



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

February - March 2017

Price 40p

WE'RE ON THE MOVE ...

For the past few months it feels a bit like we've been living against the background of a children's picture story. The sort of stories that have a repetitive refrain going through them, like, 'Run, run as fast as you can...' or 'My cat likes to hide in boxes' or 'You can't catch me I'm a Gruffalo!' or 'Don't forget the bacon!' The possibilities and permutations are endless, and you probably know a few choice examples of your own. But for the past few months, the chorus sung in our house has gone something like this: 'Don't do it now! We have nothing to prove! Sit down! Relax! We're about to move!'

It's been a very handy little refrain, and we've used it a lot. And I mean, A LOT! And we've been able to apply it to virtually every situation. It's been extremely useful! Tremendous winds in October scattered my grandson's toys all over the garden. Has anyone been out to gather them up? Us? Gather? No! Never! 'Don't do it now! We have nothing to prove! Sit down! Relax! We're about to move!'

The Wendy House remains exactly where the wind dumped it, as if Dorothy made an abortive attempt to leave Kansas!

We've kept the house fairly clean and tidy. But have we hoovered under anything? Us? Hoover under? Around, yes! But under? No way! We've had a look! But... 'Don't do it now...etc.' Our curtain hooks have become brittle with age and the curtains have developed a strange loop and a droop during daylight hours. They're perfectly fine at night. In fact, I defy anyone to spot a thing. But has anyone climbed a ladder to make the curtains a 24 hour success? Us? Climb? (All together now...!) 'Don't do it now! We have nothing to prove! Sit down! Relax! We're about to move!'



But the only trouble is, we haven't! We haven't moved. We're still here – at least until the end of January. And handy though our refrain has been, (and do please feel free to use it yourself, should you so wish) we're beginning to realise that there has been a cost involved to using it. And for semi-

professional procrastinators like us – it's a bit of a shock. All of which reminds me of another refrain, which I and many others say on a regular basis: 'We have left undone those things that we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us...' And of course, we're all in the same boat. We put off all sorts of things, especially things to do with God and faith and belief. But it's worth doing something about it, and if you are a semi-professional procrastinator, like me, Lent, is an excellent time.

Please see the arrangements across the Mission Community to mark Lent and come and join us (Page 10). Feel free to dip in, as, when and where you can! You might like to come and have a chat, or know someone who could do with a visit. There's information on Page 12 of the magazine, to say how to do it. Please do make contact, if you should need to. Don't put it off! It would be great to meet you.

Wishing you every blessing,

Steph

More from Steph on Page 3

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EDITORIAL

How do you follow the amazing outpouring of love, affection and mutual love of our Lord Jesus, that swept over our Mission Community during the Christmas period ?

Judging from your "Round-ups" it affected the whole valley and spirits are high for the beginning of 2017.

Steph has given us a Lent Diary (Page 10, and a Prayer Diary (Page 12), so that we can use them to plan our worship, over the next two months.

Steph feels very strongly about Pastoral care and being available for consultations and home visits. She has drawn up a very helpful guide for finding her, which is also on Page 12.

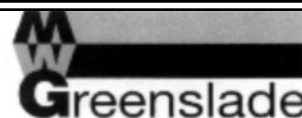
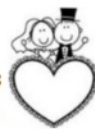
Steph has devised a new use for the word "Cluster" (not the chocolate nut variety !!). On the fifth Sunday, she would like us to join together with our nearest parishes in "Clusters" of three. The three "Cluster" Services will be shown, as part of our usual Service listing on the middle pages.

Jenny and Geoff

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STEPH REFLEXE ...

I have met a lot of people since I wrote my first Reflexe – and what a lovely bunch you are! Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. Thank you to all who came to my licensing service. How amazing was that?! And I had a wonderful time over Christmas and New Year getting to know you. I felt like that rather large lady who used to appear at the end of 'The Morecambe and Wise Show', who used to thank everyone profusely and spread love and bonhomie over all! Please bear with me as I try and remember names and faces. I'll do my best, but I really don't mind being given a healthy hint, or a gentle correction!

So now what next, I found myself thinking? Wonderful though it has been, there must be more to being Rector than being a Rather Rotund Jolly Reverend Mother. And I found myself back where I started, the last time I wrote. Jude. The book of Jude. That wonderfully short, jam packed little book of wisdom.

'Carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith,' says Jude. Well how do you do that? Pray. Know how much God loves you. Anticipate God's generous forgiveness. And of course, I like many others throughout the world try and do just that. But there are times when we all struggle, and we need a little bit of help from those around us, who are feeling more certain and confident in their faith. What does Jude have to say about that? I read some more. 'Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners...' (Jude 22-23a The Message)

Go easy... Go after... Be tender...
That sounds like a good way to go.

Steph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago

February and March, 1967

When I penned the article for the October / November 2016 issue, I mentioned that the Exe Valley in 1966, comprised seven parishes – Calverleigh, Morebath, Oakford, Rackenford, Stoodleigh, Washfield and Witleigh. By February, Loxbeare and Templeton had been added to the collection. Cruwys Morchard, where were you???

Thirty-seven young people were confirmed by the Bishop of Exeter at a service at Stoodleigh on the 21st February.

Church heating systems seem to have been an issue, with Oakford, Rackenford and Templeton having had new systems installed. Ironically, the winter appears to have been unseasonably mild, with the question being asked, "Are we going to have any real winter?"

Replying to questions about their long-range forecast, which had told us that January would find us in the grip of snow and ice, the weather men were reported to have said, "This did not turn out to be one of our more successful predictions"!!!

In Washfield, a resolution had been passed to demolish the wall and reduce the level of the old school playground to road level, to create a village square. The Memorial Hall was also to be extended, using volunteer labour.

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

It is good to have a return of cold bright winters. You feel a prolonged cold snap is good for the land, and Nature becomes more observable than in the dark damp days, when all seems to quietly take cover. When the brightness has been interrupted by mists and fog, rewarding and haunting views in the valleys have resulted. However, in the main, days of sparkling clarity demand that you look or go outside [flu permitting] to take in the wide and distant panoramas. In this still, colour drained and denuded environment, the animals rightly feel very conspicuous. The buzzard fidgets uncomfortably on its normal lookouts and will shortly leave. The pheasant on its favourite roost tries to merge with the branch and hopes the darkness of early nightfall makes further movement unnecessary.

Careful entry into woodland is often greeted with a start and a scamper. The glorious red of the fox and male pheasant must be an embarrassment in this moment. The dull deer have less to display save for the flash of a white behind to interest only crossword compilers. Nearer to home both male and female robins show no such shyness - each revelling in the same 'redbreastness'. Even in the coldest snap they alone continue to sing. Their territorial possessiveness is for all seasons and will supposedly descend to murder but I have not witnessed scenes of undue aggressiveness. Perhaps the Exe Valley robin feels less threatened, as all put food out.

