

October / November 2009

Price 25p

PASSION FOR LIFE

Passion for life is a national movement of churches committed to explaining the Gospel in a friendly and non-threatening manner over the coming winter months, culminating in special events next Easter. Some of our parishes are already preparing to join with this, and we hope that more will feel able to do so.

So far the following activities are being arranged:-

Oakford.

The parish is aiming to hold a Christianity Explored course after Christmas. This will be introduced at a special supper party in the village hall followed by 8 evenings at weekly intervals, when we will be helped, by means of a DVD, to understand what Christianity is really all about, and how the message of the Jesus Christ, as portrayed in Mark's Gospel, is relevant for our lives in the 21st Century.

We do hope that many will come from any or no religious background. The aim will be to hold a relaxed easy-going event, and we will encourage participants to bring with them their experience, and to let us know where they are "at". No opinion is barred, and no question banned, so do come and share with us, so that we can learn together.

The aim is to invite the village to the supper to hear more of how we will proceed with the course over the

evenings – attendance at the supper will not in any way place an obligation upon anybody to come to the following meetings.

Come with an open mind – and we will seek to keep ours open too!

If you have any queries or would like to have further details please contact Mike & Wendy Boynton (01398 351383).

Loxbeare

The PCC has asked members to come to its next meeting with ideas on how we can invite people to share their experience with us. A series of supper or tea parties, at which we can enjoy a meal together, after which we will explain aspects of the Christian faith, are a possibility. Another is to hold a "Grill a Vicar Barbecue" in the village hall, at which we will invite searching questions to John and Andrew from parishioners on any aspect of belief.

These are only ideas at present, until the next PCC has discussed them, but we do want the parish as a whole to have the opportunity of finding out what these strange Christians believe!

Easter 2010.

The nature of the special culminating event of "Passion for Life" is yet to be determined, but will be a Mission Community activity to which all will be invited.

If any other parish wishes to join in with their own ideas, please do contact me if

you think it might be helpful. Members of any parish will, of course, be welcomed at any of the Oakford or Loxbeare events.

For those of us with internet access, you can find out more about "Passion for Life" at www.apassionforlife.org.uk

John Roberts

The most important thing during the vacancy is to pray" -
Archdeacon Penny Driver to the recent Churchwardens' Council.

Loving Father, we pray for our Mission Community during this vacancy.

We give thanks for those who lead worship and celebrate Holy Communion.

We pray, Lord, you will give us a minister after your own heart: a person of faith and prayer, filled with the Spirit; of vision, wisdom and sound judgement; with a pastoral heart and a true love for people.

Prepare the person of your choice for ministry among us, grant wisdom and discernment to all who will be part of the selection process, and prepare us all for this new chapter in the life of our Mission Community.

For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Material for the December / January issue
should reach Paul Iliff no later than Tuesday 10th November.**

**THE EXE VALLEY
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*Enquiries regarding Baptisms,
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Team Vicar*

NON STIPENDIARY MINISTER

The Rev'd John Roberts

*East Sidborough, Loxbeare,
Tiverton EX16 8DA.
Tel: (01884) 256302*

READER

Mrs Anna Hansford

*The Paddock,
2 Kensington Court, Washfield,
Tiverton, EX16 9QU.
Tel: (01884) 253463*

YOUTH WORKER

Samar Al Alam

*The Annexe, Lower Ingrams,
Loxbeare, Tiverton, EX16 8BY.
Tel: 07877 862308*

Editorial

As the previous issue of TODAY was going to print, Paul and Sue Gilbert decided that, after putting our magazine together for a good number of years, now was the time to call it a day. We are greatly indebted to them for their service to us. This has, however, left me suffering from a bout of 'mixed emotions' – a certain degree more freedom in the setting out of the magazine, but a steep learning curve when it comes to the computer software needed to produce TODAY in a format usable by commercial printers – Culm Print. It has been an interesting challenge, and whether or not I have succeeded, is for you to judge!

One area where I hope to improve is in eliminating the repetition which has tended to creep in where several parishes may report on the same 'group' events. To that end, it is hoped that each issue will contain a 'general' section, which will include articles, such as the Holiday Club, which are relevant to more than just the one parish. Those who report for each parish should not, however, feel deterred from including such information, since it can always be moved around on the computer if this is felt to be advantageous. Those who wrote about "It's a knockout" will, hopefully, see what I mean.

Your feedback will be helpful – positive or otherwise!

Another issue is that certain parishes are more verbose than others in their contributions! To avoid the print becoming too small, the overall amount of reporting has to be restricted to about 7,500 words (excluding the front page). Allowing for the 'general' section, this leaves an average of 700 words for each parish. It will not only be easier for me if contributors can bear this in mind, but it will be you, and not me, who decides what goes in your reports and what is left out!

Paul Niff

**DESERT DETECTIVES -
HOLIDAY CLUB – 2009**

At the end of July, Calverleigh Village Hall was filled with children from the Exe Valley Parishes and beyond, enjoying a fun-packed four days as they joined in the search to find the 'The Mighty God Sword'. Following clues that were given to us throughout the puppet drama and videos, we learned about the bible and the books that make up the Old and New Testaments. In our last instalment of the Video, shown at our service on the Sunday, we learned that we hadn't been looking for a sword at all, but The Mighty God's Word.

Professor Samar and Professor Indiana (Andrew) Rose, aptly dressed for the part, led the children through a programme of desert challenges, work-outs and action songs, and talked to, and questioned, the children about what they had learned. Puppet drama was brought to us by the DADS puppet company - Anna Hansford, Nicky Goldsworthy and Jenny Rose, ably assisted by Charlotte.

We all enjoyed lunch together, where the children had an opportunity to buy sweets from the tuck shop, and items provided by New Creation, thanks to Jackie Herniman and Muriel Blinman. In the afternoon children took part in sports activities organised by Professor Ron Tidball, who, despite the weather on a very wet Wednesday, was able to provide a good variety of activities for all age groups. Professor Audrey Rigg, our visiting archaeologist, examined the ancient artefacts produced by the children in their afternoon craft groups, and awarded points to each of the teams. Thank you to Alison Webber for producing many of the craft ideas.

