



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

December 2018 - January 2019

Price 50p

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT ... ?

By the time you read this, the Christmas season will nearly be upon us and however much I tell myself in November NOT to buy the usual tat, by mid- December I will probably have given in!

No doubt you will find me stocking up on inflatable reindeer antlers, elfin ears and cheap crackers.

Well – Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a silly hat, plastic moustache and a funny joke.

Which reminds me! I came across a piece of paper, full of 'howlers' written by school children (allegedly!), but worthy of the tackiest Christmas cracker. So – put on your silly hat and moustache and have a giggle.

Here goes – the spelling and the punctuation are as written - and the Editors have not slipped up on their proof-reading !!

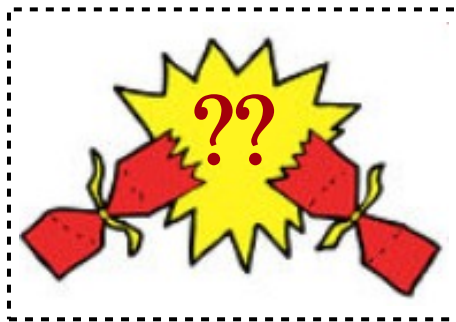
In the first book of the bible, guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The Angle Gabriel came down and gave Mary a massage. When she heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

Solomon, one of David's sons had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

The Israelites were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.



I think I'd better stop. Of course, if I'm honest most of the above contain pretty understandable mistakes, a slip of a word, or a gap in understanding.

Hopefully, for those of us who have completed the first half of the Bible Course, we know a bit more, and wouldn't fall into the trap of making such gaffs. The second part of the Course starts in January. Do come along and join us.

And it's easy to laugh, especially when things seem far-fetched and incredible, and you're not quite sure what's right. Take the Angel Gabriel for example. The Bible tells us that the Angel Gabriel came down from heaven – not to give Mary a massage, but a message. Gabriel said that even though Mary was a virgin, she would conceive and give birth to a child, who would be God's own son and saviour of the world.

Really? Mistake? Fanciful fiction? A joke worthy of any Christmas cracker? Or...or could it be the truth?

What do you think? Come and find out a bit more, at any or all of our Churches in the Mission Community. Everyone welcome.

Wishing you and your family peace and plenty of joy this Christmas and New Year.

Steph

Please read additional information from Steph on Pages 3, 5 & 9

Copy Deadline for February / March 2019 issue

Monday 15 January 2019

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EDITORIAL **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

We hope you like your "one-off" new look Magazine. Just for Christmas, there is a centre-fold pull-out "Christmas Card", which Steph hopes you can keep handy, to easily check all the Services on offer. You will find all the usual boxes on the Middle Pages and on the Christmas Tree cover, in colour, are details of where and when you can find Steph over the Christmas period. Please read her "box" on the Page 3 for more details.

The back cover, also in colour, shows some photos of your Remembrance Poppies and Bell-ringers. There may be more to go in the next issue – along with a photo of 63 avid Quizzers in Calverleigh Hall, assembled for The Big Quiz. Nationally 24,117 people took part. £540 was raised in Calverleigh so the National total should be fantastic. It was a great night and the Quiz-master, Steph, kept us all in order.

Thank you for all your kind words of encouragement over the last five years. It's rewarding to know that our efforts are appreciated.

Thank you too, to Steph, for still smiling after being here for two amazing years well, actually Steph, just thank you for still being here !!

Jenny and Geoff

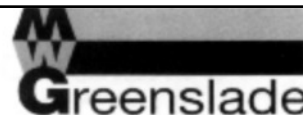
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FROM STEPH

You are invited to attend
THE MARRIAGE DAY



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10.30am - 2.30pm

Tea, Coffee, Lunch provided - please inform us of any special dietary requirements

RSVP:- office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org
Andy Humm ~ Robert Gordon ~ Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TWEAKING THE CLUSTER !

Throughout last year, we met in our 'Clusters' to share Holy Communion together, at different times on the same day - and in order to be fair, we have varied the location and time of the Services.

However, to make it easier for everyone to know when their Holy Communion is taking place, starting in February, one Cluster Service will be held regularly on the 1st Sunday, another on the 2nd Sunday and the third on the 3rd Sunday of every month, all at 11.15am. (with a couple of exceptions).

Everyone is welcome to attend any, or all, of these Services, if they wish to receive Holy Communion.

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Witleigh Great Bradley Farm 8pm

(Telephone Paul Iliff 01884 253473)

Mondays 7 and 21 January
Mondays 4 and 18 February



Washfield Village Hall 7.30pm

6.30pm for Supper. Please book 01884 256302.

Wednesdays 16 / 23 / 30 January

Wednesday 6 February

All Welcome

CHRISTMAS SERVICES WITH STEPH

Our Christmas Worship will be extra-special this year. 

Steph wants to meet as many of her flock as possible over the Christmas period, so she has chosen, traditionally, the most popular Service from each Parish and is looking forward to leading us, in all our festive celebrations.

There will be plenty of opportunities to receive Holy Communion or have a Blessing, with Steph, throughout the Mission Community, this Christmas.

See Page 9 and /or Middle Pages for details



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago

October and November, 1968

The December lead article focussed on the subject of the cost of Christmas Cards and a recent increase on postal rates. It was also suggested that we 'overdo' the number of cards we send, especially when we include people we see regularly.

Children's Christmas parties were to take place at Oakford, Washfield and Witleigh.

New Year's parties were to be held at Calverleigh.

Loxbeare's yew tree, which was causing problems to the tower, was to be felled in January.

Rackenford football club members were holding a dance to raise money for new kit. The Young Anglicans had decorated the Church, and led the candle-lit Carol Service

Stoodleigh were asking the question, "How badly do you want the youth club to re-open?" The Group Christingle Service was to be held on the afternoon of the Sunday after Christmas at Stoodleigh.

Templeton's Country Market, at Tiverton, raised £76.

At Washfield, a public meeting was to be held to discuss the future of the old school building.

Witleigh Choir wore their new robes for the first time at the Carol Service, but not just at Witleigh's, but also at Templeton's Service on the same day.

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

There is one war in which a truce is never called and that is between many friends of ours and grey squirrels. The appearance of a squirrel, changes their otherwise mild manner and only politeness prevents them from renewing hostilities there and then. I do not think it is revenge on behalf of the red squirrels or even to protect the bird food, it is just that squirrels are so shameless, and it is hard to fight the feeling of wanting to wring their necks without hurting them. However, you cannot help but be amused as they hurry away with yet another acorn for their Winter store. This is when they look their most furtive and guilty, worried that it might be stolen, and presumably anxious that you do not follow them to their hiding place. Like front door keys, it will predictably be the most convenient plant pot and the buried bulbs which will be sacrificed in next year's frantic search.

