



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

June - July 2017

Price 50p

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS ...

It is the little things in life that cause the most bother. Something inconsequential and tiny can take on a disproportionate significance!

Take the other day. There I was, hard at work, beavering away, when I suddenly fancied a cuppa. But while waiting for the kettle to boil, I did something, a tiny weeny something, a something that I didn't have to do, and wouldn't normally do, but I did something which would have consequences for the rest of the day.

And here's what I did. I opened a cupboard door and started to tidy things up. I didn't need to. I didn't have to. I was just passing the time, while the kettle boiled. I picked up all sorts of half empty packets, the tail end, fag end dregs of suppers passed, and started to put them together. And then – and here's where it all went wrong - I picked up two opened packets of couscous!

Oh! If only I'd known! Oh! If only I had left them on the shelf! But no! I picked them up, and realising that there was too much to put in one packet, I poured the couscous into an empty jar. Of course, there was far too much to squeeze in, and because, by now the kettle had

boiled, and I really hadn't intended to sort out the cupboards, I chucked the superfluous couscous into the sink, before running the hot tap to swill it down the drain.

Running the hot tap! Running the hot tap! What was I thinking of? Running the hot tap! What a stupid, foolish, idiotic thing to do. Before I could utter the word, 'Tabbouleh', both sinks had blocked, with water attempting to gush onto the kitchen floor.

I tried poking in a skewer. Nothing. I looked for a plunger. Nothing. I waited a bit to see what would happen. Nothing. Then I drove to a well-known DIY store. 'Where do you keep your plungers?' I asked an assistant. 'We don't,' came the reply. 'Haven't you heard, we're being taken over? Plungers and other such equipment won't arrive until August!' ... August!

I decided to resort to chemicals – well, not chemicals exactly, but their enzyme blasting, couscous zapping, environmentally friendly equivalent - and hot footed it back home. I poured them in and watched. Nothing.

After a lot of faffing about, another trip into town, stronger, less enzyme, more chemical

liquids, and the arrival of a Church Warden with plunger, (looking remarkably like the Statue of Liberty), as well as another, ably used by a female family member, there was a sudden gloop and a gush and the water drained away.

And the moral of this story? Apart from the obvious hazards of chucking couscous down the sink, it occurred to me that a grain of couscous is tiny. It's hard to imagine that it could cause such a kerfuffle. But even tiny things, left to fester and grow can accumulate and cause enormous damage. Anger, for example; old hurts and resentments, quarrels and tittle-tattle. It's good to take heed to wise words, challenging us to keep short accounts and to deal with things properly, through being kind and forgiving. Ephesians 4:31-32 says: You must put away all bitterness, anger, wrath, quarrelling, and slanderous talk—indeed all malice. Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

Steph

More from Steph P 3,10,12 & 19

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EDITORIAL

There is a new look to the magazine this time.

No photos, poems, jokes, cartoons, children's corner etc - and most important of all ... NO boxes inside the back cover, for your "At a glance" check on all the Summer Events. It was at this time of year, two years ago, that we started the boxes because we knew that you liked to visit one another's "Fetes" and didn't want to miss one. We have had many people tell us how useful the boxes are but they will have to be a thing of the past. So many people had such a lot to say this time, that it was difficult to fit it all in. We don't like to cut out anything from your "Notes" but something has to change. We feel that the magazine needs variety and interest for all our readers. We hope you agree.

Welcome to our new Advertisers and "Thank you" for joining us.

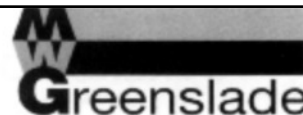
At a recent Churchwarden's Meeting, it was decided that the voluntary subscription (Brown envelope inserted) should now be 50p per issue.

Jenny and Geoff

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STEPH REFLEXE ...

I've just undertaken my last duty as Mayor's Chaplain at the Mayor Choosing ceremony. I've been doing it now for two years, and it has been fascinating to get a glimpse into some of the goings-on. There's a strange little ritual where the outgoing mayor processes out of the Council Chamber (followed by his chaplain) into an ante room, and then there is a quick change of clothes and the new mayor processes in. All of which is vaguely reminiscent of a French farce – except in this scenario everyone definitely keeps their trousers on! At the time of writing, things were up in the air in France, but now the election result is known, and a new regime has taken control, while others no doubt reflect and regroup, planning for the future. By the time you read this, we will have had our own election, and we will know the winners and the losers.

Winning and losing. Victory and defeat. Such a lot of energy, words and hot air spent on gaining power and destroying the opposition, for such a comparatively short amount of time. It's so easy to cut down and destroy; it's much more difficult to build up and encourage.

The Bible has some things to say about such things. 'So, let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault.' (Romans 14: 19 MSG) Whoever is elected, let's hope that they have the wisdom to think long-term, to build something good and the restraint not to knock down. And I hope, in my own small way, I do too.

Steph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

**'TODAY' 50 years ago
June and July, 1967**

How times have changed! One of the concerns being raised in mid-1967 was the effects of the terms of our entry into the Common Market (Brenter?!). But one particular article that jumped out at me from the June magazine, and set me thinking, was the following, with its oh-so-prophetic concluding comment:

"It often happens that we don't realise how full of interest something is, until we are in danger of losing it; perhaps an old cottage that is to be demolished for road widening, a particular tree, or a piece of worm-eaten furniture. If we enter the Common Market, lots of 'English' things will have to go – like our system of weights and measures. 'The decimal system is much easier'; I can't think why we do measure in such an odd way". These are snatches of conversation which, today, can be heard anywhere. But although apparently unrelated and certainly difficult to remember, our peculiar weights and measures are the embodiment of sound method. It is as well to know what a thing is worth before putting it in the dustbin.

The human body itself obviously provided the most convenient way of measuring - first the foot, then the hand. And if anything really small had to be measured, there was the thumb (from the Scandinavian 'tumme'). It so happens that twelve thumbs make up a foot (and it is easy to picture ancient man marking out something with his grubby thumb). The word 'inch' simply means a twelfth. Twelve

thumbs (inches) equals one foot. An Ell was the distance from elbow to fingertip; and the yard (from the Middle English 'yerde', a stick) was the length of Henry 1's arm. "The Stick (yerde) that is used for measuring woollen cloth," said the king, "is to be the length of my arm". It was three feet (i.e. thirty-six thumbs) – three feet, one yard. With arms fully extended, the extreme stretch of a man from fingertip to fingertip is six feet. This is an 'embrace' or 'fathom', a unit of measure used especially by sailors. (Again, it takes little imagination to see how they first dropped the lead over the side until it touched the bottom, then counted how many full stretches of line they pulled in; one embrace or fathom equals six feet).

Two hundred and twenty yards was thought to be the distance a team of oxen should pull a plough without stopping. This became a furlong; that is, a furlong. The rod, pole or perch which the ploughman used to goad the leading oxen had to be very long – long enough to reach from behind the plough, 5½ yards long. How convenient when reckoning a man's wages for the ploughing he had done, to measure with the rod. An average day's work was reckoned at four rods. Take, therefore, four rods and place them end to end in a chain (22 yards) across the furlong (220 yards), and the amount of land a man was expected to plough in a day would be 4,840 square yards, i.e. an acre.

