April / May 2010

Price 25p

NEW LIVES FOR OLD!

No, not a misquote from Aladdin, and certainly nothing to do with pantomimes! Rather, the real meaning of Easter.

Some years ago a neighbour of mine asked me what Good Friday was all about. In our increasingly secular society such a question should not have been a surprise. What is 'Good' about the execution of an innocent man on a hillside outside Jerusalem 2000 years ago?

The answer is both simple and profound. The Bible reminds that a holy and righteous God cannot coexist with human sin and selfishness. He must judge it, "For the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)." His solution to the problem was 'Good Friday'. It is the culmination of the Jewish sacrificial system, where the sin of the nation was symbolically placed on an unblemished lamb. Now, Jesus, the only sinless man who has ever lived, pays the penalty for the sin of the world once and for all through His death on the cross. He cries out, "It is finished!" At the cross, God's love and justice meet as He pays the price for our sin through the sacrifice of his Son. But this is only half the story!

We should never separate Good Friday and Easter Day. Most of us would agree that our lives are not all they should be. Part of the significance of the Resurrection is the possibility of new life. The earlier quotation finishes with these words, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10v10). St. Paul, who was transformed by God's grace from being a persecutor of the church to one of its foremost leaders and teachers, said, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal 2:20)."

All this is possible for you and me because of Easter. 'New lives for old' means that I not only have a new life now but for eternity.

Alleluia, what a Saviour!

Have a great Easter.

Andrew

MOVING ON....

Dear Friends.

After much thought and prayer I have We have been happy serving with you comfortable with street lights and moving back to Essex where we environment. already have a home.

decided to retire from stipendiary in the Exe Valley Mission Community ministry in the summer. We are not and have appreciated your friendship natural 'country' people and feel more and support. We had originally planned to stay longer but now feel We will therefore be that the time is right for a change of

Our last Sunday will be June 27th.

Andrew



He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Copy Deadline for the June / July issue - Tuesday 11th May

THE EXE VALLEY **MISSION COMMUNITY**

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

RECTOR

Vacancy

TEAM VICAR Part time (Sun, Wed, Thurs) The Rev'd Andrew Rose The Rectory, Withleigh,

> Tiverton, EX16 8JQ. Tel: (01884) 250509

Enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Memorials in the churchyard - please contact the 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

MISSION COMMUNITY **SERVICES**

9th May, 11am - Rogation Sunday service at Loxbeare

23rd May, 10.30am - Pentecost Service of Holy Communion at Oakford

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THE NEXT STEPS

The interest in our advertisement in the Church Times and Church of England Newspaper, for the post of Rector to the Exe Valley, led to seven 'Vacancy packs' being sent out. This resulted in 2 applications but, unfortunately, neither of those resulted in interview. Whilst this is clearly going to delay any appointment, the Diocese are as keen as we are to find a successor to Godfrey, and has already set the wheels in motion to re-advertise the post after Easter, when it is anticipated that clergy will have more time to consider their futures! It is likely that interviews will now take place towards the end of May.

Thus far, since Godfrey's retirement, we have managed to maintain a full pattern of services in all of our churches but, with Andrew and Jenny's imminent departure. this will just not be possible for the shortterm future. Indeed, we are very thankful to those congregations who have already agreed to join together for services on some occasions in April and May. Such joining together can only become more necessary until a new Rector is licensed, since two of the adjoining benefices (Sampford Peverell and, very soon, Bampton) are, or will be, also in vacancy situations. We may be separate communities, but let's prove – to ourselves - that we are also one Mission Community.

One of the problems arising from sharing services is that, with no service, and therefore no offertory, the arrangement can have a detrimental effect on the finances of the churches involved. Perhaps we can all help this situation by putting aside what we would have normally put in our own church's collection, and add it to our offering at our church's next service. Such regular giving can be a life-line; none of us wants to see any of our churches struggling for survival, because that only detracts from the Church's mission - and, as stated above,

we are all part of this Mission Community! Most, if not all, of our parishes have a "Free Will Offering" scheme based upon an envelope system, and if this is used properly, giving should not be affected by a "blank" Sunday in any particular church. The Apostle Paul was faced by a similar situation in the early days of the church and he wrote "Now about the collection for God's people: do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that, when I come, no (special) collection will have to be made". (1 Corinthians 16. 1 & 2). Paul would then arrange for the money given each week to be used in the service of the church.

We are all part of God's Church; He is not part of ours! He is in control. Can we doubt that He knows what He is doing to advance His kingdom here in the Exe Valley? Please continue to pray for all our parishes, for our parish representatives, all who are involved in the selection process, and all who lead our services week by week.

Paul Iliff

FISH CLUB

Due to the problem with Calverleigh Hall we did not meet during the first half of term. Fortunately we were able to move Fish Club, and meet at Washfield Village Hall during March. Hopefully we will be back again in Calverleigh after the Easter Holiday. It was good to see all the children again after such a long break.

