

TODAY

The Parish
Magazine
for the
Exe Valley
Mission
Community

December, 2010 / January, 2011

Price 25p

THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE

*Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
They'd been eating and drinking and watching their tellies,
And now they were snoozing with over-full bellies.*

For many people, Christmas seems to be little more than an excuse for over-indulgence. It is simply a chance to do things that we cannot normally justify doing. We eat too much. We drink too much. We spend too much. "Well, it is Christmas" we say to ourselves, as we shovel down yet another mince pie.

It is terribly ironic that we have somehow turned Christmas into a celebration of excess, when the first Christmas was marked by poverty and hardship. A homeless couple looking for somewhere to spend the night. A baby born in a cattle shed. There was no tinsel or turkey, just a vulnerable young family trying to keep warm.

The first Christmas was not about indulgence but the exact opposite: sacrifice. Jesus Christ willingly gave up his place in glory, to be born in humility and poverty. Later, he lay down his life on the cross, making the ultimate sacrifice so that men and women in every age

can be at peace with the God who created them.

This Christmas will be a lean one for many people, who simply cannot afford the usual quantities of food, drink and gifts. This may be hard, but it may also be a good thing for us to experience. By going without, and by denying ourselves the traditional Christmas excesses, we will perhaps be

better able to appreciate the special significance of this time of year.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich"

2 Corinthians 8v9

Steve



Copy Deadline for the February / March issue - Monday 10th January

**THE EXE VALLEY
MISSION COMMUNITY**

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

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The Rev'd Steve Goodbody

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Tiverton, EX16 8JQ.
Tel: (01884) 251132
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Day off = Fridays

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Weddings, Funerals,
Memorials in the churchyard
please contact the Rector*

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Steve is formerly inducted at Calverleigh

JIGSAW COMPLETED!

At last, we have a fully signed up Rector! The final piece of the jigsaw, that is the Church of England's appointment process, was put into place on the afternoon of Monday 1st November, when Steve was formerly instituted in Bishop Bob's private chapel at The Avenue, Tiverton. Steve was then inducted by Archdeacon Penny Driver at Calverleigh church. The wonderful workings of the Church of England!

No doubt you will have noticed that this issue of TODAY contains more pages than previously. The number of advertisers has been steadily increasing, which has resulted in the typeface having to be shrunk in order to fit the articles into the remaining

space. Whilst being aware that some newspapers and magazines publish articles with even smaller print, it does not do much for the eyesight!

With even more organisations wishing to advertise, the recent meeting of the Churchwardens' Council agreed to the idea of increasing the number of pages from twelve to sixteen. It is anticipated that much of the additional printing cost will be met by the extra advertising. This also eases the restriction on the number of words in the notes from the various parishes (but please be reasonable!), as well as allowing for other articles of general interest – suggestions and contributions will be gratefully received!

Paul Iliff

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE EXE VALLEY MISSION COMMUNITY?

A number of people have asked me, as the new rector, about my vision or plan for the mission community. I have generally replied that it is too soon to say. At the moment, I am simply trying to get to know people, and to understand the lie of the land. Just as Nehemiah had to spend long hours surveying Jerusalem, I have much to learn over the coming months. However, two themes have emerged which are already giving some direction to my thoughts. Because we are a mission community, it seems obvious that we need to develop more of a sense of our *mission* within the Exe Valley, and a deeper sense of *community* between our parishes.

Archbishop William Temple once said, "The church is the only society that exists for the benefit of its non-members". Our churches need to take more seriously the call to make disciples – to reach out beyond the four walls of the church with the good news of peace with God through Jesus Christ. We are a *mission* community, after all, not a social club! Each of our churches has its own strengths and weaknesses, so by developing closer links with our neighbouring parishes, we will be

able to contribute our strengths to the wider mission community, and also receive help with our weaknesses from the wider mission community. We will be far more effective in our mission as we learn to work together as a community. Any sense of competition or rivalry between our parishes is to be resisted and rejected, as we are all on the same side and all working towards the same goal.

Three small practical steps to deepen our sense of mission and community are being launched over the next few months:

- a monthly prayer diary, to which each parish contributes its prayer and praise points. This will give us a greater sense of what is going on in the other parishes, and also enable us to pray for each other in a more informed way.
- a centralised and systematic Sunday teaching programme for the whole mission community. From January, each church will be taught the same passage from the Bible each Sunday, starting

with the opening chapters of John's gospel (see below).

- a professionally designed website, with up-to-date information about each of the nine parishes, as well as the mission community as a whole. This should come on line early in the new year, and should massively improve and simplify communication.

These are only the beginning, but my hope and prayer is that they will help us to work together towards becoming the mission community that the Lord is calling us to be – "*standing firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel*" (Philippians 1v27).

FISH CLUB REPORT

We now have 12 children who join us regularly on a Friday afternoon, for games, crafts and to learn more about God. Some of the stories we have learned about this term are Noah, the wise and foolish men, the lost sheep, the prodigal son, and, as we near Christmas, we shall learn about 'a very special baby'.

As well as Alison Webber, who comes once a month to organise a craft for the children, Marianne Ayres comes to teach the children how to play the guitar.

We will be holding an open afternoon and Carols and Christingle service on

2 January	Matthew 2v1-12	<i>Wise Men Still Seek Him</i>
9 January	John 1v1-18	<i>The True Light</i>
16 January	John 1v19-34	<i>The Lamb Of God</i>
23 January	John 1v35-51	<i>The First Followers</i>
30 January	John 2v1-11	<i>The First Sign</i>



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Friday 3rd December from 3.30 to 5.15
at Calverleigh for anyone who would
like to come and see what we do.

