in their new homes.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and produce for the Harvest Service, which went well, with tea at the back of the Church afterwards and sale of produce. We were able to send items to CHAT ( The Churches Action Team ) in Tiverton and a cheque to Tearfund. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported it. We regret that we were unable to go ahead with the Harvest supper this year. Perhaps next year it might be possible.

CHAT has a food bank in Tiverton to help those in need, so we are continuing to have a box in the church for the foreseeable future. If anyone would like to donate items to this cause we would be grateful. There is a list in the church of suitable items.

**Remembrance Sunday.** It was nice to see so many people at the War Memorial to remember those who died in war. Sean Mayer has done some research on the lives of those mentioned and he spoke briefly, on the ordinary folk of Oakford who went to war and never returned. This was followed by a Service in the Church.

Jennie, Landlady of The Red Lion, kindly invited the congregation for coffee and cake afterwards.

**Christmas at Oakford Church**  
We will be decorating the Church tree on Thursday 10 December at 5pm. Bring your children along to help us decorate. Parents can help too! This will be followed by carols by the Village tree at 6pm with mulled wine and mince pies.

**The Christmas Tree Festival** will take place on Saturday 12 December. Come and see the trees and enjoy a cup of tea and cakes. Teas available from 2.30pm-4.30pm. Anyone who would like to bring a tree (3ft max.) please put it in the church by Friday 11 December - ready for Saturday. Decorate as you wish - a carol might be a nice theme. The Christmas trees will remain in the church over the Christmas period.

**The Carols by Candlelight Service** will take place on Sunday 20 December at 5.30pm. Traditional carols and readings. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. Please do come and make this a most joyous occasion.

**Christmas Eve**  
Holy Communion at 11.30pm. Come and celebrate the birth of Christ at this special time.

**Village Events**  
Oakford Players present 'Allo 'Allo on 3, 4, 5 December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. £12.50 Supper included. Bar. Raffle. Please contact Dawn on 01398 324035.

**Moorland Club**  
Friday December 11. Christmas Lunch at Petroc.  
January 14 at **2.30pm**. Speaker to be announced. Please Note - afternoon meeting.

place on Saturday 26 September. Donations given in George's memory to the Devon Air Ambulance amounted to over £1300. Jean and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the messages of sympathy and support. It really has meant an awful lot. George had been a very well-known figure locally, and further afield, during all his years in the haulage business and having lived in Rackenford for over 50 years. Our deepest sympathy to Jean, Richard, Simon and all the family.

Over several weeks we have been lucky enough to have some great helpers, as we began the long but very rewarding task of straightening headstones and levelling some graves. Many thanks to those who have given soil etc. and to all who have given their time and elbow grease. Not forgetting the most welcome tea and biscuits provided by Mary. We are taking a break over the Christmas period but will be starting again in 2016, as soon as the weather permits. If you can help in any way we would be most grateful.

Our Harvest celebrations began on Thursday 8 October, with the school children coming across to Church in the morning with their generous gifts and in the afternoon the Church continued to be beautifully decorated with gifts, flowers etc. Many thanks to everyone who helped and gave in any way. The Church was full for the children's Service on Friday 9 October. Mandy Lewry welcomed everyone and then the children entertained us with their singing and prayers - and all with great enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment. The Service ended with a blessing from Mandy Lewry and thanks to the children from Kate Dunning, who also welcomed everyone back to the school for tea and cakes. The collection was given to Farm Africa.

Our Sunday, Harvest Praise Service was warmly taken by Rev Jane Wilson with readings from members of the

Continued on Page 12 ➔

## RACKENFORD

The Church was overflowing and the paths were lined with people who gathered to pay their respects and say goodbye to George Cole, when his funeral service and internment took

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### HOME GROUPS

#### EXE VALLEY PRAYER/HOME GROUPS

Loxbeare Hall alternate Wednesdays  
EXCEPT when there is a Prayer  
Breakfast that week.

