

April - May 2016

Price 40p

JESUS AND RUGBY

Is The Gospel like a Contact Sport ?

Having noted the recent suggestion that tackling be removed from school Rugby, I was about to start writing my "Front Cover" on the subject of "Jesus and Rugby", when I came across an article written by Richard Powney – and he makes the point better than I ever could ! It needs to be read in its entirety and, as it is too long for the Cover, you can find it inside this magazine.

Richard refers to the resurrection of Jesus "which enabled the disciples to become bold and courageous in their witness to Jesus".

It is indeed the resurrection that we have celebrated this Easter, for it is the uniquely Christian festival of death being defeated by the power of God. Of course, there is a risk in the Rugby tackle, as there is a risk every time we take a car on the road or cross it as a pedestrian. God's provision in sending His Son to live amongst us on this

earth constituted a huge risk - and He knew it! Indeed we can even say that it was not so much a risk as a certainty - from the foundation of His world, God knew that His Son would be rejected by His own creation.



But the crucifixion, followed by the resurrection, demonstrates that we do not have a "risk averse" God, but a loving heavenly Father who is prepared to take the risk of crucifixion for the sake of saving His people and giving us the wonderful eternal hope of resurrection, as the Christian shares with Christ the assurance of eternal life.

The Apostle Paul writes "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans Chapter 8. Verses 1 and 38.*

Let us thank our Heavenly Father that He is not a "risk averse" God!

Richard's article can be found on Page 3.

John Roberts

Richard Powney is Evangelism Resources Co-ordinator at the Evangelical Alliance, for whom we acknowledge the article.

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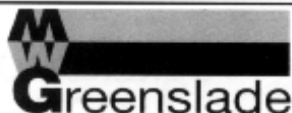
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EDITORIAL

Two important reminders in this issue.

You will have noticed the first one - which is the annual delivery of the brown voluntary Subscription envelopes. You are under no obligation to make a donation but anything you can offer, will be much appreciated. The details of how to pay, are on the envelopes. Thank you.

The second thing to say, is a huge "Thank you" to all our Advertisers. It is time for their Annual Renewal and we do hope that they will all be staying with us again. We are in the fortunate position of having some new Advertisers on a waiting list. We don't like turning people away, so we may have to try to squeeze a few more in next time. We would be interested to know your thoughts on the ratio of space allocated to advertising. E-mail your comments please. Thank you, again.

Jenny and Geoff

MOVING ON PART 7

A second round of adverts in Church Times has come and gone, and it came as no great surprise that, once again, there were no applicants. Clearly, our new Rector has not yet responded, or has not yet seen the advertisement! At the time of writing (8 March) our situation is being discussed at the Bishop's Staff Meeting, and a subsequent meeting arranged (on 11 March) between Bishop Sarah, Archdeacon Christopher and our churchwardens to consider the way forward. Hopefully there will be more to report next time, but do please continue to pray for all involved. One consolation is that the appointment of our new Rector is

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two months closer than it was two months ago, even if we do not yet know who he or she is!

Mention was made last time of the 'Wings for Worship' course which was being considered to help and encourage our current and prospective lay leaders. It currently looks likely that this will take place on Wednesday evenings during June (venue yet to be arranged). If you feel called to join our happy band, then please have a word with Anna, or with your churchwarden(s).

Our Ascension Day Service, this year, will take place at Rackenford on Thursday 5 May at 7.30pm. Do try to join us on what, in the UK, has become the poor relation of feast days. In many other countries it is a very much more prominent festival.

Our April Group Service will be at Calverleigh on Sunday 24, and in May will be at Cruwys Morchard on Sunday 22, both Services starting at 10.30am.

Paul Iliff

Article by Richard Powney: as detailed on Front Cover.

I love playing sport.

A particular favourite sport of mine growing up was rugby. The reasons for this are multi-faceted, but a definite positive is that it was great fun smashing into other players. There was always great satisfaction tackling a kid who was bigger than you.

Was it always safe? **Probably not.**
Did I get hurt? **Regularly.**
Was it worth it? **Definitely.**

This week I read an article suggesting that we should ban tackles from school rugby. I was shocked: take tackling out of rugby and you cease to have the same sport. To me this epitomises our culture' desire to sanitise life. Would it not make more sense to train kids to tackle properly? This got me thinking about our culture in general – we have become, to put it mildly, quite risk averse. And there is a danger that this culture of risk aversion is infiltrating our portrayal of the message of Jesus.

At times when reading the gospels I find Jesus an uncomfortable character. I think having dinner with Jesus may well have been full of little glances across the table expressing the thought: "I can't believe he just said that!" Yet this highlights an important point – Jesus' message was full of challenge and contained quite a bit of risk.

In Luke 14:25-34 we find Jesus laying out his own version of a disclaimer form. He wants the disciples to know that following him will come with a cost: "whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple" Jesus is asking the disciples – are you willing to take the risk?

I wonder, have we allowed some of our language around following Jesus to become akin to taking the tackling out of rugby? If we take away the cost, if we limit the risk, are we walking on the narrow path Jesus spoke about?

Of course Jesus' message was not only about counting the cost. The reason we can take the risk and make that step of faith into the unknown is because of the security that Jesus brings. He promises to always be with us by his Spirit. He continually speaks of how our kind and loving Father in heaven will always provide for all our needs.

The unshakeable foundation of steadfast love revealed through Jesus' death and resurrection enabled the disciples to become bold and courageous in their witness to Jesus. Yet this still presents some challenging questions to us all: what risk is Jesus asking us to take? What area of our life has become completely sanitised? These days my involvement with rugby is full of risk aversion – I watch from a comfy sofa in a warm flat. The main danger is a pillow thrown at me from my wife when Scotland lose to England, again.

My prayer is that my life following Jesus would become less about risk aversion and more focused on loving and obedient trust.

Submitted by John Roberts

TIVERTON STREET PASTORS

Bruce & Kathy Govett have been part of the Street Pastors' team in Tiverton since it was set up in March 2010. They live in Nomansland and are regular members of the Exe Valley Central congregation and our Mission Community Services. They also help

continued overleaf →



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with the organisation of our monthly Prayer Breakfasts. We asked Bruce & Kathy about their experiences as Street Pastors.

What are Street pastors, and how did it start in Tiverton?

We are Christians from various denominations both in, and around Tiverton. We are happy to go out on the streets on Saturdays and other celebration nights, to be a Christian presence on the streets.

Do you have any training to become a Street Pastor?

Yes. As a new group we had to undertake 12 modules of training, including first aid, before we were commissioned. This took around a year. Now, new Pastors have to do 4 modules of training before they can come out with experienced Street Pastors. The balance of training has to be completed within a given period.

