

October / November 2015

Price 40p

TRICK OR TREAT ~ HARMLESS OR DANGEROUS ?

Halloween is thought to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, in the belief that on the night before their New Year on 1 November, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead become blurred. On the night of 31 October they believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth; people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off roaming ghosts.

In the eighth century, the Church designated 1 November as a time to honour all saints and martyrs; All Saints' Eve, Halloween, evolved into a secular, community based event. Apparently one quarter of all the sweets sold annually in America are purchased for Halloween!

For many, Halloween today is harmless fun characterized by child-friendly activities such as dressing up in ghoulish costumes and trick-or-treating. For others it can become a passage towards witchcraft and involvement with dark occult forces.

Sometimes I am asked what my attitude to this festival is, do I agree it is just a bit of fun or is it dangerously playing with forces we do not understand?



Put like that it is not an easy one to answer in a "yes" or "no" manner. For many children the evening is indeed a harmless exercise in dressing up and having fun. However, I have to say that I find some of the associated activities and marketing somewhat sinister. "Trick or Treat" has within the very title the idea of blackmail. There is something quite Sub-Christian in the idea that "I will do something unpleasant to you unless you do something I want"

At worst this is the philosophy of the protection racket employed by gangsters and terrorists, leading to extortion of large sums of money to keep the victim safe or even to avoid murder.

Now this might be considered an over-reaction to a few kids asking for a sweet "or else I will put this spider through your letter box." Maybe it is - but the philosophy behind it is the same and I do not want my grandchildren to adopt such a concept.

Put alongside the Christian Gospel the Halloween message is shown up for what it is. The Lord Jesus offers us forgiveness and new life freely and without cost. Far from asking us for a favour as a condition of blessing us, His offer is freely made; we accept by faith. He took the trick for us on the cross - we are left with the treat!

John Roberts

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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

www.exevalleychurches.org

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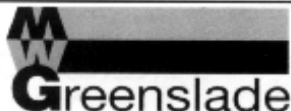
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EDITORIAL

It's hard to believe that this is our twelfth issue. As Paul Iliff said in his last article "Time flies ~ whether or not you are enjoying yourself". Actually, it's not all bad or we wouldn't still be Editors !!

We are very sorry to report that Derek McManus is retiring from his role as Advertising Co-ordinator in October. He has done valiant work in bringing in new advertisers and collecting the advertising revenue. This vital money is what keeps our magazine going and we are very grateful for his efforts. Thank you Derek.

Which, of course, brings up the obvious fact that we now need a successor. We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in taking on this post.

Jenny and Geoff

MOVING ON PART 4

Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence and learning (Frederick W Faber)

After a good deal of effort, completion of the Archdeacon's visits to the PCCs, and redrafting, we are now able to report that the Exe Valley Profile document has reached the stage where it has been accepted by all nine parishes.

As a result, we now have a timetable for meetings, etc., leading to a new date for interviews on Thursday 10 December. The first important date is Tuesday 13 October, when the 'Section 12'- 'Preparation for Appointment Meeting' will be held in Calverleigh Village Hall, beginning at 7.30pm. This meeting will be attended by the Bishop, Archdeacon, Rural Dean, Lay

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chair, patrons, parish representatives, and is open to all PCC members of our nine parishes.

Advertising is scheduled for mid October, with the closing date for applications on 10 November, and short-listing on 18 November.

Please continue to pray for all involved, and for a successful outcome to our quest for a new team Rector. Above all, let us not forget that this is God's Church to which we belong, so let our prayers to Him be in the confidence that He will provide the right person for our needs, here in the Exe Valley.

The Group Services seem to be going down well, with good attendances. Anna will be taking the Group Services on 25 October in Oakford and 27 December in Stoodleigh, with John taking the 22 November Service in Rackenford - at which David Beasley from The Leprosy Mission will be the guest speaker.

Paul Iliff

The following article has been taken from a recent Bible Society Leaflet. John Roberts found it profoundly moving and thought it worth including in "TODAY".

A CONVICTED MURDERER TRANSFORMED BY SCRIPTURE

I'm about to tell you about an amazing change in someone's life. It's an incredible story of what can happen when someone is offered the Bible. I think you'll want to hear it because it

shows the powerful impact of this mission we share and I hope it will spur you to keep giving and praying, because your support makes such a difference.

This is his testimony.

Dawit was a murderer, a rapist and a thief. He was feared and hated around his town, in rural Ethiopia. His family disowned him. He terrorised women: raped them, robbed them and killed them and he ran away to live wild in the forest for months at a time. When Dawit was finally captured, he received a double life sentence and was imprisoned.

"I deserved to be in that horrible cell" he said. "There was no hope for me." But God had other ideas.

Dawit continues: "One day during recess hour, a black box appeared in the communal room. I used to sit in the corner of the room far from anyone, but I couldn't ignore the sound coming from the box. It was a Proclaimer Audio Bible, provided by the Bible Society and the voice that day was speaking about a God that died for our sins. I listened closely. I could hear three voices. One was Jesus and the other two were sinners. All were being crucified.

'One sinner said they were being killed for a reason, but Jesus didn't do anything to deserve his fate. It got me thinking. As I listened more, it talked about God's unfailing love for all of humanity. That night, I couldn't sleep. The message stuck with me. Even though I was rejected by society, Jesus Christ accepted me and loved me no matter what.

'The next day, I heard some more. Over that week, I discovered Jesus as my

personal Lord and Saviour. He has taken me in his arms and loved me like his son, no matter how bad the crimes I have committed. He has freed me from the chains of evil and given me another chance."


That was 10 years ago. Dawit, now 46, is still in Akaki Prison, Addis Ababa, but today he has the role of Prison Pastor and co-ordinates the daily Bible Listening Group. The wardens trust and respect him. He has 25 years left to serve in jail - but says, "God put me here for a reason. I am helping so many other men to change their ways and discover God. I am happy to still be in this prison because it's my mission to share God's love with everyone".

It's inspiring, isn't it? The words of Scripture reaching into the darkest places, to bring about transformation. In 2015, we'd love to provide 1,000 more Proclaimers to prisons, hospitals, orphanages and rural communities in Ethiopia. It will see an additional 50,000 people, like Dawit, join listening groups where they'll hear a section of the New Testament, in their language, every week, and discuss it. We also want to support Bible listening in countries like Cambodia and Tanzania.

But to do all this, we need your help. It costs £40 to provide a Proclaimer audio Bible - that's £40 to open up Scripture, week after week, to a listening group of up to 50 people.

The Bible is more than a book. Dawit's story is testimony to the power of Scripture. Do pray for him and his ministry in Akaki Prison. And, please,

continued overleaf ➔



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will you help more people hear the Bible, by making a donation today?

Thank you so much for being part of this mission.

With kind regards,

*Signed. James Catford
Group Chief Executive,
Bible Society.*

Donations can be sent to: Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG - or to John Roberts for onward transmission to Bible Society.

