

TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

February / March 2013

Price 40p

ARE CHRISTIANS CALLED TO BE TOLERANT?

As the church in our land experiences growing levels of internal division and external conflict, we are frequently urged to be tolerant. A recent article in a national newspaper insisted that tolerance was at the heart of the Christian creed. This idea is so widely repeated that it is generally taken for granted, but a few moments of reflection reveal that it is nonsense.

'Tolerance' cannot be a good thing in and of itself, because it all depends what you are willing to tolerate. It is certainly not virtuous to tolerate evil or injustice. No-one in their right mind would suggest that it is a good thing to tolerate child abuse. Evil must be confronted and challenged, never tolerated. Of course, there are some matters about which we must be highly tolerant, but sometimes it is good and right to be very intolerant!

Followers of Jesus have a much higher calling than tolerance. The Bible does not call us to tolerate our neighbours or tolerate our enemies, but to love them. The difference between tolerance and love is that tolerance is

passive whereas true love must always be active.

Tolerance simply says 'Live and let live' – 'You go your way and I'll go my way'. But love actively seeks what is best for other people, and it does so in a way that is costly and sacrificial. Love puts itself out in order to put other people first. The Lord Jesus said, "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15v13).

This kind of radical love will sometimes make us unpopular. To speak out against evil and to stand up for God's ways are some of the most loving things we can ever do, but they do not always lead to popularity (as many of the Old Testament prophets learned to their cost).

The Lord Jesus is the most loving and compassionate person ever to set foot on planet earth, yet he was ready to challenge vigorously those who rejected God's ways. His intolerance of hypocrisy and wickedness did not make him popular, but his call to repentance arose from his deep love and compassion for other people.

Those who follow him and the church which bears his name are therefore not called to cheap tolerance but to costly love.

Steve

TIME FOR CHANGE....

Many of you will already have heard that Bishop Michael has announced his retirement as of 1st July, by when he will have completed 40 years in Holy Orders, ministering for half of that time as a Bishop. He wrote at the beginning of January:

"During the 13 years that I have had the privilege of serving as Bishop of Exeter I have grown to love this county and its people deeply. Although 2012 has been a challenging year, as have many others before it, I hope that I leave the Church of England in Devon in good heart. We have recently seen growth in the number of vocations to authorised ministry, positive indications in terms of the numbers of those who worship with us and cause for optimism in the financial contributions we receive. For

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

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all of these, I am enormously grateful for your support and the depth of your commitment to growing God's Kingdom.

I will be working as usual until the end of April and I would very much appreciate it if all parish visits until that point could carry on as normal without undue reference to my departure! I will then spend May and June preparing to leave and saying farewell. My final diocesan service will be on St Peter's Day, 29th June, when there will be a Farewell Service in the Cathedral. I very much want it to be 'service as normal' until after Easter."

EDITORIAL - TIME FOR ANOTHER CHANGE....

When we took on the role of administrators, Elizabeth and I intended that it should be for the duration of the vacancy following Godfrey's retirement, and a year into the new incumbency to give the new rector a chance to settle in – about two years in total. That was 3½ years ago!

We both now feel the time has come to stand down, and our intention, that we would do so at the end of this year, was announced at the last churchwardens' council meeting. The churchwardens will be considering at future meetings how administration will be covered, but it is the production of this magazine which may turn out to be the major issue.

When we took over as editors, the actual laying out of the magazine was being done by others, who then decided to pull out. This meant that we had to source suitable software, and learn how to use it before the next issue was due to be put together! The fact that this was

achieved within six weeks is evidence that the software is user-friendly.

For TODAY to continue beyond the end of 2013, we need somebody, who is willing and able to spare about four days every other month, to take on the editorship. If you are computer literate, and are familiar with Microsoft Word, the publisher software will cause you few problems. It would be helpful if somebody could volunteer early, so that there is time for explaining how the system works, from receipt of copy to the printed document and distribution.

Please don't assume somebody else will volunteer, or is more capable; a willing volunteer is worth more than a thousand pressed men (and they wouldn't all get round a keyboard either!). If you are prepared to help out, please let us know – by phone or e-mail.

Paul



EXE VALLEY TODDLERS

Exe Valley Toddlers meets every Friday in term-time at Calverleigh Village Hall from 10am – 12pm. It has been running for just over 2 years. We get about 15 - 20 children a week aged 0 - 4 and their Mums, Dads or grandparents! Some of the families are from our parishes, some from Tiverton, and some from further afield.

Each week we have toys, craft, snacks (for children and parents!), stories and songs. Recently, we enjoyed our Christmas party. Father Christmas visited, and gave every child some books, and the children also enjoyed party food, games and a bouncy castle.

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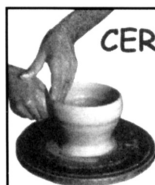
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We were sad this Christmas to lose Julie Goldsworthy, who has been instrumental in the running of the group. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her the best in her new work. We rely on parents and volunteers to help organise the group, so if you're free on Friday mornings and want to help out (with snacks, craft, setting up etc.) please do get in touch with me.

We're also always on the lookout for new equipment, so if you're getting rid of any baby or toddler things, we'd love to hear from you.

Coming up on the 9th February is our Coffee Morning to raise funds (See advert for details). We'll have drinks and cakes to enjoy while you browse the stalls. There will be cakes and produce, toys, new and second hand items. Please come along to support us, and enjoy yourself! If you have any items you'd like to donate, they can be handed in at Toddler Group on the 8th February, or contact me to arrange a time.

Alison Brewis
01398 351552

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS RING....

with the help of a sheep, a cow and a donkey !