For the first time we asked parents to register their children before Holiday club. Thank you to Muriel Blinman for co-ordinating this. With children registering in their groups, we had a very much quicker and smoother start to the day.

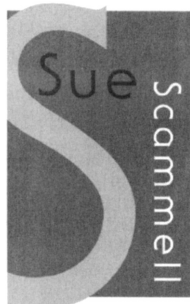
If your child has enjoyed Holiday Club, they might like to join us at Fish Club on Friday

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evenings, after school until 5.15. If you would like more details, please contact Cindy.

I have several items of lost property collected at holiday Club, mainly jumpers and coats, please contact Cindy Trick (Tel. 01363 866621) to arrange collection.

If anyone still has a Holiday Club T-shirt, could you please return it to Cindy.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Holiday club go so well; comments received from parents and children indicate that the week was very much appreciated. Hope to see you all again next year.

Finally, a big thank you to all who made this event such a great success. Once again the hall was full for the final service of Holiday Club on the Sunday, and it was good to see so many parents supporting their children and the helpers.

IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

The inter-village "It's a Knockout" competition hosted by Washfield Social Club on 22nd August was well received, caused some laughs, and encouraged some great community spirit and friendly rivalry, between the village teams taking part - from Calverleigh, Stoodleigh, Templeton and Washfield. A real fun day was had by all, with a lot of tired, wet and aching bodies at the end of it. Calverleigh emerged the winners on the day and will now host next year's competition. Thanks must go to Washfield's Kevin, Ann and Martin for coming up with the idea, and devising all the games. Thanks too, to all the Social Club committee who made it such a success, and to Paul and Ann and Tony and Anne for organising the barbecue (with plenty of burgers, sausages and "refreshing" drinks on offer) during the afternoon / evening. A great idea well executed. Well done all! The runners-up were Stoodleigh, with Templeton third. Washfield? So much for a 'home' advantage!

COWS AND FOOTPATHS.

There has been a lot of publicity about the dangers of walking dogs on footpaths in fields where there are cows and calves. A suckling cow is one that rears its own calf, is not milked like a dairy herd, and often is not handled a lot, so is not used to people. She is less domesticated than her dairy cousin, and has a very strong bond with her calf. This means that when a person comes into a field with a dog, which cows do not like, she may attack. This could lead to a dangerous situation. If you are on the end of a lead, you could end up as collateral damage. Therefore if you see cows with calves in a field with a footpath going through it, you should question if it is essential to take your dog on that route, as it is much safer to avoid. The dog may well be chased by the cows; it will almost certainly outrun them, but tricky if it comes to hide behind your legs. There have been calls for cattle to be banned from fields with footpaths; this is unrealistic. Some farmers feel that no dogs should be on "their" footpaths; that, too, is unrealistic. Commonsense should prevail, to avoid taking dogs among cows and calves, but it is this disconnection from livestock for most of the population that exacerbates the problem.

I think that it is quite pertinent, and I do not like to suggest that farmers should avoid putting such cows on fields with footpaths, or fence the footpaths off with white tape, but it might be worth considering,

Ann Crawford

NEW CREATION NEWS - OCTOBER 2009

Just to remind you, from September New Creation News, which I am sure you all read: TO MARK OUR 21ST BIRTHDAY WE PLAN TO HOLD A CELEBRATION and THANKSGIVING EVENT ON SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER in the NEW HALL TIVERTON at 3.00 p.m. A warm invitation is extended to all.

"Halloween" falls at the end of the month. There is material to help Christians have a fun time and also information about how certain customs originated, and warnings against the dangers. Please come in and ask.

Christmas is now "IN STORE", and we invite you to come and browse. If you have any requirements e.g. larger quantities of calendars, diaries, (stocking fillers) please let us know early (popular items do become 'sold out' very quickly). This is especially important if you are wishing to order from Tearfund, Traidcraft, Leprosy Mission (all catalogues available in the shop) or other Christian catalogues; this is an excellent way of giving a very worthwhile gift. Our range of Christmas cards is extensive and at very competitive prices, enabling those on the smallest budget to send out the REAL Christmas message.

We have two Christmas book promotions this year - Bible Reading Fellowship, running from adult to children, many for the season of Advent, Candle books for the younger reader.

If you would like a book stall at an event in your church, please contact us and we will be pleased to attend. The Coffee Shop is also available for gatherings (18 people max.), a pre-booked Christmas Supper provides an ideal time to browse the stock and enjoy a convivial evening with friends.

The current SELECT magazine has savings on Bibles & Study Resources. Call in for your copy, or see at the back of your church.

New Creation, 58 Bampton Street, Tiverton, EX16 4AH Tel: 01884 255769

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AROUND THE PARISHES.....

Calverleigh

Congratulations to Adrian, Andrew and Thomas Webber, who successfully completed their nine church walk on

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18th July in memory of their Grandad Ivan, starting and ending at Calverleigh. A great many people awaited them on their arrival back at the hall. Everyone enjoyed the Cream Tea, cake stall and many competitions that took place, all organised by the Webber family. They are also organising a Barn dance at Calverleigh Village hall on 10th October at 7.30pm. Tickets, which include buffet supper, are available from Church Wardens, or phone Andrew / Cheryl on 259190, Maureen Furneaux on 258770 or Christine on 257781. Proceeds from the walk, cream tea and barn dance will be given to Calverleigh Church and Mencap. Please support this - you are sure to have a good evening.

On July 19th, the 5th Tiverton Guide Company joined us for our Family Service, which was led by Jackie, and in which they took an active part - parading their flag and singing some songs. They were able to join us after the service for refreshments, which included a tin of cakes they had made.

