



# TODAY

The Parish  
Magazine  
for the  
Exe Valley  
Mission  
Community

February - March 2020

Price 50p

## A CONFESSION

I have to confess that over the past couple of months, we have become a tiny bit addicted. Only a tiny bit, but nevertheless a very small obsession has emerged. You see, at the end of the day, whenever we've finished work, forever hopeful that we might, just might get a full night's sleep and not be wide awake at 4.17am, we sit down to watch something. Something that will be entertaining. Something amusing. Something not too stimulating. Nine times out of ten there isn't much on. But...but now we've discovered 'The Crown' on Netflix – and we love it.

Now I know that we are very behind the times, and you have probably watched every single episode, but it's compulsive viewing. I've even managed to suppress my feeling of disloyalty to HM for watching it. Although I think she comes out of it rather well. I have absolutely no idea how much of it is fact, or how much of it is fiction. But we are thoroughly enjoying it and have even justified watching two episodes in one sitting!

One of the things that occurs to me, is just how much the institution of the monarchy has changed in my lifetime, little by little, step by tiny step. But change it has, responding to our culture and society, seeking to be relevant and engaged.



The episode focussing on Lord Altrincham (of whom I had never heard) was fascinating. Whether he met the Queen or not is a question for debate, but from what I have read, his influence was enough for the Queen (and her advisors) to stop certain things and to start others.

Who would have thought that a televised Christmas message or a garden party for people like you and me could be so radical and contentious?! I cannot help but think that the survival of the monarchy has been partially

due to a willingness to change, despite personal preferences and opinions. The essence of monarchy remains the same, but the expression of it has changed and is changing.

I believe the same is true for another institution - the Church. The essence of the Church as the body of Christ remains the same as it did when the first believers met together in the Temple or in their homes to worship God. But the expression of it has shifted and changed over the years. And it needs to continually change and adapt for its survival, so that the message of God's unconditional love for us is seen to be relevant and engaging now, and for future generations.

God bless  
you and those you love.

And God bless  
her Madge and her family.

*Steph*

Please read additional  
information from Steph on  
Page 3, 4, 5 and 10

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MISSION COMMUNITY**  
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Morchard, Loxbeare,  
Oakford, Rackenford,  
Stoodleigh, Templeton,  
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[www.exevalleychurches.org](http://www.exevalleychurches.org)

## **RECTOR**

**Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs**  
The Rectory, Withleigh,  
Tiverton, EX16 8JQ  
Tel: 01884 250417  
Email : Steph@  
[exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:exevalleymissioncommunity.org)  
**NOT TUESDAYS PLEASE**

## **PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

**Stephen Hirst**  
C/O The Rectory  
Tel: 01884 250417  
Email: office@  
[exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

## **READER**

**Mrs Anna Hansford**  
The Paddock,  
2 Kensington Court,  
Washfield, Tiverton, EX16 9QU  
Tel: 01884 253463  
[hansfordam@john-lewis.com](mailto:hansfordam@john-lewis.com)

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

**Dawn Williams**  
Post Farm  
Dulverton  
TA22 9RU  
01398 324035  
[today@exevalleychurches.org](mailto:today@exevalleychurches.org)

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## **CHURCHWARDEN CONTACT DETAILS**

**CALVERLEIGH**  
Aubrey Goldsworthy 01884 255248  
[thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thegoldsworthys@yahoo.co.uk)  
Jackie Herniman 01884 255814  
[jmherniman@talktalk.net](mailto:jmherniman@talktalk.net)

**CRUWYS MORCHARD**  
Diana Vincent 01363 860227  
[vindr@hotmail.com](mailto:vindr@hotmail.com)  
Sarah Cruwys 01884 860287  
[wagscruwys@live.com](mailto:wagscruwys@live.com)

**LOXBEARE**  
Ron Tidball 01884 881362  
[margaret.n.tidball@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.n.tidball@gmail.com)  
Jean Heard 01884 881400  
[jeanm.heard@googlemail.com](mailto:jeanm.heard@googlemail.com)

**OAKFORD**  
Wendy Boynton 01398 351383  
[mboynton@btinternet.com](mailto:mboynton@btinternet.com)  
Dawn Williams 01398 324035  
[dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com](mailto:dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com)

**RACKENFORD**  
Please contact Personal Assistant  
Steven Hirst  
Details in first column

**STOODLEIGH**  
Margaret Cuningham 01398 351252  
[margaret.cuningham@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.cuningham@btinternet.com)  
Peter Broadbent 01398 351374  
[pbroadbent@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pbroadbent@hotmail.co.uk)

**TEMPLETON**  
William Withers 01884 253030  
[william@williamwithers.co.uk](mailto:william@williamwithers.co.uk)  
Reg Coffin 01884 860246  
[sueandreg.coffin@fhsinternet.com](mailto:sueandreg.coffin@fhsinternet.com)

**WASHFIELD**  
Jeanne Jones 01884 254306  
[jeannejones007@gmail.com](mailto:jeannejones007@gmail.com)

**WITHLEIGH**  
Brenda Tucker 01884 252431  
[tucks@btconnect.com](mailto:tucks@btconnect.com)  
Paul Iliff 01884 253473  
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## **EDITORIAL**

We are delighted to be able to tell you  
that an "Angel of Mercy" has appeared  
to take over the Magazine and we  
thank her most gratefully.

Dawn Williams, who is a Churchwarden  
in Oakford, has produced this issue  
(with a little help from her friends) and  
she has done exceptionally well. We  
have had great fun during "Training"  
and Geoff and I are so happy and  
relieved that the "TODAY" Magazine  
is going to be in such good hands.