The Rackenford School nativity play was heralded this year by bell ringing. Of course, by this year, we now mean last year, but it is still worth recording because it was a rather extraordinary event. What made it notable was that the bells were rung by four angels, a sheep, a cow and a donkey! - with a few rather plain humans to lend a hand.

This was the culmination of an exciting project which ran throughout the autumn term. The Cruwys Morchard Bell-ringers taught a group of children every Tuesday lunchtime, and were very impressed with the progress they



made. Some only started at half term

MESSIAH

Saturday 23rd March, 2013
St Peter's Church
OAKFORD

We are planning to hold a performance of the 'Messiah from Scratch' in Oakford Church on Saturday 23 March 2013 along similar lines as that which was held at Oakford in 1999 to commemorate the millennium.

Andrew Daldorph, who is the Director of Music for the East Devon Choral society, has very kindly agreed to direct the performance and invite the soloists and organist.

The aim is to hold an enjoyable event hosted by the Exe Valley Mission Community for all those who would like to come and sing or listen to this marvellous music.

Please put the date in your diary and publicise the event.

The 'Chorus' will practice from 2 to 5.30pm and a finger supper will be provided for them in the Oakford village hall before the performance which will start at 7pm on Saturday 23rd March 2013.

The costs will be £10 for both members of the chorus and audience and the proceeds will be shared between the Devon Historic Churches and a local charity which has yet to be decided.

Please publicise this event within your parish and come and have an enjoyable evening. In 1999 we had about 80 in the Chorus and over 100 in the audience. Details for the application for tickets will be published in the January edition of 'Today'.

If you have not already expressed an interest in coming please contact Roland Notley by e-mail on rolandnotley@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone 01363 866864 and you will be put on the mailing list.



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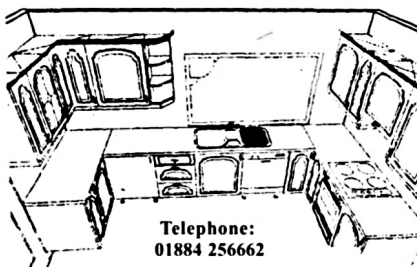
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and were only eight years old but, despite their small size, they were not lacking in enthusiasm and ability, and we all had great fun.

There is now a regular Wednesday evening practice at Rackenford church for adults and children, and anyone from 8 to 80, who would like to join in, is welcome. Contact Nellie on 01363 866243.

ANN'S NATURE NOTES

Now we are in the bleak midwinter, there is still a lot to see, and if the weather is dry and sunny it is a joy to be out. There will be no butterflies; they have mostly emigrated. The lovely Painted Lady has gone to Africa. It has always been a bit of a mystery as to where and when they go, but now research has shown that they fly very high at over 500metres and at speeds of up to 50kph. The extraordinary thing is that they have found that they do the 9,000 mile round trip in steps, and by successive generations, so the butterfly which returns in the summer may be 6 generations removed from the one that left. They are indeed sophisticated as well as being very beautiful.

This is the time to see our winter visiting birds. There are of course ducks, geese, and waders on the water or near it, but in our gardens there are the winter Thrushes. The Redwings are small with an eye stripe, and reddish orange under their wings. They actually breed in either Iceland or Scandinavia, and come to us to escape the cold. If it is too cold here they go further south to France. The Fieldfare is much bigger and greyer with a dark tail. They do tend to go round in flocks. They breed in Scandinavia and Russia. Both like apples so if it is cold, put some cut up in your garden.

The Snowdrops are showing and starting to flower, as are the yellow Aconites and the Cyclamen under the trees. Both are harbingers of spring and of warmer times. I love the start of spring when the bulbs are starting to show, and the weather warms and things start to dry out, and walking without sinking into the mud. One of my favourite places to visit is Isley Marsh near Bideford. There you will see

many ducks and waders. If you are lucky, Spoonbills have been there for some time now.

Ann

Calverleigh

A very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year to you all. Let us hope we have a drier, sunnier and warmer 2013. Last year we saw a wonderful Diamond Jubilee and a successful Olympic games in this country, but our weather was dreadful for a great part of the year.

Our farming community has had a very difficult time, gathering the crops and now some stock have developed the Schmollenberg virus.

A belated congratulations to Geoffrey and Lorna Thomas on their Ruby Wedding. We are sure you had a good party with all your family and friends.

Our Remembrance Service on November 11th was led by Steve, and the service opened with a two minute silence.

We give a warm welcome to Richard and Michelle Mummery and family to Calverleigh Mill. We hope that you will be very happy here with us in Calverleigh.

Once again we had a very successful Autumn Fayre. Thank you to everyone who made it such a success; stallholders, those who prepared the hall and cleared up, and of course you, our customers who supported us once again. The kitchen helpers were kept very busy preparing snacks, drinks and delicious homemade soup. We made just over £1,000 for our Church funds.

We held a Group Service of Thanksgiving, led by Steve, on 25th November. There was very good attendance at this service from some of the Parishes, by many people who had lost family members and friends in past years, or more recently. Steve read out the names of those whom

we were remembering. It was a very memorable service. Well Done Steve.

Girl Guides

On Thursday 29th November, Tiverton and District Girl-guiding held a Christingle service in the Church. Rev'd Steve Goodbody welcomed about 180 to the service, half of whom were children. Guider Tasha Goldsworthy led the service in the absence of her sister, Nikki Burton, who did much of the organising of the evening. A Nativity scene was created during the singing of the carols, when some of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides brought their pictures forward. Chimes were played, children and adults sang loudly, Christingles were handed out, all of which added to a special evening. Thanks to Myrtle Webber for playing the organ for us.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs Mary Green from Hill View. She had been ill for quite a while, and we send our love and prayers to all the family. The cremation took place at Exeter on 20th November, her ashes will be interred in our churchyard at a later date.

