



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

April - May 2019

Price 50p

CIAO BABY !

We have just been lucky enough to come back from a four-day, whistle stop tour of northern Italy, (Padua, Venice, Verona, Padua), to have a break and to give lovely husband a much-needed Italian fix. He just can't get enough of it. And of course, I am very happy to tag along. I don't have to do a thing. He does it all. He can reach to get the luggage in the overhead lockers. He can read the words. He can speak the language. All I have to do is smile and nod, say the occasional 'Ciao', order pasta and drink red wine. It's tough! And it's made me into a very lazy traveller.

All was well until we were making our journey home. We were on a bus taking us to the bus station and then on to the airport. Suddenly, without saying a word, lovely husband stood up, picked up his case and stepped onto the pavement. Before I had the chance to collect my luggage (and my wits) the bus doors shut, leaving me inside and lovely husband standing on the pavement, completely

oblivious to the fact that I wasn't standing next to him. I hammered on the window. Husband remained oblivious. I banged on the door. Husband couldn't hear. The bus started to move. I started to shout. The bus moved some more. Everyone on the bus began to shout and gesticulate. Husband still stood on the pavement looking clueless.



And the thing was, in a split second, I realised that I had stupidly left everything for lovely husband to do. Although I knew I was in Padua, I hadn't really taken any notice about whereabouts in Padua I was, or how to get to the airport, or having my own boarding card or any of those things that I was

completely used to doing before lovely husband was around. I had left everything up to him.

It seems to me that there have been times in my life when I have done the same thing, regarding faith. I have left it up to others to do on my behalf: parents, friends, seriously-religious-people-unlike-myself, professional pray-ers and vicars. Lent, Easter and Pentecost are great times to take stock, to re-examine what we believe, and take a bit of responsibility for it.

There is a lot going on in the Mission Community this season. Come and join us and see what it's all about. You may well be pleasantly surprised.

Wishing you and your families a happy and holy Easter.

Steph

Please read additional
information from Steph on
Pages 3,10,17,& 19

Copy Deadline for June / July 2019 issue

Wednesday 8 May 2019

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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Morchard, Loxbeare,
Oakford, Rackenford,
Stoodleigh, Templeton,
Washfield and Withleigh
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EDITORIAL

We would like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy and condolence, following the sad passing of Jenny's Mum on 17 February. The wealth of love and compassion shown to us has been overwhelming and very much appreciated.

We are both struggling to get our energy levels back up and everything seems to take twice as long as usual. People have been telling us not to worry about when the Magazine is ready but we know how much it means to everyone, to receive it before the end of the month, so we hope yours is not late.

We have received many favourable comments about the different paper used for the last Magazine. It is part-recycled, so it is better for the environment.

An Advance Notice for our Advertisers. Letters inviting you to renew with us for another year, will be sent out soon and payment will be due before the end of April.

"Oh to be in England, now that April's here"
What a wondrous sight the hedgerows are now that the primroses and other wild flowers are bursting into colour.

Jenny and Geoff

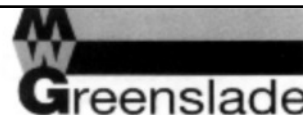
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NOTICES

Holiday Club 2019 - Who Am I?

This year's Holiday Club will take place at Calverleigh Hall from Tuesday 5th of August 10.30 to 3.30 pm for children aged 5-11.

This year our bible teaching will be learning about the Story of David through activities which will include talks, drama, singing, prayer, crafts, games and more.

We will be including 'Prayer with a Bear' again this year for those with under 5's, we will also be holding a Family Barbecue to complete the week.

I am looking for anyone who has time to spare, who would like to come along and help for all or some of the time. If you would like to help please contact Cindy on 01363 866621. All volunteers over 16 need a DBS check. Please do not be put off by this, it is a simple process, which I can do with you and it lasts 5 years.



O love of God, how strong and true,
Eternal and yet ever new
Uncomprehended and unbought
Beyond all knowledge and all thought.

We read Thee in the flowers and trees
The freshness of the fragrant breeze
The songs of birds upon the wing
The joy of Summer and of Spring.

H. Bonar 1808-1889

SING PRAISE!

**Informal mid-week
worship**

7.00 pm

16 May Oakford

Everyone welcome !



HOLY WEEK

Please join us for a short time of reflection and meditation for Holy Week, and for an Agape meal on Maundy Thursday. Please let your Church Wardens, the Church Office or Dawn Williams know by Sunday 14 April, if you wish to come.

(Contact details are on Page 2)

Easter Reflections

Monday 15 April 2019 7.00pm Rackenford Church
Tuesday 16 April 2019 7.00pm Stoodleigh Church
Wednesday 17 April 2019 7.00pm Templeton Church
Thursday 18 April 2019 7.00pm
Agape Meal Oakford Village Hall



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago

April and May, 1969

“Today’s most popular pastime is to throw stones at the government, and especially the Prime Minister”. So began the April lead article. [Good to know that in a rapidly changing world, there are some areas of life where things don’t change!]. However, the thrust of the article was against the power of the unions, and their leaders who were interested only in their own membership, but blind to the adverse effect their claims would have on members of other unions, and the public in general. “No matter which party is in office, there is no hope of national recovery until we lose our selfishness and recover Christian ideals”.

On the home front, Rackenford Church was filled for the Group Mothering Sunday Service, with a robed choir of no less than thirty-five young people.

Stoodleigh were planning a country market to help with Group expenses.

An experiment at Witleigh to have an 8am Holy Communion Service during the winter months had proved less than successful.

In May, the Rector voiced his ‘serious misgivings’ about the idea of the UK joining the ‘Common Market’!

Grateful thanks were expressed to our sheep farmers who looked after sheep on behalf of the Parishes, the regular income from which went towards the cost of repair and restoration of our Churches.

Almost two pages of the magazine were given over to the centenary of the publication of “Lorna Doone” [now 150 years in 2019], with various suggestions

as to on whom the Doones were based, and what was the location of the Doone Valley.

Members of Calverleigh W.I. had responded to the question, “What do you like or dislike about Tiverton?” with many adverse comments on the new flood-prevention wall opposite The Walronds!

The internal decoration of Loxbeare Church had been completed.

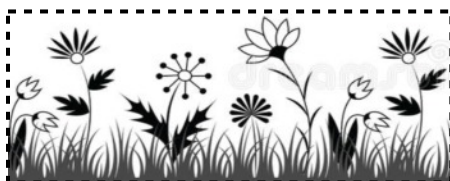
Celebrations were planned for Rackenford W.I. celebrating its 21st birthday.

Work had started on the rebuilding of Templeton Church tower.