Is it a clearly definite Christian activity?

Yes, it is definitely a Christian activity, however we do not discriminate against anybody who needs help on the grounds of colour, race or religion.

What are you trying to achieve - is it an evangelistic activity?

No, we do not go on the streets to evangelise. Although we carry a couple of small bibles in our rucksack, we never get them out unless anybody asks for one. Likewise, we never bring the subject of Christianity up unless someone wishes to talk to us first. We are showing the Lord's love on the streets through our presence.

How would you answer someone who might object along the lines "If young people want to act in such an irresponsible way, fuelled by alcohol

late at night, why do you see it as your responsibility to try to help them.

Everybody 'on the streets' is God's creation. We are out there doing God's work in order to keep them safe. We are His hands and feet on the streets. We are sure that most of us have acted irresponsibly at some time or other, therefore we are not out to judge.

I have heard that all Street Pastors do is give out flip flop sandals to girls who can hardly stand up for drink - is that a fair criticism?

No, it is correct that we do give out flip flops to girls who wear very stupid shoes, but this is only because they find it difficult to walk home in high heels. If they were to walk in bare feet and got cut by glass, it could result in a need for an ambulance to take them to R,D & E, as they would need an x-ray to make sure there was no glass left in the cut. This can take an ambulance out of the area for up to 4 hours.

As well as carrying flip flops in our rucksack, we carry a first aid kit, to help with minor injuries - and bottles of water as alcohol induces dehydration. The water also helps when people are nauseous from drink. We carry a dustpan and brush to clear up any broken glass we come across as this could be used as a weapon or cut bare feet. We always have a supply of lollipops to help diffuse tension. Additionally we have woolly hats and foil blankets and these have been used on several occasions. We carry a radio which is linked to the Police and door staff and we keep each up dated on issues as they occur.

Tell us about the team - how many street pastors are there in Tiverton and how often are you "on duty"

There are 28 trained Street Pastors with 4 of them currently unavailable due to health issues. Generally, we do once every 4 - 6 weeks.

What do the prayer team do?

The Prayer Team are the important link between us on the streets and asking God for help as situations arise. On many occasions we have come across issues of fights etc, phoned the prayer team and after their prayers, the issue is diffused. We have had so many other situations where we have seen prayer work. For example, we found a girl who had lost her purse in Remedies. She did not have any means to get home and was very vulnerable and without support of friends. Our prayer team got to work and not only was her purse found but it had enough cash in it - to the penny - to cover her taxi fare home.

What is your relationship with the police - do they approve of what you are doing?

First Class, initially officers were sceptical as they thought we might be a bible punching hindrance but over the years we have proved our worth on many occasions. The Police have often asked us to help people who are drunk, undertake minor first aid or just be a compassionate shoulder for someone to cry on. With my other hat on, a Police Chaplain, at the request of the Inspector in Honiton, I am actively trying to motivate the Churches to set up Street Pastors in their town.

I know that sometimes you are not in bed until 4.30am on a Sunday morning, and sometimes later, yet you are ready to help set up EVC in Templeton Village Hall by 10.30am the next day. How do you manage it?



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PARISH ROUND-UP

With God's help, a good alarm clock, and an hour's sleep after Sunday lunch!!!!

What do you consider the most important part of your Street Pastor ministry?

To be a Christian Presence on the streets and to diminish the myth of Christians just being "bums on seats, on a Sunday".

like to help, I will be very pleased to hear from you.

All volunteers over 16 need a DBS check. Please do not be put off by this, it is a simple process which I can do with you and lasts for 5 years.

More details in the next magazine.

If you can help in any way, or if you would like more information, please ring Cindy on 01363 866621.

encourage homeless swarms to settle on your land but conversely, the birds hate sudden and loud noises.

Our house martins came back last year and adopted an old nest, after I had made some minor repairs. They further reduced the size of the entrance, so much so that it was a miracle the adults were able to get in and out. Quite how they know the structure is strong enough to support a growing family is a mystery. Their elegant flight to and from the nest was very similar to other more permanent residents - the bats that live in the roof space nearby. Predictably, at least two independent families of great tits will also disappear behind the fascias of the eaves, so any planned painting can be a halting effort.

I do hope the grey wagtails will be more sensible this year. Notoriously all wagtails leave a lot to be desired over their choice of location for their nests at ground level. Suffice it to say they chose to build at the side of the grid by our back door and I spent a worrying time ensuring the grid was kept clear, so that the discharge from the drainpipe did not wash away the nest and eggs and all.

If I am ever disappointed by my DIY attempts, I can always gain solace from observing the house-building of squirrels and buzzards. Their energy is enviable, but the kindest adjective describing their methods and results, is 'erratic'

HOLIDAY CLUB



HOLIDAY CLUB this year will take place in Calverleigh Village Hall. It will run daily from Tuesday to Friday 2 - 5 August, at 11.15 am to 3.30 pm, for children aged 5-11. The theme is SPACE ACADEMY and it is based on the Biblical book of Daniel, as well as exploring Space. The Holiday Club Service and Fun Day will be on Sunday 7 August and it will also be in Calverleigh Hall.

In order for us to run Holiday Club, we need plenty of helpers and this can be for as little or as much time as you are able to give. I would like to hear from anyone who is able to help during the week. There is no age limit for helping. Teenagers - if you have been to Holiday Club (or even if you haven't) and would

NATURE NOTES

At this time of year our thoughts turn towards garden and home improvements or spring cleaning. We may be interrupted by Nature's visitors and have our 'live and let live' philosophy challenged.

I do love a bit of pruning, and gardening textbooks demand that hedges taper at the top to avoid possible damage if subjected to heavy snowfall. I was amazed to discover the number of last year's nests that I did not realise were there.

We regularly monitor our chimney and are careful to have fires at various intervals between March and July. Experience has taught us that apparently dormant chimneys are attractive to scouting bees and jackdaws. Curiously jackdaws seem somewhat impervious to fumes whilst bees, though slow to admit defeat, will not tolerate smoke. The ancient method of banging pots and pans was used to

Thomas More

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EXE VALLEY MARKET AND COMMUNITY BUS

The Bus Committee AGM is on Thursday 19 May at 7.30pm in The Stoodleigh Inn. Everyone is very welcome to attend but please telephone the Secretary, Ann Roberts, on 01884 254501 - so we can make sure we have enough sandwiches!

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

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

It is also available for private hire, ring Ann Roberts on 01884 254501 for details.