Calverleigh Village Committee held a very successful Quiz Night on 30th November. It was a full house!

Our Christingle service this year was led by Nikki. It was a lovely service, especially when all the Christingles were lit on a very dull and dismal afternoon. Many thanks again to Doreen Venn for the gift of the Christingles.

The Toddler group held their Christmas party in the village hall, where they had a visit from Father Christmas. It was a little sad, as Julie Goldsworthy left the toddler group that day. Thank you Julie for all your assistance and time you have given to running the group.

We wish to say a big thank you to Nikki and David for all their hard work and devotion to the Youth Group. What would we do without you? Keep it up!

Our Carol Service this year was extra special. We had a full Church with many

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extra seats installed, over 130 people attended. The carols were well sung, and thank you to Steve for leading the service and thank you to all the readers. At the start of the service, Harry John Veysey was welcomed into the church at his baptism by Steve. Harry is the son of Simon and Louise Veysey, and is a Great Grandson to Derek and Mary Herniman. Mince pies, tea and coffee followed the service.

Christmas morning communion was well attended, and the service was led by Rob. Thank you, Rob.

Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singers did the rounds of the villages over three nights. They had damp conditions this year, not the snow and ice they experienced the last two years. They raised a magnificent total of £642 which will be divided between CHAT and Chernobyl children. Many thanks to those who provided supper on the three nights, and thank you for the snacks along the way.

We send our sympathy to Graham and Paula Webber on the death of Paula's Mum, Yvonne Henson. Our thoughts are with all the family. We also send our sympathy to the Ayre family, of Coombe Hayes, Calverleigh on the death of Joan Ayre. Joan had been in a nursing home for a few years. Her funeral took place at Withleigh.

We are hoping to progress with repairs to the Church roof by early summer, but there is still fundraising to do to raise more money for this project.

The Church is
a hospital for sinners,
not a club for saints.

Cruwys Morchard

In November, we held our annual Christmas Craft Fayre. It was a very busy morning with people popping in to look for presents and ideas for Christmas, of which the craft stalls provided plenty of variety from Christmas reindeers to furniture. Thank you to all who helped to organise this

general repairs. We hope to see the bells return to church early in the New Year

On Sunday 16th of December, we held the first of our well attended Carol services, with nine readings and Carols. Members of the congregation read the readings and the choir led the singing of Carols. On the 23rd of December, we held a more informal Christingle and Carol service, with children dressing up to perform a simple Nativity play. It was great to have so many willing children who joined in with great enthusiasm. Cruwys Morchard young farmers read a reading and led us in prayers and the choir led the singing. Thank you to all who helped in any way with this service, making Christingles and giving out refreshments after the service. On behalf of CHAT, can I thank all of you who brought gifts for the homeless people that CHAT help in our area, not just at Christmas but throughout the whole year.

Note from Thomas Carter, son of Jim and Julie Carter: Having been extremely lucky to get my very own ballot place into the London Marathon this April, I have chosen to run for a very good cause in the Backup Trust. The Backup Trust supports people who have suffered a spinal cord injury. This can be a devastating time, but it shouldn't prevent anyone from getting the most out of life. Their services include mentoring, wheelchair skills training and activity courses as well as support in getting back to work or school after an injury. All the services help to build confidence and independence.

Hopefully I will see lots of you cheering me along on the big day. I will be doing my best to beat my four hour target! If you would like any further information

Exe Valley Toddler Group

COFFEE MORNING

on

Saturday 9th February, 2012

10-12 am

at

Calverleigh Village Hall

Please do join us for refreshments,
cakes and produce stall, toys,
books, new and good second hand items.

If you have any items you would like to
donate they can be handed in at
Toddler group on Friday 8th February.

event, Teresa, Liz, Carol and Mary, and to all who helped on the day. A big thank you to those who provided cakes and delicious soup. May we also thank all those stall-holders for supporting the craft fayre with their goods, and to all those who came to support us on the day. The craft fayre raised £714.00.

Thank you to all who helped make the church look good for Christmas and keep it looking good throughout the year. Thank you to all those who clean, arrange flowers, light the fire, cut grass and maintain the churchyard and do

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We send our prayers and good wishes to all those who have had operations or are unwell, and wish you a speedy recovery.

If you have any news which you would like to appear in the magazine, please contact Teresa Grant on 01363 860124 or email Tesstranscripts@aol.com.

The new parish website is up and running and can be found at www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk.

Forthcoming Events:

Ladies Committee –Tuesday 5th February at Old Winesland Pennymoor

PCC meeting –Tuesday 19th February at Wringsland House

Church Annual meeting – Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm at church, This meeting is open to all who live in the parish of Cruwys Morchard or who are on the Church electoral roll. Please come along and have a say as to what you would like to see in our church. This year the church electoral roll is to be revised and those who are already on the roll will receive details about this. If you would like to join the church electoral roll please contact Cindy who can give you the forms.

Bingo Saturday 30th March - Pink Bingo. Half the profit is for breast cancer care.