John Roberts

NATURE NOTES

The passage of time and the end of the year is more assuredly marked by the onset of Autumn than by our invented calendar. When you view the regimented ranks of produce in the Village Hall, you are not only reminded of God's gifts and man's industry, but of the hidden hours and daily inspections as the plants are tended. Much as you admire the results, you see and share in your mind the owner's hours of communing with Nature.

As children, the most impatiently awaited Autumn fruit was that of Aesculus Hippocastanum. To our shame we used to hasten their fall by throwing sticks into the trees. Bulging plastic bags of conkers betrayed a greed beyond need. We only consumed a few in our games and secret scientific experiments [involving vinegar, varnish and/or kitchen oven] to create the hardest conker in the world.

The horse chestnut trees seem to have re-assumed their glorious form of old in recent years, so perhaps the threat from the leaf miner insect is receding. At present I have yet to see the unparalleled shiny chestnut colour that springs from the split in the thorny green coat of the fallen fruit. I have a reminder though, with a row of dull old conkers by our fireplace. This display is to ward off the Autumn appearance of the poor indoor spider, probably large and male, as it has one last fling. The conkers will have no effect*, as these spiders have been adapting to our houses for centuries, resigned to having few guests in their parlours, despite being in the quiet corners that unwary visitors like to discover. These home-lovers do not feel the cold [they are of course cold blooded] but will have little desire to visit the alien outside habitat of their country cousins and the feeling for exchange visits is mutual.

I leave the wizened conkers in our fireplace to comfort the 'arachnophobes' in the family and unusually I have some sympathy, as I was bitten this year by Britain's most venomous spider, the false widow. I destroyed its lair whilst cleaning the windows and the swelling and pain lasted 24 hours. I suggest you do not mention either the bite, or my view of deterrents, to the family and assure them that at least one of the conkers will be a potential 49er by now!

*Interestingly, I note the oil from the horse chestnut is listed as a constituent of some clothes moth deterrents.

Thomas More

HOLIDAY CLUB 2015 EPIC EXPLORERS

At the end of July at Templeton Hall, 60 children enjoyed a fun filled week of activities, learning from the Bible, sports and crafts. The weather was very kind to us and the children were able to enjoy sports and games out on the grass during the afternoons. Thank you to Templeton Hall committee for enabling us to use the hall and for preparing the grass area, so that we were able to be safe outside for sports and games.



During the mornings we worked in teams to play games and to fill in activity books finding out the answers through discussion and reading the Bible. The children were able to learn who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him. Lunchtimes were times for getting together to chat over lunch and the much loved tuck shop! In the afternoons children were able to take part in crafts, junk modelling being a favourite, with many large and intricate models being made, they also modelled with clay, made aquariums and cards. During the afternoon there were opportunities for team games outside, a favourite is the clown game and football as always is very popular with the children and adults.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Without the support of helpers the Holiday Club would not run. I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, from preparation, through to giving their time during the week. We finished on Sunday with a Service, picnic and fun day. The bouncy castle was a great attraction and the sun was shining.

Preparations are already underway for next year's Holiday Club, look out for the dates and if you would like to help, and would like to know more about what we do, contact Cindy on 01363 866621.

Cindy Trick

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

July saw the annual potato competition, held at the Rose & Crown, which was arranged by Gillian Tucker and Mary White. On the night an incredible £352.00 was raised for the Church's fabric fund, partly through the evening's auctioneer, Tim Laman. Our thanks go out to all who participated whether by growing or bidding for the potatoes. Thanks also go to Rose & Crown for the use of the skittle alley and providing supper.

At the end of August we held our 2nd Annual Calverleigh Produce and Flower Show. Despite a few problems getting the hall ready, following its recent refurbishment, it was another very successful show. This year's judges, Henry and Shirley Cruwys, commented on how well presented the exhibits were.

This year there were some very worthy prize winners with the "Best in Show" going to Diana Hopper for her beautiful vase of flowers. We would like to thank the judges, exhibitors and all who helped with teas, coffees, raffle - and for your generosity.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving took place over the weekend of 12/13 September, with the Harvest Supper being held on the Saturday evening. A lovely meal was served which had been prepared by various parish members. Our thanks go to all who helped to prepare the Hall and the food for this occasion. The Harvest Service, which was led by Julie Goldsworthy, was well attended, in a church that had been beautifully decorated with many varieties of flowers and produce. Thank you to all who helped with this year's lovely displays.

Congratulations to Jamie & Natasha (nee Tackle) Brimblecombe who were married at Calverleigh Church on 15 August. We wish them both a long and happy life together.

The following day, Freddie, Daisy and Rosie Webber (Myrtle Webber's great-grandchildren) were brought for baptism by parents Adrian and Sophie. We were delighted to see the church full of family and friends who were there to support them at the lovely service, conducted by Rev'd Jane Wilson, which was especially enjoyed by the three children.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Pilly Turner, a friend of the Wigram family, who was regularly to be seen around the village a few years ago, before returning to Lympstone to live. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.

We have said farewell to Pat Rowe who has moved from Calverleigh after being a resident here for many, many years, to her new home in Tiverton. Hopefully she will still continue to visit us for social occasions. A warm welcome is extended to the new residents of Oakdale. We hope you will be very happy in your new home.

Someone very kindly placed plants in the wooden tubs alongside the edge of the graveyard down by the pond. Nobody seems to know who the mystery gardener is, but whoever you may be, we would like to say a big thank you for the lovely gesture.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been unwell recently.

Village Hall News

After being closed for 4 months, the newly refurbished Village Hall was officially re-opened on Saturday 5 September with a Social Evening, which included a bring and share supper, a film and photo exhibition of past events as well as musical entertainment. Thanks were given to all who were involved with fund raising over the past year; to the contractor for a job well done and to Viridor Credits for all their financial support.

Events Coming Up ...

Following on from the success of last year's Friendly Bingo, we invite you to join us again on Friday 16 October 2015 from 7:30pm for another evening of fun at Calverleigh Hall.

Please see the posters or fliers for more information.

continued overleaf ➔



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PARISH ROUND-UP

The annual Church Autumn Fayre will be held on Saturday 21 November. If you would like to run a stall or volunteer to help with any aspect of the fayre, please contact the Churchwardens or a member of our PCC.

Church Cleaning Rota

18 Sep / 10 Oct - Miss S Goldsworthy
12 Oct / 24 Oct - Mrs. M Webber
26 Oct / 7 Nov - Mrs. R Tapp
9 Nov / 21 Nov - Mrs. S Greenslade
23 Nov / 5 Dec - Miss J Herniman

Mowing Rota

21 Sep / 3 Oct - The Webber Family
5 Oct / 17 Oct - Mr. A Goldsworthy

Flower Rota

27 Sep / 4 Oct - Mrs. L Thomas
11 Oct / 18 Oct - Mrs. D Hopper
25 Oct / 1 Nov - Mrs. J Evans
8 Nov / 15 Nov - Mrs. R Tapp
22 Nov / 29 Nov - Mrs. M Furneaux

Get the latest at:

www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh.

If you have any items for the magazine call Dave Burton on 07817 851856 or email: calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org.

CRUWYS MORCHARD

Harvest Festival Saturday 26-27 September. Church 2pm followed by Sports, then tea in the Parish Hall, with a disco in the evening.

