

## MODERN DISCIPLES

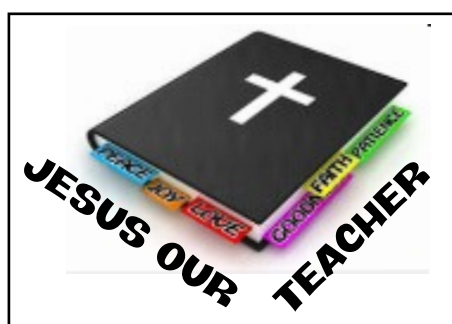
In the Gospels we read a great deal about Jesus' disciples. We sometimes refer to Peter, James & John as friends of Jesus and so we should. But discipleship covers very much more than just friendship, important as that is.

In Biblical thought the word "Disciple" means learner - someone who sees themselves as learning from the Master to whom they are indentured, to use a modern term. Thus Jesus' disciples were those whom He called in order to learn from Him, and were prepared for the cost of following him, including many nights away from home or sleeping rough.

The church today also refers to "disciples", but with a rather different emphasis. A recent church report refers to "the discipleship of all the baptised" and "Gifts of (Christian) leadership are recognised and developed among all the baptised".

Now this raises an important issue. About 20 million people in Britain have been baptised. Are they all disciples? Are they all joining themselves to the risen Jesus to learn more about Him, coming to Church to hear His

word, partaking in Bible study and other Groups which churches run to help people learn about God? What about a middle aged man who was "Christened" at the instigation of his grandmother putting pressure upon his parents to have him "done", but has hardly darkened the door of a church since? What about the young lady who has been brought up in church but in her early twenties chose to reject her faith and adopt into the secular culture? In what sense can we say these are Disciples of Jesus Christ?



Of these twenty million or so baptised members of our society only about 1 million are in church at all regularly. I am not trying to stigmatise them or to belittle them in any way - Jesus valued all people, especially the disadvantaged and the "underdog". But it is surely right

to ask in what sense such people are "disciples" of Jesus whether baptised or not!

As we approach the season of Lent and then Holy Week and Easter, maybe we should ask ourselves "In what sense am I a disciple of the Jesus who loved me so much that He went to the cross to save me from the punishment that I deserve."

Our lifestyle actually condemns each one of us when we put it up against the standard set by The Lord Jesus. Christians should be the first to admit their failures, but Christians are also those who are disciples in the Biblical sense, those who know that Jesus has saved them and that His desire for them is to become disciples - learners at His feet.

As I contemplate the cross and resurrection this Easter I must ask myself "Am I a learner - do I really want to know Jesus better, to understand His love for me more and to share in the new life He has reserved for His true disciples through His glorious resurrection and ascension."

*John Roberts*

## THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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



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## EDITORIAL

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. As we move into 2016, we pray that a new Rector can be appointed but we also hope that the deepening bond between our Parishes will continue to grow.

Our new "TODAY" email address is functioning well and we would like to thank Dave Burton for setting it up for us and for all his hard work on the Exe Valley Churches website.

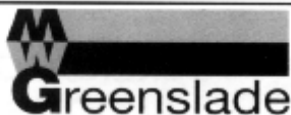
*Jenny and Geoff*

## MOVING ON PART 6

May I begin the new year by thanking everybody, on behalf of both Elizabeth and myself, for the support we have received since taking on, once again, the administration (on an interim basis – please note!), and whilst dealing with the paperwork and meetings relating to the vacancy in our Mission Community. Yes, there have been difficult times during the past year, but I think it fair to say that the Mission Community has grown stronger as we have worked our way through them.

A revised timetable is now in place in our quest for a new Rector. Adverts are currently being placed in the Church Times (29 January and 5 February), with a closing date for applications of 17 February. Short-listing is scheduled for 25 February, with interviews to take place on 11 March. Please continue to pray for all involved in the selection process.

As a Mission Community, we are blessed with a number of lay leaders, some of whom are now very experienced, and some of whom are in the early stages (having responded positively to a little persuasion!).



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We are extremely grateful to you all for enabling our churches to keep going.

At Anna's instigation, a number of current and potential lay leaders met with Andrew Godsall and Penny Doe, both from the Diocese, in early November to consider the way forward for us all in terms of general encouragement and help for all our lay leaders. It is now hoped to set up a five-week course, on either Monday or Tuesday evenings in the near future. Such a course would be run by Andrew Maries under the title of 'Wings for Worship'. Even if you were unable to attend November's meeting, but would be willing to become a lay leader, then please consider coming along.

Our Ash Wednesday Service this year will be at Loxbeare on 10 February at 7.30pm, and will be a Service of Holy Communion.

Our March Group Service will be on Palm Sunday, 20 March, at St Catherine's, Withleigh when Bishop Sarah will be taking the Service. Here is your chance to hear and meet our Bishop of Crediton.

On Maundy Thursday, 24 March, our Agape Service will also be at Withleigh in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, and will follow the traditional format.

## Paul Iliff

### "Seven reasons to ban the Lord's Prayer"

An Address given by the Bishop of Sheffield before Christmas

(Posted by Bishop Steven Croft on 22nd November 2015)

Britain woke up this morning to the news that the Lord's Prayer has been banned from cinemas.

The C. of E. has produced a sixty second commercial. The only words are the words of the Lord's Prayer, said by children, the bereaved, people at work and so on. It's a beautiful film, Certificate U. The ad is to promote a new website, Just Pray UK. The plan was (and is) to show the film before Christmas at screenings of the new Star Wars film, to help everyone think about prayer and to pray. What could be more simple?

The distributors have declared the Lord's Prayer unsuitable for screening. They believe it carries the risk of upsetting or offending audiences. Cue indignation from the press, fury from the Archbishop (according to the Mail anyway) debates about free speech, a possible challenge in the courts and a storm on social media.

But wait just a moment. Suppose the cinema chains have got this one right?

I disagree with their decision and I disagree with the reasons they have given. I hope it's reversed. I don't believe the film will offend or upset audiences, in the way they mean, and I don't believe it creates a new precedent. But from the point of view of global corporations and consumer culture, from the perspective of the gods and spirits of the age, there are very good reasons indeed to ban the Lord's Prayer from cinemas and from culture and from public life.

This is a prayer said by billions of people every day in every language on the planet. In every single moment in time, someone is praying these words. They are the first words of prayer we learn as children and the last words we say at the moment of death.

The Lord's Prayer is powerful for a reason. These words shape lives and families and communities and whole societies. There are real reasons why the Lord's Prayer has been banned by the demigods of consumer culture, in the boardrooms of the cinema chains. Here are seven - one for every line.

First, this prayer gives to those who pray, an identity and a place in the world and a counter-cultural community. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name". It opposes the myth that we are random specks of matter floating through space and time. It opposes the myth that our lives do not matter. It opposes the myth of fragmented humanity.

We are created and loved and called into friendship with God who is our father - and into community with our fellow human beings, who are therefore our sisters and brothers. Only someone who has found this new identity can stand against the advertising culture which, night and day, seduces us to define who we are by what we spend.

Second, this prayer gives us the courage to live in an imperfect world. "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". The world is not as it was meant to be. It is distorted from its true purpose but God is at work to redeem and transform this world, to establish his kingdom. The Lord's Prayer invites us not to retreat from the world in fear and pain, to anaesthetise or indulge ourselves. The Lord's Prayer invites us to join the struggle to see justice and peace prevail.