Flower and Cleaning Rota :

February 4th and 11th - Sonia Notley
February 18th and 25th - Denyse Standen - Lent no flowers
March 4th and 11th - Lorna Warren - Lent no flowers
March 18th Marilyn Hill - Lent – No Flowers
March 25th - Decorators for Easter

Stove rota :

February - Mr D. Edmonds
March - Mr J. Lake

Please light the church stove on Saturday (Morning if possible). If you are unable to, please contact:
Cindy - Tel: 01363 866621
or Diana - Tel: 01363 860227

Loxbeare

We start with a Happy New Year to everyone and trust you all experienced the wonder of Christmastime as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Here in Loxbeare we began the Christmas celebrations with our Christingle Service on November 18th with breakfast in the Village Hall followed by the service led by John with Dr Douglas Fishlock being the speaker. The children distributed the Christingles to all present, having been reminded of their meaning. Thank you, to all who helped in any way.

It was good to see so many at the Carol Service on the 23rd December at 6.30pm, taken by Rob, with many villagers reading lessons, and a good number of familiar carols being sung. The children were led in, singing 'Away in a Manger'. Presents were taken to the front during the first hymn, later distributed to residents at Pinnex Moor. Mince pies and coffee / tea were served in the Village Hall after the service. The offering of just over £100 was donated to Vbranch House. A few of us sang to the residents of Pinnex Moor / Ashdown in the afternoon which was appreciated by many of the residents.

The Christmas Day Service with Family Communion was taken by Steve at 10.30am, and it was good to see so many in Church.

The Carol Singers covered Loxbeare &

Calverleigh homes during the 3 nights of 20th, 22nd & 24th. A wonderful total of approx £643.00 was collected, to be divided between the Children of Chernobyl and CHAT. A big thank-you to everyone who sang, provided supper on the three nights, and to all who gave so generously.

A good number attended the Group Service held at Loxbeare on 30th December at 10.30am, which was taken by John.

On December 9th Aaron & Sarah Beecher, missionaries in Mozambique, shared their work with a short film and a very encouraging message. A donation of £174.50 was given to them for their ongoing ministry.

Mothering Sunday Service is on March 10th at 11.00am. Do come and join us.

Our love, thoughts & prayers are with Margery Mildon at this difficult time. At the time of writing Colin is very ill, and we pray God's love and comfort over them. Margery wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness shown to them. Our thoughts are with Gerald Heywood who at the time of writing is going into hospital for major surgery. We pray for a successful operation and a speedy recovery. We continue to pray for Chris and all who are feeling unwell or recovering from illness at this time.

Congratulations to Richard Vickery on becoming a Grandad. A daughter for Martin & Michelle, Georgia Jennifer born at 1.15am on the 1st January becoming, the first baby to be born in 2013 at the hospital!

Congratulations too to anyone with birthdays or special occasions in Feb/March.

The Women's Bible Group enjoyed a tea & browse in New Creation in December, and are continuing the series of Bible Studies 'Discipleship Explored' course.



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NEW CREATION NEWS

We hope you missed New Creation News in January!
So we will start by wishing you all a Happy New Year.

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12th FEBRUARY – Shrove Tuesday the beginning of
LENT

this seems a strange word to explore a gift from God so freely given.
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and resources for personal and family use to take us through this
special time in the Christian Calendar.

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For more details contact Marion Roberts on 01884 256302 or Alison Brewis on 01398 351552.

There will be a Village Party in the Village Hall on January 26th at 7.00pm. For more details phone Ron on 01884 881362.

Thanks to those who provided material, their time & effort into completing the

concreting by the Village Hall, and any other work during the year.

Loxbeare Ladies: A Christmas Fayre held at the beginning of December raised a total of £280. Thanks to all who contributed or helped in any way towards the success of the morning. Also in December the Ladies, husbands & friends enjoyed their Christmas meal at the Rose & Crown. Thank you, Sue for organising the evening. At the time of writing, dates & venues for 2013 are

PARISH ROUND-UP

yet to be decided. Contact Sue on 01884 259496.

The Christmas bingo raised just over £100 for village hall funds, and Carol wishes to thank all involved in the evening.

On the 23rd February a Roclette evening is being organised in the Village Hall. For tickets and more information contact Jenny or Jean.

Forward Date: Maurice and Marlene Taylor are planning a charity sale & coffee morning on the 20th April in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance & a Cancer Charity. More details in the next magazine.

Oakford

As we move into the new year, and Christmas seems sometime ago, it is good to look back and remember the things we enjoyed. The church, which looked lovely with the lighted candles and all the windows and the Christmas tree beautifully decorated, was full for the carol service on December 16th. The service started with Dawn singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', the choir then joined in and the congregation. The choir sang three carols during the service, the 'Candlelight Carol' being particularly enjoyable. Our grateful thanks to Sarah for her musical directing, and to Cilla for playing the organ, not forgetting all the hard work put in by the choir. The children sang 'Away in a Manger' accompanied by Sarah playing the guitar. Our thanks to Pauline who played for the rest of the service. Afterwards everyone enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a lovely occasion. We were able to send £157 for the Children's Society. Carol

Continued on Page 10 ➡

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(Tel. 01884-253473)

MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES, etc

Group Service

Sunday 3rd March, 10.30am at
Templeton

Mission Community Home-groups

(at Withleigh Rectory
& Stoodleigh Vicarage)

6th February

MISSION COMMUNITY LENT COURSE

13th February - Ash Wednesday
Communion Service

20th and 27th February, 6th, 13th
& 20th March - **Life of Jesus** -
who He is and why He matters