The grey and brown mass of the deciduous woodlands are reminiscent of the morning porridge, if left unstirred

continued overleaf →

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on the breakfast table. No doubt artists with a definitive eye could make more of the tinge of purple [in the trees of course]. The same trees, if alone and dotted across the upland, lose little of their majesty despite being leafless and colourless.

I challenge myself to identify each whilst still hundreds of yards away. I recommend this to all, as it demands you really look at both the overall form and pattern of the branches. You are then compelled to inspect the bark and buds of the tree, when you get nearer. I would avoid the feeling of an app coming on.

Thomas More

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Happy New Year to all and a very warm welcome to our long awaited new Rector, Steph Jeffs. We sincerely hope that you will be very happy with us in the Exe Valley.

Back on 19 November, we held our annual Autumn Fayre which saw the hall full of produce, cakes, crafts and books as well as all the usual competitions. A good selection of delicious food was on offer - provided by the hard working kitchen helpers. The support shown by so many familiar faces was greatly appreciated, helping us to raise an incredible £920.21 towards church funds.

On 1 December our church hosted the Tiverton District Girl-guiding

Christingle Service. The church was packed with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their families with standing room only. Rev'd Steph Jeffs led the service, where many girls took part with readings, poems and hand chimes. Thanks to all who were involved.

An informal get-together was held in church on Sunday 4 December (a cold and frosty morning) with 15 people meeting for coffee, cake and chat. This was a lovely time of fellowship with Christmas music gently playing.

Nikki Burton led our own Christingle Service on 11 December. The service began with the lighting of the Christingle candle which was carried out by Jessica Luffman. In her talk Nik encouraged the congregation to assemble their own Christingles, which was carried out with much merriment and giggling from members who seemed to enjoy this activity - though some sweets disappeared before they reached the cocktail sticks! We would like to thank Doreen Venn who once again very kindly donated the Christingles.

18 December saw the church packed for our Carol Service led by Rev'd Jane Wilson. The first carol began with a duet by Nik and Dave Burton singing the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City". This was followed by lessons and carols, with a number of children coming forward to sing "Away in a Manger", which they did very well. There must have been some very proud parents and grandparents around the church. After the service a time of fellowship took place with mulled wine and mince pies being served. Our thanks go to all those who beautifully decorated the church and to all who took part in the service or helped with refreshments. The Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singers did the rounds over three nights (19, 21 & 23 Dec) with most houses covered. Our thanks go to all

who joined together to sing (especially Ron Tidball for arranging it and keeping us all in check) and to the people who gave so generously to raise the sum of £808 for Cancer Research and Open Door. Thanks also go to the kind hosts who provided supper on each of the nights - which after a lot of singing, was truly appreciated.

Anna Hansford (Reader) led our Christmas Day service of Holy Communion by Extension. Many of the congregation were invited to play musical instruments during the playing of the last hymn "Hark the Herald Angels sing" and what a good impromptu and enthusiastic orchestra they turned out to be!

Rev'd Steph Jeffs led our Holy Communion service on 8 January, her first with us as our new Rector. She was welcomed on behalf of all the congregation by Jackie Herniman, who was our Parish Representative during the vacancy.

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was held on 15 December, for the life of Charles Heathcoat-Amory, who in his younger life lived at Calverleigh Court. Rev'd Colin Fox (The Hon. Chaplain to the Rifles) conducted the service to a church filled to capacity and also relayed to a full marquee on the village green. Family members and friends of Charles took part throughout the service, which he himself had prepared with great thought. Everyone who attended left the service with a real sense of the man he was.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Doreen Chaplin (Nee Cleeve), who used to live at Frogwell many years ago, before moving to Tiverton; Colin Green, a friend to many around the parish and

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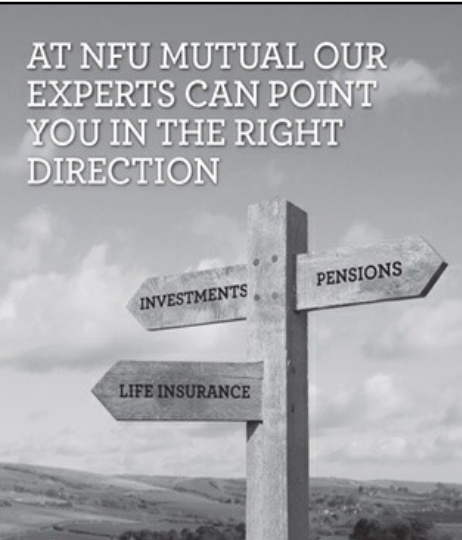



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PARISH ROUND-UP

also Mike Boynton, churchwarden and worship leader at Oakford church. Our thoughts and prayers are with all their families and friends at this very sad time and to anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with all those around the parish who have been unwell recently or for those who are waiting for, or recovering from, treatment. We hope that you will all be feeling much better soon.

We have received a letter from CHAT to say a huge thank you to all those who donated items, from biscuits to toothbrushes, to the Christmas Tree collection. A car-boot full of goodies and essentials was delivered to the CHAT office in Tiverton at the beginning of January. The letter is displayed in church if you would like to read it.

Congratulations to Natasha Goldsworthy and Marc Gerolimatos who got engaged on New Year's Eve. We wish you every happiness together.

Church Cleaning Rota:

30 Jan / 11 Feb: Mrs S Greenslade
 13 / 25 Feb: Miss J Herniman
 27 Feb / 11 Mar: Mrs M Furneaux
 13 / 25 Mar: Miss S Goldsworthy
 27 Mar / 8 Apr: Mrs J Goldsworthy

Altar Flower Rota:

5 / 12 Feb: Mrs B Hill
 19 / 26 Feb: Mrs T Pugsley
 5 / 12 Mar: Mrs S Greenslade
 19 / 26 Mar: Mrs M L Ravnkilde
 2 / 9 Apr: Mrs L Thomas

If you feel that you would like to be included on the church mowing or cleaning rotas, please contact Aubrey Goldsworthy on 01884 255248. Any more offers of help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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 email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org. Get the latest at: www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

On 14 December 2016 we had a joyous, and memorable service for the Institution, Induction and Installation of our new Rector, the Reverend Steph Jeffs, taken by The Bishop of Crediton, Bishop Sarah. Present were visiting readers and clergy, our Patron Guy Cruwys, the rural Dean, the Archdeacon and Churchwardens of the other eight parishes. The church was packed for the service, with a congregation from all nine parishes, as well as many from Steph's late parishes in Tiverton. So full was the Church that the overflow were seated in the Parish Hall, in which we had an excellent video and sound link from the Church.

The first service that Steph took in Cruwys Morchard Church was the 10pm service on Christmas Eve, the next time she is to be with us is Wednesday 18 January at 3.00pm, which is part of a week of prayer for Christian Unity 2017.