#### PRAYER BREAKFASTS

9 am Loxbeare Hall  
Saturday 5 December  
9 January 2016

#### 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  
Churchill House, Loxbeare,  
EX16 8DX

Contact Marion on 01884 256302  
for details

#### WALK THE TALK

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

### EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

#### Teaching Programme

Dec 6 Ephesians 6 1-9 At Home and  
at Work  
Dec 13 Ephesians 6 10-20 Stand firm  
in God's armour  
Dec 20 Carol Services in Parishes  
Dec 27 Group Service in Stoodleigh

#### 2016

Jan 3/10/17 To be announced  
Jan 24 Group Service Templeton  
Jan 31 To be announced

#### PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayer and Bible Study as follows:

Wednesday Evenings 7.30pm  
in Loxbeare Hall ~

18 November, 9 December,  
13 and 27 January

Saturday Prayer Breakfasts on  
5 December / 9 January 2016

at 9am in Loxbeare Hall.

### EXE VALLEY CENTRAL

#### Each Sunday

Templeton Village Hall  
At 11 am

(Unless otherwise stated)

Dec 6 - Cafe Style \*  
Dec 13 - Holy Communion  
in the round \*  
Dec 20 - Carol Services  
in Parishes  
Dec 27 - 10.30am Group Service  
in Stoodleigh

#### 2016

Jan 3 - Cafe Style \*  
Jan 10 - Holy Communion  
in the round \*  
Jan 17 - Morning Worship \*  
Jan 24 - 10.30am Group Service  
in Templeton  
Jan 31 - Morning Worship \*

\* Coffee and biscuits ~  
before and after

### OAKFORD

#### 6 December

9.30 am Holy Communion

#### 13 December

9.30am Morning Prayer

#### 20 December

5.30 pm Carol Service

#### Christmas Eve

11.30 pm Holy Communion

#### Christmas Day

No Service

#### 27 December

See Stoodleigh

#### 3 January

9.30 am Holy Communion

#### 10 January

9.30 am Morning Prayer

#### 17 January

9.30 am Holy Communion

#### 24 January

See Templeton

#### 31 January

No Service

### RACKENFORD

#### 6 December

9.30 am Family Service

#### 13 December

9.30am Morning Worship

#### 20 December

No Service

#### Christmas Eve

7 pm Carols with  
Holy Communion

#### Christmas Day

No Service

#### 27 December

See Stoodleigh

#### 3 January

9.30 am Family Service

#### 10 January

11 am Holy Communion

#### 17 January

9.30am Morning Worship

#### 24 January

See Templeton

#### 31 January

No Service

### STOODLEIGH

#### 6 December

11 am Family Service

#### 13 December

6.30 pm Evensong

#### 20 December

6 pm Carol Service

#### Christmas Eve

No Service

#### Christmas Day

11 am Holy Communion

#### 27 December

10.30 am Group Service

#### 3 January

11 am Family Service

#### 10 January

6.30 pm Evensong

#### 17 January

11 am Holy Communion

#### 24 January

See Templeton

#### 31 January

11 am Matins

**CALVERLEIGH**

**6 December**  
3 pm Christingle

**13 December**  
No Service

**20 December**  
3 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**  
No Service

**Christmas Day**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**27 December**  
See Stoodleigh

**3 January**  
No Service

**10 January**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**17 January**  
11.15 am Morning Worship  
with Baptism

**24 January**  
See Templeton

**31 January**  
3 pm Evening Worship

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**6 December**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**13 December**  
11 am Holy Communion

**20 December**  
11 am Carols and  
Christingle

**Christmas Eve**  
9 pm Holy Communion  
with Carols

**Christmas Day**  
No Service

**27 December**  
See Stoodleigh

**3 January**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**10 January**  
11 am Holy Communion

**17 January**  
11 am Family Service

**24 January**  
See Templeton

**31 January**  
No Service

**LOXBEARE**

**6 December**  
6.30 pm Evening Praise

**13 December**  
11 am Christingle

**20 December**  
6.30 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**  
No Service

**Christmas Day**  
10.30 am Family Communion

**27 December**  
See Stoodleigh

**3 January**  
6.30 pm Evening Praise

**10 January**

**17 January**  
9.30 am Family Communion

**24 January**  
See Templeton

**31 January**

**TEMPLETON**

**6 December**  
11 am Family Service

**13 December**  
5 pm Christingle

**20 December**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**Christmas Eve**  
7 pm Carol Service with  
Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**  
No Service