Third and most powerfully, the Lord's Prayer teaches us to live with just enough. This is the most dangerous reason why it

continued overleaf →

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cannot be shown with the adverts at the cinema. It teaches us not to want more. It teaches contentment, the most subversive virtue of them all. "Give us this day our daily bread". This is not a prayer for more. This is a prayer only for what we need. Every other advert in the cinema is there to encourage us to spend money in pursuit of happiness. This one restrains our greed.

Fourth, the Lord's Prayer teaches me to live with my imperfections and the imperfections of others. There is a way to deal with the rubbish in our lives. "Forgive us our sins". Consumer culture holds before us the image of perfection. We cannot be happy until we look like this person, live like that one. Each image is a lie. The Lord's Prayer acknowledges human imperfection and sin, daily. The Lord's Prayer offers a pathway to forgiveness, daily. The way of forgiveness cannot be bought. It is a gift. Grace. Grace subverts the whole culture of advertising.

Fifth, the Lord's Prayer offers a way of reconciliation. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us". We are not meant to feud or live in hostility or rivalry. We are meant to forgive and be forgiven, to be reconciled to each other. That reconciliation happens without expensive presents, without going into debt, without credit. People are not made happy by more things, another consumer lie. The greatest happiness comes from relationships. The key to great relationships is reconciliation and forgiveness.

Sixth, the Lord's Prayer builds resilience in the human spirit. When you say this prayer each day, you are prepared for the bad days. "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." When we say this prayer we remind ourselves that we are not living in 3-D Disney fairy tale, a

saccharine creation of film makers where every story has a happy ending.

We are living in a real world of cancer and violence and difficulty, where we are tested, where bad things happen for no clear reason. We live in that world confident in God's love and goodness and help even in the midst of the most challenging moments of our lives. Faith is for the deep valleys as much as the green pastures. We may not have the answers but we know that God dwells with us and in us.

And seventh, the Lord's Prayer tells us how the story ends, how this life is to be lived and lived well. "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen". The prayer returns as it begins to the praise and glory of the living God. Our hearts return to their origin and source, the one who created us. Life is to be lived to God's praise and glory, not to satisfy our own small desires. We are beings with a higher calling and a greater purpose.

There are only 63 words in the Lord's Prayer. It takes less than a minute to say them, yet these words shape our identity, give purpose to our lives, check our greed, remind us of our imperfections, offer a way of reconciliation, build resilience in our spirits and call us to live to the glory of our creator.

No wonder they have been banned in the boardrooms of consumer culture.

*Submitted by John Roberts*

As long as there is existence  
There are moments  
And every moment  
Can be a thousand joys

## NATURE NOTES

I recently met a lady who had moved from Exmoor to Dartmouth. I asked her what differences had she found living in these two places in Devon and she answered "One overcoat". Though the answer was unexpected, I was reminded that the people of Britain probably don't need to be lectured about climate change nor [for us] Global Warming.

Nature's response to the cold can sometimes be unpredictable. The trees suddenly decided to lose the majority of their leaves during the middle two weeks of last November which, though the dullest on record, could only be described as mild. Conversely, at this time, the nasturtiums in the garden were sprouting leaves and Cornish tea growers were still harvesting fresh shoots. Similarly the duckweed, which proliferates in ponds and in the quieter sections of canals, was spreading at an alarming rate. I must admit to being quite fascinated with this plant which, so delicate in detail, looks horrendous en masse. Before condemning it, you should be aware that it is potentially a great environmental hero – it clears pollutants and particularly nitrates from water courses; it locks in carbon dioxide; and it could be a great benefit in better safeguarding water stocks, if evaporation from the surface is an issue.

However, it is fair to say that all these green examples respond immediately to a serious drop in temperature [and particularly duckweed which literally disappears]. If I had to pick a temperature where all life starts to take notice, I would say around 4° Centigrade. Certainly, microbial activity slows at this point and hence the temperature set point on our fridges and advice written

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

on food packaging. If I remember my school lessons correctly water also peaks in density at these levels before reducing again as its freezing point is approached. This unique property and miracle of design ensures that no matter how cold it is, water can only start to freeze at the top surface. All freshwater aquatic life must be eternally grateful for this, as the annual threat of being encased in some giant Caithness-like paperweight creation would be a fatal contemplation.

I was also taught that comfortable room temperature is 60° Fahrenheit [15.56° C] and it is true that most seeds will show an interest in germination as this point is reached. Nevertheless I can assure you that if our central heating thermostat was set at this level the delicate plants in our household would leave home.

*Thomas More*

## PARISH ROUND-UP

### CALVERLEIGH

Happy New Year from everyone at Calverleigh Church! We hope that you all had a good Christmas break.

Back in November we held our annual Autumn Fayre in Calverleigh Village Hall and raised over £700 towards Church funds. Thanks to everyone that supported the event and, of course, to all who ran stalls.

Our Christmas celebrations kicked off with our well attended Christingle Service

- which was led by Nikki Burton. During the service we handed out 40 Christingles, which were generously provided by Doreen Venn – thank you!

This year's Carol Service was led by Anna Hansford, with the first Carol opened by Nikki & Dave Burton of the Calverleigh Church Choir, who did a duet on the first verse of Once in Royal David's City. Refreshments after the Service included mulled wine and mince pies. We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to making this a wonderful Service - including the readers, choir, flower arrangers, churchwardens and the ladies who provided the refreshments.

On Christmas morning our Service was led by Rev'd Jane Wilson, who gave a lovely talk to the many children who had left their new Christmas presents, to attend church! It was wonderful to see so many on such a special day.

Many gifts of non-perishable goods, toiletries and tinned items were left under the Christmas tree for distribution by CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) to those in need in and around Tiverton. Our thanks go to those who donated so generously.

Best wishes go to those who have been unwell over the past two months. We hope and pray that you are feeling much better.

Condolences go to the family of Stella from Farleigh, who sadly passed away just before Christmas. Our thoughts and prayers are also with anyone who has lost a loved one recently. May God comfort you at this time.

#### Community News

The Exe Valley Friends' Group of the Children's Hospice South West would

like to thank Stuart and Kath of the Rose and Crown, Calverleigh for their wonderful support by organising a charity evening on 19 December. They organised a mammoth raffle, put up with members of the group singing carols and even donated £2 from every meal sold that evening to the cause. The magnificent sum of £545 was raised, of which every penny will be used wisely for the life limited children and their families who use Little Bridge House, Barnstaple regularly. Thanks also to everyone who came along on the night and those who supported the evening in various other ways. Children's Hospice SW is very grateful to you all.

#### Church Cleaning Rota

25 Jan / 6 Feb - Miss S Goldsworthy  
8 / 20 Feb - Mrs M Webber  
22 Feb / 5 Mar - Mrs R Tapp  
7 / 19 Mar - Mrs S Greenslade  
21 Mar / 2 Apr - Mrs M Herniman

#### Flower Rota

31 Jan / 7 Feb - Mrs B Hill  
14 / 21 Feb - Mrs T Pugsley  
28 Feb / 6 Mar - Mrs S. Greenslade  
13 / 20 Mar - Mrs M. L. Ravnkilde  
27 Mar / 3 Apr - Mrs. L. Thomas

If you have any items for the magazine or the Calverleigh website pages to Dave Burton by calling 07817 851856 / 01884 561499 or by emailing: [calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org](mailto:calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org) Get the latest at: [www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh](http://www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh)

### CRUWYS MORCHARD

continued overleaf →



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

**O**ur Christingle and Carol Service on 20 December was very well attended, with 78 adults and 24 children. Thank you to all who decorated the Church so beautifully and helped to make this a thoroughly enjoyable service. It began with a solo sung by Eleanor Clark, and continued with a Nativity play performed by the children of the Parish. We all agreed that they performed and sang wonderfully. The play was "While Shepherds Watched", with the children dressed as both shepherds and sheep. They sang two carols on their own. Thank you for the gifts for CHAT, who will use them to provide food and basic supplies for the homeless and needy in the Tiverton area. Thank you also to those who helped to make the Christingles for the Service and the refreshments following it.

