



TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

February - March 2018

Price 50p

A THEOLOGICAL THOUGHT FROM TESCO'S !

For some unbeknown reason I found myself in Tesco's the day after Boxing Day. I am pretty sure this was NOT because we needed any sprouts/ prosecco/ olives/ cheesy nibbly things/ tempura battered prawns, (and I can't actually remember why I was there), but I found myself standing in an aisle, in the first aisle in fact, and I came over all peculiar. I felt ever so slightly faint and weak at the knees. Dare I say it, I felt shocked! Yes shocked! Had I missed something? Was I suffering from amnesia? Had the whole Christmas thing become too much?

You see, the thing that shocked me, the thing that pulled me up short, was not the reduced wrapping paper or cards, or the bargain elf jumpers and slippers (tempting though they were), it was the chocolate. Not just any old chocolate. It was the assorted chocolate in various shapes, wrapped in multi-coloured paper.

The thing that shocked me was the row upon row upon row of chocolate Easter eggs! Easter eggs! In December! On the shelves! The day after Boxing Day!

I left the shop without buying a thing.

A few days later I realized, from reading the press, that other people felt as shocked as I did. That made me feel slightly better.



However, recently, I have been thinking about it once more. I know it's a marketing attempt to get us to buy more stuff in readiness for the next big seasonal event (and I did find myself thinking how handy it would be for me personally if the Harvest Supper season could be spread throughout the year!) but maybe there is a tiny bit of theological sense to it.

You see, for it to make any sense, the Christmas/Easter thing has to go together. They are one story. They are part of the same story. And for the story to have any power or relevance today we cannot

detach Easter from Christmas. And of course that is what we are prone to do. It's far more comfortable and less challenging to go all gooey over the birth of a baby, than to wrestle with the idea of that baby being God's son, dying a violent death and defying death by coming back to life, so that we might have eternal life. It's so much easier to leave the baby in the manger and not think about him again until next year.

So maybe, just maybe, the marketing moguls have stumbled upon something. And maybe we too should give it more than a passing thought, as we travel towards Spring, through the wilderness of Lent, to the joy and exuberance of Easter.

With every blessing,

Steph

Please read additional
information from Steph on
Pages 3 / 12 / 19

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EDITORIAL

In the Editorial for February / March last year, we spoke of the "warm glow" that had settled over the Exe Valley, following our first Christmas with Steph. Well, a year has passed and things are looking very positive for the future. We have discovered that we can all "rub along" very well together and all our "Cluster" and "Group" Services are very well attended. Thank you Steph, for uniting us.

Talking of Steph - we have had a "deep and meaningful" meeting to discuss the future of the Magazine. Happily, Steph sees it as her messenger to *all* the residents of the Exe Valley (and beyond) but this means that she will need space to be able to spread the word about things that will be happening in the future.

So, to save space, we will be trying to cut down on duplication. The boxes inside the back cover have been useful to some people but they only repeat things that can be found in the Round-ups - so the boxes have gone !! However, when space allows, you will find some old favourites at the back instead !!

Jenny and Geoff

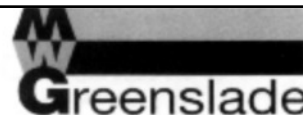
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STEPH REFLEXE ...

I have just been to the cinema to see 'Darkest Hour' and apart from feeling so pleased that we have a local cinema – otherwise I would never get to see anything – I came away knowing that as well as it being a good film, Gary Oldman was (in my humble opinion!) amazing as Winston Churchill. No wonder people are saying that it is one of the best performances of his career. It was also a good story. One of my earliest memories is the death of Winston Churchill, and seeing queues of people snaking round the streets of London to pay their respects to a great man.

However, the film reminds us that Churchill did not always have a great reputation. He said blunt things to people. He had crossed the floor of the house twice. And his contemporaries didn't think much of his 'blood, toil, tears and sweat' speech! Nevertheless, history shows us that he led Britain through her 'darkest hour'.

In preparing for Lent and Easter, I have been thinking about the 'darkest hour' of Jesus. In the end, people didn't think much of him either. He could be blunt and outspoken, often challenging authority and yet, the wonderful thing is, that Jesus chose to face the very darkest of hours of Good Friday, to lead us out of darkness to resurrection and new life.

Steph

A date for your diary!

On Palm Sunday, which is 25 March, Bishop Sarah is coming to preach and preside over Holy Communion, at our 10.30am Group Service, in Calverleigh Church. This will be followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch in Calverleigh Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

'TODAY' 50 years ago February and March, 1968

The lead article in the March magazine was headed, "With Regret", and opened with the words, "This has been a bad year.", bearing in mind that this would have been written sometime in February! Foot and Mouth had taken its toll on Autumn and Christmas events, and there was still no date when Youth Club would re-commence. And, for the first time since "The Group" came into being, no Magazine was published for February, (which at least explains why the archive is lacking a copy!).

A new form of Service for Holy Communion was to be introduced at Stoodleigh on Maundy Thursday, and members of the various PCCs were encouraged to attend. It was acknowledged that change might not always be welcome!

The long range weather forecast for the four weeks ahead was 'very cold'.

The fact that people, in general, were walking less, even though they might be involved in strenuous physical work, was cited as the reason so many were now suffering from bad backs.

Loxbeare had held a very successful Children's Service on Christmas Eve.

Marmalade at 1/6 a jar (7½p) was being offered for sale by Mrs Tull in aid of Templeton Church tower, and orders were being taken.

Withleigh Young Farmers had now reconvened with the end of the Foot and Mouth problems.

Paul Iliff

NATURE NOTES

The songbirds were back in a profusion of glowing colours throughout December, giving little thought to the RSPB planned 'big garden birdwatch'. Given their absence from our feeding station in Autumn it must have been a good harvest for them.

I do not know how we would manage to break the gloom of winter without the bright glimpses of holly and these vibrant visitors. Might I suggest that you also raise your spirits by considering ferns. Granted they are not the most exciting of things, and you have to wonder why they were so fashionable for the Victorians, to such an extent that they had a word – pteridomania – for it.

A visit to Britain 300million years ago would bring more admiration for ferns that were then 100ft high. They are now the coal deposits of today. My Countryside in Britain book advises me that our tallest fern [bracken] can be 6ft high and I find this an exaggeration. Nevertheless size is not everything, and in our pleasant land the green comfort and intricacy of these flowerless plants provide for gentle contemplation. There are around 50 species in the British Isles so I would recommend choosing one as a screen-saver view for each week of the year. Of course in the west of the country, and particularly in Devon, we are not short of the real thing. I would mention the small Polypody fern which grows out of rocks and from the branches of trees [mostly oak in my experience]. This is totally absent from the east of England and one wonders how many visitors spot such a feature and remark on it.