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

All details are also on our website <http://www.exevalleymarketbus.btck.co.uk>

We would like to thank the volunteer

drivers and committee who generously give their time to keep this service running - and most of all to thank our passengers for their loyal support. If you would like to join us, either as a passenger or a driver, please ring either Colin or Ann

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Church News:

In January, George Webber, the son of Andrew & Cheryl, was welcomed into the church family, when he was baptised by Rev'd Jane Wilson. Also in January, Leo Charlie Ronald Harris was born. A son for Leanne & Miles; brother to Freya; grandson for Alison & Gary Smith and Great-grandson for Pat Rowe. Our very best wishes go to out you all.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Karen Cosgrove, daughter of Gerald & Joan Blackmore. Karen had been worshipping with us at St. Mary's when she was able. Our prayers are with them and all of Karen's family. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the family and friends of John Gold, whose funeral service took place here in February.

We also think of the family and friends of Ivan Webber, who was called to Heaven now just over ten years ago. Ivan's friendship, his good works as Churchwarden and the way he organised us, will never be forgotten by the community he loved. God Bless Him.

Our best wishes and prayers go out to all who are unwell at this time.

Our Mothering Sunday Service was held on 6 March and was led by Julie Goldsworthy. Everyone present received a posy of flowers and a card for their mothers, aunties, friends or neighbours. There were also potted plants to take home that were thoughtfully provided by the girls of 5th Tiverton Guides. It was a part of a Centenary Challenge Badge where 100 plants were to be shared around the community.

Community News:

At the end of last year, Kath and Stuart Leigh (landlords of the Rose & Crown) ran a charity night including a raffle, and raised an amazing £545 for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW). As a part of the evening, they donated £2 from each two-course meal ordered that evening. Exe Valley Friends of CHSW provided entertainment, performing a variety of Carols and Christmas songs. Paula Garrett, fundraiser for Little Bridge House in Barnstaple, said: "It really was a super evening, thanks to Kath and Stuart's hospitality and generosity. It's all about putting the fun into fund-raising, that's what CHSW is all about. Making the most of short and precious lives."

Coming Up:

The Church AGM will be held on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Church. All parishioners are welcome to come along.

We are holding a Spring Clean Day in Church on Saturday 16 April starting at 9am. If you are able to spare some time throughout the morning, please bring a

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New Creation News **April 2016**

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April - what a beautiful month! Spring is such a very special time of year with the wonder of new growth in leaves, flowers, young animals and birds. A walk in the fresh air lifts our spirits, so let us join together with the psalmists to praise and thank the Lord for this wonderful season and His goodness to us all.

This month we hope to concentrate on spreading God's word through Posters DVDs and CDs. DVDs that feature miracles, testimonies, and true stories as well as films – 'God' Not Dead' 'Escape'(you can' run from God); and 'War Room'(Prayer is a powerful weapon) to name just a few. Some are for children. We also have a selection of lovely new posters to brighten your walls or frame as pictures and some new CDs including the Spring Harvest 2016 edition.

Penny's SPECIAL OFFER for April

A cheese scone with apple, a slice of cheese and pickle with a hot drink for £3.50

Toilet Twinning

We have been 'twinned' with Latrine no. 30269 in Rubaya ,Kabale District Uganda for over a year now and we have been able to send £100 out to them to provide more latrines. We have almost reached our next £50 which should be sent out in April. Thank you to everyone who has put a contribution into our little pot in the toilet. God bless you.

A'Rocha UK

You might like to visit the website of this Christian Environmental Organization to find out what work they are doing.

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Crackdown On Consumerism

Christian thinkers have backed a crackdown on consumer culture from A Rocha UK's Dr Ruth Valerio. They've endorsed her new book ***Just Living: Faith And Community In An Age Of Consumerism*** – to be launched on 17 March at London' Kahaila Cafe

May God bless you all.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

bucket and cloth – after all, many hands make light work! Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Celebrate St George's Day in a traditional way. On Saturday 23 April there will be a Barn Dance with music provided by 'Lucy Lastic' in Calverleigh Village Hall. This will be a joint fund raising event for Hospiscare and Calverleigh Church, which is being organised by Christine Webber and Anne Moore. Tickets are just £8.00 per person including supper! Get your tickets from Christine or Anne.

Our Annual Day of Prayer will take place on Saturday 14 May from 9am – 9pm. If you would like to join in and take a half hour time slot of your choice, and pray wherever you feel most comfortable, please contact Aubrey Goldsworthy or Jackie Herniman for more information. A list will be available on the font in the weeks leading up to the event.

A Duck Race is being organised by Geoff and Lorna Thomas. It is in aid of Church funds and will take place on Saturday 28 May. Ducks can be purchased from Geoff and Lorna for £2 each. The ducks will be set off from Lurley Bridge and end opposite Palmer Hayes. Refreshments will be served at Calverleigh Village Hall afterwards.

Advanced Notice: Our Annual Open Air Service will be held on Sunday 12 June at 3pm.

Church Mowing Rota

4 / 16 Apr: Mr. A Goldsworthy

18 / 30 Apr: Mr. C Durnan

2 / 14 May: Mr. K Hayes

16 / 28 May: The Webber Family

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Church Cleaning Rota

21 Mar / 2 Apr: Mrs. M Herniman
 4 / 16 Apr: Mrs. M Furneaux
 18 / 30 Apr: Mrs. J Goldsworthy
 2 / 14 May: Mrs. A Webber
 16 / 28 May: Miss S Goldsworthy
 30 May / 11 Jun: Mrs. M Webber

Flower Rota

27 Mar / 3 Apr: Mrs. L. Thomas
 10 / 17 Apr: Mrs. D Hopper
 24 / 30 Apr: Mrs. J Evans
 8 / 15 May: Mrs. R Tapp
 22 / 29 May: Mrs. M Furneaux

Want to help? If you feel a desire to help with any of the events, with the mowing, cleaning or flowers, do get in touch.

Have we missed something? If there is anything that you think we should have mentioned, or you have anything for the next magazine, please send them to Dave Burton by calling 07817 851856 / 01884 561499 or by emailing: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org. Get the latest at: www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

EASTER SUNDAY - 27 March at 11am, taken by Rev Jane Wilson

Mothers' Sunday's Service was full of children and flowers.

DUSTBINS - sadly our church yard dustbins are no longer going to be emptied by MDDC. Please can you all take your rubbish home, I am afraid this must include dead flowers, cellophane, paper, oasis, etc.

A New Rector - we still have had no applicants.

Coffee Morning, inspired by Lizzy Norman, is to be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 19 March, from 10am-

12noon. in aid of Cancer Research. To include raffle, bring and buy, cake stall and a children's area.

Seniors Lunch is to be held in the Parish Hall on Friday 22 April at 12noon for 12.30pm. Hot two-course lunch, with raffle, do come. To register please ring 01363 866864, stating if you have any dietary requirements and/or need transport. Do leave a message on the answer phone.