Sunday 11am Harvest Service. Please bring harvest gifts to either service to give to Charlton House.

The Right Reverend Sarah Mullally, Bishop of Crediton

We have just returned from the Choral Evensong in Exeter Cathedral (12 September) to 'Welcome and Install' Bishop Sarah as our new Bishop of Crediton. It was a very meaningful and happy service. We send her our prayers and best wishes for Christian love and fellowship throughout Devon.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

September 28/ 5 October - Marilyn Hill
October 12/19 - Ann Gillbard & Judith Taylor
October 26/2 November - Sue and Pauline Guscott
November 9/16 - Denyse Standen and Jo Hilton
November 23/30 - Carole Chisholm/ Jackie Mitchell (Cleaning only Advent)

Stove Rota

November - Mr D Vincent
December - Mr J Carter
January - Mr M Trick
February - Mr G Cruwys
March - Mr J Lake

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

Would you please also switch on gas heater by pulpit on a low setting, at the same time.

Mowing Rota

A big thank you to all those who have mown and helped to keep our beautiful Church Yards looking so lovely.

The Annual Flower Show on 8 August was well attended with more entries than ever. Well done every one and a special thank you to Pauline Guscott for organising it.

Clay Pigeon Shoot

On 5 September, the Committee of the Parish Hall organised a Clay Pigeon Shoot at East Ruckham Farm, by the kind permission of Simon and Clare Clarke. The weather was kind and there was a good turnout of shooters. A shield was very kindly donated by Mark Keitch and Jeremy Grant for the "best local" in memory of Len Christopher who had previously organised this event. This was presented to Steve Radcliffe by Cissy, Len's wife. At the time this report was written, the total sum made had not been calculated. The Committee would like to thank Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club and members of the

parish who gave up their time to help at this very popular annual event.

Young Farmers

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers have been busy entering classes in Devon County Show and Mid Devon Show - with many members winning prizes in individual and stock classes. Will Palmer has just returned from his travel scholarship; a week sailing a tall ship with nine other Young Farmers. A good time was had by all, although the first day of sailing was very choppy! A recent Quiz and Pudding Night made money for the Club's chosen charities. A Dinner Dance is being held on 3 October.

The Club were very excited as they were contacted by Britains Got Talent to audition their national winning street dance routine. This routine was done nearly four years ago and with only a week's notice, it was decided not to audition, as it would have taken more than a week to refresh the moves. But, maybe look out for them next year! It was an honour to be asked to audition. The Club would like to wish Jake Henson the best of luck as he undertakes the role of County Chairman. Well done Jake, the Club are proud of you!

Yoga continues in the Parish Hall on Thursday mornings. The general Hatha class focuses on breathing, stretching, strengthening and relaxation, it is open to all, for everyone to work to their own level. The intention is to return to two classes 10am and 11.30am from October, but please phone Hilary on 01363 866245 or hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com to confirm.

Barn Dance watch this space!

Book Club

After our meeting this week we have again chosen a new book to read. This month's book is a thriller/mystery ... It is, "The Blue" by Lucy Clarke. The setting is a yacht in "paradise", all is well until mysterious things start to happen and everybody on the boat is suspect. Let's hope we enjoy this month's book and I will be in touch before next meeting, which will be on 13 October.



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New Creation News October 2015

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"Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord!" - Psalm 150 verse 6

Praise the Lord! Another year, another milestone, another birthday to celebrate, another opportunity to thank our wonderful Lord God! It's October again so please pray for New Creation on our 27th Birthday (on the 4th) and give grateful thanks to our loving Heavenly Father. He has enabled and encouraged us since 1988! Only the Lord knows what effect a scripture verse, a book or a card may have on the receiver. We pray that the vision for this mission, given so many years ago, is still being worked out to His glory and that He will continue to guide us as we seek to faithfully serve Him.

Our Christmas stock is coming in. Every year Val tries to provide the widest variety of cards, books and gifts she possibly can. Please come in, browse, and choose your Christmas Greetings. All our Christmas cards, calendars, diaries, books and gifts display the Christian message making it easy to share your faith. And you may also be helping other Charities because she has ordered from Tear Fund, the Barnabas Fund, and other similar relief organisations. This may be your opportunity to make sure the Good News of Jesus is not packed away like a decoration but will last the whole year.

Have you thought about bringing your small group here for a Christmas supper? New Creation invites groups of up to 14. We are now taking bookings for your Christmas or New Year Celebration. Do get in touch on 255769 for menu details, prices etc.

Penny's Special for October - £3.50

Cheese Scone with Pickle, Cheese and Apple Slices and a hot drink

Our Prayer Topics - Please join with us in prayer for:-

- ◆ More volunteers, especially for Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- ◆ The Landlords to carry out further repairs to the building quickly, before the winter.
- ◆ Help to repaint the kitchen.
- ◆ Thanking our Lord for all those who have supported this mission, donated, prayed and helped here over the last 27 years. We are so grateful.

This year, One World Week takes place from 18 to 25 October. The situation with refugees is desperate – please pray. More information may be had from:
www.oneworldweek.org and www.cte.org.uk/news
(the latter is the "Churches Together in England" website)

So, thank you, and may God bless all of you, however you support us.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Pennymoor Congregational Church.

Sunday Service at 4.30pm

4 October Family Harvest Service with crafts etc. Followed by tea.

11 October Mr O Mears, Communion. Followed by tea.

18 October Join Way Village at 2.30pm

25 October Bible Sunday Praise & Prayer with Rev Green. Followed by tea.

Ladies Club (non Church) Tuesday 20 October 7.30 Art session

Holiday @ Home. Please tel: Ruth 83451 to book a place 31 October (Halloween alternative) Light Party, Film & Sleepover

Sunday Service at 4.30 pm

1 November Family 'Light Party' Service. Followed by tea.

8 November Remembrance Service, Communion. Followed by tea.

15 Nov Join Way Village at 2.30 pm

22 November Praise & Prayer. Followed by tea.

29 November Icelandic Christmas with film & food.

Ladies Club Tuesday 17 November 7.30 (non Church) Christmas Crafts.

Pennymoor Pop-In

Sat 3 October 'Harvest Table', coffee & cake 11 am - 12.30pm

Special thanks: We would like to thank Nigel, very much, for making the 60's boards.

We would all like to welcome James and Katherine Clark and their two daughters into the village.

Our prayers and thoughts are with all those in the parish who are not well, or are grieving.

Future Events

3 October The Fourthwall Theatre Company showing The 39 Steps.

Bar 6.45pm 7.30pm start. Tickets £9.50 from 07773 362305

10 October Sixty's Night. Disco and bring and share supper. Prizes for the best dressed man and woman. Tickets £5 from 01363 866864

20 October Senior's coffee and chat in the Parish Hall 10am – 12noon.

Please ring 01363 860227 if you would like transport.

31 October Bingo in the Parish Hall

14 November Church Christmas Fayre 10.30am - 1.30pm with craft and cake stalls, Hamper raffle, childrens tombola and refreshments, including soup and rolls.