Ferns are primarily woodland plants and I associate them mostly with wet and

continued overleaf →



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sheltered spots. The gloss of Hart's Tongue demands attention in winter, all ferns welcome you to the cool of a wood in summer, whilst in Devon lanes during Spring they almost go through a metamorphosis. When other plants are starting to burst forth, the ferns - after sailing through winter - go into decline. Ferns propagate via spores and/or rhizome and the exotic coiled spring of new growth emerges like an alien species - however the ferns probably think that we are the late-comers to their planet.

Thomas More

PARISH ROUND-UP

CALVERLEIGH

We hope that you all had a good Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year.

Our Autumn Fayre took place on 18 November with a large variety of stalls, competitions and refreshments. It was good to welcome friends and many supporters. A total of £785 was raised towards church funds. Our thanks go to all who helped set up and pack away furniture, and to all those who supplied, cooked or served refreshments and to those who manned stalls. Your help in any way is as always, greatly appreciated.

The Christingle Service took place on 3 December and was well attended both by regular parishioners and many visitors. Our thanks go to Doreen Venn, who once again supplied the Christingles for us, to those who helped with assembling them and to Dyllan who assisted during the talk.

Jackie Herniman led our Carol Service on 17 December, which included the Calverleigh Church Choir, the children singing 'Away in a Manger'. Aunty Jackie was also ably assisted by young Joshua who stood with her to read a prayer. Our thanks, of course, go to all who took part whether it was by doing readings, providing either mince pies or cake or the serving of mulled fruit punch, to a packed congregation. The church looked lovely, as always, all through the festive season thanks to our dedicated flower team - thank you so much!

Christmas Day saw a large congregation who joined together for a Service of Holy Communion led by Steph. Quite a few children left their presents at home, to join parents for what was a lovely start to the day when we celebrate our Saviour's birth.

The Group Service on 31 December was held at Calverleigh during this festive season and yet again saw a rather full Church. Many friends from around the Mission Community joined us on the last day of the year, many making lovely comments about the Church decorations.

All through Advent, donations of dried and tinned food and toiletries were collected for CHAT. We are pleased to say that a large quantity of essentials and goodies were delivered to the CHAT offices at the beginning of the year, for which they were extremely grateful. A letter of thanks has been received and is on display in Church. Thank you to all who contributed.

We are having a re-launch of our 'small change' collection boxes. If you would like a new box, in a choice of colours, they will be available at the back of the Church.

In November, Matilda was born to first time parents Nik and Dave Burton. She is a precious and long awaited first child for

the couple and grand-daughter for Aubrey and Julie Goldsworthy. Our congratulations go to all the family.

Sadly on 4 December the Goldsworthy family suddenly and unexpectedly learned of the passing of Julie's father, Gordon Pengelly. Our condolences go to his family and friends and to anyone else who is mourning the loss of a loved one - whether it was recent or not.

Our thoughts and prayers also go to all who are feeling unwell at this time, awaiting or undergoing treatment and for all those who are suffering from the 'flu' or the coughs and sneezes that are doing the rounds. We hope that you will soon be feeling much better.

Church Cleaning Rota

22 Jan / 3 Feb: Miss J Herniman
5 / 17 Feb: Mrs M Furneaux
19 Feb / 3 Mar: Miss S Goldsworthy
5 / 17 Mar: Mrs N Burton
19 / 31 Mar: Mrs A Webber

Altar Flower Rota

If you would like to go on the Flower Rota please contact Rita Tapp. Please note: Due to tradition there will be no alter flowers during Lent.
21 / 28 Jan: Lady L Amory
4 / 11 Feb: Mrs B Hill

The new mowing rota will appear in the next magazine. If you would like to volunteer for the Flower, Cleaning or Mowing Rotas, please contact Aubrey Goldsworthy on 01884 255248.

Have we missed anything? If there is something that you think we should have mentioned, or you have something for inclusion in the next magazine, please contact Dave Burton on 01884 561499 or calverleigh@exevalleychurches.org and get the latest on the website at: www.exevalleychurches.org/calverleigh

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CRUWYS MORCHARD

An exciting thing to happen in our Parish is that our Bishop Sarah of Crediton has been appointed as the new Bishop of London. She now becomes the third most senior figure in the Church. Congratulations Bishop Sarah.

This edition of TODAY magazine is our pre-Easter issue, with EASTER DAY being on Sunday 1 April; Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 14 February, Mothering Sunday on 11 March, Palm Sunday on 25 March and Good Friday on 30 March. All quite early this year.

Thank you everyone who helped with our Christmas celebrations in 2017, the Services, refreshments and decorating the Church. It was good to see so many people at the Christingle and Carol Service and have so many children taking part in the story reading, singing and dressing up.

CHAT has written to thank us for all your generous donations given during the Service.

Flower and Cleaning Rota 2018

Special dates for decorating during this year are:

Easter Sunday – 1 April

Harvest Festival – 29 / 30 September

Christmas Carol and Services – Sunday 23 December

Altar - Sarah Cruwys

Cruwys window – Sarah Cruwys

Window left of Organ - Sonia Notley

Window right of Organ - Jo Townsend

Table by door - Pauline Guscott

Window by font - Vine Spragg

Font - Lynette Parkhouse

Pedestal or Christmas tree - Cindy Trick
Table - Diana Vincent or Val Randerson
Window - Dorcas - Sue and Pauline Guscott
Window by pulpit (St. Philip) - Caroline Dudley Williams

Jan 29 / Feb - Sonia Notley and Claire Miller

Feb 12 / 19 - Sue and Pauline Guscott

Feb 26 / Mar 5 - Lorna Warren

(Cleaning only - no flowers in Lent)

Mar 12 / 19 - Carol Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

Mar 26 - Decorators for Easter

Apr 2 / 9 - Ann Gillbard & Judith Taylor

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers

By the time you read this, the Club will have taken part in the Exe Valley Group Pantomime, Junior Member of the Year and Senior Member of the Year. The members have worked hard in preparing for these competitions and had a lot of fun on the way! There is Bingo on Saturday 24 February in the Parish Hall; doors open at 7.30 pm and eyes down 8.00 pm, all welcome to attend. Please also look out for the posters advertising our Big Breakfast in March.

Many congratulations to Layla Hill who was recently awarded a National YFC Travel Scholarship to South Africa - a huge achievement! Layla will be volunteering on farms and schools in South Africa. She has already held a Bingo to raise funds for this trip and has plans for more events. Look out for details.

Cruwys Arms Gardeners celebrated Christmas with a delicious dinner at The Ring of Bells in Cheriton Fitzpaine. Eighteen of us sat down to lots of eating, drinking and laughter.

The Gardeners meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Cruwys Arms at 8.00pm, do come and join us.

