April / May 2015

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WHERE IS MY LORD?

he anguished cry of a distraught woman. Marv Magdalene had a very troubled past. The popular idea that she was a prostitute is not found in the Gospels, but what we do know is that Mary had been demon possessed and that her past reputation followed her. It must have been people like Mary who the Pharisees had in mind when thev accused Jesus' "Why does disciples, vour teacher eat with sinners?"

Yet, after she met Jesus, we see a highly sensitive and caring woman; one who constantly accompanied Jesus and who was perhaps the most loyal of all his disciples as the awful events of Easter Week unfolded.

It was Mary who, with other women, "followed Him and cared for His needs". She was ever present throughout His trials and sufferings and witnessed His dying moments. When, after His death, the other disciples fled in fear, Mary stayed to witness his burial. She knew the whereabouts of His tomb.

Mary was the first to see the risen Jesus - the tomb was empty, the body gone, "They have taken my Lord away, and I

don't know where they have put him" was her anguished cry.

Jesus himself bursts onto the scene - but in a most gentle way. We read of him introducing Himself by asking Mary what the problem was! Then the momentous single word - "MARY". Mary went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"



In this moving account, we see the Christian Gospel lived out. Mary's life was in a mess; she was on a downhill path until she met Jesus. Mary ministered to Jesus for many months, then saw all her hopes dashed as she witnessed His agonizing death upon a Roman Gibbet. Only on being confronted by the risen Lord Jesus Christ is she finally brought to the transformed life which she now enjoys with Him for eternity.

Thousands of Christians since then. have had similar encounters. Although the details of each one are as different as our personalities. The New Testament makes it crystal clear that such an encounter is the only way of becoming a real Christian. Jesus said to a very different would-be follower, a religious teacher no less, "You must be born again". Nothing else will do. Churchgoing, Baptism, Confirmation, leading a good life, all good in their place, are no substitutes, on their own, for a real encounter with the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

And that is what He offers each of us this Easter. Only the Risen Christ can give us true peace and reconciliation with Almighty God. The Apostle Paul writes "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, the new has come". Our prayer is that this will be the experience of each of us, and that it will be this Gospel that any new Rector proclaims when appointed - "Jesus Christ is Lord - He is risen!"

John Roberts

Copy Deadline for the June / July issue -

Monday 11 May 2015

THE EXE VALLEY **MISSION COMMUNITY**

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EDITORIAL

oo much to squash in this time ...

So, No Poems, No Jokes and No Editorial. Normal service will be resumed ASAP.

Jenny and Geoff

MOVING ON?

he wonderful workings of the Church of England! It may come as a surprise to some that, technically, Steve was still our Rector until the point at which he was licensed in North Devon on 16 March. Only then did the vacancy begin, and the process of finding a new incumbent could get under way!

The Archdeacon of Exeter attended the meeting of the Churchwardens' Council in January, and explained the process of seeking a new incumbent, and the responsibilities during the vacancy.

However, whilst it may appear, therefore, that we have been in a state of limbo for the past couple of months, a good deal has been going on behind the scenes. with churchwardens and PCCs busy preparing parish and incumbent profiles. and completing a parish fact sheet – a real misnomer if ever there was one, since the sheet' runs to twenty pages! The parish documents have then to be brought together into documents which reflect the Mission Community as a whole. This will be the task of the Parish Representatives who will have been elected by the parishes. and who will also form part of the interview panel in due course.

In the meantime, please encourage your churchwardens as they seek to keep our churches functioning, and please pray for them, and all involved in the selection process which has now begun. Please pray also that the person of God's choice is already being prompted towards ministry among us.



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Finally, a big 'thank you' to all of the retired and other clergy who continue to enable us to maintain the pattern of services in each of our churches - the Exe Valley would be very much the poorer without you.

Paul Iliff

Making the job possible !!

the front of the page n February/March magazine I raised the issue of how we could make the Rector's job possible. Here I want to fly a kite for a possible way forward.

Whilst you are reading my thoughts about the future, please remember that I am only flying kites, not making decisions! My proposals would decidedly NOT mean the closure of our lovely parish churches - far from it, they might very well make space to give them a new lease of life. I am passionate about there being a worshipping, witnessing community in each village. My ideas would, however, enable each parish to discuss with the Rector what their expectations are, and enable the Rector in turn to say what it would be possible to provide.

For anyone not familiar with the clergy who have been presiding over the Exe Valley in recent years, let me reminisce - when I first came to the Exe Valley there were four and then three full time stipendiary clergy. Yes, there were a few more parishes but the clergy/parish ratio was about 1 to 3. This clergy total quickly dropped to 2 during Colin Mee's time, continuing over Godfrev's time the second stipendiary although became part time with Derek Chedzey and Ben Luck. And for Godfrey, Mary effectively acted as a "full time" administrator. Nevertheless, the work load for each of these Rectors was such that they all had time out with stress.

Now we know that any new Rector here will have no stipendiary help at all - so are we expecting a Rector of nine individual parishes to work alone? Steve tried to look ahead because he knew that when Rob Brewis left he would not be replaced. Steve realised that the job he would then be asked to do was impossible so, for this and other strategic reasons, he asked the parishes to cut down their services and support a central service on some Sundays. We failed to support him in

Now I want to make some suggestions which are, I admit, kite flying. I have no authority to bring any of this about and if others have better ideas then let them bring them forward - in the meantime here is my kite!

It appears that each of the nine parishes sees the Rector as the Rector of their parish. This puts an onus on the incumbent to fulfil an expectation which might be quite reasonable if it were a single, or even a two or three parish benefice, but it is simply impossible for any Rector to fulfil this expectation nine times over. If they try they will fail!

So we need to change our mind-set from a Parish based expectation, to one of a Mission Community. That would mean that we see the Rector, not as Rector of "my" parish but Rector of the Mission Community with functions within each parish which would need to be defined, and might vary from parish to parish. In order to achieve this, we need a central focus for the work and worship. Say we select one parish church to be the Mission Community church around which our Christian community life is focused. Now this would entail some radical thinking. We would need to have a central building with proper modern facilities - office, kitchen, toilets etc. together with rooms for Sunday school and other activities.