Congratulations to The Hopper family on achieving such wonderful results at The Mid Devon Show. As well as achieving breed championship for Charolais and Suffolk sheep, they also took away The Interbreed Championship, Lydia achieving the prize for young handler. Well done to you all.

Exam results have now arrived and we hope that you all got the results you were hoping for. We are thinking of all who are starting school, changing schools and going to Universities and Colleges. Jessica Furneaux has secured a place at King's College London to study nursing. We wish everyone good luck on their new ventures and hope they will soon settle down.

It was so sad to hear that Julie Goldsworthy's Nursery in Tiverton has had to close because the owners of the building wished to sell the property, and a lack of other suitable premises. Julie has run this nursery for 20 years, having been joined in the last few years by daughter Nikki. This nursery, with Julie and all her helpers, will be sadly missed by many families.

David Luffman must be congratulated for his great achievement in winning 1st place in the South West Discus competition, also coming 4th in The National Final. Well done David.

We give a warm welcome to Peter and Charlotte Tindell and family, as they move into Calverleigh Cottage. We hope that you will be very happy here with us at Calverleigh. We wish Mr and Mrs Farmer every happiness in their new home as they leave Calverleigh Cottage.

Our thoughts are with all those who are ill at the present time, and those awaiting operations and treatment.

Please do not forget to enter your teams for the Grand Quiz at the village hall on Friday 23rd October. Teams of 4, entrance £5 per head, to include refreshments. Please contact Pam Anslow on 01884 233740 for more information.

The wedding of Kate Thomas and Matthew Birnie took place in our church on Saturday 29th August. Kate is the daughter of Geoffrey and Lorna Thomas. We hope Kate and Matthew have a long and happy life together.

A note for your Diary: Our Annual Autumn Fayre will be held on November 14th at the village hall, 10.30am to 2.30pm. There will be many stalls, competitions, draws, hot lunches, coffee, tea and light snacks. This event is to raise funds for Calverleigh Church. Please come and support us if you can, and meet up with old friends and neighbours.

Please note that the rotas for cleaning, flowers and mowing are displayed in the Church porch.

Cruwys Morchard

The work on the screen has started, and will hopefully be completed by Christmas. The work is being carried out at the Church; if you haven't been to see the craftsmen at work, do take time to have a look.

Congratulations to Sarah and Gerald Kingdom, on the birth of Edward Lewis, a brother for Jessica and Phoebe, grandson for David and Diana Vincent. Also congratulations to Emily Trick and Michael Winterton on the birth of Tilly Rose, first grandchild for Cindy and Michael Trick.

Congratulations to Joy Saunders and Lee Campbell who were married at church in August, and to John and Joanne Harris who were married at the beginning of September. Best wishes to both couples for a long and happy marriage.

A belated welcome to the parish to Buster and Sarah Brown, who have moved into High Gates.

We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to all who have been unwell or have had a stay in hospital recently.

Meal Appeal - We are still looking for hosts for this event, details in the last magazine, or contact Cindy Trick (01363 866621) or Judith Taylor (01363 860056).

The monthly Parish Hall Bingos will be held on Saturday 3rd and Saturday 31st October, and Saturday 28th November, in the Parish Hall, eyes down at 8pm.

The parish Hall are holding the annual Dave & Di's Quiz evening on Saturday 5th December, contact Pauline Guscott (01363 866754), to book in your team.

Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers raised £215.00 for the Parish Hall and YFC funds, working really hard cleaning cars at the Parish Hall.

The Annual Christmas Craft Fayre will be held on Saturday 14th November, 10.30 - 2.30, for church funds. There will be a good selection of crafts stalls - come along and pick up some ideas for Christmas presents. There will also be a cake stall and refreshments, including light lunches. Anyone wishing to run a stall at this popular event should contact Jenni Edmonds (01363 866717) or Ann Gillbard (01884 256415). Space is limited.

There are to be two evening Food Fayre's, the first at Cadeleigh village Hall on Friday 9th October and the second on Friday 27th November at Cruwys Morchard Parish

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We are planning to hold a Flower Festival in 2010 to celebrate 300 years since the fire in the church, hopefully on the Whitsun bank holiday, 29th, 30th & 31st of May 2010. If you would like to be involved please contact Diana or Cindy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 3rd October - Bingo and 200 club, eyes down 8pm

Friday 9th October - Food Fayre at Cadeleigh village Hall.

Tuesday 13th October - Ladies Committee at 7.30 pm at Marilyn Hill's

Saturday 31st October - Bingo and 200 club, eyes down 8pm

Tuesday 10th November - PCC meeting at Wringsland House at 7.30pm

Saturday 14th November - Christmas Fayre - 10.30 - 2pm at the Parish Hall.

Friday 27th November - Food Fayre at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall

Saturday 28th November - Bingo and 200 club, eyes down 8pm

Saturday 5th December - Dave & Di's Quiz evening 7.30 at the Parish Hall

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

September 28th & October 5th - Ann Gillbard & Judith Taylor

October 12th & 19th - Sue & Pauline Guscott

October 26th & 2nd November - Marilyn Hill

November 9th & 16th - Carole Chisholm & Jackie Mitchell (cleaning), Wendy Lake (flowers)

November 23rd & 30th November - Denyse Standen (cleaning) Cindy Trick (flowers)

December 7th - Lorna Warren and Margaret Southwood (cleaning only)

Loxbeare

Despite a rain-soaked summer, the picnic service turned out to be on one of the best hot and sunny days of the year. A good number enjoyed basking in the sun,

and some even had to go into the shade, to sing and praise the Lord for his love for us, and for his wonderful creation. The venue was a beautiful valley with a stream meandering down, with ponds lovingly formed by hand, and tended by owners, Colin and Marjorie Mildon. Thank you, Colin and Marjorie, for your generosity in sharing with us the beauty of your lovely valley garden. The service was led by Andrew. On the Thursday afternoon of the same week, a group travelled to Woolacombe for games on the beach, and a meal at the Red Barn. It was a beautiful afternoon and evening, with lots of fun, enjoyed by all who came along.