28th March - Mission
Community Agape Meal

OAKFORD

3rd February

9.30 am Holy Communion

10th February

9.30 am Morning Prayer

17th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

24th February

9.30 am Family Service

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

9.30 am Family Service

17th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

24th March

9.30 am Morning Prayer

31st March

9.30 am Holy Communion

RACKENFORD

3rd February

11.15 am Morning Worship

10th February

11.15 am Holy Communion

17th February

11.15 am Family Service

24th February

9.30 am Morning Prayer

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

11.15 am Family Service

17th March

11.15 am Morning Worship

24th March

9.30 am Morning Prayer

31st March

11.15 am Holy Communion

STOODLEIGH

3rd February

11 am Family Service
& Holy Communion

10th February

11 am Morning Prayer

17th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

24th February

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

11 am Family Service
& Holy Communion

17th March

11 am Morning Prayer

24th March

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

31st March

11 am Holy Communion

CALVERLEIGH

3rd February

11.15 am Morning Worship

10th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

17th February

11.15 am Family Service

24th February

3 pm Evening Prayer

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

11.15 am Family Service

17th March

11.15 am Morning Worship

24th March

3 pm Evening Prayer

31st March

9.30 am Holy Communion

CRUWYS MORCHARD

3rd February

11 am Morning Prayer

10th February

11 am Family Service

17th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

24th February

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

9.30 am Family Service

17th March

11 am Morning Prayer

24th March

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

31st March

11 am Holy Communion

LOXBEARE

3rd February

9.30 am Family Communion

10th February

11 am Family Service

17th February

6.30 pm Evening Praise

24th February

11 am Family Service

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

11 am Family Service

17th March

6.30 pm Evening Praise

24th March

11 am Family Service

31st March

11 am Family Communion

Sunday School at Family services

TEMPLETON

3rd February

Join with Withleigh

10th February

No Service

17th February

11 am Family Service

24th February

11 am Holy Communion

3rd March

10.30 am Group Service

10th March

11 am Family Service

17th March

No Service

24th March

11 am Morning Prayer

31st March

9.30 am Holy Communion

WASHFIELD

3rd February

3 pm Evening Prayer

10th February

11 am Morning Prayer

17th February

11 am Family Service

24th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

11 am Family Service

17th March

3 pm Evening Prayer

24th March

11 am Morning Prayer

31st March

9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

WITHLEIGH

3rd February

11 am Family Service

10th February

9.30 am Morning Worship

17th February

11 am Holy Communion
by Extension

24th February

11 am Morning Worship

3rd March

See Templeton

10th March

11 am Family Service

17th March

11 am Morning Worship

24th March

11 am Morning Worship

31st March

8.30 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Service

PARISH ROUND-UP

singing in the village turned out to be singing in the rain! Our thanks to Kelvin and Chris for inviting us all for mulled wine afterwards. Our thanks to Bun and Brenda who provided the Christmas trees for the church and the village as they have done for many years, and also to Graham Fennell who played the organ for the Midnight service. We now look forward to Easter, and hope that the weather will be kinder to us this year.

It is with great sadness we record the passing of Joe Reed. Joe was a well-known figure in the village, keen on local quizzes, and a great cricket buff. We send our sympathy and condolences to his brothers John, Gordon and George and family.

On a happier note we send our congratulations to George and Mary Reed on the birth of their second grandchild, Edward.

Village Events

Oakford Village Annual Pancake Race
Saturday Feb 16th 1030a.m. Village centre. Look out for posters for details.

Murder Mystery Party - 'Death at the Double D Ranch'

29th/30th March 7.30.p.m. Oakford Village Hall Tickets £10 incl. supper.
Licensed bar. Tel. Dawn 324035 or Carla 351609

Moorland Club

Thurs Feb 14th **Open Evening** 'Winging it' - speaker Steve Hall.

Thurs March 14th Moorland Club Ladies Entertain.

Thurs April 11th A.G.M Please give some thought to being on the Committee and some new ideas to put forward.

Oakford Village Fete (from Kelvin)

The annual fete missed a year in 2012 because of the Jubilee celebrations, but we are looking to put it back in for 2013. As always, we need lots of ideas and help on the actual day, so if you would like to be involved, please come to a meeting on Thursday February 7th at 7.30p.m. in the Village hall. Everyone very welcome! If you can't make the meeting, but want to help, please call Kelvin Holdom on 01398 351573.

(S) Oakford Rainfall 2012 for High Bolham amounts to 70 (that's seventy!) inches. No wonder everywhere is so wet.

Rackenford

It is hard to believe that Christmas is over again. We hope you had a nice day and we wish you health and happiness in the New Year.

Very belated congratulations to Brian and Sylvia Muchmore, who last year celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Our Remembrance service was well attended, and £201 in collection has been given to The Royal British Legion. Thank you once again to Derek Herniman for taking this service for us, and for all the detail and thoughtfulness that went into it. It is very important for us all to come together to remember those lost in past wars, and also wars in which we are currently involved. Richard Harris kindly laid the wreath, and Cyril Blackford provided the music. Many thanks to you all.

Sadly in November we heard of the death of Margaret Leigh. Many years ago Margie and husband, John, used to live at "Crossways" bungalow, and enjoyed many years amongst us. We send our deepest sympathy to all the family.

We would also like to send our thoughts and prayers to Paul Henson and family on the death of his wife, Yvonne. Some of us will remember that Paul used to be our auctioneer for harvest festivals a few years ago. You are all in our thoughts at this sad and difficult time.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to decorate our church ready for Christmas, and to Tim and Liz Paxton for the tree. The church looked beautiful, a perfect setting for the Rackenford School's play on December 20th. This year's production was "Hosanna Rock", and it was so well done, the children looking amazing in their beautiful costumes. They sang with such enthusiasm - a treat for us all. It was wonderful to hear the bells being rung by the children (accompanied by their bell ringing teachers). Prayers were led by Rev. Rob Brewis. A big thank you to Graham Fennell for standing in at the last moment to play the organ.