Each community had its own weight-stone which was kept in the Market House. The fact that such stones varied in weight from town to town was unimportant while trading was

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simply local. And, even today, the stone can vary according to the kind of merchandise. (A stone of wool is 24 lbs, of hay – 22 lbs, and of cheese – 16 lbs). Men who traded in the East were known as ‘Easterlings’, a word which was corrupted to ‘Sterling’, and used specially by a league of reliable merchants, who had their headquarters in London.

The English silver penny – our oldest coin, was also known as an Easterling. The quantity of precious metal it contained was fixed by law - 92½% silver, 7½% copper), and could everywhere be handled with confidence. Thus ‘Sterling’ as applied to English merchants and English coinage came to mean ‘genuine’ or ‘valuable’.

Over the ages, people of many nations have flocked here for their own benefit, and to the enrichment of our language and customs – Romans, Germans, Danes, French and Dutch, so don’t let us be too reluctant to surrender anything we took originally from them. But are we joining Europe? Is it perhaps that Europe will continue to be joining us? W.H.A.”

The (then) editor added the following note, “If we had been taught this sort of thing at school, none of us would have found it difficult to remember weights and measures. I was particularly interested in the thumb measure – from which, presumably, we get our ‘rule of thumb’ – a rough and ready guide.”

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

I could be more relaxed about Brexit if I knew that our negotiators had experience of working with Nature. Nature teaches the need for patience, the benefit of knowledge and application but, as a complete anathema to politicians, the importance of the long term and admitting that things may be beyond your control. As we work through a parched Spring, readying the garden for Summer, the repeated thought in my head has been “Nature provides but Man contrives”.

As a humble gardener I cannot imagine being a farmer whose livelihood depends on the performance of their crops. I debated day by day when to recharge my wild flower meadow using seeds from a company carrying the seal of approval from the Prince of Wales! It is said that arable farmers in East Anglia, in the age before intense mechanisation, used to lower their trousers on the ‘bare’ ground, to make the decision of when to sow. Parishioners and neighbours will be relieved to know that I did not adopt this method.

Then there were the late frosts – so what hope for our careful planning. The most fascinating response was from the leaves of some beeches, which were already tardy by any measure. Their cigar casing became a warped pupal case, only for the leaves to emerge just as spectacularly as a dazed butterfly.

Whilst appreciating how resilient Nature can be, I wonder how many appreciate the fragility. It is beyond

most of us to appreciate how global warming threatens the environment of many species. The nearest I come to this fragility is the pricking out of seedlings. It is a matter of wonder as I gouge out a single foxglove, quite a brute of a plant if you consider it, and clumsily hold the seed leaves whilst the impossibly long tendril of a dangling thin root, trembles below. My hand shakes as I transfer something weaker than a new born baby and try to stuff it into a new hole and make it stand up. But stand up and flourish it does, leaving you in wonder as to how Nature accomplishes this without all this rigmarole. It has long been known that custodians of the land and Nature only contribute 1% to G.D.P (Gross Domestic Product) – now that is fragile.

Thomas More

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

On 19 March it was our turn to host the Group Service and we were so pleased to see such a large number of people who came along to hear Rev’d Steph Jeffs, as she led the Service. When we arrived, we were met by Steph’s swimming costume hanging from the lectern, along with the contents of her larder balanced on the lectern rail! Needless to say they were all things relating to water - which became clear during the sermon. Thanks Steph for this amusing start to the Service.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

On 26 March our lovely Mothering Sunday Service was led by our very own Natasha Goldsworthy. Posies and cards were handed out to all Mothers present. Because so many posies had been given, we were able to give to all ladies at the Service, who throughout the year do so many things for the Church and the Church family. Thanks go to all who provided flowers or took part in this special Service.

Throughout Lent this year, we met (along with the other Parishes in the Exe Valley) each Wednesday (and each day during Holy Week) for a time of meditation, fellowship and quiet reflection. Steph led most of these sessions, allowing those present to contemplate her words, listen to calming music and reflect on our Lord during his final earthly days.

Jackie Herniman led our Palm Sunday Service, with her own version of palm leaves and a donkey, who was very well behaved, although he did fall off the lectern during the reading !!

This year's Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday was hosted by Templeton, who provided a delicious three-course meal including a variety of soups, a filling main and a good selection of desserts. At this meal we meet to celebrate the first Communion at the Last Supper, as a part of a meal - just as the disciples did. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way before and during the evening.

For the first time in many years we hosted a Good Friday Meditation Service, again led by our Rector,

following the same format as the Lent evenings. Those who attended felt moved by the content and the knowledge of our Lord's suffering.

Easter Day saw the return of a beautiful display of floral arrangements all around the Church, completed by a model of the tomb, with the stone rolled away indicating the resurrection of Jesus. Lots of people joined us at the Service and we were all treated to an Easter biscuit (or two), made by Nikki Burton, as we left.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Gill Powell, who had lived in the Village for a short while. Her Funeral Service and burial took place on 18 April. Gill and Stephen had begun to take an interest in Village life and supported the Church through fund raising at our Autumn Fayre with her craft work. Steph officiated at the Service and the Eulogy was read by Jackie Herniman. Within the Service there was a sense of the friendship that had been built up between them all during Gill's illness.

We also learnt of the passing of Kath Winchester who frequently attended our Church over the past few years, until she felt unable to do so. Her Funeral Service took place on 19 April at St. Paul's Church, Tiverton. Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephen and Kath's family and all who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Also on 18 April was the APCM where Aubrey Goldsworthy and Jackie Herniman were voted on to continue as Churchwardens. Thanks were given for all that they do throughout

the year, for Church life. The post of Secretary remains the same in Julie Goldsworthy and Jackie Herniman as Treasurer. The PCC was voted in en-bloc with the exception of Barbara Hill who felt that it was time for her to stand down. She was thanked for her many years of work in all aspects of Church life and fund raising. If you would be interested in joining the PCC, or taking on a voluntary role within the Church in the future, we would love to talk with you.

Our annual Spring Clean took place on 22 April and the old adage that many hands make light work certainly applied. The Church windows gleamed and the whole place smelt lovely and clean. Refreshments were gratefully received mid-way through the morning. Thank you to all who took part.

St. George's Day saw an invitation from 5th Tiverton Guides for the congregation to attend an Easter Egg Hunt and Tea in the Village Hall. The Guides had an activity day to remember the Patron Saint of Scouting and Guiding, where they renewed their promises and hosted an afternoon tea for family and friends. It was very entertaining seeing Church members, young and not so young, rooting through the undergrowth of the Village Green to eagerly find small eggs and then receive a larger one as a reward for their endeavours. Thank you Nikki and Tash for the kind invitation and a very enjoyable time with you and your Guide Unit.

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Coming Up...

