



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020

Price 50p

LOOK OUT FOR THE GOLD

Back in the day when I had a proper job, I used to teach some history. I loved it! I spent many a happy day dressed as Boudicca leading a rebellion against the Roman Army.

A visiting Roman Soldier would arrive at the school and have us marching around the playground. He was really rather scary (actually he was a hairdresser from Exeter!) so when it came to the final battle, the children wanted Boudicca and the Celts to win, and thus we were in danger of re-writing history!

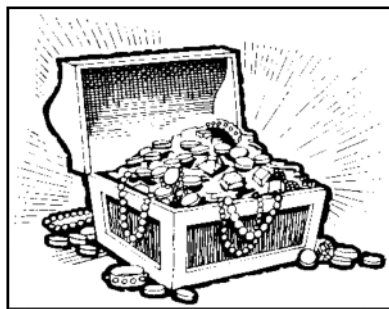
Or we would go to Killerton house, dressed in Victorian costumes to see if we could leave the workhouse to work in the laundry.

Or Henry VIII would come in to tell us about the Tudors, and we would joust on hobby horses and sing Tudor songs.

One of the best things was learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We built pyramids in the playground using hay bales; made a shaduf in the wildlife pond; made mud bricks out of clay and straw and had a 'archaeological dig' on the side of the cricket pitch. The next day we all got on coaches and went to see the 'Tutankhamun' exhibition at the O2. It was wonderful.

I loved telling the children the story of Howard Carter when he first opened the tomb in Lord Carnarvon's presence.

"At first I could see nothing, the hot air escaping from the chamber causing the candle flame to flicker," Carter later wrote, "but presently, as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold—everywhere the glint of gold." Carter was amazed, unable to speak, prompting the impatient Lord Carnarvon to ask, "Can you see anything?" Carter eventually found his voice, "Yes," he said, "wonderful things!"



That description conjures up an amazing picture – wonderful things being exposed, having been hidden in the darkness.

It feels a bit like that now. There is no doubt that this has been (and still is) an extremely difficult time, not just in the UK but around the world. It has, in many ways, been a time of darkness.

But there have been 'glints of gold' – everywhere. Every community has had people willing to help others, and to show love and concern for

those in need. It began in March and it still goes on.

Church doors may have been locked but the church has remained open and active. We have been able to worship together week after week, enabling some people to worship more regularly than ever before, from the comfort of their own homes.

As we have gathered on Sunday mornings, we have welcomed people from around the country, relatives, friends, those on holiday, those in hospital, those unable to get out of bed. New friendships have been forged over Zoom – and the genuine delight at meeting for the first time (socially distanced!) was wonderful.

As the churches have opened there has also been a delight throughout the Mission Community in supporting one another to worship in our different church buildings.

No – it's not the same as it was – but it is wonderful. A glint of gold in the darkness.

May we continue to see the glints of gold, whatever lies ahead.

*With my continued love
and prayers,
Steph*

Please look at the website for any updates regarding health guidelines for churches, or changes to events and services.

Copy Deadline for December / January 2021 issue

Monday 9 November 2020

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EXE VALLEY WEBSITE

www.exevalleychurches.org

It's the best place to go for updates about what's on and what we do.

A recent addition to the website is a monthly **Prayer Diary** with a topic to pray for, each day of the month.

EDITORIAL

Lockdown eased - great news!
New restrictions - oh dear!
Getting about and meeting friends is still quite complicated.

Thankfully we are allowed to hold our Holy Communion Services, albeit with social distancing, face masks and no singing!

We have some very interesting articles in this edition of the Today Magazine. Be sure to read Steph's Book Reviews and the articles about the Daniel Family on pages 18 and 19.

'O God, give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference'.
Rheinhold Niebuhr

Dawn

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FROM STEPH

BIBLE STUDY via ZOOM

Do please join us for a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm using Zoom.

We would love to see you, whenever you can make it.

The ID and password can be found on our website

Join us for our weekly **Coffee Morning via Zoom**

This takes place every Wednesday morning at 10.30am

Join us when you can and leave when you have to!

The ID and password can be found on the website.

EXE VALLEY ONLINE

Harvest Online

Throughout the month of October, there will be online harvest celebrations available on the website for you to view at any time. This will include harvest hymns, a Bible reading, prayer and photographs from around the Mission Community. And - you will be able to sing as loudly as you like ! Do please make use of this resource.

Remembrance

At the time of writing various things are being planned for Remembrance, but we have no idea what may or may not be permissible. However, during the month of November a Remembrance reflection will be available on the Mission Community website.

Christmas

In addition to the above, we are planning on an Online Christmas extravaganza, featuring your favourite carols. Please send your favourite carols to Dawn Williams, along with any Christmassy photos or winter scenes. We need your contributions by the first week of December. Thank you.

Justin Montague

We welcome Justin as he joins us for a few weeks on a placement from St George and St Paul's. We hope and pray that this time will be a real blessing to you, Justin. Read a bit more from Justin on page 10.



