

December 2017 - January 2018

Price 50p

WHY ARE WE WAITING ?

Altogether now ... to the tune of, 'O Come all ye faithful'

'Why are we waiting? Why are we waiting? Why are we waiting? Why? Why? Why? Why are we waiting? Why are we waiting? Why are we waiting? O why? Why? Why?' It's a song of my childhood, sung sitting round the dining table, knife and fork in hand, fists lightly drumming against the table in time with the music, while my mother slaved away in the kitchen.

My dad and I thought it was very, very funny. I suspect my mother did not.

And today, for some strange and unexpected reason, I have found myself wondering why I ever found it so amusing, and - more important, why *are* we waiting?'

You see, I'm hopeless at it. I hate waiting. I want to have everything now, this minute. And of course, generally speaking, that's exactly what I do. Because I can! And I am not alone. In our present

culture, waiting is something of an anathema. We can get what we want straight away. We don't even have to go to the shops. We can buy stuff, and it arrives the next day. Then, the day after, we can send it back again! It's as though there is nothing really worth waiting for. Text messages and e-mails need to be answered straight-away. Phone calls can be made from the most inaccessible places. Clearly, the Exe Valley is an exception to this!



Advent is all about waiting. It's not about getting ready or being prepared, or filling up the time in readiness for 'the big event'. Neither is it about doing nothing. Waiting is about spending time in the present. It is not allowing ourselves to be influenced by the demands of the future, but taking time to 'be'.

Advent offers us the opportunity to allow ourselves to be transformed by the presence of God. I will be at the various Advent Reflections across the Mission Community. Each one will be different, so feel free to come and join me for however many you can. If we spend a bit of time, amid all the busyness, and wait, I suspect that we might then come to the place where the tune remains the same, but the words change. Instead of 'Why are we waiting?' we might find ourselves singing, 'O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.'

I look forward to seeing you over the next few weeks as we celebrate Christmas together, and welcome in the New Year, with all that it holds.

With love to you and those you love,

Steph

Please read additional information from Steph on Pages 3,7,10,12 and 18

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

Calverleigh, Cruwys
Morchard, Loxbeare,
Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Withleigh
www.exevalleychurches.org

RECTOR

Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs
The Rectory, Withleigh,
Tiverton, EX16 8JQ
Tel: (01884) 250417
Email : Steph@
exevalleymissioncommunity.org
NOT TUESDAYS
(Instead of Fridays) PLEASE !!
(Starting from 2018)

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Stephen Hirst
C/O The Rectory
Tel: 01884 250417
Email: office@
exevalleymissioncommunity.org

NON STIPENDIARY MINISTER

Rev'd John Roberts
East Sidborough, Loxbeare,
Tiverton EX16 8DA.
Tel: (01884) 256302
john@sidborough.eclipse.co.uk

READER

Mrs Anna Hansford
The Paddock,
2 Kensington Court,
Washfield, Tiverton, EX16 9QU
Tel: (01884) 253463
hansfordam@john-lewis.com

MAGAZINE EDITORS

Jenny & Geoff Parnell
Keepers Cottage,
Lower Washfield,
Tiverton, EX16 9PF
Tel: (01884) 254402
today@exevalleychurches.org

ADVERTISEMENTS

Geoff Parnell
As above - using email address
todayadverts@aol.com

CHURCHWARDEN CONTACT DETAILS

Calverleigh
Aubrey Goldsworthy 01884 255248
Jackie Herniman 01884 255814
jmherniman@talktalk.net

Cruwys Morchard
Diana Vincent 01363 860227
vindr@hotmail.com
Sarah Cruwys 01884 860287
wagscruwys@live.com

Loxbeare
Ron Tidball 01884 881362
margaret.n.tidball@gmail.com
Jean Heard 01884 881400
jeanm.heard@googlemail.com

Oakford
Wendy Boynton 01398 351383
mboynton@btinternet.com
Dawn Williams 01398 324035
williams.dawn@btinternet.com

Rackenford
Herbert Smith 01884 881375
ejsesqldetc@btinternet.com
Mary Cann 01884 881696
mary_cann@outlook.com

Stoodleigh
Margaret Cuningham 01398 351252
margaret.cuningham@btinternet.com
John Fewings 01398 351328
johnfewings@btinternet.com

Templeton
Jan Heptinstall 01884 255399
Jan.Heptinstall@BTOpenworld.com

Washfield
Jeanne Jones 01884 254306
jeannejones007@gmail.com

Withleigh
Brenda Tucker 01884 252431
e-mail: tucks@btconnect.com
Paul Iliff 01884 253473
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EDITORIAL

Happy Christmas



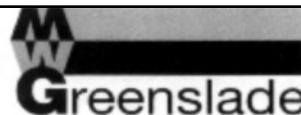
It doesn't seem possible that our first "Solo flight" was the December 2013-January 2014 issue. Where have those four years gone - as they say?

We recently celebrated 21 years in Lower Washfield and, although Rectors and friends have come and gone, it remains the most wonderful place to live. To turn off the Rackenford Road and head for home is magical and like stepping out of the hustle and bustle of the outside world.

Well (as we've said before) it would be, if it wasn't for the recent, selfish trend of a few people, who drive at dangerous and irresponsibly high speeds, along our once tranquil and safe lanes. Please spare a thought for other cars, walkers and animals - all of whom have the right to be there. Whatever happened to manners ??

A warm glow has now settled over the Exe Valley with the newly married Steph spreading her kindness and enthusiasm over us all. There's hope for us yet !!

Jenny and Geoff



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The meaning is in the WAITING

A series of reflections across the Exe Valley Mission Community on Tuesdays & Thursdays for Advent



28 November 10.15am
Rackenford -
Abraham and Sarah

30 November 7.00pm
Cruwys Morchard -
Abraham and Sarah

3 December Advent Sunday
Oakford 9.30am and
Stoodleigh 11.15am -
In Praise of Waiting

5 December 6.30pm
Calverleigh Village Hall -
The Prophets

7 December 10.00am
Washfield - The Prophets

12 December 10.30am
Loxbeare - John the Baptist

14 December 7.00pm
Witligh - John the Baptist

19 December 7.00pm
Templeton - Mary

STEPH REFLEXE ...

Wedding

There are not many times when I have felt completely speechless and overwhelmed but getting married is definitely one of them. Robert and I were, on more than one occasion, rendered speechless and a little bit tearful, by the love and joy that surrounded us.

We would like to thank everyone for the love and generosity you showed us, in celebrating our wedding, and sharing our joy. We received hundreds and hundreds of cards and messages. We had a perfect day. It was exactly what we had wanted – despite Storm Brian! And we are thrilled and grateful that so many of you were able to come and share it with us.

Thank you so much!

Interestingly, on the run up to the wedding, the lectionary gospel readings featured some of the stories that Jesus told about the Kingdom of God. He often used the picture of a wedding. Weddings are a high point in most people's lives, and in the lives of their families, friends and communities. So much time, effort and resources are lavished into preparing for a wedding. When I talk to couples after the event, they often say that it was the best day ever. And I get that. Because 21 October was the best day ever, for me! (Well, and Robert too, I hope!)

But it is also a reminder of what God says he has prepared for us in heaven. The ultimate wedding banquet. No Prosecco spared! And the best bit is that everyone, absolutely everyone is invited.