**27 December**  
See Stoodleigh

**3 January**  
11 am Family Service

**10 January**  
No Service

**17 January**  
9.30 am Morning Prayer plus  
Holy Communion

**24 January**  
10.30 am Group Service

**31 January**  
No Service

**WASHFIELD**

**6 December**  
11 am Holy Communion

**13 December**  
3 pm Evening Prayer

**20 December**  
11 am Christingle

**Christmas Eve**  
6 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Day**  
9.30 am Communion by  
Extension

**27 December**  
See Stoodleigh

**3 January**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**10 January**  
11 am Morning Prayer

**17 January**  
11 am Family Service

**24 January**  
See Templeton

**31 January**  
No Service

**WITHLEIGH**

**6 December**  
9.30 am Holy Communion

**13 December**  
4 pm Christingle

**20 December**  
6.30 pm Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**  
11.30 pm Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**  
No Service

**27 December**  
See Stoodleigh

**3 January**  
11 am Holy Communion

**10 January**  
11 am Plough Service

**17 January**  
11 am Family Service  
with Baptism

**24 January**  
See Templeton

**31 January**  
No Service



## PARISH ROUND-UP

congregation. It was a treat to listen to our choir who sang 'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God'. Although small in numbers, it was most enjoyable. Monday evening the Harvest Supper took place with the usual delicious food. We are always thankful for - and lucky to be able to enjoy. Many thanks to all who gave puddings etc. and to all the helpers for their work in preparing and taking such good care to ensure that we all had such an enjoyable evening. The auction followed in the entertaining hands of Stafford Sampson, not forgetting his helpers, and all the generous bidders who raised the fantastic sum of £843. Also many thanks to all who gave draw prizes and to Annette Reed. Over the Harvest period £1796.80 was raised and we thank you all. Many thanks to Jacque and Mary Cann for their hospitality.

Rackenford Club would like to thank those who attended their Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning and raised £84 for this very important cause. A reminder that Rackenford Club's AGM is on 16 December at 8pm.

Many thanks to Fred Phillips and his team for once again cutting our church hedge. It's lovely to see it looking neat and tidy again.

Some of us had a visit on Halloween from local children hoping for a few treats and I think you went home with lots. You looked amazing!

The skies were alight with some stunning fireworks on 5 November with a roaring bonfire and food at hand. Thanks to all the organisers and helpers.

We were sorry to hear that Katie Cox has been in Hospital with Glandular Fever, following a trip abroad. She is now recovering at home and we send her our prayers. Our very best wishes to Vera Mills, Olive Blackford, Pearl Stone and Gordon Shaddock. We also remember our friends Ken Blackford, Joan Clark, Joan Arscott and Peter Reynolds. Our love and prayers to you all and to anyone who is unwell, depressed or lonely.

Our Remembrance Service took place at the War Memorial on 8 November at 10:50am. The wreath was laid by Richard Harris and a two minute silence was held. Cyril Blackford kindly provided the music. Our Service was thoughtfully taken by Derek Herniman. We are so grateful to you Derek for all the dedication that goes into this Service which is so very important to all who attend. The collection of £205.02 was given to the Royal British Legion.

**Please Note that our Christingle Service will be held on Friday 11 December at 4.00pm.**

Although it may seem rather early, this is the last opportunity to wish everyone across the Exe Valley and all in our Parish, a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

## STOODLEIGH

*Christmas brings a great light and new hope, amid the darkest days of Winter.*

**I**n Stoodleigh we will be celebrating the 'glad tidings' in many ways over the coming month.

The Christmas Fayre has become a very popular event. It is on Saturday 5 December this year, at the Parish Hall, 10.30am-12.30pm, entry free. There will be stalls with all sorts of different items (mostly made in Stoodleigh), activities for children, and mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls. Father Christmas has promised to attend.