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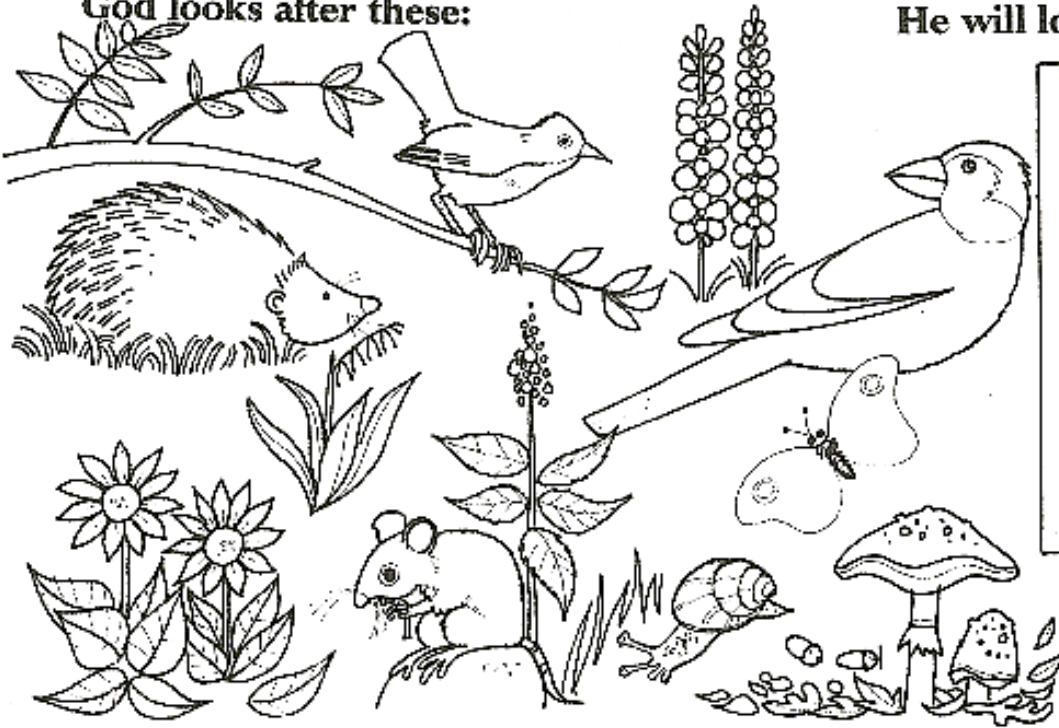
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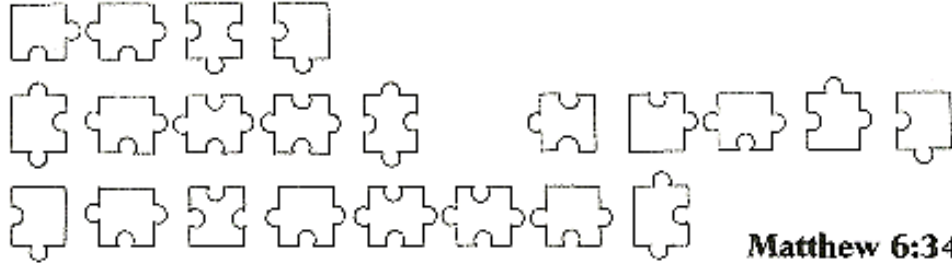
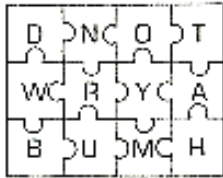
God looks after these:

He will look after you.



Draw a picture of yourself:

Use the code to find out what this verse says:



Matthew 6:34

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FROM STEPH

Steph's Book Reviews

I always like to have a couple of books on the go, and as well as several novels, I have read some interesting books over the Summer. The first one is the Time Bestseller:

'Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race' by Reni Eddo-Lodge

It has had rave reviews, and comes with some powerful endorsements, which can, for me have the opposite effect. It's not a difficult book to read – but it is a challenging one and has opened up a number of useful conversations. So many of us avoid difficult conversations – religion and politics being top of the list, but I suspect for many of us, race is up there too. It's good to talk. It's even better to listen and reflect. And I think this book made me listen, reflect and pay attention to an important issue that cannot be easily dismissed.

Another book on a similar subject, relates to the church. Ben Lindsay is a black British born pastor of a large church in South London. His congregation is mainly white. Through the book he shares personal experiences, Biblical insights and interviews to explore the ways in which race has impacted the whole of society, and white privilege in the church.

This book might be the start of a conversation for many of us. I found the questions at the end of each chapter helpful. I suspect, from what I have read, that it is a conversation that has been well underway for decades, and perhaps some of us need to catch up!

We Need to Talk About Race: Understanding the Black experience in White majority churches by Ben Lindsay

Finally, A.D.A. France-Williams has written 'Ghost Ship' a book about institutional racism and the Church of England.

If you are a 'Church Times' reader, like me, you may have read about a private member's motion going through General Synod calling for practical support and solidarity for the many victims of the Windrush scandal. You may also have heard in various sections of the press the Archbishop of Canterbury's admission that the Church is 'deeply institutionally racist'. It's shocking to hear. As a paid up member of the CofE it makes me feel extremely uncomfortable. But it does make me want things to be different. Many would consider Archbishop Justin's statement to be a sad, welcome and long overdue admission and France-Williams gives voice to the experience of BAME clergy and laity within the church. As one reviewer put it, 'Ghost Ship' is a revelation, full of imagery fraught with background, freighted with pain. It is powerful, prophetic, poetic testimony, a threnody, a warning, a call to repentant action and a vision of another future. If you have a vocation to ministry in the C of E; if you exercise ministry in the Church in any capacity; if you hold power in the Church in some regard- or hope to do so: you should read it.' (Ben Fulford, Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology, University of Chester)

Yes, it's a threnody. A song of sorrow and lament. These books are worth reading. I hope you will. It's a conversation that needs to be had.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago

October / November, 1970

The power of, and disruption caused by, certain trade unions was the subject of the lead article in the October issue. "Nothing is more bitterly condemned in the Bible than what the tyrant unions are being egged on to do".

Two farmers at Seven Crosses had grown long-stemmed wheat which, in early August, could be seen arranged in traditional stooks. The 'reed' would, after threshing, be sold on for thatching.

Members of the Mothers' Union were commended for the generous spread provided following the confirmation service at Withleigh.

Loxbeare's country market raised £37 in aid of the village room. All of the church fabric repairs listed in the quinquennial inspection had been completed.

The Oakford gymkhana was a great success, raising £100, despite heavy rain immediately prior to the event. Due to an increase numbers, the Guides had now split into three patrols.

Rackenfords harvest social, at Creacombe village hall, was to feature the choir from Templeton in Wales.

Stoodleigh's solid-fuel heating system was in urgent need of replacement. The harvest thanksgiving had been well attended, but ideas were being sought on the form of event in future years.

A concert was held to mark the completion of restoration work on the tower, bells, and erection of a new screen in Templeton church, and featured the choir of Templeton in Wales who stayed for the weekend in homes in the parish. The first Harvest Home celebration for several years had gone very well.

Washfield's harvest celebrations were attended by fewer people than in the past, something which has become a trend in recent years

Lamp standards had now been erected in Withleigh churchyard to light the church path. The first gymkhana had been a great success, and had made a profit of £60.

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

None of us will ever forget 2020, so looking for some relief I have been pondering what Nature provided that would allow for more happy memories.

The kind weather is a good place to start because it allowed for more songbirds to survive the winter and produce many young. More than any year we have had queues of them on the rail by the birdfeeder where they sat, oblivious to any danger and looking confused at arriving in the world.

The bright days have been a blessing for all and gardens have flourished like never before with all the constant attention – so save for the brief period of worry over grass growing [no rain in Devon!] we can say it is a good summer.

Given the conditions and more time to observe it is fascinating to puzzle over what has gone well and to wonder why.