Human foraging of Nature's gifts should be less destructive but carries a similar frisson with the anticipation of decorating a future feast or drink with colour and memories. Some of the finds are an oddity and as per the oft repeated phrase of there being 'a very brave man who first ate an oyster' the same could be extended to those who started to eat fungi. Unfortunately gourmets and chefs have taken this to another level and a six figure sum for a truffle is not unheard of. Similarly in further search for the exotic, trendy chefs even buy from urban foragers in London. Pineapple weed, the current fashion, is finding its way into cocktails but one is tempted to suggest to the forager that they should just cultivate borage. I would also like to inform those in the Exe Valley, who desperately looked for sloes for their festive fare, that they should go to Cornwall next year. The blackthorn trees there are numerous and

stunted by the wind, and make for easy picking. Please do not use damsons instead as it is not foraging and such fruit is too good to end its life soaked in gin. [no obvious comments please]

Thomas More

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

Congratulations to everyone who has celebrated a big birthday or anniversary recently. We pray that you had a good time.

On 30 September, we had one of our Informal Get-togethers where over 25 people came together to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation for a couple of hours. It was a good time of friendship and fellowship and an opportunity to chat with those who are not able to be with us as often as they might wish. See the "Coming soon" section for details of the next one ...

The Family Service, on 21 October, was led by Jackie, who was supported by family and Church members, while her four fellow worship leaders and families were away relaxing and enjoying themselves on holiday in sunny Cornwall.

Remembrance Sunday saw the congregation gather together to commemorate the 100 years since the ending of WW1. There were beautiful poppy arrangements and visual reminders around the Church. "Voices from the past" included two short pieces being read out, one from Rita Tapp about the grandfather of Lester who served in WW1 and also memories of childhood

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PARISH ROUND-UP

through WW2, growing up in Rackenford, from Myrtle Webber. These along with a couple of poems made for a thought provoking service with various members of the congregation having their own memories of family serving in both world wars.

A single bell was tolled 100 times before the beginning of the Morning Service and in the evening the bell-ringers joined Church and Cathedral towers across the nation in 'Ring for Peace'. It has been recorded that 1,400 bell-ringers were lost to the war effort.

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.

As ever, our deepest sympathies and prayers are with you if you are going through a hard time at present, whether due to ill health or bereavement. Please do get in contact with us if you'd like to be mentioned in prayers at any of our Services. Remember you can use the Church at any time.

Coming Up...

On 2 December our Christingle Service will be in conjunction with the Praise Party. The afternoon will begin in the Village Hall making the Christingles at 3.30pm, after which we will move across to the Church for the Service and then return to the Village Hall afterwards for refreshments.

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday 16 December at 3pm followed by tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carollers will be out and about over the festive season please see the Loxbeare section for more information or contact the Churchwardens for times.

On Sunday 23 December, although there is no Service, we are having an informal get-together in the Church at 10am. It will be a time to meet together to enjoy each other's company, chat and reflect on the Christmas season whilst enjoying a cuppa, mince pies and other festive favourites.

On Christmas morning there will be a Family Communion Service at 9.30am, to celebrate the birth of our dear Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that during all the fun (and indeed stress) of the season that you'll have a chance to rest, relax and consider what Christmas is all about!

Have a great Christmas.

Cleaning Rota

26 Nov / 8 Dec: Mrs S Greenslade
 10 Dec / 5 Jan 2019: Mrs J Goldsworthy
 7 / 19 Jan: Mrs M Herniman
 21 Jan / 2 Feb: Mrs M Furneaux

Altar Flower Rota

26 Nov / 2 Dec: Mrs A Webber
 9 / 16 Dec: Mrs M Furneaux
 6 / 13 Jan 2019: Mrs S Greenslade (TBC)
 20 / 27 Jan: Lady L Amory (TBC)

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 01884 561499 or calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org and get the latest on the website at: www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh

CHRISTINGLE PRAISE PARTY
CALVERLEIGH HALL
& CHURCH
SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 3.30PM
 Craft, Songs, Stories and more
 or all the Church family



CRUWYS MORCHARD

Bras for Kenya. Dulcie Cruwys is going to Kenya with her school. She is collecting bras for young women in Africa. If girls are wearing a bra, it appears that they are being cared for and therefore less likely to be violated. There is a box in the Cruwys Morchard Church porch and also in the Parish Hall, where you can leave any you may have, or ring 01363 866864 if you have a collection you would like to be picked up.

It is nearly Christmas, a very important date in the Church calendar.

Services for Christmas are:

11 am Carol and Christingle Service
Sunday 23 December
10 pm Holy Communion with Carols
Christmas Eve 24 December

Also Carol Singing outside the Pub on Christmas Eve. Watch out for the posters. For all other Services please consult the centre pages of this magazine.

We celebrated Harvest with a Service on Saturday 29 September followed by Sports and the Tea. Thank you to all who helped. Sunday was the Harvest Festival taken by our Rector. We did not have an evening social this year, but are looking forward to having a Christmas party instead, between Christmas and the New Year. Please ring Diana on 01363 860227 if you would like to come and are able to help.

Community Lunch was held in October, the largest ever, with many parishioners enjoying a three course meal. A big thank you to Judith for organising the menu and to all those who helped. There is another lunch planned for April 2019.

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre was held on 3 November. There were a large and varied range of crafts stalls. Thank you to all who worked so hard for this event, and also for the donations of cakes and prizes. It was very nice to have Steph with us during the morning.

The **Carol and Christingle Service** at Cruwys Morchard will be held on Sunday 23 December at 11am. We are, once again, putting on a Nativity Play and would be pleased to hear from any children who would like to take part. Please contact Cindy 01363 866621 or Diana 01363 860227. The rehearsal will be on Saturday 22nd, in the Church at 10am.

During the Service we will be collecting for CHAT, who distribute food and essential supplies around Tiverton, to those who are homeless or in need. Tinned and dried foods, cereals, UHT milk, toiletries and cleaning products are the most useful. Please make sure all donations are in date - no fresh food or Christmas gifts as your donations will be delivered after the New Year. Do stay and join us for refreshments of tea, coffee and Mince pies after the Service.