How could we afford this? Well, if we pooled some of our parish reserves we could well get sufficient finances together to carry out the necessary work. The Rector would then be focussed centrally and would be freed from the expectation of being Rector of nine separate parishes. I can already hear howls of protest but I think that some such arrangement could lead the Exe Valley to an exciting future with a Rector who shared our vision for the Gospel to be preached and the Bible to be taught, in a way which would enliven both Parish and Mission Community life.

OK - my kite is flown. You might well have better ideas, however there is one thing that we cannot do - we cannot go on as we are, seeing our own parish as the one and only thing that matters and going against our Rector's advice, as we have consistently done with Steve, on the matter of number of services. That is a recipe for decline and closure.

Another point to consider is that unless we have a vision for our Rector's job which is fresh and new, we are very unlikely to get any applicants for the job as I talk to clergy I find that the idea of being alone in nine individual parishes is just not on their radar ... and if we did get somebody in post, as it stands, they would be sure to fail!

John Roberts

Farewell to Steve and Sarah

n the morning of 25 January around On the morning of 20 201 Village Hall for Steve's last Service in the Exe Valley. We were there, not just to say goodbye to Steve & Sarah after their four years of ministry here and to thank them for all their hard work among us, but also to thank God for them and especially for Steve's ministry.







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To show our appreciation, Steve was presented with a cheque for £1000 collected from personal donations from the Parishes. Many of us have really appreciated Steve's passion for teaching God's Word, and this was reflected in the iced decoration of a large cake shared between us all after the service, which had an open Bible with the words "Word of God" written across it, together with "Thank you and Goodbye Steve & Sarah".

Steve preached on 1 Corinthians 15 v 1-11, where Paul calls on all believers to take a stand for the Gospel against all odds. Why? Because only the true Gospel has saving power and its message is more important than anything else! The heart of the Gospel is the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ, not secondary things such as traditions: He died, He was buried, He was raised, He appeared to His disciples. Our faith is personal, historical, biblical and Cross-centred. We need to ask ourselves what is the centre of our faith, Christianity or Churchianity?



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So farewell Steve, and thank you for preaching God's Word to us with such clarity and boldness. I for one have learnt such a lot while you have been with us! We pray for God's rich blessing on you both in your new life and ministry at Fremington, Instow and Westleigh.

HAVE YOU READ? ...

The House of Bishops' guidance to parishes, on the Ministry of women.

The Bishops warn that their 5 principles, endorsed by General Synod, need to be read one with the other and held together in tension, rather than being applied selectively.

- 1. Now that legislation has been passed to enable women to become bishops, the Church of England is fully and unequivocally committed to all orders of ministry being open equally to all, without reference to gender, and holds that those whom it has duly ordained and appointed to office are the true and lawful holders of the office they occupy, and thus deserve due respect and canonical obedience:
- 2.. Anyone who ministers within the Church of England must be prepared to acknowledge that the Church England has reached a clear decision on the matter;
- 3. Since it continues to share the historic episcopate with other Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and those of the Analican Communion which continue to ordain only men as priests or bishops, the Church of England acknowledges that its own clear decision on ministry and gender is set within a broader process of discernment within the Anglican Communion and the whole Church of God;

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- 4. Since those within the Church of England who, on grounds of theological conviction, are unable to receive the ministry of women bishops or priests continue to be within the spectrum of teaching and tradition of the Anglican Communion, the Church of England remains committed to enabling them to flourish within its life and structures: and
- 5. Pastoral and sacramental provision for the minority within the Church of England will be made without specifying a limit of time and in a way that maintains the highest possible degree of communion and contributes to the mutual flourishing across the whole Church of England.

Seneca

NATURE NOTES

he kind winter carried on into the New Year and days continued to be dry, cold and bright. Night skies stayed crystal clear and for many uninterrupted hours after darkness fell. Orion could be seen passing over Tiverton whilst pointing his sword in an accusatory manner at the light pollution below. Our small Native birds have benefited and. not surprisingly, the robins have been in full colour and paired up before the end of January but I note the blue tits were still a moulting mess.

Do enjoy their plumage and colour when you can, because by the time we have chosen our latest summer fashions and the ladies have ensured their heels do not sink too far into the Ascot turf, the songbirds are in no mood It is no wonder the to dress up. surviving adults become exhausted and

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this bedraggled by time, after condensing a lifetime's work into a few months.

Nevertheless there are two birds of early summer that raise the spirits. The first of these is the skylark, and walkers on the moors and downlands of South Britain will have had their progress interrupted by the startled flight of one of these. They will shoot from the ground with an unceasing song, usually against a backdrop of an unfailingly blue sky. Conversely they will drop like stones in advance of any pending storm long before it appears on the far horizon. Ornithologists may explain much of their habits, but I have never been able to answer why the flight is so vertical; why so high, and why the accompaniment of never ending song? At least it is understandable why this symbol of freedom and joy has inspired many poets and musicians.

The second bird is the grey wagtail, and I can recall many days in the company of a pair in the Dickensian gloom of an industrial site where the purity of their yellow colour shone through the dirt and the grime. Last summer I was treated to an even more uplifting sight. A misty and gently falling Devon rain caught the afternoon and the small midges by surprise. The lane became slick with wet and five grey wagtails enjoyed a feeding frenzy on the insects driven nearer to the ground. The birds became like ping pong balls equipped with manic energy and bounced down the lane enjoying their feast without having to wag a single tail.

The sight of both these birds will always make you more contented than before, and remember that even if much of the year is spent on the ground and life may be hard, there are times when it soars.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

ur belated thanks to Doreen Venn for the gift of the Christingles for our service back in December. It was omitted from the last issue of "Today". Thank you Doreen it was a wonderful gesture very much appreciated.

We have had so much illness and accidents in our village lately and we hope that everyone is improving. David Evans had an operation before Christmas and hopefully is now making a good recovery. Julie Hugo also had an operation before Christmas and we wish her all the best for a speedy recovery. Reg Holley had a nasty fall and was in Exeter Hospital for a week or two but at the time of writing he is still in Tiverton hospital.