Up in the village the apple trees are heavy with fruit but down in our corner they are disappointing despite having had much blossom in the spring. I refuse to go around with a paintbrush so trust that the bees will do better next year.

No doubt parishioners will have their own views of Nature's year but I would suggest it is exceptional in terms of both acorns and blackberries. We seem to have been crunching over the former for a few weeks but I cannot remember a year when they were so evident in the trees where they hang as pale green droplets against the [still] dark green leaved background.

The annoying squirrels have been notable by their absence so they are probably very busy. All children know not to eat acorns and apparently they are poisonous due to the tannin content. Adults should be grateful because the same tannin enables oak wood to flavour their drinks when stored in barrels.

There are no such concerns with blackberries, but remember it is very bad luck to eat or collect them after 10th October because the Devil [apparently] will have spat on the bushes on the previous evening.

However to raise spirits a more fitting finale to the end of the natural year of 2020 might be a rousing chorus of Hearts of Oak.

Thomas More

Burgers for Eddie!
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LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

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Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".
 John 8:12 (NIV)

Slowly, it seems that Lighthouse is getting back to a "new normal", but not quite where we were before the coronavirus outbreak. With reduced opening hours and only two tables in the revised café we seem to be coping. Thank you all for bearing with us during these difficult times and for co-operating by wearing your face masks and using the hand sanitizer when entering the shop.

Over the past few months we have had three Bible related incidences, which are worth relating. During the early days of the lock-down while the shop was closed, one of the trustees would visit each week to check everything was alright. On one occasion a homeless man was sitting on the pavement across the road. He came across and knocked on the shop door. The trustee opened it and explained that we were shut. He said he just wanted a Bible and so the trustee took him down to the second-hand book section and offered him a choice from those there. He selected one and explained that living on the streets, he often had his things stolen, and had recently lost his Bible. He left clutching his new Bible.

The second story revolves around the large print Bible in the shop window. Actually, it is a New Testament and Psalms. A foreign gentleman came into the shop and asked to buy it. Apparently his eyesight was poor and the large print would be easier for him to read. It was explained that that copy was not for sale, but that we did have a large print Bible he could buy, with slightly smaller print. He bought it and left.

A few weeks later he was back, again asking to buy the Bible in the window and again it was explained to him that it was not for sale. But we did promise to see if we could find a copy for him. We checked our copy and it was supplied by The Gideons, so Penny rang their local representative and it turned out they had a copy they could let us have. A couple of days after it was delivered to the shop, the gentleman turned up again and was given his own copy. He too, left clutching his new Bible.

The third incident also relates to the Bible in the shop window. There is often a queue for the Nationwide next door which forms outside Lighthouse. As the people stand there they sometimes look into the shop. One morning a man put his head round the shop door and asked if we could turn over the page of the Bible as he had reached the bottom of the page!

One of our prayers at Lighthouse is that the Word of God can spread out into the world as the rays of light radiate from a lighthouse. This is usually accomplished by the small Biblical texts in greeting cards and on other items which we sell, as well as Bibles and other books. But the stories above show us that God is able to get His Word out in ways we don't expect. That is why we believe that he wants Lighthouse to be a beacon on the high street

Christmas is coming and from about the middle of October Penny will be putting out her Christmas stock. Real Christmas cards that share the story of the nativity and other gifts will be available.

Thank you for your continued support. May God bless each and every one of you.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

How lovely it has been to have the opportunity to return to church to celebrate Holy Communion around our Mission Community and to spend time and fellowship, albeit distanced and with no singing, with Steph and friends from other parishes.

Potato competition update:

This information was not available in time for the last magazine so our congratulations go to the winning potato growers. With an amazing 20lb 8oz the winner of the men was Geoffrey, the ladies group was won by Brenda with a crop weight of 10lb 7oz and the children's group was won by 2½ year old Tilly whose potatoes weighed in at 6lb 8oz who went out every day with her watering can to make her potatoes grow.

Although we were at that time in lockdown Gillian thanked the 50 participants for continuing to take part and a total of £700 was raised for Church funds. We too would like to thank everyone for their efforts and generosity and especially to Gillian and Mary for working out a way for the competition to still continue.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of David Burnett whose funeral took place on 2 September with burial in Calverleigh churchyard. David was born at Leigh Farm, Loxbeare where he grew up and farmed until moving into Tiverton in 1986. He kept up his connection with Calverleigh church through his love of bellringing and for many years was a regular part

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

of the team. He enjoyed returning for social events to meet past friends until illness prevented him from doing so. Our thoughts and prayers are with David's family at this most difficult of times.

The burial of ashes of Michael Sloman also took place in September and our condolences go to his family and to everyone else grieving the loss of a loved one at a time when we are unable to celebrate the life of a loved one in a way that we had been able to before the pandemic.

We also remember at this time all those we know who are ill, receiving or awaiting treatment and pray that you will be feeling better soon.

Fortunately we were able to hold an open-air group Harvest Celebration on Sunday 13 September. A good number of people came together in the churchyard, at the relevant distance from each other, to give thanks to God for all the good gifts he provides. Sitting within the calm surroundings we were able to enjoy bird song, nature and the lovely, warm sunny weather. Although we were unable to sing, we could at least listen to some harvest hymns.

Donations were given for produce that was brought along to the service. Tinned and packet food was donated to CHAT for their food bank. Thanks were also given to our farmers and growers for all they provide for our daily needs.

Thank you Steph, and to all who took part, for a lovely service and the first opportunity for Calverleigh to host a service since lockdown began in March.

The window restoration is ongoing with two windows now have been practically completed.

Due to the current restrictions on meeting together in groups of more than 6 we are sadly unable to hold our Autumn Fayre this year. Hopefully in the new year we will be able to confidently arrange fundraising and social events and meet together again for fun and fellowship.

Our monthly 2 hour time of prayer will next take place on Saturday 3rd October and again on Saturday 7th November, between 9.00 am and 11.00am. If you would like to join in, even if only for a few minutes, please do so. Prayer suggestions will be available on the website or emailed in the week leading up to it.

Church Services;
18 October Evening Worship at 3.00pm
29 November Group Holy Communion at 11.15am

Dave and Nik have produced a Calverleigh Church fridge 2021 calendar, which is available at a cost of £2.50 per calendar. To order please email: david.burton@doivedesigns.co.uk or call 01884 561499. All profits will go to the Church's general funds.