We will be making **Christingles** on Saturday 22 December at Cindy Trick's, Valley View, Pennymoor from 2pm. If you are able to help please come along and join us.

Our **Remembrance Service** was very well attended. Thank you to Mark Ravnkilde for a very good talk.

Apple Day. Although it started off wet, the sun came out and it was an enormous success, Thank you very much the whole Cruwys family.

Yoga continues every Thursday morning in the Parish Hall, except perhaps December.

Cruwys Arms Gardeners. On 23 October we had an outstanding talk by Stephen Powles on Otters in rivers

around us, the Parish Hall was packed. Thank you very much Steve. In November we discussed our Christmas dinner to be held in Lapford at the beginning of December. We have begun to plan our gardens for 2019 and our outings for the coming year. We had two new members, do come and join us at the Cruwys Arms on the first Wednesday of each month.

Flower and Cleaning Rota.

Nov 26/Dec 3	Carole Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell
Dec 10	Lorna Warren
Dec 17	Decorators for Christmas
Dec 24/31	Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
Jan 7/14	Cindy Trick
Jan 21/28th	Sonia Notley and Claire Miller
Feb 4/11	Sue & Pauline Guscott

Mowers

Thank you very much to all those who have so generously mown the Churchyards this year. We are looking for more volunteers to mow in 2019??

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers

Here is Layla Hill's South African Adventure - she writes : *My favourite moment from the whole trip was when the little boy whose garden we were building gave us all a hug as we were leaving, which really showed how much he appreciated us making their vegetable patch. We dug a total of six vegetable patches for the Community in our two days in Nyanga working with Etafeni, an organisation that teaches gardening to help communities grow their own vegetables and ensure they have food to eat. They aim to build 200 gardens a year and they only had 18 left to build after we finished working with them this Summer.*

It was humbling to work in the Township where our work was very much appreciated.

The children there all wanted to help us with the gardens; a lot of them didn't go to school and didn't have any shoes to wear. We took some skipping ropes and bubbles with us for them and it was like Christmas! In the evenings and on the weekends we did different activities such as drumming, a surfing lesson, horse riding on the beach and a safari drive. Our host family was very accommodating, making us all feel welcome and comfortable. South Africa is an incredible, beautiful country that taught me a lot within a short space of time. I would definitely recommend visiting and for anyone that gets an opportunity to take part in a volunteering trip, definitely take it up!

I will be having a presentation evening at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on 2 December at 7pm to show everyone my amazing experience. All welcome.

At the Club's AGM Jake Hill was elected as Club Chairman, with Tom Palmer Secretary. Many congratulations to Layla Hill who was elected Exe Valley Group YFC Chairman at their AGM.

The Club are making wreaths for Christmas. These will be ready for delivery/collection on 14 December and the cost will be £5.00. If you would like to place an order, please contact Layla Hill on 01363 860190 or Tom Palmer on 01363 866398.

Look out for the members on the evening Tuesday 18 December, they will be Carol Singing around the Pennymoor area from 7pm, finishing at The Cruwys Arms. If you would like to join in, members would love to see you - the more the merrier! The club are well underway in rehearsing for the Exe Valley Group Entertainment's Competition which takes place on Sunday 10 February at Tiverton High School. Everybody is welcome to come along to watch this Competition, it should be a

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NEW CREATION NEWS

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Christmas and New year Closing Times
After lunch on Christmas Eve Monday 24 December
and re-opening on Wednesday 2 January 2019

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PARISH ROUND-UP

LOXBEARE

Our Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations began with a Service on Saturday 22 September led by John. Rev'd Kevin Chandler from Bampton was the speaker. Games were held in Michael's barn because of the rain. Thank you Michael. Back to the Village Hall for a lovely tea. Harvest Praise was held the following Sunday 30, taken by John when the hymns were chosen by the congregation. The Harvest Supper was on Monday 24 when the after supper speaker was Mrs Val Bloxham.

New Creation is celebrating it's 30th year in existence, proclaiming and upholding Biblical truth & providing many Christian based materials, books, CD's etc to churches and individuals. May God continue to bless their work & their move to nearer the centre of the town early next Spring. Not forgetting the cafe with lovely food provided by Penny & her helpers. On the 18 November we held our annual visit to the Bookshop for a lovely supper and the opportunity to purchase cards etc for Christmas.

The Remembrance Service taken by John was a very meaningful time with a 2 min silence, national anthem, prayers, a poem & readings reminding us of the sacrifice of the soldiers. John spoke of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross and that one day in heaven there will be peace and no crying or pain. See Rev 21.

It was good to welcome Washfield & Calverleigh to the Cluster Communion Service on the 4 November at 6.30pm, led by Steph.

Christmas will soon be upon us with many Services and celebrations of Christ's birth. The Christingle this year will be at Calverleigh Hall & Church with

continued overleaf →

great afternoon with a lot of local Cruwys Morchard talent! The Club will be holding Bingos on Saturday 26 January and Saturday 23 February in the Parish Hall.

Future Events

Saturday 8 December, Di and Dave's Annual Christmas Quiz in the Parish Hall. Teams of 4 to 6 people, £5pp to include a light supper. Bar opens at 6.45pm. To book, please use the Parish website or phone Mary on 01884 860620

Bingo Saturday 22 December. Parish Hall Charity Prize Bingo. Doors open at 7.15pm for 8pm.

Burn's Night, Friday 1 February, Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall. Supper, live music and dancing. See enclosed flyer for more info.

Our prayers and best wishes go to Graham and all his family, he is still in Southmead Hospital.

Also our prayers to all those who are not well or undergoing treatment, may you recover soon.

Welcome to Sue who is new to the village, and to Damian and Sophie Macauley with their three children.

Goodbye to Malcolm and Caroline, we will miss you but fortunately you are not going too far.

Pennymoor Congregational Church.

Sunday Services 4:30pm - 5:30pm, followed by tea.

2 Dec All Age Advent Service

9 Dec Tree Festival & Carols

16 Dec Join Way Village (2:30)

23 Dec Christmas Praise

30 Dec Christmas film

6 Jan New Year, New Skill!

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13 Jan Communion Rev. R Green

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Christingle Praise Party at 3.30pm. The Carol Service will be on 23 December at 6.30pm, with the offering going to the Children's Hospice. The Christmas Day Service will be a Family Communion at 10.30pm, led by John with Steph speaking.

Carol Singing will be on 18 / 20 December, meeting at Loxbeare Garage at 6.30pm and on 22 December meeting at Calverleigh, collecting for 'Mind' and also for 'Force'. Contact Ron on 01884 881362 for some more details.