A dedication Service was to be held for the Washfield PCC. A village outing to Paignton was planned – adults fare 6/6d (32½p), children 4/6d (22½p)!

Witleigh were to hold a Beetle Drive in aid of the Witleigh Wasps football team.

Paul Iliff



NATURE NOTES

Now that the sukebind is due to invade the hedgerows, it is hard to avoid realising the plans made for your gardens and the joy of Spring. But how many will have made a vow to avoid the coverage of the Chelsea Flower Show as I did last year? It happened to me as I saw the

drawings of the plan view of 3 gardens [that the designers wished to create] and the result was presented in aerial views of the ‘real thing’ – all involved should take enormous credit from the perfect reproduction. However much as I envy the planting knowledge, I feel it differs little from interior design taken outside, and save for the heroes in the nurseries it doesn’t feel like communing with Nature.

Similarly I would direct your attention to the Adachi Museum garden [sometimes entitled ‘of Art’] in Japan. This garden is so perfect that you are not allowed in it, and have to view it through windows or from contrived viewing points. Our garden may fall somewhat short of this (!) but it too benefits from a borrowed landscape. What we borrow is not only seen but is dynamic, and one can even hear and smell it. The contribution ranges from slow moving livestock to the imperious pines which whisper and move to warn of changes in wind direction and release scent down the garden as the humidity rises with the approach of evening.

The reverence for nature is also enhanced by knowing the garden space is only ours to share with other creatures. A peacock butterfly in February [?], the gentleman robin acting as doorman every time you leave the house, the summer dragonflies, the skittish wild life and even the insect life which is certainly not reducing here. Nature is sometimes unkind on what it allows us to successfully grow and I should record that a gardener does not meet or treat triumph and disaster just the same. Perhaps better to summarise by saying ‘The glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye’

Thomas More

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

On 20 January a Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism Service was held for Shirley Goldsworthy and was attended by family, church family and friends. It was a very moving Service with Shirley giving a personal testimony. A 'light lunch' was served in the Hall afterwards where Shirley's 60th birthday was also celebrated.

3 February was a Cluster Service with Holy Communion and Baptism led by Steph. At this Service Alyssa and Bobby were brought to Baptism by their parents Devon and Neil. They were supported by many family members and friends and welcomed into the church family. We wish them well at the beginning of their faith journey.

Also in February we joined with the rest of the Exe Valley for a special Praise Party at Calverleigh Village Hall. It was a time of fun for all ages, learning some new songs, a story about Zaccheus as well as crafts! The next one will be on 2 June, so do come along to see what it's all about.

Our very best wishes go to anyone who has celebrated a special birthday, wedding anniversary or any other special occasions recently.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been unwell, awaiting or undergoing treatment at this time. We hope that you are all feeling much better soon. We also think at this time of those who now live in residential or nursing homes and are unable to be a part of village and church life as they once were.

We also remember all those who have been bereaved recently and our thoughts

are with you all at this sad and difficult time.

Dates for Your Diary:

We are holding a Fund-raising Coffee morning in aid of the window repairs fund for the Church from 10am to 12noon on 30 March at Palmers Oak in Calverleigh. There will be a cake stall, produce, bring & buy and raffle.

The Church APCM will be held on 11 April at 7.30pm in the church, where all parishioners are welcome to attend.

Our Annual Spring Clean morning will take place on Saturday 13 April from 9am. If you are able to give even half an hour of your time it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring along a mop, bucket, sweeping brush and cleaning cloth. Hot water, dusters, polish and refreshments will be provided.

On Saturday 11 May our annual Day of Prayer will be held from 9am - 9pm. You are invited to choose a half hour prayer time during the 12 hour period to pray for the wider world and local needs. This can be done in the church, your home or wherever you feel comfortable. A list of times will be available in church closer to the day and those taking part will receive a prayer guidance sheet. Over the years many people have taken part in this spiritual time and if you would like to join in please contact Aubrey or Jackie for more information.

Lorna and Geoffrey Thomas are once again arranging a Duck Race. The date this year will be Saturday 25 May with 'Duck Racing' starting from just below Lurley Bridge and ending opposite Palmershayes. Tea (and no doubt biscuits and cakes) will be served and the prizes will be awarded in the village hall

afterwards. To sponsor a duck and for more information please contact Lorna or Geoffrey.

Schedules for the Produce and Flower Show, which this year will be held on 31 August, will be available from the end of April. If you would like one, please contact Sheila or Rita. We would like to encourage entrants in the vegetable classes, so even if you're new to growing veg, do have a go!

Please see the website, or the centre pages for details of our Easter Services.

Cleaning Rota

18 / 30 Mar:	Mrs N Burton
1 / 13 Apr:	Mrs S Greenslade
15 / 27 Apr:	Mrs J Goldsworthy
29 Apr / 11 May:	Miss J Herniman
13 / 25 May:	Mrs M Furneaux
27 May / 8 Jun:	Miss S Goldsworthy

Altar Flower Rota

LENT:	No Alter Flowers
21 / 28 Apr:	Mrs M L Ravnkilde
5 / 12 May:	Mrs L Thomas
19 / 26 May:	Mrs N Burton

Church Mowing Rota

1 / 13 Apr:	Mr A Goldsworthy
15 / 27 Apr:	Mr D White
29 Apr / 11 May:	Mr K Hayes
13 / 25 May:	The Webber Family
27 May / 8 Jun:	Mr C Durnan

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

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CRUWYS MORCHARD

We are now at the beginning of Lent it is still 40 days to Easter and Easter eggs - but they are already in the shops!

What are you giving up for Lent? It has been suggested that we take up something, "give rather than give up" which invites you to give food items of Food to CHAT for their Food Bank. Rather than give up something, take up giving to CHAT, a tin of food of any kind every a week. Try it.

RUBBISH. Children across the country have made the first step for us, by marching to save the world. Inviting us to reduce plastics and tidy up our environment. We could all do our bit to help, every time you go for a walk, take a bag with you, (and a pair of gloves,) pick up any rubbish you pass, you will be surprised how quickly your bag will fill.

With the run up to Easter, we have Mothering Sunday on Sunday 31 March, with posies for all mothers, at 11.15am. It will be taken by the Rector Steph Gordon-Jeffs.

Palm Sunday on 14 April, is followed by Holy Week, with Good Friday, 19 April and Easter Sunday 21 April.