Dawn is also planning to tackle the  
Advertising so, in addition to the other  
work she does for the Mission  
Community, she will be extremely busy.  
Please treat her gently !!



Keepers Cottage is now "Sold Subject  
to Contract" with exchange expected  
soon and we expect to move before the  
end of March. We have reserved a  
"New Build" house in Lydney,  
Gloucestershire, which will not be  
ready until the Summer, so we are  
planning to go into a rented property -  
and have a rest !!

Saying "Good-bye" is sad,  
so we'll leave it unsaid.

*Jenny and Geoff*

## **ADULT BALLET CLASSES**

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(Trained at Royal Ballet School  
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## FROM STEPH ... ..

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RSVP:- [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

Andy Humm ~ Robert Gordon ~ Steph Gordon-Jeffs

**The times they are a-changing!**

From February 2020, our  
Morning Service pattern is changing.  
All Services throughout the Mission  
Community will take place at either  
9.00am or 10.45am.



This is to allow Steph enough time  
to get from one Service to another,  
for organists to play at more than one  
Service, and for everyone to have  
an earlier lunch!



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## FROM STEPH ... ..



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**FROM STEPH ... ..****The Blessings Course**

Roy Godwin's story of how God worked in an unexpected way in his rural community of Ffald-y-Brenin in Wales, is quite extraordinary.

You can read his account of what happened in his book, 'The Grace Outpouring'. It is the kind of book that challenges you. It's the kind of book that changes you.

**'The Blessings Course'**

explores what God does, and can do, when our focus is on blessing – blessing our families, our friends and our communities and allowing our Churches to become 'God's conduit for blessing to those around us'.

**Come and find out what it's all about during Lent,  
7pm at The Rectory, Withleigh.**

**4 March**

The God who blesses

**11 March**

Being blessed

**18 March**

Called to bless

**25 March**

Blessing the Person in front of me

**1 April**

A new Life and a New Community

**8 April**

Blessing the land

**Sing Praise!**

**Come and join us for  
'Sing Praise!'  
for the first time in 2020  
Thursday 20 February  
7.00pm at Withleigh**

**EXE VALLEY WEBSITE**

Have you visited our website recently?

[www.exevalleychurches.org](http://www.exevalleychurches.org)

If you haven't, do take a look.

It's the best place to go for updates about what's on and what we do.

A recent addition to the website is a monthly **Prayer Diary** with a topic to pray for, each day of the month.

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### 'TODAY' 50 years ago February / March, 1970

The February lead article concerned politicians, and the choice they had to make between toeing the party line, their own feelings, and the wishes of those who had voted them into office, and the considered opinion that some had taken us too far, too fast, and sometimes in the wrong direction.

They should be accountable to those who put them in office. (An election was in the offing). In March, severe criticism was aimed at those who believed we should buy our food at the lowest possible cost from wherever in the world, rather than supporting our own farmers.

Funds had come into the Lay Committee at such a pace that the group was now in a position to buy a new minibus.

A change in the timing of the Devon General 91 bus (Witheridge to Tiverton) from the beginning of March will make life easier for those wishing to visit Post Hill Hospital.

In February, Calverleigh held a second sacred concert in aid of the Spastics Society, with 250 people attending, and raising £27.

Loxbeare's social had been postponed from Christmas until February.

Oakford's Poultry Whist Drive, in aid of Cancer Research, raised £23, despite postponement due to the weather and the flu epidemic which had ravaged the village. The Guides had enjoyed a New Year's Eve party at 'Lower Combe', but

weather and flu prevented any meetings during January.

Fun and games at Rackenford's Sunday School party in January had seen two blindfolded mothers trying to feed each other jelly! The interior of the church was being given a face lift, and the first of a series of family services had been tried successfully in January. The March magazine recognised all those who work un-noticed to keep the Church functioning.

The 'Stoodleigh Beacon' focussed at length on whether there was any tie-up between the school (at risk of closure) and School Cottages. People were eager to move into the cottages if these could be sold without prejudicing the future of the school.

Templeton's Church Tower was in need of further work to remedy leaks where roots of the tree which had formerly grown out of the wall had been removed. Templeton were raising funds through the sale of 'rich farm manure' at 3/- for a ½cwt bag.

Washfield youth club members organised a pancake party in February which, apart from being enjoyable, had resulted in some unusual decorations in the kitchen!

With the 'Criss Cross Quiz' season approaching, Withleigh were ready to field two teams. The working party had carried out further work on hassocks, book markers, etc. The manager of Lloyds Bank in Tiverton gave the W.I. 'an interesting talk' on the decimal change-over, something which everyone was dreading! The football team had been on good form recently.

## NATURE NOTES

There was once a farmer who bought a derelict farm and transformed it into a great success. The Reverend, who had watched the development, congratulated him on what he had achieved with the help of God. The farmer comments that on the evidence, if left to God's devices, it wouldn't have been much without his intervention. It is a very old joke, not very funny and not helped by my presentation in a wish to save ink.

My thoughts have been triggered by the artificiality of the festive season and the lengths we go, to drag Nature out of its dormancy to be included in the celebrations. It is almost as if we need the nearness of some greenery, and the comforting thoughts of queues of hares waiting to look up at a full moon from the corner of a snowy field.

Presumably there are also some people out there who buy heather that has been dyed. I would be very interested to know what they do with it as the supermarket shelves seem to empty. Conversely, we have a friend who once hollowed out a beetroot and embedded a daffodil bulb and planted it. The pink daffodil was a beauty to behold.

What about the 79 Christmas trees decorated by local groups around the Crediton Parish Church and the uplit trees at Knightshayes that must have the seal of approval? Where do we draw the line?