We wish everyone in the Parishes a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Many thanks and much appreciation to all who helped to keep the Churchyard 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 and contributed to the smooth running of the Church, and to those who have taken our Services. An evening will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 18 January to say a special thank you and show appreciation to all who have helped in anyway. Steph & Robert will be coming to share in this evening.

Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with all those who have lost loved ones recently. To Ron, Leslie and David Tidball, whose brother Colin passed away at the end of September. Colin grew up in Loxbeare, moving away when he married. The Funeral Service was held in Loxbeare and we remember his family.

Also to Andrew, Donna Hibberd, Charles and Annabelle on the loss of Andrew's father.

We remember Charles Raven and family on the death of Gillian, Charles' wife, after a long illness. Charles has preached in Loxbeare a few times and was friends with John & Marion.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marlene Taylor and all who are unwell at this time and those waiting for operations.

Congratulations to Steph and Robert on the birth of a lovely granddaughter called Poppy. Every blessing to you all.

Congratulations also and Happy Birthday to all celebrating birthdays or special occasions in December and January.

Well done to Arthur Heywood who was chosen to judge the National Classic Ploughing Championships at Austray Atherstone Warwickshire, on Saturday 31 October.

The Christmas Fayre this year will be on 1 December in the afternoon 2-4pm in the Village Hall. The annual Christmas meal will be on 13 December at Bickleigh Mill.

The Christmas Bingo will be on Monday 10 December 7 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Contact Carol on 01884 881450. The Village Party will be on Saturday 12 January at 7.00 in the Village Hall, with a 'bring and share' supper. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

On the 26 January in the Village Hall there will be a Social event at 7.30pm.

ROUND-UPS CONTINUE ON PAGE 13 - AFTER YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD PULL-OUT, WITH YOUR PARISH PHOTOS ON ITS BACK COVER.

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 22 December
Stoodleigh
6.30pm Christingle

23 December
Rackenford
11.15am Family
Christmas Communion 

 23 December Templeton
4pm Carols by Candlelight
with Holy Communion

23 December Oakford
6.30pm Carols
with Holy Communion 

 24 December Washfield
6.30pm Carol Service
with Holy Communion



24 December
Cruwys Morchard
10pm Holy Communion
with Carols 

 24 December Withleigh
11.30pm Holy Communion

25 December
Calverleigh
9.30am Family
Communion for Christmas 

 25 December Loxbeare
1.15am Family
Communion for Christmas

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2 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH

3.30 pm Christingle Praise Party
with Steph

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

10 am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service with
Baptism *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

TEMPLETON

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

3 pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

4pm Christingle Service

9 DECEMBER

**CLUSTER SERVICES
ALL HOLY COMMUNION**

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CALVERLEIGH

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Templeton

LOXBEARE

See Washfield

OAKFORD

See Stoodleigh

RACKENFORD

See Stoodleigh

STOODLEIGH

11.15 am Cluster Service

TEMPLETON

3.30 pm Cluster Service

WASHFIELD

9.30 am Cluster Service

WITHLEIGH

See Templeton

16 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH

3 pm Carol Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No service

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Family Service

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Christingle Service
with Steph

STOODLEIGH

11 am Morning Prayer

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

3 pm Christingle Service with
Baptism *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

WITHLEIGH

6.30 pm Carol Service

22 DECEMBER (Saturday) STOODLEIGH Carol Service with Steph

23 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH

10 am Informal Get-together

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Carol and
Christingle Service

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Carol Service

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Carol Service with Holy
Communion *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

RACKENFORD

11.15 am Family Communion
Service *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

STOODLEIGH

No Service

TEMPLETON

4 pm Carols by Candlelight + Holy
Communion *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

WASHFIELD

11 am Morning Praise

WITHLEIGH

No Service

24 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH

No Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

10 pm Holy Communion and
Carols *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

LOXBEARE

No Service

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

6.30 pm Carol Service

STOODLEIGH

No Service

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

6.30 pm Carol Service with Holy
Communion *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

WITHLEIGH

11.30 pm Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

25 DECEMBER

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 am Family Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

No Service

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Family Holy
Communion *with Steph*

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

10.30 am Family Holy
Communion

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

10.30 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

No Service

**30 DECEMBER
GROUP SERVICE**

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

**ALL PARISHES
SEE LOXBEARE**

CALVERLEIGH

CRUWYS MORCHARD

**LOXBEARE
10.30 am Group Service**

OAKFORD

RACKENFORD

STOODLEIGH

TEMPLETON

WASHFIELD

WITHLEIGH

6 JANUARY 2019

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Morning Prayer with Holy Communion *with Steph*

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

10 am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

11 am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

3 pm Family Service with Baptism *Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

**13 JANUARY
CLUSTER SERVICES**

ALL HOLY COMMUNION

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Withleigh

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Cluster Service

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

3.30 am Cluster Service

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

See Withleigh

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

9.30 am Cluster Service

20 JANUARY

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service and Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

11.15 am am Family Service

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service

with Steph

STOODLEIGH

11 am Morning Prayer

TEMPLETON

11 am Morning Praise

WASHFIELD

11 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Plough Service

27 JANUARY

GROUP SERVICE

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

ALL PARISHES

see

OAKFORD

CALVERLEIGH

CRUWYS MORCHARD

LOXBEARE

OAKFORD

10.30 am Group Service

RACKENFORD

STOODLEIGH

TEMPLETON

WASHFIELD

WITHLEIGH

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RACKENFORD



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PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

Oakford Remembers:

The Whole community came together over the Armistice weekend to celebrate the ending of WW1. The Church was decorated with over 600 hundred poppies made by members of the Moorland Club – such a colourful sight. The exhibition set out around the Church included photos and many different artefacts illustrating what life was like during the Great War with memorabilia from that time.

Thank you to all the parishioners who loaned family memorabilia, to all the people who helped decorate and set up, to the ladies who received and made tea for visitors on Saturday and especially to Julia Mayer and her team, Richard Brain, Richard Sloggett, Robin Nicholl, Sean Mayer and Sue Llewellyn, who did the research and rallied everyone to take part.

The Service at the Memorial Cross on Sunday was led by Wendy Boynton and very well attended. A newcomer this year, Mac, Caroline Llewellyn's hunter came to represent the many thousands of horses killed in the War.

Over 100 people then attended a Church Service led by Dawn Williams, during which lapel badges were presented to the 17 children present. Our thanks to Dawn and to the readers who shared personal family stories of wartime experiences.

