February / March 2014

Price 40p

THE CALL OF CHRIST

The season of Lent will soon be upon us again. This forty day period has traditionally been a time of self-examination and reflection for followers of Jesus Christ. Just as our cars need an annual MOT to make sure that they are still roadworthy, so our spiritual lives require a time of careful inspection to check that we are on the right track.

This year the mission community will be using the season of Lent to consider afresh the call of Christ. What does it mean to be a Christian? What is it that God looks for in our lives? How can we be sure that we are walking in step with the Holy Spirit? These are the kinds of questions we will be exploring together as we listen again to Christ's call.

We will hear his call to repent (Mark 1v15). Repentance doesn't mean feeling guilty or having some good intentions, it means a deliberate decision to change the direction of our lives. We repent in order to follow Jesus (Mark 1v17). Jesus does not call people simply to follow his example or to follow his commands, but to follow him. Jesus calls people to a personal relationship with himself, so that

our whole lives are orientated around him.

And Jesus calls us to put our trust in him to provide for our spiritual needs. Just as children trust their parents to provide for them, so we must become like children to enter the kingdom (Mark 10v15). Peace with God can never be achieved by good behaviour; it can only be received as a free gift, in the same way that children freely receive good things from their parents. Trusting Jesus means abandoning our self-righteousness and self-reliance.



In response to this gift of forgiveness and peace, Jesus calls us to serve other people with humility, just as he served us by laying down his life to pay for our wrongdoing (Mark 10v45). And our response will be committed and whole-hearted. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all

our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12v30-31). Nominal Christianity, which believes in theory but not in practice, falls far short of what Jesus calls the greatest commandment.

Being a Christian is the most radical decision that anyone can make. It will involve denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Jesus wherever he leads us (Mark 8v34). This is a tough calling. Following Jesus is not for wimps! When we come to see just how challenging the call of Christ is, we will realise that we can't do it alone. We need the support and encouragement of our fellow believers in order to keep going. For real followers of Jesus, church is a necessity not a duty.

More details of our Lent programme will appear over the coming weeks. There will be daily readings, mid-week meetings and Sunday services.

Why not give yourself a spiritual MOT?

Steve

Copy Deadline for the April/May issue - Monday 10 March

THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of its readers

EDITORIAL

As the new editors of TODAY magazine, we would like to introduce ourselves. We are Jenny and Geoff Parnell and we have lived in Lower Washfield for seventeen years. Jenny is responsible for the computer side of things and Geoff is chief proof reader.

We have now joined the army of voluntary helpers, without whom, our churches would not survive. In addition to our clergy, lay readers, church wardens, organists, cleaners, flower arrangers and bell-ringers, there are many unsung heroes who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Where would we be without the people who tend our church grounds,

for instance, and those who organise coffee mornings, fetes and Christmas Fayres? Our carol singers are another splendid bunch who go out in all weathers to help local charities.

Once again, over the extended Christmas period, which runs from November 2013 to January 2014, parishioners have been raising money for their churches and various well-deserved charities. In addition to the church collections, the amounts listed in the Parish Round-ups for Christmas 2013 total over £ 8,000.

We would also like to thank Paul and Elizabeth Iliff for their endeavours, over more than four years ~ and for their kindness and patience whilst "showing us the ropes".

Jenny

THANK YOU . . .

We were very surprised, at the beginning of the Christmas Eve service at Withleigh, to be called "out front", to be presented by Steve with a gift from the Mission Community at the end of our time as administrators, in the form of a £150 Argos voucher. We are pleased to have been able to help out, despite exceeding our original time commitment by more than double!

It all seems a bit surreal, considering we are not going anywhere (unless someone knows otherwise!), and will be continuing to help arrange the services in our nine churches.

Thanks, also, to everyone for all the support we have received during the past four and a half years.

Paul & Elizabeth

ANN'S NATURE NOTES

Now it is winter and most things are dormant; the flowers and butterflies waiting, like me, for the spring. I have recently been asked about owls, and they are most easily seen in the winter. Often they hunt in the day time, quartering fields. The most common one is the Tawny Owl; this is the largest of our common owls. It is resident and is the one we hear in the evenings - calling twit (male) twoo (female). It is a bird of the woodland and spends a lot of time hiding near the trunk of large trees, among the ivy. If it is seen in the daytime, by smaller





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birds, they make quite a noise mobbing it and trying to get it to move away, as they consider it a threat. They are nocturnal, so are not often seen. The next most common one is the Barn Owl. It is a beautiful white, ghostly, silent flier. It is a crepuscular (a Dawn and Dusk) bird. It is a bird of farmlands and traditionally the nested in old barns and sheds, but as there are fewer of those about now. they use trees as well. The barns were excellent places to nest, as that was where their food (rodents) also lived. Then there is the Little Owl. This was brought in by Thomas Powys in 1842 to the Midlands, as a captive bird.

East Devon Choral Society

Musical Director Andrew Daldorph

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SINGING? come, join us!

East Devon Choral Society warmly welcomes new members and would love to meet you!