Diane Hopper took a tumble and has broken her hip and has had it replaced. In our thoughts and prayers at the moment we are thinking of Gerald and Joan Blackmore's daughter Karen who is very poorly in Derriford Hospital. We are praying for you all and anyone else who is under the weather, waiting for and undergoing treatment.

The farewell service for Steve and Sarah was held at Templeton Village Hall on 25 January where they were given a farewell gift from us all. We wish them every happiness in their new home in North Devon.

Our Holy Communion services on 11 January and 8 February were taken by the Archdeacon of Exeter and there were good congregations at them both.

We have to thank Hilda Forward for helping us out with playing the organ. She is on call for duty when Myrtle feels that her eyes are not quite up to it. A very big thank you to you both.

We another informal are having gathering in church on the morning of Sunday 3 May as we have no service that day in Calverleigh. Everyone is very welcome to join us and meet our friends and perhaps make some new ones. We have coffee/tea and chat and discuss things among ourselves. Hope to see many of you between 10am and 11am.

Dates for your diaries.

16 May. Our annual Day of Prayer. Individual prayer times will be in church later. Ring Aubrey or Jackie for details if needed. Telephone Numbers are on the inside page of "TODAY magazine".

14 June. Our annual Open Air service in the Churchyard at 3pm. Music by Ad Lib.

16 October. Bingo in Calverleigh Hall. Details later.

21 November. Our annual Autumn Fayre. Details later.

There will be a coffee morning or Cream tea in the next few months.

We now have a new volunteer who has offered his services in compiling Calverleigh's contribution of notes for the "Today" magazine. Mary thinks that it is time to hang up her pen after many years and give someone else a chance to have a go. It is good that one of our younger church members is willing to do this, he is an active member on our PCC and a welcome addition to our choir. He also produces our website. Please help him if you can by passing on any news items, coming events,

continued overleaf

Sue

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people ill etc. He is David Burton and can be contacted on david.burton@ doivedesigns.co.uk or by telephone 01884 560314. The date when news has to be in by is on the front page of the previous magazine. Thank you in anticipation of your help to David.

We have had two Baptisms in our Church, two little boys. The first was Joseph Selby Ethelwuls Amory, son of Patrick and Thierry, Grandson of Sir Ian and Lady Louise Amory. The service was conducted by Revd. Robert Gordon. The second was Baptised a week later by Revd. Keith Gale. He was Noah John Longmire, second son of David and Michelle Longmire and Great Grandson of Derek and Mary Herniman. They were both wonderful occasions when Joseph and Noah were welcomed into the church with many family and friends attending.

We are very much looking forward to a visit from the Right Revd. Bishop Nick McKinnel on the 29 March when he is coming to take our 9.30am Communion service.

Village Hall News.

The village hall committee would like to thank all those who supported the Quiz night, New year's party and skittles night at which a total of £679.67 was raised for hall repairs. Congratulations to Fred and Katie Froom and Steven and Selina Hill who were the top scoring skittles team at the Rose and Crown on 16 January.

The date of the 50/50 sale has been changed and will now take place on Saturday 25 April starting at 12.30pm. Entry forms are now being distributed and vendors should contact Sheila Greenslade or Jacqui Kingdom as soon as possible, so that a list of sale items can be compiled. Goods must be brought to the hall on Friday 24 April between 3pm and 6pm or before 10am on Saturday.

The duck race will be taking place on Saturday 30 May with the ducks setting sail from Lurley Bridge at 3pm. There will be limited parking near the bridge or otherwise at Calverleigh Village Hall Car Park.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

any congratulations to Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club on winning the Exe Valley Group Round Pantomime Competition with their excellent performance of Robinson Crusoe; a very long awaited win, which pleased the members and advisory committee, after all the hard work and commitment - with lots of fun being had along the way!. The following week, the Club joined with Culm Valley Young Farmers for an Evening of Pantomime with performances of Robin Hood and Robinson Crusoe; an amazing £2,040 was raised! On Saturday 21 February. the Club represented Exe Valley in the County Round **Pantomime** of Competition at Exmouth Pavilion and came a very impressive third, with members having a wonderful experience of performing in a theatre setting and learning new skills with the technicians. The Club would like to thank everyone who have helped and supported them throughout the past few months. Two Bingos have been held during January and February which were very well attended. Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm; please come along if you would like to know more about young farmers.

CRUWYS MORCHARD-GOT TALENT FINAL-7 March

What a night, hall was full and the audience in good spirits. Variety of acts and banter between the comedy judges Miranda Maryan-Lewis(Simone Cowell) and Lynnette Parkhouse enjoyed by all. Thank you to my quest John Penfold, accompanied by Steve Dver and thanks to all who helped cook cakes for the refreshments, CMYF for their help. Thanks to the sponsors Haldon Plant Ltd. Kingston Building Contractors and Easy Living Ltd and everyone else who helped, too many to name, over £600 raised for Marie Curie. CONGRATULATIONS JACKIE. The winners are all very talented and Cruwvs Morchard should be proud. A full list of winners will be put up in the Pub.

BARN DANCE - 6 March

The second Cruwvs Morchard Barn Dance in the Parish Hall kicked off with group whose portable immediately set the tone of a dance in a café with much food and chatter. About forty people attended bearing bottles and nibbles. A lack of dance knowledge was more than offset by tremendous enthusiasm and a realisation that not knowing the difference between left and right is of no importance in a social situation. The mix of music and fun was only improved by a large team of young from Puddington. appearance on the scene could be likened to the arrival of the US cavalry in the final scene of an early western. Caller John Ridd and band 'Friendy Folk' brought a modicum of order to an evening which proved the correctness of chaos theory and a good time was had by all. Planning of the next dance in a couple of months time has begun. Steve and Diney Dyer, who started this off, are glad to say that they have been able to make a generous donation to the Parish

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

March 30 - Decorators for Easter

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June 1 / 8 - Marian Kingdom

MOWING ROTA

April – Guv Cruwvs

May - Les and Hilary Tosdevin

June - Steve and Sam Ratcliffe

July - Dave Berry

August – Dave and Diana Vincent, and Peter Lake

September - The Notley's

FUTURE EVENTS – in the Parish Hall Saturday 21 March – Mad March Music and Mayhem, to raise funds for the Flower show.