Congratulations to John and Marion Roberts on the arrival of their new baby grand-daughter Anna, to Ronald and Rosemary Perry on the arrival of their baby grand-daughter Katherine, and to Sue and Steve Troake who also have a new grand-daughter Isabel.

We send our prayers, love and best wishes for a speedy recovery to all who are unwell - Eda Gooding, Geoff Pack, David Maynard, Steve Troake and Geoff Davies, and to anyone else who is unwell - get well soon.

Congratulations to all celebrating a special birthday and / or anniversary.

The BBQ held at Lower Ingrams, in aid of the parish hall funds, was well attended, and enjoyed by all who came along. Thank you to all who helped, especially Gill and Peter Bell and Christine and Bob Weatherley who did the cooking on the BBQ and attended to the drink, and to all those who helped to transport chairs, etc., and bring food. Jean Heard would like to thank everyone who supported her at her open house event to celebrate her birthday, and raise money for Tearfund; the grand total of £201.10 has been sent to Tearfund. It was lovely to welcome the Rev. Hugh Pollock back to Loxbeare, when he came to take the Holy Communion service in July, and for us to join with Rackenford for their family service on the 30th August.

The time of year is coming around for Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe box campaign. Last year, with your help, we were able to send 42 boxes.

How wonderful it would be if we could top that number this year. An extract from their February magazine reads:- "Because of you, the 2008 operation Christmas Child Campaign was made, not only possible, but hugely successful once again. With your help, we were able to deliver over 1.2 million gift-filled shoe boxes to needy Children in 13 countries throughout Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Africa. These timely shoe-box gifts remind these children that they are valuable and have not been forgotten. They also serve as a reminder that Christmas is a time when, all over the world, people celebrate the birth of Jesus - the greatest gift of all." Please help to bring a smile again this year. Carol Radford will be taking shoe-boxes to the collection point - they will need to be either handed to Carol or left in the church by Sunday 15th November, and, as last year, the PCC will pay the carriage.

Loxbeare Ladies

October 5th - 7.30 p.m. Loxbeare Hall "Pudding and Pies". Men invited.

November 2nd - please phone Sue

November 19th - 10.30 am Christmas Flower Demonstration at Knightshayes - £10 including light lunch. Please phone Margaret T. (881362) for tickets.

December 14th - Christmas Dinner at the Rose and Crown. Please book with Sue (259496).

Oakford

Sadly we have to begin by recording the death of John Billingsley early in August, and we send our heartfelt sympathy to Phyl, Alan and family.

On Sunday August 30th Elaine Stubbington finally gave up her long brave battle with cancer, and our sympathy goes out to Maureen and to Martin and family in their sad loss.

On August 8th everyone who was involved with the village fete gathered at the hall to witness the presentation of two generous cheques to charities. Bridget Fitter, who had only just benefited from the services of

Continued on Page 8 ➔



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(Tel. 01398-351364)

LOXBEARE PRAYER MEETING

On 3rd Tuesday in month
(Tel. 01884-881362)

LOXBEARE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Alternate Tuesdays
2.30pm. at Loxbeare House

WALK THE TALK

Withleigh Discussion Group
(Tel. 01884-253473)

MISSION COMMUNITY AND AREA SERVICES

Sunday 29th November

ADVENT SERVICE

At Washfield

10.30 am

**Followed by
a shortened service
of**

Holy Communion

OAKFORD

4th October
9.30 am Holy Communion
11th October
9.30 am Morning Prayer
18th October
9.30 am Holy Communion
25th October
9.30 am Family Service
1st November
9.30 am Holy Communion
8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service
15th November
9.30 am Holy Communion
22nd November
9.30 am Family Service
29th November
See Washfield

RACKENFORD

4th October
6.30 pm Evening Prayer
11th October
6.30 pm Harvest Praise
18th October
11.15 am Family Service
with Baptism
25th October
9.30 am Morning Prayer
1st November
6.30 pm Evening Prayer
8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service
At the War Memorial
15th November
11.15 am Family Service
22nd November
9.30 am Morning Prayer
29th November
See Washfield

STOODLEIGH

4th October
11.15 am Harvest Festival
11th October
11.15 am Holy Communion
18th October
6.30 pm Evening Prayer
25th October
9.30 am Holy Communion
1st November
11.15 am Morning Prayer
8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service
15th November
6.30 pm Evening Prayer
22nd November
9.30 am Holy Communion
29th November
See Washfield

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CALVERLEIGH

4th October
11.15 am Morning Prayer

11th October
9.30 am Holy Communion

18th October
11.15 am Songs of Praise

25th October
3 pm Evening Prayer

1st November
11.15 am Morning Prayer

8th November
9.30 am Holy Communion

15th November
11.15 am Family Service

22nd November
3 pm Evening Prayer

29th November
See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

4th October
11 am Morning Prayer

11th October
11 am Family Service

18th October
9.30 am Holy Communion

25th October
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

1st November
11 am Morning Prayer

8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

15th November
9.30 am Holy Communion

22nd November
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

29th November
See Washfield

LOXBEARE

4th October
9.30 am Family Holy Communion

11th October
11 am Family Service

18th October
6.30 pm Evening Praise

25th October
11 am Family Service

1st November
9.30 am Family Holy Communion

8th November
11 am Family Service

15th November
6.30 pm Evening Praise

22nd November
11 am Family Service

29th November
See Washfield

TEMPLETON

4th October
11 am Harvest Festival

11th October
No Service

18th October
9.30 am Holy Communion

25th October
11 am Morning Prayer

1st November
9.30 am Holy Communion

8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

15th November
11 am Toddlers' Service

22nd November
11 am Morning Prayer

29th November
See Washfield

WASHFIELD

4th October
6 pm Evening Prayer

11th October
11 am Morning Prayer

18th October
11 am Family Service

25th October
9.30 am Holy Communion

1st November
3 pm Evening Prayer

8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

15th November
11 am Family Service

22nd November
9.30 am Holy Communion
by extension
(to be taken by Anna Hansford)

29th November
10.30 am ADVENT SERVICE

WITHLEIGH

4th October
11 am Family Service

11th October
9.30 am Morning prayer

18th October
11 am Holy Communion

25th October
9.30 am Morning Prayer

1st November
11 am Family Service

8th November
10.50 am Remembrance Service

15th November
11 am Holy Communion

22nd November
9.30 am Morning Prayer

29th November
See Washfield

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the Air Ambulance, handed over a cheque for £250 to Margaret Box from the Devon Air Ambulance Trust. A second cheque for £250 was presented to David Gammel, the county co-ordinator for Help for Heroes.