**Mothering Sunday.** Please join us and the Young Farmers for a Family Service on Sunday 6 March at 11.00am

**Palm Sunday,** on Sunday 20 March this year, is a Group Service at Witleigh at 10.30am, with Bishop Sarah taking the Service.

**Easter Sunday 27 March.** Holy Communion at 11am.

**PCC Wednesday 17 February 7.30pm.**

**Ladies Committee Tuesday 23 February 7.30pm** at Hilary's.

**Church AGM Wednesday 16 March 7.30pm** in the Church.

**Parish Hall AGM Saturday 8 March 8pm,** all welcome.

**Pink Bingo Saturday 26 March 7.30pm (8pm)**

### 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.  
February 1 / 8 Sonia Notley  
February 15 / 22 - Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton

February 29/ March 7 - Lorna Warren

March 14 - Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

March 21 - **Decorators for Easter**

March 28 / 4 April - Sue and Pauline Guscott

### Stove Rota

February - Mr G Cruwys

March - Mr J Lake

Please light the stove on Saturday (morning if possible) If you are unable to please contact:

Cindy Tel: 01363 866621. or Diana Tel: 01363 860227

**Sorry we ran out of oil in January.**

Yoga is continuing with one class every Thursday at 10am-11.30am

### Young Farmers

The Club has been busy over the Christmas and New Year period, rehearsing for the Exe Valley YFC Group Drama Competition – by the time you read this, the competition will have been held. The ballroom dancing team took part in the Devon round of the YFC Ballroom Competition and came a very respectable fourth. Who knew that young farmers could ballroom dance !! The Club is holding a Bingo evening on Saturday 27 February at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall, doors open 7.30

pm, eyes down 8.00 pm. 10 book games plus flyer with usual good prizes and raffle. If you are interested in joining the Young Farmers, please come along to our meetings, which are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at the Parish Hall.

The Parish Library is still in the back of the Church, please come and borrow whenever you like, but please do not leave bags of books without ringing 01363 866864 first.

### Pennymoor Congregational Church.

**Sunday Services** at 4.30 pm followed by refreshments

1st Sun Family service

2nd Sun Communion

3rd Sun Way Village (2.30)

4th Sun Praise & Prayer

5th Sun Mr O Mears

**Good Friday morning**

Prayer vigil from 11.00 – 12.30

**Easter Service** will be at 11.00 am

and taken by Yvonne Campbell, the New General Secretary of the Congregational Federation.

**Holiday at Home**

African Themed Messy Holiday

Tue 16 Feb 11am

After School Easter Crafts

Monday 21 March 4.30 pm

All our news & photos on 'Pennymoor Church' Facebook page

Pennymoor Pop-In Resumes in April

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## **New Creation News** **January 2016**

*Proclaiming the Gospel since 1988*

**“In Christ we are a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come”**  
*2 Corinthians 5 v 17*

Amazingly, this was the ‘verse for today’ for 1 January this year, sent from the Bible Gateway. It must have been a God Incidence as it has certainly proved to be true for us! Bruce, with other kind volunteers, has worked so hard to transform the kitchen and bathroom. We are so grateful to him and to all the other helpers for giving their time and expertise and to the Lord for answering our prayers. Our thanks also go to the dear friend who gave us the units. We hope you will appreciate the alterations and all the work that has taken place.

Thank you for your support over the pre-Christmas period. Rikky reports that, with some welcome donations, our figures show a small profit. Please join with us to praise and thank the Lord!

Some forthcoming dates for your diary (Resources are, or will be shortly, available in the shop):-

- Shrove Tuesday – 9 February
- Ash Wednesday – 10 February
- CTBI Lent Course, a 7 week exploration of spiritual journeying. Details may be had from [www.lentpilgrimage.org.uk](http://www.lentpilgrimage.org.uk). A flyer may be seen on New Creation notice board.
- Valentines Day – 14 February
- Fairtrade Fortnight – 29 February to 13 March. You have the power to change lives when you choose Fairtrade products. See [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)
- Mothering Sunday – March 6
- Good Friday – 25<sup>th</sup> March All over the country the story of the Passion will be told in hundreds of new and challenging ways. See the ‘One Friday project. Download a PDF to discuss and start planning – from the website [www.onefriday.info](http://www.onefriday.info)

Do come in to browse and perhaps get warm by taking advantage of  
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## **PARISH ROUND-UP**

You will benefit from class demonstrations and one to one tuition working closely with Leigh-Anne. By the end of the weekend you will be able to:

Carefully strip off the necessary upholstery layers ready to begin work. Repair any damage to the seat, and rebuild from scratch using traditional tools, materials and techniques. Apply an upholstery fabric of your choice, achieving all the upholstery tricks of cuts, corners and folds. Complete your item of furniture, using hand stitching techniques and decorative trim.

You can use your camera phone to take photos throughout the weekend, recording the many stages of upholstery. Stripping the layers off old furniture can be fascinating and you learn a great deal during the process.

Don't forget to take the 'Before' photo for visual proof of the ultimate transformation!

Do you have a poor old project you wish to transform? Please send a photo, or your enquiries, to

[leighannetreadwell@yahoo.com](mailto:leighannetreadwell@yahoo.com)

Weekend course fee £210, which includes all traditional upholstery materials, specialist tool hire, refreshments and expert tuition over two days.

I would like to apologise to Simon and Catherine Tapp for spelling their name incorrectly in the last issue.

We would like to welcome Elaine and Bryan Wright and their son Gregg, who have recently moved to Way Village.

We would like to send our sympathy to those who are grieving at this time, and our thoughts and prayers go to those who are sick and not well. Get Well Soon.

continued overleaf →

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### LOXBEORE

**A** Happy New Year to everyone and trust you experienced the wonder of Christmas time as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Here in Loxbeare we began the Christmas Celebrations with our Christingle Service on the 13 December at 3pm in the Church taken by John with a cup of tea after the service. Linda explained the meaning of the Christingle with the Children, who then made them during the service and distributed them to everyone present in the last hymn. Thank you to those who helped.

Our Carol Service, led by John on 20 December at 6.30pm was well attended with many taking part with readings and Linda did a lovely slot with the children reading and acting the nativity story. The offering went to Vranck House. Presents were placed under the tree during the first carol and were later taken to Ashdowne/Pinnex Moor. Mince pies were served after the service. The Christmas Day service was taken by John with many favourite carols sung and readings followed by Communion.

The Carol Singers covered Loxbeare and Calverleigh homes during the three evenings 19, 21, 23 December. A wonderful total of £700 was collected or donated and will be split between Cancer Research and Open Doors. A big thank you to everyone who sang, provided supper on the three nights and to all who gave so generously. Some went to Ashdowne on Christmas Eve and sang to the residents who appreciated and enjoyed the singing.

On 10 Jan our new family service went well, led by Ron with Linda giving a children's talk and activity themed on Jesus loving everyone no matter how old or young and how we need to trust him like children.

Our Feb family service will be on the 14 February at 11am led by Ryan and Georgina Doeller. The March Family Service will be on the 13 March at 11am to be led by the Rev'd Jane Wilson. Everyone welcome of any age.

The Village Party was on Saturday 9 January and was enjoyed by all ages with a few joining us from Calverleigh. Thank you to Ron and Margaret for organising it and for anyone who helped.