The Carol Service in Church is at 6pm on Sunday 20 December and will be taken by the Revd Tim Hunt from Blundell's. The singing will be led, as usual, by Jennifer's highly talented choir. Some younger members of the community will take part in a Nativity Play organised by Audrey. If past years are anything to go by, the church decorations will be an absolute picture. We expect a big congregation.

Carol-singing round the village takes place on Tuesday 22 December, starting from the Parish Hall at 6pm. If you would like to take part, it would be a help if you would ring Margaret (351252) or Jennifer (351402). The more the merrier!

On Christmas morning, Canon Jane Wilson will take the service of Holy Communion at St Margaret's, at 11am. Two days later, on Sunday 27 December, Stoodleigh is hosting the Group Service for the Exe Valley, at 10.30am. Please attend if you can. Anna Hansford will officiate.

Looking back at recent events... The Coffee Morning held at Furzeclift raised £318 for Church funds - thanks to the hostess and the many helpers, and to all those who so generously gave their support. The Church was once again beautifully decorated for the Harvest

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**DOIVE DESIGNS**

## PARISH ROUND-UP

Thanksgiving Service. Our thanks to those who gave their time for this. The Harvest Supper and Auction raised £101 for Devon Air Ambulance and £245 for the church. Thank you to the many who helped, gave and were so generous in their bidding.

We are greatly encouraged by the continuing support, in many ways, of the Friends of St. Margaret's. So may we once again say a warm "Thank you".

### Parish Hall

A wonderful array of goods was available at the Autumn Market and Coffee Morning held in October at the Parish Hall. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a sociable community event, raising £539 for hall funds.

Tickets are now available for the Christmas Draw, offering some fabulous prizes again this year. Be sure to get yours from Parish Hall committee members.

The Draw will take place on 21 December at the **Christmas Bingo** in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm. All are welcome to come and play for great festive prizes.

### Regular events at the Parish Hall:

Book & Coffee Mornings, Saturdays 10.30-12noon;  
Pilates Class, Mondays 7-8pm;  
Zumba Group, Thursdays 7-8pm.  
Board Game Afternoons resume in the New Year.

**Stoodleigh 100 Club:** prizewinners for **October** - 1 Peter Browne, 2 Roger Hill, 3 Trevor Cope, 4 Phil Bird;

**November** - 1 Sally Wilson, 2 Annette Penwill, 3 Audrey Rigg, 4 Willie Knowles.

### Flower Rota

6/13 December: Trish Fish  
20 December: Christmas – all help needed please  
3/10 January: Phyllis Hill  
17/24 January: Betty Wotton

Stoodleigh readers will have found several leaflets in this issue of Today – including one called 'Say No! to Junk Mail' (plus a 'No Junk Mail' letterbox sticker). This is part of a Devon County Council Waste Team initiative to reduce the amount of unnecessary junk mail that hits Devon's doormats (around 50,000 tonnes a year!). The initiative is supported by Stoodleigh Parish Council.

## TEMPLETON

*Christmas Blessings to everyone and a Happy and Peaceful New Year*

**O**ur Christmas Services begin with the Christingle Service on Sunday 13 December at 5.00pm, then Morning Prayer on Sunday 20 December at 11.00am taken by the Archdeacon of Exeter; Christopher Futch. On Christmas Eve we have our Carol Service at 7.00pm, followed by a shortened version of Holy Communion. We hope to see you all there.

At our Christingle Service we invite you to bring gifts for children who will have few presents to open this Christmas. We will give them to CHAT who will distribute them as they did last year. All presents need wrapping and on the label, written in pencil, the gender and

age of the child. For teenagers, vouchers are very acceptable.

If you are unable to come to the Service but would still like to give a present, please leave them under the Christmas tree on the Saturday or deliver them to Gloria Woollacott during that week. Thank you.

Looking back to our Harvest Festival Service which was on 3 October, it was well attended and the church was beautifully decorated with fruit, flowers and vegetables.