Church Fete, Saturday 9 July, 12.00 - 3.00pm. With local music.

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club did extremely well at the Exe Valley Group Drama Competition held in January. They came second with their production of "My Best Trifle Dish" with Layla Hill winning best actress. On the same day, Sam Edworthy won Senior Member of the Year and Luke Parkhouse won Junior Member of the Year. They both went onto the County Round with Sam coming fifth and Luke fourth.

The Club has held two successful Bingos in January and February and are holding another one on Saturday 30 July. They are also hosting a Tractor Run on Sunday 3 July - starting and finishing at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall. Do please come along to see all the different tractors!

The Annual Flower Show will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 13 August. Please take a look at our schedule, as we have many new classes this year and would like to encourage new exhibitors, to ensure we have another great show. The buckets are now available for children, under 16, who would like to grow their own potato. Any questions please contact Pauline Guscott 01363866754 or email. pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk

Cruwys Morchard Gardening Group
 A group has been formed, for anybody and everybody, of any ability, from any

Parish, to join, meeting at the Cruwys Arms on the 1st Wednesday of each month, at 8pm. Clare Penney is the co-ordinator and contact for the group, email west.land@talktalk.net. There will also be an email group. It is planned to have a topic for each month, in time with the seasons, as well as general discussion about problems, questions and ideas. April's topic is seeding, plants and soil. It is hoped that visits to gardens and guest speakers will follow.

Yoga continues in the Parish Hall every Thursday 10am.

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.

- 28 March / 4 April - Sue and Pauline Guscott
- 11 / 18 April - Ann Gillbard & Judith Taylor
- 25 April / 2 May - Cindy Trick
- 9 / 16 May - Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
- 23 / 30 May - Marian Kingdom
- 6 / 13 June - Sarah Cruwys

Mowing Rota

- April - Guy Cruwys
- May - Les Tosdevin
- June - The Guscotts
- July - The Berrys

Future Events

- Church AGM Wednesday 16 March 7.30pm in the Church
- Senior's Lunch 22 April, 12 noon for 12.30pm in the Parish Hall
- Church Fete Saturday 9 July 12.00-3.00pm

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Pennymoor Congregational Church.
Sunday Services at 4.30pm followed
 by refreshments

- 1st Sun Family service Rev, R Green
- 2nd Sun Communion Mr. O Mears
- 3rd Sun Way Village (2.30)
- 4th Sun Praise & Prayer
- 5th Sun Worship and tea

Holiday at Home.

Moses crafts & food
Come and join in the fun for all ages
 Monday 30 May from 11.am to lunch

Pennymoor Pop-In Coffee Morning

1st Saturdays 11 am-12.30pm with craft sales etc.

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

Congratulations to Belinda and Christopher Sadek on the birth of their daughter, Ottilie June. Tenth grandchild for Guy and Sarah Cruwys.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Tracey Lake, wife of Peter and mother of George and Bertie. We send our commiserations and prayers to her whole family.

LOXBARE

At the time of writing we are seeing signs of Spring, with many plants and shrubs beginning to flower and the promise of warmer drier days to look forward to! With Easter here we reflect on Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection with Services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Our monthly Family Service on 14 February was led by Ron & Linda, on the theme of God's love to us and how special we are to him. There were a good number of adults and children. Our service on 13 March, will be led by the Revd. Jane Wilson. The April service to be taken by Anna Hansford, and Ryan & Georgina Doeller will be taking the May service.

The Mothering Sunday Service was held in the Village Hall at 10.30am taken by John and preceded by a full English Breakfast - which was cooked and served by the men. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

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

The A.P.C.M will be held on 3 April, after 6.30pm Service in the Church and there is a PCC Meeting in the Village Hall on 19 April at 7.30.

Our love and sympathy are with Steve & Sue Troake and family on the death of Steve's brother. Thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell, undergoing treatment and tests, or waiting for operations.

Congratulations to Annabelle Hibbert who has recently passed her driving test. Also to Witleigh Young Farmers Drama Group, who won the group round and then went on to come 4th in the Country round. Well done to all participants including Graham and Lucy Radford. We welcome the new people into Loxbears Barton Flat and hope you will soon feel at home in Loxbears.

A 'soup and roll' lunch was held in February to raise money to help feed the undernourished children in Uganda. A donation of £100 was raised and sent to the Samaritans Purse towards this cause. Thank you to all involved.

Dates for your Diary:

1 April: There will be a Beetle Drive in the Village Hall in aid of Village Hall Funds at 7 pm.

9 April: There will be Cream Teas in the Village Hall between 3-5pm.

5 April: Village Hall committee meeting.

14 May: A Safari Supper is being organised. Anyone willing to host starters or main courses please contact Richard Vickery on 01884 881234 and for further details.

Loxbears Ladies: In February Loxbears Ladies went to see 'Oliver' in the New Hall which everyone enjoyed, and in March there was a Skittles Evening at The Rose & Crown.

4 April: A Bluebell Walk is planned with lunch, but if the bluebells aren't out an alternative will be decided. Meet at Calverleigh car park @ 10am. Contact Sue on 01884 259496.

2 May: a walk from Withypool to Tarr Steps, again with lunch out. Meet at Loxbears Church at 10am.

6 June: BBQ at Steve & Sue's at 7pm.

OAKFORD

Now that Winter has passed, we hope for a good Spring and Summer. The daffodils and primroses are now in full bloom and hopefully there will still be plenty to decorate the church for Easter. We look forward to the Easter Sunday Service which is on 27 March at 9.30am. We hope you will be able to join us for this special day. Coffee and biscuits and Easter eggs for the children afterwards.

A St. George's Day Tea will be held on Saturday 23 April at 2.30pm. Raffle, plant and cake stall. Come and enjoy a cream tea from 2.30pm until 4pm. We hope you can come and support this. All proceeds to church funds.

A 'Songs of Praise' will be held on Sunday 29 May at 5.30pm. Celebrating 'God's gift of Summer' If anyone would like a favourite hymn, reading or poem please let Mike, Wendy or Mary know. If you would like to read, that would be great. We look forward to seeing you.

We send our best wishes to Audrey Costain, who is in hospital after her fall and hip operation. We hope you will soon be on the mend and home again.

We send our condolences to Richard Stevens and family. Richard's sister, Sylvie, was buried on 29 February at Crocombe, where they grew up.