City folk have their own take on this and if you ever venture to London I would

*Paul Iliff*

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## LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

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Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'.

John 8:12 (NIV)

It is now official. Not only is the shop called Lighthouse Christian Books and Cafe, so is the charity that runs it. We have managed to change the registered name from New Creation Christian Book and Coffee Shop, but have kept the same registered number.

The constitution of the trust stays the same, with only the addition of the name change, as do our aims. We want to be a Christian presence on the high street, ready to serve all who come into the shop and helping to spread the Good News of Jesus to all who are willing to listen.

We look back with fondness to the "old" shop at No 58 and recognize the wonderful work that was done there serving the Lord for just over 31 years. But the move to No 13 was a new start, hence a new name. We just hope and pray that, with God's help, we can build on the legacy of New Creation as we move forward to face the future.

Having been a member of the original small prayer group given a vision for a Christian Book and Coffee Shop back in 1987, part of the leadership team of New Creation right from its beginning in October 1988, and a trustee when it became a Charity in 1997, Maureen Rendell has decided to take a step back. At our meeting in early December she told us that, after much prayer, she was resigning from her role as a trustee and from the leadership team.

However, the desire to see everyone given an opportunity to meet the love of the Lord in an everyday environment is still very much on her heart and she will continue to support the work of the Charity as much as she can. For more than 31 years she has served the Lord by working in most areas and will be missed. We pray that she will enjoy her "retirement", although God may lead her in another direction in the future!

It has been decided to amend our opening hours and close at 4:30 pm on Mondays to Fridays. We have very few customers after 4:00 pm so this seems a sensible move. However, it will be kept under review and as the evening get lighter nearer Easter, we will reconsider staying open till 5:00 pm again

And with Easter coming, do not forget that we stock a range of Easter cards and the Real Easter Egg. We will also have material for your church's, or home group's, Lent Course, etc.

*With every blessing,*

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Charity 1063294

recommend a visit to Coal Drops Yard behind King's Cross station at any time of year. During the festive time they grouped real Christmas trees in bunches, and sprayed them with the colours last seen in Monsters, Inc. – so we see unnatural limes, purples, blues of closely arranged trees uplit against the steely black background as befits the origins of the yard.

At least there is one group that improves on Nature without us knowing. You only have to venture into our churches before the service to see what the flower arrangers have achieved – artifice yes, with forms and colours coordinated as nature never intended but their skill {often self taught} reveals details and beauty we have never appreciated – we should call them Capability.

*Thomas More*

### 2 PRAYERS

My dearest Lord,  
 Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
 Be Thou my guiding star above me,  
 Be Thou the smooth path beneath me,  
 Be Thou a kindly Shepherd behind me, today and evermore.

ST COLUMBA (521 - 597)

God - grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### CALVERLEIGH

**H**appy New Year to all and we hope that you have all had a good Christmas and have managed to avoid the nasty coughs and colds that are circulating at the moment.

We realise that this time of year is not as enjoyable for everyone, so we remember at this time all who are going through difficulties, whether through ill health, following the loss of a loved one or those attending numerous hospital appointments. We pray that the skill of health professionals will help to ease the anxiety or pain you are feeling and that God will heal you. Do let us know if you would like us to pray for you by name.

Back in November, our Remembrance Sunday service was led by Julie. Reflective music was played before and during the service with a couple of moving poems being read out as a focus of our grateful thanks for all who have given their lives through defence of our country for our freedom.

On Saturday 16 November we had our Autumn Fayre, which was well attended. There were the usual festive stalls, tombolas, books, cakes, produce etc. A craft table was available for the children while parents perused the goods on offer. Light refreshments were served including bacon baps and delicious home-made soup. Our thanks go to all stallholders, refreshment providers, kitchen help and of course all those who attended to make this event a great success. It is good to see so many people returning to support us year on year. Over £900 was raised for church funds.

**Our Christingle Service** on 1 December was held in conjunction with the Praise Party. The Service was in Church and then we moved over to the Village hall for activities, along with refreshments. Our thanks go to Doreen Venn who provided the Christingles, Rev'd Steph Gordon-Jeffs, Nik, Tash, Dave and Marc (aka Professor Chris Tingle (with an experiment that nearly worked!)) for their leading of the service and to Janet and Steven for providing the music. Thank you also to all who provided refreshments or arranged the activities.

**The Carol Service** was held on 15 December with a full Church. The Service was led by Jackie, with a little help from her young great-nephews. After the Service refreshments including mulled wine and mince-pies were enjoyed along with tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. The Church was beautifully decorated ready for the Festive Season and our thanks go to all who contributed in any way to a lovely Service.

Thank you to those from Calverleigh Church and village residents who supported the Loxbeare and Calverleigh Carol Singers by joining in on one or more of the evenings arranged. Thanks also to those who hosted the suppers on the three evenings and of course to Ron for his hard work arranging it all.

Twenty three of you joined us for a Christmas Informal Get-together on 22 December. Having coffee, cake and conversation, this is proving to be a popular time of friendship and fellowship, which fits well alongside our normal times of worship. If you feel you would like to come along and join us the next one will be on March 8 starting at 10am.

**On Christmas Day** our Service led by our Rector Steph was a Cluster Christmas

Communion. We were delighted to welcome a large congregation to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was good to see so many people, with past parishioners returning to worship with us as well.

At the beginning of January a good quantity of dried and tinned foods and toiletries was taken into the CHAT offices from donations given over the Christmas period by very generous parishioners. CHAT staff were delighted to receive these goods and our thanks go to all who gave contributions.