12 December Charity Quiz in the Parish Hall. Teams of 4 to 6, £5pp to include light supper.

To book 07773 362305

LOXBEARE

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Harvest Celebrations starting on Saturday 19 September with a service in the afternoon with Rev Philip Porter, the minister from Tiverton Baptist Church, as the speaker and sports and tea following. Songs of

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Praise on the Sunday at 6.30pm to be taken by John and the Harvest Supper on Tuesday the 22nd when Dave Britton will be our after supper speaker on the work of the Street Pastors.

The Picnic Service in August was at Steve and Sue's and enjoyed by all. It was taken by Ron with a testimony by an Iranian visitor, telling of his conversion to Christianity after trying many other religions. He suffered much persecution because of his faith and managed to get to England where he now lives in Bristol. Thank you to Steve & Sue for their hospitality.

On 10 October we are holding a 'Prayer and Gift' day. There will be a prayer rota in the Church and anyone who wishes can come in and spend time in prayer. There will also be a ploughman's lunch from 12.30-2pm and cream teas at 2.30-4pm in the Village Hall. These are open for anyone in the Village to join in, as well as those coming to pray. There will be opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of the Church at the Village Hall and at the Church.

On 18 October the Bishop of Maidstone will be speaking at 11am in Loxbeare. This will be a Communion Service. The Exe Valley Woman's Bible Study Group will recommence on 13 October with a study on Romans Ch.8-10 'Living as Children of God' meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at Christine Weatherley's, Churchill House, at 2-4pm. All ladies welcome. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

The date of the next PCC meeting will be 22 October at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Congratulations to Gerald and Linda Heywood on the birth of a grandson to Tim & Amy, a brother to Ellie. Our love to you all. Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in Oct/Nov and congratulations to those celebrating special occasions.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are unwell. For Trish Bending and all who are undergoing treatment and recovery from operations.

Well done to all those who have had exam results and we wish you well on the next step in your lives. We think of all young people as they face the challenges of leaving school, finding employment or going on to College or University - and for younger children who have just started school and the older ones as they change schools.

On 22 August a parish walk was enjoyed by many, with the weather being good, it was followed by a ploughman's meal in the Village Hall. Many thanks to Richard Vickery for organising and planning the walk, and for all who helped with the food.

There will be a Village Hall Meeting on 6 October.

On the 2nd Saturday of every month there will be either a coffee morning between 10-12noon or a cream tea from 4-6pm in the Village Hall. The idea is to enable villagers to meet and chat for an hour or so. 10 October will be a coffee shop morning and 14 November a cream tea.

Loxbeare Ladies: On 3 August a BBQ was held at the Village Hall and on 7 September a walk, in and around Tiverton, with a meal at Mallards. **5 October** will be a Raclette evening in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please book through Jenny Pack on 01884 562277. The cost will be £4. Please bring either a salad or pudding. **2 November** will be a Christmas craft evening and also making up boxes for the Samaritan Operation Christmas Child. People can either do their own boxes or give items to Carol to be made up on the evening. **15 November** is the last date for your own boxes to be given to Carol. Details on items needed, phone Carol on 01884 881408. **20 November** Bowling at Amory Park Tiverton at 7pm. Buffet. Contact Gerald Heywood on 01884 881279. **28 November** Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall 10.30-12noon. **7 December** Christmas Bingo 7 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. **10 December** Our village Christmas meal at Bickleigh Mill. Contact Sue Troake on 01884 259496 for more details.

It is with sadness and great shock, to those who knew James Bullock of Leigh Barton, Loxbeare, to receive the news of his sudden death, of a heart attack, whilst in London. Our condolences to his family, friends and acquaintances.

OAKFORD

Now that Summer is nearly over, we look forward to Harvest. Our **Harvest Festival Service** will be held on **27 September at 2.30pm**. Gifts of produce and jams would be greatly appreciated. There will be tea and cakes afterwards at the back of the church.

The Harvest Supper takes place on **Monday 28 September at 7.30pm**, at the village hall, followed by the auction of produce. Supper £6.50. Please phone Mike or Wendy on 01398 351383 if you would like to come. Everyone very welcome.

We send our love and prayers to anyone who is not well at this time and wish you a speedy recovery.

Future events:

A Group Service will be held in Oakford Church at 10.30am 25 October. All welcome.

Remembrance Service Sunday 8 November at 10.50am at the War Memorial followed by a service in the church.

After a great Christmas Tree Festival last year, we wish to do it all again this year! We hope to hold it on **Saturday 12 December**. Groups, businesses and individuals all welcome to put a small tree (3ft max) in the church. Decorate how you like. But if you are stuck for an idea - how about a Christmas Carol theme this year? Please come and see the trees and stop for afternoon tea from **2.30pm to 4.00pm**.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

'Carols by Candlelight' service will be held Sunday 20 December at 5.30pm please come and enjoy readings and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies after the service.

Village events

Coffee Morning and Shortbread Baking Competition (Children's Hospice SW) Sat 31 October 10.00am to 12.00pm at The White House, Oakford. See posters for details or call Sally on 01398 351670

Moorland Club Christmas Fayre Saturday 14 November Village Hall 10.30am -2.00pm
Stalls, Tombola, Raffle, Coffee, Lunches.

Moorland Club 7.30pm Thursday 8 October Devon Ghosts- a talk by Robert Hesketh + decorated Hallo'een hat competition. Open meeting.

Thursday 12 November: Bonham's Antique Roadshow – talk and valuation by Sam Tuke. Open meeting. Antiques for valuation to be brought to hall by 7pm. All welcome. Details: Jean Marcus 01398 351241

Village Hall Sunday Brunch 18 October. Please look out for posters for more details.

RACKENFORD

It was back in July that Rackenford Primary School presented us with their end of term concert "Our Musical Performance". It was a real treat and such fun and enjoyment came across from all the children - which made us all laugh and thoroughly enjoy it. Some of the children played musical instruments and the school sang with such enthusiasm, which gave us all an afternoon and evening to remember. Well done to everyone, you are always a pleasure to watch. During the evening performance a presentation was made to the Year 6 leavers. Goodbye and thank you was said to Claire Joyce, Helen Morrison and Justine Maunders. I

am sure everyone was very sorry to see you leave, and we wish you every happiness. A very warm welcome to Mrs Kate Dunning (HLTA) Head of School and also to Mr Mark Ferdinando the new teacher for Class 2. Some years ago Mark was a pupil at Rackenford School - many will remember him well. Mandy Lewry is now the new school secretary. We hope you have had a lovely holiday.

Our very best wishes to Beryl and Rob Coleman who have now left Rackenford and moved to Weston Super Mare. Sue Holder and Neil Hayes have also left the village and we wish you all happiness in your new homes. A very warm welcome to the new families at Little Acres and Meadow View.

We seem to have had a lot of sadness in and around us. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann Freeman whose mum died in July. Our thoughts also go to Flora Blackburn and family on the death of Flora's father. We remember Shirley Paxton, whose husband Peter has also passed away. They used to live at Rackenford Manor, our prayers also to Tim, Liz, James and Richard, Andy and Mary at this sad and difficult time for you all.