It is with great regret that we have to say good-bye to Susi and Peter Rostron, who are moving away. They have been good friends to the community - the village hall, the fete and especially the church, and we have all enjoyed the wine from their vineyard. Susi took a special interest in organizing and directing the Oakford Festival Choir. We wish them well in their new home.

Dates for your Diary:

November 8th - Remembrance Service
10.50 at the War Memorial, followed by a service in church.

October 10th - There will be a Table top/ Car boot sale in the hall and adjoining car park. Sellers at 1pm and Buyers at 2pm, please. £5 per table or car. Cream teas will be available.

November 21st - 25th Anniversary of the Village Hall.

To celebrate this event a social evening is planned, including music by The Stuggies, and a fork supper. Look out for posters for more details nearer the time.

The Moorland Club A very successful and colourful Flower Show was held on August 15th. Congratulations to all who entered, and many thanks to all who supported what was a lovely show, with many entries in all classes.

Thursday October 8th 7.30pm - George and his dog.

Thursday November 12th 7.30pm - Japan with Mrs Toms.

Saturday November 14th - The Moorland Club Christmas Fayre. 11.30 onwards. Christmas gifts, cards, demonstrations, tombola etc. Lunches will also be available.

OAKFORD PARISH COUNCIL.

We were sad that David Bannister had to resign due to pressure of work. He has been on the council for many years and was particularly helpful in communicating to villagers any police messages. We

welcome Jayne Archer and Simon Edwards to the council, and look forward to working with them. We have had a visit from a representative from RoSPA, who has inspected the playing fields. He said that several small things should be done, like repairing the swings, and also the links were too low; also a new bench has been installed. Most of these things have been done, but there is a list of things outstanding, to be done over the next few years. He has requested some new signs, including warning people not to fly kites in the field, because of the overhead wires. We have been given a grant to repair the top and sides of the bridge. I attended a meeting with Mid-Devon scrutiny committee which encourages closer communication between the parishes and Mid-Devon.

Ann Crawford

OAKFORD NEWSPAPERS

A group of people from Oakford and district take turns to collect newspapers that have been ordered from the Bampton Costcutter shop, on a daily basis. These are left at the village shop for collection. If you are interested in joining in with this system, please contact either Linda Perrin (01398 351392) or Eileen Swarder (01398 351208).

Rackenford

Scarecrows were popping up here, there and everywhere, during the summer as some fantastic entries competed in the Rackenford Shop Fundraising Competition. Aunt Sally and Worzel Gummidge held a tea party at the village shop where presentations were made to winners and all entries. Great fun!

The total raised for this year's sponsored walk was £897. Sadly, but not surprisingly, Herbert has decided to hang up his walking boots after approximately 30 years of organizing and walking the sponsored walk. We owe a big thank you to Herbert for all his work, which starts well before the walk date with planning, etc. This has been a major fund raising event, and we would very much like someone to take over from Herbert. He will be a hard act to follow, but we are sure the right person is out there

somewhere. Herbert is more than willing to give his support and advice, and would be happy for you to give him a ring if you think you can help. Herbert's number is 881375. We also, of course, thank Marjorie, all helpers, walkers and sponsors over the years.

"Splash" was the Rackenford School Summer Concert this year. This was a lovely evening full of fun and laughter, with all the children playing their parts enthusiastically.

Mrs Buckley congratulated all the children on their hard work and performance, as did the packed hall. It was also a sad evening, as we said goodbye to Mrs Alison Begbie on her retirement. Mrs Begbie was presented with several leaving gifts, and was thanked for all her hard work and dedication over the past 9 years. She will be greatly missed. We also said goodbye to the summer leavers, Jasmine Wootten, Megan Isaac, Henry Charles, Finn Neusinger, Ama Gatland, Grace Blake, Archie Stone, Tom Muchmore and Thomas Hagley. Mrs Buckley presented them all with personal gifts from the school, and bibles from the Parochial Church Council, and wished them well in their new schools. The children themselves presented the school with a plaque of their year. We welcome the new teacher, Tringa Sibthorpe, and hope she will enjoy being at Rackenford School. We hope all children received the exam results for which they aimed, and wish everyone success and happiness as they start a new term and new schools.

Congratulations to Rita Phillips and Jeff Zeitzen on the birth of their daughter Emily. Our very best wishes go to Bob Mogridge who has spent some time in hospital. We also hope that Rose Smith and baby Matthew are continuing to regain their strength after returning to hospital since Matthew's birth.

Many thanks to Joan Phillips and Jenny Sleep for cutting around the extension area on their hands and knees, and also to Fred Phillips for tidying up the trees in that area. Your time in that area is very much appreciated. Along with Ewan Baillie and his family, you have ensured that our

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churchyard is well cared for as is often commented upon in the visitor's book.

We wish Karen and Darren Lawrence and Jane Wood every happiness in your new homes, and are glad you are still close by. Also welcome to Alan and Margaret Baker who have recently moved to Rackenford. Our best wishes to the Perry family now living in Stoodleigh. Congratulations to Amy and Nick Forward on their wedding at our church on 1st August. The choir sang during the service, and Connie Isaac played the flute during the signing of the register.