If you, or anyone you know, has any time to spare on a Friday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.15, and would like to help, I would love to hear from you. Alison Webber joins us once a month to do crafts with the children. and, after Easter, Marianne Ayre is going to be giving guitar lessons to the children once a month. If you have or know of

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anyone who has a particular talent or interest that you would like to share with the children, once a month or even once each half term would be good. Is there anyone who would like to teach a sport or do games with the children?

The fish club is open to all children from the Mission Community of the Exe Valley and surrounding area. If you know of any children between the ages of 4 and 11 who would like to join us, please let me know.

Any enquiries, contact Cindy Trick Tel: 01363 866621.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Preparations are under way for this year's Holiday Club, which will be held for children 5-11years old at Calverleigh Village Hall from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th of July. Monday 26th will be preparation day.

In order to run the holiday club we need lots of helpers; even if you feel you are not able to be there all the time, we will be grateful for any time you can spare, even if it is only one morning or afternoon. I would particularly like to hear from anyone who is good with technology and computers, who would be happy to take responsibility for loading the materials

Cruwys Morchard Church

Flower Festival and Scarecrow Extravaganza

29th, 30th &31st of May 10.30a.m to 5pm Refreshments in the Hall

Songs of Praise Service 5pm on Sunday 30th May onto the computer and operate it during the week. We also need people to operate puppets, help with sports and games, crafts, making tea, etc. etc. We also need people that are First Aid trained.

If you are over 16 (though we may need one or 2 slightly younger helpers), and can

offer any help, please contact Cindy Trick. Tel: 01363 866621.

We will again this year be pre-registering children, and there will be a limit to how many children we can take, with priority being given to those who attend Fish Club

NEW CREATION NEWS - April 2010

We are delighted to have Christopher Tull visiting New Creation on Tuesday 13th April between 10.30 am and 3.00pm. He will be signing his new book 'Green Grass of Summer", the third in the series describing life in an Exe Valley village as experienced by the Vicar. If you have enjoyed the first two, be sure to get your copy of number 3, and have it signed by the author. At £9.99 each they make an ideal present. We look forward to seeing you on the 13th.

Our new FREE magazine "Thirsty" from STL-John Ritchie is now available, with offers valid until 15th May. There is information on new releases, many children's resources, gifts and DVDs.

Having had a very successful Fairtrade Fortnight, we would like to encourage you to continue the Fairtrade Foundations project for this year - 'To Swap one item you purchase regularly for a fair-traded one'. We have a fairly extensive range of Traidcraft food items in New Creation, and catalogues showing the whole range. If we do not stock it at present, we are always willing to order new items to see how well they sell. Please come in and see us, or please look for the fair-trade mark in the supermarket.

It has been a difficult few months during the transition period of STL-John Ritchie and there is still some way to go. Val has worked hard with publishers and distributors, and trusts all your requirements have been fulfilled satisfactorily. We will continue to provide the best service possible and endeavour to keep you informed. It is important you use us as your first enquiry for your Christian resources, especially for larger items for the Church Family - e.g. group study material, Bibles, song books, prize giving; it is these purchases that really boost our takings, and we will always try to give you the best possible price.

Easter Blessings to you all.

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and those who are associated with the Exe Valley Mission Community.

No need to apply yet for children's spaces, as further details will follow in the next Today magazine.

THE GREEN GRASS OF SUMMER

by Christopher Tull

This third book about the goings on at rural Ashenridge is coming out on April 1st. It's Jack Longfield's high summer time the great days in his ministry when he has two very different clergy to help him. One is over organised, the other quite the reverse but with his charms he can get away with almost anything. Many of the familiar characters appear again, with more tales, a secret romance and plenty else. Even if you haven't read the previous two, you can start quite happily will this one. It's an easy read, there's lots of fun, and sometimes you'll find a deeper side to what is going on.

Price £9.99. Published by Broad Street Publishers. ISBN 9780955701955 Available in many local bookshops or direct from Arden Cottage, 8 Coombesland Rd, Highweek, Newton Abbot TQ12 1PL. Tel: 01626 365478

Christopher Tull will be signing books as

April 1st South Molton Market. 10.30 -1.0. April 3rd Serendipity Shop in South Molton 10.30-12.30

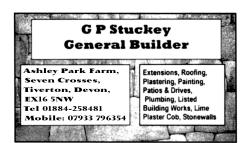
April 10th Mole Valley Farmers, South Molton from 10.30

April 13 New Creation, Tiverton 10.30 - 3.0 April 30th Under the Rainbow. Minehead 11.0.-1.0

and other venues yet to be fixed.

Flats To Rent

The Edward Blagdon Charity has two flats available for rent in Barrington Street, Tiverton. Each has a sitting room, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms plus the shared use of a large garden, maintained by the charity. The rent is £400 per month. Please contact Kathy Welden if interested. Tel: 01884 857997.



PARISH ROUND-UP

Calverleigh

At the time of writing we have some lovely sunshine, a little cold, but it is good to see the sun. Calverleigh is a picture with the hosts of snowdrops everywhere. Spring must be on the way.

We were all shocked and saddened by the devastating earthquake in Haiti, so it was agreed to send our Church collection on 17th January to the earthquake fund.

We send our sympathy to Andrew and Cheryl Webber on the loss of Cheryl's Grandad Jack Langworthy.