As many of you will know we hold an Annual Day of Prayer in May. To compliment this we are going to hold a monthly two hour **time of prayer**, on the first Saturday of each month, starting in February with the opportunity to make prayer requests. More details will be available in Church or please speak to Aubrey Goldsworthy or Jackie Herniman. Participants can pray wherever they feel comfortable. It does not have to happen in Church.

We are pleased to say that the restoration on the Church windows has begun and will continue over the coming months.

#### Dates for Your Diary

- 1 Feb - Time of Prayer - See above
- 1 Mar - Praise Party at 3.30pm in Calverleigh Village Hall, including craft and refreshments.
- 8 Mar - Informal Get-together at 10am.

#### Cleaning Rota

- 27 Jan / 8 Feb Mrs A Webber
- 10 / 22 Feb Mrs R Tapp
- 24 Feb / 7 Mar Mrs S Greenslade
- 9 / 21 Mar Mrs N Burton
- 23 Mar / 4 Apr Mrs M Herniman



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Altar Flower Rota

19 / 26 Jan Lady L Amory  
2 / 9 Feb Mrs B Hill  
16 / 13 Feb Mrs D Hopper  
LENT No altar flowers

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

## CRUWYS MORCHARD

**B**eware, all service times are being changed, please consult the centre pages for current information. If you are confused please ring 01884 250417 (not on Tuesdays).

### MY KENYA ADVENTURE.

Hi, my name is Jess Kingdom and am at Tiverton High School, I am going to Kenya in 2021. Now I must raise over £2,500 to participate in the trip where we will help "Africa Adventures" with their projects to benefit local families and children. I am collecting aluminium cans as a fundraising scheme. Please could you save all your cans and send my Mum a message so I can come and collect them at any time, or just drop them off in the bin at our gate, Four Seasons, next to Pennymoor Timber in Pennymoor. Mum: 07790906382. Thank you all very much.

### CHRISTMAS 2019

A big thank you to all who decorated the Church for Christmas and those who helped with the Christingle and Carol

Service. We welcomed over 100 people to this Service, we were very pleased to have Steph with us. It was lovely that so many children joined in our Nativity. Thank you to all of you for reading so beautifully, dressing up and taking part. Refreshments, including mince pies were enjoyed after the Service, thank you to everyone who gave them.

The generous donations that were given have now been taken to CHAT where they are being distributed to those in most need.

### FLOWER and CLEANING ROTA.

We have spaces on the rota, as volunteers have moved away. If you are interested in helping with cleaning and/or flowers please speak to Cindy Trick. For special Services, Easter, Harvest and Christmas we are looking for two people, one to decorate the window by the font and another to do the window by the pulpit. Please speak to Cindy if you would like to do this.

3 / 10 Feb.	Sue / Pauline Guscott
17 / 24 Feb.	Anne Gillbard
LENT	
25 Feb.	Shrove Tuesday
2 / 9 Mar.	Lorna Warren
	No flowers in Lent
16 / 23 Mar.	Carol Chisholm / Jackie Mitchell
30 Mar.	Cindy Trick
6 April	Decorators for Easter

**The Mowing Rota** is not yet available as we are still looking for volunteers. The Rota is done on a monthly basis, in normal years the Church yards require mowing once a week, in dry years not so often!

### CRUWYS MORCHARD YOUNG FARMERS.

The Club are busy rehearsing for the Drama Competition to be held at the beginning of February at Tiverton High School. A Bingo was held in November which was well supported. Bingos will

take place on Saturday 29 February and Saturday 28 March in the Parish Hall, everyone welcome.

### YOGA

Yoga continues every Thursday morning, split in two groups, the first at 9.30am-10.55am, which is a general Hatha class. The second 11.05am-12.30pm. A similar class set at an easier more gentle pace. For further information ring Hilary 01363 866245. [hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com](mailto:hil.tosdevin@btinternet.com)

**CRUWYS ARMS GARDENERS** meet on the first Wednesday of the month, our next meeting is on Wednesday 5 February in the Cruwys Arms at 8pm, do come and join us. For our Club Christmas Dinner we went to the The Duck at Yeoford, it was excellent.

### CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH HALL.

On 3 April 2020 Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall will host Cleverly Everly, a Tribute Band recreating the music of the Everly Brothers. The Show consists of two halves; the first is dedicated almost solely to the music of the Everly Brothers and primarily features two brothers (Clint and Stan Rogers). In the second half, they expand from two to a four piece band and recreate other magical sounds of the Sixties including songs from Elvis Presley, The Shadows, Dusty Springfield, Beach Boys, Cilla Black, Neil Diamond, Buddy Holly and many more. Tickets are £11.00. Why not pre-order a hot meat or veggie pasta for the night at only £3.00 each?

For tickets follow <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cleverly-everly-tickets-89069113115> Or email [paul@paulsteele.co.uk](mailto:paul@paulsteele.co.uk)

Sadly Pat Cross, mother of Diana Vincent, passed away in December, our prayers and thoughts are with Diana and all her family at this sad time.

*continued overleaf* ➔

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## Holy Communion with Ashes

**7pm 26 February  
WITHLEIGH**



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**Friday 20 to Sunday 22 March**

All three of our Bishops will be out and about meeting people and attending events taking place around the Diocese. The closest to us will be on Mothering Sunday which will take place on Sunday afternoon at Knightshayes Court. Please put the date in your diary and come and meet a Bishop (or 2 !!).

More details to follow.