We rehearse on Mondays during term time, 7.15pm - 9.15pm in the main hall of the Old Heathcoat School Community Centre, 81 King Street, Tiverton, EX16 5JJ

For further information, please phone:-Sue North - 01884 253494 or Martyn Green - 01884 259495

They escaped and now thrive in England, where they are resident. In the winter they sit motionless in a sunny spot, on a roof or in a hole in a wall. I often see one at Steart, and there is another at Cruwys Morchard. A lovely little bird, but I have yet to see one flying. Sadly they only have a life expectancy of 3 years. Then there are two migrant owls. The Short- eared Owl is the more common one: it can be seen in the daytime quartering fields looking for rodents. It has long narrow wings and a round face. The other migrant is the Long-eared Owl, which is quite rare. I have only seen one. It is the smallest, and is distinguished by its ear tufts, hence the name. It is another crepuscular bird and like the Tawny Owl, it hides in trees in the daytime.

Ann

CARBON FAST FOR LENT

s part of the 5th Mark of Mission ~ Awhich is "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and review the life of the Earth" (General Synod, 2006) and as one of the next steps in the Shrinking the Footprint campaign, members of the Exeter Diocesan Synod have agreed to promote a Carbon Fast for Lent 2014.

At its last meeting, the Synod agreed to urge all members of electoral rolls and their families; church schools and academies: and PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) to attempt to take special steps to cut their carbon footprint by 40% during the 40 days of Lent 2014, starting on 5 March.

In order to do this, resources for worship, ideas for action and tools to help reduce church and domestic carbon emissions will be will be ready to order, by e-mail, shortly from joanie@exeter.anglican.org

These resources will be available to churches for information, study, prayer and practical action, including a suggested daily action for the 40

continued overleaf



Spinal Injuries Association



Want to eat Fish and Chips while raising money for charity?

Hold a Fish and Chip Supper on Friday 16th May 2014 and raise awareness of Spinal Cord injury and support SIA's vital services.

You can hold a Supper in your own home or at work ~ or have a larger Supper in your Village Hall.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack with hints, tips, recipes, invitations, and donation envelopes.

Every year in the UK, over 1000 people experience a Spinal Cord Injury ~ there are an estimated 40,000 Spinal Cord injured people in the UK alone.

For more information please call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 0714350 or email

fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk



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days of Lent, to reduce personal footprints during the period.

The main emphasis will be to encourage changes in personal and family lifestyle ~ at least during the period of Lent ~ ideas to be promoted are likely to include: Transport sharing and cycling; Reducing food waste; Using green energy; Reusing and recycling; Decreasing wasted hot water: Eating local produce; Improving insulation and energy efficiency; Switching off unneeded lights and equipment; Sharing meals; Starting a "Transition Street Project" or "Caring Neighbours Scheme".

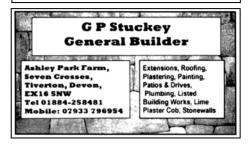
TOILET TWINNING IS FUN

Did you know that 2.6 billion people that's 40% of the world's population – don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo. The human impact of this scandalous statistic is enormous: nearly one in five child deaths each year is due to diarrhoea. The good news is you can help change this by twinning your toilet!

Toilet Twinning is a fun but extremely practical way of helping communities in developing countries. For just £60 you can supply a latrine to a community in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, or The Democratic Republic of Congo by twinning your toilet at home, school, work, organisation or church. In the Old Deanery in Exeter Diocese we have twinned 4 of our toilets; it certainly is a conversation starter.

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Devon County Council staff members are being encouraged to finance two toilets at County Hall in Exeter.

Children at St John's foundation preschool in Tiverton are learning about lives very different from their own thanks to the twinning of three of its toilets with those in the East African country of Burundi.

Following local flooding, St Andrew's Church in Feniton hosted a coffee morning to raise money the £60 needed to twin its toilet as an act of solidarity on water issues!

Those who twin their toilets receive a photo and GPS coordinate of the toilet they are twinned with, to hang in their loo. It's great to know that you're doing something to help to alleviate the plight of so many people in the world, who are without somewhere clean, and most important, safe, to go to the loo.

For further information please see: www.toilettwinning.org/

Rev Cate Edmonds

PARISH ROUND-UP

Calverleigh

By the time you will be reading this we will be in the second month of 2014. We wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2014.

We would like to thank Paul and Elizabeth lliff for all their hard work

regarding the "TODAY" magazine and all their many other tasks they undertook with such dedication. It is good that you have agreed to continue to help Steve with the service rotas for the time being. We would not like to think of you getting bored with nothing to do!! Seriously, enjoy your extra hours of leisure together, once again thank you very much.

We welcome our new Editors Geoff and Jenny Parnell who I am sure will soon settle into their new role very comfortably.

We have more people to thank. Here in Calverleigh Church we are very fortunate in having five worship leaders who have led many services, making sure that we can maintain three services a month. Thank you Aubrey, Julie, Jackie, Tash and Nikki. We are also very thankful to all the volunteers who clean the Church, cut the grass and keep our Churchyard in pristine condition, provide and arrange flowers, bell-ringers, readers and everyone who works in any way to make sure our Church is warm and welcoming week in and week out.

Our Christmas celebrations started on December 8th at 3pm with our Christingle service which was led by Nikki who had put a lot of time and thought into the service. We were each given a paper Christingle which we had to colour and put our thoughts in different parts of it. The lights were then dimmed and we were all handed out our lighted Christingles. As the Church was nearly full it was a lovely moment.

Andy Smith

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The Christingles were given by Doreen Venn and they were decorated by the Goldsworthy family. Thank you to you all. Refreshments were served after the service.