On Sunday 11 June we will be holding our Open Air Service at 3pm. Last year we had to hold it indoors. We are praying that God will give us better weather this year, so that we will be able to enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of the churchyard. Music will once again be provided by special guests Ad-Lib.

Mowing Rota

29 May / 10 Jun: Mr C Durnan
 12 / 24 Jun: Mr A Hancock
 26 Jun / 8 Jul: Mr A Goldsworthy
 10 / 22 Jul: The Heathcoat-Amory Family
 24 Jul / 5 Aug: Mr K Hayes

Church Cleaning Rota

22 May / 3 Jun: Mrs J Goldsworthy
 5 / 17 Jun: Mrs M Herniman
 19 Jun / 1 Jul: Mrs M Furneaux
 3 / 15 Jul: Miss S Goldsworthy

Altar Flower Rota

28 May / 4 Jun: Mrs M Furneaux
 11 / 18 Jun: Mrs A Webber
 25 Jun / 2 Jul: Mrs M Herniman
 9 / 16 Jul: Mrs G Tucker
 23 / 30 Jul: Mrs N Burton

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

Have we missed anything? If there is something 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

The Group Service on 23 April was very well attended, with the Church looking lovely, following the Wedding on 22 April. Congratulations John and Barbara, and thank you for your beautiful flowers.

The next Group Services are, 28 May at Loxbeare, at Pentecost on 4 June in Oakford, and 25 June in Rackenford, taken by Steph, our Rector. Please note that Group Services are at 10.30 am. A Group Service is for all nine Parishes of the Mission Community.

A Cluster Service is for three Parishes within the Group. Our Cluster is Cruwys Morchard, Templeton and Withleigh. The next Cluster Service is not until July. Times may vary from month to month, so please check in the middle pages.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

May 1 & 8	Vine Spragg
May 15 & 22	Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
May 29 & 5 June	Marian Kingdom
JUNE 3 & 4 FLOWER FESTIVAL	
June 12 & 19	Sarah Cruwys
June 26 & 3 July	Wendy Lake
July 10 & 17	Joe Townsend
July 24 & 31	Wendy Lake

Mowing Rota

June	Steve Guscott
July	The Berry's
August	Les Tosdevin

THE FLOWER FESTIVAL & SCARECROW EXTRAVAGANZA

In the Church

The theme this year is BOOK TITLES, Last time we had over 60 displays. Do come along and help, or just admire. Flower arranging will be on 1 & 2 June, the Festival itself runs from 10am – 5pm on 3 June, and on Sunday 4 June again from 10am until 5pm followed immediately by a Service of "Songs of Praise", at 5pm.

SCARECROWS.

There will also be a Scarecrow display around the Parish, with the same theme of BOOK TITLES. We would like to encourage everyone in the Parish to join in and make and display a scarecrow at their property. Let's really make this a fun event for all.

If you would like to help, either in the Church with the flowers, or in the Parish Hall with refreshments or the cake stall, please contact Pauline Guscott, 5 Moor View. 07968101121 or Pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH FETE with FAMILY DOG

SHOW will be held on Saturday 8 July in the Parish Hall and the Dog Show in the field along side it, at 12noon-3pm. The stalls and games will be in the Parish Hall, as well as a delicious BBQ and refreshments. THE DOG SHOW has classes for everyone, four pedigree classes and eight family dog classes, including the Best K9 in Cruwys Morchard Parish. 1st to 4th rosettes in all classes, prizes to 3rd place and a Championship Cup for the Best Pedigree Classes. 1-4. Vet on call and Ice Creams by Vicky's Icicle Tricycle, sold by the Young Farmers. Enquiries to Ann McGoun 01884 254099

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PARISH ROUND-UP

HOLIDAY CLUB 2017 – “DRESS REHEARSAL”

Wednesday 26th July to Saturday 29th July, for children aged 5-11. Please see Page 17 for more details.

CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS.

The Young Farmers Club recently went through to the County Round of skittles, they also took part in an Outdoor Activities Day, alongside other clubs throughout the County. Members are busy getting entries ready for Devon County Show.

Following the success of last year's Tractor Run, the Club are holding another one on Sunday 2 July starting at the Parish Hall. Do come along to see the various tractors.

Members are also helping out at the Parish Fete and Dog Show with an "Ice Cream Tricycle" on Saturday 8th July - so please "stop us and buy one"!

CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. On 5 April we discussed ground elder being mulched with loan mowing and how we were going to prepare and plant out our gardens - and arranged our Spring outing to RHS Rosemoor Gardens on Wednesday 3 May. Ten members gathered at Puddington Village Hall to set off in convoy to Rosemoor. Although there was a chill wind the weather remained dry for us, with sun breaking through later in the day. We set off in various directions once within the garden with a resolution only possessed by enthusiastic gardeners. The gardens are stunning even after a very dry spell and late frosts. The range of beautiful and

unusual plants was breathtaking. We gathered many great ideas, which were discussed when we met for tea in the lovely restaurant on site. We all agreed another visit to Rosemoor later in the year would be essential. Next month we shall visit another garden, location to be agreed later.

YOGA continues on Thursdays in the Parish Hall from 10am – 11.30am.

CRUWYS MORCHARD 80th FLOWER SHOW

Saturday 12 August 2017 at 2.30pm
Have you got your schedules and entry forms?
Hon. Sec. Pauline Guscott, 5 Moor View, Pennymoor, EX16 8LE
07969101121,
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Entries and Fees in by Saturday 29 July 2017

Pennymoor Congregational Church Services at 4.30 pm

followed by refreshments
1st Sunday All age Service
2nd Sunday Communion Service
3rd Sunday Join Way Village (2.30 pm)
4th Sunday Praise & Prayer
5th Sunday Video films (Saltmine Theatre Co. in July)
Premises available for Community use at no charge. Contact Ruth on (01363) 83451

Welcome to Laura, Russell and Bella to Moor View and to Vanessa Hallon, also Moor View.

It was with great sadness that we said good-bye to Sue Clyde on 18 April, and would like to send our deepest sympathy to Eileen and Oliver and their family.

Our love and prayers go to Cindy during this very difficult time of her treatment.

Best wishes to Evette Milton in your recovery from such a nasty fall.

Visit the website on www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk

LOXBEARE

Our Easter Day Service was well attended and was taken by Steph with Communion, celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Hallelujah! He is risen. Thank you to all who decorated the Church so beautifully. The previous week, Palm Sunday, was a Family Service taken by John and it was so good to see many children. We all re-enacted the Palm Sunday story by narrative, which was read mostly by the children. There was a procession around Loxbeare House and back to the Church, waving palm branches and following a pony, kindly provided by Bob Weatherley, to represent the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Many thanks to Andrew & Donna.

Our Family Services continue to be mostly on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Do encourage any children you know to come along, we would love to welcome them and adults too!

The Exe Valley Woman's Bible Study Group started again on 17 May and will now be on alternate Wednesdays at Churchill House from 2-4. This term we will be looking at 'Women of Faith'

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

from the New Testament. Women of all ages are welcome to come and chat, over a cup of tea, and learn together from the Bible.