All we have to do is accept the invitation.

Steph

FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago

December 1967 & January 1968

December had traditionally been known as "Slaughter month", when farmers were obliged to kill the livestock for which they would be unable to provide feed during the Winter.

Clergy were clearly in abundance, with six of the nine parishes each having three services over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the other three parishes having to make do with two!

In a re-telling of the Christmas story, when Mary and Joseph visited the Temple following the birth of Jesus, they were required to present two purple doves or two pigeons!

The Rector was seeking volunteers to help children who were having difficulty with their reading.

"Church sheep" were kept by farmers in more than one parish. Presumably the sale of the sheep raised funds for the churches?

Loxbeare's organ had been restored.

There was concern at Oakford school over fallen plaster and exposed rot to timbers.

Christmas trees were being offered for sale at 1/9d (about 8p!) per foot, up to 3'-6" tall – including delivery!

Rackenford's young people presented the Christmas Eve Carol Service.

The Templeton Country Sale, held in Tiverton, raised £105 towards the £1,000

continued overleaf →



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cost of tower repairs. Manure was on offer at 3/- (15p) a sack, as a fund-raising initiative, and had made it into the national press! The cost of restoration of the bells was not going to be as much as originally thought.

The Withleigh Autumn Fayre had raised £91, effectively clearing the £750 debt from the major restoration and rebuilding work to the church.

Foot and Mouth was taking its toll on events, with carol singing cancelled, Stoodleigh's Christmas Fair being postponed and the Washfield children's party in doubt. Pathfinders and some Sunday Schools were also victims.

A cold February was predicted, with heavy snowfalls.

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

The premature end to Summer in Britain was a great disappointment and Nature in the Exe Valley seemed to be confused. I heard tawny owls calling to each other in the light of an August evening whilst witnessing pipistrelle bats flying in a circular motion without much purpose. Normally I would only be contemplating the gathering of swallows then house martins but to see bats flying like birds and staying near [rather than flitting and scouring a larger area] and being surprised by the call of owls, was unsettling at this time.

Nevertheless, as we approach the depth of Winter, the calls of our resident pair of tawny owls is very comforting whilst lying in bed. I understand tawny owls tend to lead a solitary life and pairs reconvene in

their territory in time for Winter and to mate. They have a variety of calls and are also called screech owls but I feel hoot is a better description for what you hear. Storybooks [and Shakespeare] and our imagination, determine they call 'Tu-whit' and answer 'Tu-who'. The first being the call of the female and the second being the response of the male. This is worthy of note because it is that rare occasion in Nature when the male has the last word.

Equally comforting in Winter is the neat and tidy garden that has been put to bed, with plans to make it even better next year.

However spare a thought for the groundsman at Southampton and Leicester football clubs, where the designs they used to make in the mown turf have been banned. The former tended to be arty curves but the tartan patterns at Leicester had to be the most impressive. Speaking as one whose stripes in the lawn are conditioned by the presence of mole hills and slow worms, I felt their creative achievements often surpassed that of the players. I do not know why they have been stopped and can only presume it has nothing to do with football and everything to do with money. I know those making the decision are blind to Nature and have never worked with it.

Thomas More

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

October was a busy month for baptisms in Calverleigh. On Sunday 1 October, we welcomed Elizabeth

Rosabella Casandra, her parents, family and supporters, on the occasion of her Baptism. Steph was ably assisted by Thomas, who was very eager to get his hands wet.

Sunday 8 October saw our turn to host the Cluster Service with Washfield and Loxbeare, in which we welcomed the families, friends and supporters of Freddie Jason Ogilvy, on the occasion of his Baptism. As part of the same Service Mia Elizabeth and Esme Rose Hammett were also baptised. They too were supported by parents, family and friends. As this was a Service of Holy Communion, all children attending the baptisms were welcomed to the altar rail for a blessing. The Church was very nearly full and it proved to be an enjoyable occasion for both regulars and visitors.

As a congregation, we would like to add our congratulations to Steph and Robert on the occasion of their wedding, which was held at Cruwys Morchard on 21 October. We wish the happy couple a long and happy marriage.

An Informal Get-together (Coffee, Cake and Company @ Calverleigh) took place in the Church on 29 October, at which 27 people popped in to enjoy light refreshments including cake and biscuits, and of course to catch up with the Church family. Our thanks go to all who helped in any way and we warmly invite anyone to join us for the next one.

A fund-raising meal was held on Saturday 11 November at Calverleigh Village Hall, which for many years had been held at Washfield.

Our thanks go to Mandy Cotter, Jackie and Mary Herniman for all their hard work in preparing the room and the delicious and plentiful meal.

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Many others helped in a variety of ways, including providing desserts and the marvellous sum of £668.50 was raised to be divided between Children's Hospice South West and Calverleigh Church.

On 12 November we had a change of time for our Remembrance Service which moved from a 9.30am Holy Communion to a 10.50am Remembrance Service of the Word. It was well attended with a congregation age ranging from those in their 80s to 8 months old. The service was led by Julie Goldsworthy who gave a talk outlining the beginnings of the two minute silence and later in the service read the poem "For the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon.

In the last issue of the magazine, we said that we would let you know where the Harvest Produce would be donated. We are pleased to say that the produce was gratefully received by the Salvation Army, who provide meals and also pass on food parcels to families in need.

Money raised at the Harvest Supper has been sent to Shelter Box in support of all the good work they do in providing temporary and much needed accommodation for those made homeless by natural disaster or displacement.

Throughout the Christmas period there will again be an opportunity to donate dried and tinned food as well as toiletries to CHAT. A box will be under the Christmas tree and contributions given to CHAT early in January.

Christmas Services at Calverleigh

Dec 3 @ 3pm - Christingle
 Dec 17 @ 3pm - Carol Service
 Dec 25 @ 9.30am - Holy Communion
 Dec 31 @ 10.30am - Group Service

Church Cleaning Rota

20 Nov / 2 Dec: Mrs A Webber
 4 / 16 Dec: Mrs R Tapp
 18 / 6 Jan: Mrs J Goldsworthy
 8 / 20 Jan: Mrs S Greenslade
 22 Jan / 3 Feb: Miss J Herniman

Altar Flower Rota

26 Nov / 3 Dec: Mrs M Furneaux
 10 / 17 Dec: Mrs M Herniman
 7 / 14 Jan: Mrs S Greenslade
 21 / 28 Jan: Lady L Amory

If you would like to volunteer for the Flower, Cleaning or Mowing Rotas, please contact Aubrey Goldsworthy on 01884 255248.

Have we missed anything? If there is something that you think we should have mentioned, or you have something for inclusion in the next magazine, please contact Dave Burton on 01884 561499 or by email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org and get the latest on the website at: www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh

CRUWYS MORCHARD

The wedding on 21 October will be a day to remember in Cruwys Morchard. While storm "Brian" was all around us, our Rector Steph and Robert Gordon were married in our Church. It was absolutely full to bursting but everyone managed to sit down and take part in the joyous occasion - with more people in the Hall listening to it relayed through speakers and joining in with everyone else. Afterwards, we were all invited to go over to the Hall where Jo Hilton and her team of helpers were organising the catering.