A huge thank you to all the ladies for their window arrangements and for their dedicated help with the flower and cleaning rota throughout the year. The produce this year was taken to The Haven Day Centre in Tiverton. They were delighted and sent us a letter of thanks.

A marrow competition was held in September and among the winners were Mike Pancherz, Derek Stacey and Phyllis Hill. Thank you for your support and the money raised went to Childrens Hospice South West.

There will be a childrens' Christmas Party at the Village Hall on Saturday 12 December at 3.00pm with Father Christmas in attendance. Contact Sara Stone on 251102 for further details.

This year's Christmas event will be a Hog Roast Supper with entertainment on Friday 11 December. Doors open at 7.00pm with the meal starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Bindy, Matthew and Allyson. £7.00 for adults. £4.00 for children. We are

continued overleaf ➔

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

hoping that you were able to buy your tickets before 20 November, as we need to know numbers for catering. If you would like to do a song, poem or sketch please contact any of the committee. The 2016 Templeton Village Calendar will be on sale that evening and there will also be a raffle of a wonderful, winter velvet quilt, kindly donated by Jeanne Cregan.

We have just had our annual village bonfire with spectacular fireworks. The weather was kind to us and very many people came to enjoy the night. Many thanks to the men for all the preparation and their work on the night. Also to those who provided the catering. A splendid occasion!

Our **Village Library** is still open on the first Wednesday in the month between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. A wide selection of books, DVD's and a variety of jigsaw puzzles are on offer as well as a free cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake. Do come and have a look.

The **Knit, Natter, Craft and Coffee Group** started well and continues every last Wednesday in the month (except December) between 10.30am and 12noon. Do come just for coffee and a natter even if you are not a craft person, we'd love to see you.

### Flower and Cleaning Rota

Teresa Pancherz 29 Nov/6 Dec  
Cleaning only.

Jan Heptinstall 13 Dec/20 Dec  
Cleaning only.

Gloria Woollacott 27 Dec/3 Jan  
Flowers & cleaning.

Teresa Pancherz 10 Jan/17 Jan  
Flowers & cleaning.

Gill Rose 24 Jan/31 Jan  
Flowers & cleaning.

## WASHFIELD

*May the spirit of Christmas that  
forever endures*

*Leave God's rich blessings in the  
hearts of you and yours.*

**W**hat a spectacular display the Autumn trees are giving us this year! This is a time for reflection, to pray for the continuation of the peace and tranquillity we have, whilst thinking of others who are not so fortunate.

A large congregation came to pay respects at our Remembrance Service which was taken by Mr Martin Hansford. Mr Maurice Balment reverently read out the names of the fallen from Washfield and laid a wreath in their honour. Martin said prayers for all those who had given their lives in past conflicts and praying for peace in the world.

On Saturday 19 December we will be decorating the Church and Christmas tree from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to help.

Our **Christingle Service** is to be held on Sunday 20 December at 11am, when the children will be helping to make the Christingles again. This service will be followed by refreshments.

The traditional **Service of Lessons and Carols** will take place on Christmas Eve at 6pm followed by coffee, mince pies and biscuits.

On a very wet Saturday in October several hardy supporters of St Mary's, gathered at the church to carry out a belated 'spring clean'. A lot of hard work was achieved (despite the weather), particularly to the tower. The

end results were very satisfying. Thank you to all who came along and helped. The P.C.C. is very grateful to the volunteers who have worked on the Church following the recommendations from the last inspection of the fabric of the building. Thanks go to Jon Boundy for repairing the sundial above the porch, to Tony Roberts for painting external metalwork and to Peter Smith for his carpentry.

We are so pleased to send a very sincere welcome to Stuart, Carly and little Harrison who have come to live at The School House. We hope you will be very happy in Washfield.

With completely opposite sentiments we will miss having Mike, Jasmine and Seren living at Sandy Moor. Your contributions to village events and groups will be missed greatly but we are pleased that you will still be connected to Washfield. We wish you happiness and success in your new home and venture.

Best wishes are sent to those who, at this time, are not enjoying good health. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you all.