Steph is with us again on the fifth Sunday of January, the 29th when we have joint service with Templeton and Witleigh at 11am.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 1st March. With Palm Sunday on 9 March, when it would be nice to have a donkey procession again.

Easter is Sunday 16 April.

MARRIAGE DAY for the Exe Valley Community is happening in our Parish Hall on 11 February. If anyone would like to contribute teas, coffees food and drink towards the day, please contact the Churchwardens.

The church was full for our Christingle and Carol service. Thank you to all who decorated the church for Christmas. Thank you to all who helped make this a thoroughly enjoyable service. Thank you to the readers, adults and children who told the story of the Nativity so well, through poetry - as the children dressed up and acted out the story. Thank you to those who helped to make the Christingles for the service and to those who provided refreshments after the service. Thank you for the gifts to CHAT, who were pleased to receive the supplies for the homeless and needy in the Tiverton area.

Ladies Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14 February 7.30pm at Wringsland House
 PCC Wednesday 15 February 7.30pm
 Church AGM Wednesday 15 March 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

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

flower rota please let Cindy know. We would value your help.

Jan 30 / 6 Feb - Sonia Notley

Feb 13 / 20 - Denyse Standen/Jo Hilton

Feb 27 6 March - Lorna Warren

No flowers in Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday, 1 March, this year.

March 13 / 20 - Carol Chisholm/Jackie Mitchell

March 27 / 3 April - Sue/Pauline Guscott

There is no stove rota as the stove has had to be taken out of commission.

THE YOUNG FARMERS

The Club took part in the Devon County Street Dance in December and came a very respectable third place. From practising street dance, they are now rehearsing for the Exe Valley Group Entertainments, due to take place in February. The Club are holding a Bingo on Saturday 25 February at the Parish Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm eyes down 8.00 pm.

Club meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall. Look out for posters for our Big Breakfast in March. The date of the Exe Valley Entertainment is Sunday 5 February starting at 2.00 pm - tickets available from the Club. We will be putting the entertainment on again but, at this stage, not sure when and where. We generally join another Club and put it on in Tiverton High School or the New Hall.

Cruwys Arms Gardeners. On 7 December we had a very enjoyable and delicious Christmas Feast in the Cadleigh Arms, kindly organised by Clare Penny. We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm.

Yoga continues at 10.00 each Thursday morning.

Parish Hall News.

AGM Tuesday 14 March 2017

Sat 25 March. Pink Bingo at the Parish Hall. Proceeds to be shared between parish hall and Breast Cancer Care followed by the first 200 Club Draw of the year. Doors open at 7.30. Eyes down at 8pm.

Sat 8 April. Dave and Di's Spring Quiz. To book your team in email cruwysmorchardwebsite@btinternet.com or use the 'contact us' page on the parish website.

Sat 29 April. Bingo and 200 Club draw at the parish hall, eyes down at 8pm.

If you would like to advertise your parish event FREE, on the website, please email the details to Mary on cruwysmorchardwebsite@btinternet.com

More details will be available on the parish website www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk on the "What's On" page.

Pennymoor Congregational Church

Services at 4.30pm followed by tea.

5 Feb Family service. Rev R Green

12 Feb Mr D Bulley.

19 Feb join Way Village 2.30pm

26 Feb Mr O Mears

5 Mar Family Service Rev R Green

12 Mar Rev R Green

19 Mar join Way Village 2.30pm

26 Mar Mr O Mears

Don't forget, the Chapel is available for community use for a small donation to cover electricity etc.

Every blessing and thanks.

Congratulations to Robert and Beth Hodnett on the birth of George Albert, first grandchild for Sue and Martin.

Congratulations also to Tom and Jemma Vincent on the birth of Joseph on Christmas day, grandchild to Di and Dave.

Very sadly Bob Harding passed away in the new year, our sympathy and prayers go to Shirley.

Edwin Lewindon sadly passed away at the end of Nov. Edwin lived at Little Windmill with wife Pam, having lived at Nomansland prior to that.

LOXBEARE

Happy New Year to everyone and trust you experienced the joy 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 18 December in the Village Hall, preceded by a continental breakfast. It was a lovely, happy and meaningful service very ably taken by Linda. She explained the meaning of the Christingles while we all made them during the service with the children helping. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Our carol service was on the 18 Dec at 6.30pm. It was led by John and was very well attended, with many taking part with readings. Linda organised the children with reading and acting out the nativity story, prayers, singing and playing. Well done children, you were excellent. Presents were placed under the tree and later taken to Ashdowne/Pinnex Moor Nursing Home. The offering of £233 was donated to Children's Hospice S.W. It was good to see so many, including children, come to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas morning - which was a Family Communion service and was taken by John. Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church (the tree by the children) and cleared up after Christmas, and all who helped in any way over the Christmas period. Also

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(Hebrews Ch 4 v 12)

Question? How many lives have been changed, we wonder, by the many Bibles, cards, gifts, CDs, books and other articles that have been given or sent over the Christmas period? Answer! We don't know but we pray that everyone who has received something containing scripture will have been touched by it. As you know, with our Lord's leading, we are here to send the wonderful Gospel message out to as many people as possible in as many ways as possible. Thank you for coming in to the shop and being part of that challenge and responding to it.

Please do keep coming in. We hope you see New Creation as worthwhile and an important addition to the work of the local churches. We need your support more than ever. The use of the internet may be easy but it takes the trade away from local shops and they close down. If New Creation is to continue here in Tiverton, providing a counselling and prayer room, a resource centre for local Christians, and a place of refreshment for body, mind and spirit it needs all the local Christians to make it their own and use it on a regular basis. We are told at the end of

Matthew's Gospel to go out and make disciples –
New Creation has the resources to help you do just that!

Penny often has special offers in the café: for February it's a lunchtime soup and roll for £3.00

Penny works very hard to produce tasty lunches and tea-time treats but she really needs more volunteers to help her. It would be wonderful to have more people on our rota who would be willing to help on a one-day-a-week basis and also be able to take over if she was ill or on holiday. Our volunteers are very precious to us and we really value them. They also see it as their way of serving the Lord.
Maybe this could be your opportunity as well?

Some festivals and events coming soon for which you may need resources:

- St. Valentines Day – February 14th
- Fairtrade Fortnight – 27th February to 12th March
- Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) – March 1st
- Mothering Sunday – March 26th
- Good Friday/Easter Sunday – 14th and 16th April

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PARISH ROUND-UP

thank you to all the Carol singers, those who provided supper on the three nights and to those who gave so generously a wonderful total of over £800, which will be split between Cancer/Brain Tumour Research and Open Doors, to be used to help the Syrian Refugees.