There will be a Christmas party for the
children who attend Fish Club on
Friday 10th December.

If you have children who would like to
join us at Fish club, or would like more
information, please Contact Cindy
Trick - Tel. 01363 866621.

Chatter

Now that you know more
about CHAT, from the
snippets in previous
magazines, I have a
challenge for you – can you
make sure, this winter, that



- no-one in your parish can say
'I've never heard of CHAT'
- that anyone in your parish who
is struggling to pay their bills,
especially the rent or mortgage,
is not too embarrassed to ask
for help
- That no-one in your parish
becomes homeless for want of
advice and assistance.
- That no-one who is homeless
goes cold, wet or hungry
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emergency tents, sleeping bags
and food as well as long term
housing solutions.

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year. God Bless you all.

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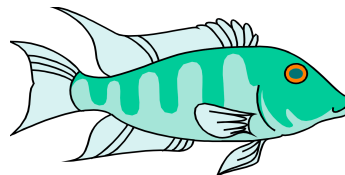
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Exe Valley Mission Community Fish Club

After school until 5.15pm



Invite you to join us at our
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On Friday 3rd December from 3.30pm.
at Calverleigh Village Hall

There will be crafts to enjoy with the children
including Christingle Making.

Refreshments followed by a

'Christingle and Carol Service'

All welcome, Young and Older. Come and see
what we get up to.

Contact: Cindy Trick Tel. 01363 866621

DEANERY SYNOD, October 2010.

The main speaker was David Martin
from Plymouth, explaining the
Fresh Expressions movement
throughout the Diocese. It is a
movement aimed at non-churchgoers;
to address the present situation in the
context of the changes of culture in
the country. It looks at consumerism,

apathy, networking, media, living
with people of different views. It
addresses the attitude of
"hobbyisation" of religion. Ideas and
actions are to set up Christian coffee
shops in the high street, similar in
sports parks, or set up temporary
churches in areas where there are
people with alternative views where
non-church people can visit. The plan
is to address the reasons why people
do not go to church, like outsiders

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feel that church people are too judgemental, or are intolerant of those who are struggling to make sense of life. The aim is to get Christians out of their ivory towers and go to people. Now they are addressing the problem of how to follow up on these initiatives. One quote I liked was "and the word became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood"

The next meeting will discuss women bishops. This is an important problematic subject and much thought must go into this debate.

The diocese report that more use will be made of non-stipendiary ministers, so that they can support the stipendiary clergy. The financial situation has turned out to be better than previously anticipated, and the diocese has been able to take up its full quota of stipendiary clergy.

There was a discussion about uniting the Tiverton and Cullompton deaneries. This was accepted as a good idea even though it will involve more travelling. The clergy already meet together, and it seems to be a good idea for the laity to get together too.

There were discussions on improving the synod. It was felt that there should be more cooperation and coordination. There were, at this meeting, opportunities to discuss with one's neighbours what they thought about a subject. This must be the way forward. To save time, reports will be sent out in advance, so that they can be read, and only relevant questions asked at the meeting.

Ann Crawford

PARISH ROUND-UP

Calverleigh

Our Harvest Celebrations started on Saturday afternoon when we held a short service in the church. We then went to the village green and hall for sports and tea. We have very few children in our parish so we have to rely on our grandchildren taking part in the sports. They all had a very good time and won the money prizes and sweets that were on offer. We sat down to an excellent bring and share tea, it was a pity that there were not more people to join us in the friendly community spirit. Our Sunday morning Harvest Thanksgiving service was not that well attended, perhaps farmers were still busy getting in their Harvest after the recent bad weather. A couple of retired farmers did join us. We may have to try other arrangements for our Harvest weekend next year.

The Church was full on September 19th for the Baptism of William Samuel John Harrison. His Grandparents Michael and Pat Webber also celebrated their Ruby Wedding on that day which added to the occasion.

On October 3rd the Church was again full for the Baptism of Edward Philip Slade, son of Philip and Julia Slade, Grandson of Michael and Christine. It was good that Great Grandma Betty Slade could join us for this occasion. Betty celebrated her 80th birthday the day before. She was "At Home" in Rackenford Road, Michael and Christine's home, where many people visited her. What a wonderful weekend for all the family.

Calverleigh, as well as all the other parishes, were shocked and saddened on hearing of the sad news of Thomas Webber's death on September 26th. Our love and prayers go to Robin and Christine and family. He will be sadly missed by family and friends and all who knew him. We are thinking of you all, especially Myrtle Webber and Ern Perry, Grandparents. Thomas was laid to rest in Calverleigh Churchyard, where over 400 people gathered to pay their respects to such a young man.

Keith Hayes has become a Grandad again, Daughter Amy and Mark Baldson presented him with a Granddaughter Maggie Carole Anne.

Congratulations to Robert Webber who has now passed his Electrical Examinations. Well done Robert.

Congratulations also to Jessica Furneaux who recently got engaged to James Robison from Essex. We wish the young couple every happiness in their future together.

Our thoughts are with all who are ill at the present time, and all those who have been in hospital or have had treatment; we are thinking of Ron Rowe, Alec Roud, Aubrey Greenslade who badly injured his arm, Pam Anslow and Mary Herniman. We hope you will all soon be feeling much better.