It was also with great sadness that we heard about the death of Evan Baillie on 3 August. Evan was well known in and around a large area and for several years was our church caretaker. A cremation took place, followed by a Thanksgiving Service. It was evident what an impact he had made on so many as the church was full, with people standing, to hear the tributes paid to him by family and friends. Our deepest sympathy to Mary, Alistair, Hugh and Nell who have also recently suffered more sadness on the death of Mary's sister. You are all very much in our thoughts.

Congratulations are in order for Mary Weston who celebrated her 90th birthday. We hope you really enjoyed your special day.

Rackenford Gardening club held their Autumn Show at West Backstone on 22 August. Many wonderful exhibits were on display for us all to admire. Cream teas and cakes were also enjoyed on this glorious day. Many left feeling very proud of their achievements.

A very big thank you to Derek Stone for donating the necessary funds to have the church clock refurbished and gilded. Your generosity is much appreciated.

We are trying to get a working party together to attend to the leaning headstones and levelling of graves on 3 October, commencing at 10am. So if you are fit and well and would like to come along with your elbow grease and a spade, we would be very pleased to see you. You will be rewarded with a cuppa. Thank you.

Some dates for your diary.

Bingos at Rackenford Club for church funds 8 October, 12 November and 10 December. Meat prizes and a good draw.

The following details all relate to our Harvest. Decorating of our church will probably be on Thursday 8 October however please check if you would like to help or give flowers, produce or gifts which are always so welcome.

Harvest Songs of Praise Sunday 11 October at 6.30pm. Monday 12 October Harvest Supper 7pm prompt and auction at Lower Tidderson, and many thanks once again to Jacque and Mary Cann. Tickets available from Mary Cann 881696 or Herbert Smith 881375 or any PCC member.

Our Remembrance Service will be on Sunday 8 November 10.50am prompt at The War Memorial. Crossway.

As always we remember our friends Ken Blackford, Joan Clarke and Joan Arscott and to anyone who is not well or receiving hospital treatment - including Muriel Blinman, Peter Reynolds and Charlotte West. Our love and prayers to you all.

Continued on Page 12 ➔

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HOME GROUPS

EXE VALLEY PRAYER/HOME GROUP

Loxbeare Hall Wednesdays from
14 October onwards EXCEPT when
there is a Prayer Breakfast that week.

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

9 am Loxbeare Hall

Saturday 24 October / 28 November

COFFEE PLUS

Alternate Thursdays

9.30am - 10.30am.

Prayer for the Exe Valley at
Church Cottage, Stoodleigh
01398 351364

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

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

EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

Teaching Programme

Oct 4 Ephesians 3. 1-13 The Mystery Revealed
Oct 11 Ephesians 3.14-21 The Scale of God's Love

Oct 18 Ephesians 4. 1-16 Church Growth with
Bishop Rod Thomas, Bishop of Maidstone
Oct 25 Group Service, Oakford

Nov 1 All Saints - Ephesians 4. 17-32
Christians are not Chameleons

Nov 8 Remembrance Sunday - in Parishes

Nov 15 Ephesians 5. 1-20 Living in the Light

Nov 22 Christ the King- Group Service
Rackenf

Nov 29 Advent - The King is Coming Back !

PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayer meetings each
Wednesday Evening 7.30pm
in Loxbeare Hall ~
except the weeks of the
Saturday Prayer Breakfasts on
24 October and
28 November
at 9am in Loxbeare Hall.

EXE VALLEY CENTRAL

Each Sunday

Templeton Village Hall At 11 am

(Unless otherwise stated)

Oct 4 - Cafe Style Family Event *

Oct 11 - Morning Worship *

Oct 18 - Joint Holy Communion
with Bishop Rod Thomas,
Bishop of Maidstone
in Loxbeare followed by
Buffet Lunch

Oct 25 - 10.30am Group Service
in Oakford

Nov 1 - Cafe Style Family Event *

Nov 8 - Remembrance in Parishes

Nov 15 - Holy Communion
"In the Round"

Nov 22 - 10.30am Group Service
Rackenf

Nov 29 - Morning Worship

* Coffee and biscuits ~
before and after

OAKFORD

4 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

11 October

9.30am Morning Prayer

18 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

25 October

10.30 am Group Service

1 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

22 November

See Rackenf

29 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

RACKENFORD

4 October

9.30 am Family Service

11 October

6.30 pm Harvest
Songs of Praise

18 October

9.30am Morning Worship

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

9.30 am Family Service

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service at War Memorial

15 November

11 am Holy Communion

22 November

10.30 am Group Service

29 November

No Service

STOODLEIGH

4 October

11 am Harvest Festival

11 October

6.30 pm Evensong

18 October

11 am Holy Communion
by Extension

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

11 am Family Service

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

11 am Holy Communion

22 November

See Rackenf

29 November

6.30 pm Evensong

CALVERLEIGH

4 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

11 October

11.15 am Morning Worship

18 October

11.15 am Sankey Praise

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

6.30 pm Evening Worship

8 November

9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

15 November

11.15 am Morning Worship

22 November

See Rackenford

29 November

No Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

4 October

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

11 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

18 October

11 am Family Service
with Baptism

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

22 November

See Rackenford

29 November

No Service

LOXBEARE

4 October

6.30 pm Evening Praise

11 October

18 October

11 am Holy Communion
Joint with EVC
with Bishop of Maidstone

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

6.30 pm Evening Praise

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

9.30 am Family Communion

22 November

See Rackenford

29 November

TEMPLETON

4 October

11 am Harvest Festival

11 October

No Service

18 October

9.30 am Morning Prayer plus
Holy Communion

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

11 am Family Service

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

9.30 am Morning Prayer plus
Holy Communion

22 November

See Rackenford

29 November

No Service

WASHFIELD

4 October

9.30 am Holy Communion

11 October

11 am Morning Prayer

18 October

11 am Family Service

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

11 am Morning Prayer

22 November

See Rackenford

29 November

No Service

WITHLEIGH

4 October

11 am Family Service

11 October

9.30 am Holy Communion
by Extension

18 October

11 am Morning Worship

25 October

See Oakford

1 November

9.30 am Holy Communion

8 November

10.50 am Remembrance
Service

15 November

No Service

22 November

See Rackenford

29 November

11 am Family Service

PARISH ROUND-UP

As we were going to print we have just heard the very sad news of the passing of George Cole on 11 September. We would like to send our thoughts and deepest sympathy to Jean, Richard, Simon and families at this very difficult time. Back in August George celebrated his 90th birthday and Jean wishes to thank everyone for all the cards and messages he received. George was overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

STOODLEIGH

We said a sad goodbye to David Wotton in early August. He died at home after a few months of illness; a funeral service followed at St Margaret's Church. Life in the village is very much the poorer without David: he was an original and gifted man, and a leader in our community.

A schoolmaster by vocation, he was the head of English and deputy head teacher at Tiverton Grammar School, and later at the High School. There must be quite a few in the Exe Valley who remember him as a spirited teacher. He put the same energy, and his own brand of humour, into presiding over countless village occasions. He was a sensitive chairman, an engaging master of ceremonies and a baffling quizmaster. He particularly enjoyed sharing his love (and great knowledge) of English literature – reading aloud, which he did superbly, producing Shakespeare plays at the Grammar School, taking the chair at the Poetry Club here in Stoodleigh.