Thank you to all who came to meet and welcome Steph on 17 December in the Village Hall. Steph took her first service at Loxbeare with Evening Praise, on New Year's Day. We look forward to her future ministry and pray for God's blessing and guidance on all she seeks to do, in serving the Lord here in the Exe Valley.

The Woman's Bible Study Group continue to meet at Christine's at Churchill House, Loxbeare. All ladies welcome. For more details phone Marion on 01884 256302.

Mothering Sunday on the 26 March will be in the Village Hall with the service commencing at approx. 10.30. This will be preceded by a full English breakfast from 9.30am cooked and served by the men. Do come and join us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell, for those recovering from operations and those receiving treatment. We trust you will soon be feeling better.

Congratulations to Charmaine Roberts, John and Marion's daughter, on her engagement and we wish her and her Fiancé much happiness and God's blessing on their lives together. We welcome Chris Unwin and partner Emma, Josh, Harvey 10, Evie 8, and eight month old twins Myah and Mia. We hope you will be happy and soon settle in Loxbeare.

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Christmas Fayre on 26 November raised £300 for Village Hall Funds. The next cream tea in the Hall will be on 11 Feb and then 11 March, both 3-5pm. 10 April will be Easter Bingo.

The Village Christmas Meal was at Bickleigh Mill and enjoyed by all. Thank you Sue for organising the evening.

Loxbeare Ladies:- dates and activities please phone Sue on 01884 259496 for details.

OAKFORD

We start the year in shock and disbelief that our dedicated and long-serving churchwarden, Mike Boynton, died suddenly of heart failure during the evening of 3 January. Mike spent his last few years working tirelessly for the good of Oakford church during a time of falling congregation numbers, rising costs and increasing bureaucracy and also through at least two long periods when we had no Rector. Upheld by his faith and supported and assisted by his wife Wendy, Mike made sure that services continued to be held every Sunday. His contribution to the church in particular, and the village in general was immense and he will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers go out to Wendy and the family as they come to terms with their loss.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the church look so festive for our Carols by Candlelight Service. Thanks too, to Ian for taking the service; all those who read; to Mary for accompanying us on the organ and to Dawn for providing mulled wine and the ladies who made mince pies.

The previous evening had seen a good crowd gathered around the village Christmas tree to enjoy carol singing led by Mike. All were in good voice and earned the mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies served afterwards. Then came a surprise visit by Father Christmas on the Rotary Club sleigh wishing us all a Merry Christmas.

The Christmas Day Family Communion turned out to be a real family affair with Ken and Avenel Blyth ensuring that all the children present had a part to play in the angel-themed service. A special time together on a very special day. Thank you Ken and Avenel.

Moorland Club:

Thursday 9 February – Fish & Chip Supper at 7pm in the village hall.

Thursday 9 March at 7.30pm – Presentation of cheques to The Alzheimers’s Society and Exeter Leukaemia Fund. Come and make friends; new members always welcome.

Oakford Players: The Players are proud to announce a donation of £800 going to the Devon Air Ambulance and £200 to the village hall roof appeal following their highly amusing December production of ‘Up Pompeii’. It’s all good fun and anyone interested in joining, is invited to come along to a meeting in the village hall on Thursday 23 March at 7.30pm – backstage, front of house, and kitchen help all needed, as well as actors. Contact: Dawn 01351 324035.

Winter illnesses are going around. We pray for all who are suffering to make a speedy recovery. The dark days of the season will soon be over and snowdrops are coming to lift our hearts. Rejoice!

MICHAEL BOYNTON

Mike Boynton was a good man. Most of us involved with the Exe Valley community have only known him in his retirement with Wendy, where his life has been dedicated to two activities – the public one caring for and developing the ministry at Oakford church and the private one of maintaining and enjoying his little estate in the valley. He often spoke to me of his thirty four steps down to his cottage and how difficult he was finding them in recent months. It was not until I visited that I realized what a “dream come true” his and Wendy’s home is and yet how difficult it must have been for him as his hips deteriorated.

Mike worked all over the world in communications and, until his boys began to leave school, Wendy travelled with him. This cosmopolitan life-style gave him extensive experience of the Middle East and his knowledge and awareness helped him understand much of the political tensions of the present day. This influenced both his conversation and his prayer-life.

In recent years, since 1994 he and Wendy have lived at Combe Water and, except when the weather has made it impossible, have loyally worshipped at St Peter’s Oakford, Sunday by Sunday, and made the church their second home. His weekly Saturday visits to set up the heating and prepare the altar made it possible for visiting clergy to feel instantly at home and to feel we belonged – a great gift to us roving ministers.

Last autumn I stood in for Mike at the auction of harvest produce in the village hall. An exhausting two hours



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PARISH ROUND-UP

acting as auctioneer dragging out the cash for charities and entertaining the diners. Mike has performed this role for many years but was pleased to give it a rest and, with his health problems, it was wonderful that he was still able to organise this event. His contribution to the life of Oakford has been considerable and he will be sadly missed and I shall miss his friendly, if at times a little sarcastic, welcome Sunday by Sunday.

Thank you Michael for your friendship. Michael leaves his wife Wendy and three sons, who need your prayers and support during the weeks to come.

Ian Johnson

RACKENFORD

We hope you enjoyed Christmas and we wish you a very happy new year.

The school fete took place on 2 December. It was a hive of activity as people enjoyed the many stalls, games, refreshments etc that were available. This was well supported and a lovely atmosphere to enjoy the evening. Approx £1,300 was raised for school funds.

Some of us were fortunate enough to enjoy the afternoon or evening nativity "A Miracle in Town" by Rackenford Primary School. The children were amazing, lots of lines to learn, fine acting and singing with prayers. A joy to watch. A collection taken by the children of £75.30 was kindly donated to our church which we much appreciated. Thank you. The school invited everyone back to school for refreshments.

Bishop Sarah requested Rackenford Church children to play the Bell Plates at the licensing of Rev. Stephanie Jeffs. It was an honour to be asked and we thank Alice Heywood, Evie Heywood, Emily Miller, Jessica Miller, Evelyn Jones and Tilly Herniman. Well done - and many thanks to Marjorie Smith for her work with the children. Mandy Lewry represented Rackenford school at this very special service. We continue to remember Steph in our prayers.



Work continued prior to Christmas on up-righting the headstones and we would especially like to thank Sampson, Keegan and Lewis so much for the help they gave us.

We thank the family of the late Doris Nott for a donation to our church of £232.47, during the service of celebration in October. Donations were also given to Air Ambulance and British Heart Foundation.

We were blessed to have Rev Stephanie Jeffs taking our Christmas Eve carol service, she was warmly welcomed by The Bells, a full church, our choir and the help of some young children. We

even had 3 Kings with us - Darren Blackburn, David Cocks, and Simon Avery. Holy Communion concluded our service. Thank you to everyone for making this service so enjoyable - not forgetting little Beatrice who made us laugh.