Omitted from the last magazine: On the 18 October we were privileged to have Bishop Rod Thomas to preside at our Family Communion Service. Bishop Rod, who has now been appointed as an assistant Bishop in the Exeter Diocese, said that this was the first service he had taken since his consecration in Canterbury Cathedral, so we considered it a particular privilege to have him with us.

Bishop Rod preached on Ephesians 4 and pointed out the wonderful truth that the Church of God was the only body which would last for eternity, - we might see what appeared to be weak and sometimes ineffective organisation now but the eternal truth is that when Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, the church will be presented "to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless". Ephesians 5. v 27.

Mothering Sunday 6 March will be in the Village Hall with the Service commencing at 10.30am. This will be preceded by a full English Breakfast from 9.30am cooked and served by the men. Do come and join us.

The Good Friday Service on the 25 March will be at 11am in Loxbeare Church. Easter Sunday Service also in the Church at 10.30am. Come and celebrate the message of Easter of Jesus' death and resurrection 'He is Risen. Hallelujah!'

The Exe Valley Woman's Bible Study Group 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.

The APCC meeting will be held on the 21 Jan at Loxbeare Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell, for those having treatment, waiting for operations and those recovering from ops.

Congratulations to John and Marion on the birth of a grandson, Nathaniel, to James and Anna on 27 December. Our love and best wishes to you all. Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in February/March and congratulations to those celebrating special occasions.

There will be a Village Hall meeting at 7.30pm on the 16 February.

On 13 February there will be a "Cream Tea" in the Village Hall between 3-5pm. 12 March will be a "Coffee Shop" 11-12.30pm.

The Christmas Fayre went well and raised approximately £330 and with £160 from the bingo, around £490 went to the Village Hall Fund. The Village Christmas Meal was at Bickleigh Mill. Thank you to Sue for organising the evening.

There will be Village Bingo in the Hall on 21 March 7 for 7.30pm. Contact Carol on 01884 881480.

**Loxbeare Ladies** Dates and activities to be arranged. Phone Sue 01884 259496. **Advance notice:** Safari Supper - Saturday 14 May. Anyone willing to host starters or main meal please contact Richard Vickery on 01884 881234.

### OAKFORD

**W**e hope everyone had a good Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year.

December was a busy month as usual. December 10 the children decorated the church Christmas tree, which was kindly provided by Bun and Brenda and at 6pm we all met at the Village tree to sing carols. It was a very wet night so John and Patsy Phillips, who had provided the mulled wine, invited all 22 of us into their home. Brenda, Wendy, Connie and Maggie brought the sausage rolls and mince pies and we all enjoyed sitting by a roaring fire singing carols.



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

The Christmas Tree Festival was held in the church on December 12. Nineteen beautifully decorated trees were brought by the parish council, footpaths, the Red Lion, The Players, the Moorland Club and many individuals. Some represented a Christmas carol, others their club or organization. It was a lovely occasion. Teas were available, stalls and raffle. This raised over £250 for church funds. Many thanks to all who made cakes and sandwiches, provided raffle prizes, manned the various stalls etc. and all those who took part and supported it.

It was great to see so many people at the Carols by Candlelight Service held on December 20. The church looked lovely with all the tree lights and candles twinkling. Our thanks to Revd. Keith Gale for taking the service, to Mary playing the organ, the readers, to Dawn and Geoffrey for the mulled wine and to Brenda, Wendy and Connie who provided mince pies.

On a sad note, we send our love, prayers and sympathy to Mary, our organist, and to her family at the sad loss of her mother just before Christmas.

We give our grateful thanks to Shirley Bedford for delivering the parish magazines around Oakfordbridge for some years now but regrettably she has to retire from doing this. However, Dawn Goodwin has agreed to carry on the good work. Many thanks, Dawn.

Congratulations to Bun Burrows, who has had a woodland path named after him, in honour of his forty years in forestry on Exmoor.

We look forward now to Easter which is earlier this year, Easter Sunday being on March 27 and hope you will be able to join us in this celebration.

**Village events:**

The Oakford Players put on a great show, 'Allo! 'Allo!, at the beginning of December, playing to sell-out performances. We wish them well in the future and look forward to the next show.

**Moorland Club:**

We all enjoyed the Christmas Lunch at Petroc and hope we have a happy and successful New Year.

February 11 7pm Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz

March 10 7.30pm Presentation of charity cheques

April 14 7.30pm AGM and entertainment

## RACKENFORD

**W**e are now nearing the end of January and Christmas will probably be the last thing on our minds, however we hope you have enjoyed Christmas, our Services and various celebrations.

Sadly, we were unable to meet up for our graveyard tidying before Christmas due to such bad weather but in the Spring we resume our task and hope you will be able to help in some way.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was covered in the previous issue, however, it was heartwarming to see some Rackenford School children gathered at The War Memorial on 11 November at 11am with their teacher, to lay their card and remember.

Our flag was flying at half mast on 16 November, to pay our respects to the people tragically killed in Paris. Unfortunately, our flag was unable to withstand the awful weather conditions and was removed sooner than planned ( in bits ). Many thanks to Glenn Hookins for braving the conditions which was most kind and thoughtful.

Our Group Service took place on 22 November. Lovely to hear the bells welcoming a full church. Rev John Roberts took our Service and welcomed David Beasley from The Leprosy Mission, who proceeded to inform us of the work and hope involved. £300 was taken in collection and divided between The Leprosy Mission and our church. Refreshments were served after the service.

Once again we had Rev Jane Wilson taking a Holy Communion Service in November with Graham Fennel at the organ.

Best wishes to Rick and Jane Aldridge who have left Rackenford and we welcome the new inhabitants of The Old Forge.

We have heard of several people who are not well and some have had operations: Pearl Stone, Ann Freeman, Peter Reynolds , Rod Borman, Dave Collins, Gordon Shaddick, Muriel Blinman , Charlotte West, Joan Clark and Des Reed. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we sincerely hope you are all improving.

A Nativity play by the younger children of Rackenford School took place at Church on 15 December at 2pm. The children did so well and looked amazing in their costumes. In the evening at 7pm the older children treated us to a performance of " Hosanna Rock ", solo performances, duets, and prayers were read by the children throughout. The church was full with proud parents and friends who really enjoyed this lovely Service. Mandy Lewry gave us a most interesting talk and Kate Dunning welcomed and thanked all involved, especially the children for all their enthusiasm. The collection from both Services went to "Save the Children".

Our Christingle Service was taken by Mandy Lewry. The children who took part made the christingles and formed a circle of light inside the church while singing to us, carols and prayers were enjoyed throughout. Such a special Service for all ages to enjoy. The retiring collection was in aid of "The Childrens Society".

Many thanks to all who helped to decorate our Church for Christmas. We had a beautiful tree beside the Altar, for which we thank Tim and Liz Paxton. Lovely arrangements on the Altar, Stand and Window were kindly given by Alison Trazies. Our Nativity Scene, as always, was displayed on the font. This was made years ago by the late Sylvia Crocker and Elsie Carter.

The Stag welcomed Carol Singers, with Marjorie Smith and Graham Fennel taking it in turns to provide the music - a jolly evening and mince pies to enjoy.

Continued on Page 12 ➔

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# EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

## Praying and Worshipping Together

### Saturday Prayer Breakfasts

13 February and 12 March 9am in Loxbeare Hall

### Prayer and Bible Study

Wednesdays at Church Cottage, Stoodleigh  
7.30pm on 15 and 22 February

### Exe Valley Women's Bible Study

Alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm  
Churchill House, Loxbeare

### Loxbeare Prayer and Praise Meeting

3rd Tuesday in month at 7.30pm  
01884 881362 for venues

### Walk the Talk - Withleigh Home Group

Alternate Mondays at 8pm. 01884 253473

### LENT

Ash Wednesday Service Holy Communion  
7.30pm in Loxbeare Church

### Lent Study Groups

Wednesdays from 17 February to 16 March  
Venue to be announced.