### **2 FEBRUARY**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

See Washfield

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

9 am Morning Prayer

#### **LOXBEARE**

See Washfield

#### **OAKFORD**

9 am Morning Praise

#### **RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Morning Worship

#### **STOODLEIGH**

10.45 am Morning Prayer

#### **TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Family Service

#### **WASHFIELD**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

#### **WITHLEIGH**

3 pm Family Service  
with Baptism

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

### **9 FEBRUARY**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Family Service

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45 am Family Service

#### **LOXBEARE**

10.45 am Family Service

#### **OAKFORD**

See Rackenford

#### **RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion

*Steph Gordon-Jeffs*

#### **STOODLEIGH**

See Rackenford

#### **TEMPLETON**

10.45 Morning Service

#### **WASHFIELD**

10.45 am Morning Prayer

#### **WITHLEIGH**

10.45 am Morning Worship

### **16 FEBRUARY**

#### **CALVERLEIGH**

9am Morning Worship

#### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

See Templeton

#### **LOXBEARE**

10.45 am Morning Praise

#### **OAKFORD**

6.30 pm Evening Praise

#### **RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Family Service

#### **STOODLEIGH**

6.30 pm Evensong

#### **TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion

*Jane Wilson*

#### **WASHFIELD**

10.45 am Family Service

#### **WITHLEIGH**

See Templeton

## 23 FEBRUARY

**OUR  
FEBRUARY  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
GROUP SERVICE  
with dedication  
is at  
10.45 am in  
WASHFIELD**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**Everyone  
welcome.  
Please come and  
join us !!**

## 1 MARCH

### **CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

9 am Morning Praise

### **LOXBEARE**

See Calverleigh

### **OAKFORD**

9 am Morning Praise  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

### **RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Morning Worship

### **STOODLEIGH**

10.45 am Morning Prayer

### **TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Family Service

### **WASHFIELD**

See Calverleigh

### **WITHLEIGH**

10.45 am Informal Service  
in Vestry

## 8 MARCH

### **CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Informal get-together

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45 am Family Service

### **LOXBEARE**

10.45 am Family Service

### **OAKFORD**

See Stoodleigh

### **RACKENFORD**

See Stoodleigh

### **STOODLEIGH**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

### **TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Morning Service

### **WASHFIELD**

3.30 pm Evening Prayer

### **WITHLEIGH**

9 am Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

## 15 MARCH

### **CALVERLEIGH**

9 am Morning Worship  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45 am Cluster Service  
with Holy Communion  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

### **LOXBEARE**

No Service

### **OAKFORD**

6.30 pm Evening Praise

### **RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Songs of Praise

### **STOODLEIGH**

6.30 pm Evensong

### **TEMPLETON**

See Cruwys Morchard

### **WASHFIELD**

10.45 am Family Service

### **WITHLEIGH**

See Cruwys Morchard

## 22 MARCH

### ***MOTHERING SUNDAY***

### **CALVERLEIGH**

10.45 am Service

### **CRUWYS MORCHARD**

10.45 am Service  
***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

### **LOXBEARE**

9 am Breakfast in Village Hall  
followed by Church Service

### **OAKFORD**

Coffee and Croissants  
followed by  
10.45 am Service

### **RACKENFORD**

10.45 am Family Service

### **STOODLEIGH**

10.45 am Service

### **TEMPLETON**

10.45 am Service

### **WASHFIELD**

10.45 am Service

### **WITHLEIGH**

10.45 am Service

## 29 MARCH

**OUR  
MARCH  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY  
GROUP SERVICE  
is at  
10.45 am in  
CALVERLEIGH**

***Steph Gordon-Jeffs***

**Everyone welcome**

**Please come and  
join us !!**



## PARISH ROUND-UP

We must say goodbye to Vine and Jonathan Spragg who are moving to Sussex in March, they will be greatly missed having lived at Longacre for over 20 years.

We also say goodbye to Carla and Dean Aslett, who have been so much part of the village while they have lived here.

Our love and prayers go all in the Parish who are not well or grieving.

### PENNYMOOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

First Sunday All ages Service

Second Sunday Communion Service

Third Sunday Join Way Village at 2.30pm

Fourth Sunday Prayer and Praise

Fifth Sunday Film

Coffee Morning every Wednesday 11-12.30pm

Watch Notice board and Facebook for Special events, or contact Rev. Ruth on 01363 83451.

## LOXBARE

A Happy New year to everyone and we trust you all had a blessed Christmas as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We joined Calverleigh for our Christingle Service this year instead of having one at Loxbeare.

It was good to see so many at the Carol Service held on the 15 December. The Service was taken by Steph with members of the congregation reading the Christmas Story from the Bible. The offering of £120 was given to Vranck House. Presents were placed under the tree and later distributed to Pinnex Moor House and Ashdowne Nursing Home on 23 December.

A small number of Carol Singers visited the Homes and sang carols to the patients with visitors and staff joining in. It was a very worthwhile and happy afternoon.

Also a big thank you to the Carol Singers, though few in number, who sang on the three nights. Due to the horrendous weather the first night was postponed until the following night when the weather was better. Thank you to Jean, Chris, Felicity Wyman and to Myrtle and family who kindly provided the delicious suppers. Also to everyone who gave so generously – a wonderful total of £700 was raised to support the work of 'Open Doors' and Mind.

Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church and helped over the Christmas Period.

On 5 January a good number attended our Cluster Service with Washfield and Calverleigh, led by Steph.

The offering from the Remembrance Day Service raised a total of £100 which has been donated to 'Help the Heros'.

A big thank you to all who gave donations or filled shoe boxes for Blythwood where a total of 43 boxes were given.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held on 22 April. A PCC meeting will be on the 4 Feb at Jean's home at 7.30pm.

On Mothering Sunday a full English Breakfast will be available from 9.30am in the Village Hall, cooked and served by the men. This will be followed by a Service commencing at approximately 10.30am. Do come and join us. Contact Ron on 01884 881362.