Yoga continues every Thursday at 10-11.30am

Future Events

Saturday 3 February

Wedding Preparation with our Rector Steph in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday 6 March, AGM for the Parish Hall
Tuesday 13 March AGM for the PCC in the Church

Saturday 31 March Charity prize Bingo in the Parish Hall

Parish Fete Saturday 14 July in the Parish Hall. It has been agreed to have the Dog Show again, ideas are being looked at for joining up the games in the hall gardens and dog show (with ice cream) any ideas? A bouncy Castle? A Fire engine and Police car? Or have you got a vintage vehicle, car tractor or bicycle and would be interested in joining in a static display? Please ring 01363 866864.

Welcome to any one who has moved into the parish recently.

Get well soon to all those who are not well at this time.

A large black and white Tom Cat has turned up at Wringsland Farm, 01363 866788, is he yours?j

Pennymoor Congregational Chapel

Services on Sundays at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments.

Contact Ruth on 01363 83451

4 Feb. All age Service, Rev. R Green

11 Feb Communion, Mr. O Mears

18 Feb Join Way Village at 2.30pm

25 Feb Mr D Bulley

4 Mar All age Service, Rev. R Green

11 Mar Mothering Sunday Mr. O Mears

18 Mar Join Way Village 2pm

continued overleaf →

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25 Mar Prayer & Praise + Communion
Rev R Green

1 Apr All age Easter fun Rev. R Green
Pennymoor Church was started 10 years ago, so we will be having a Special Celebration.

Look for notices or call Ruth Green on 01363 83451 for details.

LOXBEORE

Happy New Year to everyone and trust you experienced the joy of Christmas time as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It was good to see all three of our Services well attended.

We began the Christmas Celebrations with our Christingle Service on the 3 December in the afternoon at the Village Hall. It was taken by Ron, with the children helping. Everyone was making their own Christingles and taking part in the service with readings, songs and prayers relating to the meaning of the Christingle. This was followed by afternoon tea. Thank you to all who helped.

Our Carol Service on the 17 December was taken by John with members of the congregation and the children doing readings. The children also took part in playing and singing. The offering of £250 was donated to the work of Vranth House. Presents were placed under the tree and later taken to Ashdowne/Pinnex Moor Nursing Home. The Service on Christmas Eve was also taken by John with Family Communion. It was good to see so many children again who did the reading and prayers. Linda also did a Christmas talk for the children with activities. Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church so beautifully, to Linda and the children who decorated the tree and to those who

cleared up after Christmas and all who helped in anyway over the Christmas period.

Thank you to all the Carol Singers and to those who provided Supper on the three nights and to those who gave so generously – a wonderful total of £755.30 which will be split between Water Aid and Macmillan Nurses in Tiverton. The Government will be matching the donation given to Water Aid.

Mothering Sunday on 11 March will be in the Village Hall with the Service commencing at approx 10.30am. This will be preceded by a full English Breakfast from 9.30am cooked and served by the men. Do come and join us.

The Exe Valley Woman's Bible Study Group meet at Christine's, Churchill House, Loxbeare. Dates 31 January, 14/28 February, 14 March. Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve Troake, Derrick McManus, Liz Barrow, Steve Radford, Tamanda Evans, Gary and Shirley Gibbons, and Isabelle Perry who has broken her leg – also, all others who are feeling unwell, receiving or waiting for treatment and those suffering with flu, colds and viruses etc. We hope you will soon be feeling better.

Congratulations to Richard Vickery's son – Dr Owen Vickery BSc MBCS - who in December gained his PhD from the Division of Computational Biology and Physics at Dundee University as a 'Computational Biologist' and has now taken up a Post Doctorate research post at Oxford University.

Congratulations to those celebrating special occasions and Happy Birthday to all with birthdays in February/March.

Welcome to Karen Cornish and Mike, who have moved into The Orchard with children Laura & Mike. We hope you soon settle and be very happy living in Loxbeare.

The Christmas Fayre on 2 December raised £330 for the Village Hall. The next Cream Tea will be 10 February 3-5pm followed by one on 10 March.

The Village Christmas meal was at Bickleigh Mill and was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Sue for organising the evening. Dates and activities for Loxbeare Ladies yet to be decided. Please phone Sue on 01884 259496 for details.

The Village Party planned for 13 January unfortunately had to be postponed. Many apologies but will be held at a future date yet to be decided.

On the 27 January there will be a Cheese, Drinks and Chat evening at the Village Hall from 7pm onwards. Open for everyone.

24 March will be a social event in the Hall at 7pm.

26 March Easter Bingo 7 for 7.30pm also in the Village Hall.

OAKFORD

St Peter's sparkled in mid-December - lit up by imaginatively decorated trees for the Christmas Tree Festival. Just over £300 was raised at the Afternoon Tea and from donations. Thanks to all who helped and supported.

Thanks to Robin Nicholl who led our most enjoyable Carol Service and to all the

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New Creation News

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**“The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword...”
(Hebrews Ch. 4 v 12)**

The Scriptures have gone out from New Creation in many ways over the past few months and we pray they will bear much fruit. A big ‘Thank You’ to all those who came in and bought their Christmas cards and presents etc. from us. We are so pleased to tell you that our Lord answered your and our prayers. Thank you so much for your support over that pre-Christmas period. Rikky reports that, with some welcome donations, our trading figures show a small profit. Please join with us to praise and thank the Lord!

Please do keep coming in. We hope you see New Creation as worthwhile and an important addition to the work of the local churches. We continue to need your support. The use of the internet may be easy but it takes the trade away from local shops and sadly they close down. If New Creation is to continue here in Tiverton, providing a resource centre for local Christians, and a place of refreshment for body, mind and spirit, it needs all the local Christians to make it their own and use it on a regular basis. We are told at the end of Matthew’s Gospel to go out and make disciples – New Creation has the resources to help you do just that! ‘God is Good’ and we pray that He will keep us here to honour Him and serve you for a long time yet. Thank you everyone who supports us in each and every way. God bless you.

February sees the start of Fairtrade Fortnight which this year runs from 26 February to 11 March. It is estimated that small farmers grow about 70% of the world’s food yet only receive an average of 3% of the retail price on the supermarket shelves. (See the Fairtrade website.)

We stock many Traidcraft (Fairtrade) products, and use the foods in the coffee shop, so please help these farmers and producers by buying them here. And why not order your REAL EASTER EGGS!!! The original design, with a little booklet about Easter, still at £3.99!

Other designs are available (see meaningfulchocolate.co.uk).

The farmers will thank you and so will we, for helping us to support them.

Don’t forget that we have changed our opening times and now close at 4:30pm Mondays to Fridays. We also now open at 10am Wednesdays. This is to allow time for the staff to pray about the New Creation, Tiverton and anything else that concerns them.

You are welcome to come and join us.

February also brings St. Valentine’s Day. Penny’s Special this month is a bowl of soup and a roll for £3.00 so why not bring in your Valentine with you?

Future dates: Lent starts on 14 February
Mothering Sunday 11 March
Good Friday 30 March
Easter Sunday 1 April

May we help you with resources?