We give a big welcome to Geoff and Kathy Welden who are now in residence at Bellever, Lurley, former home of the late Mrs Evelyn Squire. We hope that you will be very happy here with us at Calverleigh.

Many of us know Sister Catherine from the presentation Sisters. She has visited us at our church on many occasions. Recently she has been ill and she has had an operation, but thankfully she is now on the mend and making a good recovery. We send her our love and best wishes for the future.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the loss on February 17th of Amanda Takel. Michael, Sarah, Amanda and Adrian lived at New Inn Farm for many years before moving to Washfield. Amanda had unfortunately suffered from ill health for many years. Her funeral service was held here at Calverleigh on February 26th. The church was filled to capacity with many friends and family. Doctor Gavin Haig and Holly Haig gave very moving and interesting addresses on Amanda's life. We send Michael, Sarah and all the family our sympathy and love at this very sad time.

We send our love and sympathy to Eric and Jacqui Kingdom on the loss of Eric's mum on February 20th at the grand age of 95. Clarice Ena Kingdom farmed at Betham then at Kitterbury Farm for 12 years before retiring to South Molton. Mrs Kingdom was the mother of a very talented musical family who entertained together with Mr Sid Kingdom as the Kingdom Family.

Landscaping Ponds Driveways Foundations Drainage Site Clearance Materials available Tel: 07969 834 790 They entertained people in most of the local villages.

Mrs Mary Toft, a past resident of Frogwell, who has been recently living at Collipriest House, is now moving to St George's Residential home in Tiverton on 7th April. I am sure she would welcome any old friends to visit her. She was 90 years old on March 13th; what a wonderful lady.

Notes for your Diary:

Tuesday April 13th. Church AGM. Everyone is welcome to come to this meeting.

Saturday April 24th. Church Spring Clean Day. Everyone is welcome to join us, even if you can only spare a short time. 9 am -12pm.

Saturday 1st May. Coffee morning at Blue Cedars for church funds. Bring and buy, produce and cakes etc.

Saturday 8th May. Churchyard cleaning day. Once again anyone can join us.

Saturday 22nd May. Day of Prayer. More details from Aubrey Goldsworthy on 01884 255248.

Saturday 19th June. Fundraising day. Including Table Top sale, BarBQ, competitions, evening Barn Dance with Lucy Lastic.

Sunday 27th June. Our popular open air service with The Gospel Ship.

Cruwys Morchard

As we look forward, this year will be a very busy one for our church with the Flower Festival to be held in May to commemorate 300 years since the rebuilding of the church following the fire

The flower Festival is being held on the Whitsun weekend of the 29th, 30th & 31st of May. The church will be decorated, with hymns being the theme, and will be open each day from 10.30am to 5.30pm. There will be refreshments in the hall, provided by various parish organisations - Flower show, YFC and ladies committee. If you are available to help in any way over this weekend please contact Cindy or Pauline; we need stewards for the church, and help with refreshments, even if you are only able to spare a few hours, we shall be very grateful for your help.

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barkhousehotel@btconnect.com www.thebarkhouse.co.uk Tel: 01398 351236 Once again we will be displaying scarecrows all around the parish. This was extremely popular at the last flower festival and drew many visitors to the area. Scarecrows can be made of anything and about anything. If you would like to make a scarecrow, and need written instructions, ring Cindy, Tel: 01363 866621. Please would you register your scarecrows with Cindy or Pauline as we can then inform people where to look, and plan a route.

Songs of Praise Service at 5pm on Sunday 30th May - The Bishop of Crediton will be joining us to celebrate, as we sing some of the hymns that will be portrayed in the flower arrangements.

We send our prayers and condolences to the families of Elsie Hunt of Nomansland, who passed away in February.

We send Congratulations to Bob and Liz Cruwys on the birth of Herbert Edgar, a grandson for Sarah and Guy Cruwys, and to Ian and Donna Frost on the birth of Brooke Eloise, a granddaughter for Trevor and Marilyn Hill.

We welcomed into our church for baptism on Sunday 28th February, Nathaniel Parker and Edward Kingdom.

We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to all who have been unwell or have had a stay in hospital recently, thinking especially of those who had accidents in the icy weather.

Monday 29th March - 8:00pm - Parish Hall Annual General Meeting at Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall.

Ladies Committee Meeting - Tuesday 20th April, 7.30pm at Sue Guscott's.

Friday 23rd April 7.30 for 8 (please note: change of date) Concert in parish hall. Local talent. Draw. Tickets £5.00, children £3.00 to include a light supper; ring Len & Cissy for tickets: 01363 866578.

Sat 24th April & Sat 29th May, Bingo & 200 Club Draw - doors open 7.30, eyes down at 8pm. All bingos are at the parish hall

for parish hall funds. Please note there will be an extra bingo on Sat 8th May.

There will be a Cello Recital on 6th July at 7.30pm in church as part of Orlando Jopling's journey around England, playing the Bach cello suites in parish churches more information www.cellopilgrimage.co.uk. Reserved seats are £10.00, unreserved £8.00. For tickets Contact Vine Spragg -Tel. 01363 866033.