The Bingos continue, thanks to loyal support, and also thanks to Marjorie and Herbert for organizing this fund raising evening. Also, many thanks to Annette Reed for helping out with the draw.

Amazingly it was beautiful weather for the official opening of Trinity Well, and Rackenford Village Day. Betty Kirby was welcomed by Sarah Childs, who thanked numerous people involved with the whole process from beginning to end of the building of Trinity Well. Betty thanked Sarah for her warm welcome and relived the times that the well was regularly used many years ago, and proved that the well was in good working order. Many gathered to witness the opening, and the cutting of the ribbon. Betty was presented with a bouquet of flowers from Connie Isaac. A lovely occasion and so nice to see some faces from years ago returning for this special event. Books are on sale in the shop, with photographs and details of 'The Trinity Well' years. The village day was great fun on the common, with lots of side stalls and games, and screams of encouragement as the children, and even some adults, competed in the races. Proud dog owners brought their pets along to be judged in various categories. People enjoyed mingling, and sitting around chatting and enjoying the sunshine which made the day complete.

Congratulations to Betty and Ron Kirby who were married in our church 50 years ago, and to anyone else celebrating an anniversary or birthday.

Congratulations to Megan Isaac on passing her Grade 4 Theory of Music exam with

distinction, and also to Nell Baillie on passing Grade 1 Theory of Music with distinction. Connie Isaac also had a distinction for her Grade 4 Flute exam. Well done Connie, Megan and Nell.

To anyone who is experiencing ill health, loneliness or depression, our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Stoodleigh

"Notwithstanding", "In spite of", all these epithets, and more, could be applied to this year's "Summer" events in Stoodleigh, which have successfully taken place.

Firstly, the Annual Church Fete, in the beautiful setting of Ford House Gardens, with the Tiverton Youth Band providing a pleasant musical backdrop to the usual stalls and sideshows. We thank all who helped and participated in any way, and particularly to Jo and John Shepherd for hosting this event which raised £559.34 net for Church funds.

Paula and the committee of the Children's Hospice South West thank all who attended the great Cricket Match between Tom Scudamore's Racing XI and the CHSW Supporters XI. A worthwhile event which raised £2,000 for CHSW. The POSH afternoon teas and the Space Hopper Racing were very spectacular. It is hoped that this will become an annual event. Paula suggests that everyone should be preparing for a Sloe Gin Competition next Spring, in aid of funds.

A successful Ploughman's Lunch was held at Parkhouse Water, thanks to Margaret and Julian Cuninghame. £293 was raised towards Church funds. After lunch, a dozen stalwarts braved the elements, and walked the Millennium Walk created by Chris Summers.

The 2009 Garden Club Show produced some outstanding entries, yet again, despite the poor gardening summer. Sadly, some familiar faces were missing, but we were pleased to have some new ones. In the evening there was a good turnout to enjoy the exhibits, food and wine, as well as supporting the raffle, and plant and vegetable sales. The overall winner was

Elaine Morisson with Pat Aplin and Jennifer Fraser joint runners-up. An innovation this year was an award for the best exhibit in each section, and the judges thought loud and hard before awarding these to Graham Hullett for his vegetable box, Doris Leader for her amazing, unusual foliage pot-plant, Jennifer Fraser for her beautiful Autumnal Flower arrangement, Dorothy Ayre for the best jam, Joyce Lacey for the well knitted scarf and, lastly, Emily Pennington, aged 8, for the best junior exhibit. Congratulations to them all, and thanks to all who participated in so many ways to make the Show a success.

We send congratulations and best wishes to Jennifer Brice of Beacon View, and Andre, whose wedding took place in Stoodleigh Church on 25th July.

We welcome Tiffany, Alex. Aaron and Shane, to Meneghi.

We have all been saddened by the death of Sue Phillpotts, who had bravely fought her illness for so long. Sue was a very outgoing, warmhearted and lovable person, a good friend to everyone. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Ian and all her family. Ian Phillpotts writes, "I would like to reiterate my thanks to all of you who so kindly sent me messages of sympathy on the death of Sue, and who attended the Church service. I would also like to thank Andrew for taking the service, and Jennifer for playing the organ. I am blessed with the friends, and Sue was more so, whom we shared in the village. Thank you all and God Bless you."

The sudden death of Chris Summers means the Village Community has lost a man who gave freely of his time, talents and expertise, to many organisations. He was a willing organiser of events and activities to whom nothing was too much trouble. We shall all treasure happy memories of his charm, compassion and deep sincerity, allied to a generous sense of humour. This village is very much the poorer without him. Our sincere sympathy goes to Tricia and all members of the family.

SWAG - The tour of Exmoor on 8th July was varied and interesting, via Winsford Hill, Dunkery, Webbers Post and

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Selworthy, concluding with supper at Raleigh's Cross. Advance warning ! -- Mervyn Stutter comes to the Village Hall on 10th February.

Our Harvest Festival Service will be at 11.15 on Sunday 4th October, followed by Harvest Supper in the Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 5th October. Please give your names to a member of the PCC to help with catering. All welcome - adults £6, children under 12yrs £2.

Reminder - ConSpirito will be singing a varied programme of songs at Champles Barn (the home of Christine and Peter Broadbent) on Saturday 24th October. Tickets £12.50, to include a light supper. To reserve places, contact Margaret (01398 351252) or Christine (01398 351374).

Please note that our Christmas Fayre will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 4th December from 6.30pm, with some exciting new features as well as the established favourites that have made this village event such an attraction.

DIARY DATES

Harvest Festival - 4th October
Conspirito - 24th October
Christmas Fayre - 4th December

FLOWER ROTA

3rd October - Harvest;
24th and 31st October - Linda Hill;
7th and 14th November - Eileen Fewings;
21st and 28th November - Enid Hamidullah.

STOODLEIGH CHURCH BELLS

Jennifer Rowlandson writes - "I am working hard approaching various trusts to raise funds for the Bells' restoration. We are being helped enormously by Peter and Paula Townsend who have wide experience in advice on obtaining lottery grants.