David expected much from his school pupils. He used to take some of them on trips to the Lake District, hoping they would find it as inspiring as he did. We

are told that one group had the unforgettable experience of standing on the summit of Great Gable and singing the rousing Welsh hymn 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'. We sang this hymn at David's funeral. We send our love to Betty and all the family.

The past two months have been a difficult time for Audrey and Bryan Rigg, who have been struggling to combat a particular nasty virus. We wish them well and hope they will soon be back as busy as ever.

Meanwhile, the Family Dog Show was a very popular and successful event, on a sunny afternoon, and raised £956 split between the church and the parish hall. We are grateful to the Robinsons for again allowing us the use of their paddock and to Sandra Coles for judging the dogs so expertly. Luck was still with us on Bank Holiday Monday when, after overnight rain, the day was dry for the Ploughmans Lunch at Parkhouse Water. About 60 people attended, including three water "babies" (aged 8-10) who spent most of the time in the stream, and over £400 was raised for the church. Grateful thanks to the Cuninghams.

During the interregnum we are continuing to take many services ourselves but are extremely grateful to various visiting clergy for coming to take the monthly Communion service. We look forward to hosting the Group Service when our turn comes round.

The bells have been ringing out in August and September with various visiting teams of method ringers attempting two quarter peals and a full peal. The regular Stoodleigh team meets on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm

and new ringers are welcome (contact Jennifer Rowlandson 351402).

The Harvest Festival is coming up shortly, on Sunday 4 October at 11am, followed by the Harvest Supper and Auction in the parish hall at 7pm on Monday 5 October. If you would like to come to the supper, please ring 351252 or 351402.

On Saturday 17 October, Roger Hill is putting together 'Stoodleigh Showtime' – live entertainment provided by local people (singing, dancing, playing music, reading poetry, etc.). It is in the parish hall at 7pm, with supper and a bar. Get in touch with Roger (351280) if you would like to take part. Otherwise come and support this event, raising funds for the hall and the church. Tickets via Margaret (351252) or Geraldine (351391).

Looking further ahead, this year's Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 5 December from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the parish hall. The Carol Service in church is at 6pm on Sunday 20 December; the Revd Tim Hunt will again be joining us.

Also at the Parish Hall:

Saturday 31 October - **Autumn Market and Coffee Morning**, 10am-12noon.

Tuesday 17 November - **Parish Hall AGM**, 7.30pm. All Stoodleigh residents are invited to attend.

Flower Show

There was a large and excellent entry for the Stoodleigh Garden Club Flower and Produce Show. Elaine Morison was Overall Champion. Pat Pennington, who won the Rose Bowl for best specimen rose, was a very close runner-up. Category winners: flowers - Pat Aplin;

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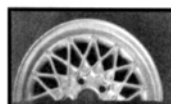
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DOIVE DESIGNS

PARISH ROUND-UP

craft - Diane Whitehead; produce - Elaine Morison; flower arranging - Pat Aplin; cookery - Phil Bird (best chocolate cake made by a man). Potatoes in a bucket champion was Margaret Cunningham. In the children's section there were splendid entries from Ruairi and Lyra Elliott-Jones, and Lucy and Jessica Fraser. It was Pauline Bohanna's first year in charge and she says a big thank you to all who helped to make the show run so smoothly.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: prizewinners for July - 1 David Wotton Snr, 2 Janet Russell, 3 Malcolm Jones, 4 June Jones; August - 1 Alistair Morison, 2 Eileen Fewings, 3 Annette Penwill, 4 Mervyn Brice; September - 1 Kate Mortimer, 2 Lesley Ayre, 3 Christine Luxton, 4 Pat Pennington.

Church Flowers

4, 11, 18 October - Harvest: All
25 October, 1 November - Linda Hill
8, 15 November - Eileen Fewings
22, 29 November - Betty Wotton

TEMPLETON

"Autumn, a time of mellow fruitfulness" as Keats once said and a time to be thankful for the seasons which, in this country, provide us with our food, beauty and so much more. What better way to give our thanks to God than to meet at our church for the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 4 October at 11.00am. The Rev'd Keith Gale will be officiating. If you are unable to come, but would like to contribute to our 'harvest home' then please bring your gifts to the church on Saturday morning 3 October. As Charlton Lodge has closed, we are looking at other old

people's homes or charities to receive your gifts. Please note that most charities only take packaged goods.

We enjoyed a lovely occasion on 23 August when Willow Clow was christened at the Family Service. It was good to see so many of Willow's family and friends at church. The Rev'd Jane Wilson took the service with great thoughtfulness and warmth.

The PCC has received a letter on Fairtrade from the Diocese's Fair and Local Steering Group about current trade justice issues. Here is an extract:

"Support our local dairy farmers: we can show our support by choosing milk products such as yoghurt, cream and cheese with the Union Jack or Red Tractor logo, as this indicates that the milk is from British dairy farms. Also let's do some research to find out where we can buy Devon dairy products in local farm shops or stalls on farmers markets."

Exeter Fair and Local Steering Group urge parishes to pray for local dairy farmers: 'Loving God we give you thanks for all the food that is produced for us by all the farmers every day. We thank you especially for milk, a vital food which we don't always fully appreciate. We pray for dairy farmers and their particular pressures - such as low prices and late milk payments that they face at this present time. May they know the peace of your presence. May we consumers never take our food for granted and may we value and support those who work tirelessly to feed us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.'

There is a 'Speak up for Fairtrade' workshop on 21 November 10.30am - 2.30pm at The Great Hall, The Old

Deanery, The Cloisters, Exeter - to book a place or for more details contact Joanne Harison 01392 294940.

This year's fete was a great success and good fun for all the family with sheep dog demonstrations, pony rides, bouncy castle, cream teas, hot dogs, ice creams, a raffle and indoor & outside auctions. The latter two were as entertaining as ever. Our thanks go to the auctioneer Terry Hamlin for his help and support.

Two beautiful children's quilts which were handmade and donated by Jeanne Cregan for the auction attracted a good deal of publicity in the Tiverton Gazette.

The total amount raised was just over £2,000. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the day so successful and to all those who gave so generously. A specific thank you to Withleigh Nursery for the plants that they so kindly donated.

The Duck Race held on 13 September was an enjoyable event - held on a hot and sunny afternoon. The first duck home belonged to Julie Dent. Eric Kingdom came second and third were John & Audrey McInerney. The last duck in belonged to Reg Coffin. Interestingly, the first draw ticket also belonged to Julie Dent who was heard to say "I'd better do the lottery today!" Surprisingly, Eric Kingdom drew the second draw ticket, but that is where the coincidences ended. We thank Bindy & Roger Linden for hosting the event, as well as Matthew Palmer where the race began. Also our thanks for splendid refreshments which are always produced on such occasions. The

continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

money raised for the Village Hall was £597 and we thank all who supported the event in any way.