December 22nd was the day of our Carol service. The Church was packed with many families and their friends. Steve led the service and some of our younger people took part in the readings. Thank you Steve and all readers, it was a lovely service. Refreshments, with mince pies, were served after the service. It was great to hear our bells ringing to welcome everyone. Our two new bell-ringers John and Lara did so well, it was the first time that they had rung for a service.

Our Christmas morning communion was led by Father Richard Maudsley. We had an excellent attendance. Father Maudsley gave us a very interesting address and he also commented on how beautiful our Church looked with such wonderful flower arrangements and how well the Church was cared for. Congratulations to all the ladies for such an amazing display.

We will soon have to be thinking about some fundraising for the general upkeep and running of our Church.

We will be having our next P C C meeting in the middle of February and if anyone has any new ideas of anything that could be arranged would you please have a word with Aubrey, Jackie or any other P C C member. A little input from anyone is a bonus to us. Thank you.

Cruwys Morchard

ooray, Hooray, our wonderful New Parish Hall is up and running, the Grand Opening was on Saturday 9th November 2013, attended by almost every one in the Parish. Followed by the Church Christmas Fayre, on Saturday 16th November, with hot soup and rolls. We raised £836, a record. Thanks to our many stall holders, and all those who helped to put on such an excellent event.

On 14th December the Hall was full again for Dave's and Di's Christmas QUIZ, the winning team was CHATS followed by The Three Amigos and Six T's.

THE PARISH HALL and Meeting room are available for bookings: please contact Diana Vincent on 01363 860227 or email vindrv@hotmail.com

THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, on 22nd December 2013 was attended by 80 people of all ages. The children dressed up to act out the Nativity, which added to the wonder of the Christmas story. Gifts were given around the tree, which were later given to CHAT, and very much appreciated, thank you everyone. The service was followed by refreshments.

Next PCC is on 18^{th} February, at 7.30pm at Wringsland House

Church AGM on 4th March at 7.30pm in the Church

Mothering Sunday 30th March

Any one wishing to join the Church Electoral Roll please contact Cindy Trick on 01363 866621 or cindy@trickfamily.eclipse.co.uk

A big thank you to all the Church Yard mowing team. Both the Old and New Yard always look a picture.

Over the last two months. experienced ringers from other local towers have been visiting our Monday practice nights to help us progress further with our method ringing, and this has also helped our newer ringers who are developing well. During the Guild Quarter Peal week, Les Tosdevin completed his first quarter, at Cruwys Morchard, with Nellie Croft also in the band. CM ringers continue to support Rackenford with the success of this effort demonstrated by an all Rackenford band ringing at their own carol service.

THE LADIES COMMITTEE meet next on 4th February at 7.30pm at Diana Vincent's house.

FLOWER FESTIVAL and SCARECROW competition is to be held on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May 2014, between 10am - 4pm. The theme is to be Wedding Anniversaries.

There will be a Songs of Praise on Sunday evening. A meeting in the Church to arrange the festival will beheld on 2nd March at 2.30pm. Do come.

A warm welcome to Carol and Paul Mcilwrathe and to Steve, Caroline

Continued overleaf



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and Bella Newman, and to all who have recently moved to the parish.

We send our prayers and good wishes to all who are not well at this time.

Forthcoming events:

Mouse Racing 18th January.

This will be John and Sue Robinson's last mouse race, please come and support us! Doors open 7pm; racing starts 7:30pm

FREE ADMISSION, FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Bar and Food Available.

YOGA: in the Parish Hall, starting on 6th March at 11am-12.15pm. It will be a gentle/beginners class, anyone is welcome. Information phone Hilary Tosdevin 01363 866245 or hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com

Cruwys Morchard Parish Flower and Produce Show on Saturday August 9th. More information in April.

PARISH HALL AGM Monday 31st March

Check the Parish News Letter, out in March, for confirmation.

Young Farmers

BINGO Charity Bingo: 25th January and 22nd February, eyes down at 8pm

Night of Entertainment, with refreshments and bar. Friday 11th April

Young Farmers meet on the first Tuesday in the month, at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Anyone, aged between 10 and 26, are very welcome. Do come along, we are a happy lot!

Sat 29th March. Pink Bingo at the Parish Hall

Doors open at 7.30pm Eyes down at 8pm. Dinners for Full House and lots of great prizes - mainly pink! Profit will

be split 50-50 for this \sim our annual Pink Bingo for Breast Cancer Care and Parish Hall Funds.

Please wear something pink to show your support.

April Quiz Night:

Following the success of the Christmas Quiz at the hall, Diana & Dave have agreed to organise another one for April. Date to be confirmed please check out the 'What's On' page of the website or speak to Di Vincent or Mary Davey.

August: Mary's Big Breakfast, watch this space.

Stove Rota January; Mr M Trick. February; Mr G Cruwys. March; Mr J Lake

Flower and Cleaning Rota.

February 3rd and 10th, Sonia Notley February 17thand 24th, Sue and Pauline Guscott.

March 3rd and 10th, Denyse Standen No Flowers in Lent.

March 17th and 24th, Lorna Warren.

March 31st and April 7th, Carol

Chisholm and Jackie Mitchell

March 10th is the date for the next issue's contributions.