Sadly the Carol singers were not able to call on us as planned, due to the weather conditions. Maybe next year !!

We are pleased to report that the work on the church roof has now been completed and thank Historic Church's for a donation.

We have been asked to mention the following dates for the **Gardening Club**. A.G.M. 28 February at Edward Hyland's Cottage 7pm.

Spring Show 1 April.

Plant Sale at Tennis Court 6 May.

Autumn Show 2 September.

A warm welcome to Mary Curphey who has moved into Jubilee Cottage, and very best wishes to Betty Highman who has left us.

Our deepest sympathy to Fiona and Chris Maddocks and family on the death of Fiona's father and also to Madick Theuil on the death of her mother. You are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

We continue to pray for our friends, Muriel Blinman, Jacques Cann, Joan Clark, Peter Reynolds and Peter Turpin and to anyone else we have not heard about. We hope you are making good progress Sharon (Dart) since your operation.

A few reminders as the grass growing season approaches. Please use plastic

continued on Page 13 →

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LENT AND HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

1 March	6.30pm	Holy Communion with Ashes	Stoodleigh
8 March	6.30pm	Lent Meditation	Calverleigh
15 March	6.30pm	Lent Meditation	Cruwys Morchard
22 March	6.30pm	Lent Meditation	Rackenford
29 March	6.30pm	Lent Meditation	Washfield
5 April	6.30pm	Lent Meditation	Templeton
10 April	6.30pm	Monday Holy Week Meditation	TBC
11 April	6.30pm	Tuesday Holy Week Meditation	TBC
12 April	6.30pm	Wednesday Holy Week Meditation	TBC
13 April	6.30pm	Agape Meal	TBC
14 April		Good Friday	TBC

Take time to be holy,
Speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide with Him always,
And feed on His word.

Make friends of God's children;
Help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing
His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy,
The world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret
With Jesus alone.

By looking to Jesus,
Like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy,
Be calm in thy soul;
Each thought and motive
Beneath His control.

Thus led by His spirit
To fountains of love,
Thou soon shall be fitted
For service above.

William D Longstaff

OAKFORD

5 February

9.30 am Holy Communion

12 February

9.30 am Family Service

19 February

9.30 am Holy Communion

26 February

See Witleigh

5 March

9.30 am Holy Communion

12 March

10.30 am Family Service
with Baptism

Rector

19 March

See Calverleigh

26 March

9.30 am Holy Communion

RACKENFORD

5 February

9.30 am Morning Worship

12 February

11 am Holy Communion

19 February

9.30 am Family Service

26 February

See Witleigh

5 March

9.30 am Morning Worship

12 March

9.30 am Holy Communion

19 March

See Calverleigh

26 March

9.30 am Family Service

Rector

STOODLEIGH

5 February

11 am Family Service

12 February

11 am Holy Communion

Rector

19 February

11 am Morning Prayer

26 February

See Witleigh

5 March

11 am Morning Prayer

12 March

11 am Holy Communion

19 March

See Calverleigh

26 March

11 am Family Service

CALVERLEIGH

5 February
9.30 am Holy Communion
Rector

12 February
11.15 am Family Service

19 February
3 pm Evening Worship

26 February
See Withleigh

5 March
9.30 am Holy Communion

12 March
11.15 am Family Service

19 March
10.30 am Group Service
Rector

26 March
11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

5 February
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

12 February
11 am Holy Communion

19 February
11 am Family Service

26 February
See Withleigh

5 March
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

12 March
11 am Holy Communion

19 March
See Calverleigh

26 March
11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

5 February
6.30 pm Evening Praise

12 February
11 am Family Service

19 February
9.30 am Family Communion
Rector

26 February
See Withleigh

5 March
6.30 pm Evening Praise

12 March
9.30 am Family Communion

19 March
See Calverleigh

26 March
9.30 am Breakfast Service

TEMPLETON

5 February
11 am Family Service
Rector

12 February
No Service

19 February
9.30am Morning Service
with Holy Communion
by Extension

26 February
See Withleigh

5 March
9.30am Morning Service
with Holy Communion
Rector

12 March
No Service

19 March
See Calverleigh

26 March
10.30 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

5 February
11 am Christingle Service

12 February
3 pm Evening Prayer

19 February
11 am Holy Communion
Rector

26 February
See Withleigh

5 March
11 am Holy Communion
Rector

12 March
11 am Morning Prayer

19 March
See Calverleigh

26 March
11 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

5 February
10.30 am Family Service

12 February
9.30 am Holy Communion

19 February
10.30 am Morning Worship

26 February
10.30 am Group Service
Rector

5 March
10.30 am Morning Worship

12 March
9.30am Holy Communion
by Extension

19 March
See Calverleigh

26 March
10.30 am Family Service

FROM STEPH



PRAYER DIARY

5-11 February

'Let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'
We pray for those who seek to bring God's light to those in need, often at great personal cost.

This month we pray for those who live, work and worship within the parish of Witleigh.

12-18 February

'See, I set before you today a choice: life and prosperity, or death and destruction.'

We pray for people of all nations whose lives are affected by anger, either their own or other people's, for those who bear grudges, and for people hurt by other's thoughtlessness.

19-25 February

'If you love those who love you, what reward do you have?'

We pray for those who work and serve the vulnerable and the marginalised, medical professionals, social workers, prison officers, volunteers. We pray for those who foster or adopt children, may they be strengthened by your love.

26-4 March

'Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."' We pray for all those who work, support and champion the Fairtrade movement throughout the world. We thank you for the Women's World Day of Prayer and for the church in the Philippines.

5-11 March

Who is this man?

'This is my son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

We pray for ourselves and the temptations we face, the times when we find it easy to stray from your path. We ask for sensitivity to hear your voice clearly, and the discernment to choose rightly, with the assurance of your Spirit's presence with us.

12-18 March

'God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

We pray for those who have been called to serve you in other countries and in other cultures. We pray for the Mission Societies supported throughout the Exe Valley. We praise and thank you for those who are willing to go wherever you call them to be.

19-25 March

'...those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.' We pray for women and children who walk miles each day to collect water, for those who miss school because of the lack of it, and where entire communities are affected by the lack of it.

26-1 April

'Lord, I believe.'

Father God, give us the eyes of faith, that we may choose your way in the face of so many choices this week. Help us to believe in your promise and respond to your calling. *In Jesus' name.*

Come and See ...!

I know that for some of you, you have probably seen enough already (!), but if you would like to meet me, or want to have a chat, or know of someone who needs a visit, or just want to know where I am, there are several ways of getting in touch.

* Look to find out which Sunday Services I will be taking, and where they are. This information is on the middle pages of the magazine.

* Book to make an appointment on a Monday, during the day or in the evening. Leave a message or send an e-mail. My details are at the front of the magazine.