Our service on November 7th was led by members of the Gideon Society. Mr Ken Grant, "Ossie" and Valerie joined us. They gave us a very interesting and informative talk on the work of The Gideons. They had a wonderful display



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PARISH ROUND-UP

of their Bibles, leaflets etc which created such a lot of interest. We wish to thank them for their time which they gave us.

The Toddler group in the village hall is getting very popular but there is still room for more parents and children. If interested pop into the hall on a Friday morning between 10am and 12pm and see what is on offer. Last week 19 toddlers attended.

Cruwys Morchard

It was great to see so many people enjoying the Harvest Festival this year. Several people attended church on Saturday afternoon and brought produce to go to Charlton Lodge. Over 90 people sat down to a delicious tea, the cakes being especially enjoyed. The weather was fine, and great fun was had at the sports; thank you to Jeff Littlefeld for organising this.

The evening was much enjoyed by the youngsters and their families, with plenty of games and dancing. Thanks to Brian and Maureen Gibbs' Disco, and thank you to all who helped make this a very special social event. We were pleased that Sarah and Steve Goodbody could join us.

Our Christingle and Carol Service will be held on Sunday 19th December at 11am, followed by coffee and mince pies. We will be making the Christingles on the Saturday afternoon at Cindy's at 2pm. Any help would be much appreciated, and refreshments will be provided. We will again be collecting items for CHAT - dried and canned foods, toiletries and cleaning products are very much appreciated. These are distributed throughout the year, so should not be gift wrapped.

We welcomed into church for baptism on October 17th Bernard Macadam, son of Luke and Emily.

We send our prayers and condolences to the family of Brian Webster of Gogland Manor Farm, who died on September 17th.

We send our best wishes to Mary Davey, and to Clarrie Lancelles, granddaughter of Shirley and Frances Lancelles, who were confirmed at Bow church by the Bishop of Crediton on the 21st October.

First quarter peal rung at Cruwys Morchard by local ringers.

On 3rd November, Clive and I took part in the Devon Guild's Quarter Peal week, which raises money for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. We had to import four expert ringers from other towers to help us, but nonetheless it was a big milestone. It was also Clive's very first quarter peal, and he kept the heavy tenor bell going for three-quarters of an hour non-stop - in fact, 1,260 "dongs", and every one in the right place!

Nellie

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

Please feel free to give a call or send an email, if you have any news that you would like included in the magazine. Please contact Teresa Grant on 01363 860124, or email Tesstranscripts@aol.com

Parish Hall events:

BINGO & 200 CLUB DRAW - Sat 27th November. Doors open 7.30, eyes down at 8pm. Dinners for full house.

CHRISTMAS BINGO - Thursday 16th December. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm. Large Dinners for full house.

The parish hall committee do not have bingo in January and February. However, the YFC will be having Bingo at the parish hall on Saturday 29th January and Saturday 26th February - doors open at 7.30pm, eyes down at 8pm.

QUIZ NIGHT - Di & Dave's Christmas Quiz on Saturday 11th December at the Parish Hall. Bar opens 7.00pm. £4.00 per person, to include light supper. To book your team, phone Mary on 01363 83030.

For information on any of these events: Tel Mary 01363 83030 or e-mail to cmparishhallmary@btinternet.com or contact at www.cruwysmorchardparish.co.uk

Flower and Cleaning Rota:

December 6th - Lorna Warren and Margaret Southwood (cleaning)
December 13th - Decorators for Christmas
December 20th and 27th - Diana Vincent and Val Randerson
January 3rd and 10th - Cindy Trick and Pat Cross
January 17th and 24th - Judith Taylor and Anne Gillbard
January 31st and 7th February - Sonia Notley

Stove Rota:

December - Jim Carter
January - Michael Trick
February - David Edmonds
March - Jim Lake

Please light the fire on Saturday morning if possible, any problems contact Cindy Tel. 01363 866621

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NEW CREATION NEWS – DECEMBER 2010

With warm Christmas Greetings to you all!

How fortunate we are to be able to proclaim the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, in our homes and to our family, friends and neighbours! New Creation still has some cards, calendars and gifts available so do come and see us and help get the Lord's 'Good News' out into our neighbourhood, whilst at the same time supporting various Christian charities.

Why not bring friends to our **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHES** which are once again on the menu on Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th December. Three courses for £9 per head: a Roast Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, Christmas Pudding or an alternative Sweet and, to finish, a Cup of Tea & a Mint. **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** so if you wish to come with friends please let us know soon. They are proving very popular and we do try to accommodate everyone.

BIBLE READING NOTES could make a very meaningful gift and **CWR** have come up with a very well presented **Gift Subscription Pack**. There are 4 adult titles: '*Every Day with Jesus*', '*Lucas on Life*', '*Cover to Cover*' and '*Inspiring Women*'. There are two titles for Junior and Teens: '*Topz*' 7-11 years and '*YP's*' for 11 – 15 years. These are by no means the only one's available: the **Good Book Co.** have brought out Bible Discovery for pre-schoolers called '*Beginning with God*' to add to their already varied selection. **Scripture Union** has Daily Devotions for young children called '*Pens*' for 3-6 year olds, which is their newest addition to old favourites like '*Daily Bread*' etc. Not forgetting **Bible Reading Fellowship** notes which take you deeper into the Bible, if you so wish. (We are pleased to receive any order requests by phone (01884 255769) or e.mail (shop@newcreationtiverton.org.uk) but to avoid disappointment the earlier placed the better chance of receiving them in good time for Christmas).