Loxbeare

Happy New Year to everyone and trust you all experienced the wonder of Christmastime as we celebrated the birth of Saviour Jesus Christ. Here in Loxbeare we began the Christmas celebrations with many attending our Christingle Service on the 1st December held in the Village Hall at 3pm followed by a tea. The children distributed the Christingles

to all present. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

It was good to see so many at the Carol Service on the 22nd December at 6.30pm with many from the village taking part and a good number of familiar carols sung. Mince pies and coffee/tea were served after the service. The offering of £129.50 was donated to Children's Hospice South West. The Christmas Day Service was also well attended with many favourite carols sung and a slot for the children who also sang Away in a Manger.

The Carol singers covered Loxbeare and Calverleigh homes during the nights of 19th,21st & 24th. A wonderful total of £650 was collected to be divided between Cancer Research and Barnabas funds. A big thank you to everyone who sang, provided supper on the three nights and to all who gave so generously.

Mothering Sunday will be on Sunday 30th March at 11am in the Village Hall preceded by a full English breakfast from 9.45am. Do come and join us. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

The Woman's Bible Group continue to meet every other Tuesday afternoon from 2-4pm at Pauline's - Highgate Cottage. All welcome.

Contact Marion on 01884 256302.

Margery and Muriel have moved from Deepaller to live in Tiverton. We will miss them and we want to thank them for all the support & help they have given in various ways over the years. We hope they will soon settle in their new home and be very happy. We look forward to many visits back to the Church and the area.

Congratulations to Charles Hibbert on passing his driving test. Happy





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NEW CREATION NEWS

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Please join with us in thanking and praising the Lord for His Word. It has gone out from here in many ways over the past few months and we pray it will bear much fruit. A big 'Thank You' to all those who bought their Christmas cards and presents etc. from us – as well as spreading the Gospel, the seasonal trade has enabled our books to balance. We are so pleased to tell you that our Lord has answered our prayers and now our trading over the last year, together with donations, has shown a small profit. 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.

The old poem says that 'February brings the rain' - rain has surely come over many other months recently! February also brings St.Valentine's Day. Penny's Special this month is a toasted teacake with a cup of tea or coffee for £1.95, so why not bring your Valentine in, to enjoy one with you?

February also sees the start of Fairtrade Fortnight which this year runs from 24th February to the 9th 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, once their products reach the supermarket shelves. (See the Fairtrade website) The Fairtrade system helps to provide these farmers with a fairer price for their produce, leading to a chance for a better livelihood for themselves and their families. 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. They will thank you and so will we, for helping us to support them.

Easter is much later this year and Lent doesn't start until 5th March. However, we have many resources to help you get ready for Lent and Easter and, as it's always a good idea to prepare early, just come in and browse to see what is available. You will also be able to order your Real Easter Eggs which tell the story of Easter and have a small booklet inside the box. Praise the Lord for this additional way of spreading the Gospel.

May God bless you all

New Creation, 58 Bampton Street, Tiverton, EX16 4BP Tel: 01884 255769 e.mail: shop@newcreationtiverton.org.uk

Birthday to all with birthdays & best wishes to those celebrating special occasions in February/March.

We send our sympathy to David & Marilyn Hartwell on the death of mother before Marilyn's iust Christmas. Our thoughts & prayers are also with those who are feeling unwell.

Anyone wishing to join in the village walks contact Ron on 01884 881362.



The next PCC meeting will be on the 25th February at East Sidborough at 7.30pm.

The Christmas Fayre held November 30th raised a total of £350 for Village Hall Funds. Thank you to all who contributed or helped in any way towards the success of the morning. Also in December we held the annual Christmas Meal, this year at the Tiverton Hotel. Thank you Sue for organising the evening. At the

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PARISH ROUND-UP

time of writing, dates & venues for 2014 are yet to be decided. Contact Sue on 01884 259496.

Forward Dates: Bingo will be on April 14th and the progressive meal is planned for Friday May 9th. More details in the next magazine.

Oakford

Ve are now well and truly into the New Year and with all the wet and windy weather, it is good to look back at the enjoyment of Christmas time.

Here in Oakford December started with an excellent pantomime by the Oakford Players, which everyone enjoyed. On December 13th some children came to help decorate the Christmas tree in the church, this was followed by carol singing near the village Christmas tree outside the old shop. As this year we had a dry, warmish night, over 25 adults and children joined in singing their favourite carols, followed by mulled wine (courtesy of Kelvin and Chris) and mince pies and sausage rolls provided by some of the ladies. Our thanks to Bun and Brenda for providing the Christmas trees for the church and the village.

The church Carol service took place on December 22nd. The church looked lovely with candlelight and all the windows and altar beautifully decorated. With the church full, everyone enjoyed the carols and readings and the children sang "Away in a Manger" by the crib. We thank everyone who helped and generously supported us

Continued on Page 10



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CHILDREN'S GROUPS





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You can also find us on Facebook



MISSION COMMUNITY HOME-GROUPS

(Alternate Wednesdays)

See fliers for details

HOME GROUPS

COFFEE PLUS

Alternate Thursdays 9.30am - 10.30am. Prayer for the Exe Valley at Church Cottage, Stoodleigh (Tel. 01398-351364)

LOXBEARE PRAISE AND PRAYER MEETING

3rd Tuesday in month At 7.30pm. (Tel.01884-881362 for venues)

EXE VALLEY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm at Highgate Cottage, Loxbeare Contact Marion 01884 256302, or Alison 01398 351552 for details.