It is good to hear that Muriel Ferris, Sue Troake, Leslie Tidball and Cecil Partridge are progressing well following their operations. We continue to pray for them and Katy Barlow for a speedy recovery and Liz Wareham after her fall. Our thoughts are with Steven Radford and anyone waiting for operations and/or treatments or suffering with viruses, flu and colds.

We pray for the comfort of those who have lost loved ones.

Congratulations to everyone celebrating special occasions and birthdays in February and March.

The Christmas Fayre raised £257 for Village Hall Funds. Thank you for all those who helped and/or donated.

The Village Party with a Bring & Share Supper was held on 11 January. Though small in number it was great fun and enjoyed by all ages. Thank you to Ron and Margaret for organising it, Aubrey Goldsworthy for helping with the games and to all who brought food and helped in any way.

The Village Christmas Meal was at Bickleigh Mill and was enjoyed by everyone, with good food & company. Thank you to Sue for organising the evening. Future dates for Loxbeare Ladies contact Sue on 01884 259496.

8 February and 14 March - Cream Teas in the Village Hall between 3 to 5pm.

22 February - Raclette night is being arranged in the Hall 7 for 7.30pm. Phone Carol on 01884 881480.

28 March - Arthur's Quiz Night in the Hall 7 for 7.30pm.

Forward Notice: 6 April – Bingo in the Hall 7 for 7.30pm.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### OAKFORD

**D**elicious! That was the comment about the mince pies and mulled wine echoed by many people who came to St Peter's to enjoy the Carol Service. Thank you to all the organisers, the church decorators, the readers and to Steph for entertaining us with a peek into her bag of Christmas jumpers! It was heartening to see so many children joining in and having fun.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Tea on 14 December and to all the children who came and decorated the tree.



Amy helping Cerys to decorate the Tree

Oakford Village looked very festive with lights hung from the houses up and down the street complete with a star over the lych gate. Thank you to Jennie and her team for organising this and for the lovely Christmas tree in the centre of the village.

All the timings of our services are listed in the centrefold of the magazine. We'd be delighted to welcome you to one of them and there's always the opportunity to stay for a coffee and chat afterwards.

Our Service for Mothering Sunday is particularly special. It falls on 22 March and will take place at 10.45am. Come half an hour early to be served coffee and

croissants. As usual, Spring flowers will be given to everyone attending. If you wish, bring a photo of your Mum for a blessing.

Although the nights are drawing out, it's still the season for sit-at-home-by-the-fire evenings. So check out the library at the back of the Church. It's groaning with new additions and we'll soon need another bookcase. If you are popping in and can spare a tin or two for the CHAT box, your donation would be greatly appreciated.

#### Next Bell Tower Fundraiser:

1 February – 2.30pm – Oakford Village Hall. Afternoon Tea with local authors Liz Shakespeare and Chris Tull. Inspired by local history and personal experience they will be entertaining us with a talk and a tale or two. Adults £5 / children under 16 £2.50. Pay at the door but the tea ladies need to know if you are coming – contact Mary Shere 01398 351154 or Brenda Burrows 01398 351 331.

#### Village Hall Events:

##### The Moorland Club:

13 February – Fish & Chip Supper & Quiz – 6.45 for 7. £7.50 – contact Sue Vigus to book 01398 332035.

12 March – Social Evening and presentation of cheques (money raised at the Christmas Fayre) to last year's charities: UNITE and the Freewheeler Blood Bikes. 7.30pm.

Advance Notice: 9 April – Easter Bonnet parade! With prizes!! Start creating.

#### Village Quiz Nights:

19 February and 18 March in The Red Lion at 8 for 8.15. New teams welcome.

6 March – Taste Off 2020 – Prizes will be awarded in the following classes: Sloe Gin, Fruit Vodka, Flavoured Tipple such as Brandy, Rum or Whisky, Non-alcoholic Fruit Cordial. Details from Julia: juliabluehayes@yahoo.co.uk

#### Oakford Players present:

'For One Night Only' a variety show on 17 and 18 April. Watch out for more details on posters.

#### Stuckeridge House Literary Festival Weekend 20-22 March

Choose from many interesting talks by celebrated authors. Programme and details from Caroline Llewellyn: caroline@stuckeridgeevents.co.uk

December and January have left many people struck down by colds, coughs and tummy bugs. We send our good wishes for a speedy recovery to anyone who has been unwell. Especially in our thoughts and prayers is Richard Stevens.

As our country leaves the EU we pray for a peaceful transition and a positive mindset towards what lies ahead.

February is snowdrop time. Enjoy the show as we look forward to Spring.

### RACKENFORD

**W**e are already nearing the end of January 2020. Best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy new year. New Year resolutions have been made, or not? may have already been broken or not?

Belated congratulations to Alistair and Cobi Baillie who were married on August Bank holiday 2019, only just received the good news.

Another positive is we now have our Church heating working again, new tank and new boiler. All in time for our Christmas services and colder weather.

We wish Rosemary and Jeremy Dart every happiness in their new surroundings,

*continued overleaf* ➔

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

having moved to Tiverton, from Higher Meadow. Richard, Kate and baby Brandon will be moving into Higher Meadow in the future.

Since our last issue several amongst us (which may be old news) have had visits to hospital, been admitted, had operations or just not feeling well. We understand some are making good progress which is such a blessing.

We send our love and prayers to those we have heard about (at time of going to print) Sylvia Muchmore, Pearl Stone, Vera Sutton, Jane Matthews, Bruce West.

In our last issue we mentioned Vera Sutton's daughter Heather. Sadly Heather has now passed away after a brave fight. We send our deepest sympathy to Vera and Heather's husband and son who live in Leamington Spa.