Continued on Page 12

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EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Praying and Worshipping Together

Saturday Prayer Breakfasts

9 April and 14 May 9am in Loxbeare Hall

Prayer and Bible Study

Alternate Wednesdays at Church Cottage, Stoodleigh, 7.30pm from 13 April

Exe Valley Women's Bible Study

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 2-4pm
Churchill House, Loxbeare

Ascension Day Service

Thursday 5 May 7.30pm
Rackenford

Parish Groups

Walk the Talk - Withleigh Home Group

Alternate Mondays at 8pm. 01884 253473

Loxbeare Prayer and Praise Meeting

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

Exe Valley Central Services

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

3 April Testimony of the Kingdom ^ *

10 April Baptism Service

17 April Testimony of the Kingdom **

**24 April Mission Community Service
Calverleigh 10.30am**

1 May * }

8 May * } ^ Testimonies of the Kingdom

15 May }

**22 May Mission Community Service
Cruwys Morchard 10.30am**

29 May Subject to be announced

***Café Style set up**

^ Holy Communion in the round

**** Not at Templeton - Venue to be announced**

OAKFORD

3 April

9.30 am Holy Communion

10 April

9.30 am Family Service

17 April

9.30 am Holy Communion

24 April

See Calverleigh

1 May

9.30 am Holy Communion

8 May

9.30 am Family Service

15 May

9.30 am Family Service

22 May

See Cruwys Morchard

29 May

5.30 pm Songs of Praise

RACKENFORD

3 April

11 am Holy Communion
with Baptism

10 April

9.30 am Family Service

17 April

9.30 am Songs of Praise

24 April

See Calverleigh

1 May

9.30 am Family Service

5 May (Thursday)

7.30 pm Ascension Day Service

8 May

11 am Holy Communion

15 May

9.30 am Morning Worship

22 May

See Cruwys Morchard

29 May

No Service

STOODLEIGH

3 April

11 am Family Service

10 April

11 am Holy Communion

17 April

6.30 pm Evensong

24 April

See Calverleigh

1 May

11 am Family Service

8 May

11 am Holy Communion
by Extension

15 May

6.30 pm Evensong

22 May

See Cruwys Morchard

29 May

11 am Morning Prayer

CALVERLEIGH

3 April
6.30 pm Evening Worship

10 April
9.30 am Holy Communion

17 April
11.15 am Family Service
with Baptism

24 April
10.30 am Group Service

1 May
No Service

8 May
9.30 am Holy Communion

15 May
11.15 am Family Service

22 May
See Cruwys Morchard

29 May
6.30 pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

3 April
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

10 April
11 am Holy Communion
by Extension

17 April
11 am Family Service
with Baptism

24 April
See Calverleigh

1 May
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

8 May
11 am Holy Communion

15 May
11 am Family Service

22 May
10.30 am Group Service

29 May
No Service

LOXBEARE

3 April
6.30 pm Evening Praise

10 April
11 am Family Service

17 April
9.30 am Family Communion

24 April
See Calverleigh

1 May
6.30 pm Evening Praise

8 May
11 am Family Service

15 May
9.30 am Family Communion

22 May
See Cruwys Morchard

29 May

TEMPLETON

3 April
11 am Family Service

10 April
No Service

17 April
9.30am Morning Service
with Holy Communion

24 April
See Calverleigh

1 May
11 am Family Service

8 May
No Service

15 May
9.30am Morning Service
with Holy Communion

22 May
See Cruwys Morchard

29 May
10.30 am Hymns, Readings
and Prayers

WASHFIELD

3 April
6 pm Evening Prayer

10 April
11 am Holy Communion

17 April
11 am Family Service

24 April
See Calverleigh

1 May
9.30 am Holy Communion

8 May
11 am Morning Prayer

15 May
11 am Family Service

22 May
See Cruwys Morchard

29 May
No Service

WITHLEIGH

3 April
11 am Informal Service

10 April
11 am Service of the Word

17 April
9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

24 April
See Calverleigh

1 May
11 am Family Service

8 May
9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

15 May
11 am Service of the Word

22 May
See Cruwys Morchard

29 May
No Service

PARISH ROUND-UP

Village Events:

Village Hall Murder Mystery Friday 27 May: Save the date. Look out for posters.

There will also be a **Barn Dance in June** which will be advertised later.

Moorland Club:

Thursday April 14 at 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting and Entertainment.

Village Fete: Saturday 18 June. Look out for more details.

RACKENFORD

The following was not available for the last issue, however, on 25 November Megan Isaac enjoyed an amazing day playing her saxophone with the Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra at the Music for Youth Proms held at the Royal Albert Hall. The Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra were one of only two bands selected to play at the prestigious venue, after auditioning at the Music for Youth festival in Birmingham last July. After a fun filled day rehearsing, a fabulous evening performance was enjoyed by a full house, and was truly an occasion to remember for Megan and her very proud family watching. Well done from us all Megan.

It was a pleasure for us to have Rev Christopher Rowley for an 11 am Holy Communion Service, which was most enjoyable.

The funeral service and internment of Ken Blackford took place on 11 January when the church was full of family and friends, gathering to pay their respects to him. Until his ill health, Ken enjoyed so many aspects of country and village

life over many years. Donations in memory of Ken will be divided between The Alzheimers Society and Rackenford Churchyard Fund. Our deepest sympathy to Linda, Mike and all the family. Rev Christopher Rowley officiated.

Sadly a week later on 18 January we gathered again, for the funeral service of Joan Arscott. Once again, the church was full of family and friends, who had come to pay their respects to a lady who had lived in our community for many of her 94 years. She was laid to rest with her late husband Jack and beside her daughter Gwendoline. Donations in her memory will be divided between Rackenford Churchyard Fund and the Acute Stroke Unit at The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Our prayers and deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Our very best wishes to all those we have heard about who are poorly or in the process of recovering, Sylvia Muchmore, Paula Hallet, Ann Freeman, Gordon Shaddock, Charlotte West and Jakki Livsey-Van-Dorst. Also remembering our friends Muriel Blinman, Joan Clark, Peter Reynolds, Dave Collins and anyone who is lonely or depressed.

Our deepest sympathy to Suzanna and Glenn Hookins and family, on the death of Suzanna's father Dennis Mildon, and also to the family and friends of Norma Sellman who has died. Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time.

Some of you may have noticed the beautiful wreath that was on the grave of the late Archie and Alice Snell. This was left by the family of the late Margaret Smith (nee Snell) who was

one of their daughters. She died in January after a battle with cancer for 20 years.

A few people in Rackenford will still remember the "Beele" family who used to live at The Old Police House. Sadly we have heard of the death of Tracey, who was one of the three children. She died aged 52 years after a short illness. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband Peter and children George and Peter who live in Nomansland and also to Don and Gwen, Pauline and Roland, Nikki and Jonathan, at this very difficult time.

On a happier note, our belated congratulations to Annette Read who has celebrated her 80th birthday. We hope you enjoyed your special day. Also congratulations to Graham and Ruth Fennel on the birth of your granddaughter. Lovely news and we hope all is well.