Nik and Dave are also organising a special 'Nativity Characters' competition which will run at the start of December. We want you to create any character from the Nativity - big or small, made out of anything - inside or outside your home and then send us a photo for a chance to win a hamper of Christmas goodies.

Costs will be as follows: £1.50 for Under 10s, £2.50 for Uder 18s and £3.50 for grown ups ! A prize will be given for each age group. All profits will go to the church. The winners will be announced prbably via Skype or Zoom in mid December, please call 01884 561499 or email: david.burton@doivedesigns.co.uk before 1 December to enter. Further details will be provided on the website closer to the time.

Do you have any other ingenious ideas for fundraising which can be carried out during these socially distancing times? If so please get in contact with Aubrey or Jackie. There are a couple of things in the pipeline. We are grateful to those who have already completed fundraising events this year towards the windows/church funds.

Please look at the website to keep informed of any events/services that are able to go ahead. We will be hoping to arrange a couple of services in the next two months.

If you would like to be included on the Calverleigh emailing list for updates/church services please contact Julie at thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk.

1Have 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



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PARISH ROUND-UP

CRUWYS MORCHARD

The Church doors are still locked, we are told by the Archbishops of Canterbury and London that this is the way they must remain. "One size fits all" There are also no flowers or candles. We have had one Group Holy Communion service in the Church taken by Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs, on the 2 July at 11.15am, and are due to have another Holy Communion service tomorrow, 20 September also at 11.15am. To go you must ring the Church office by 11am on the Friday before the service, leaving a message on the answer phone 01884 250417, or email the church office on office@exevalleymissioncommunity .og Social distancing and face masks required.

Church of the Holy Cross, Cruwys Morchard.

The following services are scheduled to take place. Please book your seat with Diana Vincent 01398 860227.
 Sunday 11 October Holy Communion at 11.15am
 Sunday 25 October Morning Prayer at 11.15am
 Sunday 8 November Remembrance at 10.55am
 Sunday 22 November Morning Prayer at 11.15am

Church Annual Meeting

The meeting was held in the Church on Thursday 10 September. Ten of us were present. Churchwardens Diana Vincent and Sarah Cruwys Secretary Guy Cruwys

Electoral Roll	Cindy Trick
Safeguarding	Cindy Trick
Treasurer	Steve Currigan
Fabric/Structure	James Clarke
Deanery Synod	Sonia Notley

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is open for Sunday services
 All Services at 4.30pm
 Contact Rev Ruth Green 01363 83451
 1st Sunday All ages
 2nd Sunday Communion
 3rd Sunday Joint with Way Village 2.30pm
 4th Sunday Prayer and Praise.

FLOWER and CLEANING ROTA

(Cindy will contact you when the Church opens)
 October 5 Cindy Trick
 October 12/19 Marilyn Hill and Sarah Cruwys, flowers
 October 26/2 Nov Sonia Notley and Claire Miller
 November 9/16 Sue and Pauline Guscott
 November 23/30th Denise Standen and Jo Hilton

MOWING

Thank you all who have mown the Churchyards so well and kept it all looking so nice during this difficult time.

The Annual Flower Show was cancelled, but there is a road side stall in front of The Cottage, next to Pennymoor Timber with various plants and face masks, all for a donation in the tin provided. Thank you Pauline for making the face masks, all donations go to the Annual Flower Show 2021.

PARISH HALL 200 Club

This years membership is being transferred to next year, 2021. The first draw is anticipated to be in March 2021.

THE PARISH HALL remains closed until further notice.

YOGA

Hilary is having trial live yoga classes during September, and still doing her Zoom classes on Thursday mornings at 9.30am. Contact Hilary on 01363 866 245.

THE CHURCH FETE and DOG SHOW, was cancelled, in its stead we had a dog walk around Liz Chadwick's lovely woods, starting from The Cruwys Arms. It was very popular and made a small profit for church funds. Thank you very much Liz.

CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS

We have not met during August and September

COMMUNITY LUNCH turned into Community Coffee on Tuesday 15 September in Judith and Reg Taylors' lovely garden, We were three tables of six, socially distancing, all bringing our own coffee and cake. It was a very enjoyable morning. We were all ready to leave as we felt the first spots of rain! Thank you Judith.

FUTURE PLANS are all very uncertain, but we can hope.

Saturday 3 October 10.30am-12noon. Cake stall, in aid of the Leukaemia Trust plus raffle run by Sarah Waterman, on a table outside her house Bladen.

Harvest Festival might happen.

We have been talking about how we can make our usual Christmas Fayre work, it will be different but might happen.

Christmas is nearly here!

continued on page 12 

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A word from Justin Montague

Hello to all the church family across the Exe Valley.

My name is Rev. Justin Montague and I am very much looking forward to joining Rev. Steph Gordon-Jeffs and the Mission Community for 4-weeks this Autumn and Winter on a placement as part of my continued ministry development.

Currently I reside in Tiverton, where I moved to in 2018 to begin serving my curacy as a minister in the Church of England with the parish of St George and St Paul's.

During my first week in mid-Devon I found myself high up in the Exe Valley on the Stoodleigh Cricket Club outfield during the long-lasting heat wave of that summer. As I tried to concentrate on fast flying cricket balls as I fielded the boundary, I had to try really hard not to be distracted by the beauty of God's creation, rolling hills that stretched for miles from that high vantage point upon the Exe Valley.

It was in that instant I immediately fell in love with the place.

Born in Wiltshire, Devon became my home in 2005 when I joined Her Majesty's Royal Marines and served for 11 years including operationally in Afghanistan and it was in the midst of that service that I first felt a strong calling to ministry.

The Marines gracefully allowed me time each Monday to study Biblical Theology before leaving service to begin full-time ordination training in Oxford before returning to Devon.

In my spare time I can be found running the lanes, tracks and trails of Mid-Devon as can my wife Melissa, who is a Public Health Officer. I also enjoy reading, exploring and Talk Radio.

If you are around from September 28th – 11th October and 23rd November – 6th December, it would be great to see you, as I observe, serve and support the ministry here alongside Steph and taste and embrace the joys and challenges of rural Devon.



See you soon.
In Christ
Rev. Justin



Gloria Daniel
Rev'd Steph
Chris and Margaret
and
Dawn
at
St Margarets
Stoodleigh
and
St Peters
Oakford

*See articles on
pages 18 & 19*



Attending Worship in the Exe Valley Mission Community During COVID-19 What to Expect !