The A.P.C.M was held on 26 April with all roles remaining the same. A big note of thanks was given to all who carry out their duties and have served our Church so faithfully over the years. There was also a PCC meeting in the Village Hall on 3 May and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 20 June at 7.30pm in the Hall.

We continue to remember in our prayers and send our thoughts and sympathy to Michael Lear & family following the loss of Claudine. The Funeral Service was held on 16 March and was conducted by Reverend Steph Jeffs. Claudine will be greatly missed by her family and many friends in Loxbeare and further afield. Claudine came to live in Loxbeare, at North Sidborough when she and Michael were married in 1962. She took great joy in her family and was very proud of her grandchildren. She supported Michael on the farm and at the Shows, with showing Texel Sheep and judging. She had an artistic talent, shown in her many creations of skilled needlework, various handicrafts and spinning.

On Sunday 9 July, in the Village Hall, we will be having a BBQ at 12.30pm followed by a Family Service at 1.30pm.

The Harvest Festival this year will be one week later than usual, due to other events on the previous weekend. It will be held on Sat/Sun 23/24 September, with the Harvest Supper on Monday 25 September. More details in the next magazine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are receiving treatment and for those who are feeling unwell.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the Church flowers & cleaning on a regular basis please contact Linda Heywood on 01884 881279. This is not restricted to regular Church goers and you would not have to do it on your own. You may prefer to help someone else and your help would be very much appreciated.

Congratulations to John & Marion for two very special events in their family recently. Their daughter Charmian & John were married at Trull Church on Easter Sunday and, on 7 May, a granddaughter, Naomi, was born to son James & Anna. Our love and best wishes to them all.

Belated congratulations to Maurice and Marlene on their 60th Wedding Anniversary and also to Charles Hibberd on his 21st Birthday in April and to all who have celebrated or will be celebrating special occasions or birthdays.

We send our best wishes to Henry Frankpitt and Hannah Luxton, on their forthcoming marriage in Witleigh Church on 21 May and also to Matt Shaw & Mel Barker on their forthcoming wedding in St Paul's Church on 24 June. We wish you all much happiness & blessings in your future lives together.

Well done to Mya Partridge & all Year 6 at Rackenford School, for their achievement in completing the Exmoor Challenge on 29 April. A sixteen mile walk on Exmoor, starting and ending in Dulverton.

We wish all who are taking exams well and hope they get the grades they need for either further education or their chosen career.

Loxbeare Ladies dates: 5 June a walk around Horner with a tea at the Tea Rooms. Contact Margaret on 01884 881362 or 881231. 3 July will be a BBQ at Sue's. Contact Sue on 01884 259496.

Village Hall News: On 5 May there was a progressive meal which was enjoyed by all. The profit will go to the Village Hall Funds. Thank you to all who hosted, provided meals and helped in any way. The monthly Cream Teas will be on 10 June & 8 July in the Village Hall between 3-5pm. A BBQ is planned for the 1 July at 7.00pm at the Village Hall.

OAKFORD

St Peter's was beautifully decorated on Easter morning. Forty-five adults and twelve children came together to worship. Thank you to all those who helped to make this day so special.

The following weekend, a very successful St George's Day tea was held in Church which raised £243 plus a donation from the sale of refreshments, a raffle and a stall selling cakes, produce, toys and books. Again, thanks to Church members who worked hard to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

The Annual Parish Committee Meeting has taken place.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

A summary of the findings of the public meeting held in February and of a questionnaire were read out. The PCC is responding by going ahead with some changes which can be implemented in the short term. Look out for some different Services and timings printed in the centrefold pages of this edition of 'Today'.

St Peter's is looking forward to hosting the Group Pentecost Service on 4 June at 10.30am. Anyone attending is encouraged to wear something red!

Our congratulations go to Monica Colvin who is to marry Robin Nicoll on 3 June in St Peter's. We are delighted to welcome Robin to our congregation.

Pause a while for prayer and meditation, every Thursday morning at 9.30am in the Church.

Our love and prayers are for all those who are unwell, or are feeling sad or lonely. May God bless you and sustain you with His love.

Dates for the diary:

MOORLAND CLUB:

8 June 3.00 pm at Nynehead Court Gardens. Cars leaving Oakford at 2pm.

13 July BBQ 6.00 pm at Westfield House, Wonham.

New members always welcome. Contact: Patsy Philips 01398 351648.

OAKFORD FLOWER & PRODUCE

SHOW: Saturday 12 August. Doors open to the public at 2pm. Schedules now available from Brenda Burrows, 3 Manor Cottages and The Red Lion in Oakford and also from the new library

in Bampton. Time to plant those vegetables and flowers and patio pots, and take a great photo or just come along to browse and have a cup of tea - a village experience not to be missed. We would especially like to welcome the children of the village with a section of their own to enter. A new cup this year too! so grab a schedule and see what you can enter. Exhibitors set up between 9am - 11am.

VILLAGE FÊTE will be held on Saturday June 24th on the Oakford Playground, starting at 2pm. This year we are running another fun Dog Show after last year's very enjoyable event, so bring along your 'best friend' and enter into one of the many classes. Also returning is the Boot Fair, just £5 per site, please call Kelvin on 01398 332039 to book. There are lots of side shows and stalls to entertain you, as well as children's games and the ever popular, if messy, egg throwing competition. A beer tent, teas and cakes and a BBQ will keep you going throughout the afternoon. Free Parking and Free Entry, look forward to seeing you on the day. Further information from Kelvin, 01398 332039

RACKENFORD

With longer evenings, dry days and some warm sunshine, we have had a pleasing start to Spring and we pray for a warm Summer ahead.

We have experienced some sad times over the last few months. The Funeral Service of Peter Turpin took place at Puddington Church on 17 March, his internment followed in Rackenford

Church. Our deepest sympathy to his children Sarah, Emma, Annabel and Matthew.

Cyril Blackford passed away suddenly on 21 March. Cyril was born and lived at Leat Farm, until retirement, when he moved to Witheridge, where he continued to enjoy rural life with his family and friends. His Service was held in Rackenford Church on 11 April and he was laid to rest close to family members. Cyril regularly played his accordion at our Remembrance Services. Our deepest sympathy to Cyril's family and friends.

Mrs Susan Clyde who once lived at The Old Rectory, before moving to Nomansland, passed away on 30 March. Her Funeral Service was held at Cruwys Morchard, followed by a Cremation in Exeter. Our deepest sympathy to Eileen, Oliver, family and friends.

The Gardening Club's Spring Show was held at our Church on 1 April, where delightful exhibits were on display to view. Trophies were presented and refreshments were available.