The Church Fete will be held on Saturday 10th July; this year we will be entertained by Morris Dancers.

Cruwys Morchard Flower Show - Saturday 14th August. With this magazine you should receive a schedule and entry forms for this year's flower show. If your children would like to plant potatoes for the competition, buckets and seed are available from Keith Westcott. Contact him on 07968 857019, and he will arrange to get them to you. Schedules and entry forms are available from Pauline Tel: 01363 866754 or Cindy Tel: O1363 866621.

The Parish hall are putting on a Barn Dance on August Bank Holiday Saturday details next time.

Please note:The box pew with the hoover and cleaning equipment has been moved in front of the screen, in the pew that faces the congregation.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

March 29th - Decorators for Easter April 5th & 12th - Sue & Pauline Guscott April 19th 26th - Penny Harvey and Vine Spragg

May 3rd & 10t - Marilyn Hill

May 17th - Diana Vincent and Val Randerson

Flower Festival 29th, 30th and 31st May June 7th and 14th- Marian Kingdom

Mowing Rota

April – Paul Isaacs

May - Derek Webber & Hilary Tosdevin

June - Stephen Guscott

July - Dave Berry

August – David & Diana Vincent September – Rod Chisholm

October - Roland and Sonia Notlev Any problems ring Sonia - Tel: 01363 866864

Loxbeare

We were all sorry to hear that Andrew and Jenny Rose will be leaving us at the end of June. Andrew and Jenny are moving back to Frinton in Essex. We wish them every happiness back in their home town where there are streetlights and pavements. It's been lovely having you here with us in the Exe Valley - our loss is Frinton's gain. May God bless you now and in the future.

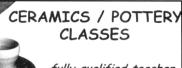
It is good to report that our poorly people are steadily improving. We send our love, prayers and every blessing, and hope that they will all soon be back to good health. We think especially of Eda Gooding, Ruth Partridge, Trish Bending and Steve Troake.

Eda would like to say thank you for all the kindness shown, for all the prayers and concern, and for all the get-well cards she received during her stay at Derriford and since. We are so pleased that you are doing well, Eda, and continue to pray that your back will soon be better.

Congratulations to Claudine and Michael Lear's son-in-law, the Professor Ajay Kakkar, on his recent peerage.

A smart new noticeboard has been erected outside the church gate - thank you to Richard and Ron for their skill in fixing it.

Continued on Page 8 ⇒



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MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES

AGAPE MEAL Maundy Thursday (1st April)

Templeton Village Hall

GOOD FRIDAY (2nd April)

Loxbeare

11.00 am Service of Meditation

Oakford

2.30 pm Devotional Service

Templeton

11.00 am Easter Garden Service

Washfield

3.00 pm Service of Meditation

Withleigh

10.00 am Informal Service in Village Hall

OAKFORD

4th April - Easter Sunday

11 am Holy Communion

11th April

9.30 am Morning Prayer

18th April

9.30 am Holy Communion

25th April

9.30 am Family Service

2nd May

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd May - Pentecost

10.30 am MC Holy Communion

30th May

9.30 am Morning Prayer

RACKENFORD

4th April - Easter Sunday

11.15 am Holy Communion

11th April

11.15 am Morning Prayer

18th April

11.15 am Family Service

25th April

9.30 am Morning Prayer

2nd May

11.15 am Holy Communion

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

11.15 am Family Service

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

11.15 am Morning Prayer

STOODLEIGH

4th April - Easter Sunday

11 am Holy Communion by extension (Anna Hansford)

11th April

11 am Morning Prayer

18th April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

25th April

9.30 am Holy Communion

2nd May

11 am Morning Prayer

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

11 am Holy Communion by extension (Anna Hansford)

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CALVERLEIGH

4th April - Easter Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion

11th April

9.30 am Morning Prayer

18th April

11.15 am Family Service

25th April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

2nd Mav

11.15 am Morning Worship

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

11.15 am Family Service

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

9.30 am Holy Communion

CRUWYS MORCHARD

4th April - Easter Sunday

11 am Holy Communion

11th April

11 am Family Service

18th April

9.30 am Holy Communion

25th April

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

2nd May

11 am Family Service

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

5 pm Songs of Praise

WASHFIELD

4th April - Easter Sunday

11 am Holy Communion

11th AprilJoin with Stoodleigh

18th April

11 am Family Service

25th April

6 pm Evening Prayer

2nd May

6 pm Evening Prayer

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

11 am Family Service

23rd May - Pentecost See Oakford

30th May

11 am Holy Communion

LOXBEARE

4th April - Easter Sunday

Join with Calverleigh

11th April

11 am Family Service

18th April

6.30 pm Evening Praise

25th April

11 am Family Service

2nd May

9.30 am Family Communion

9th May - Rogation

11 am Mission Comm. Service

16th May

6.30 pm Evening Praise

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

11 am Family Service

TEMPLETON

4th April - Easter Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion

18th April

Join with Withleigh

25th April

11 am Morning Prayer

2nd May

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th May

11 am Family Service

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

11 am Morning Prayer

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WITHLEIGH

4th April - Easter Sunday

8.30 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Family Service

•

11th April

9.30 am Holy Communion

18th April

11 am Family Service

25th April

9.30 am Morning Worship

2nd May

11 am Family Service

9th May - Rogation

See Loxbeare

16th Mav

11 am Holy Communion

23rd May - Pentecost

See Oakford

30th May

9.30 am Morning Worship

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Congratulations to Gwen and Bob Berry on the arrival of their new great-grandson, Ellis Dexter; a beautiful first child for Sally and Toby Butler.