Thanks to all who provided something for the bring and share meal and, of course, to Steph and Robert for the drinks and even more food. Thanks to Mary Seaton and Sally Munday of St Peter's, Tiverton for decorating the Church so beautifully with ivy and lanterns.

After the wedding, we were left with a cool bag, some plates and a large plastic wire basket - like the type in freezers. If anyone knows where they might have come from, please contact Diana Vincent on 01363 860227.

Services for Christmas and the run up to Christmas. It is always important to double-check the middle pages for the exact time table for all the Services.

The first Sunday in December is an 11am Morning Prayer, the second is a 6.30pm Cluster Service at Withleigh with Holy Communion, the third is our Carol and Christingle Service on Sunday 17 December at 11am. We would like to hear from anyone who wishes to take part in this Service. We will once again be putting on a Nativity Play, please contact Cindy 01363 866621 or Diana 01363 860227. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday 16 December at 10am. During the Service we will collect for CHAT, who distribute food and essential supplies to homeless and those in need in the Tiverton area. Tinned food but not baked beans !! They have asked for tinned meat and vegetables and dried foods, cereals, UHT milk, toiletries and cleaning products. Please make sure all donations are in date, no fresh food or Christmas gifts as donations will be delivered after the New Year. Do stay and join us for refreshments after the Service.

We will be making Christingles on Saturday 16 December at Cindy Trick's,

continued overleaf →

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Valley View, Pennymoor from 2pm, if you are able to help please come along and join us.

Christmas Eve, 24 December. We do not have a Service on Christmas Day. Our Communion Service for Christmas is at 10pm on Christmas Eve night.

31 December is the Group Service in Calverleigh, taken by Steph.

Services for January 2018

7 January 11am Morning Prayer

14 January 9.30am Cluster Service Holy Communion taken by Steph, in our Church with Templeton and Withleigh

21 January 11am Holy Communion with Steph

28 January 10.30am Group Service with Steph

Flower and Cleaning Rota.

Dec 4 - Lorna Warren

Dec 11 - Decorators for Christmas

Dec 18/25 - Diana Vincent and Val

Randerson

Jan 1/8 - Cindy Trick

Jan 15/22 - Judith Taylor and Anne

Gillbard

Jan 29/5 Feb - Sonia Notley and Claire Miller

Community Lunch

More than thirty people enjoyed the Community Lunch in October at the Parish Hall. There was a variety of main meals and puddings, which were given by our parishioners, followed by tea or coffee. Many thanks to Judith for organising the menu and to the team of helpers for preparing and serving the meal. Our next Community Lunch is due in the Spring.

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers held their Annual General Meeting in September where a cheque for £600 was

presented to Cancer Research. This was raised by the Club's Annual Tractor Run held in July. The Club then held an End of Year Dinner to celebrate their achievements throughout the year. Members are very busy rehearsing for the Exe Valley Group Pantomime Competition to be held in January. There will be Bingos on the last Saturday of January and February held at the Parish Hall - all welcome. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. If you are interested in becoming a member, please come along.

Christmas Fayre

Our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre was held on the 11 November. As this was Armistice Day, a two minute silence was held to honour those who fought and died for their country. There was a large and varied range of crafts for sale. Thank you to all who helped to organise this successful event, and to those who helped on the day and also for the donations of cakes and prizes. During the afternoon we made in excess of £900. Well done everyone.

Cruwys Arms Gardeners by Clare Penny.

We had a good meeting on Wednesday, 1 November, sorting out the Christmas meal, to be held at The Ring of Bells on Wednesday 6 December. We didn't just discuss food! We covered pruning roses and shared suggestions for shrubs to plant on the north side of rhododendrons - as well as for a suitable tree to plant in a tub in a sheltered site, but where it will only get the morning sun.

Chrissie and I are making gravel gardens. I have put my plants into pots intended for ponds and buried them in the gravel in the hope that this will provide the good drainage they need - time will tell. Gerry convinced me last Spring that climbing French beans were well worth growing

and I sowed some directly into the soil in the poly tunnel in a wigwam the first week in May - absolutely brilliant. I am still picking and eating them. Thanks Gerry, the best variety are Cobra.

Gerry also told us about the sculpture exhibition at Rosemoor this Winter, so a trip there in the New Year is likely.

I have benefited hugely from knowledge and advice given by other group members and our meetings are very relaxed, friendly, and non competitive. Not everyone can, or wants to come to meetings but if you know anyone who would like to participate, by way of this online google group, please let me know so that I can send them an invitation online. Meanwhile please contribute anything garden related to this discussion forum, even if only a couple of lines. Cruwys-arms-gardeners@googlegroups.com

Apple Pressing Day on Sunday 15 October run by Bob Cruwys was a huge success, with gallons of apple juice made. Thank you very much Bob.

Yoga there will be no class on 14 December. On 21 December there will be minced pies and cheer to celebrate Christmas.

Future Events

January can seem a long month, with the anti climax of Christmas/New Year and Spring and warmer weather is too far in the future.

Why not look forward to an evening of good food and fun with friends and neighbours - all in a very good cause? Please join us for a

Burn's Night Supper and Dancing to Dumbo's Feather

Friday, 26 January, 7.30pm Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

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New Creation News

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We hope you have read the recent 'Message from the Trustees'. Thank you for your prayers and support over these last few weeks. By God's grace and your support we look forward to continuing to serve Him and you from 58 Bampton Street, thereby enabling His Word to be sent out into the community and beyond but please keep praying and telling us if the Lord gives you a message for us.

Lion Publishing has a new Christmas Promotion for Children's books – three for the price of two! There are some really beautiful ones so please come and see!

We also have '3 for 2' on some packets of Christmas Cards. Come in and browse to find the many different ways you can send out God's Word this Christmas. The Christmas Card selections all contain a scripture text which make a delightful way of sending out the Gospel message – so, before going elsewhere, please come in to see our collection.

Diaries and Calendars also make great presents and can offer a different uplifting message daily, weekly or monthly – some show, in pictorial splendour, God's beautiful world.

Have you booked an Evening Supper (for a maximum of 14 people) for your house group or group of friends? To take a break and relax at this busy time, perhaps even fitting in a little shopping in comfort in the evening, just ring the shop (255769) for more details.

God bless you all and thank you for your prayers

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Christmas Decorating Saturday 2 December

Family singalong Sunday 3 December at 4.30pm

Community Christmas free lunch on Wednesday 6 December at 12.30pm.

Mystery Rubbish?

About every two weeks a strange black plastic bag of rubbish appears in the layby opposite the front gate of the Parish Hall. To who ever is responsible for this rubbish "Please do **not** do it again".

Congratulations to Sam and Tom Gardner on the birth of Archie, brother for Ollie.

And to Sarah and Lee, of Bladens, on the birth of their son Henry.

Derek Webber. It was with great sorrow that we said "good bye" to Derek at his funeral on Saturday 14th October. Our sympathy and prayers go to Brenda and her family.

Welcome to Chris and Lynn Plush in Hill View House, and to the family in Sandpipers.

continued overleaf →

PRAYERS FOR WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

God of unity

Trinity of the Three,

You call your people to be one

That the world may believe.