We would like to give a very warm welcome to Mr & Mrs Webber who have moved into Meadow View, and also to Mr & Mrs Blackburn and family who have bought Tiddyport. We hope you will all enjoy village life with us.

However we are sad to say goodbye to Richard Lewis who has always been so involved in village events whether it be

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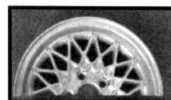


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PARISH ROUND-UP

for the shop, school, church, or anything that is asked of him. We appreciate all you have done and we certainly hope you will not be a stranger. Hope you will be happy in your new home.

Our Christmas Eve carol service and Holy Communion saw our church full, as family and friends gathered to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Members of the congregation read lessons, and it was also good to hear our choir in fine voice and, once again, thank you to Graham Fennel at the organ. Once again it was so lovely to hear the bells being rung which added another festive touch to the service. Rev. Rob Brewis took the service.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Christingles for the service before Christmas. It was good to see some fresh little faces joining the service; we hope you enjoyed it and thank you for passing out the Christingles. Many thanks to Graham Fennel and to Rev. John Roberts.

Congratulations to Megan Isaacs who has passed her Grade 7 Piano exam, and also Grade 5 Saxophone with distinction. Very well done Megan.

We continue to pray and remember all those amongst us who are in poor health - Bob Mogridge, Jane McCloud, Muriel Blinman; we hope your health will improve this year. We also think of Percy Stone, Ken Blackford, Joan Clark, Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline, and the sad times that people are experiencing, the lonely, worried and depressed.

If you have any items that you think should be mentioned in the magazine,

please get in touch. Sorry if anything has been missed this time.

Stoodleigh

The funeral service for Edward Hill should not go unrecorded. It was no small measure of the man that the church was completely full. Family, friends, relatives, neighbours, nearly 200 in all, had gathered to say farewell to a man who was so modest and unassuming.

His cousin Roger gave a memorable eulogy from which all those present learned of the many different facets of the man they thought they had known. His untiring work for the church has already been recorded in the last issue of *Today*. Edward was a craftsman, a man of the countryside, and always "ploughed a straight furrow".

This sombre occasion was also, like others before it, inspiring and thought-provoking. It seemed to say a lot about the role of the Church in the local community.

The Carol Service on December 23rd started earlier than usual, at 6pm, and this seemed to be popular as the church was full and there were a number of children present. Steve Goodbody took the service and Jennifer Rowlandson produced a magnificent choir of 17 to lead the singing. Jean Brewer sang the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* and her son Mark was the tenor soloist in *The Three Kings*. Martin Kent and Jennifer were the soloists in Harold Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter*. There were readings by David Wotton Snr and

Audrey Rigg and it was lovely to have some younger members of the village reading the lessons. Audrey stage-managed a group of eight very young actors (aged three to seven) in a simple but telling story of the Nativity, after which Nicola Palfrey played *Away in a Manger* on her clarinet. The church was beautifully and imaginatively decorated and the whole service was a wonderful start to Christmas.

The annual churchyard 'clear-up' held on December 1st proved very worthwhile, thanks to all those who willingly volunteered and worked so hard.

The Christmas Fayre continued to excel with its show of genuinely made Stoodleigh products, and attracted many people, resulting in the highest income yet, of just over £1,000. More importantly it was a very happy festive occasion, bringing the community together. Great thanks must be given to the many people who supported, contributed and helped in innumerable ways.

On Christmas Day the Rev'd Ken Blythe conducted the well attended morning service of Family Communion, for which we thank him.

A Soup Lunch will be held at Church Cottage on Wednesday February 6th from 12 to 1.30pm, to raise funds by donations for the work of Christian Aid; bringing relief to the starving, homeless and terrorised thousands of refugees in Southern Sudan. We do hope you will be able to keep this date free in order to support such a desperate need.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Parish Hall

We're delighted with recent hall improvements and the positive comments received about how good the windows are looking. Thank you to those who came to our celebration event. It was good to be able to thank everyone who had supported us with fundraising and work.



Steve Cotter, who carried out the recent work at the parish hall, with committee members Christine Palfrey, Lisa Holton, Malcolm Jones and Phil Turner.

with more fundraising to improve the hall for use by the community.

The hall is available for hire for private events: parties and celebrations, meetings, exhibitions, concerts, shows and sports such as skittles or perhaps short mat bowls - all at reasonable rates. For information and bookings: contact geraldinetalbot@tiscali.co.uk or 01398 351391.

Keep an eye on the notice boards and the website for details of Pilates and Line Dancing classes. Easter Market and Coffee Morning - Saturday March 30, 10am-12 noon.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Draw winners, November – 1 Phyllis Hill, 2 Brenda Stanley, 3 Gerald Palfrey, 4 Hennie Nethercot; December – 1 Jennifer Fraser, 2 Pat Aplin, 3 Margaret Cuninghame, port Bill Wyatt, chocolates Peter Broadbent, biscuits Eileen Fewings and Angela Hill.

attended, and there was a real sense of coming together as a community to celebrate Christmas. Mince pies and wine were served at the end of the service. The retiring collection raised £100.30 for C.H.A.T., the local charity for the homeless. (If anyone left a red Tie Rack scarf in the church after the carol service please phone 255399).

Dates for your diary: 29th March (Good Friday) our Easter Garden Service will be held at 11.00am. There will be a service at 9.30am on Easter Day, March 31st.

We would like to thank the ladies for the flower arranging and church cleaning throughout 2012. It has been very much appreciated.