Part of any application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has to include much about the heritage of the project, and further study of the historical parts of St Margaret's has included the rare green man frieze and the roof bosses. Education and involvement by the general community play a large part in securing grants. Anyone who would like to know more about the project (which is independent of general fund raising for the running of our church) should contact Jennifer on 01398 351402."

FROM LIZZIE AT THE CLUB

We were delighted to be the Venue for the 2nd wedding anniversary of Nigel and Sharon from Hillcrest, with a reception for 36 guests, and an evening Disco for 150 plus. Photos of the event may be viewed on Facebook under "Stoodleigh Club".

The annual Lawn-Mower Race was also greatly enjoyed on home ground, thanks to Linda and Roger Hill. 1st prize went to Bradley Isaac, with George Isaac a noble second. Thanks to the Cotter family and Tigger for all their effort. All these functions help the Club's finances, and if you wish to organise a skittles, pool or darts fun evening, just let us know.

Future Dates - Sunday 22nd October - Sunday Lunch Roast etc, £10, places limited so please book early.

Watch the Outside Board for last-minute events.

Templeton

Our Harvest Festival will be on 4th October at 11.00am, and the next Toddlers Service for children up to 7 years of age will be held on November 15th at 11.00am. Children from all the parishes will be welcome.

Our annual Fete was very well attended, and the weather was fine. We would like to thank all who came, and everyone who helped with the preparations beforehand and on the day. We raised £1,453.07.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon at Washfield for the "It's a Knock Out" competition. Templeton put on a very good show, and did well, coming 3rd.

Our congratulations go to Alex Kingdom on gaining his B.A. Honours (2.1) in Environmental Management from Leeds University. Well done!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bonfire Night at the Village Hall will be held on 7th November.

Country and Western Evenings, also at the Village Hall, are on 27th and 28th November.

There will be a Body Shop and Jewellery Party - date to be announced.

We send our good wishes to all those who are still not well and particularly to Jackie Coffin who is at present in hospital.

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

Teresa Pancherz 27th Sept - 4th Oct
Jan Heptinstall 11th - 18th October
Lynda Newnes 25th Oct - 1st Nov
Gloria Woollacott)
and Gracie Layton) 8th - 15th November
Monica Salisbury 22nd - 29th November

Washfield

*If you would reap praise, sow the seeds.
Gentle words and useful deeds.*

Celebrating our Harvest festival, as we go to print, reminds us of how the 'summer' has flown by. There is now an autumnal feel to the weather, but we hope we can have a much-needed burst of sunshine before winter really sets in.

Mr Frank Smith, with Marian once again playing the organ, took the short Saturday Harvest celebration on September 5th. The church was festively decorated with seasonal flowers, fruit and vegetables, and thanks go to those who gifted these and put a lot of effort into adorning the church with them. After the service, as is traditional, everyone made their way to the gardens of The Old Rectory for the sports (ably organised by Oliver and Sarah Tobey). Once there, children and adults alike participated with the usual enthusiasm to achieve the triumphs they craved. Thank you, Oliver and Sarah, and also Bronson, Camilla, Sebastian and Henry Alberty, for making us so welcome in their beautiful gardens. All this activity was thankfully followed by a bring and share tea in the hall. A great afternoon was had by all, especially Maurice and Alice Balment who were celebrating their Golden Wedding. Congratulations to you both.

Our Sunday Harvest Thanksgiving service was ably led by Anna, and enjoyed by the congregation. We thank Mike and Kay Bassano, who later took the produce to

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Charlton Lodge, for which they were truly grateful.

The Social Club's Garden Club Show was its usual success, with the judges praising the high standard of produce on display. Congratulations to David Bowden who won the overall cup for his well grown vegetables. Congratulations, too, to Frank and Jan Voysey who easily won the two top prizes in the much coveted 'Potato in a bucket' competition. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this, our local show, so successful.

Two community enterprises also continue to be as successful as when they started. The monthly Lunch Club, which has just celebrated its 2nd birthday, regularly has an average of thirty diners enjoying the lovely meals, cooked and served by the volunteer helpers. The happy recipients wish to express their sincere thanks to all those who toil to make this enjoyable gathering possible each month. The Village Market stall has also become a well-loved idea, embraced by villagers. There are those who regularly stock it with donations of fruit, vegetables and other assorted wares, and then those who keep watch, and then snap up the bountiful offerings on display. Thanks to these suppliers and buyers, the Hall and Church have each received a £100 donation. Thanks to John for the original concept, and for continuing to be the 'keeper of the purse'. Congratulations too, to John for snapping up his own amazing find in the shape of Sattie (Dee). John and Sattie travelled to Guyana in August, so John could meet her family before they married there. Sattie continues to visit John and Washfield whenever possible, until such time as she is able to make a permanent home here. Congratulations and good luck to you both.

Our heartfelt congratulations also go to Adrian Webber (eldest son of Robin and Christine) and his new bride, Sophie Hislop,

who were married in Wiltshire on 1st August, and left Britain just a month later to start their new life in New Zealand. Good luck to you both on these momentous occasions.

It is great to see Martin Balment out and about again after his two serious bouts of illness, which had us all worried at the time. Keep up the positive recovery, Martin. We were praying for you whilst you were in hospital, and we continue to pray for your complete return to full health. Our love, with kind thoughts and prayers, also goes to anyone who is not feeling well at present, and best wishes to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.

If there is anyone out there who feels they can give up a minimal amount of time, once every two months, to help with the church cleaning, it would be very much appreciated.

Watch out for posters for a village quiz in aid of the church.

The pumpkin weigh-in night will be on Saturday 31st October, so keep nurturing yours for a bit longer yet. Proceeds to ELF.

There will be a Coffee morning at The Glebe (home of Paul and Ann Crease) on Thursday 8th October, 10am - 12noon, in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Church funds. Everyone welcome; please come if you are able.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Thursday 8th October - Coffee morning 10am-12noon at Glebe House for BHF and Church.