WALK THE TALK

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

MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES, etc

Exe Valley Central

Each Sunday in

Templeton Village Hall

At 11 am

A Service of
Holy Communion
will take place in
Withleigh
at 7.30pm
Wednesday 5 March

When there is no service in Parish churches, all are encouraged to attend Exe Valley Central

OAKFORD

2nd February

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th February

9.30 am Morning Prayer

16th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd February

9.30 am Service of the Word

2nd March

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th March

9.30 am Morning Prayer

16th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd March

No service

30th March

9.30am Mothering Sunday Service

RACKENFORD

2nd February

No Service

9th February

4 pm Evening Worship

16th February

9.30 am Family Service

23rd February

9.30 am Holy Communion

2nd March

No Service

9th March

9.30 am Morning Worship

16th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd March

No Service

30th March

9.30 am Family Service

STOODLEIGH

2nd February

11 am Family Service

9th February

11 am Morning Prayer

16th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd February

4 pm Evening Prayer with Baptism

2nd March

11 am Family Service

9th March

11 am Morning Prayer

16th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd March

6.30pm Evening Prayer

30th March

11am Mothering Sunday Service

CALVERLEIGH

2nd February No Service

9th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

16th February

11.15 am Morning Worship

23rd February

3 pm Evening Prayer

2nd March

No Service

9th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

16th March

11.15 am Morning Worship

23rd March

3 pm Evening Worship

30th March

11.15 am Mothering Sunday Service

CRUWYS MORCHARD

2nd February

No Service

9th February

9.30 am Holy Communion by Extension

16th February

11 am Family Service

23rd February

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

2nd March

No Service

9th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

16th March

11 am Family Service

23rd March

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

30th March

11 am Mothering Sunday Service

LOXBEARE

2nd February

9.30 am Family Communion

9th February

No Service

16th February

6.30 pm Evening Praise

23rd February

No Service

2nd March

9.30 am Family Communion

9th March

No Service

16th March

6.30 pm Evening Praise

23rd March

No Service

30th March

9.30am Breakfast Family Service in Village Hall

TEMPLETON

2nd February

11 am Family Service

9th February

No Service

16th February

No Service

23rd February

No Service

2nd March

9.30 am Morning Prayer& Holy Communion

9th March

No Service

16th March

No Service

23rd March

No Service

30th March

11 am Family Service

WASHFIELD

2nd February

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th February

11 am Morning Prayer

16th February

11 am Family Service

23rd February

No Service

2nd March

9.30 am Holy Communion by Extension

9th March

11 am Morning Prayer

16th March

No Service

23rd March

3 pm Taizé

30th March

11 am Family Service

WITHLEIGH

2nd February

No Service

9th February

11 am Family Service

16th February

11 am Morning Worship

23rd February

9.30 am Holy Communion

2nd March

No Service

16th March

11 am Informal Service

19th January

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd March

11 am Morning Worship

30th March

11 am Mothering Sunday Service with Baptism

and our particular thanks go to Mary for playing the organ, Dawn and Geoffrey for the mulled wine and Brenda, Jean and Wendy for the mince pies. We were able to send £185 to the Children's Society. Thanks again to Mary for playing the organ at the Christmas midnight service which was well attended.

We are very grateful that so many people in the village have helped and supported the church throughout the year.

Village events.

The Moorland Club:

February 13th 'A Brimful of Nonsense' with Rosemary Channing

March 13th Samburu update from Richard Gibson and presentation of Charitable Cheques

April 10th A.G.M. Please come and support the club

A grand total of £1078 was raised at the Christmas Fayre – a great result.

Village Hall Committee ~

To celebrate the refurbishment of the Kitchen! Sunday Brunch February 23rd at the Village Hall. From 10a.m. Tel. Carla on 01398 351609 for further information

"Strictly Comes to Oakford" Final April 5th 2014 in the Village Hall Contact Carla on 01398 351609 Watch out for posters for this later

Oakford War Memorial

oes anvone know when the War Memorial in Oakford was built and who by? The Parish Council minutes from 1918 onwards do not record who built it, or indeed informing the Parish Council that it was going to be built. However there are records that the did for cleaning council pay between1944-46 and the addition of the names of those who lost their lives in WW2. The memorial is an important feature of the village, and many residents gathered there Remembrance Sunday. However, while it looks structurally sound, it could do with a clean. As part of the '100 years' anniversary of the start of WW1, Devon County Council is offering grants for cleaning/repairs to groups who look after WW1 memorials. The Parish Council will be discussing whether to take on responsibility for the memorial on behalf of the village at its next meeting, with the idea of applying for a grant if appropriate. However, it would be very useful to know who built it and when, in case there is already a group with responsibility for the memorial. If anyone has any information, please call

Kelvin Holdom on 01398 351573 or email at holdomk@tiscali.co.uk

Rackenford

We hope you have all enjoyed Christmas and we wish you a happy and healthy new year.