At this time of year a considerable amount of money is spent on presents and food. Purchasing **Fairtrade** products would be an excellent choice. **Traidcraft** do several items especially for the Christmas period and they have many products that can be used in your baking – sugar and dried fruit to name just two. If we do not stock an item in the catalogue we can buy it in on request. Please do support all the efforts of **Tearfund** and **Traidcraft** to bring relief through fair trading to the poorest people in the world.

New Creation will, as usual, be **CLOSED** over the festive period. On Friday 24th December the Café will serve drinks and slices until 12.30 p.m. and the Bookshop will close at 1.00 p.m. We will be *re-opening* on Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 9.30 a.m.

We pray that you will be able to rejoice and have a very happy and enjoyable Christmas. May God bless you all.

New Creation Christian Book and Coffee Shop
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PARISH ROUND-UP

Loxbeare

What a lovely autumn we have had with such beauty in the colour of the trees with berries and fruit in abundance! The lovely weather has meant that farmers have been able to get on with their autumn tilling.

We are now in the winter months with Christmas not too far away, with it's many services and celebrations of Christ's birth. We will be holding a **Christingle Breakfast service** on December 5th in the Village Hall. The service will follow on from a Continental style breakfast which will be served from 9.00 a.m. Our **Carol Service** will be on December 19th at 7.00 p.m., with a collection for the Children's Hospice. **Carol Singing** will be on Dec. 19th, 22nd and 24th, meeting at Loxbeare Garage at 6.30 p.m. for the first two nights, and at Calverleigh Village hall at 6.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The collection will be for C.H.A.T. and "Help for Heroes". The **Christmas Day Family Service** will be in church at 10.30 a.m. There will be "Songs of Praise" at 11.00 a.m. on January 23rd, preceded by coffee/tea and cake from 10.15 a.m. Please let Ron or Marion have your choices of Hymns and Songs by the previous Sunday.

A belated welcome to Derek and Avril McManus who moved into Meadowgate in September!

Jean has received a letter of thanks from Parkinson's U.K, for a donation of £300 which she raised at a barbecue in the summer. Thank you to all who contributed.

Ron and Margaret wish to thank all those who donated money to Tear Fund at their Golden Wedding celebration.

Congratulations to Sue Troake on completing her 60 mile charity walk to raise funds for the Guide Dogs for the Blind on her 60th birthday! Again many thanks to those who contributed; the total is not yet definite, but is in the region of £2,000! Well done Sue!

Congratulations also to Carol Benn who has received a Volunteer of the Year

Continued on Page 10 ➡

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Alternate Tuesdays at 2pm

2nd Tuesday - Highgate Cottage

4th Tuesday - East Sidborough

WALK THE TALK

Withleigh Home Group

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MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sunday 26th December