Calverleigh, Cruwys Morchard, Loxbeare, Oakford, Rackenford, Stoodleigh, Templeton, Washfield, Withleigh

Before you arrive:

We can only accommodate a certain number of people at a service, so it will be essential that you book a seat via the church office 01884 250417 or email office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org or by leaving a message on the answer phone. When you book, we will take some contact details. These will be kept for 3 weeks after the service and given to Track and Trace if someone from the service later tests positive to coronavirus.

When you arrive:

The doors will open 15 minutes before the service.
Before that you will need to wait on the church path, 2 metre markings will be chalked on the path to help you stay a safe distance from others in the queue.
The welcomer will let people into the building in households/bubbles.
Face coverings will be required and you will be asked to sanitize your hands on arrival, then go immediately to a seat in church.
The seats in church will be arranged in ones and twos at 2m intervals from each other.
We ask you to go straight to a seat and to remain there for the duration of the service.
Gentle music will be playing to help you pray as you wait for the service to begin.
Windows and doors may be left open to allow some ventilation, so you may notice it is a little cooler than you expect.

During the service:

Single use service sheets will be placed on the pews and we ask you to take these home with you.
Due to aerosol spread, there will be no singing during the service.
We ask that when you are saying the responses that you speak quietly and prayerfully
- again to reduce risk of droplet spread.
When we share the peace, we cannot move from our places - we will simply wave or make a sign of peace to those in other households.
During Communion, only bread will be distributed. The priest will wash her hands before and after distribution. The bread will be brought to you at your seat.
If you do not want to receive communion for any reason, that is absolutely fine
- just hold your service sheet in front of you and the priest will pray a blessing instead.

After the service:

After the priest has processed out, the welcomer will ask people to leave a row at a time. Please wait for the welcomer to ask you to leave. Please take any orders of service home with you. Please do not stop to chat while leaving the building. Once out of the building you are welcome to talk in small groups of not more than 6 in the churchyard.
Please do not block other people's exit from the building and remember to stay 2m apart from people from other households.
If you test positive for coronavirus up to three weeks after the service, please let the office know.

PARISH ROUND-UP

DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES Ride and Stride day.
Sadly our Church was not open for this very worth while event.

JIMMY'S RIDE written by Charlie Lambert, who now lives and farms astride the Cruwys Morchard/ Witleigh border. An inspiration to all cycle riders. They raised over £40,000 for the Hospital.

Inspired by the excellent care given to an old soldier by Erskine Hospital, a group of Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, past and present, cycled 500 miles around the North Coast of Scotland, to raise much needed funds for that care to continue. With a total age of 450, the 8 man team endured storms, wind and rain to cycle clockwise from Inverness back to Inverness taking in some breath taking scenery, including the famous 2054 foot 1 in 5 climb up Bealach Na Ba. Following a route adapted for bicycles by Mark Beaumont, the world record holder for cycling around the world, the team camped on the route through Applecross,

Gruinard Bay, Clachtoll, Durness (where the entire school of 7 pupils turned out to cheer us on), Tongue and Lairg. The final section around the Black Isle was particularly memorable given the beautiful sunshine; half the journey with a tail wind aiding an average speed of over 20mph, then the second half with a head wind reducing progress to 9mph! But what a trip and what a worthy cause; Erskine Hospital - looking after nearly 1000 veterans a year, and for every single year since 1916 at a cost of £30,000 a year for one veteran. For more information, including Jimmy's BEM citation for courageous action under fire in Northern Ireland, search <https://jimmysride.org/>

Our love and prayers go to all who are not well at this time, and any one who is grieving.

LOXBEARE

It is good that children and young people are able to attend school, college and universities again and many people have gone back to work. We hope and pray this will continue and not be affected by the restrictions tightening again and that Church Services will still be able to be held.

We trust and pray that everyone is keeping safe and well and have been able to get out a bit more in the last few weeks. We are still very grateful for all who have and some who are still looking out for others and helping as and when needed, especially now if some will again not feel comfortable to go out shopping etc with more people testing positive.

At the time of writing we are enjoying a few days of lovely weather again before the Autumn really sets in.

On the 6 September, with a very limited number, a group Communion Service was held in the Church and we have also held one outdoor service with social distancing.

Church Services:
11 October Evening Praise at 3.00pm.
8 November Remembrance at 10.50am
15 November Holy Communion at 11.15am

The Annual Church meeting, postponed from earlier in the year is

now planned for 8 October, by telephone.

Anyone wishing to have a private prayer in the Church, contact Carol Radford on 01884 881480 so that she can open up and she will need to take names and addresses for Track and Trace.

We pray for those who have had operations that they will continue to improve everyday and also remember those who are feeling unwell, receiving treatment, or waiting for operations/appointments.

We wish a very Happy Birthday to Margaret Tidball who will be celebrating a special birthday in November and for all with birthdays in October and November. Also to those celebrating special occasions.

Many have been disappointed not to be able to celebrate as planned or hoped for but maybe in the not too distant future this will be able to take place with family and friends.

Our congratulations to Jean on the birth of a grandson, Freddie Thomas, born to Antonia and Ben Guscott. We send our best wishes to them all.

We have had three social events taken place outdoors with social distancing, inc. a car treasure hunt and BBQ, but further events will have to be put on hold for the time being.

So, let us continue to remember our frontline workers, especially the medical staff and carers and pray for their safety. May this current spike be short lived and we will once more be able to share and socialise with others again.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

OAKFORD

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Richard Stevens on 11 August at Castle Grove in Bampton. He farmed at Weston Farm moving there in 1965.

Richard was a conscientious member of the Oakford Parish Council for 40 years which he really enjoyed hardly ever missing a meeting. During most of those years he held responsibility for the maintenance of highways, roads and tracks and in recent times brought about the improvements to the B3227 between Woodburn Cross and Oakford.

Richard had many contacts and a great knowledge of the wider rural community enabling him to make an informed contribution to the Council. Although a quiet member at meetings, when he did speak it was always to offer a solid and considered opinion.

He will be remembered with gratitude for his service to our community. Richard leaves his wife of 56 years, Loraine, and their two sons Vaughan, who is a current member of the Council, and Gavin.

Steph held a service of Holy Communion at St Peter's on 23 August (pre-booked, masks worn and no singing!) however it was really good to be back inside our lovely church. The next one will be on 25 October with Jane Wilson officiating.

A Remembrance Day service will be held on 8 November at 10.50am.

The bells rang out on VJ Day thanks to John Phillips and Geoffrey Williams who

managed 75 rings between them. Reassuring to hear the bells once again.