Grant us your Spirit

That we might act and speak with one voice,

So that our world's pains and divisions

May be transformed by healing,

Hope and reconciliation,

Our Lord's prayer be answered,

And your name glorified and hallowed.

Amen

God of the poor and dispossessed,

You hear the cries of your despised ones.

You look with favour on the lowly

And bring down the powerful from their thrones.

Hear our cries for those who are silenced,

Our protests for those pushed to the margins.

In our advocacy with them

May we find the unity to which you call us

In Christ's name.

Amen

Barrier-breaking God,

You embrace all cultures and lands,

But keep a special place in your heart

For the stranger, the widow and the orphan.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit

That we may become as You are,

Welcoming all as brothers and sisters,

Your cherished children,

Citizens together in Christ's kingdom of

justice and peace.

Amen

Just and righteous God

You called your people out of slavery

And onwards to the new humanity

Where all are one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Enfold with your love those trafficked as

slaves today. Empower your Church

To denounce and work to end that evil trade

Living out the love and compassion of Christ

As we tend its victims.

Amen



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PARISH ROUND-UP

LOXBEARE

It was a privilege to witness and share in Robert and Steph's Wedding on 21 October. We felt so much a part of their special day with a lovely, happy & joyful service. Thank you to Robert and Steph for inviting us all and we pray for God's blessing on their future lives together.

Our Harvest Celebrations were held over the weekend 23-24 September with both Services taken by Steph. It was lovely to see the children on the Saturday, with the Service followed by sports and tea which was enjoyed by all. The offering of £200 was given to Tear Fund. The Harvest Supper was on the Monday when the speaker was Mrs Ruth Morley who gave us a very informative talk on the work of C.H.A.T. The produce was auctioned by Arthur, with help from Ron, and the evening raised £110 which was given to C.H.A.T. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way for the Harvest Celebrations and we give thanks to God for His wonderful and plentiful provision.

On 12 November our Remembrance Family Service was taken by Ron, who spoke on 'remembering' in the Bible - especially Jesus giving his life for us. Linda also spoke on Jesus calming the sea and linking this with the wonderful & miraculous rescue at Dunkirk when the country prayed & the sea became calm. Bob Weatherley led the Remembrance prayers & we held a two minute silence, as we remembered those who gave their lives for our freedom.

A PCC Meeting was held on 7 November, at which concern was expressed about current trends in the Church of England on a number of very important issues, including doubts about uniqueness of the

Lord Jesus Christ and attitudes to marriage and sexuality, which are in conflict with the teaching of the Bible. This confirms our resolve to support the Jerusalem Declaration of the GAFCON movement. The next meeting will be on 23 January in the Village Hall.

The Exe Valley Woman's Bible Study Group meet at Churchill House, Loxbeare. Contact Marion for details 01884 256302.

By the time you read this, we will have visited the New Creation Bookshop, on 16 November, for supper and to browse amongst the cards, books, CD's etc.

Christmas will soon be upon us with many Services and celebrations of Christ's birth. Our Christingle Service will be on 3 December in the Village Hall at 4.00pm - followed by tea and cake. The Carol Service will be on 17 December at 6.30pm, to be taken by John, with the offering going to Vranh House.

There will be no Service on Christmas Day, but there will be a Service on Christmas Eve at 11.00pm.

Carol Singing evenings will be on 19,21 & 23 December. The collection will be for Water Aid and Marie Curie in Tiverton.

This year, instead of Operation Christmas Child, run by Samaritan's Purse, we will be supporting the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal for families in poorer countries.

Many thanks and much appreciation to all who have helped to keep the Churchyard looking so nice and tidy during the past year and also with the general maintenance of the Church. Also thanks to all who have helped, supported & contributed to the smooth running of the Church & to those who have taken Services.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve Troake, Derrick McManus, Liz Barrow and all who are receiving or waiting for treatment and any others who are feeling unwell. Our sympathy & prayers go to those who have had recent bereavements.

Congratulations to Guy and Melissa Weatherly on the birth of their little boy Thomas on 6 November. A brother for Poppy and grandson for Bob and Christine. We pray for God's love and blessing and send good wishes to you all.

Congratulations to all celebrating special occasions and "Happy Birthday" to all with birthdays in December/January.

The Cream Tea in October brought a donation for New Creation Bookshop. The November Cream Tea donations and "Bring and Buy" will be for Devon Air Ambulance.

From the beginning of December there will be a box in the Church for contributions to C.H.A.T food bank in Tiverton, supplying much needed groceries for the homeless and destitute. Please find a flyer with this magazine which you can pop in your handbag or pocket as a reminder of items needed when you do your weekly shop. The box will be in Church every Sunday when there is a Service.

Loxbeare Ladies

In November there was a "Town Walk" followed by a bite to eat at Mallards Restaurant, Lowman Green.

Thank you to Gerald for organising the bowling in Amory Park in October.

The Christmas Fayre/Cream Tea this year will be 2 December in the afternoon 2-4. 7 December will be the annual Christmas meal at Bickleigh Mill.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Village Party will be on the 13 January at 7pm in the Village Hall with a "Bring and Share" supper. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

The Christmas Bingo will be on 11 December at 7pm. Contact Carol on 01884 881480.

27 January there will be a Cheese and Wine evening in the Hall at 7pm. Open for everyone.

OAKFORD

The festive season is fast approaching and Oakford is getting ready to light the way with a sparkle! If you are free to help for an hour or two on Wednesday 6 December, the Village tree (kindly donated by Paul & Jean Marcus from Hutswell garden) will be put in place and also the lights - so the more elves the better!

The 2017 **Christmas Tree Festival** in the Church begins with a tea party, raffle and general stall on Saturday 9 December at 2.30pm. Contact Brenda Burrows 01398 351331 if you would like to bring along a small (2'-3') decorated tree. Children are invited to help decorate the big Church tree during the afternoon. Free entry but donations will be gratefully received.

Candlelit Service - all welcome at 6.30pm on Sunday 17 December. An opportunity to sing familiar seasonal carols surrounded by Christmas trees. Stay for a chat, mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Friday 22 December at 5.30pm - traditional carols will be sung around the Village Christmas tree with mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate. Come along and join in and admire the tree decorations made at the Moorland Club Christmas Fayre.

Moorland Club Thanks to all who helped at and supported the annual Christmas Fayre. Just over £1,000 was raised and will be divided between the Bampton Dementia Support Group and the Stroke Unit in Exeter. Well done everyone.

The Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 14 December at Bickleigh Mill. Let Patsy know if you still haven't booked 01498 351648. The first event in 2018 is a talk by Anne Boldry 'Running a B&B' on Thursday 11 January at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. New members welcome.

Oakford Players. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 'Anything but Christmas Variety Show' has had to be cancelled. However, there will be a Variety Show from 22-24 February. Tickets £12 to include a two-course supper. Licensed bar. To book contact Dawn Williams 01398 324035. Anyone interested in joining the Players to help with productions or 'tread the boards' will be welcomed with open arms!

A Village Hall fund-raising evening is planned for 3 March. Look out for posters and contact Dawn Williams 01398 324035 to book for 'An Italian Supper Evening and Quiz'.

The 2018 altar flower rota is now available in church. Anyone wishing to donate towards flowers in remembrance of a loved one or special occasion is kindly asked to sign up.