A message of thanks to all The Exe Valley people who have been so kind, since my husband Jacques had a stroke last June. Their good wishes, telephone calls, offers of help and above all their prayers, have given us a great sense of comfort from you all. He has had some setbacks and still has a long road to travel, so thank you all very much for your continued prayers. Best wishes, Mary Cann.

continued on Page 12 ➔

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**4 JUNE
PENTECOST
OAKFORD
GROUP SERVICE
10.30 am
Holy Communion
Steph Jeffs
(Maybe wear something red)**

4 JUNE PENTECOST

CALVERLEIGH

See Oakford

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Oakford

LOXBEARE

See Oakford

OAKFORD

10.30 am Holy Communion

Steph Jeffs

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

See Oakford

WASHFIELD

See Oakford

WITHLEIGH

See Oakford

11 JUNE TRINITY SUNDAY

CALVERLEIGH

3 pm Open Air Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Holy Communion

LOXBEARE

11 am Family Service

OAKFORD

11 am Family Service

RACKENFORD

11 am Holy Communion

STOODLEIGH

11 am Holy Communion

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

6 pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

9.30am Holy Communion
by extension

18 JUNE FATHER'S DAY

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Morning Praise

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

9.30 am Holy Communion

Steph Jeffs

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

6.30 pm Evensong

TEMPLETON

9.30 am Holy Communion

WASHFIELD

11.15 am Family Service

Steph Jeffs

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Morning Worship

25 JUNE

CALVERLEIGH

See Rackenford

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Rackenford

LOXBEARE

See Rackenford

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE

Steph Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

See Rackenford

WASHFIELD

See Rackenford

WITHLEIGH

See Rackenford

2 JULY

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 am Holy Communion

Steph Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

9.30 am Holy Communion

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Worship

STOODLEIGH

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

10.30 am Holy Communion

WITHLEIGH

11 am Family Service

Steph Jeffs

9 JULY

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Holy Communion

Steph Jeffs

LOXBEARE

12.30 pm BBQ followed by

1.30 pm Family Service

OAKFORD

11 am Family Service

RACKENFORD

11 am Holy Communion

STOODLEIGH

11 am Holy Communion

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

11.15 am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

9.30 am Holy Communion

Steph Jeffs

16 JULY

CALVERLEIGH

6.30 pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

9.30 am Holy Communion

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

Steph Jeffs

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

6.30 pm Evensong

TEMPLETON

9.30 am Holy Communion

Steph Jeffs

WASHFIELD

11.15 am CHAT Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Morning Worship

23 JULY

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

9.30 am CLUSTER SERVICE

Steph Jeffs

TEMPLETON

6.30 pm CLUSTER SERVICE

Steph Jeffs

WASHFIELD

11.15 am CLUSTER SERVICE

Steph Jeffs

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

30 JULY

CALVERLEIGH

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE

followed by Family Picnic

Holiday Club Finale

Steph Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Calverleigh

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

See Calverleigh

RACKENFORD

See Calverleigh

STOODLEIGH

See Calverleigh

TEMPLETON

See Calverleigh

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

See Calverleigh

FROM STEPH



PRAYER DIARY

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT

4 - 10 June

Pray that the God of Pentecost will pour out his Spirit into all the places of my heart that need refreshing.

11 - 17 June

Pray that the healing of the Holy Spirit would be apparent in all the wounded places in this world.

18 - 24 June

Pray that the encouragement of the Holy Spirit would be evident in all the defeated places known to us.

25 - 1 July

Pray that God's spirit of grace would be known in all the places where bitterness prevails.

2 - 8 July

We pray for those shaken by bad news.
May your Holy Spirit comfort and bless them.

9 - 15 July

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a precious relationship.
May your Holy Spirit bless and support them.

16 - 22 July

We pray for those facing long term illness.
May your Holy Spirit bless and embrace them.

23 - 29 July

We pray for those who are confused and disturbed by what is happening in the world.
May your Holy Spirit strengthen and bless them.

Rev Steph Jeffs took our Mothering Sunday Service on 26 March, where the children handed out posies to their mothers. Ladies in the congregation passed around delicious cakes after the Service, to enjoy with a cup of tea.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the beautiful Easter flowers and arranged them so beautifully. They were much admired at our Easter Morning Communion Service, which was very uplifting to be part of and taken by Rev Ian Johnson.

PARISH ROUND-UP

We hope the children enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt on the Common. Thanks to everyone who organised this event.

It's wonderful having our churchyard caretaker Andrew back again. You do a great job and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do.

Congratulations to the Rackenford School teams who took part in the Exmoor Challenge on 29 April. You should be so proud of yourselves because you encouraged each other and completed the 16 mile walk. It was heartwarming to welcome your happy, smiling faces back to the finish line, where you were presented with your medals and had photographs taken. What an achievement. Well done.

Our very best wishes to Dennis Tapp who has received heart treatment and also to Herbert Smith who has had an eye problem. We hope you are both doing well.

More **Bingo** dates for you.
8 June and 13 July, 7.30pm at Rackenford Club.

Our Sponsored Walk is on 10 June, leaving The Stag 9.30 am prompt. Forms available in the Church or contact Liz Paxton 881331 for more details.

Our prayers and best wishes to Alex Muchmore and Jasmine Brace as they prepare for their wedding in our Church on 3 June.

Our **Cream Teas** will be on 15 July at 3pm, at Rackenford Manor, where you can bring your families and friends and enjoy a delicious cream tea, strawberries and cream and

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PARISH ROUND-UP

browse the stalls. Many thanks to David and Moy Scott for their hospitality, once again.

NEW DATE.

The Gardening Club Autumn Show has now been changed and will be on Saturday 26 August.

Our thoughts and prayers go to our friends Muriel Blinman, Joan Clark, Peter Reynolds, Jacques Cann, Mike Lane, and to anyone who is recovering from treatment, not well, lonely or depressed.

STOODLEIGH

At the time of writing we have had a long dry spell with cold, drying winds – a worry for farmers and gardeners. On the other hand, the tiny willow warbler has been undaunted, having flown 2,500 miles from somewhere half way down Africa, to bring us its wistful song. And haven't the bluebells been good? The miraculous renewal of Spring never fails.

Ian Johnson took the Service of Holy Communion at St Margaret's on Easter Day and spoke about forgiveness. This also, he said, was unending and unconditional but it was often difficult for us to accept. There was some joyful hymn singing at this Service. The flower ladies again excelled themselves, decorating the Church for Easter and we are so grateful to them all for this, and the hard work they put in throughout the year. Bryan Rigg's inspiring resurrection garden appears without fail every Easter, on one of the

Church window sills, and is greatly admired.

Now we look forward to welcoming members of the Exe Valley Mission Community to the Group Service here at 10.30am on Sunday 28 May.

There has been some coming and going in the village. First we send our sympathy to Jennifer Wiltshire on the death of her husband Pat, early in April. As life departs, new life begins and we congratulate Claire and Bradley Weekes at Down Farm, on the birth of their baby son Bertie. Congratulations also to Becky and Johnny Hardy at Lower Ford Cottages, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Abigail Joy.

A warm Stoodleigh welcome to Jill Eaton and Conolly McCausland with Harry, India, Eila, Ishbel, Rose and Iona, who are now living at Ford Barton; to Sue Horn and family who have moved to Steart Stud Farm (formerly Steart Racing Stables); and to the Shadrack family, Nick and Leanne, with their children Luke, Joe and Eve and dogs Murphy and Bella, now at Moorview.