On 17th November 2013, it was so nice to have Anna Hansford, from Washfield with us and she welcomed everyone to our family service. We had a most enjoyable service with over sixty in the congregation and such a pleasure to have so many children taking part. Prayers were said by Megan and Billy Poole. Readings were by William Blackburn, Leonie Loader and Hannah Spence. Megan Issaac played her saxophone and Connie Issaac her flute. Lovely hymns were sung and refreshments were available at the end of the service. Billy Poole and Archie Joyner took the collection which amounted to £197.10 this was given to The Philippines Disaster Fund.

Many congratulations to Jane Wood and Rob Matthews who were married on December 14th 2013. We wish you good health and happiness.

On December 15th we held our Christingle service, it was good to have so many taking part. Some people "What have asked Christingle?" This explanation may help:- Christingle services originated in the Moravian church of Eastern Europe. The orange represents the world. The red ribbon (around the orange) represents the blood of Jesus by which he saves us. The sweets represent all the gifts God has given us. The candle represents Jesus the light of the world. At the end of the service the candles were lit and the last hymn was sung by candlelight. Connie and Megan once again played their instruments, William Blackburn played the organ and Darren Blackburn played his guitar. Hymns, prayers and readings took place during the service which was taken by

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Rev Steve Goodbody. The collection of £113.18 was given to Childrens Hospice South West. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service.

Many thanks to all who played a part decorating the church Christmas, thanks also to Tim and Liz Paxton for donating the Christmas tree. On Tuesday 17th December Rackenford Primary school held their Christmas Carol service at church. The Nativity was performed by Class 1, who looked wonderful in their beautiful costumes. Phoebe Bryant sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City. The children led the service with prayers and singing and were praised for all their work by Claire Joyce and Rev Steve Goodbody. The collection of £42.41p was given to The Guide Dogs. Everyone was invited back to school for refreshments.

December 19th was another busy time for Rackenford School, when Year 2 upwards put on 2 performances of Papa Panov, and what wonderful performances they were. The acting, singing and costumes were amazing. Hal Baker played Papa and Leonie Loader sang her solos beautifully. Well done to the children and staff for such a lovely afternoon and evening.

On 21st December Father Christmas visited Rackenford Club where village children were enjoying a Christmas party ~ which included a lovely tea, games, balloons~ and a gift to take home, from Father Christmas. Many thanks to Rackenford Club and to all

who helped in any way. A lovely thought.

The following is a message from Rackenford Club :- The Community Coffee Mornings started at the end of September 2013 and when we closed for Christmas we had £103.65 in our kitty. The ladies (and gents) attending agreed that we would use £40 of that money to buy the presents for Father Christmas to give the village children at the Christmas Party (which hopefully was a success). remaining money would be divided, £30 to the Church and £30 to the village shop. This left a balance of £3.65 which will be our float to start 2014. The Club would like to thank all those who attend and especially for their donations of food for the children's party.

The Christmas Eve Carol Service was our last celebration before Christmas and we saw our Church full of families and friends past and present. It was so nice to have Rev Jane Wilson with us. She is now retired and living in Bampton. Various people from our community took part in the readings and it was nice to welcome new faces. Thank you also to the choir for their singing and to Marjorie for organizing choir practice.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Pat Ruscoe who died at the beginning of January 2014. Some will remember Pat and John Ruscoe who used to live in Rackenford.

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special birthdays and anniversaries recently.

Welcome to anyone who may have moved into our village or area and our best wishes to anyone who may have left, who we have not heard about.

To all those who are not well, have spent time in hospital, are lonely or depressed, our prayers are with you. Also continuing to remember our friends Percy Stone, Ken Blackford, Mrs Clark, Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline also Bill Dart and Bob Mogridge.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul and Elizabeth Iliff for all their help and hard work over the years producing the Today magazine and thank Geoff and Jenny Parnell for taking over this position. We wish you the very best from Rackenford.

Stoodleigh

Christmas in St Margaret's Church was a wonderfully festive time with well over 100 in the congregation for the carol service and 60 for the Christmas Day communion service, which was taken by Steve Goodbody. Our thanks to him and to all those who contributed to these services, when we were able to reflect again on the birth of Jesus and our faith in Him.

Continued overleaf



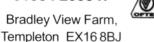
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The church had been beautifully decorated by the talented band of flower arrangers organised by Betty Wotton; and the Christmas tree, kindly donated by John Widdowson, was simple but beautiful.

In the absence of Rob Brewis, who was unwell, the carol service was taken by the Reverend Tim Hunt, chaplain at Blundell's, who had already been press-ganged singing in the choir - a fine group of twenty singers. The choir items this vear were O Little Town of Bethlehem by Walford Davies (in which Diane Wheller made a welcome come-back to Stoodleigh singing the first verse) and Rutter's Candlelight Carol (an ambitious choice which the choir tackled on just the one rehearsal held two hours before the service!). Audrey Rigg had trained up a group of very young actors for her traditional Nativity Play which was enhanced by the children singing Away in a Manger accompanied by Nicola Palfrey on the clarinet. The congregation joined in with the well-known carols and afterwards enjoyed coffee and mince pies.

The Christmas Fayre was very well attended and Father Christmas delighted the children with his visit and gifts. The parish hall was most attractively decorated and the stalls radiated colour with all the Stoodleigh-made gifts for sale. A big thank you to all who contributed in so many ways and to all who attended and purchased, raising a total of just under £1000.

The mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls all added to the very happy coming together of the Stoodleigh community.