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

The grand total of £770.00 from special collections at the church has been sent to Tearfund to help with their work in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake.

A prayer day was held in the church on Saturday, 27th February, when several parishioners came to the church to pray or to be prayed for. The church looked lovely decorated with colourful banners. Thank you to all who joined in to help in the lay-led services.

Mrs Janet May from Tearfund came on the 28th February and gave a presentation on their work. She gave an up-to-date report of their work in Haiti, and Africa, and finished with a prayer time. The collection was for Tearfund.

The men's breakfast was well attended and enjoyed by all who went along. A talk and discussion was led by the Rev. David Ursell.

This year, we will be joining with Calverleigh for the Easter Service. Please come and join us there, as we celebrate "He is risen".

On the 16th May there will be a BBQ after the evening praise service, and in June there will be breakfast before Family Service, followed by a trip up the church tower.

Loxbeare Ladies:

April 12th - Men and ladies skittles match at the Rose and Crown. 7pm for 7.30pm sharp. Contact Sue 259496

May 10th - Local bluebell walk. Contact Sue 259496

Oakford

The 'Christianity Explored' course has gone very well. Each week we started with an excellent meal, then a short video, talk and discussion groups. We have had an average of sixteen people and everyone has enjoyed the interesting questions and points of view the course has brought out.

As soon as the weather starts to improve we will be having a 'tidy-up' of the glebe garden. Please watch for notice of this, and we would be very glad of any help to cut back and prune, etc.

There will be a Good Friday service of hymns and prayers at 2.30 p.m.

Easter Sunday there will be a Holy Communion at 11a.m. We hope you will be able to join in this celebration.

Whitsunday, May 23rd there will be a Group service 10.30 a.m. at Oakford.

In spite of it snowing, the pancake race took place in the village on February 20th; about £100 was raised for the Mid Devon Messenger by those brave enough to face the elements. Thanks to all who took part and supported it.

Forthcoming Events

Children's Hospice Southwest April 10^{th} 'Name that Tune' Quiz. Bring and Share supper.

Oakford Players Spring Show May 14^{th} and 15^{th}

June 6th Oakford Open Gardens in aid of C.H.S.W.

June 26th The Village Fete will take place on the playing field

Please look out for posters for these events.

Moorland Club

April 8th Annual General Meeting. Do come and support the club. A cheque will be presented to Alan Weller of the Mid Devon Messenger.

May 13th Speaker: Elaine Trump (former Mayor and post-lady)

June 10th Speaker: Deborah Bean - On Her Majesty's Service

Parish Council Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday, May 10th at 7.30pm in Oakford Village Hall. We welcome all Oakford residents to hear what the Council has been doing this year, and to get your ideas of what you would like to see in the village. We would particularly like to hear residents' views on the possibility of a community based shop for the village, and also how the mobile Library service could be improved. Tea and Coffee will be served from 7pm onwards, so please come along and meet your Parish Councillors.

Village Fete: This year's fete will be held on Saturday, June 26th at 2pm in the Playground. Details will be announced in the June edition of Today.

Information on forthcoming events and much more can be found on the web site at www.middevon.gov.uk/oakford

Rackenford

It's been a very difficult few months for many, constantly being bombarded with snow, problems getting to work, schools having to close, and many precautions having to be taken during the very cold weather. Thank goodness for our village shop and community spirit. We can all look forward to spring as the flowers and shrubs come to life and, with a bit of luck, the weather improves.

We send our deepest sympathy to Sue Cole and Des Reed and families on the deaths of their mothers. A truly difficult time. Our thoughts are with you. We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Ruth Hogg, a dear friend to many of us. Ruth always had 'time' for others and will be greatly missed. Our very deepest sympathy to Bill's and Ruth's



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family. A service and burial saw a full church coming to pay their respects, and say goodbye to Ruth.

On a much happier note, a belated 'Happy 90th Birthday' to Winnie Cox. We hope you enjoyed your very special day.

Isabella Kate Joyner was welcomed into the church for her baptism on February 14th. Isabella lives with her mum and dad, brother and sister at Manor Cottages. Our prayers for your future happiness.

The Bingos continue to boost the church funds, with a good profit in 2009 of £872.45. Many thanks to Herbert & Marjorie Smith, all helpers, and the continual support of dedicated Bingo players.

Thanks also to Glenn Hookins who has taken over from Stuart Warne, and keeps our church clock ticking. We very much appreciate your help. Many thanks to Stuart for all his work in the past.

We continue to remember and pray for friends that are not living in the village, especially Percy Stone, Doug Bishop, Mrs Arscott and Gwendoline.