Sadly Michael Oxenham passed away on 26 November. For many years Micheal, Jean and daughter Sally lived at Heiffers Farm before Michael and Jean eventually moved to Witheridge. Micheal's Funeral and internment was held at our Church on 11 December, where a full Church gathered to pay respects. Our deepest sympathy to Jean, Sally and Andrew and family at this difficult time.

Many thanks once again to Liz and Tim Paxton for providing and decorating the Christmas tree for Church ready for the school nativity, held on 11 December. The Church was bursting with parents, family and friends, some having to stand, sit on the floor, not comfy or a good view but we hope all enjoyed seeing the children doing so well. Four previous students from Rackenford have been selected by Tiverton High School to travel to the sister School in Kenya to volunteer their time and talents.

**The profit from Church Bingos** this year raised £717.50. Many thanks to Herbert, Marjorie and helpers for keeping this running and to everyone for their support.

Saturday 21 December saw a revival and newly refurbished Santa's Sleigh and his reindeer travelling through the village, lead by a Brass Sextet and Carol Singers. Helpers knocked on various doors to alert people of Santa's (Saupé's) arrival. Many thanks to Sharon and Dennis for all their hard work. Graham and Ruth Fennel welcomed them into their home for refreshments and wine, they were also invited into The Old Forge for a glass of "Warmth". So much appreciated on such a rough night. Your generosity raised £255 for Air Ambulance.

Our decorations, beautiful Christmas tree and bells ringing, welcomed our congregation on Sunday 22 December for our Carol Service.

Many thanks to Marjorie for gathering the children together to sing to us and also for our choir who we always enjoy listening to. A carol sung so beautifully. Thank you also to Eleanor who played a few lines of various carols sitting next to Marjorie at the organ, you play so well.

A big thank you to the Village Shop for providing us with the Posting Box, to receive and deliver Christmas cards around the village without any cost!!!! What a wonderful service, so much appreciated.

Our Rackenford Community Recipe Book is still available to purchase from The Shop or from PCC Members. It is a real treat to read, new recipes to try, hints and tips with contributions from our school children. An ideal gift for family and friends maybe.

Everyone from Rackenford and neighbouring areas were invited to sing carols and to switch on the Christmas tree lights at The Stag on Christmas Eve and enjoy nibbles. The Stag was packed with people, so the atmosphere was great. The village was in fine voice. The children who were present sang the first verse of a few of the carols before the adults joined in and that felt really special. Graham Fennel was great on the keyboards and Ruth made sure everyone had carol sheets so they could join in the evening to start the Christmas celebrations. Many thanks to Oliver and Steve for their hospitality.

We hope our village will continue to thrive and grow in strength as we help and support each other through another year.

## STOODLEIGH

**W**ork on the tower was completed in the middle of November and the scaffolding removed. The bell ringers were back in action in Stoodleigh on 19 December; they are most grateful to Washfield and Calverleigh who enabled them to continue their Thursday evening practices during Stoodleigh tower's closure.

The Churchyard had its annual Autumn clean-up. Many thanks to all who turned up to help, particularly Richard Hill whose trailer was well and truly filled with all the debris.

**The Christmas Fayre** at the beginning of December was a great success with over £830 being raised to help pay for the repairs to the tower. The Parish Hall buzzed with many eager buyers and children were greeted on their arrival by Father Christmas.



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## PARISH ROUND-UP

The generous donations to the raffle were enormously appreciated by all and it was lovely to have some new stalls, as well as those with goods made in Stoodleigh. Mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls added to the convivial atmosphere.

**The Carol Service** on Saturday 21 December was very special with the Church full and a choir of some eighteen singers. The Rector was on fine form involving the whole congregation with her Christmas story. The choir singing "alleluia" every time angels were mentioned and the congregation being babies, animals, stars (twinkle twinkle) or when Bethlehem was mentioned singing tunefully the first line of "O Little Town". The lights on the Christmas tree (kindly donated by John Widdowson) and the candles on the window sills set off the magnificent flower arrangements - for which we thank our wonderful band of flower arrangers. The stable by the pulpit was filled with a nativity scene which has been donated to the Church. Altogether, a joyful occasion.

The Christmas Eucharist on 24 December was a much quieter occasion with a select band of worshippers welcoming the birth of Jesus. Between these two Services, a hardy band of about nine choristers went carol singing round the village and further afield raising £140 for the market bus; our thanks to the singers and to those who welcomed them into their homes to warm up!

2020 sees our usual selection of events, starting with **The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 16 March at The Old Stable**. All parishioners are welcome. There will be a Coffee Morning at the Old Stable on Wednesday 13 May. All other events are published on the Stoodleigh page of the Exe Valley Churches' website.

### Church Flower Rota

2 / 9 Feb Trish Fish  
16 / 23 Feb Pat Aplin  
1 Mar / 5 April Lent - no flowers  
12 April Easter - all help please

**Skittles Evening.** The Annual Skittles Evening and Ploughman's Supper is to be held on Friday 28 February starting at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Entrance £5 includes the supper. Please phone either Pat Robinson 01398 351460 or Margaret Cunningham 01398 351252 to book your ticket and supper.

### Parish Hall News

19 November: AGM - Reports were provided on the previous year's activities and finances and discussions took place about future events and planned work on the Parish Hall. Thank you to those who attended the meeting. Twelve members, including three new volunteers, were elected to the Hall Management Committee. The Committee elected Linda Brice (Chair), Dick Sibley (Vice-chair), Janet Russell (Treasurer) and Geraldine Talbot (Secretary). Please note - for Hall hire arrangements, email [rusianjan@btinternet.com](mailto:rusianjan@btinternet.com) or ring 01398 351401.