God bless you all and thank you for your prayers

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readers and providers of mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.

The Christmas Morning Service was well attended and thank you Rev’d Keith Gale for officiating.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Frederick John Reed who passed away on 12 December aged 89 years. Fred had lived all his life at Aldridge Mill. The Funeral was held at St Peter’s on 5 January.

The family of Kitty May Francis formerly of 1 Manor Cottage, Oakford are sorry to announce that Kitty sadly passed away on Friday 5 January 2018, at a residential home in Bromsgrove North Worcestershire. Kitty lived in the village for 24 years from 1982 with her late husband Ron, who drove the Market Bus. She worked as a midwife at Tiverton Hospital and on the district. In her spare time, she involved herself in many village activities, including the Moorland Club where she enjoyed making costumes for the Pantomime. Kitty was also Secretary of the Exe Valley Market Bus for several years. The family are hoping to arrange a Memorial Service at St Peter’s Oakford at a later date.

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting will be held in Church on 19 March at 7pm. All parishioners are invited to attend.

We apologise if the tree work carried out around the Church recently disrupted anyone’s visit to the graveyard. It is a great improvement and has made the environment much safer.

Oakford Players: The Variety Show due to take place at the end of February has been postponed until the end of October

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

2018. So there is still time to volunteer help with the show – contact Dawn 01398 324035 for further details.

The Village Hall committee is organising an Italian Supper Evening and Quiz on 3 March at 7.30pm in the Hall. Tickets £17.50 to include a glass of Prosecco. Buon appetito! Dawn has the tickets, call 01398 324035.

The Moorland Club's next meeting is a Fish & Chip Supper to be held in the Hall on Thursday 8 February at 7pm. There will also be a quiz. To reserve a place and order food contact Patsy on 01398 351 648.

The Thursday 8 March meeting is a return visit from Charles Lamming of Bonham's who will talk about and value antiques. This meeting is open to non-members (£2 entry). Those attending are invited to bring along no more than two 'treasures' which will be put on view. If they are selected for valuation there will be a £2 fee per item – bargain!! The meeting starts at 7pm and refreshments will be served.

Brenda Burrows would like to thank all the ladies who gathered to spring clean the Church in early January. It definitely proved a 'clean sweep' to start the New Year.

As usual the Winter has brought coughs and colds and bouts of 'flu and sickness. If you have succumbed we hope you will soon be feeling better.

January can seem an endless month of dull dreary days and stormy weather but all is to look forward to – it will be light until well after 5pm by the time you are reading this in early February; the snowdrops will be putting on a show and early daffodils appear to cheer us up.

Shrove Tuesday approaches as does St Valentine's Day and don't forget Mothering Sunday on 11 March. Easter is early this year 1 April (no kidding) so do join us at St Peter's for some Spring celebrations.

Aid for Samburu: Fundraising Quiz and 2-course Supper in Oakford Village Hall on Saturday 3 February at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Pay bar and raffle. Tickets £10 per head from Heather Gibson 01398 341348.

RACKENFORD

Christmas is now over and even if our weather is not as we would wish Spring is certainly in the air, as the bulbs and shrubs come to life again and the nights are getting lighter.

Sadly we hear of several deaths and we send our belated and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Purrington, Mrs North and Mrs Vanstone.

The family of the late Gerald Crocker (Born in Rackenford) would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the cards and messages received since his death.

Many will remember Pam Lester who lived at Worthy Farm for several years and worked as our school secretary for a long period of time. After her retirement Pam was so looking forward to the future with Pat but sadly she suffered a very severe stroke and fought hard to enjoy life in her brave and upbeat way with the love and support of her loving family. We were saddened to hear of Pam's death in December. A Memorial Service was held in Bampton Church following a cremation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat, Robert, Miles, Peter and Hilary at this difficult time.

We also send our deepest sympathy to Jean Cole on the death of her brother Richard (Dick) who passed away in December.

We continue to pray for our friends Jacques Cann, Mike Priscott and Mike Lane and to anyone else who is not well that we have not heard about.

Many thanks to the Paxton family for once again providing us with a Christmas Tree, which was decorated and looked so beautiful by the Altar, and thanks to everyone who played a part in decorating our Church.

Our Christingle Service was held on 11 December, where the children enjoyed making their own Christingles. Ellenor Maddocks sang the 1st verse of Away in a Manger beautifully and then the other children joined in. It was lovely to hear the children singing and we are so lucky to have such well behaved children taking part. Thank you and we look forward to hearing you again.

What a joy to hear the carol singers calling at our doors with Sharon Saupé providing the music. It really felt like Christmas had arrived and donations of over £90 were given to Devon Air Ambulance. Thank you.

Rackenford Club was the venue for a Christmas Craft Fayre. A lovely happy gathering came to shop from a wide variety of stalls and purchase gifts for Christmas and enjoy refreshments. A visit followed later from Father Christmas and there was a Children's Party - what lovely treats. Many thanks to Debbie and all the team.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

The Shop Christmas Draw with mince pies to enjoy, took place on 23 December with another opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate our shop and all they do for us.

Our Christmas Eve Carol Service saw the Church full and a little extra seating was needed for the wonderful congregation of families, friends, locals and some people returning especially for this Service. We had the bell ringers welcoming us and our vicar Rev Keith Gale. Our adult choir sang a special carol and the children sang to us so beautifully and not forgetting our very own Three Kings, Rev Keith Gale, Darren Blackburn and David Cocks. Such talent !!! We hope you all enjoyed it. Many thanks to Marjorie Smith for all her work with our choir and children. Rev Keith Gale gave a short talk and made us laugh with the help of the young children. A time to reflect and remember our loving families and be thankful. Holy Communion followed after the main service.

A variety of beautiful lights at various homes throughout the village, brightened up our Christmas.

Many thanks to anyone who plays a part in helping support our Church in any way. So many people give their time to help with jobs that need doing. Many thanks also to Mary Cann and Herbert Smith for taking some of our Services and organizing prayers and readings from members of the congregation.

We hope you will all enjoy a happy and healthy New Year.

STOODLEIGH

A big congregation helped to make this year's Carol Service at St Margaret's a

particularly happy occasion. Will any of us ever forget Steph's Christmas jumper (lurid pink and covered with glitter and flashing lights)? It was revealed during her address, which sparkled throughout with the true joy and warmth of Christmas. Even Scrooge might have smiled.

All this was more remarkable for coming so soon after a fall of plaster from the Church roof, just by the pulpit, made it likely the Service would have to take place in the Parish Hall. Thanks to the swift action of Martin Balment, the work was completed and the scaffolding down in the nick of time, leaving us three days to clean and decorate the church. Many thanks to all who put in so much time to help and especially to the flower arrangers who rallied round at short notice with a wonderful display. We also had a Christmas tree (thank you to John Widdowson), Bryan Rigg's "flying angels" and star, polished brass and candles in the windows. A good number of children enjoyed entertaining us in Audrey Rigg's nativity play. The choir was smaller than usual as many fell by the wayside with coughs and colds, but nonetheless the singing from a full church raised the roof - and no more plaster came down!