Saturday 28 March 7.30pm - Pink Bingo Sunday 29 PALM SUNDAY - Follow the Donkey Procession to the Church.

Tuesday 28 April Senior's Lunch, 12 noon for 12.30pm, do come. To book ring Di on 01363 860 227.

Saturday 4 July Annual Breakfast & Brunch.

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The size of the New Creation News has been reduced, with permission, for this Issue only.

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... and the trees of the field shall clap their hands ... Isaiah 55 v.12

Our EASTER Break

The shop will be closed for the weekend on Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th and Monday 6th - re-openingon Tuesday 7th April at 9.30am.

Open Day

Thank you to the amazing number of friends who came to support us on 28 February, in St George's Extension and give us their suggestions for the future. Overall, the day was very successful and we will be sharing your ideas later. Meanwhile, please think and pray about what you could do to help. FOR EXAMPLE: Could anyone offer a couple of hours on a flexible basis, to cover for sickness and holidays ??

Please call in and we would be grateful for any time you can offer.

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May God bless you all this Easter.

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Saturday 11 July Annual Church Fete Saturday 8 August Annual Flower Show YOGA continues every Thursday 10am-11.15am. and 11.30am-12.45pm

CIRCUIT TRAINING every Sunday 6.30-730pm

BELL RINGING. Being able to come out to "practice night" in the daylight again is very pleasant, but thanks to all our staunch and hardy ringers who turned out on chilly Monday nights all through the winter. Practices are always enjoyable and anyone who would like to come along and see what goes on would be very welcome - no pressure, no commitment. Two Saturday morning branch practices were held at Cruwys Morchard in January, which some of our ringers attended, The February practice was held at Hemyock. It is always fun going to ring at other towers, mastering different bells and meeting other ringers. The bells were rung for the funeral of Mr Cruwys - we rang them half muffled for this occasion. This gives an echoing and poignant beauty to the sound of the bells, which we hope was appreciated by those arriving at the Church.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL

Sunday 5 April Easter crafts, Family Service 4.30 pm followed by tea

Sunday 12 April Guest speaker Service, Janet Welch 4.30 pm followed by tea Sunday 19 April Join Way Village 2.30 pm

Sunday 26 April Adrian's travels 4.30 pm followed by tea

Sunday 3 May Puppets Family Service 4.30 pm followed by tea

Sunday 10 May Mr O Mears 4.30 pm followed by Birthday tea

Sunday 17 May Join Way Village 2.30 pm Sunday 24 May Songs of Praise 4.30 pm followed by tea

Sunday 31 May Joint service with C of E in chapel at 4.30 pm followed by tea ** subject to your agreement

Saturday 4 April Easter Pennymoor Pop-In coffee morning 11 – 12.30

Saturday 2 May Pennymoor Pop-In Fairtrade coffee morning 11 – 12.30

Pennymoor Picnic, Holiday at Home for ALL ages

Wednesday 27 May, 11.00 – 13.00 Cake decorating & crafts, finishing with Picnic lunch

THE PARISH LIBRARY is now in place in the back of the church, do visit it at any time, either to borrow or exchange.

ATTENTION ALL BOOKWORMS

If anyone is interested in helping set up or joining a "book club" for local

PARISH ROUND-UP

residents, please contact Sarah Brown at Highgate. Phone 01363 866321 and leave a message with your details, or email sarahconbrown@aol.com. If we get enough interest then we can all meet up and have a discussion on how we want to proceed.

CHAT – The Church has received a letter of thanks from Chat for our donations to them of food after our Carol Service

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we have said good-bye to two much loved and older members of our parish. Edgar Cruwys, died on 23 February, aged 94. Beloved father of Caroline and Guy. Our prayers and sympathy are with them and all their family. Especially Sarah, who's mother had passed away two days earlier. Margaret Trick died on 14 February, aged 89. Much loved mum, granny and great-nanny. Our prayers and sympathy are with the whole Trick family.

We would like to welcome two new babies into the parish; Annemarie, daughter of Eileen and Oliver Defew, and Jack, son of Hannah Grant and Ed Moggridge and a granddaughter for Di and Dave Vincent, Isabella Joy daughter for Tom and Emma, who now live near Oxford.

For all those who are not well we send our prayers and best wishes.

If you would like more copies of the TODAY magazine there are always spares in the church, which you can pick up at any time.

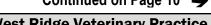
LOXBEARE

At the time of writing it is so good to have the sunshine and warmth with the promise of Spring with flowers, trees & shrubs beginning to bud, ready to burst into a lovely Spring display after the cold and wet winter months.

With Easter almost here we look forward to a time of reflection on Jesus' death and a celebration of his resurrection.

The Easter Services begin with the Agape meal on Thursday 2 April at

Continued on Page 10



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LOXBEARE PRAISE AND PRAYER MEETING

3rd Tuesday in month at 7.30pm. 01884 881362 - for venues

EXE VALLEY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm Churchill House, Loxbeare, EX16 8DX Contact Marion on 01884 256302, for details

WALK THE TALK

Withleigh Home Group Alternate Mondays at 8pm (Tel. 01884 253473)

EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY Sundays at 11am in Templeton Village Hall

Teaching Programme

"Unexpected Encounters with Jesus"