### Agape Meal

7.30pm in Withleigh Hall

## Exe Valley Central Services

Each Sunday in Templeton Village Hall  
11am (Unless otherwise stated)

Preaching will be from John's Gospel,  
under these headings.

### Ministry of the Incarnate King

7 February John 14. 1 - 14 \*  
14 February John 14. 15 - 31 ^  
21 February John 15. 18 - 27  
28 February Group Service  
Washfield John 17. 1 - 26

6 March Mothering Sunday in Parishes

13 March John 18. 25 - 40 ^  
20 March Group Service  
Withleigh with Bishop Sarah

### Ministry of the Risen King

27 March Easter Day in Parishes

\* Cafe Style set-up

^ Holy Communion in the round

## OAKFORD

### **7 February**

9.30 am Holy Communion

### **14 February**

9.30 am Family Service

### **21 February**

9.30 am Holy Communion

### **28 February**

See Washfield

### **6 March**

9.30 am Holy Communion

### **13 March**

9.30 am Family Service

### **20 March**

See Withleigh

### **27 March**

9.30 am Holy Communion

## RACKENFORD

### **7 February**

9.30 am Family Service

### **14 February**

9.30 am Morning Worship

### **21 February**

11.15 am Holy Communion

### **28 February**

See Washfield

### **6 March**

9.30 am Family Service

### **13 March**

9.30 am Morning Worship

### **20 March**

See Withleigh

### **27 March**

11 am Holy Communion

## STOODLEIGH

### **7 February**

11 am Family Service

### **14 February**

11 am Holy Communion

### **21 February**

11 am Morning Prayer

### **28 February**

See Washfield

### **6 March**

11 am Family Service

### **13 March**

11 am Morning Prayer

### **20 March**

See Withleigh

### **27 March**

11 am Holy Communion

**CALVERLEIGH**

**7 February**

No Service

**14 February**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**21 February**

11.15 am Morning Worship

**28 February**

See Washfield

**6 March**

11.15 am Mothering Sunday Service

**13 March**

11.15 am Service of the Word

**20 March**

See Withleigh

**27 March**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**

**7 February**

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

**14 February**

11 am Holy Communion

**21 February**

11 am Family Service

**28 February**

See Washfield

**6 March**

11 am Family Service

**13 March**

9.30 am Morning Prayer

**20 March**

See Withleigh

**27 March**

11 am Holy Communion

**LOXBEARE**

**7 February**

6.30 pm Evening Praise

**14 February**

11 am Family Service

**21 February**

9.30 am Family Communion

**28 February**

See Washfield

**6 March**

9.30 am Breakfast Service

**13 March**

11 am Family Service

**20 March**

See Withleigh

**27 March**

11 am Family Communion

**TEMPLETON**

**7 February**

11 am Family Service

**14 February**

No Service

**21 February**

9.30am Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

**28 February**

See Washfield

**6 March**

11 am Family Service

**13 March**

No Service

**20 March**

See Withleigh

**27 March**

9.30am Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

**WASHFIELD**

**7 February**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**14 February**

3 pm Taizé

**21 February**

11 am Family Service

**28 February**

10.30 am Group Service

**6 March**

11 am Holy Communion

**13 March**

11 am Morning Prayer

**20 March**

See Withleigh

**27 March**

11 am Holy Communion by Extension

**WITHLEIGH**

**7 February**

11 am Family Service

**14 February**

9.30 am Holy Communion

**21 February**

11 am Service of the Word

**28 February**

See Washfield

**6 March**

11 am Family Service

**13 March**

No Service

**20 March**

10.30 am Group Service

**27 March**

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Service

## PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Carol Service was held on Christmas Eve - with the bells ringing, a full church and Rev Christopher Roley, it was a fitting Service to enjoy and celebrate our Lord's birth. We were treated to the carol "Shepherd Boy Tell Me", by our choir - small in numbers but sang so well. Many thanks to Jenny, Mary, Ruth, Fiona and Flora. We were also blessed with "Three Kings" in the form of Rev Christopher Roley, Darren Blackburn and Edward Smith !!!! A shortened Holy Communion followed.

Sadly we started the New Year with some very sad news, as we heard of the death of Ken Blackford and Joan Arscott. Ken had spent the last years at Ashdowne House, Tiverton. However Ken grew up in Rackenford and lived at "Malson" and for many years was involved with Rackenford Club. Our deepest sympathy to Linda, Mike and Jasmine and all of Ken's family and friends.

Joan Arscott also died on New Year's Day, a few days after happily celebrating her 94th birthday. For many years Joan lived at East Nutcott with late husband Jack and late daughter Gwendoline. After leaving Rackenford she lived at St George's, Tiverton, where she still requested a copy of our Church Magazine to keep in touch with "home". Our love and deepest sympathy to all of Joan's family.

### A few dates and information for your new diaries.

Bishop Sarah, The Bishop of Crediton will be taking our Holy Communion Service on 21 February at 11.15am

Our Easter Sunday Service on 27 March 11am will be taken by Rev Ian Johnson.

We continue to thank our churchwardens and some members of the congregation, for all the services they take for us.

**Bingos** are planned to start again in April. Watch out for posters confirming dates.

Last but not least, we understand from that little bird that Mary Cann will be celebrating her 70th birthday on 27 February or has that little bird got it wrong? Could it be her 21st!!! Happy Birthday Mary. Also to anyone else who has a birthday or anniversary we have not been told about.

Once again, a reminder that if you have something you want mentioned in this magazine for Rackenford, please contact Hilda Nott **a week before** the deadline on the bottom of the front page of this magazine.

Happy New Year.

## STOODLEIGH

Christmas was a busy time at St Margaret's Church. It began with the arrival of a superb Christmas tree from John Widdowson and was followed rapidly by a team of very able flower ladies to decorate the Church, which looked very festive and colourful. Our thanks to all those who contributed to the decorations and the decorating.

The Carol Service on Sunday 20 December saw a packed candlelit Church, a choir of 18 and a beautifully performed Nativity Play, with even more children than usual. The whole Service was held together by the Revd Tim Hunt, who also added his splendid bass voice to the choir.

Two days later, a stalwart quintet visited quite a few houses in the village to sing carols. The singers are so grateful to everyone for their contributions (in more ways than one!) and we were delighted to

be able to give £104 to the Church flower fund.

Christmas Day also saw a well-filled Church with magnificent singing from the congregation. It was a pleasure to have Canon Jane Wilson with us to celebrate Holy Communion. Although not quite so many, the church was again fairly full for the Group Service two days after Christmas, led by Anna Hansford. It was lovely to be able to welcome parishioners from the Exe Valley group of Churches to Stoodleigh.

Over this Christmastide, many favourite carols have been sung. So do book the Sunday before Christmas 2016 for the next Carol Service and also come and join the carol singers!

Saturday 21 November proved to be one of the few dry days of Autumn, which made the annual clear-up of the churchyard almost a pleasure! Many thanks to Richard Hill and all the helpers for such a successful morning.

The Parish Hall looked so attractive for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5 December. The colourful stalls filled with high quality goods, mainly produced in Stoodleigh, attracted the many buyers. Father Christmas made an appearance, to the delight of the children. Many thanks to all those who made, gave, bought and came to support. An amazing total of just over £1,000 was raised for church funds.

We send our warm congratulations to Nicola Palfrey on passing her chartered surveyor's exams.