Congratulations are sent to any of you who have had, or are about to celebrate a special occasion or birthday. Enjoy your special time.

Our **Christmas Coffee Morning** will once again be hosted by Jeanne Jones at the Cottage on Saturday 5 December from 10am-12noon. There will be lots of Christmas goodies, produce, cakes and a raffle. All are most welcome. Proceeds to the Church.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

The **Women's Institute Annual Dinner** will be held on Friday 11 December at 7pm for 7.30 in the Village Hall. You are all welcome to share a three-course meal for £17.50 (bring your own drinks). The meal will be followed, as is usual, by home-grown entertainment. Please contact Margaret Curtis on 01884 254529 to book and choose from the menu options.

The Annual Pumpkin judging evening was a great success, enjoyed by the many adults and children who came. The children enjoyed the fancy dress competition with Eva (complete with her very own black cat) being pronounced the worthy winner. The pumpkin lantern contest was ably won by Tilly L. After a wonderful supper the judging of the pumpkins took place and Chris May's was found to be the heaviest at 104lbs! David Bowden was second with 68lbs and Morley Bolt gained the accolade of growing the prettiest pumpkin. It was a wonderful evening, which also saw funds being raised from the sale of the seeds (£132) plus takings of some of the other evening's competitions, being raised for E.L.F.

The Social Club will once again host a New Year's Eve event, so look out for details of this on the Washfield Village Website and around the village. The Club are also holding a Burns Night celebration on Saturday 30 January, so again, look out for details in the usual places nearer the time. If you haven't paid your subscription yet (just £6 and a bargain) please do so, to keep the Social Club thriving and able to plan these great social events across the year.

As another year draws to a close, our P.C.C. would like to sincerely thank everyone who has given time and helped to keep our Church and churchyard not just open and accessible but clean and tidy with always a friendly welcome. The seasonable flower arrangements just appear without a fanfare and the bells and organ are lovingly teased into beautiful tones so as to welcome us. Thank you all for your unsung efforts. Also thanks to all of you that support the money-raising events arranged and needed on behalf of the Church. To Jenny and Geoff who cope admirably with the editing of the Today magazine and to those who deliver it to the many homes around the Parish.

On a final note we wish all the readers of the Today magazine, near and far, a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

### Dates for your diary

Saturday 5 December Christmas Coffee Morning at Jeanne's (The Cottage) from 10am-12noon. Christmas goodies including produce, cakes, raffle and Christmas cards. All welcome Tuesday 8 December teatime@the hall (a community get-together over tea and cake) from 2.30pm. All welcome to come for chat and friendship.

Friday 11 December Women's Institute's Dinner (7pm for 7.30pm) A three-course meal for £17.50 (bring your own drinks) All welcome. Ring Margaret Curtis on 01884 254529 to book.

Sunday 20 December Christingle Service in Church 11am. Children especially welcome.

Tuesday 22 December Carol singing around the village. Meet at 6pm at the Hall. The group will come back to the

hall later, finishing with a 'Bring and Share' supper at the Social Club. All welcome.

Thursday 24 December Traditional Carol Service in church at 6pm. To be followed by coffee and mince pies Thursday 31 December New Year's Eve at the Social Club.

### Altar Flower Rota

Dec 6 Mrs Boundy  
Dec 13/20 Mrs Arnold  
Dec 27/Jan 3 Mrs French  
Jan 10/17 Mrs Harding

### Cleaning Rota

Dec 7 Mrs Arnold  
Dec 14/21 Mr & Mrs Parnell  
Dec 28/Jan 4 Mr & Mrs Walton  
Jan 11/18 Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones  
Jan 25/Feb 1 Mr & Mrs Ellis

## WITHLEIGH

A good fun evening was enjoyed by everyone who took part in this year's Skittles Evening. The victorious team this year was Margaret Reed's from Cadeleigh. Well done to you all. Thank you to Duncan who organised the evening, with thanks also to those in the kitchen who supplied Hot Dogs and Drinks.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was well attended. As last year, following the placing of the wreath on the War Memorial, a candle was lit in memory of each serviceman listed, as his name was read out.