There have been some important birthdays recently. One of them, belonging to Phil Bird, was celebrated at a large and delightful gathering at the Stoodleigh Inn.

Jennifer is always looking to increase the number of bell ringers, as on occasions it is difficult to find enough to ring for Services - one of the main reasons for learning this ancient art. Practices are held on Thursday evenings: do contact her if you are interested in having a go (01398 351402).

On a very wet Saturday morning in March, a dozen Stoodleigh parishioners braved the elements and picked up ten bags of litter and larger items of wood and metal. This is a regular task which we do twice a year, sadly never coming back empty handed. We owe thanks to all the members of our Parish who, from time to time, help to keep our lanes free of other people's rubbish.

Coming events

Saturday 10 June: Stoodleigh Village Day, starting at 3pm at the Cricket Field. There will be the usual races and games for children and others, culminating in a tug-of-war and the great egg-throwing-and-catching competition, plus skittles, welly-whanging, a visit from the alpacas and tea and cakes galore. This is a free event, thanks to support from SWAG.

Saturday 8 July: Breakfast, Walking and Lunch at the Parish Hall, an event in the successful series where you can choose from two walks in and around Stoodleigh. Those not walking are also welcome to breakfast (from 9am), coffee and lunch (from 12.30pm). Please book your tickets (£10) in advance for catering purposes - Geraldine 01398 351391. Funds in aid of Parish Hall.

Friday 14 July: Dancing at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Another opportunity to dance with our visiting instructor and enjoy a light supper (bring your own drinks). Tickets are £5 from Geraldine.

Saturday 12 August: Family Fun Dog Show. Popular annual event organised by the Church and the Parish Hall. Come along with your family pet and take part in a variety of

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

classes. There will also be Cream Teas/refreshments, a Pimm's tent, "Bring and Buy" cakes, competitions, etc. Information from Margaret or Geraldine on 01398 351252 or 351391. Funds in aid of St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall.

Parish Hall: The Easter Market and Coffee Morning not only offered an array of locally made goods but also a great selection of items from visiting businesses, plus refreshments and a Community Plant Stall. The event was well supported and £380 was raised for Hall funds.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Prizewinners for March – 1 Shirley Cope, 2 Ann Smith, 3 Di Honnor, 4 Linda Brice; April – 1 Doreen Wyatt, 2 Margaret Cuninghame, 3 Phyllis Hill, 4 Peter Ayre, 5 Linda Sharrock. The new year has now started and membership payments are due.

Church Flowers

Many thanks to all the talented ladies who decorated the church for Easter. Special thanks to Phyllis Hill for organising and coordinating everything.

4 June	Geraldine Talbot
11, 18 June	Volunteer please
25 June, 2 July	Angela Hill
9, 16 July	Phyllis Hill
23, 30 July	Enid Hamidullah

us some important thoughts to take away with us. Our Church was beautifully decorated for Easter Day, our thanks go to all those who contributed in any way and especially to Gloria Woollacott for our Easter Garden.

At the Annual General Parochial Council (AGPC) we discussed the future of St Margaret's Church Templeton and Jan Heptinstall was asked to define the role of a Churchwarden. There is a flyer in the magazine to answer that but the introduction says (and quoting from the Churchwarden's Handbook) "A Churchwarden is involved in leadership of the local church. This requires three particular qualities. Firstly, that leadership in the Church is a response to God's call to us and He equips us for the task. Secondly, the realisation that the call is not for our benefit but for the service of others and for the building up of God's Church. Thirdly, to remember at all times that those who hold lay office have an obligation to collaborate with other lay and ordained people in order that the responsibilities of Church life may be properly fulfilled."

A Churchwarden must have been baptised and be willing to attend Church Services regularly and also meetings. The meetings would include PCC meetings, Churchwarden Council meetings and the annual visitation by the Archdeacon where Churchwardens are signed in for the year. The flyer goes on to explain the legal responsibilities of a Churchwarden, the Service patterns, the extra tasks the present Churchwarden undertakes and what roles the PCC

members have taken on, as well as tasks undertaken by willing members of the community.

At the AGPC in April it was agreed that we would circulate a Questionnaire to gather information, in order to eventually make a decision as to whether it is possible to keep Templeton Church open. The questionnaire is also to be found inside your magazine. We would be grateful if you would take time to fill in the questionnaire and return it by 30 June through the letterboxes of Jan Heptinstall or Bindy Linden or alternatively leave them in the box on the table in the church. Thank you.

There will be another meeting as agreed to discuss the results of the questionnaire and further thoughts and ideas about the future of St Margaret's on Tuesday 19 September. Please attend if you possibly can.

Three more dates for your diary:
 2 July Songs of Praise 4.00pm
 30 September Harvest Supper
 1 October Harvest Festival 11.00am

Over the weekend of April 22 / 23, the Templeton residents gave the Village Hall a Spring Clean, with painting, sorting, cleaning, weeding and clearing in preparation for Summer events. Another weekend clean will be needed to complete the work. Central heating, to replace the old gas fires, has been installed throughout the Village Hall by Martin Rose and it warms the building beautifully.

On Sunday 30 April and Monday 1 May, John and Audrey opened their beautiful garden and bluebell woodland to the village, and provided

TEMPLETON

Our annual Songs of Praise Service with Cream Teas will take place on Sunday 2 July at 4.00pm. All are warmly welcome.

Our Easter Garden Service was well attended and our Rector, Steph gave

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PARISH ROUND-UP

tea and cakes for families to enjoy in the garden. The bluebell wood looked amazing with its wonderful scent. Despite the rain after a month of brilliant weather, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and the event raised £150 for village funds. We are so grateful to John and Audrey for all their work and for sharing the woods with us all each year.

Other Templeton events are planned for the year – there’s something for nearly every month and for young and old - please look out on notice boards, on emails, and flyers for dates and times. The possible events include a musical evening in June, Quiz night in July, the Summer Fete on 12 August, the Duck Race at Dartcoombe Mill on 2 Sept, a family fun Christmas Fair in December with games, and the annual Christmas Bar Games Competition (skittles, pool, table tennis and darts).

Flower & Cleaning Rota:

Julie Dent	28 May / 4 June
Gloria Woollacott	11 / 18 June
Philida Strong	25 June / 2 July
Gill Rose	9 / 17 July
Lynda Newnes	23 / 30 July

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting started off with wine and refreshments and was chaired by the Revd. Steph Jeffs. The list of officers elected can be seen on the notice board in the Lych Gate and we thank all those who were willing to carry on with their invaluable work for our worshipping community. In the Annual Report the Churchwarden warmly thanked several people for keeping Services going during the vacancy. These included the retired clergy, the Reader and the lay-leaders who, after undertaking a course of study, were Commissioned with the approval of Bishop Sarah. The appointment of our Rector is a huge encouragement and reason for thanksgiving and we wish her well as she leads us all in the Exe Valley Mission Community. Appreciation was expressed to the bell-ringers, who make a joyful sound on Sunday mornings and on other special events, the Sacristan, the Sexton and our faithful organists, the cleaners and flower arrangers who keep the church looking so well cared for, those who distribute our brilliant magazine and, not forgetting the wonderful voluntary helpers who paint and carry out many minor repairs. How fortunate we are! Thank you all.