Many photographic scenes of Templeton have been submitted and soon twelve of these will be selected for the 2016 Templeton Village Calendar which should be ready for sale at the Christmas get-together in December.

WASHFIELD

*What a wonderful time is Autumn,
as the leaves turn to gold
God fills each day with memories,
priceless and old.*

How beautiful the wild Cyclamen around the village look at this time of the year, such a lovely autumnal picture. St Mary's Harvest Festival was celebrated on Sunday 13 September. The service was taken by Anna in a festive, decorated church, to a good congregation. Anna's theme was "Using your talents", encouraging us all to make the most of the various gifts we have been given. The children had brought hand-made or home-grown items which Anna showed to the congregation? Thank you to everyone who gave produce and decorated the church so beautifully. Children's sports were then held on The Old Rectory lawn, capably organised and run by Claire and Will Webber. The skies were threatening, but the rain held off. This was followed by a "bring and share" tea, enjoyed by all. Thank you so much to Bronson and Camilla for once again letting us use their lawn, to Claire and Will, and also our grateful thanks go to those who helped and served the teas. We were so sorry to learn that little Jack Herniman

has broken his arm, so could not participate at the sports, we wish you well Jack ??

On Saturday 12 September, the Right Reverend Sarah Mullaly was installed as Bishop of Crediton by the Bishop of Exeter. She spoke of our need for a relationship with God who asks us to talk of and be active about the good news of hope in this world of chaos and suffering. She is a warm and compassionate person with a kind word for all.

It was with much sadness that we learnt that Mrs Irene Bolt passed away in August. Rene was a well-known and loved resident of Washfield village having lived here with her husband Bill for over 60 years. Rene took a very active role in village life. She was a long-standing member of the Women's Institute, being the Treasurer for many years. She also helped Bill and others to instigate the Garden Club and was also the Treasurer of this group. Rene was a keen cook and flower gardener and won many cups and prizes with her show entries. She was dearly loved by all her family, friends and neighbours. This was evident with the church full at her funeral service in St Mary's, after which she was interred in our churchyard. We send very sincere sympathies and loving thoughts to Bill, Morley, Angela, Carol, Samantha, Paul and great-grandchildren Oliver and Teegan. She will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

We also send condolences to Mrs Andrea Rowe, the wife of the late Christopher whose funeral took place in St Mary's the Virgin in August. Christopher had suffered ill health for many years before his death. Our

thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Sincere thanks are expressed to our Churchwarden Jeanne Jones who, at the moment, is wearing so many 'hats' in order to keep our church services running successfully. So much goes on behind the scenes, that she copes with admirably in her quiet and positive way.

The Lunch Club ladies and friends held a Cream Tea afternoon in August for Hospiscare (Pine Lodge) and raised the incredible sum of £345. Thanks to all who supported this event.

Claire and William Webber and family wish to thank everyone who attended or donated towards their charity afternoon tea. So far an amazing £1400 has been raised for aHUSUK - for vital research into rare kidney disease and to provide support to families living with aHUS kidney disease.

Our prayers are with everyone not enjoying the best of health, some awaiting operations. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you.

Best wishes are also sent to anyone celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries.

At this time of the year, as exam results come out, we are pleased to hear of the many good outcomes. Congratulations to Charlotte Symns who gained a place at Reading university on the strength of her results. Good luck Charlotte. To everyone else celebrating and moving on, we wish you well and send good wishes for the next period of your life. The Social Club are holding special Rugby World Cup evenings - including early opening on Saturdays 26 Sept and

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PARISH ROUND-UP

3 & 10 Oct - For more up to date details see posters and the website.

Also at the Social Club will be the annual Pumpkin Judging evening on Saturday 31 October. This always proves to be an enjoyable occasion, with lots of friendly competition between growers. Not sure if the Summer we've had will produce some whoppers or not. Go along on the evening and see. Also children's Halloween themed fancy dress party with competitions and food too (See diary entries below and look out for posters and on website for more details including timings)

Washfield Memorial Hall Committee was thrilled to be successful in its grant application to Viridor Credits Environmental Company for essential work to the hall. The original roof dating back 91 years was failing and, as well as damp seeping in, the roof had little or no insulation. The windows too had seen better days and were condensating and draughty.

Thanks to the generosity of the grant received through the Landfill Communities Fund the hall has now undergone these building works and is looking spick and span. The new roof with its modern, efficient insulation, coupled with the UPVC double glazing, will ensure the hall (and its users) keep warm and cosy throughout the year and especially in the Winter months. The Hall Committee thanks Viridor Credits Environmental Company, Washfield Old Parochial School Trustees and Polly Colthorpe for their support and generosity in this funding project.

A reminder - Social Club subscriptions are due 1st October, only £6. Please support the club.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 13 October teatime@thehall from 3pm. All most welcome

Saturday 31 October Pumpkin Judging at Social Club with children's Halloween themed fancy dress and party and competitions. Look out for posters with details including food.

Tuesday 10 November teatime@thehall from 2.30pm

Altar Flower Rota

Oct 4/11	Mrs Voysey
Oct 18/25	Mrs Hansford
Nov 1/8	Mrs Moore
Nov 15/22	Mrs Bicknell
Nov 29/6 Dec	Mrs Boundy

Cleaning Rota

Oct 5/12	Mr & Mrs Parnell
Oct 19/26	Mrs Harding & Mrs Jones
Nov 2/9	Mr & Mrs Ellis
Nov 16/23	Mrs French
Nov 30/7 Dec	Mrs Arnold

earlier in the year, opened the proceedings and we were accompanied by the Tiverton Concert Band throughout the afternoon. We would like to thank Henry and Shirley Cruwys for their hospitality once again, and all those who gave or helped in any way towards the sum of £1,063 raised for Church funds.

Our grateful thanks to Peter Vanstone for dealing with the wood bees that had taken up residence in the church porch.

On 10 August there was a Service of Thanksgiving in our Church for the life of Mr Bill Chown. Mr Chown lived at Bradley View with his wife, Daphne. His ashes are interred in our Churchyard. We send our sympathy and love to Daphne and all the family.

The Garden and Produce Show on 15 August was again successful, with an increased number of entries. There was a good array of vegetable, flower, handicraft, preserve and cookery items. Cup winners were as follows:-

Fruit & vegetables - Henry Cruwys

Flowers - Brenda Tucker

Handicraft, Preserves & Cookery - Angela Sellick

Children's - Henry Sellick

The longest stinging nettle was won by Duncan Kittow. Thank you to the Judges and all who helped to make this a pleasant and enjoyable event.

The Women's Institute's cream tea at the Old Rectory on 3 September was a lovely afternoon with the sun shining, which allowed us to sit and enjoy our tea in the garden. Thank you Peter and Ann for your hospitality.

WITHLEIGH

If you have visited our Village Hall in the last few weeks you will no doubt have noticed that we have new Tables and Chairs. I'm sure you will agree that they look very smart and they are much more comfortable than our old plastic chairs. The Village Hall committee would like to thank Janet Sellick very much for all her hard work putting together grant applications, dealing with and receiving of grants, and the ordering of the tables and chairs. Thank you, Janet.