Donald Shere has continued to maintain the church grounds during the summer and we thank him for that service.

At long last the collapsed wall on the eastern side of the graveyard has been rebuilt and is looking good. A special thanks goes to our church wardens, Wendy and especially Dawn, assisted by Geoffrey, who have overseen the safety and maintenance of the Church during this lockdown period.

The church bell fund is still active and we'd like to thank everyone who has deposited cans etc by the lychgate. The disposal of these generates a valuable source of income towards the fund.

The Moorland Club

Twenty two members of The Moorland Club met at The Bark House on 6 August to celebrate the 90th birthdays of Mary Summers and Brenda Howarth. Seated at socially distanced tables in the garden the ladies were served a delicious afternoon tea and the birthday 'girls' were presented with a lovely birthday cake made and decorated by Carla Bancroft.

There are some comings and goings in the village. Welcome to Patrick, Nadia and Sam at The Manor and Ben, Rosie and children at Bakery Cottage. Jennie and Paul Chappell are moving from Beacon Cottage to the outskirts of the village towards the end of October and Mr and Mrs Olive from Reading will be taking up residence. A warm welcome to all of them. We hope all of you will

find happiness in your new surroundings.

Autumn is a gloriously colourful season in our gardens and in the countryside so there are lots of opportunities to take some photos without travelling too far. Dawn is appealing for seasonal photos (rural scenes, Christmassy produce, favourite carols etc) so they can be posted on the Exe Valley Mission Community website for an online Christmas Extravaganza. Send to Dawn by first the week in December at dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com or 07733949295.

As we cope with more restrictions in our social lives and winter approaches we pray that everyone will keep safe, cheerful and positive.

RACKENFORD

To quote many we are living in unprecedented times and sadly Covid is still with us and no sign of it leaving us anytime soon.

We strive to keep ourselves safe with the help and support of our families and friends, not forgetting our kind volunteers at our shop.

A stay at home holiday in Rackenford seems a safe place to be.

Our schools, nurseries, colleges and universities have resumed even though it will not be quite as before. We hope and pray that it will be enjoyable, not forgetting for some it will be the first time which can be quite daunting, especially when moving away from home.

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Not being able to attend Church has resulted in big changes too but we endeavor to remain positive and encouraging, although of course sometimes it's harder said than done.

However progress in the form of Church Services taking place have been announced and will be taking place in various parishes.

You will need to be aware of the changes (see magazine notes, notices, Exe Valley Website, www.exevalleychurches.org .

Zoom service and conference calls are a great blessing to join in with if possible and has grown amazingly over the months for locals and further afield. So to have a choice now is progress. Our thanks to Steph and Robert for leading these services. Also available are Bible Study groups, coffee mornings, and film clubs, all virtual of course.

Our thoughts and prayers go to anyone who is or has been unwell, had or are facing operations or appointments.

Especially thinking of Daphne Weston, Richard Harris and Derek Herniman who has taken our Remembrance Service at The War Memorial for many years.

As always we continue to pray for our dear friend Jacques Cann and also for all those who care for others and all who mourn.

Some families have left Rackenford Marc, Tracey and extended family have moved to Willand. We welcome Amy, Matt and two daughters. A warm welcome also to Alan and Maria. We wish you all every happiness in your new homes.

By the time you read this all being well Jed will have finished redecorating parts of our Church which is a great achievement and much needed.

Apart from church Services where seats need to be pre-booked (details in magazine) our Church has to remain locked.

Church Services:
4 October Holy Communion at 11.15am

We need to remind people taking children to and fro school and those tending graves of loved ones to PLEASE shut the gates after you (see notice on gates) If it is left open stray dogs use it as a toilet which is not nice for anyone tending graves, visiting and the caretaker. Many thanks.

It is a pleasure to see and hear the children enjoying the new apparatus on the common, have fun and take care.

Belated congratulations to Ed and Kate on their wedding, we wish you every happiness.

Unfortunately due to Covid we have not been permitted to hold our annual fund raising events. However we are now able to do our Sponsored Walk again with LIMITED NUMBERS , which must be booked with Liz on 01884 881331.

She will give you all details but just to help it will be on Saturday October 10 , meeting promptly at 9.30am outside The Stag.

It's a 10 mile circular walk but shorter variations are available . Again contact Liz please .Bring a pack lunch with you.

We would like to thank all those who have kindly given donations to our church during this difficult time .

Take care everyone and keep safe . God Bless.

STOODLEIGH

Life has been quiet in Stoodleigh over the past few months. The one and only village social event since lockdown was a Coffee Morning held on August Bank Holiday Monday in aid of St Margaret's Church, kindly hosted by Jennifer Rowlandson in her garden at the Old Stable. Twenty-nine people attended (just within government guidelines) and almost £400 was raised for the Church by those attending and through donations. It was really enjoyable for everyone to meet up again in a socially distancing way on a gloriously warm morning within the shadow of the Church over Jennifer's garden wall. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and helped to make this such a morale-boosting and successful event.

On Sunday 13th September a group service was held in St Margaret's Church. It is hoped there will be other services to follow, including a Harvest Festival service at our Church on Sunday 4 October at 11.15 am.

Also, we will be marking Remembrance Day with a service on Sunday 8 November at 10.50am. Everyone is welcome to these services, although in the current situation places must be booked through Margaret Cuningham on 351252.

Sadly, other planned events have had to be cancelled but we hope for better news of future events in the next Magazine. Please visit www.exevalleymissioncommunity.org for up-to-date information on Church activities.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Plans and preparations are ongoing with a view to a phased re-opening of the Parish Hall. At the time of going to press, Covid-19 assessments and arrangements are continuing in order to meet guidelines and ensure the safety of users. The Management Committee hopes to be able to announce opening possibilities soon.

Geraldine Talbot keeps the Stoodleigh website up-to-date and please look at www.middevonparish.co.uk/stoodleigh to see the news from various groups and organizations.

A warm welcome to Stoodleigh to Sue and David and puppy Poppy at Meneghi and to Darren, Justine and Florence at Church Style. We hope you will all be very happy in your new Stoodleigh homes. We say farewell and good luck to Joyce and Michael Drown who after many years at Pond House have moved to Gittisham Hill Park, Honiton.

The Garden Club have continued to keep in touch with members via the regular email "Garden Chat". The Club organised a popular Virtual Annual Show with many villagers taking part. Laura Parkman was the overall winner, for the second year, and we send her our hearty congratulations. On 4 August volunteers joined together for some 'guerilla gardening' when they tackled clearance of Himalayan Balsam along The Drive, socially distancing while being sociable.