Carol-singing two days later raised £142. A donation was made to the Market Bus, the balance helping towards the repair of the roof. This year the singers visited Dry Hill as well as several houses in the village. It was thankfully dry and not too cold, so we all enjoyed ourselves.

The Christmas Fayre at the beginning of December raised £1,186. There were many stalls and we were overwhelmed by the generosity of donors to the raffle. Father Christmas had a busy time as did the stalwarts in the kitchen, doing good trade in coffee, cakes and mulled wine. The Parish Hall looked very festive;

grateful thanks to all who helped make the Fayre such a success.

A well-known way of raising money is putting loose change in a jam-jar. There are now jars available in St Margaret's (or you can supply your own). When you have filled a jar contact Jennifer (351402) and she will arrange collection. She has already filled half a jar and was surprised how much there was in it - better it should go to the Church instead of being beer money!

On Friday 16 February, 7pm for 7.30, Jennifer Rowlandson will be doing another slide show in the Parish Hall in aid of the Hall and the Church, with photographs this time of Lundy, covering her various trips there between 2007 and 2017. Please bring your own drinks/glasses; nibbles will be provided. Please book - tickets are £5 from Geraldine (351391) or Margaret (351252).

Other firm dates for 2018 are the Dog Show in conjunction with the Parish Hall on Saturday 11 August, the annual Ploughman's Lunch on Monday 27 August, Harvest Supper on Monday 8 October, the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8 December and the Carol Service on Sunday 23 December. There are likely to be other events as well and dates will be on the web-site and in the magazine.

Parish Hall Events

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parish Hall and bought tickets for this year's Christmas Draw and also to the local businesses and members of the community who donated amazing prizes. The Draw took place at the Christmas Bingo which was another lively event. The Draw and Bingo raised a total of £773 for hall funds.

continued on Page 12 ➔

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We meet on alternate WEDNESDAYS, at Churchill House, Loxbeare, EX16 8BX from 2.00-4.00 p.m.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”

This term, with the help of the Good Book Guide: “Shining with joy”, we shall be studying the first 3 chapters of the letter Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi.

January 17 th	Joy-filled prayer	Philippians 1 v. 1-11
January 31 st	Joy in hardships	Philippians 1 v. 12-30
February 14 th	Joy and humility	Philippians 2 v. 1-11, 19-30
February 28 th	Joy in obedience	Philippians 2 v.12-18
March 14 th	Joy as we run	Philippians 3 v.1-21

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

PRAYER BREAKFASTS



On the last Saturday of each month, there will be an opportunity to meet together and to pray – as well as eat breakfast !!

**The next two Prayer Breakfasts will be on 24 February and 31 March
Please look at the website for venues, and come and join us.**

A PRAYER FOR LENT

**O Lord our God, teach us,
we beseech you, to ask you
for the right blessings.
Steer the vessel of our life
towards yourself,
you tranquil haven of all
storm-tossed souls.
Show us the course wherein
we should go.
Renew a willing spirit
within us.**

**Let your spirit curb our
wayward senses, and guide
and enable us into that
which is our true good,
to keep your laws, and in all
our works evermore to
rejoice in your glorious and
gladdening presence.**

St Basil 379 AD

4 FEBRUARY

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Morning Worship

3.30 pm Praise Party

All Welcome

both with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

10 am Morning Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Worship

STOODLEIGH

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

See Calverleigh

WASHFIELD

11 am Morning Prayer

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Family Service

11 FEBRUARY

CLUSTER SERVICES

ALL SERVICES TODAY ARE

HOLY COMMUNION

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CALVERLEIGH

6.30 pm Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11.15 am Templeton

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Cluster Service

OAKFORD

9.30 am Cluster Service

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Oakford

STOODLEIGH

9.30 am Oakford

TEMPLETON

11.15 am Cluster Service

WASHFIELD

6.30 pm Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

11.15 am Templeton

18 FEBRUARY

CALVERLEIGH

3 pm Evening Worship

CRUWYS MORCHARD

9.30 am Morning Prayer
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

LOXBEARE

11.15 am Family Service
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

OAKFORD

6.30 pm Evening Praise

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

6.30 pm Evensong

TEMPLETON

11 am Morning Service

WASHFIELD

11 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Morning Worship

25 FEBRUARY

CALVERLEIGH

See Loxbeare

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Loxbeare

LOXBEARE

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE

Steph Gordon-Jeffs
and **OPEN DOORS**

OAKFORD

See Loxbeare

RACKENFORD

See Loxbeare

STOODLEIGH

See Loxbeare

TEMPLETON

See Loxbeare

WASHFIELD

See Loxbeare

WITHLEIGH

See Loxbeare

4 MARCH

CLUSTER SERVICES

ALL SERVICES TODAY ARE
HOLY COMMUNION
Steph Gordon-Jeffs

CALVERLEIGH

9.30 am Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

6.30 pm Withleigh

LOXBEARE

9.30 am Washfield

OAKFORD

11.15 am Rackenford

RACKENFORD

11.15 am Cluster Service

STOODLEIGH

11.15 am Rackenford

TEMPLETON

6.30 pm Withleigh

WASHFIELD

9.30 am Cluster Service

WITHLEIGH

6.30 pm Cluster Service

**11 MARCH
MOTHERING SUNDAY**

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

9.30 am Breakfast Service
Village Hall

OAKFORD

10 am Family Service

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Family Service
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

STOODLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

TEMPLETON

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

11 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

10.30 am Family Service

18 MARCH

CALVERLEIGH

11.15 am Family Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

11 am Family Service

LOXBEARE

6.30 pm Evening Praise

OAKFORD

10 am Family Service

RACKENFORD

9.30 am Morning Worship

STOODLEIGH

6.30 pm Evensong

TEMPLETON

11 am Morning Service

WASHFIELD

3 pm Evening Prayer

WITHLEIGH

9.30 am Morning Worship
with Steph Gordon-Jeffs

**25 MARCH
PALM SUNDAY**

CALVERLEIGH

10.30 am GROUP SERVICE

Holy Communion
with Bishop Sarah
and Steph Gordon-Jeffs
(Bring & Share Lunch in Hall)

CRUWYS MORCHARD

See Calverleigh

LOXBEARE

See Calverleigh

OAKFORD

See Calverleigh

RACKENFORD

See Calverleigh

STOODLEIGH

See Calverleigh

TEMPLETON

See Calverleigh

WASHFIELD

See Calverleigh

WITHLEIGH

See Calverleigh

GOOD FRIDAY

30 MARCH

WITHLEIGH

10 am Tea/Coffee/Hot Cross
Buns followed by Informal
Service in Village Hall.