5 April EASTER

12 April The Sceptic - John 1. 43 - 51 19 April The Insider - John 3. 1 - 7

26 April The Outsider - John 4. 5 - 19 3 May The Wedding Guests - John

2. 2 - 11

10 May The First Christian - John 20.

17 May The Surprised Disciples -

Acts 1. 1 - 11

24 May The Obedient Teenager -

Luke 1. 26 - 45

31 May GROUP SERVICE,

Washfield

EXE VALLEY CENTRAL

Each Sunday Templeton Village Hall At 11 am

5 April No EVC Easter Day

12 April Morning Worship

19 April Holy Communion

26 April Morning Worship

3 May Sunday Club

10 May Morning Worship

17 May Morning Worship

24 May Pentecost Holy

Communion

31 May No EVC Group Service "Songs of Praise" Washfield

Loxbeare PCC Open Evening

"Why we believe in Male Headship"

Loxbeare Village Hall 15 April 7.30pm

See Loxbeare "Parish Round-up" for more information

OAKFORD

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

2.30 pm Service of Meditation

5 April

9.30 am Holy Communion

12 April

9.30 am Morning Prayer

19 April

9.30 am Holy Communion

26 April

9.30 am Family Service

3 May

9.30 am Holy Communion

10 May

9.30 am Family Service

17 May

9.30 am Holy Communion

24 May

9.30 am Morning Prayer

31 May

See Washfield

RACKENFORD

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

No Service

5 April

11.15 am Holy Communion

12 April

9.30 am Family Service

19 April

11 am Morning Worship

26 April

No Service

3 May

No Service

10 May

9.30 am Family Service

17 May

9.30 am Morning Worship

24 May

11 am Holy Communion

31 May

See Washfield

STOODLEIGH

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

No Service

5 April

11 am Holy Communion

12 April

9.30 am Morning Prayer

19 April

11 am Morning Prayer

26 April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

3 May

11 am Family Service

10 Mav

9.30 am Morning Prayer

17 May

11 am Holy Communion

24 May

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

31 May

See Washfield

CALVERLEIGH

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

No Service

5 April

9.45 am Holy Communion

12 April

No Service

19 April

11.15 am Morning Worship

26 April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

3 May

No Service

10 May

11.15 am Holy Communion

17 May

11.15 am Morning Worship

24 May

6.30 pm Evening Worship

31 May

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

No Service

5 April

11 am Holy Communion by Extension

12 April

No Service

19 April

11 am Family Service with Baptism

26 April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

3 May

No Service

10 May

11 am Holy Communion

17 May

11 am Family Service

24 May

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

31 May

See Washfield

LOXBEARE

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

11 am Service of Meditation

5 April

11 am Holy Communion

12 April

No Service

19 April

6.30 pm Evening Praise

26 April

No Service

3 May

6.30 pm Evening Praise

10 May

No Service

17 May

9.30 am Family Communion

24 May

No Service

31 May

See Washfield

TEMPLETON

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

11 am Easter Garden Service

5 April

9.30 am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion by Extension

12 April

No Service

19 April

No Service

26 April

11 am Morning Prayer

3 May

11 am Family Service

10 May

No Service

17 May

No Service

24 May

9.30 am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

31 Mav

See Washfield

WASHFIELD

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

3 pm Service of Meditation

5 April

11.15 am Holy Communion

12 April

11 am Morning Prayer

19 April

11 am Family Service

26 April

6 pm Evening Prayer

3 May

11 am Holy Communion

10 May

6 pm Evening Prayer

17 May

11 am Family Service

24 May

11 am Morning Prayer

31 May

10.30 am **Group Service**Songs of Praise

WITHLEIGH

3 April GOOD FRIDAY

10 am Informal Service in Village Hall

5 April

8.30 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Family Service

12 April

11 am Family Service

19 April

9.30 am Holy Communion

26 April

11 am Morning Worship

3 May

No Service

10 May

11 am Informal Worship

17 Mav

9.30 am Holy Communion

24 May

11 am Morning Worship

31 Mav

See Washfield

Cruwys Morchard. Good Friday there will be a service of meditation in Loxbeare Church at 11am to be taken by John. The Easter Sunday Service will be Family Communion at 11am.

On 25 January at EVC Templeton there was a good attendance at the final service for Steve & Sarah Goodbody. At the time of writing they will have packed and moved to North Devon to take up their new appointment. We again pray for God's blessing on their future ministry.

On Ash Wednesday, 18 February there was held a Mission Community Communion Service in the evening at Loxbeare Church led by John.

A Mothering Sunday Service with Donna speaking will have been held in the Village Hall following a full English Breakfast cooked by the men. Thank you to all who will have helped in any way.

The A.P.C.M will be held on 18 April in the Church, after the evening service. The Electoral Roll needs to be completely revised this year and everyone wishing to remain or be added to the Roll needs to apply. Please contact Marion Roberts on 01884 256302 for forms.

On 3 May the Evening Praise Service at 6.30pm in the church will be taken by members of the St George's/St Paul's youth group. Do come along and join us.

The Woman's Bible Study Group continues to meet alternate Tuesdays at Christine Weatherley's, Churchill House, Loxbeare from 2-4pm. We are continuing the study on 'Promises Kept, the whole story of the Bible'. All Ladies welcome. For more information contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Loxbeare PCC have included in their Parish Profile their belief that our new Rector should be male. We understand that this is a minority viewpoint within the Mission Community and, indeed, within the Church of England. However, it is a view that the Church recognises as valid, as one of two "integrities". We believe that this view of "Male Headship" in church leadership fully respects the Bible's teaching on the complementary rolls of men and women in creation. Loxbeare PCC would like to explain their position to other parishes, not in an attempt to convince or change minds but so that their position should be clearly understood. To this end we are holding an "at Home" in Loxbeare Hall on Wednesday 15 April at 7.30 when our view can be explained to assist mutual understanding. We invite all those interested to join us. We will arrange for refreshments to be available.

Our love, prayers and sympathy are with Jean Daniels & family on the death of Eddie, Jean's husband, at only 54.

Jan Page would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their support during Jack's illness and all the lovely cards and flowers on his death. It was lovely to see so many of you at his funeral. Thank you so much.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are undergoing treatment; for those who are waiting for operations and for all who have been unwell recently. We hope you will soon be feeling much better.

Congratulations to Jenny Pack on the safe arrival of granddaughter Harriet Sophie born 13 January to Lucy & Greg Batten. Love and best wishes to you all.