In this season of plenty, don't forget those who are struggling to provide a meal, pay the rent or keep the family warm and who find Christmas a stressful time. Tins, packets of dry food and basic toiletries are always needed by CHAT. There is a box in Church where donations can be left any time of day. These are taken regularly to the food bank in Tiverton. Thank you.

"I am the light of the World" John 8:12
We welcome you to St Peter's on Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of Jesus with a Service of Holy Communion at 10am. Stay for coffee and friendship afterwards.

Happy Christmas to each and every one and a very happy and peaceful New Year.

RACKENFORD

On Wednesday 27 September, a large number attended the Thanksgiving Service for Muriel Blinman. John's daughter Sally helped to collate and supply so much detail of Muriel's life in our village and as a teacher, both in Somerset and overseas. It was a joy to watch the films and to hear details of Muriel's very interesting and full life, some of which we witnessed for ourselves. Donations in Muriel's memory totalled £90.50 and were donated to the NSPCC.

The Funeral Service of Evelyn Chapple was held on Tuesday 12 September. Evelyn was laid to rest with her late husband Herbert. Family and friends gathered to celebrate the 94 years of Evelyn's life. Donations of £218.50 were given to Rackenford Church, for which we are most grateful. Our deepest sympathy to all the family and friends.

Many thanks to everyone who has rolled up their sleeves once again and continued the task of straightening headstones, great progress is being made. Also some young boys have been seen cutting and tidying parts of our village green, which always needs so much attention. We are so glad of the

continued on Page 12 ➔

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WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

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PRAYER BREAKFASTS



On the last Saturday of each month, there will be an opportunity to meet together and to pray – as well as eat breakfast !!
On 27 January this will take place at Loxbeare Village Hall at 9.30am.
Do please look at the website for venues, and come and join us.

INFORMAL MIDWEEK WORSHIP

From 18 January 2018 we will be launching a new monthly Service of Informal Worship in various locations across the Mission Community.
The first one will take place at Withleigh at 7.00pm.
Do please join us – and bring your musical instrument if you have one!

“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

In heaven we see Jesus fully and worship without reservation.
 In heaven there is no sorrow; no sickness, no pain or tears or suffering.
 In heaven there is an eternal family of generations, tongues, tribes and nations.
 Imagine a world where these things are the norm; where justice flows,
 peace and love hold communities together, walls of division are broken down.
 Lord, save us from powerless religion. Free us from apathetic faith.
 Let your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
 We long for more of your presence.
 Lord, we ask that our praise should rise; our prayer be passionate; our faith grow;
 our encounter deepen; our mercy extend; our love transform.
 May we love you more and more, we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.



John Roberts

3 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH
 3 pm Christingle

CRUWYS MORCHARD
 11 am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE
 4 pm Christingle
 + Tea in Loxbeare Village Hall

OAKFORD
 9.30 am Advent Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

RACKENFORD
 9.30 am Morning Worship

STOODLEIGH
 11.15 am Advent Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON
 4 pm Christingle Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD
 11 am Advent Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH
 4 pm Christingle Service
in Withleigh Village Hall

10 DECEMBER CLUSTER SERVICES

**ALL SERVICES TODAY ARE
 HOLY COMMUNION**

TAKEN BY *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

CALVERLEIGH
 9.30 am Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD
 6.30 pm Withleigh

LOXBEARE
 9.30 am Washfield

OAKFORD
 11.15 am Rackenford

RACKENFORD
 11.15 am CLUSTER

STOODLEIGH
 11.15 am Rackenford

TEMPLETON
 6.30 pm Withleigh

WASHFIELD
 9.30 am CLUSTER

WITHLEIGH
 6.30pm CLUSTER

17 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH
 3 pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
 11 am Carols and
 Christingle

LOXBEARE
 6.30 pm Carol Service

OAKFORD
 6.30 pm Carol Service

RACKENFORD
 9.30 am Family
 Christingle Service

STOODLEIGH
 6 pm Carol Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON
 11 am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD
 11 am Christingle Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WITHLEIGH
 6.30 pm Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE (24 Dec)

CALVERLEIGH
 No Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD
 10 am Holy Communion
 by extension

LOXBEARE
 10.30 am Family Communion

OAKFORD
 No Service

RACKENFORD
 6.30 pm Carol Service
 with Holy Communion

STOODLEIGH
 11 am Matins

TEMPLETON
 7 pm Carol Service
 with Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD
 6 pm Carol Service

WITHLEIGH
 11.30 pm Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CHRISTMAS DAY(25 DEC)

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No Service

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

10 am Holy Communion

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

11 am Holy Communion
by extension

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

11 am Family Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WITHLEIGH

No Service

31 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE
Steph Gordon-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

7 JANUARY 2018

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

9.30 am Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Worship

STOODLEIGH

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

3 pm Evening Prayer
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Family Service

14 JANUARY

CLUSTER SERVICES

**ALL SERVICES TODAY ARE
HOLY COMMUNION**

TAKEN BY *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am CLUSTER

CRUWYS MORCHARD

9.30 am CLUSTER

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Calverleigh

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

6.30 pm Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

6.30pm CLUSTER

TEMPLETON

9.30 am Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

11.15 am Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

9.30 am Cruwys Morchard

21 JANUARY

CALVERLEIGH

3 pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Holy Communion
Steph Jeffs

LOXBEARE

11 am Family Service

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

6.30 pm Evensong
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON

11 am Morning Service

WASHFIELD

11 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Plough Service

28 JANUARY

CALVERLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

See Cruwys Morchard

OAKFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

RACKENFORD

See Cruwys Morchard

STOODLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

See Cruwys Morchard

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

PARISH ROUND-UP

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018 That All May Be Free

This year, throughout the Exe Valley Mission Community there are opportunities to meet together to pray for peace and reconciliation both globally and locally. Please feel free to join me at any or all (!) of the following Church venues, with the exception of Loxbeare, which will take place in the Hall, and will include breakfast. If you wish to follow the week at home, please use some of the prayers on Page 7

18-25 January

Praying for the unity of the Church involves a recognition not only of the brokenness of Christian relationships but also how injustice in the world at large rends asunder Christian communities and impedes our participation in God's mission. History too plays a part, casting a shadow over how we live our lives together in community.

All of these issues emerge from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials for 2018. The churches of the Caribbean region describe to us their own context, how the hand of God was active in ending slavery, and how God's mission in the world is a call to us all to unite together in ending injustice, that which casts a shadow from the past and current forms of injustice such as poverty, trafficking and discrimination.

This particular Caribbean experience is a challenge to us in our context to reflect more deeply on the injustices in our own nations in Britain and Ireland which create the divisions that impede our participation in God's mission, with the call to actively work to end all division.

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Please join us as we meet together to pray across the Mission Community.

Saturday 20 January
9.00am Withleigh
3.00pm Templeton

Sunday 21 January
11.00am Cruwys Morchard
6.30pm Stoodleigh

Monday 22 January
10.00am Oakford

Tuesday 23 January
Please pray at home

VENUES



Wednesday 24 January
9.45am Rackenford

Thursday 25 January
10.30am Washfield

Thursday 26 January
7.30pm Calverleigh

Saturday 27 January
9.30am Prayer Breakfast
Loxbeare

help you are giving. Thank you so much and well done.