It was a joy for us to have Bishop Sarah, the Bishop of Crediton, to take our Holy Communion Service on 21 February and we feel she enjoyed being entertained by the young children whose ages range from 4 to 7 years. They played the Bell Plates and not forgetting our own choir who we always enjoy listening to. Afterwards we enjoyed chatting to Sarah and others of the large congregation while having refreshments. A very special service.

A few dates for your diaries. On Saturday 16 April we have a Coffee Morning and stalls etc in our Church from 10 am to 12 noon and the following day, Sunday 17 at 9.30 am, a 'Songs of Praise' for our Queen's birthday.

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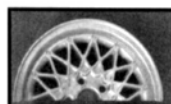
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DOIVE DESIGNS

PARISH ROUND-UP

Let's make this a very special Service and we would appreciate your help and support if you can.

Thursday 5 May at 7.30pm we have a Group Service for Ascension Day at our church.

It will not be long before it is time to get your walking boots on again for our Sponsored Walk on Saturday 14 May. Details later, so look out for posters and sponsor forms or speak to Liz Paxton on 881331.

Bingo enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that our Bingos begin again for church funds on 14 April and 12 May 7.30 pm in Rackenford Club. Many thanks to them.

We are looking for new members to join our PCC and would love to have you with us. If you are interested, please contact Herbert Smith 881375 or Mary Cann 881696.

The Rackenford Church organ, which dates from 1870, has been found to be in urgent need of renovation, if it is to continue to be used. This has been made possible by the generous gift of £5,000 from the Rackenford Community Shop, with the shortfall being met from the Parochial Church Council reserve funds and a gift from a donor. The work will be undertaken this summer, subject to Diocesan approval.

Jane Phillips is stepping down as a PCC Secretary after serving the Parish for many years. The Rackenford Church PCC would like to extend their sincere thanks to her for all her hard work.

Last but not least, we all enjoyed a wonderful Mothering Sunday Service, with the young children playing their Bell Plates and towards the end of the Service handing out beautiful bunches of flowers to all the mums and ladies in the congregation. Many thanks to Herbert, Mary and to all who helped in any way. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service.

We wish you all a very happy Easter.

STOODLEIGH

This year's very early Easter may have gone by before you read this. The date of this triumphant Christian festival has always been mysterious – and for those who respect mysteries, it is none the worse for that. Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, and can be as early as 22 March or as late as 25 April. Moves are now afoot to agree a fixed date for Easter, which would be more convenient but might not please traditionalists, wise men and other moon-watchers.

This year the full moon in question is/was on 23 March, with Good Friday on 25 March (also Lady Day, which celebrates the Annunciation and was until recently an important Quarter Day,) and Easter Day on 27 March.

If you are reading this early enough, it is worth mentioning that this year's Agape Meal and Service on Maundy Thursday is in Witleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm; the Easter Day Service at St Margaret's, Stoodleigh, is Holy Communion at 11am.

We were saddened to learn of John Drew's death and send our sympathies to all his family. We remember with thanks his very generous annual supply of vegetables for the church Harvest Thanksgiving. His funeral took place in St. Margaret's Church on Thursday 21 January.

We had the privilege of welcoming the Archdeacon, Ven. Christopher Fitcher, on Sunday 14 February to lead our service of Holy Communion. He has taken services in a number of the Exe Valley parishes during the time we have been without a Rector and his commitment has helped to ease some anxious minds. We send our thanks.

St. Margaret's Church PCC would like to thank an anonymous donor for their generous gifts which have been gratefully received. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Tuesday 29 March, 2.30pm, at Church Cottage.

A warm welcome to the Johnson family who have moved to Ridgeway, Court Gardens.

Dates to remember

- Sun 3 Apr: Family Service 11am St Margaret's
- Sun 24 Apr: Group Service 10.30am, Calverleigh
- Sun 1 May: Family Service 11am St Margaret's
- Wed 11 May: Coffee Morning The Old Stable 10.30am-12pm, cake stall and raffle
- Sun 22 May: Group Service 10.30am Cruwys Morchard
- Sat 13 Aug: Stoodleigh Dog Show
- Mon 29 Aug: Ploughman's Lunch, Champles

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

At the Parish Hall

Jennifer Rowlandson presented another great slide show in February. This time on the South West Coast Path. Her amazing collection of photographs kept the audience fascinated as she described her 630-mile walking journey around the south west peninsula, from Poole to Minehead. The evening was a delight and it raised £235, which was shared between the Church and the Parish Hall.

In early March, the skittles were dusted off for an evening of hot and occasionally hilarious competition. Two teams battled it out before tucking into a Ploughman's Supper. The event, which is sure to be repeated, raised £72 for Church and Parish Hall funds.

Coming Events at the Hall

22 April – Live Music with Brian Higbee, 6.30 for 7pm. The popular guitarist and vocalist is welcomed back to Stoodleigh, with music from the 60s and 70s. Please bring your own food and drinks. Tickets are £5 and available in advance from Margaret Cuninghame (01398 351252), Geraldine Talbot (01398 351391) or other SWAG members.

14 May – Breakfast, Walking and Lunch. Another of our enjoyable walking events. Start with a 9am breakfast at the Parish Hall for the longer route. Later breakfast for a shorter route and meet up for lunch back at the hall. Non walkers can also book for lunch. Booking is essential, please ring 01398 351391. In aid of the Village Hall.

New Stoodleigh website: For news, events and information about our

community, keep up to date at <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh/>

Children's Hospice South West would like to say a big thank you to John and Sheila Davis for hosting a coffee morning at Barns Cottage on 6 February, and to all those who attended despite the awful weather and made it such a success. A total of £287.50 was raised for the charity.

Stoodleigh 100 Club prizewinners for January – 1 Clare Torrance, 2 Phyllis Hill, 3 Angela Hill, 4 Phil Talbot; February – 1 Jan Mills, 2 Pat Pennington, 3 Mervyn Brice, 4 Linda Sharrock. Subscriptions are now due for 2016. Please pay as soon as possible, to start the new draw in May.

Church Flower Rota

10 / 17 April – Betty Wotton
 24 April / 1 May – Enid Hamidullah
 8 / 15 May – Pat Aplin
 22 / 29 May – Volunteers please

Our annual Easter Garden Service is on Good Friday, 25 March at 11.00am.

Our Easter Sunday Service is on 27 March, at the new time of 11.00am. This will be Morning Service followed by a shortened Holy Communion. We hope to see you at both these services.

Our Church's AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30 March. There will be tea or coffee and biscuits served prior to the meeting and we do hope you will come and find out about our church year, the church building repairs and also give us your thoughts about our church in Templeton.