Our best wishes to Jenny Sleep's Dad who is poorly, and to anyone who has been into hospital, who have felt unwell, lonely or depressed, and to all who mourn.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Stoodleigh

February 7th was an extremely cold day, but members of Stoodleigh Garden club paid a visit to Cherubeer Gardens, Dalton, and were greatly warmed by the beautiful snowdrops and many other flowers. A warming coffee in the small conservatory proved to be very "snug". The "Guerilla Gardeners" were enthused by the visit, to plant more snowdrops along Stoodleigh Drive. The ones they planted last year

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have all begun to appear, and enhance the Drive even more.

We were delighted to welcome into the church on Sunday 7th February, John and Tory Griffiths from Barnes Cottage with their relatives and friends, for the baptism of their daughter, Amelia Isobel. It was a lovely service.

STOODLEIGH BELLS. Since the last publication, our total for the bells has crossed the halfway mark, thanks to the generosity of the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Parish Council. We are now in the process of completing the application form for a Heritage Lottery Grant, and have applied for a Faculty. There are many ways in which people can help with our fund-raising, and one is to endow a component part of one of the six bells; a stay costs £32, a slider £45, a pulley £132, bearings £220, clapper assembly £435, a headstock £642, and a wheel £880. There is also the 1896 Gillet and Johnston clock, presented by Mrs. E. Dunning to Stoodleigh Court in 1897, which needs to be moved so that the hatchways can be opened up to lower the bells and frame. The cost for this, including cleaning and A record of servicing, is £2,230. contributors will be displayed in the church. If you would like to consider an endowment please contact Jennifer Rowlandson on 01398 351402.

SWAG. The successful draw at the Mervyn Stutter evening meant that we were able to send £200 to Shelter Box for the Haiti sufferers.

Future events include:

8th June a visit to Thelbridge Glassworks - cost £2 - names to Pat Aplin by 1st June; 23rd June Journey on the Tarka Line - names to David Wotton by 16th June; 8th July Tour of Dartmoor - names to

Margaret Cunningham by 1st July. More details about these and other events may be found on the Stoodleigh web site: www.stoodleigh.org.

RACKENFORD COMMUNITY SHOP

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Would you like to help with building up and instigating a Project Plan to bring the heritage of St. Margaret's to a wider range of people? The Lottery Fund has three main aims relating to learning, conservation and participation, and to support our application for funding we need to encourage school and adult groups to visit the church, by building up a programme of talks and visual aids, particularly in relation to the 15th century bosses and "green man" foliate wall plates. Please contact Jennifer Rowlandson on 01398 351402 if you can help or have any ideas for the project.

Diary Dates:

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July "Flower and Arts Festival" in church.

Friday 28th May "Progressive Supper" to raise funds for the church and village hall. Details later on the website.

Flower Rota:

3rd and 10th AprilEaster Flowers17th and 24thChristine Palfrey1st and 8th MayJennifer Fraser15th and 22ndAudrey Rigg

Notes from Lizzie at <u>Stoodleigh Club</u> for your diary:

4th April, Easter Sunday lunches - please book early

24th April, Buckhounds Skittles - ring Lizzie for details

2nd May, Children's Sunday

30th May, Lawnmower Races - all welcome.

Templeton

The Group Ash Wednesday Service was held at Templeton this year, and the Agape meal will be at Templeton Village Hall on Maunday Thursday, 1st April . This will be followed on Good Friday, 2nd April, by the Easter Garden Service at 11am. Please look under the services



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section for details of the service on Easter Sunday.

The Social Club is holding a Murder Mystery evening at the Village Hall on April 24th, followed by a curry and stew supper. Please contact Mark or Sara Stone on 251102 for further details.

The church would like to thank the village hall committee for their generous donation following the summer fete. The money will contribute to the upkeep of the church.

The P.C.C. are extremely concerned about how, in the near future, the fabric, insurance and heating costs of St. Margaret's are to be met. Therefore, within the next few weeks, you will receive a letter which will give details about the problem, and a suggestion as to how, with the help of all parishioners, we can keep the church in Templeton open.

Apologies to Martin and Brenda Hill for giving the wrong wedding anniversary in the last issue. It was their Ruby Wedding, and that still deserves many congratulations! Meanwhile Len and Margaret Reed celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in February, so congratulations to them too.

We were sorry to hear that Eric Kingdom's mother has died. She lived for many years at Kitterbury Farm. Our thoughts are with Eric, Jacqui and family at this sad time.

We welcome Duncan and Hannah Nobbs to Partridge Farm, and hope they will be happy in Templeton.

Flower and Cleaning Rota

Philida Strong 28th March - 4th April
Sally Greenslade 11th - 18th April
Audrey McInerney 25th April - 2nd May
Lynda Newnes 9th - 16th May
Clare T.Thomas 23rd - 30th May

Washfield

Plant a seed of friendship and reap a bouquet of happiness.

The coming of Lent, a period of quiet, allows us time to reflect on what has passed and our hopes of what is to come.

We are sorry to hear The Rev. Andrew Rose and Jenny will be leaving The Exe Valley Mission Community in June.