### Dates for your diaries

Sunday 28 Feb: Group Service 10.30,  
Washfield  
Sunday 6 March: Mothering Sunday  
Family Service 11am  
Sunday 20 March: Palm Sunday Group  
Service 10.30, Withleigh

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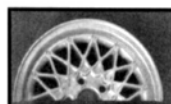


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**DOIVE DESIGNS**

## PARISH ROUND-UP

Sunday 27 March: Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service 11am  
 Tuesday 29 March: Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at Church Cottage 2.30pm

**Parish Hall events**

Friday 19 February: Slide Show "South West Coast Path" by Jennifer Rowlandson, 7.30pm at the Hall. Many of you will remember the successful slide shows by Jennifer previously – "A Year on Exmoor" in 2014 and "Seven Years around Stoodleigh" in 2015. Tickets will include mulled wine and nibbles and are available from Margaret 351252, or Geraldine 351391. This is another joint event and funds raised will be for St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall.

Saturday 26 March: Easter Market & Coffee Morning, from 10am until noon. A great selection of locally made goods will be on offer, and a community plant stall, coffee, tea and refreshments. Tables available to hire. Information from Geraldine, 351391

**Regular weekly events at the Parish Hall**

Pilates class, Mondays at 7pm, contact 351444  
 Zumba class, Thursdays at 7pm, contact 351561  
 Books and Coffee, Saturdays 10.30am until noon.

**The Christmas Bingo and Draw** was a great success thanks to those who supported by buying tickets, playing bingo and donating wonderful prizes. Over £800 was raised for Hall funds.  
**Stoodleigh 100 Club:** prizewinners for December – 1 David Wotton, 2 Brian Palfrey, 3 Janet Russell, 4 Willie Knowles; Christmas pizzas: Pat Aplin, Jeannie Morrissey, Heather Burmeister.

**Flower Rota**  
 February 7 – Phyllis Hill  
 February 14 to March 20 – Lent, no flowers  
 March 27 – Easter, all help please

## TEMPLETON

**T**he rain and gloom have been continual over the past two months, so to be able to celebrate the return of light and life that comes into the world through the birth of Jesus, was wonderful. The light from the many candles in the Church and the lights on all our Christmas trees seemed to reflect this celebration. The Rev'd Jane Wilson led our Carol Service on Christmas Eve and the church was full and also beautifully decorated. A huge thank you to all those who contributed by their readings or in their decoration of the church.

Prior to this we held our Christingle Service taken by Sheila Newton, a Reader from Silverton. It, again, was a service full of lighted candles and the many presents given went to children via CHAT in Tiverton. They were very well received; thank you.

By the time you read this we will have held the Exe Valley Group Service at St. Margaret's on 24 January and we're sure it will have been well attended, as all the other group services have been.

On 22 February our new Bishop of Crediton, Bishop Sarah, will lead us in our Morning Service at 9.30am. We hope you can join us in worship but also come along and meet and support Bishop Sarah.

Our Church roof has been repaired, the scaffolding is down and we have a

waterproof Church once again. Thank you to Anthony Dent for organising this. The next repairs will be to the windows and hopefully these will take place before Easter. The vestry is in dire need of replastering and then perhaps we can concentrate on getting the bells back into full working order, as we know there are a few bell ringers in the area.

On Friday 11 December, the Christmas event at the Village Hall was a delicious hog roast supper with lively folk music from the Winkeiligh Band. A high spot of the evening were the talented performances from the Templeton Rock Band with Sara Stone, Sue Gammon, Alicia Tout and Sue Coffin - also a funny Wurzels sketch by Reg Coffin, Mark Stone and Shaun Gammon. Many thanks to Joyce and Steve Greenslade of Devon Valley Hog Roast at Little Estworthy, to the Winkeiligh Band, Templeton Talent and to all who helped with the catering.

On Saturday 12 December there was a successful children's Christmas Party at Templeton Village Hall, with lots of games, plenty of food and a visit from Father Christmas. Our thanks to Tony Loosemore, Sara Stone and Frank Cregan for making it such a special and fun afternoon for everyone.

The usual competitive games were held in the Village Hall over the Christmas period and the winners and runners up were as follows:- Ladies Skittles: Gloria Woollacott and Sue Gammon Mens Skittles: Martin Rose and Martin Saunders. Mixed Pool: Jake Pancherz and Mike Pancherz. Mens Darts: Jake Pancherz and Mike Pancherz. Ladies Darts: Sue Gammon and Alicia Tout. Table Tennis: David Leeming and Jake Pancherz.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

If you receive the magazine before the end of January please, note that there is a Quiz Night on 30 January, in the Village Hall. Please look at the notice board for details.

The Templeton Calendar shows pictures of the lovely place we live in and events throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who submitted photographs and congratulations to the final photographers. There are some calendars for sale at the Village Hall or via Julie Dent. All the money raised will go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall.

We send our best wishes to all those who are unwell at this time and hope you have a quick recovery

We warmly welcome Alan and Marie Stibbe, who have recently moved into Rose Cottage and hope they enjoy their time in Templeton. We also hope that Mrs Blackmore is happily settled into her new home in Tiverton.

### Flower and Cleaning Rota

Jan Heptinstall Lent, no flowers 7 / 14 February  
 Gloria Woollacott Cleaning only 21 / 28th February  
 Clare Trevelyan-Thomas 6 / 13 March  
 Lynda Newnes 20 / 27 March

parents and Katie. The children capably read the passages and prayers, after which the Christingles were made and carried around the Church with delight. The collection was given, on this occasion, to The Childrens Society. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church so wonderfully and made it feel so festive.

The Christmas Eve Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was led by Martin with a large congregation. The lovely occasion included a junior children's choir ably organised by the young adults. This popular and meaningful Service ended happily with coffee and mince pies.

We were able to celebrate Holy Communion on Christmas morning with thanks to Anna who took this by Extension, in the absence of clergy. Thank you Anna.

At our Family Service on 21 February, we are delighted to be welcoming The Rev Jane Wilson to lead our service with the theme 'Homelessness'. We will be bringing gifts of tinned food, toiletries, cleaning materials or small luxury items to be given to the Churches Housing Action Trust. St Mary's, Washfield supports CHAT regularly because of the work it does with the homeless and it is especially at Services and events like this, that we can think about the stark reality of not having a home you can call your own. Many thanks go to everyone who has donated items for CHAT in 2015. We collected a total of 174 items and all donors are reminded that donations put in the box in the church porch are delivered every month.

Mothering Sunday this year is on 6 March so we would welcome lots of children, and of course their Mothers, to this Service so that the children can present their Mums with a posy of Spring flowers

on this special day. We look forward to seeing you.

Easter comes quite early this year. On Good Friday Anna will once again take a short Meditation Service at 3pm in the Church and this will be followed by tea and hot cross buns.

As is traditional in Washfield on Easter Saturday, at 10am our ever-popular Egg Rolling and Decorating events will take place. There will be judging held within the church porch, with classes for the decorated eggs in all ages and then the rolling eggs (hard-boiled with the shells on which are usually adorned for identification) are taken to the lane, for the Rolling contests. There are lots of Easter eggs to be won, so don't lose out on your chance of winning a prize. All of this merriment will be followed by a Coffee Morning in the Hall to which ALL are most welcome to partake in Coffee and hot cross buns and look around the plant, produce and cake stalls. There will also be an Easter themed raffle. Donations to all of these stalls will be most welcome, although with Easter being so early, we hope we can still beg some divided or small plants to sell. Proceeds from this Coffee Morning will go to the Church. Thank you in anticipation.

Decorating of the Church for Easter is also to take place on Easter Saturday (24 March) please.