10.30 am - Withleigh

Sunday 30th January

10.30 am - Washfield
Holy Communion

OAKFORD

5th December

9.30 am Holy Communion

12th December

9.30 am Morning Prayer

19th December

5.30 pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

11.30 pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10 am Family Service

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th January

9.30 am Morning Prayer

16th January

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd January

9.30 am Family Service

30th January

See Washfield

RACKENFORD

5th December

11.15 am Morning Prayer

12th December

11.15 am Holy Communion

19th December

11.15 am Family Service

Christmas Eve

7 pm Carols & Holy Communion

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

11.15 am Morning Prayer

9th January

11.15 am Holy Communion

16th January

11.15 am Family Service

23rd January

9.30 am Morning Prayer

30th January

See Washfield

STOODLEIGH

5th December

11 am Morning Prayer

12th December

11 am Holy Communion

19th December

7 pm Carol Service

Christmas Day

11 am Holy Communion

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

11 am Morning Prayer

9th January

11 am Holy Communion

16th January

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

23rd January

9.30 am Holy Communion

30th January

See Washfield

CALVERLEIGH

5th December

3 pm Christingle Service

12th December

9.30 am Holy Communion

19th December

3 pm Carol Service

Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

11.15 am Morning Prayer

9th January

9.30 am Holy Communion

16th January

11.15 am Family Service
with Baptism

23rd January

3 pm Evening Prayer

30th January

See Washfield

CRUWYS MORCHARD

5th December

11 am Morning Prayer

12th December

11 am Family Service

19th December

11 am Carol Service &
Christingle

Christmas Eve

10 pm Holy Communion

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

11 am Morning Prayer

9th January

11 am Family Service
with Baptism

16th January

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd January

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

30th January

See Washfield

LOXBEARE

5th December

9 am Christingle Breakfast
in village hall

12th December

11 am Family Communion

19th December

7.30 pm Carol Service

Christmas Day

10.30 am Family Service

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

9.30 am Family Communion

9th January

11 am Family Service

16th January

6.30 pm Evening Praise

23rd January

11 am Songs of Praise

30th January

See Washfield

TEMPLETON

5th December

9.30 am Holy Communion

12th December

No Service

19th December

11 am Family Service

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Toddlers' Service

7.00 pm Carol Service and
Holy Communion by Extension

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

9.30 am Holy Communion

9th January

No Service

16th January

11 am Family Service

23rd January

11 am Morning Prayer

30th January

See Washfield

WASHFIELD

5th December

3 pm Evening Prayer

12th December

11 am Morning Prayer

19th December

11 am Christingle

Christmas Eve

6.00 pm Carol Service

Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion

26th December

See Withleigh

2nd January

3 pm Taizé Service

9th January

11 am Morning Prayer

16th January

9.30 am Holy Communion

23rd January

11 am Family Service
with Baptism

30th January

10.30 am Group Holy
Communion

WITHLEIGH

5th December

4 pm Christingle

12th December

9.30 am Morning prayer

19th December

7.30 pm Christmas Praise

Christmas Eve

11.30 pm Holy Communion

26th December

10.30 am - Group Service

2nd January

11 am Family Service

9th January

7 pm Evening Worship

16th January

11 am Holy Communion

23rd January

9.30 am Morning Prayer

30th January

See Washfield

PARISH ROUND-UP

award from the Devon Community Foundation. Carol, who has chaired "Unite", a charity for Carers in mid-Devon, for 7 years, started a respite project for young people, "Kids who care", in 2005, which now supports 150 young carers.

Many thanks to Graham Radford, who has kept the grass in the Churchyard mown, and to Ron and all those who have helped to keep it tidy. The outside of the Church has also had a facelift! Gutting has been repainted, some of the stonework has been repointed, and other repair work done. Thank you to all concerned. Also some of the windows are in the process of being repaired, and should be back in place by Christmas.

It is good to hear that most of those who have been ill are now well on the way to recovery. We send our love and prayers to any who are still not completely well, and to all who mourn the loss of loved ones, as well as those who feel lonely, and struggle with the dark winter months.

The Loxbeare Women's Bible Study Group will meet on Dec. 14th at Highgate Cottage, completing the present series of studies, "Confident Christianity", on Paul's letter to the Colossians. On January 11th we shall start a new series of studies on Mark's Gospel, chapters 9 – 16, entitled "The Servant King". We meet at Highgate Cottage on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and at East Sidborough on the 4th Tuesday, at 2.00pm.

December 6th: Bingo in aid of Village Hall funds. Doors open at 7.00pm, Eyes Down at 7.30pm. Details from Carol Radford on 881480.

December 13th: Loxbeare Ladies Christmas Meal at The Quarryman, Bampton.

January 10th Loxbeare Ladies meet at Sue's at 7.30pm. Sue's tel. No: 259496.

Oakford

The Rev'd Steve Goodbody was inducted by the Bishop of Crediton as Rector [*Technically as Priest in Charge, due to paperwork not having been completed (See article on page 2) – Ed.*] of the Exe Valley Mission Community on September 11th in Oakford Church. It was a serious but joyous occasion. The church was full and afterwards everyone enjoyed the supper put on by all the parishes, in Oakford Village hall.

We hope that Steve and his wife, Sarah will be happy in our midst as they settle in Witheleigh rectory.

The Harvest service and tea afterwards in the church were well supported, as was the Harvest supper on the Monday evening. Everyone enjoyed the meal, and took part in a lively auction afterwards. Thank you to all who helped, and our special thanks to Mary who organized the food so well as usual. We were able to send £184 to Tearfund.

Soon Christmas will be here, and we hope that you will be able to join us for our church celebrations.

Saturday December 11th at 5pm we will be decorating the Christmas tree in the church. All children and their mums and dads are welcome to come and help us.

Afterwards at 6pm, the lights on the Christmas tree by the shop will be switched on; please join us to sing carols around it.

Sunday 19th December the Carol service will take place in the church at 5.30pm. Come and join us for candlelit carols and readings. Mulled wine and hot mince pies afterwards.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm. Celebrate Christ's birth with Holy Communion.

Christmas Day Family service at 10am carols and readings.

We wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Please note: From now on the distribution of the magazines in Oakford is under new management. Please contact 351215 if you have any problems or if you know of anyone who does not receive the magazine and would like to be put on the list.

Help wanted: we have a band of volunteer helpers who clean the church each week. This works out to 3 – 4 times a year and takes an hour or so. If anyone feels that they could help we would be very grateful. Please contact Wendy on 351383.

Other events:

Moorland Club -

Friday December 10th 6.45pm for 7.15pm. Christmas Dinner

Thursday January 13th 7pm for 7.30pm. Fish and Chip Supper/ Recycled gift stall.

Oakford Players present 'Sleeping Beauty' on Thursday 2nd December, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th at 7.30pm.



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PARISH ROUND-UP

Matinee also on Saturday at 2.30pm. Adults £5 and children £3.

Rackenford

A warm welcome was given to Rev. Steve Goodbody and his wife Sarah when he took his first service at All Saints, and refreshments were enjoyed afterwards. We hope you will enjoy your ministry with us. It was good to see you both at our Harvest Supper and experiencing the fun of the auction.

Talking of Harvest, what a wonderful celebration it was from Friday 8 to Monday 11 October. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate our church so beautifully, and to all who gave in any form. Also many thanks to the school children who brought so much produce, it's so kind of you, and also to give us such a special service on Friday afternoon. It was lovely to have Natasha Hagley playing the organ before and after the service, and so nice to have Rev. Steve Goodbody to welcome us all. The singing and prayers were led by the children. The collection of £85 was given to African Aid. Refreshments were enjoyed back at school after the service.

On Sunday October 10th it was a joy to have Bishop Bob of Crediton to lead our service, and we thank him for his warm welcome to us all. The children's church choir sang and played their bell plates, as well as a full choir. It was wonderful to hear our church bells being rung, and it all made for a very enjoyable thanksgiving for our Harvest which ended with refreshments.