We are raising money for the Church building again by putting on a Musical Evening with a supper and bar. This event will take place on Saturday 2 April in the Village Hall at 7pm, doors open at 6.45pm. MONOPLE is a great 4 piece band playing music from the 60's onwards. Tickets available from Gloria 254509, Bindy 860655 or Jan 255399. Please come and support and enjoy a memorable evening.

TEMPLETON

Our Church was full for the Exe Valley Group Service on 24 January. A real church community, worshipping together and welcoming all.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Sarah to take our Morning Service on 22 February. She talked about her visit to Israel and the palpable tensions in that country and how Jesus, referring to Israel, said he would like to gather them up as a hen gathers up her chicks. She stayed for coffee and many people were able to share their thoughts with her.

A great time was had (as always) with John and Audrey's Quiz Night, which was held on 30 January. Entertaining and fun and often controversial, helped along by a scrummy supper of sausage and mash, followed by chocolate and cheesy treats. Congratulations go to the Holmead Hopeless Team who won by a quarter of a point. Although not intended to be a money raising event, £294.00 was raised from the quiz and raffle. Our thanks to Joyce and Steve Greenslade for providing the delicious sausages and to John and Audrey for yet another great evening.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

A Charity Spring Draw and free musical evening is to be held at Templeton Village Hall on Saturday 16 April. The bar will be open from 7.00pm and food can be purchased throughout the evening. The musical entertainment commences at 8.00pm with the remarkable singer/song writer and acoustic guitarist Alice Gullick. She is followed by Nigel Fisher who sings a wide range of songs. The draw includes cash prizes. Tickets are on sale on the night or by telephoning 07807892118. All proceeds from the evening will go to Children's Hospice S.W.

We send thoughts and prayers to anyone who is ill at this time especially to Pat Taylor who is in hospital at present.

We send our congratulations and all good wishes to Chris Pearson and Julie Dent who have reached a very special birthday and we hope they enjoy their celebrations.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Bindy Linden	3 / 10 April
Julie Dent	17 / 24 April
Phillida Strong	1 / 8 May
Audrey McInerney	15 / 22 May
Sarah Coffin	29 May / 5 June

have come on us. Hopefully as the old saying goes: March that comes in as a lion - will go out as a lamb!

St Mary's, Washfield hosted the Group Service in February, which was led by John, to a good congregation. This is a popular service which brings our Mission Community together to worship and pray for our future.

The Rev. Jane Wilson led our Family Service with a theme that focused on our need to pray for the homeless and the work of CHAT. This reflection resulted on us filling our monthly box with extra goods, which were then donated to CHAT: the charity also benefited from the Service's collection.

Lots of children brought their parents to the Church on the morning of Mothering Sunday. Many thanks to the people who made the beautiful seasonal posies, which the children presented to their Mums, and other ladies present, during the lovely service, taken by Rev Christopher Rowley.

If helping your local Church is important to you, you will find the following piece interesting.

Refreshing the Worth Trust

Over the past 25 years the Worth Family Charity has generously granted more than £20,000 from its investment income, to help the PCC maintain Washfield's Church building and churchyard. But the charity's income has shrunk and specialist contractors' costs have risen, so the Trustees are inviting donations to restore its investment income against future needs. So, if maintaining St Mary's as a key village feature for future generations is something you wish to support - on a one-off or regular basis -

please speak to any of the local Trustees (Jeanne Jones, John Burton, Martin Hansford). They will be delighted to tell you more. Information leaflets/donor forms are available in Church.

Our Church's APCM takes place in the Hall on Monday 20 April, to be preceded by Cheese and Wine at 6.30pm. This meeting is open to everyone and ALL are welcome to attend. Please come to support St Mary's - your local church.

The Parish Council's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 April at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Mr Roger Lambert with a talk on 'Shelter Box'. Once again this is an Open Meeting, so everyone is welcome.

Several parishioners have not been well recently. We are thinking of Mrs Carol Bolt and are pleased to hear that she is now at home and continuing to make good progress. Also in our thoughts is Mr Arthur Henson who, at the time of writing, is in hospital after a fall. You are both wished the best of 'Get Well Wishes'. Also in our prayers are the many others who are not enjoying good health. We sincerely hope that the better weather coming, will help and lift you all.

Best wishes are also sent to everyone celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries. Enjoy your special day.

About sixty people came to a most enjoyable Burns evening in January. It began with a quiz, then a delicious traditional Scottish three-course meal followed by a Ceilidh. Very sincere

Continued overleaf →

WASHFIELD

One today is worth two tomorrows.
Lost time is never again found.
You may delay, but time will not !!

Easter is fast approaching. It is very early this year but, at the time of writing these notes, Winter seems to

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PARISH ROUND-UP

thanks go to all the team who organised this and worked so hard to put together this excellent evening on behalf of the Social Club and Hall.

The combined organising group have put together some more exciting events that will take place in the village as the year progresses. They are:

Saturday 7 May - Car Treasure Hunt from 4.30pm and Cream Tea at the Hall.

Saturday 14 May - Eurovision Song Contest evening at Social Club. Competitions, sweepstake on the bar before. Bring a plate of European food to share.

Saturday 4 June - Family Summer Celebration in the centre of the Village. Children's entertainment from 4pm and BBQ from 5pm.

September - Grand Charity Frog Race to raise funds for Save the Children and 'Medecins sans Frontiers'. Details to follow.

September - Tallest sunflower in a bucket. Any type of sunflower and bucket. Get growing soon! Watch out for posters and further details of these events.

There is a new Washfield Website at <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/washfield/>. We would ask everyone with computer access, to look at it and please send any comments or suggestions, to the contact details given on the site. There will be a meeting at the end of April for all groups involved, and anyone who is interested in using the website, to talk about what information is there, and how to keep it up to date.

On Friday 4 March the Hall committee combined its AGM with 'A bit of a do'. The evening was a great success and, as well as dealing with the Annual

General Meeting, the committee also hosted a celebratory drinks and nibbles get-together for guests and funders of the Hall's recent work. Also celebrated was the enduring long-service of the most experienced member of the Hall committee. Mrs Grace Bicknell stepped down after many, many years of helping manage the affairs of the Hall, organise events and generally take care of the future of the Hall - and what a good time to step down! The Hall is in an upbeat phase with a new roof and windows and a good number of hirers coming forward. Thank you Grace for all your hard work. She was presented with gifts for her garden.

At this time of year many young people are practising for the Exmoor Challenge and also the Ten Tors events. Good Luck to everyone competing.

Dates for your diary

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. Come along and bring your entries. Followed by Coffee Morning in Village Hall with coffee and hot cross buns, stalls and raffle. ALL WELCOME

Saturday 26 March: Decorating the Church for Easter

Tuesday 12 April: teatime@thehall at 3pm. Come along for friendship, chat, games, tea and cake!