Congratulations to Bob & Gwen Berry who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 9 April. Gwen has not been well but we hope she is feeling better now.

Best wishes also to anyone else celebrating special occasions and

Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in April/May.

This month we will be saying "goodbye" to Roger & Viv Abbott who are moving to Tiverton and "welcome" to Matt Shaw who is coming to live in Jackdaw Cottage. Also to Wendy Cook into Churchside, the Isaac family into Twyford View and new people into Deepaller and Highgate. We all hope you will soon be settled and be happy in your new homes.

Thank you to all the men who helped with the task of cleaning out a good many years of dirt etc from the belfry tower! and putting up wire to keep out the birds

Loxbeare Bingo will be on 30 March 7 for 7.30 in the Village Hall. Contact Carol on 01884 881480.

Loxbeare Ladies Dates:

13 April - Skittles at the Rose & Crown. Please ring Sue on 01884 259496 by 6 April if interested.

5 May - 'Exeter Underground' Contact Margaret on 01884 881362.

1 June - Wine & Cheese evening at Christine Weatherley's, Churchill House. Contact Christine on 01884 881566.

OAKFORD

We wish everyone a happy Easter and hope the weather will be kind to us for the holiday weekend.

Our Easter services are as follows: Good Friday: 3 April at 2.30pm. Service of meditation.

Easter Day: Sunday 5 April at 9.30am. Holy Communion. All are very welcome.

Our deepest sympathy to Tony Jenner and family on the death of his wife, Carol

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and also to Jill Haines, whose husband John passed away recently. Jill and John used to live at Oakfordbridge before moving to Tiverton.

The 'Pancake Day' proved to be an enjoyable occasion with races for the children and adults. Everyone enjoyed coffee and pancakes and there was also a cake stall and raffle. Many thanks to Brenda and Carla who organized it and to all who helped and supported it. A total of £172.00 was raised for church funds.

The 'Bake-off and Foragers alcoholic tasting' competition was a great evening and enjoyed by all who entered and tasted! £177.25 was raised for PSPA and hall funds.

The Moorland Club:

Thursday April 9th at 7.30p.m. Annual General Meeting . Please come and support the club.

Advance notice: The Moorland Club Open Flower and Produce Show will take place on 15 August . Schedules (from April) available from the Red Lion, Brenda on 01398 351331 or Chris on 01398 332039.

Village Hall Future events:

Race Night! Saturday June 6th. Please look out for posters.

Village Fete: This will take place on 20 June on the playing field. There will be a 'Knockout competition'- so get your teams of four together! If you can help or need more details please contact Kelvin on 01398 332039.

Parish Council: Elections for Parish Council There is still time to put your name forward if you would like to do this. Closing Date 9 April. Please contact Kelvin on 01398 332039 for more details and help to fill in forms etc.

RACKENFORD

We are now into Spring and we have some evidence of that with some nice sunny warmer days and with many flowers - snowdrops, crocus and daffodils gradually appearing on the verges on the common. Beautiful.

A memorial Service was held in memory of Percy Stone. This service followed a cremation. The church was full of friends and family paying respects to Percy his wife Pearl and their family. Tributes were made by his family and total donations of £637.90 were shared equally between Rackenford Church and Devon Air Ambulance. Rackenford Church is most grateful for the sum received. Our thoughts and pravers continue for Pearl and family.

Apologies to Daphne Weston for the mistake in the last issue. Her late husband was Tony and not David. You are very much in our thoughts.

The school play due to take place prior to Christmas had to be postponed due to many children away with the various bugs that have been hitting many people in the community. However it was held in the New Year. "Primary School Christmas Musical " was most certainly worth waiting for. It was a very entertaining show - talent always seems to be in abundance at Rackenford School. So many laughs with great acting and singing. A very well done to the children.

A service has taken place at Templeton to say goodbye to Rev Steve Goodbody and Sarah. Rev John Roberts thanked Steve for all his years with us in difficult times and for starting Exe Valley Central Church. He was presented with a gift and John wished them both all the very best in their new parishes and home. A special cake had been made and teal and coffee was served. We also send our thanks and very best wishes to Steve and Sarah both in work and health.

We hope you all saw the posters for our coffee morning at church on 21 March 10.30 to 12.30 this has only just been arranged so doubt you would have had this issue in time.

The sponsored walk is pencilled in for 30 May but has yet to be confirmed. Any information required please contact Liz Paxton 01884881331.

Many congratulations to Bella and William Barrie on the birth of their daughter Beatrice and also congratulations to the very proud grandparents David and Mov Scott on their first grandchild and great grandmother Daphne Weston. Lovely news.

Also congratulations to Ryan and Natalie Hallet on the birth of their first child a daughter Fleur and to another proud grandmother Paula. Hope you are well.

To all who are not well, either in hospital or at home, our thoughts and prayers to you. We understand that Peter Reynolds has been in hospital and we hope you are making a good recovery.

Our Songs of Praise service was taken by our church wardens Mary Cann and Herbert Smith and hymns chosen by those who had contacted Mariorie with their favourites were sung. Members of the congregation read lessons, poems and prayers. Also many thanks to the bellringers once again. All a great success - hope we can do it again.

To anyone who has celebrated special birthdays or anniversaries,

Continued overleaf



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congratulations to you. We hear that Philippa Fraser has enjoyed her big 50, Richard Cole 60 and a Diamond Wedding for Jan and Brian Peace.

We continue to remember our friends Ken Blackford. Mrs Clark, Mrs Arscott and Bob Mogridge.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Matt Morrissy who has died - for several years he lived at Malson.

On 10 April an Auction of Promises will be held at Rackenford Club 7 for 7.30pm. This is to raise money to buy a defibrillator for the village. We welcome any promises or gifts that you feel able to donate and look forward to seeing you all for this most worthwhile fund raising evening. Any details you require please contact Helen Hyland 01884 881386. Let's make it a good night.

A Mealtime Assistant is Urgently required for Rackenford Church of England Primary School. The hours are from 11.45am-13.15pm. Duties include setting up tables, supervising children, clearing trays etc and then playground duty. Please call Justine on 01884 881354.