We were saddened by the news that Mrs Eunice Cook had passed away in November. Although Mrs Cook did not live in Washfield, her home was in Cove, she attended our Church as regularly as her health would allow. Eunice was a generous benefactor to St Mary's, a place which she loved and where her husband, Mons, was buried, so it was with the natural finality that death brings, that she was laid to rest in the churchyard with him after her funeral Service in December.

## WASHFIELD

You cannot have a rainbow,  
 without a little rain !

Once again a beautifully decorated Church, with a Christmas tree and a crib, welcomed everyone to our Christingle Service. Jeanne led the children in the Service, with help from the

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Our sympathies are expressed to all her nieces, nephews and their families.

Mrs Jeanne Jones once again hosted a very successful coffee morning in December at The Cottage. The amazing total of £258 was realised at this event for Church funds. Our grateful thanks go to Jeanne once again for her commitment to this regular event and to everyone else who helped in any way or who came along and supported it.

Two sets of Carol Singers set off with a song in their voice and the will to use their voices to make people happy whilst making money for local charities. The Courtenay Cottages group raised £246 for Children's Hospice South West - well done to you all in your efforts and Washfield's Village Singers have collected £106.50 to date for their sterling efforts on behalf of two amazing charities; Singing to Remember and the local Community Transport Group. Thank you to everyone who turned out on a Winter's night for either set of singers - you should be very proud of yourselves and your unflinching community spirit.

The W.I. Dinner was, as is usual and proper, a great success with many ladies and gents enjoying a lovely festive meal, with some entertainment to round off our fantastic evening together. Thanks to those who played their part in the organisation of this night.

The Memorial Hall Committee is planning a 'Bit of a do' on Friday 4 March from 7.30pm to celebrate the success of the grant application to Viridor Credits Environmental Company, that enabled it to renew the roof and windows at the Hall in the Summer. The plan is to combine our AGM (a very short piece of business) and a celebratory evening event to which you are all invited. We hope that some of the Devon Steering Group and other funders may be able to come to our

refurbished Hall on the night and join with us in an evening of chat, wine and canapes as we would like to be able to thank them for their support of Washfield's Hall. We also hope that you will join us as we celebrate the future of the Hall, as we move forward cocooned within our new weather-proof exterior, creating a wonderfully warm and dry interior. Please come along, we promise you will be suitably wine and dined for such a celebration. **Please RSVP to Anne (255298) by Saturday 27 February** so that we may cater adequately.

We are thinking of everyone who is not enjoying good health at this time and pray that you will soon feel well again.

Best wishes are sent to all celebrating special birthdays and occasions in the next few months. Special wishes to James Ayre and Natasha Ashton, who became engaged in December, whilst in New Zealand. Congratulations go to them both - we hope you have a very happy future.

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9 February: teatime@the hall (a community get-together over tea and cake) from 2.30pm. All welcome to come for chat and friendship.

Thursday 11 February: W.I. in Hall 7.30pm. Member's Evening. Childhood holiday photo.

Sunday 21 February: Family Service Theme: Homelessness

Thursday 25 February: First Lunch Club of New Year - 12 for 12.30 A two course meal in a convivial atmosphere for over 60s each month @ £6. Please phone to book in or enquire about joining (see below) Anne 255298

Sunday 6 March: Mothering Sunday Service in Church

Tuesday 8 March: teatime@thehall 3pm Please join us if you can, all ages.

Thursday 10 March: W.I. in Hall 7.30pm. **Open Evening.** Wood Carving and Sculpture.

Thursday 17 March: Lunch Club in Hall 12 for 12.30. For over 60s each month @ £6. Please book.

Friday 25 March: Good Friday Meditation Service 3pm.

Saturday 26 March: Easter Egg and Decorating contests in Church Porch at 10am. Lots of chances to win. Followed by Coffee Morning in Hall with coffee and hot cross buns, stalls and raffle.

Saturday 26 March: Decorating the Church for Easter

### Altar Flower Rota

Jan 31 /Feb 7 Mrs Trout

**LENT No flowers**

Mar 27/April 3 Mrs Tobey

### Cleaning Rota

Jan 25/Feb 1 Mr & Mrs Ellis

Feb 8/15 Mrs French

Feb 22/29 Mrs Arnold

Mar 7/14 Mr & Mrs Parnell

Mar 21/28 Mr & Mrs Walton

## WITHLEIGH

**A**t the time of writing, the snowdrops are in flower in our churchyard and will be followed by the crocuses. Their appearance brings many comments by visitors to our Church and churchyard.

We say farewell to Lyn, Estelle and Rueben Judd who have left Willow Bradley. We wish them well whilst they stay in Cornwall and also in their quest to find a new home.

We would like to welcome Paul and Toryna to Willow Bradley and hope you are settling in well.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Many of us met you at the Carol Service and we look forward to seeing you at future Village and Church events.

The Christmas Craft Fayre in November, once again, was a great success realising £1,051.18p for Church funds. Many thanks to all those who gave and helped in any way, and special thanks to Laura for organising the event.

Our Christingle Service was well attended and the collection from this service (£110) was sent to the Children's Society. Our thanks to Paul and Elizabeth for officiating at the service, and to those who donated and made the Christingles. The Children's Society has responded with a letter of thanks and thank you poster.

We were really sorry not to have been able to go out Carol Singing. We all met at the Village Hall as planned, but had to call it off because of the torrential driving rain. Our chosen charity for this year was The Haven Day Centre in Tiverton, so it was decided to give them a donation of £70 from our Church, for which they are most grateful.

Our Church looked splendid with all the lovely floral Christmas arrangements and the tall, beautifully decorated, Christmas Tree. Many thanks to all those who did the arrangements and to Mark and Cathy Luxton for donating and decorating the tree.

Our Carol Service was really well attended, with refreshments served after the Service. Gifts were placed under the Christmas tree and donated to CHAT. Thanks go to Paul and Elizabeth for officiating at the Service and to all our readers. The gifts were duly delivered to CHAT the next day, and a letter of thanks has been received.

It was good to welcome Rev'd Christopher Rowley to officiate at our

Christmas Eve Communion Service which also brought forth a good attendance. In all, our Christmas services were happy and joyous occasions.

Our Plough Sunday Service was well attended, with the Young Farmers taking part. Brenda interviewed some of them during the course of the service, and also gave a talk on the subject of changes and challenges. Our thanks to all of you. It was good, also, to be able to welcome members of other parishes.

We send our congratulations to those celebrating special anniversaries.

We also send get well wishes to all those known to us who are receiving or are recovering from treatment, those in hospital and all those who are suffering from the Winter viruses. We also think of those who are bereaved and lonely, especially the family of Ruby Reed who passed away in January. Ruby cleaned our church for many years. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to welcoming Freya Luxton, daughter of Daniel Luxton and Megan Cheshire, into the Church family at her baptism during our Family Service on 17 January.

The next PCC Meeting is on Tuesday 23 February at 6, Southfield Way, Tiverton. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

On Palm Sunday (20th March), it will be the turn of St Catherine's to host the monthly Group Service, which will be taken by Bishop Sarah. Here is your chance to hear and meet our Bishop of Crediton. The service starts at 10.30am.

Our Easter Services are as follows:- Good Friday - Informal Service in the Village Hall, 10.00am - 11.30am (beginning with tea / coffee and hot cross buns), Easter Sunday - 8.30am Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Village Hall followed, in turn, by a short Family Service at 10.30am in Church. We look forward to seeing you at one, two or all three of these.

This year's Beetle Drive will be on Saturday 19 March, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. There will be lots of Easter Egg prizes. Cost - only £1 each to play for the whole evening. For more details please ring Duncan 01884 252949 or Brenda 01884 252431.