Please look up in the middle pages for the times of the services on these important days

FLOWER and CLEANING ROTA

April 1/8 Anne Gillbard
 April 15-DECORATORS for EASTER
 April 22 /29 Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton

May 6 /13 Vine Spragg
 May 20/27 Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
 June 3/10 Marian Kingdom

MOWING ROTA

April Guy Cruwys
 May Peter Lake
 June- Steve Guscott
 July The Berries
 August Lez Tosdevin

A very big thank you to everyone who supported the recent Burn's Night Supper and Ceilidh in aid of Hospiscare. Because of snow, the event had to be postponed but everyone who was able to attend on 22 February enjoyed themselves. The traditional meal of haggis with neeps and tatties was provided, with chicken casserole and vegetarian haggis alternatives. Delicious puddings of cranachan and trifle followed. Jude and her team of helpers did a fantastic job providing and serving the food. Once again we must thank Paul and Sue Grant for the donation of swede. "Dumbo's Feather" was on great form, providing the music accompaniment for the dancing, with Jeremy showing great patience and humour as caller. Front man, Richie Evans, gave the address to the haggis. Many have requested that this event be annual so we have booked the band and hall for next year.

An apology for two mistakes in the February/March issue:

The proceeds from the Christmas bingo and Dave and Di's quiz went to the Parish Hall funds not to the Church as stated in the Today magazine.

The second error being that there will be no Community Lunch in April, the next Community Lunch will be on Wednesday 16 October with raffle. It is free and for everyone in the Parish.

THE CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS

The Club competed in the Exe Valley Group of Entertainments with their performance of "Cruwys along with Us". They were placed third, with Jess Kingdom and Phoebe Kingdom being nominated for the Best Actress Award and Tom Palmer being nominated for the Best Actor Award. Layla Hill came third in the Senior Member of the Year Competition and Gracie Rice came second. Jess Kingdom came third in the Junior Member of the Year Competition. Well done Cruwys Morchard! The Club have held Bingos during January, February and March raising on average £240 at each Bingo. The next two big events will be the Clay Pigeon Shoot at the end of May (please look out for posters) and the Annual Tractor Run on Sunday 7th July. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm in Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall. Please come along if you are interested in becoming a member.

CONGRATULATIONS Sarah and Ollie Smith on the birth of your twin boys, 6lb.6oz and 5lb.7oz. Grandsons for Chrissie and Andy.

CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS

We met on 6th February 2019. Eleven members gathered at the Cruwys Arms on Wednesday for our monthly meeting. Clare distributed some spare packets of seeds for members to use. We discussed our garden visit programme and decided to repeat last years' successful tour of members gardens. This year we will have separate days for Puddington and Pennymoor as there was too much to do in one day last year. Chrissie very kindly offered the opportunity for members to drop in, any time now, to view her wonderful snowdrop display and the daffodils in March.

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NEW CREATION NEWS

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... Jesus said "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"... (John Ch. 20 v. 21)

This is such a very special time of year. As we continue through Lent and prepare for Easter, the wonderful celebration of our Lord's Death and Resurrection, may we challenge you to think how you may share with others the events recorded in the Bible.

For example:

If you still have cards or gifts to buy please do come in and look for ways in which you can proclaim this joyous Easter story, helping to bring the receiver closer to God.

AN OPPORTUNITY ?

Revd Paul Snell, the County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Devon, is organising a visit to the Holy Land and Oberammergau in September 2020. New Creation has a few brochures or you can contact Paul by email paul@maranatha.co.uk by phone (44) (0)7735 603553, or his website www.thesnells.org.uk

When you give Easter Eggs, give the **Egg that Tells the Easter Story**. It's Fair Trade and an **Easter Egg** that celebrates the meaning of Easter. It contains a new illustrated, 24 page, version of the **Easter story-activity book** and a **high quality milk chocolate egg** - all at last year's price of **£3.99**. The wrapping is plastic free and the egg contains no palm oil. Also available is the **Real Easter Egg Special Edition (200g)** with a bookmark/keepsake made by disabled craft artisans in India, and an orange milk chocolate bar for £9.99

PLEASE PRAY WITH US

We are eager to find a new home for New Creation. This building is in a poor condition and needs substantial work done therefore it is not honouring to the Lord. Please pray that suitable premises soon become available. We are thankful that the Lord has provided funds to help with the move but we don't yet know where. If He gives you any ideas please come in and share them with us. Meanwhile, we still need your presence where we are so come and say hello!

HELP NEEDED, PLEASE!

Could anyone offer us a couple of hours, on a flexible basis, to cover for sickness and holidays? If you feel you would enjoy serving people in this oasis provided by God in our town please call in and we will be grateful for any time you can offer.

OUR EASTER BREAK

The shop will be closed for the weekend on Friday 19th, Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd April, re-opening on Tuesday 23rd April at 09.30am

May God bless you all this Easter

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Next month members will draw cards to pick a subject to address the club at a future meeting; should be fun! There was lots of lively discussion on what to do in the garden this month, the best time to prune roses and fruit, and how to grow leeks successfully.

Our planned visits will include:

- May- Garden visit to see Rhododendrons
 - June- Members gardens in Puddington
 - July- Members gardens Pennymoor and another Garden visit
 - August-Members bring a dish lunch at West lane
 - September- Garden visit
 - October- Speaker on a topic to be agreed
- Plant sales at Sonia's on 26 May.
 Puddington Fete and Plant Sale 6 July.
 Pennymoor Fete and Plant Sale 13 July.
 Pauline provided the mystery seeds for this year, at the meeting on Wednesday 6 March.

The Annual Flower Show will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 10 August. Please take a look at our schedule, as we have many new classes this year. We would like to welcome and encourage new exhibitors, to ensure we have another great show. The buckets are now available for children, under 16, who would like to grow their own potato. Any questions, or help with exhibiting your entries, please contact Pauline Guscott 07968 10121 or email pauline.8@hotmail.co.uk

FUTURE EVENTS

- Sunday 5 May: Table Top sale. £5 a table, teas and cake
- Saturday 13 July: Fete with Dog Show and Classic Cars, Ice creams and Music
- Bingo Saturday 26 May

It is very sad that after 35 years Stephen Guscott is closing his garage doors,

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Greenland Head Garage. Thank you Steve for all you have done for us over all those years. We hope that you and Susan have a long and happy retirement, we will miss you, thank you again.

Our prayers and best wishes are with all those in the parish who are not well.

Pennymoor Congregational Church
Sunday services
4.30pm-5.30pm followed by tea.

LOXBEARE

Happy Easter to everyone. Our services will be Good Friday when John will be taking a Service of Meditation at 11am. Easter Sunday will be Family Communion. Please see middle pages for times. Come and join us as we reflect on Jesus' death, celebrate His resurrection and give thanks for his great love to us.