If you have anything you would like to include in the magazine please get in touch.

STOODLEIGH

We send our thanks to Steve and Sarah for all their work in our Exe Valley Mission Community and pray that God will bless them in their new area of pastoral care, following Steve's Induction Service at Fremington on Monday 16 March.

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It was a cold, wet and windy day for the marriage of Alice Llewellyn to Robert Windsor-Clive at Stoodleigh on 28 February, but the church was warm, the flower arrangements stunning and the service flowed with sincerity and lovely musical contributions. We ask God's blessing on their future life together.

The traditional Group Agape Meal with Holy Communion will take place at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall on Maundy Thursday, 2 April. The Easter Day Holy Communion service at St Margaret's Church will be at 11am.

A Coffee Morning, for church funds, will be held at Church Cottage on Wednesday 13 May, 10.30am - 12.00pm. We hope for your support!

The weather dawned bright and clear on the morning of January 24 for a walking event, with 3-mile and 7-mile walks starting at the Parish Hall. There was breakfast beforehand and a sociable lunch for 40 afterwards. Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this such a success – we raised £345 towards the Parish Hall Improvement Fund. We plan to hold another walk on Saturday 12 September.

"Seven Years around Stoodleigh" was an evening slide show enjoyed by over 50 people. Wonderful views photographed by Jennifer Rowlandson and other village contributors, were shared over mulled wine and light refreshments. The event was organised jointly and £386 was raised to share between St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall funds. Many thanks to Jennifer.

Coming events at the Parish Hall

Easter Market and Coffee Morning - Saturday 4 April, 10am - 12 noon. Local businesses with goods for sale, stalls selling plants, cakes, vegetables and more. Coffee, tea and cakes. Tables for

hire £5 - to book or for more info: 01398 351391.

Tea Dance - Thursday 23 April, 2.30-4.30pm. New event for the Parish Hall - come along and take part in a sociable afternoon and also enjoy tea and cake. For more info: 01398 351391.

Date for your diary: Family Fun Dog Show - Saturday 8 August. Joint event in aid of St Margaret's Church and the Parish Hall. Other events are coming up keep an eye on the website at www.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Prizewinners for January – 1 Sheila Davis, 2 Peter Ayre, 3 Felicity Green, 4 Chris Whitehead; February – 1 Roger Hill, 2 Chris Whitehead, 3 Heather Burmeister, 4 Geraldine Talbot.

Church Flowers

5 April Easter Decorating 19 / 26 April Dorothy Ayre 3 / 10 May Enid Hamidullah 17 / 24 May Pat Aplin 31 May Phyllis Hill

TEMPLETON

Our Easter Garden Service is on Good Friday 3 April at 11.00 am. The children will help to build up the garden throughout the Service. Our Easter Service is on Sunday 5 April at 9.30 am. There will be Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion.

Our church bells have been inspected and they can now be rung after many years of silence.

The Annual General Parochial Church Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 14 April at 7.30 pm. If you care about Templeton Church in any





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way, or have questions to ask, then please come along and make those thoughts known.

Over 60 brain-stormers in 10 teams came to the now-traditional village quiz February. early Given the idiosyncrasies of the question-master, everyone did remarkably well, but it was the memory banks and powers of recall of the Pearson team that triumphed in the end, followed closely by the Boumphrey team. As usual, a wonderful supper was served; everyone had a great time and over £400 was raised for village funds. We are grateful to the ladies who kindly prepared the food and all those who gave draw prizes, to this overall, splendid community event.

The Village Hall bar area could do with some redecoration, so some dates have been planned for volunteers to repaint the walls and touch up the hall (April 11/ 13/15/16/17). Any help would be very welcome please!

Also the Village Hall and Social Club Committee are offering a free drink and snacks at their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 5 May at 8 pm. Please come along and help make any decisions on what is most important for the Village Hall in Templeton!

We would like to send our condolences to Alison Withers who recently lost her sister Margo. We send our thoughts and prayers to Alison and her family at this sad time.

Flower & Cleaning Rota

Phillida Strong - 5 / 12 April Julie Dent - 19 / 26 April Ginah Palmer - 3/10 May Gloria Woollacott - 7/24 May Bindy Linden - 31 May / 7 June

WASHFIELD

Blossom and buds say Winter's had its fling Daffodils and primroses herald the news of Spring

t the time of writing the lengthening Adays are encouraging us to look forward to Spring and Easter. It is lovely to see that the bulbs planted at the entrance to the village are beginning to bloom.

We said our final farewell to Steve and Sarah at Templeton on 25 January. We hope that they are now settling in their new home in Fremington.

Our Easter Services begin on Good Friday with a Meditation Service to be taken by Anna at 3pm. This will be followed with a cup of tea and a hot cross bun.

On Easter Saturday our traditional Egg Decorating and Rolling competitions will take place in the church porch. There will be Easter Egg prizes for all the different age groups in both the decorating and rolling contests. ΔII welcome. Following the Egg Rolling, a Coffee morning with hot cross buns and biscuits will be held in the hall. Stalls will include Plants, Produce, Cakes and an Easter-themed Raffle. We would be grateful for any donations for these stalls please and for your company at this friendly event. Proceeds will go into church funds.

Our Easter Holy Communion Service on Easter Sunday is at the little later time of 11.15am so don't be taken unawares by this change. Could all the volunteers who kindly decorate the church so beautifully at the closing of Lent please

be good enough to do so on Easter Saturday, thank you.

Our Winter services have been well attended. In February Mr Mac Bridgers from CHAT took the Family Service, which was very enlightening and positive. As a result of this insightful talk, our February donation taken to CHAT amounted to over 30 food items.

The church APC meeting will be held on Monday 20 April at 7pm in the Village Hall, with cheese and wine. business of the evening will start at 7.30pm and we would value your support at this vital meeting, as YOUR church goes through a transitional period before a new Rector can be appointed.