We send our best wishes to anyone who has been unwell recently, and hope that they will be feeling better soon. We welcome Chris and Gilly Bournemouth to Village Cottage and hope that they will be very happy living in Templeton.

The village hall has been redecorated with new curtains hung, and more improvements to the hall floor and kitchen will follow.

The annual Christmas Fayre was held on November 23rd. It was a great success, and raised £819.80 to be shared between the church and village hall funds.

The 100 Club winner for December was Ellie Reed. The winners and runners up in the annual tournaments are as follows: Men's Darts W. Jake Pancherz, R.U. Martin Saunders. Ladies Darts W. Teresa Pancherz, R.U. Monica Salisbury.

At our AGM, the following were elected for the forthcoming year: chairman Phil Turner, vice-chairman Linda Brice, treasurer Lisa Holton, secretary Geraldine Talbot; the previous year's members all agreed to continue on the committee.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our Christmas Grand Draw - by providing prizes or buying tickets - which helped us raise £406 for hall funds. The committee look forward to continuing

Flower Rota: February 3rd and 10th - Trish Fish; February 17th to March 24th - Lent.

Templeton

We wish everyone in the Exe Valley a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our church was beautifully decorated, candles lit, ready for our Carol Service on December 23rd. Many people

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Men's Skittles W. Martin Saunders, R.U. Tony Loosemore. Ladies Skittles W. Teresa Pancherz, R.U. Gloria Woollacott. Pool W. Mike Pancherz, R.U. Dan Pancherz. Table Tennis W. Mark Stone, R.U. Tom Pancherz.

Flower and Cleaning Rota:

Hannah Nobbs 27th January - 3rd February

Ginah Palmer 10th - 17th February
(February 13th Ash Wednesday - beginning of Lent - no flowers during Lent).

Gloria Woollacott (cleaning)

24th February - 3rd March

Teresa Woollacott (cleaning)

10th March - 17th March

Phillida Strong (cleaning and flowers)

24th March - 31st March

Washfield

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength but rather a lack of will.

As we write these notes the Christmas celebrations are over for another year but, as it is still early January, we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year. Our thoughts are with everyone who experienced flooding in the rains just before Christmas - not a pleasant start to the festive season. We hope you have dried out now and this year brings fairer weather.

Washfield hosted the Group Advent service, and a large congregation attended, representing the Mission

Community. Members of other churches participated with readings followed by communion, taken by Rev. Rob Brewis.

The church was beautifully adorned for the lively Christingle service, again to a good congregation. The many children, led by Rev. Kenneth Blyth, put together their own Christingles as they learnt of their meaning. Their happy faces told their own story and, quite appropriately, other children will benefit from this service as £87 was raised from the collection for The Children's Society's vital work with children in need. Thank you to everyone who made the church look so festive.

On Christmas Eve the church was full for the Service of Carols and Lessons. The nine passages were read by family members from our community, and the lovely service, taken by Anna, was concluded with the ever popular coffee and mince pies.

Rev. John Roberts conducted the Christmas morning service with communion. Thank you, John.

The new flagpole wanted by villagers should be mounted on the church tower in February, allowing the flag to be flown again on St George's and other celebratory days. The diocese has given its necessary approval to the project, and donations are being invited to help the PCC meet the cost.

Thank you, to Jeanne and Garth Jones for once again hosting their annual Christmas Coffee Morning which raised £204 for church funds. Those who came and lent their support enjoyed the occasion, and I'm sure they, as we do, send our grateful thanks to our generous hosts.

In keeping with the generous nature of our village, our two sets of Carol singers raised great sums of money for their chosen charities. The village group, who sang in aid of the Tiverton Alzheimer's Memory Café, raised £133 whilst the higher Washfield (Courtenay) songsters raised the remarkable sum of £185 for Children's Hospice SW (they wish to thank Philip and Vanessa for hosting a well-earned supper. Thank you to all the singers and those who gave so generously).

Easter comes quite early this year. On Good Friday (29th March) there will be a Reflection service in the church, taken by Anna, at 3pm. This service will be followed by tea and hot cross buns. On Easter Saturday at 10am our traditional, and ever popular, Egg decorating and rolling events will take place. There will be classes in the church porch for all age groups of children to enter their decorated eggs and later roll them and try to win the Easter egg prizes so get decorating! This fun event will be followed by another enjoyable interlude at our 2nd Easter Coffee morning in the hall. All will be welcome to have coffee and hot cross buns and browse the plant, produce and cake stalls. There will also be an Easter themed raffle. Although early, we hope we can beg some divided, or small, plants to sell. The proceeds will go towards the 'Fly the flag' fund. Please could Easter arrangements go into the church on this Saturday?

We send congratulations to Rachel Arnold who gained her Doctorate in Sports Psychology from Loughborough University in December, and has now taken up a post at Bath University. Also congratulations to Ralph Rowe who graduated from Plymouth University with a nursing degree, and is now a Staff Nurse in the ECU Coronary Care unit at Musgrove Hospital. Well done to you both.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Congratulations are sent to Terry and Pat Yeoman as they celebrate their Golden wedding anniversary in February. To anyone else celebrating special birthdays or celebrations, we send best wishes.

We send sincere condolences to Anne and Jon Boundy and family on the death of Anne's father, Paul, who sadly passed away on Boxing Day. Our sympathies are with you all at this very sad time.

Our thoughts have been with Mrs Joy Smith who has been in hospital for a back operation. We pray that this will be successful for you, Joy. Our prayers will be with Shaun and anyone else awaiting operations or treatment in the near future.

The W.I. party was its usual success, and was much enjoyed by those who attended.