Mothering Sunday Service will be held in the Village Hall at approx. 10.30am. This will be preceded by a Full English Breakfast from 9.30am. Cooked and served by the men. All welcome.

The Annual PCM was held on 28 February. Ron Tidball and Jean Heard will continue to be our Church Wardens with Marion Roberts, Margaret Tidball, Linda Heywood & Carol Radford serving on the PCC. Carol continues to be Treasurer & Mel Shaw has kindly agreed to be our secretary, after Marion relinquished the role, pending her move. A big thank you and appreciation to all who have served God so faithfully in the Church over the past year.

On 17 February the Baptism of Riley Batten, grandson of Jenny Pack, son of

Grey & Lucy and sister of Harriet took place. It was a lovely service led by Steph. We pray for God's blessing on them all.

The Woman's Bible Study meet fortnightly at Jean's, Barton View. Details on middle page or contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Congratulations to all those with special occasions and 'Happy Birthday' to those with birthdays in April/May.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had to stay in hospital for a while having had operations or receiving treatment and for all who are generally feeling unwell. We trust you will all soon be feeling much better.

We were saddened to hear that David Arney has passed away. We have many fond memories of David & Eileen (who passed away a few years ago) and their son Philip and daughter Sarah, who lived at East Sidborough many years ago. They were very involved in Church and Village life and at this sad time, our thoughts and prayers are with David's family and friends and all who knew him.

Loxbeare Ladies dates: contact Sue on 01884 259496 for dates and activities – usually the first Monday of the month.

There will be cream teas on 13 April and 11 May in the Village Hall between 3-5pm.

Loxbeare Social Night dates:
All held in the Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks.
15 April – Bingo Evening. Contact Carol.
27 April – Beetle Drive with Pizza.
25 May – there will be a 3 course meal. (there will be a charge for this evening. Please contact Carol on 01884 881480 for tickets).

OAKFORD

Rest in Peace

The family and many friends of Audrey Christina Costain assembled in St Peter's for a Memorial Service on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 February, following cremation in Exeter. The lovely Service, planned by Audrey before her death, was led by the Rev'd Keith Gale. Audrey died at Castle Grove Nursing Home on 22 January aged 89yrs. Born in the South East she qualified as a draughtsman. Although finally moving to Tiverton, Audrey spent some years of her life living at Holme Place in Oakford. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the local community being a member of the WI, which later became The Moorland Club, a devout member of St Peter's, a talented flower arranger and a keen backstage supporter of the Oakford Players. She was also a founder fund-raising member of the Oakford branch of the Children's Hospice SW. Her ashes will be laid to rest in the churchyard beside those of her beloved husband Bob.

Josephine May Middleton 1922 – 2019
It was standing room only in St Peter's for the funeral of Josephine May Middleton, which took place on Thursday 14 February. Josie (née Burrows) was born at Wilson Farm, Worlington and married Bill Middleton at East Anstey in 1944. The family farmed at Knowstone before moving to East Mildon where they stayed for 46 years before retiring to Bottreaux Mill in 2000. Josie will be missed by all who knew her. She leaves behind 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Jason, Nicola, William and Kate whose



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PARISH ROUND-UP

father, Raymond Richard Pyne Spurway (Dick) passed away on 28 February. Dick, 94yrs, died peacefully at his home, The Manor, Oakford. Dick gave long service to St Peter's and attended regularly. He will be greatly missed. His funeral is taking place in St Peter's at 11am on 27 March.

Mothering Sunday Service – 9.30am on 31 March

Come and celebrate this special day, dedicated to mothers everywhere. Bring your mother for breakfast (croissants, tea & coffee) or just come and share fond memories. Flower posies will be distributed. Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs will lead the Service. Make a Mother's Day!

Easter Service

Everyone is welcome to the Easter Day Service at St Peter's on Sunday 21 April at 9.30am. Join us for singing and Holy Communion in beautifully decorated surroundings on this very important day in the Church's calendar. The Rev'd Ian Johnson will officiate. Stay for coffee, Simnel cake and possibly even chocolate after the Service!

The Bell Tower Fund-raising Appeal

Can you believe it's nearly a year since this appeal was launched at the St George's Day tea. The fund stands at £1830.60 but there's a very long way to go. We'd love to hear from you if you have any fund-raising ideas or could make a donation. Contact: Wendy 01398 351383.

The Great Oakford Soapbox Derby in aid of the Tower Fund.

Saturday 3 August. For more information, specifications and to register your team please contact Andy Burton 01398 351436 or Dawn Williams 01398 324035

Lending Library

St Peter's has a lending library in the Church. Please help yourself to any of the books to read and return or leave a donation in the box by the door.

The Moorland Club

11 April - AGM starting at 7pm to be followed at 8pm by a talk from Dr David Jenner about butterflies. Guests are very welcome to attend the talk (visitors £2). Meeting in the Village Hall.

9 May 7.30pm - Talk & Slide Show by Carla Bancroft 'My Journey with the Husky Dogs'. Open Meeting - all welcome (visitors £2).

Oakford & District Flower & Produce Show Saturday 14 September 2-4pm

Please note the change of date from August. We're trying a later date this year to offer a different season of flowers & produce. Lots more time to prepare. You may have received a schedule inserted into this newsletter, if not, there is a copy displayed in the telephone kiosk in the centre of Oakford or you can contact Chris Holdom 01398 332039 or Brenda Burrows 01398 351331.

The Red Lion

Excitement is building for the opening of the village pub. It is hoped this will happen before Easter.

Oakford Village Fête – 8 June

As always lots of activities and games to play. BBQ, beer tent and cream teas plus, this year, an Indian Dancing demonstration and a chance to join in! Free entry and free parking. Don't miss it. Make a note of the date now and if you can help in any way please contact Kelvin 01398 332039.

And finally, just now as this Round-up is being prepared, storm Freya is lashing out. Last week it was lunch in the garden – in February! Crazy climate, no wonder we always have something to talk about. At St Peter's we're always talking about the 'Good News' so why not come along, find out what it's all about and join the conversation. You may be surprised. Open house every day!

RACKENFORD

How fortunate we were to enjoy 'Summer-like' days towards the end of February and we look forward to more, as Spring arrives.

Thank you to Fred Phillips for his work in helping us to reach the Link Road when the snow arrived on 3 January, luckily it didn't last long.

Our first Cluster PCC Meeting took place on 28 January at Oakford Village Hall. It was helpful to hear the views of others about things which would concern all Parishes. Steph explained she is unable to attend all nine individual Parishes when their PCC meetings are being held, so intends to try Cluster meetings to unite the family group of churches in our Mission Community.