On Monday 11th October we had our harvest supper and auction at The Stag Hall (many thanks to Sophie). Thank you to all the helpers, all who contributed with food and draw prizes, etc., and to John Blackford for being our auctioneer and making it such fun. Thanks also to Annette Dunn for running the draw. It was a jolly good evening, great food, good company and the grand total over the days of £1,366.01. Fantastic!

Congratulations to all who entered and won prizes at the Carnival. Hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

We send our deepest sympathy to the Webber family on their tragic loss. You will be remembered in our prayers. We also remember, and send our deepest sympathy, to Carol Cranch, Clare Hall and Mark Deane, and all their families and friends on the death of their mother, Mrs Deane. Also remembering family and friends of Gerald Crocker (son of the late Sylvia Crocker) on the death of his wife Janet in Luton, Bedfordshire.

Our very best wishes to Joe, Charlotte, Monica and George Matthews who have moved to Wales, and a very warm welcome to Bob Mogridge who has moved into the village. Hope you will enjoy village life, Bob.

Congratulations to Polly (Lewis) and Peter on the birth of their son Adam in October, and congratulations to proud grandparents Richard and Jane, and Great-Grandparents.

The Christmas Bingo will be on December 10th at 7:30pm at Rackenford

School, with good meat prizes and an excellent draw.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard cutting around the trees in our churchyard extension, cutting hedges and tidying up and, of course, our continuing thanks to Ewan Baillie for keeping our churchyard so neat and tidy. It is so good to hear the church bells being rung again too.

We would like to wish everyone, including those at neighbouring parishes, a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Special thoughts and prayers go to all who are sick, lonely, depressed or bereaved. We especially remember people of our parish, Bill Clark, Percy Stone and Ken Blackford.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Stoodleigh

It was a delight to have so many attending the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 3rd October and to see the church once again so beautifully decorated with autumn produce and flowers. Thank you to the many who supported the Harvest Supper and gave so generously in the following auction of produce. We were well encouraged and entertained by the two stalwart auctioneers, Peter Broadbent and Alastair Morison to whom we send heartfelt thanks. £275.00 was raised to send to 'Shelter Box'.

Please remember that the annual Christmas Fayre will be taking place in



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PARISH ROUND-UP

the Village Hall on Friday 3rd December at 6pm.

Do come and join us for the Christmas Carol Service which will be in church on Sunday Dec. 19th at 7.00 p.m. followed by mince pies and coffee.

After singing carols on the Sunday, would you, could you, join a group singing carols around the village on Tuesday 21st Dec.? If you can come please meet at the Village Hall at 6.00 p.m. - any age, any quality of voice, all are most welcome!

A warm welcome to all for the Christmas Day Holy Communion Service in church at 11.00 a.m.

Jennifer Rowlandson reports that things are progressing and, despite the odd hiccup, going to plan so the bells and frame should reappear in January. It is hoped that the clock dial, restored and gilded, will be up before Christmas but no clock until the end of January as it will be the last thing to be hoisted up the tower once the bells are in. If anyone is interested in parts of the old frame for wood-turning or as a memento, please contact Jennifer (01398 351402) now.

PARISH HALL NEWS

It's been good to see the Parish Hall being used so often during the autumn by the various village organisations, private parties and celebrations as well as the regular classes. In addition to hiring out the hall for these many events, the equipment has also been hired out and our fundraising steadily continues. Whilst the income is absolutely essential to pay our regular bills, maintenance

and fund future refurbishment, it's really important that the hall is being used to provide a venue for us to meet, learn new skills, enjoy entertainment, socialise and celebrate. Please support us to provide this facility.

The wine tasting in October raised £145.00 and the market and coffee morning in November raised almost £200. Many local craftspeople, artists and businesses were represented as well as the usual stalls with eggs, plants, cakes and coffee. Watch out for the Stoodleigh Markets again in 2011.

Don't forget the Christmas Bingo and Grand Draw on 21 December in the Hall at 7.30pm.

For hall hiring and information, contact Geraldine on 01398 351391.

SWAG - The visit of the Panama Jazz Kings on 29th October was a very enjoyable social occasion in the Village Hall. the event was well supported, some of the audience coming from miles away. The instrumentalists excelled themselves.

In prospect -- A visit to the Plymouth Gin Distillery (numbers will be limited!). Also being considered - visits to Lundy Island, Agatha Christie's house and Burgh Island.

Diary Date - 1st April 2011 at 7.30pm Village Hall, Bluegrass Music with Jeff and Vida.

Stoodleigh 100 Club - Prizewinners for September -1st. Graham Hullett, 2nd Eileen Fewings, 3rd Dawn & Lucy Radford. Winners for October- 1st Iris

Wotton, 2nd John & Sally Holland, 3rd Beth Byles. December Draw at the Christmas Fayre on 3rd December.

Line Dancing takes place in the village hall on Thursdays 11am to 12 noon, everyone is welcome to join. From 2nd, 9th, 16th December, and 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th January.

Pilates is held in the village hall on Mondays 7pm to 8pm - ring Tricia for details, 01398-351444.

Flower Rota:

4th & 11th December, Corrinne Miller, 18th & 25th Christmas flowers.

Diary Dates:

Christmas Fayre 3rd December at 6pm. in the village hall

Carol Singing 21st December starting 6pm. at the village hall

Christmas Carol service ... 19th December at 7pm.

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 11am.

Templeton

Our Harvest Festival held in October was well attended. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables which were later given to Charlton Lodge. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents decorating the church.