LOXBEARE

11 am Good Friday Meditation

TEMPLETON

11 am Easter Garden Service

CALVERLEIGH

12.30 pm Easter Meditation

Steph Gordon-Jeffs

WASHFIELD

3 pm Easter Reflection followed
by Tea and Hot Cross Buns

EASTER SUNDAY

1 APRIL

Times of Services
to be announced.

Please check on web-site or
with your Churchwardens.
Contact details on Page 2.

PARISH ROUND-UP

A JOURNEY FROM ASH WEDNESDAY, THROUGH LENT TO EASTER 2018



A Journey of Prayer and Meditation through the Psalms

As John Calvin puts it "The Psalms are a 'mirror' of the soul".
Come and join us throughout Lent and look into the mirror - and allow
God to change and transform us, through studying the Psalms.

14 February Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion with Ashes 7pm Stoodleigh

SONGS OF THE SPIRIT

21 February Wednesday 7pm Cruwys Morchard Psalms 55 and 74

27 February Tuesday 7pm Witleigh Psalms 32 and 51

8 March Thursday 10am Washfield Psalms 107 and 8

14 March Wednesday 11am Rackenford Psalms 23 and 96

21 March Wednesday 7pm Templeton Psalms 122 and 27

26 March Monday 6pm Oakford Psalm 113

27 March Tuesday 6pm Loxbears Psalm 114

28 March Wednesday 6pm Stoodleigh Psalm 115

29 March Maundy Thursday **Agape Meal** 7pm Witleigh Psalm 116

30 March Good Friday 12.30pm Calverleigh Psalms 117 and 118

A **Skittles and Ploughman's Evening** is booked for Friday 2 March, 7pm at the hall – a SWAG event raising funds for the Village Fun Day. These evenings are great fun and very popular so get your tickets from Geraldine (351391) or Margaret (351252). There will also be the ongoing competition for the champion skittler!

The **Easter Market & Coffee Morning** will be on Saturday 31 March, 10am-12noon. Local businesses and craft makers offering popular goods for sale and stalls with books, cakes, veg, community plant stall and refreshments. Free entry. Tables available for hire – ring 351391.

There are two new regular classes in the Hall this year, run by Kim Grimston – Low Impact Keep Fit, Tuesdays at 10am, will help to improve balance, mobility and confidence and strengthen and tone muscles; Low Impact Aerobics-Toning-Zumba Mix, Thursdays at 7pm. For more info, contact Kim on 07773 019564 or kimgrimston@gmail.com

Other regular events at the hall: Saturday Book & Coffee Mornings at 10.30am; Monday Pilates at 7pm and first Monday of the month Afternoon Board Games at 2pm.

Stoodleigh 100 Club: Prizewinners for November – 1 Cathy Thorpe, 2 Jo Shepherd, 3 Geraldine Talbot, 4 Annette Penwill; December – 1 Peter Broadbent, 2 Chris Whitehead, 3 Diane Whitehead, 4 Peter Browne, plus extra prizes Philip Turner, Annette Penwill and Trish Fish.

Church Flowers
4,11 February Trish Fish
18,25 February and
4,11,18,25 March Lent - no flowers

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PARISH ROUND-UP

TEMPLETON

Belated but sincere good wishes to everyone for 2018.

It was wonderful to see so many of our community at the Carol Service on Christmas Eve. We even had to get some chairs out! Steph took the service reminding us all of how much God loves us no matter what and all He longs for is our response. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for the occasion and thank you to all who help with floral arrangements throughout the year.

A grateful thank you too from the Salvation Army to all those who kindly gave Christmas presents at our Christingle Service to children in Tiverton. The S.A. were particularly pleased with the careful wrapping and labelling of the presents which helped them enormously with distribution.

We would like to encourage those who attend our Church, or indeed anyone else in Templeton, to join together with others from all over the Exe Valley Church Community at Church Services, such as the Group or Cluster, sometimes held in other churches. Steph always officiates at these. They are very well attended and there is always a warm welcome – which often includes coffee and biscuits too!

The PCC decided that we would now get all the Church repairs addressed which will leave our funds very much depleted but they need doing. This will include re-pointing and painting the east wall and re-plastering the vestry. Hopefully the work will begin soon.

To raise money for Church maintenance there are two dates for your diary.

Firstly, the entertaining “Antiques Call my Bluff” evening is returning once again to Templeton Village Hall on Thursday 22 February starting at 7.30pm with a two course meal! The evening involves 3 experts from the Fine Arts Auctioneers and Valuers: Bearne’s Hampton and Littlewood bringing antique items along which, after the meal, they will describe but only one will have the correct information. You have to decide the genuine antique. The experts make it fun and give a prize to the most successful contestant. Tickets, to include the meal are £8.00 each. This is a popular event so we advise purchasing your tickets early. Available from Martin Strong (253220) Bindy Linden (860655) Gloria Woollacott(254509) Lynda Newnes (881318) and Jan Heptinstall(255399)

Secondly we are holding a **Summer Concert with Cheese and Wine** on Friday 29 June - which will include instrumental pieces, songs, prose and poetry. Please put it in your diary. More details will follow later.

Christmas Hall games were great fun and showed some real talent. The winners and runners up were:

Mens Skittles : Martin Saunders, Dan Pancherz

Mens Mixed Pool : Jake Pancherz, Mike Pancherz

Ladies Darts : Tash Beech, Julie Woollacott

Mens Darts : Jake Pancherz, Mike Pancherz

Mixed Table Tennis : David Leeming, Jake Pancherz

On New Year’s Eve the talented Ade, Yvette and family from Dart Cottage came up to the Village Hall at short notice and played their music with a quiz and dancing. Everyone loved their music and we hope to book them in the future.

On every other Tuesday since September 2017 the Templeton Pool Team have hosted the Inter Village Pool Championship. The season ends next month and we shall see if Templeton has won the cup.

Unfortunately the Family Puppet Show and Children’s Tea Party planned for 3 February, has had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. We apologise and assure people that all ticket money will be refunded.

Church Flower and Cleaning Rota

4 / 11 Feb	Bindy Linden
Lent –	Cleaning only
18 / 25 Feb	Clare Trevelyan-Thomas
4 / 11 March	Jan Heptinstall
18 / 25 March	Gloria Woollacott

WASHFIELD

Never doubt your abilities.

Remember: Amateurs built the Ark; Professionals built the Titanic!

A Very Happy New Year to you all.

The weeks before Christmas, “The time of waiting”, saw Advent reflections taking place all around the Parishes, and Washfield hosted theirs on 7 December, when we heard of the prophets foretelling the coming of Jesus. Our Advent Candle was lit each Sunday as a reminder. The Christingle was as enjoyable and significant as always and lots of children took part and celebrated with Steph.