Once again many thanks to Fred Phillips and his team for cutting the Church hedge. It is always a good job done and it makes such a difference to the look of our village.

Our continued thanks to Andrew for all the hours he has spent keeping our churchyard and hedges so neat and tidy over the past year and we look forward to seeing you again next year. Andrew - all the little extras you do have not gone unnoticed.

Our Harvest celebrations were a great success. The Church was beautifully decorated, with a wide variety of flowers, fruit, vegetables and gifts, given so kindly by many - including our school children. Many thanks to you all.

Our Harvest Praise (Cluster) Service was on 8 October. It was a joy to welcome friends from other Parishes and also old friends coming back to Rackenford to join us. It was a treat to have the young children on their Bell Plates, our choir in attendance and the church bells ringing. Rev Steph Jeffs welcomed everyone to our Service and we were all engrossed with such an informative and enjoyable sermon.

On Monday 9 October we were lucky once again to be invited to the home of Jacque and Mary Cann (Many thanks to you) to hold our Harvest supper and auction. It was an amazing gathering to enjoy the wonderful spread of food kindly prepared by so many ladies. Many thanks to them and to all who helped in any way and also for contributing food, gifts, and draw prizes and to all the generous bidders and the laughs we had along the way. Many thanks also to our very good friend Stafford Sampson who was our

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PARISH ROUND-UP

auctioneer. The total amount raised over the Harvest days was £1,944.04.

On 31 October, our door bells rang and we opened them to see scary faces and amazing costumes of little children hoping to get some nice treats. They were very happy and polite as they went away to enjoy the evening.

5 November. The bonfire had grown over the weeks, the guy was ready and the food prepared as everyone came to the common to enjoy the firework display which could be seen and heard (even if you did not attend) as it lit the skies. We hope you all enjoyed the evening and returned home safe and sound. Thank you to all who helped to organize this for the village.

Congratulations to Robert and Steph on their marriage, which took place on 21 October. We hope you had a truly wonderful day and felt the love and support of your family and friends of The Exe Valley. We wish you every happiness. God Bless.

A couple of reminders for you. Church Christmas Bingo, is on Thursday December 14, 7.30 pm at Rackenford Club, 10 meat dinners. **NO BINGO in JANUARY, FEBRUARY or MARCH.** Thank you all for your continued support.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for Jacque Cann and to anyone who is not well.

It was bitterly cold, wet and windy as people gathered at The War Memorial on Sunday 12 November, to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday. We valued having Derek and Jackie Herniman taking our Service with such in depth knowledge to remind us of all the lives that were so tragically lost over the years, along with prayers and two minutes

silence. It was not easy trying to take this Service against all the elements and we thank them for another year being with us.

Sadly we missed Cyril Blackford with his accordion after so many years, but were blessed to have Sharon Saupe with us playing The Last Post on her trumpet (very moving) and accompanying the hymns and National Anthem. Thank you Sharon. Daphne Weston laid the wreath. The collection of £152.50 will be given to The Royal British Legion.

We would like to thank the whole team who enable us to receive and enjoy our Today magazine, especially Jenny and Geoff Parnell for all their hard work, help and advice they give us.

Happy Christmas to everyone in and around Rackenford Parish and all of The Exe Valley Parishes although in some cases, people find Christmas a difficult time for various reasons. We pray for them. A Healthy New Year to you all.

STOODLEIGH

How time flies and here we are with the magazine for the final month of 2017. Much seems to have happened in Stoodleigh – arrivals, departures, "big" birthdays, fund-raising and other events for both the Church and the Parish Hall ... It is hoped that everyone has had a good year and will look back on the really hot days we had earlier and not the rather damp ones later on!

Harvest Supper was a great success and the change to skittles brought out the competitive spirit in those taking part. All the proceeds went to the Devon Air Ambulance Trust and we were delighted to send them over £370. At the end of

October Enid Hamadullah kindly hosted a very successful coffee morning in aid of the Church flowers and over £200 was raised. Many thanks to all our supporters who give so generously and who obviously enjoy these social occasions.

The Remembrance Day Service paid tribute to the seven residents of Stoodleigh who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The service was led by Peter Broadbent, and John Fewings spoke movingly in his talk of past and present conflicts. Lacking a trumpeter, the Last Post and Rouse were played on the organ and after the National Anthem, the Service ended with a closing voluntary of The Old Brigade.

There still seems to be movement in Stoodleigh and since the last magazine Annette Penwill has returned to Tiverton and we welcome Penny Norman to Church Style Cottages. The Evans family have left Dry Hill Farm and it was good to meet most of their successors at the Autumn Market – Roland and Jill Chant and son Jake with Abby and grandchild as well as Roland's mother and Jill's sister. Best wishes to those who have moved away as they start in new homes; and to the new arrivals in Stoodleigh, welcome.

We now look towards the festive season which for St Margaret's starts with the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9 December. This takes place in the Parish Hall from 10am to 12 noon and there will be a fine selection of stalls as well as refreshments. It is hoped that, yet again, Father Christmas might feel able to fit Stoodleigh into his busy schedule, to distribute small gifts to children.

The annual Carol Service is on Sunday 17 December at 6pm. The choir stalls will be

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

overflowing with Jennifer Rowlandson's invited choir and Audrey Rigg will be producing a short nativity play with local children. Do come to this annual Service with its traditional carols and festive atmosphere.

Do also come and join the carol singers who will be visiting various houses in the village on Tuesday 19 December starting from the Parish Hall at 6pm.

Parish Hall News

Tickets for the Christmas Draw are now available. Get them soon from committee members as there are some super prizes. The draw will take place at the Christmas Bingo on Monday 18 December – doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come and play, with a chance of winning great festive prizes.

The Autumn Market & Coffee Morning took place on 28 October with a fine array of goods available, as well as pumpkin competitions, face-painting and refreshments. Your support meant we raised £530 for Parish Hall funds.

Many of you were able to chat to committee members at the Autumn Market about the proposed improvements at the Parish Hall – thank you for your support. The planning permission has been obtained and builders' quotes for the work are coming in. Community support for the project is vital and the committee would like to hear from you – there is more information on the Hall Improvements page of the Stoodleigh website. Please speak to one of the committee members with your ideas or to know more... or Geraldine on 01398 351391.

Now, here is an idea for New Year. Kim Grimston, who has recently moved to Finistere (and is known to many as

Mandy Widdowson's sister), turns out to be a fitness instructor. She is starting a Low Impact Keep Fit class in the Parish Hall. Kim says the class will be easy to follow and will help to improve balance, mobility and confidence, will strengthen and tone muscles, and should be fun! The first class is on Tuesday 9 January at 9.30am. For more information please call Kim on 07773 019564.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Prizewinners for September - 1 Phyllis Hill, 2 Angela Hill, 3 Joyce Lacey, 4 Trish Summers; October - 1 John Davis, 2 Kathleen Cheale, 3 Julian Cuninghame, 4 Peter Broadbent.

Church Flowers

3,10 December Trish Fish
 17 December Christmas decorating,
 all help please
 31 Dec, 7 Jan Betty Wotton
 14, 21 January Trish Fish
 28 Jan, 4 Feb Phyllis Hill

St Margaret's Church is well blessed with its group of flower arrangers. The Christmas arrangements are always beautiful and spectacular and well worth a visit. We are a friendly group and anyone wishing to join us would be very welcome.