Many thanks to Gerald, Richard and a group of helpers who had a very good 'clear-up' in the churchyard in late November. Thank you also to Phyllis for helping with the essential tea, coffee and biscuits.

Just a reminder that Family Services take place usually on the First Sunday of each month, so will be on 2nd February and 2nd March. We extend a very warm welcome to any young families that might be able to join us. The Mothering Sunday service will be an additional Family Service on the 30th March.

We send a warm welcome to Sarah Stansfield who has moved into Champles Cottage. We hope, Sarah, that you will be very happy living in Stoodleigh.

Parish Hall:

Recent improvements and redecoration make the hall an attractive venue for all sorts of occasions parties, dances, exhibitions, meetings and some sports (eg short mat bowls, skittles). The main hall, with kitchen facilities, is available to hire and there is a committee room for smaller meetings.

Also, there is a vacancy on the hall management group. Anyone interested in joining the group or in hiring the hall, please contact the secretary on 01398 351391 or geraldinetalbot@tiscali.co.uk

Email Messaging: The Stoodleigh email messaging system circulates useful Community Information including Devon and Cornwall Police warning messages. If you're not currently on the list to get these updates and would like to be, please contact Geraldine Talbot, as above.

CHSW would like to thank all who attended the Down Farm Brunch on 14th December and made it a huge success. A magnificent £522 was raised for Children's Hospice South West. A huge thank you should also go to all the helpers who made it such a great morning.

Stoodleigh 100 Club prizewinners: November - 1 Hazel Kelland, 2 John & Sally Holland, 3 Carol Radford, 4 Janet Russell; December - 1 Alyson Murray, 2 Henny Nethercot, 3 Felicity Green, 4 Phil Bird, extra prizes Margaret Cuningham, Geraldine Talbot, Amy Sutton.

SWAG: Friday 21st March, 7.30pm, Parish Hall - Concert by "In Harmony". Tickets from SWAG members. More details later.

Church Flowers:

February 2nd & 9th – Trish Fish February 16th, 23rd &

March 2nd – Dorothy Ayre, Betty Wotton

March 9th to 30th - Lent (no flowers)





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Templeton

Abelated Happy New Year to you all and we hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas.

Our Church was beautifully decorated for our Carol Service on Christmas Eve which many people attended and a lot remained for the Holy Communion Service that followed; the Rev'd Steve Goodbody officiated.

After the Carol Service, the finals of the Christmas Tournaments took place in the village hall. The results are as follows: Ladies Skittles R.U. Sara Stone W. Julie Dent. Table Tennis R.U. Martin Hill W. Jake Pancherz. Pool, The final, Pete Withers v. Mike Pancherz. Ladies Darts R.U. Sara Stone W. Teresa Pancherz. Congratulations to all and a particular well done to the first time winners.

The Christmas Fayre was a great success and raised £777.00 this total includes £250.00 which was raised by the sale of our calendars. Many thanks to all who attended and to those who helped in any way \sim especially to Marianne and Gem for the lovely decorations, which stayed up for our Christmas celebrations.

Tony Loosemoor organised a children's Christmas party for children from the village and friends

from other villages. It was very much enjoyed by the children and thanks to Sara, Bindy and Gloria and of course to Father Christmas for coming along. The overall total of money raised, including the marrow contest and a draw, was £1,199.00 which will go to the Childrens Hospice South West. Tony wishes to thank the hall committee for the use of the hall.

There will be an Antiques Evening (Call my Bluff) and supper on Friday 7th March. Look out for more details at the hall and on the village notice boards.

We would like to send our condolences to Lynda Newnes and her family on the loss of Lynda's mother. The funeral took place on the 18th January at Templeton church.

We would also like to send best wishes to all those who are ill at this time; there certainly are some nasty bugs and viruses around at present.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Gill Rose 26th January

· 2nd February

Hannah Nobbs 9th February

- 16th February

Audrey McInerney 23rd February

- 2nd March

Jan Heptinstall (LENT) 9th March

- 16th March (no Flowers)

Gloria Woollacott (LENT) 23rd March

- 13th April (no Flowers)

Washfield

When Winter is on your head ~ keep hope and Spring in your heart

December started off with our Christingle service. The Christmas tree and crib welcomed everyone in to a lovely service taken by Anna. The children were proud and delighted to make their own Christingles with the help of their parents and also, very ably, did the readings. The general collection was donated to the Children's Society.

The church was even more festive when Anna warmly welcomed everyone to our Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Nine Lessons. The large congregation listened intently to the lovely readings given by the wider community of our parish and sang the carols with a strong voice. This popular service was concluded with the traditional coffee and mince pies.

The Christmas Day Holy Communion service was taken by our rector, Steve Goodbody, to a good congregation. Thank you, Steve. Grateful thanks go to everyone who decorated the church so beautifully and also to the bell ringers who turned out to welcome us to these services.

Continued overleaf













Our Christmas Coffee morning, hosted by Garth and Jeanne Jones, was, as always, a lovely, friendly community get-together which raised £200 for church funds. We thank Garth and Jeanne for their enduring hospitality and those who came and supported this annual church event.

We are sorry to say that we are hearing of much illness in our parish. We will continue to pray for everyone coping with on-going treatments and also those who can no longer get out and about in the community. You are all very much in our thoughts and prayers and we send God's blessings to you all.