The flowers are much later this year owing to the very frosty weather, so maybe they will be blooming well in time for Easter.

Easter will nearly be on us when Today reaches us. The traditional Egg decorating and Rolling will take place on Saturday 3rd April at 10am in the church porch. There will be Easter Eggs to be won in the different age groups, so Good Luck! All welcome. Will decorators put their arrangements in the church on Easter Saturday.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the untimely death of Amanda Takle. Amanda lived at Timbertops, Washfield, the mum of Natasha, and daughter of Michael and Sarah Turner. Amanda had borne her failing health with courage and fortitude, an inspiration to all who knew her. The large, overflowing congregation at Calverleigh church for the thanksgiving for her life was a testament of love for her, and for the devotion of prolonged care given to her by Mike, Sarah, Natasha, Adrian and Emma. We send love and sympathy; you are very much in our thoughts at this sad time.

As Today goes to print we have just heard of the sad death of Frank Voysey of Olands. Our love and sympathy are sent to Jan and family as they mourn his passing.

We are so sorry to hear Barbara Gill has spent some time in hospital, and hope you

will soon be well enough to come home. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you, Barbara, also to anyone else who is unwell.

Congratulations to Sam and Paul Robinson on the birth of Oliver William, a first grandchild for Morley and Carol Bolt, and great grandson for Bill and Rene. Congratulations to you all.

The Church AGM will have taken place in March. The Parish Council Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday 21st April at 8pm, and will include a Village Forum. All welcome.

A Quiz in aid of Church Funds will be held in the hall on Friday April 30th at 7.30pm for a 7.45 start. Tables of four - £8, to include light refreshments. Raffle. All welcome.

We wish good luck to all the youngsters taking part in the Exmoor Challenge or Ten Tors.

Dates for your Diary.

Saturday 3rd April 10am - Egg Decorating and Rolling contests in church porch. Wednesday 21st April - Annual Parish Council Meeting 8pm. All welcome.

Thursday 29th April - Lunch Club in hall 12noon for 12.30pm.

Friday 30th April - A Quiz in aid of Church funds. 7.30pm for 7.45 start. £8 for a team of 4 (with light refreshments) Raffle. All welcome.

Ring Jeanne 254306 or Joan 253468.

Saturday 15th/Tuesday 18th May - Skittles Tournament in Social Club. Play for shares on these evenings.

Saturday 22nd May - Final of Skittles Tournament in Social Club. Bring plate of food to share.

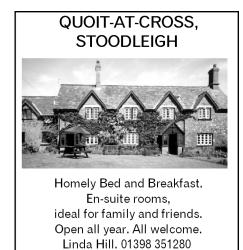
Thursday 27th May - Lunch Club in hall 12noon for 12.30pm.

Saturday 3rd July - Church Fete

Church Flower Rota







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April 4th/11th Mrs J Jones
April 18th/25th Mrs H Arnold
May 2nd/9th Mrs J McCahon
May 16th/23rd Mrs G Robinson
May 30th/June 6th Mrs E Harding

Church Cleaning Rota

April 11th /18th Mrs French April 25th/May 2nd Mrs Arnold /

Mrs Bicknell

Mrs Harding

May 9th/16th

Mrs Jones /

May 23rd Mrs Hors

May 23rd Mrs Horsey
May 30th/June 6th Mr & Mrs McCahon

Withleigh

A meeting at the end of January saw the formation of the Withleigh Garden & Produce Show committee. It was agreed to hold the 1st Show on Saturday 31st July, with a late afternoon / evening event, with a BBQ from 7.30pm onwards. Schedules can be obtained from committee members or ring Gill 242977 or Brenda 252431.

February began with a Quiz in the Village Hall, kindly organised by Andy & Fiona Bladon. During a break in the proceedings, we all enjoyed soup & rolls, provided for us by Fiona, Will & Ed Bladon. It was a fun evening enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to the Bladon family for all their hard work.

Following a request in a previous Today magazine, we have had one person nominated as our new Village Hall Trustee. Sara Kittow has been proposed and seconded, and is prepared to stand, and will be put forward uncontested if there are no other nominations by 30th April.

Anyone else willing to stand as Trustee, please contact Brenda 252431.

The March social event was a games evening when we all played every game in a round-robin. Games included Pool, Darts, Bagatelle, Table Football, Boggle & Table Skittles. Points were awarded for each game, which were added up at the end of the evening. Congratulations to Ray Judd who was crowned champion.

We were delighted to welcome Laura Headon back, after her spell 'down under'; hope you will soon re-acclimatise to being the right way up again, Laura! Thanks to Gill for playing the organ for us during Laura's absence; glad we will not be losing you completely.

Following the Haitian earthquake, the collection from one of our services was sent to Shelterbox.

Our grateful thanks to David Sellick for laying a 'stepping stone' path from the main pathway to the door of the boilerhouse, making access much more straightforward.