On 24 February we were delighted to have a full Church for our Group Service. Steph took our Service and welcomed our guest speaker, who spoke about the life-transforming work of The Leprosy Mission, which diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care including reconstruction surgery, to leprosy patients. The Leprosy Mission has been in operation for over 140 years. It was a most enlightening insight into all the work involved. The collection received was given to The Leprosy Mission. Refreshments were enjoyed after the Service.

Our deepest sympathy to Brian Peace, Jane, Nicky and family on the death of Jen, who passed away on Saturday 16 February. Along with Brian, when she was well enough, Jen was a regular worshipper at our Church and was also part of our flower rota team, assisted by

continued on Page 12 ➔

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**Venue: The Rectory,
Witleigh**

Time: 7.00pm

1 April Tended

8 April Welcomed

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

**Come and meet to pray
over croissant and coffee
on 27 April and 25 May at
9am in The Rectory,
Witleigh**



Everyone is welcome !

EXE VALLEY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We meet on alternate **WEDNESDAYS**,
at Barton View, Loxbeare, EX16 9RH from 2.00-4.00 p.m.

This Spring term, with the help of the Good Book Guide,
"Hosea – God's love song" we shall be looking at the
Old Testament book of Hosea, a prophet who gave God's
message to His people 750 years before Christ;
his message still speaks to us today of God's amazing love
for His people. The early weeks of this Course will have gone
but the details are here for home study.

February 27 "Unfaithful"
Hosea 1 v. 1 – 2 v.1

May 1 "Reap the wild wind"
Hosea 8 – 9

March 13 "If you leave me
now" Hosea 2 v.2 – 3 v.5

May 29 "Never going to give you up"
Hosea 11

March 27 "D.I.V.O.R.C.E."
Hosea 4 - 5

June 12 "History repeating"
Hosea 12 – 13

April 10 "Sorry seems to be
the hardest word"
Hosea 6 – 7

June 26 "Return to me"
Hosea 14

*For more information contact Marion on 01884 256302
E-mail: marion@sidborough.eclipse.co.uk*

***DURING HOLY WEEK THERE WILL EASTER REFLECTIONS AND
MEDITATIONS IN SEVERAL PARISHES AND AN AGAPE MEAL IN
OAKFORD. PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR FULL DETAILS***

7 APRIL Lent 5

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Cluster Service
with Holy Communion and
Baptism **Steph Gordon-Jeffs**

CRUWYS MORCHARD

9.30 am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

10 am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Praise
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITLEIGH

10.30 am Family Service

14 APRIL Palm Sunday

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

9.30 am Family Service
with Baptism
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise
with Steph

OAKFORD

11.15 am Cluster Service
With Holy Communion
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

RACKENFORD

See Oakford

STOODLEIGH

See Oakford

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

11.15 am Morning Prayer

WITLEIGH

10.30 am Family Service

19 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY

CALVERLEIGH

No Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.30 am Mission Community
Good Friday Service
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

11 am Good Friday Meditation

OAKFORD

No Service

RACKENFORD

No Service

STOODLEIGH

No Service

TEMPLETON

No Service

WASHFIELD

3 pm Easter Reflections

WITLEIGH

10 am Informal Service
in Village Hall

21 APRIL Easter Day

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 am Family Communion

CRUWYS MORCHARD

8 am Family Communion

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

11 am Family Communion

OAKFORD

9.30 am Family Communion

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Communion

STOODLEIGH

11.15 am Family Communion

TEMPLETON

11.15 am Family Communion

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD

11.15 am Family Communion

WITHLEIGH

9.30 am Family Communion

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

28 APRIL Easter 2

GROUP SERVICE

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

**ALL PARISHES
SEE TEMPLETON**

CALVERLEIGH

CRUWYS MORCHARD

LOXBEARE

OAKFORD

RACKENFORD

STOODLEIGH

TEMPLETON

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE

WASHFIELD

WITHLEIGH

5 MAY Easter 3

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

9.30 am Morning Prayer

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Cluster Service
With Holy Communion

OAKFORD

10 am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

11 am am Family Service

TEMPLETON

11 am am Family Service

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Patronal Festival

12 MAY Easter 4

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 am Morning Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

See Rackenford

RACKENFORD

11.15 am Cluster Service
with Holy Communion

STOODLEIGH

See Rackenford

TEMPLETON

11 am Morning Service

WASHFIELD

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Morning Worship

19 MAY Easter 5

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.15 am Cluster Service
with Holy Communion
and Baptism

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Family Service

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Praise

STOODLEIGH

6.30 pm Evensong

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON

See Cruwys Morchard

WASHFIELD

11.15 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

See Cruwys Morchard

26 MAY Easter 6

GROUP SERVICE

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

**ALL PARISHES
SEE WASHFIELD**

CALVERLEIGH

CRUWYS MORCHARD

LOXBEARE

OAKFORD

RACKENFORD

STOODLEIGH

TEMPLETON

WASHFIELD

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE

WITHLEIGH

PARISH ROUND-UP

Brian. Jen's Funeral and Interment was held on 4 March. The Church was overflowing with family and friends wishing to pay their respects to Jen and remember all she meant to them and to support the family at this difficult time.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Beryl Colman on February 25. Beryl died in a hospice in her home town of Weston-Super-Mare. Beryl, Bob, and family first lived at East Wilson Farm and later moving to Little Acres. Beryl worked for many years at Rackenford School and was in her element if she was with the children, helping and having fun and more than happy to get involved with school activities during and after school if possible. She enjoyed being part of the community and both she and Bob had many friends with whom they kept in contact when they moved to Weston. Our love and deepest sympathy to Bob, Michelle and Chris, Susanne and Little Robert.

Our belated sympathy to Ann Reynolds on the death of Peter in January.

Sadly Jean and Derek Berry have lost a very young member in their family, our thoughts are with you all.

We are immensely grateful to Nellie Croft, Dennis Saupe and Tim and Liz Paxton for all the very hard and difficult work in clearing the church tower of debris which has accumulated over the years. Such difficult conditions for you to work in. Thank you.

Work also continues to upright the headstones and great improvements are being made. Thank you to Herbert Smith, Dennis Saupe, Tim Paxton and Ian Lucas for all the heavy work you are tackling.

So good to see the tidying up of the brambles and scrub land on the common being undertaken before the bird nesting begins.

Bingo Dates. Two dates for you all – 11 April and 9 May. 7.30 start and all meat prizes. The venue is 'Rest a While' at Witheridge. Thank you all for your help and support and to Marjorie and Herbert for continuing to organize these evenings.