4.00pm. Our Rector Steph will take the Service. As usual we will give presents for children in Tiverton who wouldn't have any without your generosity. We will take them to the Salvation Army to distribute. Please wrap your presents, which need to be new; put a Christmas label on them and in pencil write on the label male or female and the appropriate age. Hopefully you will be able to attend the Service but if you are unable to come and would like to give a present or two, please give them to Jan Heptinstall or Gloria Woollacott during the week before and they will put them under the Christmas Tree for you.

On 24 December at 7.00pm, as is traditional in Templeton, we will hold our **Carol Service** followed by a shortened Holy Communion. It's good to begin our Christmas celebrations together as a community remembering and sharing in the truth of the season.

A reminder that the Knit & Natter Group still meet on the last Wednesday morning of the month (not December) in Church at 10.30am.

The Church Coffee Morning is held on the first Friday of the month, also at 10.30am. Both occasions give an opportunity for the community to share, catch up and meet over coffee and biscuits. You will receive a warm welcome, so we look forward to seeing you there.

TEMPLETON

The Church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest Festival Service on 1 October. The Haven Day Centre in Tiverton was extremely grateful for the produce you sent. Thank you. We all enjoyed the Harvest Supper the night before; a real community event and a huge thank you to all those who helped in any way.

Our Christingle Service will be held at St Margaret's on Sunday 3 December at

Sadly, Pat Taylor who latterly lived at Townville (now Temple Farm) and who grew up in the village, died peacefully in Hampshire on 26 October. There will be a Memorial Service for her at Tiverton Methodist Church in the Spring. We send our condolences to all her family.

We send our congratulations to Julie and Anthony Dent on the birth of their granddaughter, Stella. We understand it

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PARISH ROUND-UP

wasn't an easy birth, so we are very thankful that all turned out well.

We wish a warm welcome to John and Pat who have recently moved into Bridge Cottage.

Templeton's famous themed Bonfire Night on Saturday 4 November was a great night for all the family! Reg Coffin and Mark Stone presented us with an amazing display of fireworks. Delicious food and hot drinks were on sale including mulled cider at the bar. Thank you to all who helped. The bonfire theme this year was a replica Openreach Van whose wording had been changed to "Won't Reach" (well done!). It caused a stir in the media ranging from the Tiverton Gazette to BBC's Spotlight South West and the Today programme on Radio 4 featured John Humphries interviewing Roger Linden (See Templeton Village Hall on Facebook)

Future Events

Friday 1 December at 7.30pm – A wine-tasting evening with The Jolly Vintner and a supper buffet in the Village Hall. Buy your tickets (£15 per person) in advance either on club nights (Monday and Saturday) or by phoning Adam on 07861358423 or email on adam@temple-farm.co.uk

Saturday 16 December at 3pm is the Children's Christmas Party in the Village Hall with a visit from Father Christmas. Could all parents please bring a small wrapped Christmas present (about £5 - £6) with their child's name clearly written on it for Father Christmas to give them. Please contact Tony Loosemore on 07814552984 to let him know about numbers for food.

Every Saturday evening at the Village Hall during December - darts, pool, skittles and table tennis competitions continue, with the finals at the end of December.

Friday 19 January – Another Speed Quiz Night will be at the Village Hall. Each team requires just one tablet or smart phone loaded beforehand with the app. There will be food and a bar.

A date for your new diaries: Saturday 3 February 2018. There will be a wonderful Family Puppet Show and Children's Tea Party in the Village Hall. For more details see box on Page 19, or contact Julie Woollacott on (01884) 251646 or 07807892118

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Teresa Pancherz (Cleaning only) 26 Nov/3 Dec
 Jan Heptinstall (Cleaning only) 10/17 Dec
 Gloria Woollacott (Flowers & Cleaning) 24/31 Dec
 Teresa Pancherz (Flowers & Cleaning) 7 /14 Jan
 Gill Rose (Flowers & Cleaning) 21 /28 Jan

The Group Service on 22 October included the dedication, by John Roberts, of a Trinity Altar Frontal beautifully made by Jenny Parnell, (with the able assistance of Geoff), in memory of Grace Bicknell, who left a generous bequest to St. Mary's. Her daughter Mary was fully involved in the project and was present at the dedication, which was a very special day.

53 new hymn books, in memory of Grace, were also purchased and blessed. Jenny has also made "Scarf" hangings for the desk and the pulpit, and new book markers for the Bible and the Altar Service Book.



Photo taken by Chas Walton

WASHFIELD

If laughter is the sun that drives Winter from the human face - keep smiling !!

Exciting things have happened in the Exe Valley in October! The first, on 21 October, was the Wedding of our Rector, Steph to Robert Gordon the Rector of St. Peter's, Tiverton. This was a very happy occasion when congregations from all our Churches and those of the Tiverton churches, joined with their families and friends for a joyful Marriage Service taken by Bishop Sarah, at Cruwys Morchard. The singing nearly raised the roof! Over 300 guests were entertained in the Village Hall afterwards and we all wish Steph and Robert a long and happy life together.

We are very grateful to Grace, Mary and Jenny. Jenny's work is a wonderful addition to the Church, and will be admired for many years to come. The previous frontal was badly faded and frayed and the stitches were giving way - which is not surprising because it had been in use since 1872! A panel on it has been repaired to be framed and hung near the altar.

In a Service at All-Saints-tide, we remembered all those who had died in the Parish recently, including John and Rosie Glen who lived at Glebe House for some years and were most hospitable hosts. They missed Washfield very much when they left to be nearer to family.

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We gathered together on Remembrance Sunday to reflect on the sacrifice made by Washfield men in the Great War and to remember those who have died in subsequent conflicts. Martin Hansford led the Service and Maurice Balment received the poppy wreath from him before laying it by the memorial. He then read aloud the names in time honoured fashion before the two minute silence. At the end of the Service we all sat in silence and listened to Andrew Herniman playing Elgar's solemn music for the occasion.

We would like to thank all those who help voluntarily to maintain the Church in many different ways. Your help is invaluable.

Christmas will soon be upon us and we look forward to seeing returning families at the Carol Service on Christmas Eve, on Christmas Day when Steph will be with us at Family Communion at 11am and at the ever popular Christingle for all ages, when Steph will also be there. See "Middle Pages" for more details of the many events in Advent.

The Hall Committee held a delightful evening of archive film at the end of September and, with the addition of a Raffle and Supper, managed to raise £400 for Hall funds. Thank you to all who attended.

In October the Social Club held its annual Pumpkin Competition. Pumpkins arrived from far and wide, some big, some small but all lovingly grown. The results were as follows:

- 1st - Kipper Heywood 63lbs
- 2nd - Debs Walton 53lbs
- 3rd - Dave Bowden 45lbs
- Prettiest - Jean French.

The healthy sum of £284.00 was raised and will go to E.L.F.

The assembled throng also enjoyed a lovely pork roll supper and this raised an extra £140.00 which will go to Social Club

funds. Special thanks go to David Bowden for raising the plants, James Wych for putting together the lovely supper and Chas Walton for organising the games and children's activities including pumpkin competition. A very special evening it was too!