To round off the weekend a Bring & Share Lunch was held in the Village Hall, with a family quiz, again thanks to Julia, and a rousing, flag-waving sing-along of wartime songs. Overall £367 was collected to send to the British Legion. Very well celebrated Oakford!

The bells, the bells ...

The official launch of the fund-raising appeal for restoration of the bell tower will take place at a tea party in the Church on the afternoon of Saturday 1 December. The tower is in need of extensive work in order to keep the Church Bells ringing out. There will be tea and cakes, stalls and a raffle, so do try to support this if you can, between 2.30-4pm.

Oakford Players:

6/7/8 December. "Oakford Allsorts", is a variety show, being staged in the Village Hall. Tickets £15 to include a two-course supper. Licensed bar and raffle. Contact Dawn Williams: 01398 324035 for tickets.

The Moorland Club:

Christmas Lunch this year will be at The Toucan, Bampton on Thursday 13 December at 12.30pm. Contact Patsy Phillips 01398 351648 to book a place, if you haven't already done so. 'An Afternoon of Victorian Fun' is the title of the meeting on Thursday 10 January at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Christmas Quiz:

The Jo Reed Christmas Quiz takes place on Wednesday 19 December in the Village Hall at 8.15pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. A raffle will be held in aid of the Air Ambulance. Prizes gratefully received; please bring to the Hall.

Carols round the tree:

Saturday 15 December is the date for the annual carol singing round the village Christmas tree with mulled wine, savouries and mince pies starting at 6pm.

St Peter's Carol Service:

All are welcome to a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm on Sunday 23 December. Stay for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Date for the New Year Diary:

Saturday 26 January in the Village Hall – RSVP Bhangra Band. Party, party, Punjabi –style. Big Bhangra beats and interactive vibe. Be prepared to learn some Bhangra moves and grooves. Tickets £17.50 each to include supper. Tel: Julia Mayer 01398 351682 or email juliabluehayes@yahoo.co.uk

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Leviticus 19:18

We encourage everyone to be a good neighbour as the Winter months approach. Try to be aware of anyone in the Parish who may be ill, in need of company or feeling a bit 'down' and in need of help. And remember – there is always a warm welcome, a chat and a cup of tea for anyone coming to a Service at St Peter's. If you know of anyone who might be cheered up by a home visit please leave a note in the Church and we'll try to go along to see them.

Finally, we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

RACKENFORD

Our deepest sympathy to Sharon and Dennis Saupe on the death of Sharon's brother Phil and also to Rosemary Dart and family on the death of Francis, his funeral service and internment took place at our Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.

Once again our Harvest Celebrations were a great success. Special thanks to Rackenford school children who kindly brought gifts of produce into Church to be displayed. Thank you to those who decorated the Church and who left flowers, foliage and produce for us.

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our evening Harvest / Cluster service was taken by Rev'd Robert Gordon, who stood in for Steph while she was awaiting the imminent arrival of another grandchild. Baby Poppy arrived safe and sound later that evening. It was nice to have our choir in fine voice for their special hymn, a joy to hear. We hope those who attended enjoyed our service amid family and friends as, we gave thanks for the Harvest and the goodness and plenty we are so privileged to have.

Our supper and auction was held at the home of Jacques and Mary Cann at Lower Tidderson. We are most grateful for the use of their building and kitchen. Liz Paxton said the grace prior to our supper. We hope you enjoyed the large variety of savoury items and puddings available. We were certainly spoilt for choice. Cheese, biscuits and tea /coffees concluded the Supper. A massive thank you to all the ladies for the preparation and making of the foods given and not forgetting all those who fetched and carried throughout the day and the big clear up the following day. Stafford Sampson, our auctioneer again, was encouraging us to "spend" with his expertise and banter, assisted by the volunteers. The evening ended with an amazing draw and thank you to the ladies selling the tickets. Over the days of Harvest celebrations, the wonderful sum of £1,977.81 was raised. Thanks everyone.

Our Church was the venue for a Macmillan Coffee morning and stalls on Saturday 6 October, a magnificent £520.10 was raised. Many thanks to all who supported this important event. Well done to the people who organized this.

Hopefully the Halloween callers, dressed up in their amazing costumes, enjoyed the treats they received along the way. You were all so well mannered and grateful amid those awful weather conditions, hope you had fun.

Bonfire traditions were the next on the calendar with food, fun and fireworks not forgetting Guy Fawkes. Thank you to all who contributed, organized and helped for everyone to enjoy. We hope you returned home safe and sound.

What an amazing start George Phillips has achieved to cutting and tidying the common, a huge improvement so far and good to be able to view the shrubs, trees and ferns without the brambles. Well done George and thank you.

The Church held a Winter Coffee morning and sale on Saturday 3 November, we thank you for your support and hope you enjoyed the refreshments, cake and goods stalls. Thank you to the helpers. £410.10 was raised.

On Friday 9 November Rackenford school children and some from Little Angels walked to The War Memorial and respectfully and lovingly placed the poppies they had made around the memorial. They also said prayers and read poems that they had written themselves and fell silent to pay their respects. Sharon Saupe kindly played The Last Post on her Cornet. All those who attended, including Derek and Mary Herniman, Sarah Maude, all staff and school governors, spoke very proudly of the children. How important it is to have our Church of England school playing their part at this very special time of Remembrance. If you would like to look at the poems, they are available to read in our shop.

It is so pleasing to have The War Memorial back in position (after being knocked over) and with lettering repainted. It is now looking as it should be and just in time for our Remembrance Service at 10.50 on 11 November. We are most grateful to Derek and Jackie Herniman for taking this service and all the information Derek provides us with,

as we remember the sacrifices that were made for us 100 years ago, I am sure we cannot begin to imagine the horrific scenes and sadness felt by families who lost loved ones and had to endure years of uncertainty. Thank you to everyone who came, some with their children, so that we could reflect and remember together and continue to pray for our forces and the future. Thank you to Sharon Saupe for playing The Last Post and to Jean Cole for laying the wreath. The collection of £328.80 will be sent to The Royal British Legion.

How nice to hear our bells ring out on the evening of 11 November, to join with others ringing all over the country. Thank you.

We send our best wishes to Philippa Fraser who has been in hospital and Vera Sutton who at the time of going to print remains there after another fall. We hope you are making progress Vera.

Some dates for December.

Rackenford School will be holding their Annual Christmas Fayre on Friday 7 December from 5 - 6.30pm. If anyone from the community would like to run a stall please call the school 881354 or Ellie Denno on 07799060050, they would love you all to come and support the children.