Please don't forget to visit the Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 28 November, 10.00am - 4.00pm. There

Continued overleaf →

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

will be lots of interesting things to see and buy, and you will also be able to enjoy a cup of coffee, lunch, or cream tea and cakes. There will also be free children's activities in the afternoon until 4.00pm. Our thanks to Laura for all her hard work in organising this event.

A reminder also of the Children's Christmas Party in the Village Hall on Saturday, 5 December. Please ring Sara, 252949, for further details.

Our Christingle Service is on Sunday, 13 December at 4.00pm. Please come and enjoy this special Service where all the Christingles are lit.

We shall be Carol Singing around the village on Monday, 14 December - meeting at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. It would be good to have as many as possible to join us, so come along armed with your torch, ready to sing. We will try to get to as many as we can along the main road, so please keep an ear out for us!

Our Carol Service is on Sunday, 20 December at 6.30pm and we will be reverting back to a traditional service with nine readings and carols. Gifts left under the Christmas tree will, once again, be given to CHAT. In view of them having large stocks of certain food items, CHAT would appreciate small cans with ring-pulls, individual drinks, tinned meat, tins of carrots and peas, cleaning items and shower gel (not bubble bath). After the Service, mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread will be served.

The Christmas Eve Communion Service will be once again at 11.30pm, with Rev. Christopher Rowley conducting the

Service. It is always a good feeling to step out of church after this Service and it is Christmas morning. We look forward to seeing you all at one of these Services or maybe all of them.

Our Plough Service is planned for 10 January at 11am, and our Young Farmers will once again be taking part.

We send our sympathy to Alec Deary on the death of Eileen after a long illness. We shall remember Eileen for her beautiful floral arrangements in our Church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, until her prevailing ill health prevented her from doing them. We also send our sympathy to Kath Winchester on the death of Gerry. Gerry and Kath attended our Church on a regular basis until, again, ill health prevented Gerry from driving them both out from Tiverton. Our prayers and thoughts are with you both and your families.

We send get well wishes to all those who are not well at the moment especially those undergoing treatment or having to spend time in hospital.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

### Witleigh WI

Thursday: 10 Dec Christmas Dinner. Please book your ticket.

Thursday: 14 Jan Lunching Out. Please call Rosie 01884 257123 for details.

### Forthcoming Events:

Saturday, 28 Nov - 10am-4pm Christmas Craft Fayre in the Village Hall.

Saturday 5 Dec - Children's Christmas Party in the Village Hall  
Sunday 13 Dec - Christingle Service at 4.00pm

Monday 14 Dec - Carol Singing around the Village, meeting at 6.30pm

Sunday 20 Dec - Service of Nine lessons and Carols at 6.30pm

Sunday 10 Jan - Plough Service at 11am

### Flower rota:

Nov 29/ Dec 6/13 Janet Stacey  
Dec 20/27 CHRISTMAS  
2016 [Cathy Luxton Tree]  
Jan 3/10/17 Margaret Gale  
Jan 24/31/ Feb 7 Brenda Tucker

### Monthly Diary Dates:

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



## LARC Arising !!

You may not have heard of LARC – Library And Resource Centre- but it's coming to Bampton next year! So what is it about? Bampton's much loved Library is under threat of closure by Devon County Council. It's a very small building and can't support the

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facilities that DCC want to provide via its library service. Unless it can be relocated to larger premises and become more sustainable, it will close. Bad news for Bampton and the surrounding villages! (The library is **still open** for business as usual).

An action group was set up in August 2014 to fight the closure. That action group has developed into LARCS-Supporters - as not only did residents want the library to continue, but also identified lots of other services that they would like to see, via a Resource Centre. Ideas include a youth meeting place, IT classes, 'pop-up' shops for police, Age UK, and CAB, art and craft classes, toddlers group, talks and author events.