Another opportunity to enjoy a special event in the village is the W.I. Christmas Dinner and party. This takes place on Friday 15 December and all are welcome to attend. The three-course meal is £22 and is followed by local entertainment. It is always a happy evening so, if you would like to attend, please ring Jean French on 257703 to book your place and make your menu choices.

Carol Singing around the village will be on Tuesday 19 December leaving the Hall at 6.30pm. Please come and take part if you are able and bring something towards the 'bring and share' supper in the Social Club later. For the Exe Valley Market Bus.

In January Washfield W.I. is celebrating 70 years since its first meeting and, because such a sterling achievement should not go unrecognised and celebrated, the W.I. is inviting you all to take part in a special evening. On Friday 12 January, the Gypsy Jazz and Swing Band 'La Vie en Rose' will be entertaining the audience in the hall between 7.30 - 10.30pm. Entry is by ticket only (FREE) and these are available from Jenny Raynes, Jeanne Jones or Enid Harding by 18 December. All are welcome, the W.I. would love to see you there!

Some people move hundreds of miles away when they move house but not Jan and Brian who have just done a hop, skip and jump from Olands to just next door! A change is as good as a rest they say. We hope you settle, albeit temporarily, in your 'new' home.

To all of those amongst us who have been, or are still, unwell we send you get well wishes.

To those with special birthdays or anniversaries we wish you many congratulations.

Look out for Social Club Christmas and New Year opening times and events on posters, Facebook 'Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield' and village website

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 9 December Coffee morning at The Cottage for Church funds.10-12pm.

All usual stalls plus raffle

Tuesday 12 December teatime@thehall from 2.30pm

Friday 15 December W.I. Party with 3 course meal and entertainment 7pm for 7.30pm prompt - £22.00 Ring Jean 257703 to book

Tuesday 9 January 2018 teatime@thehall from 2.30pm. Make a resolution to come along and enjoy tea, chat and friendship

Friday 12 January W.I. 70th celebration with 'La Vie en Rose' Gypsy Jazz and Swing Band. FREE but by ticket only to be booked by 18 December. See details in main text.

Church Altar Flowers Rota

Nov 26/Dec 3	Enid Harding
December 10/17	Jean French
December 24/31	Mrs Bassano
January 7/14	Mrs Smith

Church Cleaning Rota

Nov 27/Dec 4	Mr & Mrs Ellis
December 11/18	Mrs French
Dec 25/Jan 1	Mr & Mrs Parnell
January 8/15	Mr & Mrs Walton
Jan 22/29	Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones

We wish all our readers a very happy, peaceful Christmas and joyful New Year.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

WITHLEIGH

Congratulations, Robert and Steph, on your marriage in Cruwys Morchard Church on 21 October, and we welcome Robert to the Rectory here at Withleigh. Best wishes to you both for your future together.

On Sunday 15 October, we welcomed Ruth Morley, from CHAT, who gave us an informative talk about their work. A donation from our Church was presented to her to help boost their funds.

It is really good to see the Village Hall in full swing again, with all the regular events back, so we can all enjoy our nights out. We had a really enjoyable evening for our Re-opening Event. Fred Harris and Barracuda came along and entertained us. There was a wonderful spread of food for everyone to tuck into, with a licensed Bar providing the complementary first drinks.



Many thanks to all of those who provided food, those who helped get the hall ready, also for all who helped on the night, and again the next morning tidying up. Thank you, one and all. Thank you also to Fred for entertaining us, Colin, Richard and Becky for the bar.

Our Informal Service in the Vestry of our Church on 29 October, led by Susie, was about our soul, with relevant hymns.

Thank you Susie for another enjoyable service and for all the work you put into preparing for your Informal Services.

We send our sympathy to Eric Shapland on the death of his daughter, Paula. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Our Worship Team met again on 7 November, to plan our Services through to the end of February and, provisionally, for March. In addition to those named in the last magazine, we are pleased that Janet Sellick will continue to lead the occasional service.

This year's skittles competition, held on 10 November, was won by Ron and Janet Stacey's team, which included Christine Luxton, Sheila Sampson, Eric Kingdom and Martyn Saunders. We all had an enjoyable evening with four teams taking part. Thank you to Duncan and Sara for sorting the prizes and the food, and to all who helped out on the evening.

Candles were, once again, lit at our Remembrance Sunday Service, as we remembered those whose names appear on our war memorial. The focus of this thought-provoking service was on the Battle of Passchendaele, and included the reading of a number of letters sent home, poems written, and thoughts (read out during the commemorations in July) of several soldiers involved in the battle, in between verses of the hymn "O Valiant Hearts".

Approval has now been received by the PCC for the repairs to the west wall of the church, and replacement of the upper step in the porch. The work is planned to be carried out in early Spring. The PCC is also looking into seeking funding to improve the church heating and lighting, as well as redecoration.

Our **Christingle Service** is on 3 December at 4.00pm – in the Village Hall. Come along and make your own Christingle.

Please join us for **Carol Singing** around the village on Monday, 11 December, weather permitting. We plan to start from the Village Hall at 6.30pm, so come with your torch and good singing voice!

Our **Carol Service** is on Sunday, 17 December at 6.30pm, followed by mulled wine, coffee, mince pies and shortbread. On Christmas Eve, we have Holy Communion at 11.30pm, officiated by Steph. This Service always seems to be special as, when we step out of our Church, it is Christmas morning! We would like to welcome you all to our Christmas Services.

On 21 January at 10.30am, it is our **Plough Sunday Service** when the plough is brought into our Church to be blessed for a good year of farming.

Get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving treatment, recovering from operations, or who are not well at the moment. Our prayers and love are with you all.

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

Withleigh WI:

Thursday 14 December - Christmas Party in the Village Hall. Beginning at 10am with Christmas Wreath making with Margaret Gale. Followed by Lunch at 1pm. Thursday 11 January, 12.30pm meet at Poachers Pocket, with partners for Lunch. For more information please ring Rosie 01884 257123

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Forthcoming Events;

Sun 3 Dec - Christingle Service in the Village Hall, 4pm
 Mon 11 Dec - Carol singing around the village, 6.30pm
 Thu 14 Dec - W.I. Christmas Party
 Sun 17 Dec - Carol Service in Church, 6.30pm
 Christmas Eve - Midnight Holy Communion in Church, 11.30pm
 Thu 11 Jan - WI lunch at the Poacher's Pocket, 12.30pm
 Thu 18 Jan - Informal service in Church at 7pm
 Sun 21 Jan - Plough Service in Church, 10.30am

Flower Rota:

Dec 3/10 Margaret Gale
 Dec 17/24 CHRISTMAS, Cathy Luxton, Tree
 Dec 31, Jan 7/14 Janet Stacey
 Jan 21/28, Feb 4 Brenda Tucker

Monthly Diary Dates:

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

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2.30pm
SATURDAY
9 DECEMBER

**RACKENFORD
FAMILY
CHRISTINGLE**
9.30am
SUNDAY
17 DECEMBER

**STOODLEIGH
CHRISTMAS
FAYRE**
10am - 12noon
SATURDAY
9 DECEMBER

**TEMPLETON
CHRISTINGLE**
4pm
SUNDAY
3 DECEMBER


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