The Parish Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 15 April at 7.30pm. The speaker at this meeting will be Tiverton teacher Jon Sowden, who will talk about the Tiverton Community Arts Theatre.

We send a sincere welcome to Alistair and Rachel Connor (and Missy the cat) as they settle in at Lower Wynefreds. We hope that you will be very happy in your new home and will find us welcoming. Some new occupants of another Washfield home have this to say "Thank you so much to everyone for making us so welcome in the village since we arrived at Moorhayes Farm in October. We are so pleased to have found ourselves surrounded incredibly friendly and genuine people and in discovering that there is so much going on. It seems to be quite a special place." Patrick, Grandma Mary, Jim and Annabel Taylor-Ross.

We are so pleased to hear that Garth is now making a steady recovery, helped by the dedication of Jeanne and their

Continued overleaf



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supportive family. Also in our thoughts and prayers are all those who are not enjoying good health at this time.

To anyone celebrating special events we send our good wishes.

St Mary's, Washfield is pleased to be hosting the Group Service "Songs of Praise" on 31 May. We look forward to seeing friends from our neighbouring parishes at this Service.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 4 April Egg Decorating and Rolling in church porch 10am followed by coffee, hot cross buns raffle and stalls in the Hall.

Saturday 4 April Photographic Quiz at Social Club with Washfield images to identify for the grown ups and cartoon characters for the children. Food from the Ceylon Curry House van later. All welcome.

Tuesday 7 April teatime@the hall from 3pm. Come along and partake in tea, cake and friendship.

Thursday 9 April W.I. in hall 7.30pm **Wednesday 15 April** Parish Council AGM in hall 7.30pm

Thursday 16 April Lunch Club in hall 12 noon for 12.30.

Monday 20 April Church PCC AGM in hall 7pm

Tuesday 5 May teatime@thehall from 3pm. All welcome

Thursday 14 May W.I. in hall 7.30pm Thursday 21 May Lunch Club in hall 12 noon for 12.30

Saturday 23 May Eurovision Song Contest Evening at Social Club with food from the Ceylon Curry House Van.

Altar Flower Rota

April 5/12 Mrs Ellis April 19/26 Mrs S Balment May 17/24 Mrs Trout May 31/June 7 Mrs Albery **Cleaning Rota**

April 6/13 Mr & Mrs Ellis April 20/27 Mrs French May 4/11 Mrs Arnold May 18/25 Mr & Mrs Parnell June 1/8 Mrs Harding & Mrs Jones

WITHLEIGH

Our churchyard is once again adorned with snowdrops and crocuses with daffodils beginning to peep through, reminding us that spring is on its way, but at the moment, the weather is not convincing.

We would like to thank Brenda, Laura and Lauren (Paul and Elizabeth's granddaughter) for playing the organ for us for our services. We would also like to thank all the people on the flower rota. It is always a pleasure to enter the church and see flowers on the altar and in the pedestal during the year except, of course, during Lent.

Our Easter Services are following the normal pattern with an Informal Service in the Village Hall on Good Friday with coffee and hot cross buns, 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. On Easter Sunday there is a Holy Communion service at 8.30 a.m. followed by breakfast in the Village Hall, then a short Family Service at 10.30 a.m. We would be pleased to see you at any one, two or all of these as we celebrate Easter.

There is Fete planning meeting at Bona Vista on Monday, 27 April at 8.00 p.m. Please come along with your offers of help and ideas for stalls and sideshows for the Fete, which is to be held on Saturday, 18 July at Bona Vista. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but can help in any way, please ring Brenda, 252431. If anybody has empty small jam

jars they do not need, they would be much appreciated by Margaret for home-made jams and chutneys for the produce stall.

Secretaries, please note our Christmas Craft Fayre this year will be on Saturday, 28 November.

Congratulations to Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club who won the Exe Valley Group of Young Farmers' Pantomime Competition at the High School, Tiverton, which meant they went to the County round at The Pavilion, Exmouth and came a pleasing third.

Two more people to congratulate are Louise Kittow and Richard Tucker. Louise, representing Withleigh Young Farmers, won Senior Member of the Year of the Exe Valley Group and came a highly commendable fourth when competing in the Devon round. Richard Tucker wrote and directed pantomime for Cheriton / Tedburn Young Farmers Club which came first at Exmouth to represent Devon in the West South Area **Pantomime** competition at Weston Super Mare where they were again placed first, and now progress to the South of England round. Our Young Farmers in the Exe Valley certainly have some talent!

Get well wishes to those not well at the moment and hope the warmer weather will bring forth better health. We also think of all those known to us who have been recently bereaved. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Our Easter Beetle Drive will be held on Friday 27 March, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Come along to win an Easter Egg and enjoy the fun. Only £1 per person to play all evening.

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Several of us enjoy a game of Short Mat Bowls in the Village Hall every Wednesday evening beginning at 7.30pm. We have some friendly matches at different times throughout the year, and have a competition running within the club every week. If anyone feels they would like to join us, either as a beginner or a seasoned player, you would be very welcome. Call Duncan 252949, or Brenda 252431 if you would like more details.

Withleigh WI, meet on the second Thursday of each month, usually in the Village Hall. Call Rosie on 01884 257123 or e-mail rosie@ceramics.lu for

more details. New members are always welcome. Below is the programme for the next few months.

Thursday 16 April, with Dr and Mrs C Holme, speaking on the Charity for Child Bereavement, 'Balloons'.

Thursday 14 May, AGM and Resolutions with Washfield at Washfield Village Hall.

Thursday 11 June, with Fiona Swan, Nordic Walking, come with suitable shoes for a short walk.

Forthcoming Events:

Friday 27 March; Beetle Drive in the Hall @ 7.30pm.

Friday 3 April - Good Friday service in the Village Hall

Sunday 5 April - Easter Sunday services, and breakfast.

Flower rota:

5 April - EASTER 12 / 19 April Margaret Gale 26 April / 3 May Linda Taylor 10 / 17 May 10 Ann Gornall & Maureen Stubbington

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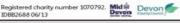
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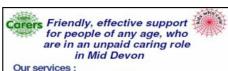
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