Quinquennial building repairs are going well, and are being overseen by Richard, Chairman of the Fabric Committee. We are grateful for a generous grant from Viridor.

Please come, if you can, to a Fete Planning Meeting on 5 June at 7 pm in the Worth Chapel. Ideas for new attractions needed! This is an important and enjoyable day for the whole village and funds are badly needed. Offers of anything that will sell and ideas for fun for the young will be warmly welcomed!

There have been several happy Community events in the past two months - bringing parishioners, their family and friends together. They have included games and musical evenings at the Social Club, the May Day party on the Village Green with maypole dancing (and much more) plus lashings of tea, cakes, barbecued food, a little alcohol, smiles, conversations, laughter, children playing, people connecting and much, much more. Thank you to all those who have been involved in the organisation of these wonderful events.

Also getting us together in April was the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which was well-attended. Speaker Chas Walton told us about his job as a copywriter and very interesting it was too!! It gave us an insight into writing punchy, truthful advertising content, in order to illustrate brand awareness. Adam Whishart gave us an update on the drive to get a Syrian family out of Jordan and safely to Washfield. The goal may still be some months away but things are

Easter, after a busy and thoughtful Lent, with Steph taking us through the whole story each week and daily through Holy Week, was a wonderful celebration! The Egg Rolling and decorating saw a record number of families gathering to enjoy the fun, and then repairing to the Hall for hot cross buns, stalls and a great deal of talk! Hilary and her helpers raised a magnificent sum of £361 towards the running of the Church.

continued overleaf ➔

WASHFIELD

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News from the Church on a beautiful Spring day! New life everywhere **and** with the Church, too!

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PARISH ROUND-UP

progressing steadily. The 'meeting' part of the evening included many positive aspects of the work of the Parish Council but also some negative experiences from the public, on their ongoing use of the new junction at Rackenford Meadows (some quite unsettling). The Financial Report of the Parish Council was explained and given out. A nice evening.

UPDATE:

Good news to report, that our generous and humanitarian offer to give a Syrian family refuge in Washfield, has been accepted and the family will hopefully be arriving in July or August. In order to welcome and support the family, events are being organised, including a fund-raising Coffee Morning and an informative evening about Syria, with a chance to sample Syrian food. Dates have not yet been finalised so please look out for Posters. All welcome. Further details can be found on the Washfield Website and by joining the Facebook groups 'Humans of Washfield' and 'Refugees welcome in Mid-Devon'

Look out for posters with details of forthcoming Community Events planned for the coming months, including a Car Treasure Hunt and Cream Tea on Saturday 3 June – leave Hall from 4.30 onwards. Raising money for Hall and Social Club funds. All welcome. There will also be plant, cake and toy stalls to raise funds to help the Syrian refugee family who will be arriving in July/August. (Donated items for the stalls to Enid or Jean please)

Also, on Saturday 17 June, as part of the nationwide Great Get Together,

organised to celebrate the murdered MP Jo Cox, there will be a 'bring your own picnic' by the river at Franny and Adam's house at Spillifords from 12 noon. Everyone welcome. Bring food, drink, musical instruments and, if you're feeling brave, your swimming costumes! For all future planned events see also the village website and our Facebook Group 'Humans of Washfield'.

We are pleased to introduce Steve and Janet Dickman who have come to live in Garden Cottage, Cotleigh. We were delighted to meet them in Church just a few days after they moved in and we were able to welcome them personally but, as is usual in the Today magazine, we also welcome them in print and hope they will be very happy in Washfield.

We know of several parishioners who have been unwell or have suffered accidents. These include Joe Elston who, as we go to print, is unfortunately still in hospital. We hope that you will be home soon Joe. Also in our thoughts are Kay Bassano and our Today Magazine Editor Jenny Parnell who have both been unlucky enough to suffer painful breaks after falls. We are so sorry to hear of your injuries and hope all heals quickly. To anyone else who is unwell, undergoing treatments or tests, we send our best wishes for a positive outcome.

We wish good luck to our young people who will soon be studying hard for their upcoming exams. Congratulations to all our youngsters who successfully completed the Exmoor Challenge or Ten Tors expeditions. No mean feat for either of these tests of stamina on the moors. Well done.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 3 June Car Treasure Hunt and Cream Tea – see Round-up for more details

Monday 5 June Fete planning meeting in Church 7.30. All welcome to attend and bring suggestions and new ideas.

Thursday 8 June W.I. 7.30pm. Speaker Ben Lucas 'Driving safer for longer'.

Tuesday 13 June teatime@thehall . A get-together with tea and cakes for all (young and older) who come along to the Hall from 3pm.

Saturday 17 June 'Great Get Together' picnic – see Round-up for more details

Thursday 22 June Lunch Club's regular meal at the Hall 12 for 12.30pm

Saturday 1 July Church Fete on the lawns of The Old Rectory from 2.30pm with stalls including bottles, bric a brac, produce, books, raffle, games and sideshows. Please come.

Tuesday 11 July teatime@thehall from 3pm

Thursday 13 July W.I. in Hall 7.30pm. Speaker Jennifer Rowlandson 'Walking is my joy'

Thursday 20 July Lunch Club in Hall 12 for 12.30pm

KEEP THE DATE FREE

Friday 29 September Film night in Hall featuring newly discovered archive footage of 'Rural Britain' in a 'Britain on Tour' evening. This promises to be a lovely evening of memories documenting the way life used to be in rural areas similar to our own village. Tickets will be available later in the year from any of the Hall Committee and will include a light supper.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Altar Flower Rota

May 28/June 4	Mr & Mrs A Balment
June 11/18	Mrs Smith
June 25/July 2	Mrs Raynes
July 9/16	Miss A Bolt
July 23/30	Mrs S Balment

Cleaning Rota

May 29/June 5	Mr & Mrs Ellis
June 12/19	Mrs French
June 26/July 3	Mrs Arnold
July 10/17	Mr & Mrs Parnell
July 24/31	Mr & Mrs Walton

friends from Tiverton and our Parish who attended this special service. Coffee was served after the Service before many joined in the lunch in the Village Hall, again to celebrate this occasion. Thanks to Margaret for decorating the Church and the tables in the Village Hall on the theme of St Catherine. Also thanks go to everyone who helped and contributed in any way in making the lunch so enjoyable.