**WITBLEIGH ENTERTAINS.** You are all welcome to join us on Friday 22 April for an evening of Music, Drama and Fun, in the Village Hall. The evening will be a feast of local talent with short individual items, followed by a Buffet Supper. To end the evening we have a short comedy drama, written, produced and performed by local people. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets for the evening, to include supper are £10 each. Please reserve your tickets by ringing Duncan 01884 252949 or Brenda 01884 252431.

**Witbleigh WI** meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Guests are always welcome to come along. If any of the forthcoming events are of interest to you, please call Rosie 01884 257123, and join us on the evening. Please note the change of time to 7.15pm. All meetings are at Witbleigh Village Hall unless stated otherwise in the program:-  
February 11: 7.15pm, with Mary Phillips - A Journey on a Tractor, Lands End to John O'Groats.  
March 10: 7.15pm, with Wendy Mills - Victorian Plant Hunters of Knightshayes.  
April 14: 7.15pm, with Sue Reeve - Deafness - The Hidden Disability.

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

April 28: 7.15pm, Group Meeting - with Sue Virgin - Land Girls, followed by entertainment from The West Exe Warblers.

**Forthcoming Events:**

- Thursday Feb 11: WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm,
- Thursday March 10: WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.
- Saturday March 19: Beetle Drive, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
- Sunday March 20: Palm Sunday Service at 10.30am with Bishop Sarah
- Good Friday, March 25: Informal Service in the Village Hall, 10am
- Easter Sunday, March 26: 8.30am Holy Communion in Church, 9.30am Breakfast in the Village Hall, 10.30am Family Service in Church
- Thursday April 14: WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.
- Friday April 22: "Witleigh Entertains", in the Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm.
- Thursday April 28: WI Group Meeting, in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

**Flower rota:**

- February 7: Brenda Tucker
- February 14 / March 20: **LENT (no flowers)**
- March 27: **EASTER**

**Monthly Diary Dates:**

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

## LARC Ascending Update.

The new Library and Resource Centre for Bampton and the surrounding villages took another step closer to realisation with a visit from the grant funder 'Power to Change' in January, to discuss in more detail what we plan to do and how we will make it happen. We took the opportunity to show them the Old School that will become the Resource Centre and rehouse the Library, and we should hear by the end of the month if we have been successful.

In the meantime Devon County Council have assured us that their move to become a public service mutual will enable them to continue to run the 50 libraries in Devon and in Bampton's case, when the new premises are open, in a much more user- friendly venue, with a long- term future ahead. So if you see the scaffolding go up outside the Old School in February, we are in business and the new Library and Community Centre will be opening some time in the summer!

For up to date news follow us on Facebook

([www.facebook.com/bamptonlibrarydevon](http://www.facebook.com/bamptonlibrarydevon)) or via the Library link on the Bampton web site ([www.bampton.org.uk](http://www.bampton.org.uk))

**Editor's Note:** I have been asked to reassure Bampton Library users that, if these plans do not come to fruition, the existing Bampton Library will **NOT** close.

## GOD'S BOXES

I have in my hand two boxes  
Which God gave me to hold.  
He said: "Put your sorrows in the black box  
And all your joys in the gold".

I heeded His words and in the boxes  
Both my joys and my sorrows I stored ~ but  
Though the gold box grew heavier each day,  
The black was as light as before.

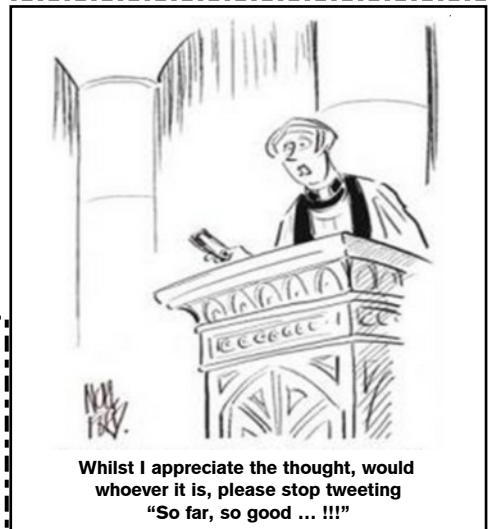
With curiosity I opened the black box  
'Cos I wanted to find out why ~  
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole,  
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God and said  
"I wonder where my sorrows could be"  
He smiled a gentle smile and said  
"My child they are here with me".

I asked God why he gave me the boxes  
"Why the gold and the black with the hole?"

He said :  
"The gold is to count your blessings  
And the black is for you to let go"

Author unknown



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## QUOTATIONS, JOKES AND CHARITY EVENTS

### Thoughts for Everyday by Patience Strong ~

for 2 February

#### YEAST

Faith is not a Holy thing  
to keep for special days.  
It is something to be used ~  
our hearts and hopes to raise.  
Something to be added to the  
joy and pain and strife ~  
Stirred into the mixture of the  
common stuff of life.  
It's the secret yeast that makes  
the bread of life to rise.  
The power of God at work in us,  
the thing that glorifies  
our homely tasks and duties  
making dull lives glow.  
Without this leaven we are  
only lumps of human dough.  
Do not keep religion  
in a nicely painted tin  
marked "FOR SUNDAYS ONLY",  
~ tip it out and work it in.  
Work it into everything  
you think and do and say.  
Use it for all purposes  
and live it day by day.

#### KEEP SMILING ...

A man is talking to God ...  
"God, how long is a million years?"  
God answers "To me, it's about a minute."  
"God, how much is a million pounds?"  
"To me, it's a penny."  
"God, may I have a penny?"  
"Wait a minute !!"

### Time to Pray

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right out into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled around me  
and heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty  
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak.  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys in the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child - you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning  
and paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

### Thoughts for Everyday by Patience Strong ~

for 10 March

#### NOISE

Noise is the curse of modern life.  
The sound of a machine  
brings a jarring voice  
to every quiet scene.

Radio and television,  
traffic roaring by,  
The tractor on the plough-land  
and the jet-plane in the sky.

These things wear upon the nerves  
destroying peace and poise.  
It seems we can't progress  
unless we make a lot of noise.

How different from the work of God  
that goes on silently  
in womb and cell, in seed and shell,  
in pod and plant and tree.

## WITHERIDGE PARISH CHURCH EASTER CONCERT

Roisin Walsh - Soprano  
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Wagner / Horovitz and  
Shakespeare



WEDNESDAY

23 March 2016

7.00 pm

## CALVERLEIGH VILLAGE HALL BARN DANCE SATURDAY



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**CALVERLEIGH**  
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**HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**11 am**  
**HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

**LOXBEARE**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**11 am**  
**FAMILY**  
**COMMUNION**

**OAKFORD**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**9.30 am**  
**HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

**RACKENFORD**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**11am**  
**HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

**STOODLEIGH**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**11am**  
**HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

**TEMPLETON**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**11am MORNING**  
**PRAYER with HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

**WASHFIELD**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**11am HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**  
 by Extension

**WITHLEIGH**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**8.30 am**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**10.30 am**  
**FAMILY SERVICE**

**MOTHERING**  
**SUNDAY**  
**6 MARCH**  
**SEE MIDDLE PAGES**  
**FOR SERVICES**

**WASHFIELD**  
**VILLAGE HALL**  
**EASTER SATURDAY**  
 (After 10 am Egg Rolling)  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
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**LENT SERVICES**  
**DETAILS IN**  
**BOX ON**  
**PAGE 10**

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enquiries@ageukmiddevon.org.uk  
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