We had really good weather for our Church Fete on Saturday, 18 July at Bona Vista. Michael and Linda Taylor, who celebrated their Golden Wedding

Continued overleaf ➔

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Harvest Festival celebrations began with a well attended service on Sunday, 13 September, officiated by Revd. Keith Gale. Louise Kittow and Lucy Radford from Withleigh Young Farmers Club read the lessons and prayers. It was good to have the Young Farmers taking part in this special service. This was followed by tea in the Village Hall. Thank you to all those who provided the lovely tea.

On Monday, 14 September we enjoyed our usual Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Thank you, Tom and Valerie Drew and their staff, for another delicious supper. The proceeds of the harvest produce auction, totaling £220, was given to 'Singing to Remember', a singing group for people with dementia in Tiverton. Our thanks also go Jenny Evans and Bridget Tosh for the enlightening talk about 'Singing to Remember', and to Henry Cruwys for being our auctioneer, bringing some banter to the evening.

Withleigh WI

Thursday; 8 October at 7.30pm, meet in Withleigh Village Hall, and joined by Washfield WI. The Subject for the meeting is 'Understanding Dementia' with guest speaker Marion Pollinger. Jenny Evans will speak on 'Singing to Remember'.

Thursday; 12 November at 7.30pm, in Withleigh Village Hall, with guest speaker Joslyn Benson, on 'The Art of Fascinator Making'.

December; PANTOMINE TIME, To celebrate 100yrs of WI, 'Cinderella' at Barnstaple on 29 December, 2pm performance. Tickets and Coach Reserved. Open to anyone in the Exe Valley + friends. Call Rosie 01884 257123 for details

Neighbourhood Watch;

We have no one as yet to take over the running of our Village Neighbourhood Watch scheme. As there is some money in the bank, it has been decided that we call a village meeting to discuss what should happen to the money. If anyone is interested in taking on the running of the Watch perhaps you could come along to the meeting. The meeting will be on **Tuesday 6 October** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. If you would like more details please call Brenda 252431.

This year's **Team Skittles evening** will be on **Friday 30 October** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please come along with a team of 6 people or just turn up and we can make up teams on the night.

Our **Christmas Craft Fayre** is on Saturday, 28 November 10.00am - 4.00pm in the Village Hall. Coffee, lunches and teas will be available. There will be a grand draw, cake and preserves stall in aid of church funds as well as independent craft stalls. Come and buy your Christmas presents.

Advance notice of the Children's Christmas party in the Village Hall on 5 December, 2015. Please ring Sara, 252949, for details.

Get well wishes to all those known to us who are not well at the moment, either in hospital or at home. We also think of those who have been bereaved. Our love and prayers are with you all.

Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 6 October, Neighbourhood Watch meeting at 7.30pm (please see Notes).

Saturday 30 October, Team Skittles, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday, 28 November, 10am - 4pm Christmas Craft Fayre in the Village Hall.

Flower rota:

Oct 4/11 Shirley Cruwys
Oct 18/25 Christine Luxton
Nov 1/8/22 Sylvia Hann
Nov 29/Dec 6 Janet Stacey

Monthly Diary Dates:

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

KEEP SMILING ...



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UNBORN TWINS CHATTING IN THE WOMB

A. So you believe in life after birth?

B. OF COURSE. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING AFTER BIRTH. MAYBE THAT'S THE REASON WE ARE HERE - TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT IS TO COME.

A. Don't be silly. There's no life after birth! And, if there were what would it look like?

B. I'M NOT SURE, BUT PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE MORE LIGHT THAN THERE IS IN HERE. WE MIGHT WALK ON OUR OWN LEGS - EVEN EAT WITH OUR OWN MOUTHS!

A. That's crazy. You can't possibly walk on your own legs or eat with your own mouth. Look, you can see, we're fed by umbilical cord! There's no chance of life after birth.

B. BUT THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING. MAYBE EVERYTHING WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE'RE USED TO.

A. Nonsense. No-one has ever returned from there. Life is just being crowded in a dark place, and it ends with birth.

B. WELL. I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE, BUT I THINK WE SHALL SEE MUMMY AND THAT SHE WILL TAKE CARE OF US.

A. Mummy? You believe in Mummy? And where do you think she is?

B. WELL, EVERYWHERE. ALL AROUND US. WITHOUT HER WE WOULD NOT EXIST.

A. I can't believe that. I've never seen Mummy, so it's obvious there isn't one.

B. BUT SOMETIMES, IF WE ARE REALLY QUIET, WE CAN HEAR HER SINGING; AND WE CAN FEEL HER HANDS AROUND OUR WORLD. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT REAL LIFE ONLY COMES AFTER THIS ... Anon

THE SPIRITUAL RAILWAY

This poem is dedicated to a man who died in 1845, aged 24. It is carved on a stone tablet, set in a wall at Ely Cathedral.

**The line to heaven by Christ was made
With heavenly truth the rails are laid,
From earth to heaven the line extends
To Life Eternal ~ where it ends.**

**Repentance is the Station then
Where passengers are taken in.
No fee for them is there to pay
For Jesus is himself the way.**

**God's word is the first engineer
It points the way to Heaven so dear
Through tunnels dark and dreary here
It does the way to Glory steer.**

**God's love is the fire, His truth the steam,
Which drives the engine and the team.**

**All you who would to glory ride
Must come to Christ, in Him abide.**

**In First, and Second and Third Class
Repentance, Faith and Holiness.**

**You must the way to glory gain
Or you with Christ will not remain.**

**Come then, poor sinners, now's the time
At any station on the line.**

**If you'll repent and turn from sin
The train will stop and take you in.**

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Thoughts for Everyday ~ by Patience Strong ~

for 6 October

Burn what Summer leaves behind
In the Autumn hours.
Broken stalks, decaying weeds,
Dead wood, decaying flowers.
Burn the rubbish of the past.
Pile it on the pyre.
Grievances and grudges ~
Fling them all upon the fire.

KEEP SMILING ...

A Rector's wife was preparing
pancakes for her two young sons.
The boys began to argue over who
should get the first pancake. Their
Mother saw the opportunity for a
moral lesson. She said "If Jesus
was sitting here, he would say 'Let
my brother have the first pancake.
I can wait'"

The older boy turned to his younger
brother and said ...
"You be Jesus" !!

Thoughts for Everyday ~ by Patience Strong ~

for 1 November

Welcome what each season brings,
The Sunshine or the Snow.
The Summertime was sweet
But it has gone ~ so let it go.
Happy is the heart that sings
When skies are dark and grey ~
Hearing on November winds
The nightingales of May.

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14 NOVEMBER
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**TEMPLETON
HARVEST FESTIVAL
CHURCH SERVICE
4 OCTOBER
11.00 am**

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14 NOVEMBER
10.30am - 1.30pm
Usual Stalls
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31 OCTOBER
10am - 12 noon
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**WITHLEIGH
CHRISTMAS CHURCH
CRAFT FAYRE
28 NOVEMBER
VILLAGE HALL
10am - 4.00pm**

**WITHLEIGH
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