So what's happened so far? We have identified a building opposite the main car park in Bampton, originally the primary school - have a look at the posters on the shutter next time you're in Bampton- which has enough space to rehouse the library and provide other facilities that residents identified. The building is sound but needs a new roof and complete refurbishment inside. Once completed it will provide easy access, a toilet with disabled access, and a small kitchen for that important cup of tea while browsing books or partaking in activities. We have already received generous funds from local councils and individuals, but we need a 'big' grant for the bulk of the work, which we are in the process of applying for.

Bampton is the 'local' centre for many neighbouring villages, including Oakford and Stoodleigh, and these extra community facilities, plus the library with extended opening hours, will help to overcome the isolation that often comes with living in our idyllic, but rural villages. We appreciate that travel into Bampton from Oakford and Stoodleigh isn't easy for everyone, and we would welcome any suggestions as to how we could provide transport to visit the library, and any other services we could offer. Of course we welcome residents from any of the Exe Valley villages, to use the shops or the excellent hostelrys, and the new library in the future, but we appreciate the extra travelling involved and the convenience of being nearer to Tiverton.

Any feedback will be most welcome, either by email, telephone or in person, details below. And you can keep up to date via the Bampton Town Web site ([www.bampton.org.uk/library](http://www.bampton.org.uk/library)) or Facebook (Bampton Library And Resource Centre) - and finally, if you are able to offer help in any way, we would be delighted to hear from you!  
Kelvin Holdom

**Contact details:**  
Janet Crabtree (Chairman):  
[janetandamyno6@gmail.com](mailto:janetandamyno6@gmail.com); 01398 332883  
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**Thoughts for Everyday ~**  
**by Patience Strong ~**  
 for 3 December

Happy thoughts can change our lives  
 They're stronger than we guess.  
 Happy thoughts uplift the heart  
 With power to heal and bless.  
 Happy thoughts are magic forces  
 Working secretly ~  
 To establish in our lives  
 Health, peace and harmony.

**OUT OF THE MOUTHS ...**

A Mother was listening to her young daughter saying her prayers and she realised that she was saying the Alphabet over and over.

The next morning she asked her daughter what she had been doing and she explained that sometimes she can't think of exactly the right words. She said "I just say all the letters and God puts them together for me. He knows what I'm thinking !!"

**Thoughts for Everyday ~**  
**by Patience Strong ~**  
 for 20 January

The tree has blossomed overnight  
 For every twig is frozen white  
 And garlanded with crystal sprays  
 That sparkle in the Sun's bright rays  
 And on the window I can trace  
 Where silver branches interlace,  
 A picture on the pane embossed :  
 A fairy orchard white with frost.

**FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS :**



**HOLLY**

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus - the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.

Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

Parish Pump

**USEFUL PRESENTS**

A quick way to make little presents for all your friends.

You will need good pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils so that the paper sticks on more easily.



Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil (and overlap a bit) and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil.



What do elves sing to Santa?  
 Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!



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## PARISH NOTICES

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CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**  
Sunday  
6 December  
3 pm

**CRUWYS MORCHARD  
CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**  
Sunday  
20 December  
11 am

**LOXBEARE  
CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**  
Sunday  
13 December  
3 pm

**OAKFORD  
CAROLS by  
CANDLELIGHT  
SUNDAY**  
20 December  
5.30 pm

**RACKENFORD  
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SERVICE**  
**FRIDAY**  
11 December  
4 pm

**STOODLEIGH  
Carol Service  
with Choir**  
Sunday  
20 December  
6 pm

**TEMPLETON  
CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**  
Sunday  
13 December  
5.00 pm

**WASHFIELD  
CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**  
Sunday  
20 December  
11 am

**WITHLEIGH  
CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**  
Sunday  
13 December  
4 pm

**OAKFORD  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY**  
12 DECEMBER  
2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Teas and cakes available

**STOODLEIGH  
CHRISTMAS FAYRE  
SATURDAY**  
5 DECEMBER  
PARISH HALL  
10.30am - 12.30pm

**WASHFIELD  
CHRISTMAS SALE  
COFFEE MORNING**  
at The Cottage  
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01884 242052  
enquiries@ageukmiddevon.org.uk  
www.ageukmiddevon.org.uk  
Registered charity number 1070792

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