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the monthly 100 Club draw: April – 1st Jennifer Rowlandson, 2nd Alison Palfrey, 3rd Janet Russell, 4th Peter Ayre May – 1st Julian Earl, 2nd Susan Fowler, 3rd Vanessa Turner,

4th Roland Chant

The 100 Club will be suspended until Spring next year, when we will continue with the usual monthly draw prizes.

There is no current Church Flower Rota, although the Church will be decorated for our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 4 October. Our thanks go to Phyllis Hill for keeping the Church looking cheerful with her attractive floral displays.

TEMPLETON



The glorious days of summer are shortening as the nights start to draw in. Let's take the time to celebrate Autumn, 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. There is a lot of beauty in the world.

St Margaret's Church

St Margaret's Church, Templeton, is open by appointment for private prayer. People wishing to use the church should contact William (tel: 251513) or Reg (tel: 860246) and they will make sure the church is open for you and that it is cleaned after use.

On Sunday 30 August, Steph led a Holy Communion Service at St Margaret's Church, Templeton for the Exe Valley Mission Community, applying the two-metre distancing policy. It was an uplifting and well-attended service.

Our thanks go to Steph and Robert who continue to be supportive and imaginative with their weekly conference call and zoom services, coffee mornings, film clubs, and Bible readings.

Church Services:

1 November Holy Communion at 11.15am

Harvest Festival arrangements

Although there will not be a Harvest Festival at Templeton Church this year, we would like to collect provisions for those in need in our local community and also for Age UK's Haven Centre, where the staff really do appreciate the annual donations we provide for the meals. If you would like to contribute any packaged or fresh food, please could you leave it in the church porch on or before Saturday October 3rd, which would normally have been our annual Harvest Festival weekend.

Church Repairs – projects update

We would like to thank the Templeton village community for their kind donations in response to William Withers' letter, explaining the cost of the various projects awaiting attention. The PCC is now in a position to go ahead with the first phase of the extension of the churchyard, which currently has only one plot left. The church will continue to find extra funds to complete the project.

The other projects awaiting attention include work on the roof over the nave, as slates are slipping, removal of the carpet in the nave to expose the tiles and renovate them, improving the drainage around the tower and the repair of the stone plaque on the wall above the choir stalls. If you would like to make a one-off or regular contribution to the church expenses

OAKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

We are a small, friendly Parish council team and we are looking for a user-friendly person to join us! We are a parish of 320 residents and a precept of £5355.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

please get in touch with William
Tel: 251513, email: william@williamwithers.co.uk.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 1st October 2020. This meeting will be held via Zoom and we shall be able to let you know the passwords for the meeting nearer the time. At this meeting, the churchwardens will be nominated and elected for serving the next year, the PCC members will also be elected, and the electoral roll will be revised.

Village Hall and Social Club

Templeton Village Hall and Social Club has reopened for Social Club members' club nights on Monday and Saturday nights from 8.30pm with all the required protection with social distancing and cleaning, following Government guidelines. Many of these club nights have been well attended and welcomed by members. However, the 'Rule of Six' imposed on 14th September demanded the rearrangement of seating and tables to ensure that everyone is distanced and safe whilst allowing the enjoyment of safe socialising within the local community. Of course, any arrangements are subject to change, depending on the Government rulings.

Should anyone wish to book the village hall at any time for meetings, joining up with friends, or for clubs, providing there is a maximum number of six people, please contact Bindy, Bookings Clerk (tel 860655).

We are thinking about all those who are in hospital, unwell, or recovering from illness. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Flower/Cleaning Rota	
Phyllida Strong	Flowers/Cleaning
27 Sept – 4 Oct	
Lynda Newnes	Flowers/Cleaning
11 Oct – 18 Oct	
Julie Dent	Flowers/Cleaning
25 Oct – 1 Nov	
Gloria Woollacott	Remembrance Sunday
8 Nov – 15 Nov	
Julie Dent	Flowers/ Cleaning
22 Nov – 29 Nov	

WASHFIELD

Greetings to you all!

Life goes on in these uncertain times! The grass grows and the contented cows, who know nothing about pandemics, go on producing healthgiving milk and the crops have grown and are being harvested; but not without a great deal of hard work and anxiety from the farmers who have battled with extremes of weather, shut down of many aspects of marketing and an onslaught of regulations. We all appreciate all they are doing and the church is anxious to say "thank you".

A Harvest Thanksgiving for the Exe Valley took place in the beautiful churchyard at Calverleigh on September 13 and a 'socially distanced' congregation gave thanks and listened to all the traditional harvest hymns and sang silently to themselves! Did we realize before that this was possible!

It was very good to meet up with friends we hadn't seen for months and the Rector's talk focussed on 'all the good things around us' - and the sun shone! Garden harvests were sold and tinned food collected for CHAT.

St Mary's PCC are anxious to carry on our own Harvest Festival tradition, too. This will be in the Churchyard on September 27th. Look out for posters and information on the <exevalleychurches.org> website.

One of our farming families has been sadly bereaved recently and we all send our thoughts and prayers to Joe Elston and all his family on their great loss. Margaret will be sorely missed.

We continue to pray for those who are unwell and for those who are finding life difficult at present. If you need help it is always at hand in our close-knit community and from Steph. We are her 'flock'!

St Mary's has had its first Holy Communion Service since March and it was wonderful to have the church open and being used again. Our turn will come again in October which is good news indeed.

Church Services:

18 October Holy Communion at 11.15am

I'm so glad I live in a world where there is Autumn; it is a second spring when every leaf is a flower with hues and tones that imbibe my senses.

The day we woke to the news of Margaret Elston's death was a very sad one for many of Washfield's parishioners. Margaret of Hatherland Farm was, in her day, a driving force for good in the village and had a hand in many of the positive changes that the village has seen over the past 50 plus years.

She was actively (and practically) involved in the Hall's ongoing works, the Social Club's formation, was President of the W.I. for many years

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

and represented Washfield at The Albert Hall's national AGM and she proudly attended a Buckingham Palace garden party for her devotion to community adhesion.

She also organised many, many years of village coach holidays that took happy, Washfield travellers across Great Britain and Europe (including France, Germany, Switzerland and many more destinations).

Tales still abound between the travellers of the happy times they spent together on these holidays and, without them, many may not have travelled so extensively and visited so many wonderful places. We send Joe, Helen, David and Fred and their families our heartfelt condolences on their loss and assure them that Margaret will live on in our memories.