Our AGM will be in Rackenford Church on 11 April at 7pm. All welcome.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Geoff and Jenny Parnell on the death of Jenny's Mum. You are in our prayers.

We send our continued prayers to Philippa Fraser, Gilbert Isaac, John Isaac, Des Reed and Jacques Cann.

STOODLEIGH

Church News

In March we said goodbye to Bryan and Audrey Rigg, who have lived in the village for thirty-two years. It is really difficult to cover everything with which they have been involved, from membership of the Parochial Church Council to the Stoodleigh Poetry Group. They have conducted the monthly Family Service and regularly opened their own Church Cottage for prayer meetings. Bryan was a Churchwarden for many years. His artistic talents have been demonstrated in many different ways, not only as handyman and poster painter, but also in setting up the crib and decorations for Christmas and the wonderful Easter garden for the church windowsills. Bryan's many unsung roles will be hard to replace. Audrey's contribution has included producing inspiring talks for the Family Service each month. She played the organ for Services during all these years and her Nativity Play at the Carol Service was

always memorable. Audrey was a valued member of the former Poetry Group where her understanding and comprehension of the most complex poems was always thought-provoking. Her reading of verses, often in dialects, was a joy. Both Audrey and Bryan will be much missed for their massive contributions to Church and village.

Thank you Stoodleigh and the Exe Valley Mission Community for the numerous good wishes we have received as we prepare to move away.

We have felt really privileged to have lived in such a welcoming, caring community and we thank you for all the kindness, generosity and love that we have received during our last thirty-two years with you. Anyone coming to live in Stoodleigh will have so much to look forward to and enjoy.

We shall miss you and remember you.
Bryan and Audrey Rigg

There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of the Church Flower Fund on Wednesday 15 May, 10am to 12 noon at Barns Cottage. Everyone is welcome.

It is some years since Stoodleigh had a Flower Festival but please now put the weekend of Friday 21 to Sunday 23 June into your diaries. Plans are still on the drawing board for this Festival of Flowers and Music. The church will be open, so that people can see the flower displays, which will have a musical theme. Visitors will be able to enjoy a cream tea, listen to a concert on one evening and join Songs of Praise on the final evening. Further details will be in the next Today Magazine.

Parish Hall News

On 15 February SWAG held an evening of skittles at the Parish Hall. Forty competitive villagers joined the evening to

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PARISH ROUND-UP

fund-raise for the Village Fun Day and the replacement Millennium Bench. The organisers of the Fun Day are very grateful to SWAG for their generous support.

On 2 March walkers from the Village and neighbouring Parishes joined a Spring Breakfast, Walk and Lunch. After bacon rolls and coffee at the Parish Hall, one group took on the 6.5 mile challenge through typical Stoodleigh valleys and hills. The second group strolled to Ash Farm and enjoyed meeting the alpacas – thanks to Louise and David for making this possible. Happy walkers returned to the Hall where 33 people enjoyed a delicious lunch followed by beautiful cupcakes kindly baked by Vanessa Turner. The event raised £320 for Parish Hall funds. Thank you to the supporters, organisers and to Tesco, Morrisons and Lloyd Maunder for their kind sponsorship.

On Saturday 2 April the Parish Hall will be open from 10am to 12 noon for the **Easter Market and Coffee Morning**, when local businesses and craft-makers will showcase their goods. Also on sale will be books, cakes, vegetables, plants and more. Details will be on the parish website and entry is free. To book a table to sell your work, please ring 01398 351391. This event is for Parish Hall funds.

Saturday 8 June is an important date for families in Stoodleigh. **The Village Fun Day** takes place on the cricket field. There is no charge for this afternoon, which will include fun and games for children and adults alike, plus lots of tea and cake. Look out for notices around the village nearer the time.

The Stoodleigh Family Dog Show on Saturday 10 August is a joint fund-raising between St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall. The show is for family dogs, with prizes and rosettes for winners. Details of classes will be published on

the Parish website. Other attractions will be included. For further information, please ring 01398 351391.

The Stoodleigh Garden Club Annual Show will be held on Saturday 31 August at the Parish Hall. Details of show classes will be published on the website and the Parish Hall notice board shortly. Meanwhile, please contact Jean Winter on 01398 351561 for further information.

In the Village, we send our congratulations to Nicola Palfrey and Chris Quick (from Bridgwater) on their recent engagement. We also say goodbye to the Taylor family leaving Vindor and in their place we welcome Robin Lewington and Cat Dale to Stoodleigh.

Church Flower Rota

7/14 April	Lent
21 April	Easter Flowers, all helpers please
5/12 May	Enid Hamidullah
19/16 May	Geraldine Talbot

100 Club winners - congratulations to:
January 1st prize Dorothy Ayre; 2nd prize Betty Wotton; 3rd prize Linda Brice; 4th prize Julian Earl.
February 1st prize Roland Chant; 2nd prize John Lang; 3rd prize Phyllis Hill; 4th prize Joyce Lacey.

Here's how to keep in touch with what's going on in Stoodleigh:-
 Stoodleigh Parish website for all the news <https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh>.
 Stoodleigh Parish Community email for Stoodleigh information and messages – if you are not already on the addressee list and would like to be included, please email stoodleighweb@gmail.com

This website is run by volunteers Jean Winter and Geraldine Talbot.

TEMPLETON

Church and Village activities:

Services:

On Thursday, 21 February, Steph led 'Sing Praise', an informal mid-week service at St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Many of our favourite hymns were accompanied by the very talented guitarists Marion Roberts, and Rev'd Robert Gordon. Thank you so much. The twice monthly Services at Templeton continue, with Cluster Services (joining three parishes) and Group Services rotating between Parishes.

Deanery Synod

The Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod Open Meeting was held in Cullompton on Monday 25 February with an interesting and uplifting talk by Bishop Jackie, Bishop of Crediton, on the subject of 'Serving the People of Devon with Joy'. We sincerely hope that Bishop Jackie will be able to visit Templeton later this year.

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter is held on the last Wednesday in every month at St Margaret's Church, Templeton. Everyone is invited to come along and to bring any craft, sewing or knitting between 10.30am and 12 pm. This is also an ideal time for a cuppa and a chat even if you don't have any sewing to do!

Thank you, Gloria!

After over 30 years of service, Gloria is to step down from the Templeton Parochial Church Council (PCC). Gloria is happy to continue all her other church activities such as heating control, helping with coffee after the Services, and fund-raising events. The PCC is hugely grateful

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

to Gloria and to Ron for all their selfless work and tireless effort in supporting the Church and the Community.

The Church Fabric

The wiring to the storage heaters in St Margaret's Church has now been repaired. We have a warm Church just as Devon reached record February temperatures! More work will be needed to maintain the Church fabric over the next few months. Many thanks to all those who have supported the Church so generously.