The baptism of Jodie Reed took place on 17th October, and Luca was also baptized on 31st October.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Christmas Services will be on Christmas Eve - the Toddlers Service late afternoon and our Christmas Carol Service followed by Holy Communion in the early evening. Look at the church service page for the times.

Many people in our parish have been ill or in hospital recently. We send them all our best wishes, and pray that they will be feeling better soon.

A clay pigeon shoot was held at Town Farm in September, which raised £240.00 for church funds. A huge thank you to Peter and Jackie for hosting and organising the event. The local winner was Mike Pancherz.

Our Country and Western Evenings took place on October 23rd & 24th. Both evenings were enjoyable, and they raised £300.00 for the village hall.

The Halloween event was very successful, although the heavy rain did spoil it a little. Nevertheless the firework display was enjoyed by all, and the "spooky castle" bonfire was spectacularly spooky!! A lot of time and effort was put into building it, so a sincere thank you to all those who helped.

The usual games and tournaments will start in December. If you wish to take part, please put your names on the list at the hall.

Flower and Cleaning Rota:

Frances Saunders	5th December -
	12th December - (cleaning only)
Gloria Woollacott	19th December
	- 26th December
Teresa Pancherz	2nd January -
	9th January
Gill Rose	16th January -
	23rd January
Hannah Nobbs	30th January -
	6th February

Washfield

May the true meaning of Christmas bring warmth to your world and to the world of those you love.

The autumn has been so beautiful with the changing colour of the trees making the countryside so spectacular this year. As we approach Christmas, it gives us the chance to attend the many social gatherings and church services, Advent, Christingle and Carol services and, of course, Christmas, so we can absorb the true meaning of Christmas.

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the untimely death of Thomas Webber. Thomas was an immensely popular young man, so polite and mature beyond his years. He was known to so many of us as he grew up in Washfield, latterly running the Washfield Shoot in memory of his grandfather, Ivan, and making a real success of it. Calverleigh church was overflowing for Thomas' funeral, a testament to how he was loved and admired by all. Our heartfelt love, thoughts and prayers have been, and will remain, with Robin, Christine and their family as they grieve.

We are very grateful to John Burton for running the village produce stall, and of course those who support it. The church and hall have received £200 each, thanks to your generosity. This has enabled the church to purchase a step ramp, and also to remove and tidy the trees in the churchyard.

Our Christingle is being held on December 19th at 11am. The decorating of the tree and church will happen on Saturday 18th from 10.30am. Any help will be appreciated. The traditional Carol Service will be on Christmas Eve at 6pm, followed by coffee and mince pies.

Please support the Church Christmas Coffee morning to be held at Garth and Jeanne's home, The Cottage, on Saturday 4th December from 10.30am.

Belated congratulations to Stephanie Symns who entered the RGT London College of Music summer examination, and passed her acoustic Grade 1 with distinction; well done Stephanie. Marianne Ayre held a children's guitar workshop at Stanterton, which was a great success. As a result, £50 has been donated to Washfield Church. Thank you Marianne.

We are constantly praying for all those who are not well in the parish. Our love and thoughts go out to you; we wish you well.

The Men of Morchard visited the village in September, and an appreciative crowd enjoyed their unique style of music and laughter. The grand total of £300 was raised for hall funds.

The annual Pumpkin weigh-in is always a much anticipated event, and this year's was no exception. The heaviest pumpkin weighed in at 144lbs and was grown by Mrs Myrtle Webber. The competition was very keen with many other large pumpkins. Well done Myrtle. The event raised £210, which was donated to ELF. Thanks to David Bowden and Sylvia Balment.

As the year draws to a close, the PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who does so much for the church and churchyard throughout the year. Our beautiful church always presents a tidy exterior and a clean, warm, welcoming interior. We thank all the volunteers who quietly make this happen. We have good congregations; thank you to the lay readers, the organ players and bell ringers (some of whom travel quite a distance). We thank each and every one of you, including the Today distributors, making sure you get your magazine.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

We wish all our readers, here and far, a very Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, peaceful New Year.

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday December 4th Christmas Coffee Morning at The Cottage 10.30am

Friday December 10th W.I. Christmas Meal and Party (see a member)

Saturday December 18th Decorating of the church and tree from 10.30am

Sunday December 19th Christingle Service 11am

Friday 24th December Service of Carols and Lessons 6pm, followed by coffee and mince pies.

Church Flower Rota:

December 5th Mrs Hansford

December 12th/19th Mrs Smith

December 26th/ January 2nd Mrs Parnell

January 9th/16th Mrs French

January 23rd/30th Mrs Harding

Church Cleaning Rota:

December 5th/12th Mr and Mrs McCahon

December 19th/26th Mrs French

January 2nd/9th Mrs Arnold/Mrs Bicknell

January 16th/23rd Mrs Jones/Mrs Harding

January 30th Mrs Horsey

Withleigh

Our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 12th September was better attended than last year, no doubt partly due to our not having our usual service on the Saturday afternoon. St Catherine's, as usual, looked splendid for the occasion, and our grateful thanks go to all who helped in decorating the church.

The Harvest Supper was well attended, and enjoyed by all. For Steve and Sarah, it was their initiation into the round of Harvest Suppers that awaited them! The auction which followed produced the usual banter, and unexpected prices being paid! The total raised was £206.65, which was given to Tiverton Hospital League of Friends.