Another school event is on Thursday 13 December 6.30 - 8pm and it's a Wreath making evening. Tickets are £15 per person and includes equipment for making a wreath, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. This will hopefully produce some lovely wreaths to make the village look wonderful.

Church dates.

Christmas (Meat dinner) BINGO on 13 December at Rest a While, Witheridge at 7.30 pm. Thank you Witheridge for all your support.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CHRISTINGLE Service Sunday 16 December at 9.30am, in Church. Christmas Family Communion and Carols on 23 December at 11.15 am Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols 24 December at 6.30pm Let's celebrate these joyous occasions together.

Christmas is not a happy time for some, so our thoughts and prayers go to those who struggle, for a variety of reasons.

Very many thanks to Geoff and Jenny Parnell for all their hard work in putting this magazine together and Happy Christmas to all Exe Valley Parishes, as we celebrate and remember this special time.

STOODLEIGH

The storms abated to bring glorious sunshine on Remembrance Sunday, for the special events at St Margaret's Church to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. The Church, superbly decorated with poppies knitted by many local people, was full for the very moving service. June Jones read a poignant poem by 'Woodbine Willie', introduced by Malcolm, and Matt Parker gave a spine-tingling rendition of the Last Post and Rouse on his trumpet. After the Service, everyone assembled outside the west door, for a commemoration put together by Peter Broadbent and Roland Chant.

After an introduction, Philip Turner tolled a muffled bell: one toll for each Stoodleigh serviceman and for each local forebear who died, plus two extra tolls for those who fought and survived, and for those who kept the home fires burning. Philip Talbot then read out the names of those remembered and this was followed by seven poems written during the war.

Various long-standing local families were represented by some of the readers, as well as nine-year-old Mimi Griffiths. The readings ended with a passage from the Book of Micah and the familiar words of Laurence Binyon's For the fallen, as poppies floated down from the tower.

In the evening remembrance gave way to a celebration of the end of the war with a beacon lit on Ash Hill, while the Stoodleigh bell-ringers rang a peal. It was quite a day and we are immensely grateful to Peter Broadbent for co-ordinating it.

The run-up to Remembrance brought two very sad events. On the Sunday before, little Rafferty Hill, Lizzie and Chris's baby son who had been born very prematurely and had fought for several weeks to stay with us, died at St Michael's Hospital, Bristol.

Then, on the very morning of Armistice Day, June Knowles died at home at Stoodleigh Barton. She was 91. June and her husband John moved to Stoodleigh in 1976. They met in 1954 at Hutswell Farm, Oakford – on a silage heap, so the family say (John had been asked over to pull a tractor off the heap). They later married and farmed for some years at Hutswell, where their children Claire and William were born. After 14 years farming in Herefordshire they returned to Devon. John died in 2004. June continued to run the farm with William until her death. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

On a happier note, we extend a warm welcome to the Parish to Julian and Sam Earl at Diptford Barn.

Earlier in the Autumn we celebrated Harvest. The Harvest Supper, with skittles, was a great success and we were able to send £262 to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Now we look ahead to the Christmas Fayre in the Parish Hall on Saturday 8 December from 10.30 to 12 noon. Father Christmas hopes to be with us for the morning and there will be a fine selection of stalls and generous raffle.

The hardy carol singers are planning to set off at 6pm from the Parish Hall on Tuesday 18 December. Do come and join them or request a visit by contacting Jennifer (351402).

The Rector has a busy time over Christmas and to enable Steph to take our Carol Service, this will now take place on Saturday 22 December at 6.30pm. Please make a note of this change of date. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Autumn Market and Coffee Morning on 3 November was a great social and community event and the Parish Hall welcomed many visiting stallholders as well as local people offering a super variety of goods. We raised £428 for Parish Hall funds.

The Christmas Bingo will take place on Monday 17 December at the Parish Hall – doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. There will be a great selection of festive prizes.

The Christmas Draw will also be held on that evening – the tickets are already on sale and there will be some brilliant prizes including a luxury hamper and vouchers from local businesses. Members of the Parish Hall committee will be calling on you to sell Draw tickets or you can ring 351391.

The Parish Hall held its AGM on 6 November and nine volunteers were elected to the committee for 2018/19. The chairman for the year is Linda Brice and vice chairman Dick Sibley.

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Stoodleigh 100 Club: winners for September – 1 Steven Ayre, 2 John Davis, 3 Kate Mortimer, 4 Kathleen Cheale; October – 1 Iris Wotton, 2 Beth Byles, 3 Dick Sibley, 4 Cathy Thorpe.

Church Flower Rota

2, 9 Dec Trish Fish
 16 Dec Christmas, all help
 30 Dec, 6 Jan Betty Wotton
 13, 20 Jan Phyllis Hill
 27 Jan, 3 Feb Trish Fish

On 25 October, a Tea Party was held at Templeton Village Hall in memory of Bill Daniels. This event, organised by Matthew Palmer, aimed to raise money for a headstone for Bill in St Margaret's Churchyard. Not only was it a lovely event with an amazing spread of cakes and savoury food, but over £350 was raised. Thanks to everyone who prepared the delicious food, and to all those who came and gave so generously and shared many very special memories of this lovely, kind man. Bill will now have his headstone.

Congratulations to both Lynda Newnes and Reg Coffin who are now fully trained Lay Worship Leaders. Lynda and Reg both attended the Group Service at Withleigh Church on 28 October where they were appointed to their new role.

It was a cold, clear and mostly dry night on Saturday 3 November, when Templeton Village Hall held its annual Bonfire and Firework Night. This year saw another amazing display of fireworks and a selection of guys for the bonfire. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to put on this popular event, and who gave their time on the night, both inside and out. Many thanks too, to all those who came and supported this event.

On 11 November, the Sunday Service of Remembrance took place at St Margaret's Church and was led by Martin Hansford. This year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War. The example and experience of those who lived through it, shaped the world we live in now. The Royal British Legion continues to support those who have served, sacrificed and lost loved ones today, and as always, is leading the nation in saying 'Thank you'.

Congratulations to Reg Coffin who, on Sunday 18 November, will have received his Confirmation in Exeter Cathedral.