The Lighting Column at the Village Hall.

On Friday 8 February, Neil Parish MP for Tiverton & Honiton joined Toby Russell of Devon Air Ambulance and local residents to officially open the Lighting Mast at the Village Hall, which enables the night landing of a DAA helicopter in any emergency. Many thanks to all who helped make this such an asset for our community.

**SEE PHOTOGRAPH
ON PAGE 17**

Pool champions!

Team Templeton play pool on a Tuesday night in the mid Devon pool league. This year our team, led by Captain Jake Pancherz, finished 2nd in the league, won the doubles cup, and the knock-out cup. What an amazing season – congratulations to you all!

Future dates for your diary:

Thursday 4 April at 7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in St Margaret's Church.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for a whole range of things including the care and maintenance of the Church and churchyard, church

appointments and Services. Please come to the Annual Meeting and have a say in what you feel would help Templeton's Church and Community. Would you like to join the Templeton PCC? There are four meetings each year and, with your help, we can work together to keep the Church and its activities which are so important to our Village Community. If you'd like to know more about the Templeton PCC, please contact Reg (860246) or William (251513)

Sunday 14 April. Templeton Trails

The Exe Valley Rotary Club are organising their annual Templeton Trail with a marshalled route for runners (or walkers), starting at Templeton Village Hall and continuing through Town Farm, Partridge Farm, and Cruwys Woods and ending with refreshments at Templeton Village Hall. If you would like to take part, please get in touch with Charles Denman (charlesedenman@gmail.com) for more information about registration.

Sunday April 21 Easter Day Service and Easter Egg Hunt at St Margaret's Church Templeton

On this special day, Steph is taking our Easter Day Service and Communion at 11.15am. Following the Service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for adults and children to enjoy together.

Village Hall and Social Club Annual General Meeting is in May - date to be announced

The Village Hall and Social Club, is one of the most valuable assets of our Templeton community, as it provides facilities and activities for local entertainment, and for event bookings. In this way, Templeton Village Hall supports the well-being of people living in and around Templeton. Please come to the AGM to share your ideas on how the Village Hall and Social Club could help

the local community more, and ways in which you might like to be involved.

Saturday 8 June 10am Clay Pigeon Shoot
The Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot will be at Town Farm, Templeton, with refreshments during the event and a barbecue afterwards. All proceeds to St Margaret's Church. More details later! For more information, contact William (251513).

Saturday 10 August at 1.30pm - Templeton Summer Fair at Templeton Village Hall

Saturday 17 August all day: Bike Show - organised by Pentagram Motorcycle Club, in aid of Devon Air Ambulance at Templeton Village Hall

Saturday 5 October at 7.30pm – Harvest Supper at Templeton Village Hall with musical entertainment from Andrew Curtis and other musicians.

Our best wishes, prayers and sad farewells. We were deeply saddened to hear the news that Mr Godfrey Bell, of Beeches, Templeton, has recently passed peacefully away after a short illness. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go to his family.

Our prayers and best wishes go to Martin Strong, Chris Newnes and Liz Walker.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota:

Teresa Pancherz Cleaning only
31 Mar/7 Apr
Lynda Newnes Easter Sunday Flowers
V14/21 Apr
Julie Dent Flowers/cleaning
28 Apr/5 May
Phillida Strong Flowers/cleaning
12/19 May
Ginah Palmer Flowers/cleaning
26 May/2 June

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PARISH ROUND-UP

WASHFIELD

At this time of year we may think that we are nurturing our garden but, of course, it's our garden that is really nurturing us!

Greetings to the Spring and the new life springing up all around us!

However, we are all very conscious that, for some in our Village, life has sadly come an end. We send our prayers and thoughts to Maurice, Linda and Matthew Balment who have lost a much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Alice will be missed by all who knew her. The large number attending her Funeral showed the love and respect in which she was held in the Community. It was a great blessing for her to be cared for by her family until the end of her days.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Sylvia Cockram for their recent great loss. She was a faithful member of the Church during all her years in Washfield. We will miss her cheerful manner and faithful attendance at Church, WI, Luncheon Club and many other village events. Sylvia was also a frequent passenger on the Market Bus.

We send our very sincere sympathy, too, to Jenny Parnell who has lost her mother after a long illness. Grace always enjoyed her visits to Washfield Luncheon Club and was lively company and a friend to many. She was devotedly cared for by Jenny and Geoff for many years and our thoughts are with them and their family at this sad time.

We can now look forward to Easter so please see the centre pages for times of Services. There will be an Agape Meal on Maunday Thursday, a Service of Reflection on Good Friday, Egg-rolling

and decorating, followed by coffee and hot cross buns, plant sale etc. on the Saturday. Easter Day Family Communion will be at 11.15 am. Plenty to celebrate!

The PCC thank you all for the financial contributions and support for all the building repairs taking place. Please come to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 3 April at 6.30 for 7pm and hear all about it. The Annual Report will contain many more thanks for generous support.

Two very special couples in our village have recently celebrated the amazing accomplishment of being married for 65 years! Both Frank and Joy Smith and Joe and Margaret Elston married in 1954 and have had the pleasure of celebrating their Blue Sapphire Wedding anniversaries: how amazing! We hope that you have enjoyed the fuss and attention that this achievement warrants. Our love and best wishes go, belatedly, to both couples.

To those with special birthdays or events we send all good wishes.

We also wish the young people of the Village good luck as they practise for the Exmoor Challenge and Ten Tors events.

The Social Club recently held its first family-centred evening with supper and games on offer. A good number of families came, some new to the Village and Social Club. It was good to meet them and for the children to socialise. The evening was a great success and will surely be recreated in the future. Thanks to James Wych for taking the initiative to get this off the ground.

Events planned for the coming months are the May Day Party on the Green on Bank Holiday Monday 6 May and a Car Treasure Hunt on Saturday 8 June

4.30pm to 7pm, starting from the Social Club with refreshments available. Look out for more details of both events - not available as we go to print.

Return of the Tractor Fest on Saturday 13 July (Forward notice)

Many thanks are sent to everyone who donated items for CHAT last year. With the extra push for Harvest and Christmas our yearly total was 337 items, well over the previous years. Please continue to give as your donations are always gratefully received. The box for donations is in the Church porch and there is a list of suggested items. They get taken to CHAT every month. Well done everyone; keep it up!

Annual Parish Meeting is on 17 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Speaker is from Children's Hospice South West. Everyone welcome.

Our best wishes go to John Mock for a speedy recovery from his accident and operation. The bells have been greatly missed.