Local talent shone forth on New Year's Eve at the Social Club. We re-lived the four days of the Jubilee celebrations with a royal twist and the singing, sketches and Morris Dancing finale were magnificent. What hard work went into making this entertainment first class! Thank you to all the organisers and participants who made it a great evening. It was the perfect way to end the old year and see in 2013.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 21st February
Lunch Club in hall 12 noon for 12.30.
Please let Anne know if you are coming.

Thursday 28th March
Lunch Club in hall 12 noon for 12.30

Friday 29th March
Good Friday Reflection service 3pm

Saturday 30th March
Egg Decorating and Rolling in church porch 10am followed by a Coffee Morning in the village hall. Plant, produce and cake stall plus Easter Raffle. Come and enjoy coffee and Hot Cross buns.

Church Flower Rota:

January 27th/February 3rd Mrs Bassano
February 10th Mrs Horsey
February 17th to March 24th LENT
March 31st/April 7th Mrs French

Church Cleaning Rota:

February 10th/17th Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones
Feb 24th/March 3rd Mr & Mrs McCahon
March 10th/17th Mrs French
March 24th/31st Mrs Arnold/Mrs Bicknell
April 7th/14th Mr & Mrs Parnell

Withleigh

The Village Hall looked very festive with all the stalls at our Christmas Craft Fayre. It was well supported, with people looking for, and buying, Christmas presents, resulting in £630 being raised for Church Funds. Thanks must go to Laura for organising the Fayre, together with thanks to those who ran and contributed to the stalls, draw and refreshments which were specifically in aid of the Church.

The children's Christmas Party was once again enjoyed by the children, and also by their parents and grandparents looking on. Thank you Sue for your enthusiasm in organising the games, and we must not forget your helpers and, of course, Father Christmas who found time to attend.

Our Christingle service was well attended. Thank you, Paul and Elizabeth for officiating at this service. It always seems very special when we sing by the light of the Christingles. Thank you also to Christine, Margaret and Janet for making the Christingles. The collection from the service was sent to The Children's Society.

The night we went out carol singing around the village was a night to remember, with those of us who did this getting thoroughly wet through, but we still enjoyed it. We apologise to those that we did not get to, but we eventually had to abandon singing after getting so wet. Thank you, Duncan and Sara for your hospitality - we were certainly pleased to see your fire to try and dry out a little! The sum of money collected for Devon Air Ambulance is not yet known, as the collecting box had to be opened by the Head Office and the total has yet to be notified at the time of writing these notes. The amount will be reported in the next magazine.

Thank you, to all those who decorated our church so beautifully for our Christmas services, and to Mark and Cathy for the tree.

Our Christmas Praise / Carol Service was well attended and enjoyed. Interspersed with the carols were a series of readings and meditations. Thank you to all who took part in the service. Mulled wine, coffee, mince pies and shortbread were served after the service, and these were well received by the congregation. The gifts left under the Christmas tree were delivered to C.H.A.T., who were greatly appreciative.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Christmas Eve Communion Service, taken by Steve, was also a good service leading us all into Christmas Day.

We send our sympathy to the family of 'Joan' Ayre, who died recently. She was interred in our churchyard to be with her husband after a service in our church. We remember them both, always attending our Harvest celebrations years ago.

We also send our sympathy to Jennifer Palmer and family on the sudden death of Christopher. Christopher will be greatly missed as a Trustee of the Village Hall. We also send our sympathy to Mary at this sad time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

The Women's Institute won the second round of the County Skittles Competition, and now await the third round to be played in February. We wish them well.

55 of us sat down to our late Christmas Meal on Saturday 5th January. It was a great get together to welcome in the New Year. Our grateful thanks to the small committee who organised the event, and to all of the helpers who washed, peeled, chopped veggies, laid and decorated the tables, cooked, carved and served the food. Also thank you to everyone who kindly gave a dessert and the hardy ones who turned out the following morning to clean up.

Scottish Dancing classes began in January meeting every other week, the next class will be on Wednesday 30th January, then again on Wednesday 13th February, starting at 7.30pm, finishing at 9pm. The dances are really easy to learn, and we all help each other if we do go wrong, so do come along for an enjoyable evening. For more details call Duncan 252949 or Brenda 252431.

On Good Friday (29th March) there will be an informal service in the Village hall, beginning with coffee and hot-cross

buns at 10.30am. Easter Sunday will begin in church with a service of Holy Communion at 8.30am, followed by breakfast in the village hall at about 9.30am, followed in turn by a Family Service back in church at approximately 10.30am. All are welcome to join us for any, or all, of these events.

This year's Easter Beetle Drive will be held on Saturday 6th April, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please call Duncan 252949 for more details.

Get well wishes go to all those who are receiving treatment at the moment or recovering from spells in hospital, and everyone else who is not well for various reasons. We hope you will all feel better soon.

There is a PCC meeting on Tuesday, 19th February at 7.30 p.m. at 6 Southfield Way, Tiverton, and the Annual Church Meeting is on Sunday, 24th March after the morning service at approximately 12 o'clock.

Forthcoming Events:

Wed 30th January Scottish Dancing Class 7.30pm (see above for details).

Wed 13th February Scottish Dancing Class 7.30pm, continuing on every other week.

Sat 6th April, Beetle Drive 7.30pm.

Flower Rota:

Jan 27th)
Feb 3rd) Brenda Tucker
Feb 10th)

LENT (Please remove flowers)

Monthly Diary dates:

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

And finally, some late notices:-

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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Mummy!

For those who missed the Christmas party at Loxbeare, who are these two dubious characters who got carried away with the wrapping?!


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