Our Team Skittles competition held on 2nd October was great fun, although we were a little low on numbers. The winning team was comprised of Julian, Mayla and Kata Lee, Christine Luxton, Duncan and Sara Kittow, who were presented with the challenge trophy. Each member of both the winning team and runners-up received a Chocolate bar. Thank you, Duncan and Sara, for organising the evening, and Ray and Lynn Judd for the food.

Family Service on Sunday 3rd October was under 'different management', with Janet Sellick and Brenda in charge. Well done to both of you.

The evening of Sunday 10th October saw a 'Songs of Praise' service in church,

organised by Laura, and ably assisted by David and June Muir who returned to Withleigh for the weekend. Our thanks to you all for an enjoyable and thought-provoking service.

This year Withleigh Young Farmers Club joined us for our annual Bonfire and Firework evening. We had a lovely dry evening and, with all the fireworks pooled together, it made a really good display. It was great to see all ages together, all enjoying the spectacle of the fireworks, and also in the hall afterwards for soup, hot dogs and cake. Many thanks to Duncan, Nigel, Richard and Colin for putting together the excellent display of fireworks. Also thanks to the ladies who provided the food in the hall.

Our Children's Christmas Party will be on Saturday 4th December, with lots of party games and fun for the under 11's. Please bring a Bring and Share Tea. Father Christmas is expected in the area that afternoon, so don't miss out; come along and enjoy the fun. For more details please ring Sara on 252949.

The evening of the 4th December we will have our Christmas Social for the over 11's, although Father Christmas may be unable to come, as he is a little busy at this time of the year. Please bring a Bring and Share Supper and a drink with which to wash it down. We will begin at 7.30pm.

Our Christingle Service will take place at 4pm on Sunday 5th December. All are welcome to join us for this service of light.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

Our Christmas Praise (Carol service) will be on the evening of Sunday 19th December, at 7.30pm. A slightly different format again this year, with the emphasis on what Christmas means, away from the tinsel, turkey and trimmings. Gifts left under the tree will, again, be donated to CHAT - dried and canned foods, toiletries and cleaning products; no need to wrap them as they are distributed throughout the year.

The Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion will begin at 11.30pm. Do join with us as we celebrate and remember that first Christmas Morning, and its significance through nearly two thousand years.

St Catherine's will be hosting the Group service on Sunday 26th December (The Feast of Stephen).

As the first Saturday in January 2011 is the 1st, we have decided not to hold a village social, as most people will probably spend New Years Day with family.

Our February social on 5th is to be called A Pasty and A Pint. The pint being a locally produced Real Ale; there will be a wine option for those who would prefer wine, plus soft drinks. Please see posters or the next Today magazine for more details.

At our Garden & Produce Show meeting it was decided to hold another show again next year. We decided to keep to the same weekend, so next years show will be on Saturday 30th July; please put this date in your diaries. Schedules will be attached to Withleigh's Today Magazine next April; if anyone would like to know the classes before April, please contact Gill Williams on 242977.

A note for your diaries: 5th March we are holding a Spring Dance, with Fred Harris and his band Barracuda providing the music. More details to follow.

We say farewell to Mary Palmer who has moved from Lower Withleigh to Nynhead. We are pleased to hear she is recovering from a recent operation and is now able to settle into her new home. We shall miss Mary as she was an active member of both the church and the village community. We wish her well in her new home and her further recovery.

We also say farewell to Dave and Jackie Trick, their daughter, Amy and partner, who have moved into Tiverton from The Haven. We hope you are settling in and finding new daily walks.

Welcome to Charlie and Pippa Birts and family, who have moved into Lower Withleigh Farmhouse, and to Pat and John Williams who have moved into The Haven. We hope to see you all at events in Withleigh.

Congratulations to Liz and John Gordon (daughter and son-in-law of Peter and Ann Edmonds) on the birth of their son, Alexander John. We also send our congratulations to you, Peter and Ann, on becoming grandparents once more. It must have been good to have Liz, John and Alexander with you for a while before they moved into their new abode.

Congratulations, also, to Giles and Rosie Edmonston-Low on the birth of another granddaughter, and also to Claire and Andrew Curtis on the birth of a son, Sam.

'Walk the Talk' continues to meet on alternate Monday evenings from 8.00 – 9.30pm. Anyone is welcome to join us in our informal home group, as we explore the ways in which we can apply the Bible's teaching to our lives. Contact Paul and Elizabeth on 253473.

The W.I. meet in the village hall on the second Thursday of each month. We welcome anyone to come to our meetings and listen to our speaker, and maybe join us?

We run a 100 Club for Village Hall funds. If anyone would like to join, or to find out more, contact Christine Luxton on 257571.

We send our good wishes to any others who are recovering after surgery, and to all who have recently been unwell, and wish you all a speedy return to good health.

Forthcoming events:

- 2nd December, Christmas Bingo, eyes down at 7.30pm
- 4th December, Children's Christmas Party,
- 4th December, Christmas Social, at 7.30pm
- 13th December, Christmas Whist Drive at 7.30pm
- 6th January, Bingo, eyes down at 7.30pm
- 10th January, Whist Drive at 7.30pm
- 5th February, A Pasty and A Pint, at 7.30pm
- 5th March, Spring Dance with Barracuda.

Monthly Diary dates:

- First Thursday – Bingo 7.30pm
- Second Monday – Whist Drive 7.30pm
- Second Thursday – W.I. 7.30pm

AFRAID OF THE DARK

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch, and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mummy, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son, "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained, "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real hard, and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he's always ready to help you when you need him", she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute, and then went to the back door and opened it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

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