We send all those experiencing ill health, broken bones and treatments at the moment. Our good wishes and hopes are that these difficult times will soon pass and you can feel better than you do at the moment.

To all the children and young people who have started or changed schools or have gone into further education, our good luck wishes go with you.

Some in our midst have special birthdays and anniversaries in the coming months. We hope you are able to celebrate in some way.

We wish Roger and Liz Arnold many congratulations on the birth of their 8th grandchild. Connie Jackson (baby daughter of Rachel and John and baby sister to Rory) was born at the end of August. Special wishes to you all.

Washfield Social Club has been pleased to re-open on Tuesday evenings and is planning to continue this trend for the

foreseeable future with the appropriate social distancing measures in place. A massive thank you needs to be extended to the members of the committee who have work long and hard to enable this to happen. The club is open every Tuesday from 7pm – 10.30pm.

Look out for more news and updates about what's happening in the parish on the village website and Facebook page 'Humans of Washfield and Lower Washfield'.

WITHLEIGH

We do hope you are all remaining well during these difficult times. Just when we thought we were slowly coming out of lockdown, the virus strikes back!

At the time of writing, it looks as though Christmas celebrations will be on hold for this year. Normality, where have you gone?

The fate of our annual events and special services – Craft Fayre, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday – remains in doubt at this point in time. We will endeavour to keep you informed.

Our PCC decided in August that St Catherine's would remain closed for at least a further month, the situation to be further reviewed in mid-September. Having taken into account the concerns of the majority of our congregation, the PCC have resolved that our Church will remain closed for a further month, another review to take place on 14 October.

Church Service:
8 November Remembrance 10.55am followed by Holy Communion.

Our postponed Annual Church meetings are due to take place on 2 October, but with the further government restrictions effective from mid-September, it is likely that these will have to be 'virtual meetings'.

Meanwhile, we continue, as far as possible, to keep in touch by telephone or e-mail.

Our grateful thanks go to Susie for organising an informal get-together in Cathy's field on 31 July. Despite social distancing, the occasion provided a welcome and enjoyable break from the isolation we are all experiencing, a chance to meet up again after so long. Thank you, Susie, for your input, and also Cathy for use of your field.

Members of the W.I. have also managed to meet together each month in members' gardens, on one occasion in the rain, with the picnic tea eaten under umbrellas! On Thursday 10 September ten members met, with safe distancing, on the veranda at our President's home. We all brought our own drink and food but were treated to chocolate teddy bear birthday cake to celebrate Pauline's birthday. There was no speaker but just to be together and be able to chat was a great tonic. Happily we were joined by Sara who is making a gradual recovery from her recent illness.

Congratulations to any who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving recovering from operations, or who are not well at the moment and, to everyone, once again, stay safe and take care.

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Gloria Daniel

Like many of us during lockdown, Gloria had more time on her hands. Prompted by events in America and in Bristol she started to research her family tree, which led her to Bristol and to the Exe Valley. It has been a great privilege to welcome Gloria and to hear some of her story - Steph

I would like to start this article by saying thank you, to Steph and her amazing team of church wardens in Stoodleigh and Oakford. To Chris, Margaret and Dawn, thank you for sharing your local history with me.

I came to the South West and the Exe Valley searching for the history of Thomas Daniel and his sons (also called Thomas Daniel) These men enriched themselves and their families on the stolen labour and trafficking of 3900 men, women and children including my great, great grandfather, John Isaac.

To the memory of Thomas Daniel and his family, I found:
Alabaster commemorations and the West Rose window in Bristol Cathedral.
Four stained glass windows and a grade two listed family plot in St Margaret's, Stoodleigh. Stockland, Somerset revealed the church of St Mary Magdalene, rebuilt by the Rev Henry Arthur Daniel.
St Mary the Virgin in Henbury, Gloucestershire was the final resting place of Thomas Daniel, so called 'King of Bristol'.

Lastly, St Peter's of Oakford housed a 1940 memorial plaque to Mary Francis Daniel, the youngest daughter of Thomas Daniel Daniel and 3 unattended headstones to the last known members of this family in these parts.

I was astonished at all the memorials to these men in the house of God. I thought of the gospels relating the narrative of The Cleansing of the Temple by Jesus when he expelled with fury the merchants and the money changers.

My research has shown me that Thomas Daniel was indeed a money lender as well as a financier and ship owner to those who would profit in the most immoral of trades.

So much history has been generously shared with me by Steph and the church wardens and I am humbled and grateful at the kindness of complete strangers.

Gloria Daniel
17 September 2020

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A Brief History of the Daniel family - Chris Whitehead

In 1833 slavery was abolished in the British Empire, but the price of getting the bill through Parliament was compensation to the owners of slaves for the loss of their property.

Thomas Daniel (1762-1854) was born in Barbados to a family which owned many plantations in the West Indies. They grew sugar cane, processed it and shipped the product to Bristol for sale there.

He, his father, and his brother John moved to Bristol and continued the family business. He married into another merchant family and had at least ten children all born in Henbury (Gloucs) which is also where his father is buried.

When slavery was abolished, he owned 3900 slaves working on the sugar plantations and so he received a great deal of money in compensation - in today's terms it would be millions.

Around 1836 he bought a number of English estates including Stoodleigh. These property purchases may have been a way of investing the compensation money.

One of his heirs was his son, Thomas (1798-1872) who lived for much of his life at Westbury-on-Trym (Somerset) (most of his children were baptised there), but is buried in Stoodleigh. He had a son Thomas Daniel Daniel (1823-1862) who married into the Carew family, lived in Stuckeridge house, and had four children but died before his father.

It was the son of Thomas Daniel Daniel – Thomas Carew Daniel (1848-1923) – who inherited the Stoodleigh estate. When his grandfather died he relinquished his army commission, returned to Devon and married. He seems to have thrown himself into all those activities which were considered proper for a landowner. He sat as a magistrate, entered local horticultural shows and was Sheriff of Devonshire for several years. He also spent a considerable amount of money on improvement of the estate. A block of cottages next to the New Inn was demolished and several new cottages built. He enlarged St Margaret's church and built Stoodleigh Court, but never moved in. Instead he lived at Stuckeridge and is buried in Oakford churchyard. There were no children from his marriage; I think the last remaining relative in the area was his sister Mary, who died in 1940. *Please see the article written by Gloria Daniel on page 18.*



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