Thursday 14 April: W.I. in Hall at 7.30pm Volunteer Police Cadets
Thursday 21 April: Lunch Club 12 for 12.30pm

Monday 20 April: St Mary's Church APCM in Hall with Wine and Cheese from 6.30pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 27 April: Parish Council Annual meeting with Speaker Mr Roger Lambert on the work of 'Shelterbox' around the world. 7.30pm All welcome.

Saturday 7 May: Car Treasure Hunt from 4.30pm with Cream Teas in Hall

Tuesday 10 May: teatime@thehall from 3pm. All welcome.

Saturday 14 May: Eurovision Song Contest evening at Social Club. Please bring a plate of European food. Competitions, Sweepstake, Fun!

Thursday 19 May: Lunch Club 12 for 12.30pm.

Tuesday 24 May: Ramblers walk starting at Village hall from 10.15am-12.30pm. Any parishioners wishing to join them are most welcome.

Altar Flower Rota

Mar 27/April 3 Mrs Tobey
April 10/17 Mrs H Arnold
April 24/May 1 Mrs Boundy
May 8/15 Mrs Moore
May 22/29 Mrs Bicknell

Cleaning Rota

Mar 21/28 Mr & Mrs Walton
April 4/11 Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones
April 18/25 Mrs Albery
May 2/9 Mr & Mrs Ellis
May 16/23 Mrs French
May 30/June 6 Mrs Arnold

WITHLEIGH

As Spring came, so did the snow, so we are as confused as all the things in our gardens!!

In February we said our farewell to Ruby Reed during a service in our Church, before she was interred in our

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PARISH ROUND-UP

churchyard. Ruby is now reunited with her husband, Mervyn. It is very strange to think there is no member of the Reed family being at Great Bradley Cottage after so many years.

We send our sympathy to the family of Fred Bolton who also died in February. His ashes were interred in our churchyard before a Service of Celebration of his life in our Church. Fred is now reunited with his wife, Doris.

We also send our sympathy to Caroline, Mike and the family of Rodney Luxton, who has recently died. Rodney had always lived in Witleigh before moving to Halberton and then Tiverton. He mowed and cared for our churchyard for many years whilst he was living in Witleigh.

Our love, thoughts and prayers are with these families during their time of bereavement.

Congratulations to David and Janet Sellick who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding.

Our grateful thanks to Harry Hann for organising the replacement of the church oil storage tank.

Our Mothering Sunday Service was well attended. Potted primroses were distributed to the ladies of the congregation. Thank you to Paul and Elizabeth for officiating at this service.

Our Family Service on 3 April will be an informal service in the vestry, and led by Susie.

There is a Fete planning meeting at Bona Vista on Monday, 25 April at 8.00pm. Please do come along if you are willing to help or have ideas for new stalls or sideshows.

Please note change of date for WITLEIGH ENTERTAINS. You are all welcome to join us on **Friday 29 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 £8 each. Please reserve your tickets by ringing Duncan 01884 252949 or Brenda 01884 252431.

The Archdeacon's Visitation is on Thursday, 12 May at Bampton Church. Please come along to this Service to support our Churchwardens for the coming year.

A date for your diary: Sunday 12 June, Songs of Praise followed by a Salad Lunch in the Village Hall, to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. More details in the next issue of the Today magazine, but if anyone would be willing to help with providing the Lunch, please contact Brenda 252431.

Get well wishes to all who are not well at the moment, especially those known to us who are receiving treatment and are in, or have been, in hospital. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Witleigh WI meets 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. Meetings are held at Witleigh Village Hall at **7.15pm**, unless stated otherwise in the programme.

April 14 with Sue Reeve - Deafness, The Hidden Disability.

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

May 12 Witleigh & Washfield - joint AGM.

Forthcoming Events:

Thurs, April 14: WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Thurs, April 28: WI Group Meeting, in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Friday; April 29: Witleigh Entertains, in the Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm.

Thurs, May 12: WI AGM with Washfield at 7.15pm.

Sun, June 12: Songs of Praise followed by Lunch in the Village Hall.

Flower rota:

April 3 / 10	Margaret Gale
April 17 / 24	Linda Taylor
May 1 / 8	Shirley Cruwys
May 15 / 22	Janet Stacey
May 29 / June 5	Susie Wade

Monthly Diary Dates:

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

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QUOTATIONS, JOKES AND CHARITY EVENTS

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animals	birds	creation
dark	day	everyone
everything	fish	good
land	light	lights
made	men	night
people	plants	rest
sea	separated	sky
sorts	universe	women

KEEP SMILING ...

FIRST WEDDING

A little boy had just attended his first Wedding.

Afterwards he was telling his friend all about it.

"So what was it like, what did you learn?" his friend asked.

"Well, I learned that you can marry 16 women" he answered.

"How do you know that"

"Easy" said the little boy "All you have to do is add it up"

- 4 better
- 4 worse
- 4 richer
- 4 poorer

Thoughts for Everyday
by Patience Strong ~

for 4 May

OFF SONG

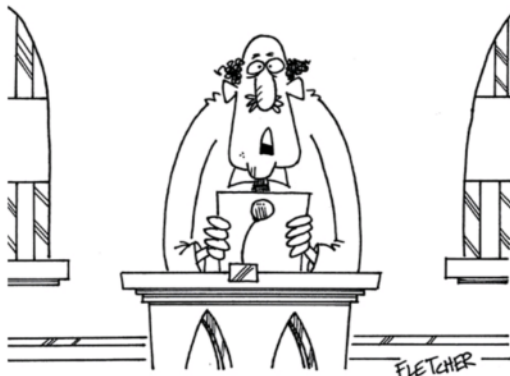
When things go all wrong
And you're feeling off song
Don't think that you won't sing again.
Skies may frown - but they'll brighten

Cares press - but they'll lighten
And sunshine come after the rain.

The songbirds can't sing
Summer, Winter and Spring.
Everything swings to and fro.

First it's music and gladness
Then silence and sadness
No doubt life is meant to be so.

You may feel subdued
But it's only a mood - it will pass.
And then the dark clouds will depart
Things will change without warning
You'll wake up one morning
And find there's a song in your heart



"... and the Church Unity Workshop has been postponed until everyone can agree on the date, time - and colour of the participants's name tags"

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Thoughts for Everyday
by Patience Strong ~

for 2 April

A FRIEND

A friend is one to whom
we may pour out the contents
of our hearts ~

chaff and grain together ~
knowing that the

gentlest of hands will sift it,
keep what is worth keeping
and with a breath of kindness
blow the rest away

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