Thursday 8th October - W.I. Annual General meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 22nd October - Lunch Club in hall 12noon for 12.30pm

Saturday 31st October - Pumpkin weigh-in at Social Club

Thursday 12th November - W.I. in hall 7.30pm, with Geoff Green from the Library Service

Thursday 26th November - Lunch Club in hall 12noon for 12.30pm

Saturday 5th December - Christmas Coffee morning at The Cottage (for Church funds)

Friday 11th December - W.I. Christmas Party with 3 course meal in hall. Come along

and enjoy this renowned party. Book with a member.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

| | |
|---|---------------|
| September 27 th /Oct 4 th | Mrs E Arnold |
| October 11 th /18 th | Mrs A Moore |
| October 25 th /Nov 1 st | Mrs S Cockram |
| November 8 th /15 th | Mrs I Bolt |
| November 22 nd /29 th | Mrs J Voysey |

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| October 4 th /11 th | Mrs French |
| October 18 th /25 th | Mrs Arnold/Mrs Bicknell |
| November 1 st /8 th | Mrs Jones/Mrs Harding |
| November 15 th | Mrs Horsey |
| November 22 nd /29 th | Mr & Mrs McCahon |

Withleigh

Despite the heavily diluted weather on the afternoon of Saturday 18th July, the Summer(?) Fete, opened by John Crook, turned out to be a great success, supporters clearly not being put off by the weather. Just as well, though, that the stalls were generally protected by gazebos. A big 'thank you' to all who ran the stalls and side-shows, to all who came and spent so generously, and to Henry and Shirley for hosting the event. Not surprisingly, the total raised fell short of last year's record amount, but £862 was an amazing result under the circumstances.

The following day, Sunday 19th July, saw the baptism at St Catherine's of Rhianna Greenslade, when she was welcomed into membership of the Church. It was good to also welcome her parents - Guy and Sharon, and their families and friends.

On the 1st August, the rain cleared just after lunch - in time for our Village Treasure Hunt. We found our way around the quieter part of the village, with various clues guiding us to the Treasure. Gold bars were to be found, enough for one each - well, Toblerone's actually, wrapped in gold paper, were quite a good substitute. The evening concluded with a much-needed BBQ. Our thanks to Lynn for organising the Treasure Hunt and to both Lynn and Ray for the BBQ.



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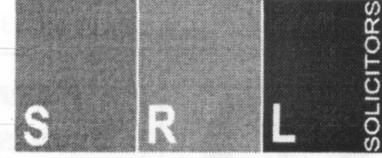
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After a successful Horse Show on Saturday 15th August, donations have been given to Withleigh Church, Edward Chanin (R.D.A.), Unite, Withleigh Village Hall, Whizz Kids and Ambulance Services. Our grateful thanks to the sponsors, and to all those who helped to make the Show possible.

Congratulations to Alice Palmer and Neil Griffin, who were married at St Catherine's on 29th August. We wish you both happiness in your married life.

Our monthly social evening on the first Saturday of September was a supper night, the theme being 'pies'. Lynn made us an assortment of pies from which to choose, all of which were delicious. Served with Roast Potatoes and gravy, they gave us little room for dessert. Thank-you again Lynn and Ray for providing the main course and the ladies of the committee for the desserts.

This year's VILLAGE WALK will be on Saturday 3rd October, meeting again at Winsford Tea Rooms (it will be a different walk from last year) for a 1.30pm start, involving approx 5 miles of moderate walking. Please wear suitable footwear. Everyone is welcome to join us on this guided walk, arranged by David and Carol Hitt who have walked much of Exmoor, and know the area well. After the walk we will meet back at the Withleigh Village Hall for supper. For more details please ring David or Carol (252372) for information on the walk, or Lynn (253741) or Brenda (252431) for supper details.

The annual TEAM SKITTLES evening will be on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Do come along with teams of six, or just turn up and we can make up teams on the night. For details ring Duncan (252949).

Don't forget the BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS on Saturday 7th November, bonfire to be lit at 7pm. If anyone has anything that can be put on the bonfire (no nail's please!) bring it to the field opposite the Village Hall on the morning of the bonfire. Please could anyone with donations for the fireworks let Duncan (252949) have them by the 23rd October.

The MEN OF MORCHARD, barbershop singers, are performing in the Village hall

on Saturday 14th November. Tickets are on sale @ £9 each to include supper. Please contact Lynn (253741) or Brenda (252431) to reserve your tickets.

The Village Hall committee has been approached regarding holding a Garden Show, the 1st Saturday in August being a suggested date. Planning the event will begin at our January meeting. If anyone is interested in coming along to that meeting, or has any suggestions regarding the Garden Show, please contact Duncan (252949) or Brenda (252431).

Congratulations to the Women's Institute for winning at the Mid Devon Show with their entry "Remembering Haymaking", in which the members chose to depict 'An English Summer Event' which was the theme set by the Devon Federation of Women's Institutes at this year's show.

Congratulations, also, to Kate Kittow (A-level) and Louise Kittow and Will Luxton (GCSE) on their exam results. We wish Kate well as she goes up to Bath University, Hannah Luxton to Cardiff University, Will Luxton to Richard Huish, also the children who are starting school, changing schools, and others going to college or university.

Congratulations, also, to Withleigh Young Farmers Club on celebrating its 80th birthday in May, making it the oldest club in England and Wales

We bid farewell to John and June Turner from Glendon, and welcome Sarah Williams and family. We also welcome Andy and Fiona Bladen to the Old Post Office.

We send our good wishes to all who are, or have recently been unwell, and wish you a speedy return to good health.

FLOWER ROTA

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Oct 4 th & 11 th | Janet Stacey |
| Oct 18 th , 25 th , Nov 1 st | Christine Luxton |
| Nov 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd | Sylvia Hann |
| Nov 29 th & Dec 6 th | Sara Kittow |

For regular events in the Village Hall, please see notice boards for details.

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