* If you cannot get to me, and you would like me to visit, please contact me and leave a message. I will endeavour to make an arrangement to visit you as soon as I can, within a three week period.

* If it is an emergency, phone, email or leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

* Once the church office is operational, please contact me via the office. Details will be in the next magazine.

* Come to a Group Service or one of the new 5th Sunday Cluster Services. Every 5th Sunday the churches will meet as a small cluster, with those situated closest to them, and rotate the venue. This should provide another opportunity of meeting a greater number of you.

Steph

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DOIVE DESIGNS

PARISH ROUND-UP

containers on the graves for your flowers or plants and NOT glass or china as it will damage Andrew's machinery (and him) when cutting. If he finds glass /china he will have to remove it. Could everyone who uses the churchyard path please make sure the gates are shut behind you, as we have found lots of evidence of dog fouling which is not nice for anyone to deal with and obviously dogs must be on leads. Many thanks for all your help with this.

STOODLEIGH

The Christmas period brought a lot of jollity as well as some sadness. Just before Christmas Michael Honnor lost his battle with cancer. Michael was a generous, sociable man with a lovely dry sense of humour and he will be missed by all his friends. The Honnors have been living at Champles Farm for many years: Michael loved his dogs, exercising them while riding his quad bike, which he did with Tambo, until ten days before his death. Our thoughts are with Diana and the family.

At New Year we heard of the deaths of Ann Middleton and Peter Nethercot. Ann Middleton was 87 and had lived for 45 years at Ashcombe Farm, staying on after her husband Noel died 35 years ago. She grew up near London and seems to have come to Devon as a very young Land Girl towards the end of the war, and so met her husband. They had five daughters.

Peter and Henny Nethercot were at Rowhill for years and since moving to Tiverton returned occasionally for a Sunday morning drink at the Stoodleigh Inn. Peter had many friends here. To many others he was an osteopath, with genuinely 'healing hands'.

Early in December, the Parish Hall was festively decorated for the annual Christmas Fayre. Despite a foggy day, just under £1,170 was raised for the church. Father Christmas was delayed a bit by the fog but was able to appear and distribute presents to the children. There were many stalls and an amazing raffle with masses of prizes. We are most grateful to all who donated these and also to all those who helped set up and decorate the Hall, ran stalls or came to support the event.

A week before Christmas, the church was packed for the Carol Service at which we were delighted to welcome our new Rector, Steph Jeffs. Jennifer managed to squeeze twenty into the choir stalls and this band of singers led the singing with the ladies' voices soaring above the congregation in the descants. The choir sang Rutter's Christmas Lullaby and The Three Kings by Cornelius, for which Keith Ross from Oakford was the soloist. Audrey Rigg excelled herself as usual with the children's Nativity Play and Steph provided further audience participation during her short address.

After so much singing it was lovely to have a small band of carol-singers two days later, carolling round the village. They were made very welcome and were delighted to collect £135 which went to Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of Michael Honnor.

This year, after a quiet few winter months, will find various events appearing on the calendar and these will be published here, of course, and also on the Stoodleigh website and the Exe Valley Churches website. The only firm date so far is the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting which will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday 14 March at the Old Stable, next to the church.

Shortly after the New Year, John and Emily Northam and family moved on to pastures new up at Staple Cross. We welcome Matt and Louise Butcher with Harry (6) and Rosie (2) who have now moved in to Kingswood.

At the Parish Hall

The Christmas Bingo and Draw was the last of the 2016 events at the Hall and what a great success it was! The committee would like to thank the community for their support in buying draw tickets and joining in with the fun of the bingo. Thank you also to the many generous local businesses who provided some fabulous prizes. The profit amounted to £850 - in aid of Parish Hall funds.

Coming up: Skittles and Ploughmans at the Hall on Friday 3 February at 7pm. Supper will be provided but please bring your own drinks. This was a popular evening last year so be sure to book early. Tickets include supper and are £5 from Geraldine on 351391 or Margaret on 351252. This is a SWAG fundraising event for the Mary's Meals charity.

The regular events and classes at the Hall have started again; details are on the noticeboard and on the Stoodleigh website.

Garden Club: This is an early warning that the Stoodleigh Open Flower & Produce Show will be on a Saturday this year - 2 September. Further details will follow.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Prizewinners for November - 1 Peter Browne, 2 Henry Ayre, 3 Mervyn Brice, 4 Linda Sharrock; December - 1 Shirley Cope, 2 Christine Luxton, 3 David Wotton, 4

continued overleaf →



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Jen Fraser, extra prizes Martine Jaquemet, Julie Cridland.

Church Flower Rota

5 February Phyllis Hill
12 / 19 Feb Pat Aplin
26 Feb / 9 Apr Lent, no flowers

The usual Christmas tournaments were held at the village hall over the Christmas period and the results were as follows:

Ladies Skittles:

Winner: Sue Gammon. Runner-up: Eleri Pugh

Men's Skittles:

Winner: Shaun Gammon. Runner-up: Adam Short

Mixed Pool:

Winner: Mike Pancherz. Runner-up: Fletcher Freeman

Ladies Darts:

Winner: Teresa Pancherz. Runner-up: Sue Gammon

Mens Darts:

Winner: Martin Saunders. Runner-up: Jake Pancherz

Mixed Table Tennis:

Winner: Martin Rose. Runner-up: Fletcher Freeman

A new heating system is being installed at the Village Hall, so there are no functions taking place for a couple of months.

At the church:

Templeton Book Group meets on the first Wednesday afternoon every month.

Church Coffee Morning meet between 10.30 and 12 noon on the first Friday of the month.

Knit and Natter Group meet at 10.30 on the last Wednesday of the month.

The next Family Service is on Sunday 5 February at 11.00am and Rev'd Steph Jeffs will take this service.

Mothering Sunday Service is at 10.30am on 26 March.

Flower & Cleaning Rota:

Gloria Woollacott - Flowers & Cleaning
5 / 12 Feb

Bindy Linden - Flowers & Cleaning 19 / 26 Feb

Jan Heptinstall - Lent - Cleaning only 5 / 12 Mar

Clare Trevelyan Thomas - Lent - Cleaning only 19 / 26 Mar

TEMPLETON

Recent news: Our parish extends their sympathy to Oakford church on the death of their churchwarden Mike Boynton and to his wife Wendy and their family.

Past news: Our new Rector Steph Jeffs took our Christingle Service on 18 December. It was well attended and many brought gifts which were placed under the Christmas tree for children in Tiverton. The gifts were taken the next morning to the Salvation Army who were really pleased and thankful, asking that their thanks be passed on to all involved.

At the service, Steph gave a dramatic sermon which we will never forget !!

On Christmas Eve we held our Carol Service amidst a beautifully decorated church; thank you to all those who so thoughtfully contributed to this. It was great to see the majority of Templeton attending the service, which was kindly taken by Rev'd Christopher Rowley. A wonderful beginning to Christmas celebrations.