At Templeton Village Hall we have recently installed a lighting column for Devon Air Ambulance to use 'during the hours of darkness'. If we ever need an Air Ambulance helicopter to land in our community until midnight each day (and later to 2am when the service is extended) this column has two LED lights on top (which are switched on by the Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) to illuminate the landing area. In our rural location it is comforting to know that if we need fast medical attention for anyone in our village and surrounding areas, it is now possible for night operations to take place. Many thanks to all involved, especially Devon Air Ambulance who contributed half of the cost through a grant, from the bank LIBOR fines, Councillor Polly Colthorpe for arranging a grant from Devon County Council's Investing in Devon programme of £2,000 and Templeton Parish Council who gave a grant of £1,350. An official opening is being planned and all are welcome to come along.

A big thank you also to Mike Pancherz and family for laying the concrete at the entrance to Templeton Village Hall.

We welcome Andy and Kate Martin, and Mary Greenslade who recently moved into Furzy View. We also welcome Dean, Kirsty, Ellie and their dog Hendrix to the Wolery. We hope both families will be very happy here.

We wish Jan and Trevor Heptinstall well in their new home in Sampford Peverell. We hope to see them often, as they will not be far away.

Our best wishes go to Ken Reed and his family. We wish Ken a speedy recovery.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Sue Coffin, whose father died at Colston Barton Farm on Monday 29 October.

TEMPLETON

Past Events in Templeton

What a busy time it's been in Templeton and the weeks seem to speed up. Let's try to spare ourselves a moment to appreciate the beauty of these months, as we head towards the Christmas season.

On Friday 30 September, the Harvest Supper took place at Templeton Village Hall. This is one of those precious times in the year when the Community comes together to celebrate what we have, as well as being an opportunity to catch up and chat. Many thanks to William Withers who talked about the Harvest and what it means for our farmers, including the challenges they face. Many thanks to everyone who contributed the delicious food for everyone to enjoy and to all who supported the event, adding to the much-needed funds for the Church. The supper event raised £501.80.

On Sunday 1 October, the Harvest Festival Service at St Margaret's Church was led by Reg Coffin and was well attended. Many thanks everyone who donated all the fresh, packaged and canned produce which was then taken to the Haven Centre (Age UK) in Tiverton. They were delighted with all the food and have sent the Church a 'Thank you' card.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Future Events in Templeton

On Friday 14 December there will be a Christmas Supper (Vegetarian options available) at Templeton Village Hall. This event is free for all Villagers and starts early at 6pm for 6.30pm, so children can enjoy the evening too. Please book your places by 8 December, so we have an idea of numbers for catering, by phoning Matthew (861207) or Bindy (860655). There will be a Christmas-themed raffle for children and one for adults with many prizes including a Christmas hamper, followed by Christmas Carols, 70s/80s music and live music from talented local musicians, Ade, Yvette and family. Donations for puddings would be greatly appreciated.

On Saturday 15 December at 3pm in Templeton Village Hall, the Christmas Children's Party will be held, with secret special guest Father Christmas. This wonderful annual family event is organised by Tony Loosemore. If your children would like to join the party, please let Tony know beforehand (07510128683) so that he can arrange enough food for everyone. Please bring a wrapped and named gift for your own child for Father Christmas to distribute.

The Annual Christmas Bar games (table tennis, pool, darts and skittles) will be held at Templeton Village Hall every Saturday evening from 7.30pm from Saturday 8 December until the grand finals on Saturday 22 December. Please come and take part in this fun event – still plenty of time to practice on club nights! Completions will start and complete on the following evenings:

- Saturday 8 December - Mixed Pool & mixed Table Tennis
- Saturday 15 December - Ladies Darts and Men's Skittles
- Saturday 22 December - Men's Darts and Ladies Skittles

Trophies will be presented after the Men's Darts final on 22 December

A Candlelit Carol Service with a short Communion will be held at St Margaret's Church, Templeton on Sunday 23 December at 4pm – just a reminder that it's not on Christmas Eve 24 December this year!

Anyone interested in Pilates Classes in Templeton? If you would like to be involved or would like to run a class, please get in touch with Lynda Newnes (881318)

Church Flower Rota

- Teresa Pancherz Advent 1st Dec 25 Nov / 2 Dec
- Bindy Linden Cleaning only 9 / 16 Dec
- Gloria Woollacott Cleaning only 23/30 Dec
- Teresa Pancherz Flowers & Cleaning 6 / 13 Jan
- Gill Rose Flowers & Cleaning 20 / 27 Jan

The Church bells rang in the morning to call people to church and again in the evening at 7.05 pm, joining with peals being rung all over the country. We thank the ringers for their dedication.

The Christingle Service this year is on 16 December at 3pm. This will be even more special as we will be welcoming Olivia Margaret Bowden, baby daughter of Ryan and Louise, for her Baptism.

Come if you can to a Coffee Morning in aid of Church funds at The Cottage on 1 December from 10am. Bring and Buy, refreshments and lots of chat!

We wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas. We have Services on all three days of Christmas, so please see the centre pages for the details. Let's celebrate!

The culmination of the Pumpkin growing contest (in aid of E.L.F.) took place on 20 October at the Social Club. A host of golden pumpkins adorned the hall and the suspense was tangible as the weigh-in took place!

The results were:

- 1st - Eric Webber 53.5lbs
- 2nd - Alistair & Rachel 52.5lbs
- 3rd - Pete & Paula 49lbs
- Prettiest - Bronson & Camilla

Thanks to Dave Bowden for growing the seeds for the past 14 years and to all the growers and others involved in putting on a great evening.

Look out for details of the Social Club's Christmas and New Year openings and the planned Burns Night on Saturday 26 January 2019

Heartfelt wishes go out to anyone who is unwell at present, we hope you feel better soon. Congratulations go to anyone celebrating a special event or birthday.

WASHFIELD

Christmas is not so much
about opening our presents
~ as opening our hearts.

J L W Brooks

On 11 November the Church was filled with people and poppies, for a very special Service of Remembrance, to mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War. Maurice Balment read the names of the fallen and the two minutes silence was observed. It was sad that Alice was unable to be with him, for the first time ever and she is in our thoughts and prayers. The Rector led a solemn and moving Service of Thanksgiving and memories. Washfield had 39 men serving, a large number for so small a community. Six never came home and another died from wounds in the Second World War.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Congratulations especially, go to Abby Wood and Daniel Ayre who have recently become engaged.

We send very many welcome wishes to the Blake family who have come to live at Hatswell. We hope you will be very happy living in Washfield.

Dates for your Diary

Tues 27 Nov Social Club AGM in hall at 8pm. New committee members are always welcomed.