During the course of the lunch, Margaret explained a little about St Catherine, and the thinking behind the decorations. "St Catherine of Siena died at the age of 33 years on 29 April 1380. She spent all her life, from a very young age, doing good works and leading a life dedicated to God. St Catherine was a writer and the Church gave her the title of 'Doctor' - one of only three women to have been honoured with this title by the Church. In pictures, she is shown with a crown of thorns. Other symbols associated with her are the lily, rose, ring, miniature church or miniature ship. I decided to use white roses and other white flowers in Church - white being the colour to symbolise a Saint and I used Laurel leaves and other greenery to create the pedestal arrangement. I found that Laurel was one of the plants that are associated with St Catherine. In the windows, I put blue bottles to represent the blue of the sea with a single white rose. The green and gold ribbon was tied around the neck of the bottle to represent the green of Spring, the gold to honour the Saint and the ribbons and bows to celebrate the festival. In the Hall I used the same ribbon to carry the theme of the festival across the tables, with Laurel leaves scattered along the ribbon. I used shades of

blue and pink with white Spring flowers from the garden. The serviettes were chosen with the rose and then the blue and pink to match and blend with the flowers to give the Hall the feeling of a festival"

Friday 5 May saw thirty church members gather at the Thelbridge Cross Inn for the Annual PCC (and friends) dinner - a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and thank you, Sara, for organising this once again.

On Sunday 7 May the Bluebell walk, in aid of the Village Hall fund, attracted a good number of participants, some from beyond the Parish, who were rewarded with a stunning display of bluebells. All, as well as those unable to tackle the walk, were treated to an excellent tea in the Village Hall afterwards. Thank you, Duncan and Sara, for organising the walk, to those who provided the tea, and to all who supported the event which raised £261.

Members of the W I are now preparing their entry for the 'Devon Federation of Women's Institute's' competition at the Mid Devon Show, and we wish them well with this. The theme this year is 'A Colour' so a lot of thought will be needed to depict this in the categories required.

All is on course to replace the Village Hall Roof this Summer. We have gained grants from Viridor Credits, and a Devon County Council support grant (from the proceeds of the sale of Exeter Airport). Along with the grants we have had, many fund raising events which have been going on locally will help us along the way.

continued overleaf →

WITHLEIGH

Our Annual Parochial Meeting took place on the evening of 21 March, chaired by Steph who thanked all who had served St Catherine's during the past year, and set out her plans for the coming year.

Our Easter Services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday were well attended. Thank you, Paul and Elizabeth, for the hot cross buns on Good Friday, and Paul for taking the informal Service in the Village Hall. The breakfast, between the two Services on Easter Sunday, was again well received and enjoyed, and thanks to all those who contributed towards this. Our Church was prettily decorated, as always, by our floral decorators in the usual Easter theme. 'Thank you' to all of you.

On Sunday, 30 April the Service to celebrate the Feast Day of St Catherine, and 170 years since the opening of our Church, was taken by Steph. It was good to welcome members of the other Churches in our Cluster area and also many

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PARISH ROUND-UP

As well as the new roof, we are planning to extend the store room at the back of the Hall, and this will be funded by the DCC Airport Fund. We shall also have a new heating system, lights, and new paint inside and out. Thank you to all those who have, and to those who are still fund raising for our Roof Fund. Thank you.

On Saturday 1 July, we have been invited to Oak Beam, Withleigh, by kind permission of Mr Eric Shapland, for an Open Garden Day. The Garden will be open in the morning from 10am to 12 noon and again in the afternoon from 2pm until 5pm. Admission is £1 which will include a Tea or Coffee and a biscuit. There will be a Bring and Buy stall running throughout the day. Proceeds will go to the Village Hall Roof Fund.

Our Church Fete is on Saturday, 15 July at Bona Vista by kind permission of Henry and Shirley Cruwys, to be opened by Paul and Elizabeth Iliff at 2.00 p.m. There will be the usual stalls - cakes, books, £1 tombola, garden and produce, bumper draw and sideshows, together with teas and ice creams. Music will be once again provided by Barracuda, so please come along and enjoy the afternoon. Contributions to any of the stalls would be very much appreciated, and these can be left with Henry and Shirley at Bona Vista. There is another Fete planning meeting on Monday, 12 June at Bona Vista at 8.00 p.m. to finalise arrangements, so if you feel you could lend a hand in any way, please come along to the meeting. We always welcome additional help!

Our Garden & Produce Show will be held in the Hall on Saturday 19 August. Doors open at 7.30pm. Attached to this magazine for the Withleigh parishioners, is the schedule of classes. If there is anything you are unsure about or would like more information, please call Brenda 252431.

We say farewell to the Bricknell family who have moved out of Sawyers, and we welcome the new occupants who have moved in. We hope you will be very happy living in Withleigh and look forward to meeting you at events in the village.

Congratulations to Kate Kittow and Andrew Bullied on their engagement. We send best wishes to you both for your future life together. Congratulations also to those celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Get well wishes to all who are not well at the moment. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Withleigh WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, @ 7.15pm. Guests are always welcome to come along. For more information please ring Rosie 01884 257123.

Thursday 8th June; Speaker: Fiona from The Good Flower Company, on English Flowers

Thursday 13th July; Speaker: Mark Baker, Tiverton Canal Ranger, on Grand Western Canal Country Park.

Thursday 10th August - Afternoon, ANNUAL OUTING - Quince Bee Farm, South Molton.

Forthcoming Events:

Thurs; 8th June, WI in the Hall at 7.15pm

Sat; 1st July, Open Garden Day at Oak Beam, 10am to 12 noon or 2pm to 5pm, see notes above.

Thurs; 13th July, WI in the Hall at 7.15pm.

Sat; 15th July, Summer Fete at Bona Vista 2pm.

Thurs; 10th August, WI, Annual outing.

Sat; 19th August; Garden & Produce Show, in the Hall at 7.30pm.

Flower Rota:

28 May / 4 June	Linda Taylor
11 / 18 June	Rosie Edmonston-Low
25 June / 2 July	Val Kingston
9 / 16 July	Susie Wade
23 July	Wedding
30 July	Sara Kittow

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FROM STEPH

Exe Valley Mission Community

Vision Sharing

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Then do please come to an **OPEN MEETING**

on 27 June 2017 at 7.30pm in Calverleigh Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome.



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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 like to help, you would be welcome. 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, and it doesn't have to be renewed for 5 years.

Please ring Diana Vincent on 01363 860227 or vindrv@hotmail.com if you can help - or to book your place - or if you would like more information.

Exe Valley Mission Community

Quiet Day

"Come with me by yourselves, to a quiet place and get some rest"

Mark 6: 31

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Bampton Library relocated from its old premises into the new Library And Resource Centre in March and is now fully operational. LARC is situated adjacent to the main car park, and has wheelchair access and a toilet. Library is open Monday, 3-5pm, Thursday, 9.30am-12.30pm and Saturday 10am-12noon.

See Facebook (Bampton Library And Resource Centre Supporters) or the Notice Board for events and activities. They include a Youth Club (Thursdays, 6.30-8pm), Toddlers group (Friday, 10-12 noon) Embroidery and spinning group on Tuesday afternoons. AGE UK visit every Wednesday from 10am-12.30pm for free advice and help for over 50's. There are 4 computers for public use and we offer computer training and a photocopying service. LARC is open 10am-4pm Mon-Fri and most Saturdays, from 10am – 1pm.
For more information please drop in or call the Centre on 01398 332466.

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