Prayers and kind wishes go to anyone who is unwell at this time and we hope that soon you will feel better.

Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 3 April Annual Church Meeting from 6.30pm in hall
- Tuesday 9 April teatime@thehall 3pm
- Thursday 11 April W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Speaker Jo Mortimore 'Portrait of an Artist'
- Wednesday 17 April Annual Parish Council Meeting in Hall 7.30pm. Speaker TBC
- Saturday 20 Egg Decorating and Rolling meeting in the church porch at 10am followed by Coffee morning in hall with

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

refreshments, cake, produce and plant stalls and raffle. All welcome

Monday 6 May May Day Party on the Green. BBQ and lots more TBC

Thursday 25 April Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30

Thursday 9 May W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Resolutions

Tuesday 14 May teatime@thehall 3pm

Thursday 23 May Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30

Saturday 8 June Car Treasure Hunt at Social Club with refreshments

Church Altar Flowers Rota

April 7/14	LENT
April 21/28	Mrs Taylor Ross
May 5/12	Mrs H Arnold
May 19/26	Mrs Moore
June 2/9	Mrs Smith

Church Cleaning Rota

March 25/April 1	Mr & Mrs Parnell
April 8/15	Mr & Mrs Walton
April 22/29	Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones
May 6/13	Mrs Albery
May 20/27	Mr & Mrs Ellis
June 3/10	Mrs French

Our Family Service on 3 February took place in the Village Hall (as the new heating had not been completed), and was thoughtfully led by Susie on the theme of Candlemas. Due to the delay with the heating work, we were again in the Hall on the 10 February.

The Village Hall was packed full for our Evening of Entertainment, on Friday 22nd February. We all enjoyed the variety, which ranged from Drama, a Reading, an instrumental duet, and various songs performed by a soloist, a duet and a trio! The evening was compèred by Peter, with the highlight being Janet Stacey's most recent Drama entitled 'Grandma'.

Congratulations and well done to everyone who took part, and thank you all for giving up your time for practising and performing, especially for the Drama, which had taken a few weeks to put together, and to learn your lines! Well done Janet for putting together a great evening! Also a big thank you to everyone who provided the food for the fantastic buffet supper. We took £998 on the evening, with the profit being shared between FORCE and the Village Hall.

Following the success of the **Community Lunch** in the Autumn we have now arranged another on Thursday 4 April, 12.30pm for 1pm. A Home-cooked Two Course Meal followed by Tea or Coffee will cost just £5. Booking is essential, please call Christine 257571 or Sara 252949 to book your lunch.

An **Easter Beetle Drive** will be held on Saturday 13 April. Come along and win an Easter Egg. £1.50 each to play. 7.30pm start.

Withleigh WI meets in the Village Hall at 7.15pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Guests are always welcome to

come along. For more information please ring Rosie 01884 257123.

Thursday 11 April, Julian Sydnam and Andrea Watton speaking on the work of the Street Pastors.

Thursday 9 May, AGM, joint with Washfield WI.

Our worship team continues to meet regularly to plan our services.

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.

Forthcoming Events:

31 March – Mothering Sunday Family Service in Church at 10.30am.

Wednesday 3 April, Community Lunch 12.30 for 1pm in the Hall.

Saturday 13 April, Easter Beetle Drive at 7.30pm in the Hall.

19 April – Informal service for Good Friday in Village Hall, 10 – 11.30am (with coffee and hot-cross buns).

21 April – Easter Day – Family Communion Service in Church at 9.30am, with Steph.

Flower Rota:

LENT (No flowers)
April 21 EASTER
April 28 Margaret Gale

Monthly Diary Dates:

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

WITHLEIGH

The new boiler and fan-convector heaters in Church were duly installed, though not without delays caused by the snow and flu. The system was 'christened' at our Family Service on 3 March which was led by Laura.

A good number attended the Plough Service on 20 January. Thank you, Brenda, for a thought-provoking talk, to the Young Farmers, and all who took part.

Advertisements are accepted and included in good faith - but the Exe Valley Mission Community accepts no responsibility for the performance or non-performance of the Advertisers.

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We are hoping to employ an Exe Valley Mission Community Development worker, to work approximately 7 hours a week in our local Parishes, supporting existing projects and initiating and implementing new ideas.

For more information please contact the Rector via the Church Office. Please write your CV and send to the Church Office via post or email by Friday 17 May 2019.

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Thoughts for Everyday
by Patience Strong ~
for 13 April

If you see the funny side
You'll always walk on the sunny side
And come out smiling
Through the stress and strife.

So cultivate the power to see
The little touch of comedy
Behind the trials
And tragedies of life.



Thoughts for Everyday
by Patience Strong ~
for 15 May

When the day is over
May I know within my heart
That I've tried to do my duty
And always played my part.

Given all I had to give
And followed faithfully
Along the path where I believed
Thy hand was leading me.

EASTER



in

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2019 Annual General Meeting of the Exe Valley Market and Community Bus

The Bus Committee AGM is to be held on Thursday 16 May at 7.30 pm in The Stoodleigh Inn. Everyone is very welcome to attend but please telephone the Secretary, Jennie Chappell, on 01398 351666 or e-mail her at jennie@chappell.me.uk so that we can make sure we have enough sandwiches!

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

The bus will run from Oakford to Barnstaple on the First Thursday of each month from Thursday 2 May and to South Molton on all other Thursdays of the month via Roachill and Knowstone. The journey to Barnstaple has a request stop at the car park at Moortown Cross enabling passengers from other parishes to pick up the bus there. Ring Reg Howe on 01398 341508 to book your seat.

Concessionary Bus Passes can be used.

The Bus is also available for private hire. Please ring Jennie Chappell on 01398 351666 or e-mail her at jennie@chappell.me.uk for details.

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

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

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

**Read the TODAY magazine, in colour, on-line at
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THY KINGDOM COME

30 MAY - 9 JUNE 2019

'Thy Kingdom Come' is an international, ecumenical prayer initiative, which takes place between Ascension Day and Pentecost, in which we are asked by the Archbishops to Pledge to Pray. More details will be forthcoming in the next magazine, and on the website. However, it is hoped that each Parish Church will host a prayer station for people to use over this period. The event finishes on Pentecost Sunday, with a celebration in the Cathedral.

We thank you, Lord of heaven
For all the joys that greet us,
For all that you have given
To help us and delight us.
In earth and sky and seas.

The sunlight on the meadows,
The rainbow's fleeting wonder,
The clouds with cooling shadows,
The stars that shine in splendour -
We thank you Lord, for these.

Jan Struther 1901 - 1953

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