The Carol Service on Christmas Eve, which followed the traditional pattern of “Nine Lessons and Carols”, was ably led by Richard – who welcomed everyone to

continued overleaf →

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PARISH ROUND-UP

the Service; Allison – who lit the 4th Advent Candle, read an Advent Prayer and the last Lesson; and Jenny – who led our Prayers at the end of the Service. We were very pleased to welcome a good number of children and young people – many of whom read lessons. We thank all those who took part, especially Sarah as Organist and Director of the delightful Children’s Choir – who sang “Away in a Manger” so beautifully. Many of the large congregation stayed after the Service to enjoy mulled wine and biscuits.

On Christmas Day we welcomed Steph to our 11am Family Communion. It was a joyous occasion – lit up by Steph’s “tacky” (her words) flashing lights jumper which greatly amused the congregation.

Steph has great plans for the coming year, see Steph Reflexe, and pages as listed on front cover. The Group and 'Cluster' Services are wonderful occasions and Washfield's own Services are faithfully supported. Something for everyone. See you there!

Many of you will know that Bishop Sarah is leaving us soon, to take up her new position as Bishop of London – making her the third ranking person in the Church of England. We send her our congratulations and very best wishes for the future. We are very privileged because she is finding time to lead our Palm Sunday Group Service with Holy Communion, on 25 March in Calverleigh Church. This will be followed by a “Bring and Share” Lunch, in the Hall. Everyone welcome.

An important date for your diary is Monday 19 March, when our Annual Church Meeting (APCM) will be held at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome. Light refreshments. Come and hear about what your Church is doing!

We hope you are all getting over your coughs and colds and getting used to the unpredictability of the weather! We are so pleased that Sylvia Cockram is back on the Market Bus and having her little jaunt to town, and that Joe Elston is walking again after such a long spell of inactivity. To anyone among us who is unwell, we wish you get well wishes.

Thank you to everyone for their wonderful and generous support at the December Coffee Morning held in The Cottage. £180 was raised for Church Funds.

The W.I. Christmas Dinner held in December was, as always, a resounding success. The assembled party-goers enjoyed a lovely meal followed by the usual home-grown entertainment. Thanks to all who put such an effort in, to make it so enjoyable.

The Carol Singers took their annual trip around the village in December and their tuneful walkabout meant that the Exe Valley Market Bus was rewarded with the £210 raised on the evening. The songsters were rewarded with a 'bring and share' Supper in the Social Club afterwards.

Washfield WI's 70th Anniversary was celebrated at a very special evening in January when the excellent Gypsy Jazz and Swing band 'La Vie en Rose' entertained the audience in the Hall. The Minutes of the first meeting in 1948 were read and members reminded us just what a powerful force the national W.I. movement is; putting forward resolutions for change and lobbying Parliament on important issues including lessening the use of plastics and reducing sugar in foods and drinks. Our own W.I. meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month and always welcomes new members to its meetings. Look in 'Dates for your Diary' for their meeting content and speakers.

The Social Club too, always welcomes new members. Its annual subscription is just £6 and offers club nights and many events throughout the year. Over the Christmas period it held a successful Draw night and New Year's Eve celebration. Look out for events happening throughout the year including another Tractor Fest and lots more.

Don't forget that the usual Coffee Morning in the Village Hall follows the Egg Rolling on Easter Saturday 31 March. Come along for coffee, hot-cross buns, biscuits and stalls including Plants, Cakes, Produce and also a Raffle. Any donations to these stalls will be much appreciated so please get 'sowing and growing'. The proceeds will go to our own St Mary's Church.

We welcome Mark and Mandy Grant to Olands, Lower Washfield and wish them much happiness in their new home.

To those with special birthdays or anniversaries we wish you many congratulations.

Congratulations to Jenny and Geoff Parnell who became Great-grandparents at the end of November - making Jenny's Mum, Grace, a Great-great-Grandmother.



5-Generations !!!
Standing L to R:- Parents, Great-grandparents, and Grandmother. Seated :- Grace - holding 6-day old Great-great-granddaughter Amelia Grace

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 8 Feb W.I. in Hall at 2.30pm.
Speaker: Felicity Jones on Recycling and waste collections

Tuesday 13 February teatime@thehall 2.30pm

Thursday 22 February Lunch Club begins again in the Hall 12 for 12.30pm. New diners always welcome. Ring Anne on 255298 to book into this first one please.

Thursday 8 March W.I. in Hall at 7.30pm.
Speaker: Barbara Dymock on 'The highs and lows of an air hostess.'

Tuesday 13 March teatime@thehall 3.00pm

Thursday 22 March Lunch Club in Hall 12 for 12.30

Saturday 31 March Egg Decorating and Rolling contests. Meet in the Church porch at 10am. Followed by Coffee Morning in Hall with stalls and a raffle.

Church Altar Flowers Rota

Feb 4/11 Mrs Pannifer
Feb 18/Mar 25 LENT NO FLOWERS

Church Cleaning Rota

Feb 5/12 Mrs Albery
Feb 19/26 Mr & Mrs Ellis
March 5/12 Mrs French
March 19/26 Mr & Mrs Dickman
April 2/9 Mr & Mrs Parnell

Our Christmas Craft Fayre, held at the end of November, was a great success realising £1,256 towards the cost of repairing the West wall of our Church. Many thanks to all who helped in any way, and for all the donations for the refreshments, cake stall, preserves and the draw. Thank you, Janet, for organising the various stalls.



Our Christingle Service on 3 December was rather different. The afternoon was led by Laura, who took us into a second childhood. We began with refreshments in the Village Hall with sixteen adults and five children joining in colouring, word-search, making Christmas trees from cardboard tubes, and finally our Christingles (using Glowsticks rather than candles), before moving into Church for a short Service. A donation was later sent to the Children's Society. Thank you, Laura, for all your efforts.

The night of the Carol Singing turned into very icy and slippery conditions with the result of Margaret Gale falling on the ice quite soon after the carol singers set out. The evening was, therefore, abandoned for safety reasons. As a result of her fall, Margaret broke a bone in her finger and is still visiting the Fracture Clinic. We hope your finger will soon be back to

normal, Margaret. A donation from our Church has been sent to the Market Centre in Tiverton which was the charity for the Carol Singing around the village last year.

Our Carol Service was well attended with many gifts being placed under the Christmas Tree for CHAT to distribute to those in need. Ruth Morley, from CHAT, attended the service, and was able to take the gifts with her afterwards. Many thanks to Brenda and Susie for preparing and conducting the Service, giving us Christmas readings, carols and a quiz! Thanks also to the readers and for the donations of the mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread. Thanks Steph for the chocolates which were very much enjoyed - lovely thought and appreciated.

Our Christmas Eve Communion Service was also well attended, and thank you Steph for your meaningful and entertaining sermon together with your flashing Christmas jumper!