Our two sets of Carol singers have, once again, been raising money for charities. The village singers chose a lovely night to turn out and sing for Mid Devon's Day Hospice at Pine Lodge, Post Hill. £130 was raised on the night but this fund will be totalled and concluded at the next W.I. Meeting.

The higher Washfield singers were not so fortunate with the weather on the night they chose but still raised the magnificent sum of £200.85 which will be donated to The Children's Hospice (SW). Both sets of singers send grateful thanks to everyone who sang and those who gave them refreshments and also, of course, to the people along the way for their generous donations to these amazing charities.

Good news! Congratulations to Frannie and Adam of Spillifords on the birth of Zac in November, a welcome brother for Eva. Congratulations are also sent to Frank and Joy Smith and to Bill and Irene Bolt, as both couples celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversaries in March. To anyone else celebrating special birthdays or celebrations, we send best wishes.

The W.I. party was, once again, enjoyed by over forty people who sat down to a lovely meal. They were then entertained by the talents of some members, Andrew on the keyboard and the beautiful singing of Marianne and Jenny. A most enjoyable evening.

The Social Club's New Year's Eve celebrations also showcased the talents of its members. The Great Washfield Bake Off saw three plucky men demonstrating their baking skills with cupcakes and was judged by 'Mary Merry' and 'Higella'. musicians entertained and the men folk rode to Widdecombe Fair with Mike Kerslake! What a wonderful evening was had by all. Please, if you want to support your village Social remember to Club. pay subscription and keep this community group alive!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th February
W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Speaker:
Tiverton & District Community
Transport Assn. New members
always welcome.

Thursday 20th February Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30. Please let Anne know if you are coming.

Thursday 13th March W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Speaker: David Chivers on his day at Buckingham Palace.

Thursday 20th March Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30

Flower Rota

February 2nd/9th Mrs Smith February 16th/23rd Mrs Tobey March 2nd Mrs Jones LENT (No flowers)

Cleaning Rota

Feb 2nd Mrs Harding and Mrs Jones Feb 9th/16th Mr & Mrs McCahon Feb 23rd/March 2nd Mrs French March 9th/16th Mrs Arnold March 23rd/30th Mr & Mrs Parnell Feb 2nd Mrs Harding and Mrs Jones

Withleigh

The Christmas Craft Fayre held on 30th November, 2013 was a great success, with £1,003 being raised for Church funds. Our thanks go to Laura for organising this event, all the craft stallholders for attending, and everyone who helped and gave towards the draw, refreshments, preserves, Christmas cake draw and the cake stall. The hall was decorated with Christmas bunting which added to the Christmas theme, and thanks to Margaret, Shirley and Caroline for making this.

Once again, the Children's Christmas Party on 7th December, 2013 was a lively and happy time with parents being dressed and undressed as farmers in one game, together with all the usual games. A delicious bring and share tea was enjoyed by all, followed by the anticipated visit by Father Christmas. This seems to be the guiet time of the afternoon when each child sits and waits for Father Christmas to say their name to go and collect their present from him! A big thank you to Sue Arthurs and her niece, Katie, for organising the games, and the Village Hall Committee for providing the prizes.





Of course, we must not forget to thank Father Christmas for finding the time to attend in his busy schedule.

Our Christingle Service on 8th December, 2013 was well attended, with the collection from the service being sent to the Children's Society. Thank you Paul and Elizabeth for officiating at what always seems to be a special service.

We were very sorry, on the morning of 16th December, to have to make the decision to cancel going carol singing because of the weather forecast of heavy rain and high winds due to come in for the evening. As it turned out, it was not so bad, but we did not want a repeat of us all getting as wet as we did the year before but we may well be coming around next Christmas, weather permitting.

Our Church was, once again at Christmas, decorated beautifully florally, together with candles and baubles, accompanied by a lovely big Christmas tree. Many thanks to those who did the floral decorating, and to Mark and Cathy Luxton for donating and decorating the tree.

Thank you, Paul and Elizabeth, for once again leading our Carol service in another different and enjoyable way from the usual nine carols and lessons. Thank you to the readers, and to those who provided the mulled wine, coffee, mince pies, shortbread and truffles. The gifts brought along to the service and placed under the tree, were duly delivered to CHAT the following day,

and were very much appreciated by them.

Our Christmas Eve Service with holy Communion, officiated by Steve, led us into Christmas morning, and was well attended.

The next PCC meeting is on 20th February, at 6 Southfield Way, Tiverton, with our Annual Church Meeting on Thursday 20th March in the village Hall, beginning at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

The Ash Wednesday Service on 5th March will, this year, take place at St Catherine's at 7.30pm.

On Sunday 9th March, instead of our normal Family Service, we will be holding another informal service of worship in the vestry, beginning at 11.00am.

The Women's Institute has started their new programme for the year with some interesting speakers for the meetings. New members are always welcome or, if you feel you would like to come as a visitor to see if you think the Women's Institute would suit you, meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Village Hall.

We send get well wishes to all those feeling not well at the moment and those known to us who have been unfortunate to have had falls and sustained broken bones. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Flower Rota:

Feb 2nd) Brenda Tucker 9th)

Feb 16th) Janet Stacey 23rd)

March 9th LENT (Please remove flowers)

Monthly Diary Dates:

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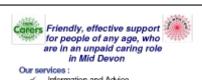
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