A Christmas party held on 1 December was enjoyed by over 20 children. Many thanks to Tony Loosemore for organising it, thanks too to Father Christmas who dropped by and gave presents to the children. A big thank you to Sara, Julie & Bindy for the help.

WASHFIELD

"Hope" smiles from the threshold
of the year that's just begun,
Whispering ~

"I'll make it as good as it can be,
for you and everyone"

A happy and healthy New Year to all our readers!

Christmas Day was celebrated with great joy at the Service of Holy Communion when we welcomed Stephanie Jeffs, our new Rector. There was a strong sense of thankfulness that she is now leading us all in the Exe Valley and we thank God for His goodness. The Carol Service was very well attended and we thank Sarah Tobey for playing the organ and for her choir of children and young people, who sang beautifully. The church looked very festive, especially the Christmas tree, which had been decorated by the children at the Family Service, led by Andrew Herniman, before Christmas. Many thanks to all those who provided the flower arrangements.

Sadly, during the Christmas period, we had two bereavements in the parish. We send our kind thoughts to Mrs. Liz Wright of Pyle Moor Cottage who lost her son Matthew in a tragic flying accident. A Thanksgiving Service for his life was held in the church on 22 December, attended by many friends and family.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We were very saddened to learn of the death of Mrs Grace Bicknell, the great loss of a long-standing member of our community. Grace, Peter and their little daughter, Mary came to live in Washfield in the bad winter of 1947, firstly at Keeper's Cottage (a very different lifestyle to their previous home in Wellbrook Street, Tiverton). It was here that their love of gardening grew and they were also able to keep chickens and a goat! Their next (and final) move was to Stagstile, where the garden was bigger and Grace soon got into entering Garden Show competitions with the produce they grew (mainly with her vegetables). Peter and Grace did not take holidays; gardening was their life. Grace was soon involved in village life, with Mother's Union and the church and then even busier, being on the committees of the Memorial Hall, Women's Institute, Parish Council, Church PCC and also the Garden Club. She loved company and get-togethers in the village. Grace was a very generous, willing and caring lady who made everyone who called feel very welcome and invariably guests left with a bag of vegetables, a bunch of flowers or just a 'please come again'. Her death will leave a big hole in the lives of so many people and she will be sorely missed in village life and by us all.

On 29 December, the whole community gathered together to give thanks for Grace's life. A wonderful tribute to a great lady. Our deepest sympathies to go Mary and her family. Grace's daughter, Mary, has asked us to add her thoughts. "I would like to say a personal thank you to everyone in Washfield who sent cards, attended the Remembrance Service and also took time to visit Mum at Stagstile over the years. These visits meant so much to her and, when she was no longer able to get out so easily, enabled her to still feel very much a part of village life. The

service in Washfield also meant that I met up with her 'old' friends and lots of new ones, all of whom shared their own memories of Mum with me. A big thank you to everyone".

We send kind thoughts and this get well message to anyone in our village who is unwell at present and hope that you are soon feeling better.

We gathered together at the Family Service in November to welcome a new member into the church family, when little Zoe Stevens was Baptised by the Revd. Ken Blyth, in the company of many family members and friends. This was a happy occasion and we wish her well.

The church coffee morning at The Cottage was very generously supported, and enjoyed. The amazing sum of £300 was raised! This was considerably boosted by a generous gift of a large number of beautiful flower paintings, by our famous local artist, Mr Frank Smith. We are very grateful for all your contributions to this annual event.

We have continued to support CHAT with food etc. for which they are very grateful. There is an increasing need for help for the homeless and the box is in the church porch.

The Christmas period saw our intrepid Carol-singers doing their rounds of the village to raise funds for charity. They raised the great sum of £130 for 'Kids who Care' (supporting young carers). Well done to everyone who took part.

On New Year's Eve at the Social Club, those who attended pitted their wits in Quizzes set by James Wych - before seeing the New Year in with friends. A lovely evening. Thanks James.

Lunch Club re-starts again on 23 February after the break. If there is anyone out there who would like to come along please contact Anne on 255298.

Finally, we need to say a **HUGE** thank you to Hilary Arnold who, after many years, has stepped down from writing these notes. We shall miss her lovely, friendly and thoughtful column, giving us all the Washfield news. She is a very hard act to follow! THANK YOU, HILARY.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 9 February W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Speaker Gareth Sydenham on Fire Safety

Tuesday 14 February teatime@thehall 2.30pm. All welcome to participate Thursday 23 February Lunch Club restarts. In hall 12 noon for 12.30. New attendees welcome. Please phone Anne to book for this first one on 255298.

Thursday 9 March W.I. in hall 7.30pm Speaker David Carne on 'The life of a Lighthouse Keeper'

Tuesday 14 March teatime@thehall 3pm. Please come along for tea, cakes, chat and friendship.

FORTHCOMING EVENT A Coffee Morning will be held on Easter Saturday (15th April) following the Egg Decorating & Rolling. Your help and support will be very much appreciated.

Altar Flower Rota

February 5 Mrs May
February 12/19 Mrs Parnell
February 26 Mrs Pannifer
March LENT No Flowers

Cleaning Rota

February 6/13 Mrs Albery
February 20/27 Mr & Mrs Ellis
March 6/13 Mrs French
March 20/27 Mrs Arnold

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

WITHLEIGH

Our Craft Fayre in the village hall on 26 November was a great success, raising just over £1,000 for church funds. Our grateful thanks to Janet Sellick for organising this event and all who supported it – both ‘customers’ and stall-holders.

Our Christingle Service, in support of the work of the Children’s Society took place on the afternoon of 4 December, resulting in £110 being sent to the Society. Thank you, Janet and Christine, for making the Christingles.

Monday 12 December saw seven hardy souls carol singing around the village. £95 was collected for the Devon Air Ambulance, and for which a letter of thanks has been received.

We were delighted to welcome Rev. Steph Jeffs into the Exe Valley Mission Community at her institution at Cruwys Morchard on 14 December. We are, Steph, at the time of writing, looking forward to your move into the Rectory, and being able to welcome you into village life at Withleigh.

Following Steph’s institution and with Steve taking up the post of Administrator soon, we would like to take this opportunity to thank both Elizabeth and Paul for all their hard work, as Administrators, for organising clergy and putting together the services throughout the Exe Valley, as well as many other things done quietly in the background - and throughout all of the past two years they have not failed to remember us here at Withleigh. Thank you both very much.