Susie and Janet prepared and led our Family Service on 7 January; well done, and our thanks to you both.

14 January saw 66 of us sitting down to a Sunday Carvery in the Village Hall. Roast Beef and Roast Turkey with the respective Yorkshire Puddings and Stuffing, along with a selection of vegetables, were the order of the day. This was followed by a wonderful selection of home-made desserts. It was great to see the Hall full, with everyone enjoying lunch together. The event raised £675 for Village Hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who supplied the delicious desserts and to those who gave draw prizes. Also a big thank you to all who helped to lay up the tables on Saturday afternoon, peeled vegetables, did the cooking, washed dishes and cleared up at the end.

continued overleaf →

WITHLEIGH

Our informal Service on 19 November was led by Laura, and focused on Nightstop, a charity which provides one night's safe accommodation for homeless young people (aged 16-25), offering them a spare room, warm meal, shower and a listening ear.

A donation to Nightstop was made following the Service.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Short Mat Bowls in the Village Hall has now resumed again after the Christmas break. We play on Wednesday evenings throughout the year, starting at 7.30pm. We enjoy some friendly matches - both home and away, and have always received a friendly welcome wherever we go. We also enjoy some friendly rivalry on our Wednesday evening practice sessions. If anyone would like to come along and join us, either as a complete beginner or semi-professional, you would be most welcome. If you would like more details please call Duncan on 252949 or Brenda on 252431.

There is a PCC meeting on Tuesday, 20 February at 7.30 pm at Topfield. The Annual Church Meeting (APCM) is on Tuesday 20 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Our **Good Friday Service** will be in the Village Hall and will start with Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns at 10am, followed by and Informal Service. At the time of writing our Easter Sunday Service has yet to be finalised - see the noticeboard in due course. Our grateful thanks to Brian King for making and setting up the new noticeboard by the gate to the churchyard. We say farewell to Mike and Ann Gornall who have moved from Netherdale into Tiverton. We hope you are settling into your new home. We welcome Doug and Jean to Netherdale and hope to see you at events in the village in due course.

Congratulations to Andy and Fiona Bladen on becoming grandparents; Ed and Amy had a little boy, Theo, just before Christmas. Also congratulations to John, Fiona's father, as he has now become a Great Grandad. Congratulations, also, to Richard Tucker and Becky Grist on their engagement. Our love and best wishes to you all.

We send get well wishes to all those known to us who are unwell at the moment, especially those receiving treatment, waiting for or recovering from operations or unwell as a result of the nasty flu virus. Our love and prayers are with you all.

Witleigh WI meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 7.15pm. Guests are always welcome to come along. For more information please ring Rosie on 01884 257123.

Thursday 8 Feb - speaker Helen Kearney, on Hedgerow medicines, at 7.15pm

Thursday 8 March - speakers Mr & Mrs Godfrey, on Iceland, Land of Ice & Fire, at 7.15pm

Forthcoming Events;

Thursday 8 Feb - WI in the hall at 7.15pm
Tuesday 20 Feb - PCC at Topfield at 7.30pm

Thursday 8 March - WI in the hall at 7.15pm
Sunday 11 March - 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service in Church

Tuesday 20 March - APCM in Village Hall at 7.30pm

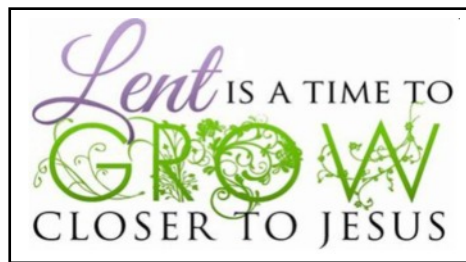
Thursday 29 March - Maundy Thursday Agape Meal 7pm (See "Poster" Page 12)

Friday 30 March - Good Friday 10am Informal Service in Village Hall

Sunday 1 April - Easter Day - see noticeboard

Monthly Diary Dates:

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



LENTEN VALENTINES

This year, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: LOVE! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the strength of his real LOVE for His Father. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread but he resists.

Satan tempts Jesus to worship him but he resists because worshipping God is LOVE - both for Him and from Him.

Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple but His LOVE for God helps Him to resist.

Lent teaches us how to live out the LOVE of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

St Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's LOVE with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on 14 February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real LOVE in action.

When asked to explain the meaning of something, Julian of Norwich said: 'Why do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, LOVE was his meaning.'

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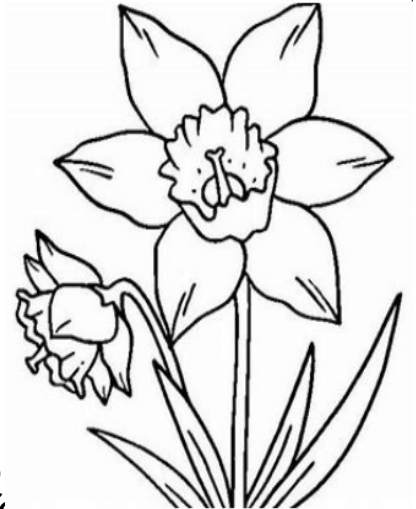
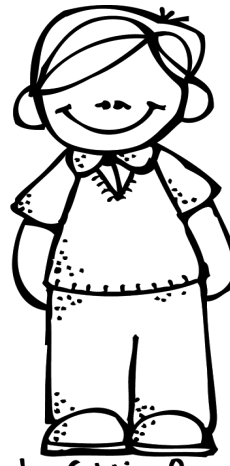
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QUOTATIONS, JOKES AND MORE !!

Thoughts for Everyday
by Patience Strong ~
for 12 February

Look at life with eyes that see
the best things - not the bad.

Cherish in your memory the
good times - not the sad.

Choose the bright side of
the road, where sunshine
lights the way.

Walk in the direction of the
blue sky - not the grey.

KEEP SMILING ...

A Sunday School teacher
asked the children

“Why is it necessary to be quiet in
Church?” Annie replied ~

“Because people are sleeping !!”

Another Sunday School teacher
said to her children

“We have been learning about
how powerful the Kings and
Queens were in biblical times -
but there is a higher power.

Who can tell me what it is ?”

Tommy had the answer.

“ I know” he said “ Aces !!”

Thoughts for Everyday
by Patience Strong ~
for March 11

Fate is fickle, like the vane
that turns upon the spire.

The winds don't always blow
just in the quarter you desire.

Learn to take with
cheerfulness whatever
comes your way~

for life is like the weather ~
sometimes sunny,
sometimes grey.

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We are hoping that as many people as possible will come on it, either as a refresher, as we seek to use our Roots resource effectively, or as an opportunity to strengthen our ministry team, with clergy and laity working collaboratively together.

Please prayerfully consider attending this, either for the first time, or to catch up on sessions missed, or as a refresher.

Contact the Church Office for further details. (See Page 2)

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