Our Easter services begin on Good Friday with an informal service in the Village Hall, beginning at 10 am with coffee and hot cross buns, and finishing at about 11.30 am. All are welcome. Easter Day begins with a service of Holy Communion at 8.30 am, followed by a parish breakfast in the Village Hall at about 9.30 am. This will be followed, in turn, with a short Family Service back in church, at about 10.30 am. We do not expect you to attend all three!

Our Annual Easter Egg Beetle Drive is to be held on Saturday 3rd April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Each complete beetle will win a Mini Egg, with a large Egg for the overall winner.

Later in April, Friday 23rd, St George's Day, we are celebrating our National Day with a Roast Beef (English of course) carvery in the Village Hall. Please book your tickets from Lynn 253741 or Brenda 252431 ASAP.

Our fete planning meeting will be on Monday 19th April at Bona Vista at 7.30 pm, the fete itself on Saturday 17th July.

1st May social evening will be Target Short Mat Bowls. This will give everyone a chance to try Bowling in a different format; no knowledge of bowling is required, just come along and have a go. We will break for a Bring & Share Supper, please bring your own drinks.

Withleigh Farm Garden will be open in aid of The National Gardens Scheme on Saturday 8th May and Sunday 9th May, from 2-5pm. Admission - Adults £3.50, children free. There will be a Plant stall and Teas. All dogs to be kept on leads please. 75% of the proceeds will go to the National Garden Scheme, the remainder to be divided between Arthritis Research & Cancer Research.

The Village Hall AGM is on Saturday 5th June at 7.30pm followed by a BBQ.

With St Catherine's in need of redecorating inside, we have decided to hold an Open Gardens Day on Sunday 4th July, with proceeds going to decorating the Church. If anyone has a Garden or perhaps a fantastic view or some interesting animals that are happy to be shown off, and would like to take part in the event, please ring Brenda 252431.

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

Forthcoming events:

3rd April, Annual Beetle Drive at 7.30pm. 23rd April, St George's Day Meal, 7.30pm for 8pm.

1st May, Target Short Mat Bowls at

7.30pm.

5th June Village Hall AGM followed by BBQ at 7.30pm.

4th July Open Gardens Day.

Flower Rota

Apr 4 EASTER
Apr 11 / 18 Phyllis Gale
Apr 25)

May 2 / 9) Brenda Tucker May 16 / 23 / 30 Janet Stacey

WATER MATTERS

The UK Water Footprint report examines the impact of the UK's food and fibre consumption on global water resources and highlights the fact that while each person in the UK drinks, hoses, flushes and washes their way through around 150 litres of mains water a day, we consume about 30 times as much in 'virtual' water used to produce the food we eat and the clothes we wear. This is equivalent to about 58 bathtubs full of water for each of us, every single day.

In addition, Climate Change is already affecting water resources in most parts of Europe and the World, and this is likely to become more serious in each passing year. The disruption caused by warmer temperatures to the hydrological cycle is prompting glacial and polar ice melting, destruction of continental and marine environments, extreme weather events and sea-level rises which are







threatening human and other life across the It is therefore essential that our churches address water issues as an expression for the Gospel's call to care about the planet for now and for the future.

In particular, our Churches and their members should follow the EU discussions and decisions on Water. It is essential that our European churches and we as their members should make lifestyle changes to protect rather than destroy water resources. For instance, we need radically to re-think our water systems and better use grey water instead of unnecessarily using high-quality filtered water.

We therefore recommend the following actions for individuals and churches:

- to reduce our personal demands and use of fresh water
- to campaign for justice for those whose water is most threatened by Climate Change
- to take steps to recycle and re-use water from our buildings and land.

Martyn Goss, European Christian Environment

Valuing God's Creation: 'Shrinking the Footprint'

There is now no scientific doubt that greenhouse gases emitted by human activity are changing the climate on God's planet Earth. The results of this are already disastrous, through extreme weather events in the world's more vulnerable countries and communities. The long-term consequences will affect us all with rising sea-levels, massive droughts, flash floods and so on.

We are called to radically revise the way we live and especially to challenge our consumer-led culture with its excessive materialism, gross waste and environmental destruction. As Christians, this has to be central to our discipleship in proclaiming a gospel of love, justice and hope for future generations as well as for protecting God's Creation.

Shrinking the Footprint is the national Church of England's campaign to reduce its carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. In Devon, Exeter Diocese is fully committed to this work, implementing a serious programme of reducing our energy use through conservation and efficiency measures, by increasing the production of our own sustainable energy and

through engagement with radically changing our community lifestyles.

Local churches and Diocesan councils are actively engaging in five areas of mission and ministry:

- buildings and land (e.g. heating and lighting of churches, schools, vicarages, etc.)
- procurement (e.g. purchase of energy and food)
- transport and traffic (e.g. how we travel to church and events)
- lifestyle (e.g. how we can live together on less)
- worship and theology (e.g. how do we worship and understand God in the face of global warming?)

Our Christian tradition affirms that, as human beings, we are part of a "covenant of connectedness" with each other, with the Earth and with God, but our behaviour is causing this web of life to fracture and fragment. We urgently need to re-assess our priorities as a species and change for the sake of future life on the Planet.

For further details, see www.exeterstf.org.uk, or contact Martyn Goss on 01392-294924 or

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