Our Carol Service on 18 December was led by Brenda, aided and abetted by Susie Wade and Peter Edmunds. It was

great to see the church so crowded for the occasion. Hopefully, the attraction wasn’t the mince pies and mulled wine that followed! The first verse of “Once in Royal David’s City” was sung beautifully as a solo by Sarah Headon, who also read us a shortened version of “The Christmas Mouse” – a book written by one Stephanie Jeffs! Donations of non-perishable goods, left under the Christmas tree, were given to CHAT (for which a letter of thanks has been received). Our thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully for Christmas, and to Mark and Cathy for the tree. At the end of the service, a bouquet was presented to Janet Roche as a token of our thanks for playing the organ for us at our service on the three Sundays in December.

Our Christmas service of Holy Communion was well attended, and led by Steph. Thank you Laura for tearing yourself away from Freddie to play the organ for us!

We look forward to hosting the Group Service on 26 February at 10.30am in church.

Every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm, in our Village Hall we roll out the Short Mat Bowls mats for a roll-up or a match, depending on fixtures. We would welcome anyone who would like to come along and try the game for the first time or if you are an experienced player perhaps you could come along and give us a few tips! We like to have a fun evening with club competition’s running throughout the year. We have a short break for refreshments and a chat. If you would like more information please call Duncan 252949 or Brenda 252431, or just come along on a Wednesday evening.

Withleigh WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, @ 7.30pm.

Guests are always welcome to come along. For more information please ring Rosie 01884 257123.

Thursday 9 February, guest speaker, Chris Maddoxs, on 5 x Olympic Race Walking for team GB.

Thursday 9 March, guest speaker, Jo MacFarlane, on An Introduction to Lace.

St Catherine’s Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Our love and prayers go out to all who are unwell at this time, or recovering from operations, also to Jim Headon and all of the family on the death of Emma. These are also extended to Wendy Boynton and the people of Oakford, as they come to terms with the sudden death of Mike Boynton, who had served there as churchwarden for many years.

Forthcoming Events:

9 February WI 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

26 February Group Service at 10.30am

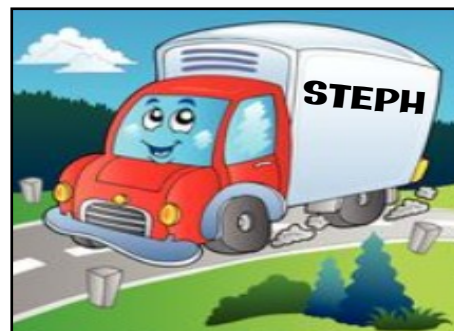
9 March WI 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Flower Rota:

5, 12, 19, 26 Feb Brenda Tucker
March (LENT) No flowers

Monthly Diary Dates:

First Thursday – Bingo
Second Monday – Whist Drive
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CHILDREN'S CORNER



COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3rd February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

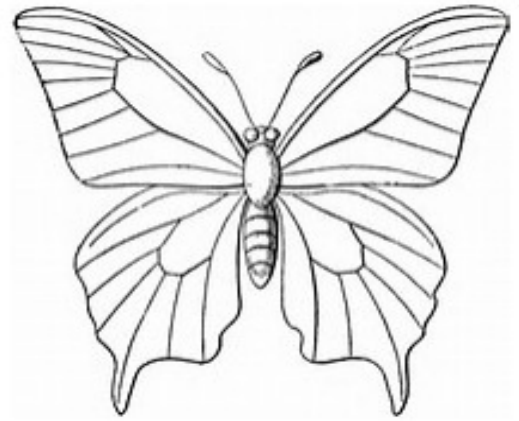
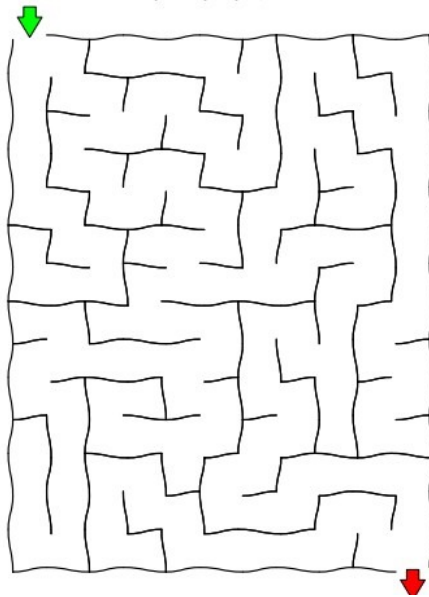


A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S N I F F L E S T E
 L H W L E F F T I L
 I A I U L V K A S A
 N N C V E I E O S Z
 C K O O E R P R U N
 T I E O L R U H E E
 U E S L D D S T S U
 S W O T E L B A T F
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 shivers sniffles tablet throat
 tissues winter



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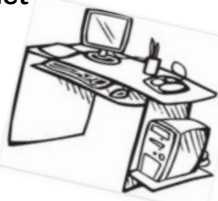
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QUOTATIONS, JOKES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Thoughts for Everyday by Patience Strong ~ for 16 February

The happy heart is that
which is content with little things,
The heart that loves a simple life
The heart in which there springs -
A sense of joy with each fresh day,
A prayer of gratitude -
For the miracle of health and strength
In every day renewed.

KEEP SMILING ...

A chauvinistic husband and
his godly wife were
preparing breakfast when
the wife asked why she
always had to make the tea?

*"Because you're the wife,
it's your job"*

She replied "The Bible
doesn't say that it's the
wife's job to make tea -
it says that it's the man's"

"Where does it say that?"

"Look !! HEBREWS !!"

Thoughts for Everyday by Patience Strong ~ for 4 March

Time brings many changes,
turning golden hair to grey.

But if the heart is young,
we grow not old. It's always May.

The young in heart
look through the clouds
and see the golden gleam -

Because they never lose the power
To laugh, to hope, to dream.

Thank you Lord,
for the little things
that often come our way.
Things we take for granted
and don't mention when we pray.

The unexpected courtesy;
the thoughtful kindly deed;
a hand reached out to help us
in a time of sudden need.

Oh, make us more aware,
dear God - of little daily graces,
that come to us with
sweet surprise, from
"never-dreamed-of" places.

Helen Steiner Rice

The Road to Looking Forward

The Road to Looking Backward
Leads to much we would forget;
Memories too often tinged
With sorrow and regret -
for all the lovely dreams of youth
That never quite came true -
And the good intentions
That were never carried through.

The Road to Looking Backward
Is a road that leads at last,
To the sad recollection
Of the failures of the past;
The word of kindness left unsaid;
The word that gave offence.
The Road to Looking Back
Becomes the road to penitence.

But in the light of God's forgiveness
We can turn and start again -
And leave behind forever
Self-reproach, remorse and pain.
The Road of Looking Forward
We can take courageously
Believing in the promise
That the best is yet to be.

Patience Strong



**"Well, no - I'm not
dressed like this to
create common ground
with today's youth - I've
always worn a hoodie !!"**

Parish Pump

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



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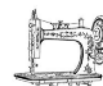
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