Sat 1 Dec Frog Racing at the Social Club. Doors open 7pm, First Race 7.30pm. Bar, Tote, Hot Food. Sponsor a frog by calling Chas 01884 669001 or Tony 01885 254501. Proceeds to the Lych Gate repairs and Devon Air Ambulance

Tues 11 Dec teatime@thehall 2.30pm

Fri 14 Dec W.I. Christmas party with three-course meal and entertainment. All welcome - Contact Jenny Raynes (01884 257872) or Jean French (01884 257703) for details

Tues 18 Dec Carol singing around the village. Meet at the hall at 6pm. Bring and share supper later (at the Social Club)

Tues 8 Jan teatime@thehall 2.30pm

Church Altar Flowers Rota

Nov 25/Dec 2	Mrs E Arnold
Dec 9/16	Mrs Bassano
Dec 23/30	Mrs Tobey
Jan 6/13	Mrs French

Church Cleaning Rota

Nov 19/26	Mr & Mrs Ellis
Dec 3/10	Mrs French
Dec 17/24	Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones
Dec 31/Jan 7	Mr & Mrs Walton
Jan 14/21	Mr & Mrs Parnell
Jan 28/Feb 4	Mrs Albery

WITHLEIGH

Our Harvest Festival Service on 16 September was something different! The chancel was transformed into a 'stage setting' for the Faith Puppets, courtesy of Stephen and Janet, who not only entertained us, but gave a simple but powerful message. A contingent of family members of the puppeteers from Cullompton joined us for tea in Church following the Service. Our grateful thanks to all who provided the tea.

Sixty parishioners and friends sat down to the Harvest Supper the following evening. The auction of produce was conducted by Henry, the proceeds (£272) being donated to the Mid-Devon Messenger, who were represented at the supper by Helen McIntosh who gave a brief talk about the workings of the 'talking newspaper'.

The 'Big Breakfast' took place on the morning of 13 October in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust. A big "Thank you" to Brenda and Sara for cooking the breakfast, and to all those who helped.

An enjoyable evening was had at our Annual Skittles competition. We were few in number, but this meant we all got to play more skittles!! The winning team consisted of Nigel, Eric, David, Christine, Sara, Margaret and Jean. Well done everyone. Thank you to Duncan for organising the evening. Thanks also to those who gave Draw Prizes, and those who provided the Hot Dogs and Drinks.

We were pleased to welcome members of the other parishes in the Mission

Community to the Group Service at St Catherine's on 28 October. It was good to see the Church so full for the occasion, and to join in the rousing singing. The Service also saw the commissioning of new worship leaders, and those assisting with the Chalice, from various parishes.

Our first Community Lunch on the 6 November was a great success. 28 people sat down to a two-course lunch followed tea or coffee. Thank you to those who gave desserts. Thank you also to the cooks and the washer uppers!!

Our Remembrance Day Service commemorated, not only the centenary of the end of the Great War, but also the centenary this year of the RAF. The 'Airman's hymn' was sung during the Service. Once again, candles were lit for each of those listed on our War Memorial, and Giles ended the two-minute silence with a lament on the bagpipes. Two poems, written by war poets, were read out, along with a modern poem. The Service was about peace, and each member of the congregation received 'Peace Babies', as jelly babies were originally known when first introduced at the end of the war. Thanks to Elizabeth for putting the Service together.

Our Christingle Service will take place in Church on the afternoon of Sunday 2 December at 4pm.

Scottish Dancing Classes are being held in the Village Hall on every other Monday evening. December 3 /17 are the evenings before Christmas, beginning again on the 7 January in the New Year. Starting at 7pm, finishing at 9pm, the

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our worship leaders are due to meet on 11 December to plan the Services for the New Year.

The PCC has decided that, in view of last year's accident, (and the advance of Anno Domini!), we will not be Carol-singing around the Parish. However, all are warmly invited to join in our traditional Church Service of nine Lessons and Carols on the evening of Sunday 16 December, at 6.30pm, and led by Steph. The Service will be followed by mulled wine, coffee, mince pies and shortbread. During the Service, gifts of non-perishable food, toiletries and cleaning items will be collected under the tree for CHAT, who will be represented at the Service. 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.

Congratulations to Tommy and Laura Butcher on the birth of Barnaby Joe, a brother for Freddie, and grandson for Ken and Shirley. His Baptism will take place during our Family Service on the afternoon of 6 January at 3pm.

Congratulations, also, to Steph, on the birth of a granddaughter, Poppy.

On Saturday 12 January we are holding an evening entitled 'The Three P's', (a pasty, pudding and a pint/or a glass of wine). 7.30pm, tickets are £8, please call Christine 257571 or Brenda 252431 for tickets or for more information.

On 20 January, at 10.30am, it is our Plough Sunday Service when the plough is brought into our Church as a symbol to be blessed, as we seek God's blessing on another farming year.

At the time of writing (early November), approval is being sought from the Diocese for the installation of a new boiler and fan-convactor heaters in Church, and it is hoped that the work will be carried out during January. However, what is causing some cause for concern is that there are cracks from floor to ceiling in the east wall of the Church, and we are awaiting a visit and report from a structural engineer to establish the cause and extent of the problem, and the remedial work recommended.

We welcome the new occupants of Oakbeam into our community, and hope you will be happy living in the village.

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.

Wishing you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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

Thurs 13 Dec, a Bring and Share Christmas Lunch Party at Highfield.
Thurs 10 Jan, to be arranged.

Forthcoming Events:

Sun 2 Dec – Christingle Service in Church at 4pm.
Dec 3, Scottish Dancing, in the Hall at 7pm.
Dec 13 - WI Bring and Share Christmas Lunch Party.
Sun 16 Dec – Carol Service at 6.30pm.
Dec 17 - Scottish Dancing, in the Hall at 7pm.
Christmas Eve – Holy Communion Service at 11.30pm.

Jan 7 - Scottish Dancing, in the Hall at 7pm.
Jan 10 - WI to be arranged. Call Rosie, see above.
Jan 12 - The Three P's, in the Hall at 7.30pm. See notes above.
Sun 20 Jan – Plough Service at 10.30am.
Jan 21 - Scottish Dancing, in the Hall at 7pm.

Flower Rota:
Dec 2/9 Linda Taylor
Dec 16 CHRISTMAS
Dec 23 Cathy Luxton, Tree
Jan 6/13/20 Margaret Gale
Jan 27/Feb 3 Brenda Tucker

Monthly Diary Dates:
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Second Monday – Whist Drive
Second Thursday – W.I.

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