16 December - Thanks to our local businesses who donated some fabulous prizes for the Village Christmas Draw and thank you also to the community who supported us. There were many winners from across the village when the Draw took place on the Bingo Night in the Parish Hall. There was much fun and laughter and you helped us to raise over £980 to help maintain and improve the Parish Hall.

### Dates for your diary:

7 March - The Village Breakfast, Walk and Lunch, a popular event organised to enjoy Stoodleigh and the surrounding countryside with good walking company combined with tasty food. We'll start with

breakfast in the Parish Hall before heading off along local paths, lanes and woods. Two walks will be on offer, a longer route for walkers and a shorter option for those who prefer a stroll. We will all meet back at the Parish Hall where non-walkers will be welcome to join in for a delicious lunch and a community catch up. Full details will be available soon but if you're interested, please ring Geraldine on 01398 351391.

11 April - Easter Market & Coffee Morning  
11 July - Family Fun Dog Show (jointly organised with St Margaret's Church)

31 October - Autumn Market & Coffee Morning

For more information about the above events, please ring Geraldine on 01398 351391

Don't forget the weekly classes and Saturday Coffee at the Parish Hall - for dates see the Stoodleigh Parish website calendar

<https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/stoodleigh/events-calendar/>

**Stoodleigh Cricket Club** will be holding another of their great quiz nights at The Stoodleigh Inn on Friday 3 April to raise money for the club 7pm start time. A raffle will be held. Come and support this local club. A fun evening guaranteed!

And finally, it is sad to record the death of Beth Byles on 25 November. She was a well-respected Stoodleigh resident and had lived in the village for over sixty years. Beth was a trained physiotherapist and later in life she was awarded an Open University degree in English. She was, for many years, a Parish Councillor and served as Chairman for four years. She had strong interests in local affairs and protecting the environment.

*continued overleaf* ➔

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

Beth loved nature and was a member of the Rambling Roses walking group. She was also a very knowledgeable member of the Poetry Group. She had a unique personality and will be sadly missed by her neighbours and friends.

## TEMPLETON

### Past activities

During December, the Cluster Service, Candlelit Carol Service and Group Service took place at St Margaret's Church in Templeton. These services were very well attended. The Candlelit Carol Service was, as always, a magical and hugely popular service, as well as being an opportunity for neighbours in Templeton to join together as a community. A big thank you to everyone who contributed with readings, and to Helen for singing such a beautiful solo.

On 5 December, Templeton Village Hall held a Christmas-themed Quiz Night with supper and a raffle. This was a highly entertaining evening with great food, great company and a lot of laughs! Congratulations to the winning team, who aptly went by the name of 'Fake News'! Many thanks to Bruce and Chris for organising the event with such a wide range of questions, and for leading such a marvellous evening.

On Saturday 14 December, Tony Loosemore once again organised the Annual Children's Christmas Party at Templeton Village Hall. Many thanks to Tony and Sara who made it all such fun for the children and parents, to Steve and his bubble and foam disco party, and of course to Father Christmas!

Between 7 and 21 December, the Christmas tournaments and bar games

were held at Templeton Village Hall. Table tennis, darts, pool and skittles were played over the weeks with real talent showing! Many thanks to Mark who organised the competitions and to all those who took part and supported the events.

### Congratulations go to:

**Mixed Pool:** Winner: Reg Coffin

Runner Up: Mike Pancherz

**Men's Darts:** Winner: Martin Saunders

Runner Up: Tony Loosemore

**Men's Skittles:** Winner: Martin

Runner Up: Reg Coffin

Saunders

**Mixed Table Tennis:** Winner: David

Runner Up: Reg Coffin

Leeming

Future events in Templeton this year include:

**The Templeton Trail** organised by the Exe Valley Rotary Club on Sunday 5 April. This involves a marshalled route where the runners or walkers start at Templeton Village Hall and go through Town Farm, Partridge Farm and Cruwys Woods - a beautiful route - and end back at Templeton Village Hall to enjoy a range of refreshments.

If you are interested in taking part, details are available on Exe Valley Website at [www.exevalleyrotary.org.uk](http://www.exevalleyrotary.org.uk). Entry forms are not yet available but all other information is there under the Templeton trail heading.

Templeton's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Monday 20 April at St Margaret's Church at 7pm. Please do come along - this will be a chance for you to come and make any suggestions about what changes you would like to see in your Church community, and maybe you have suggestions about the ways that St Margaret's Church can be used more for all sorts of events apart from the regular Sunday Services. This will also be an opportunity to find out all that has been happening with the ongoing work on the

Church building and the graveyard over the year in making sure that the Church is maintained. It is so important to hear your thoughts about the Church and its community. If you would be willing to join the PCC for a year, please contact William (251513) or Reg (860246) who would really appreciate your help.

**A Dog Show** at Templeton Village Hall is planned for some time in early June. The definite date is yet to be confirmed.

The Annual Village Fete will be held on Saturday 7 August.

**Duck Race** - the date is yet to be confirmed but this will probably be in September.

As well as the twice monthly Church Sunday Services, the monthly **Knit and Natter** mornings are held on the last Wednesday of every month between 10.30am and 12 midday - bring any knitting, sewing, or any repair work with you if you have some, or otherwise just come along for a coffee and a chat.

### In our thoughts

Welcome back to Monica - its lovely to know that you are back at home in Templeton.

Our thoughts and good wishes are with all those who are unwell, or who have been in hospital, or who are having a difficult time, and hope that you will soon be feeling better.

### Church Flowers and Cleaning Rota for February and March

Bindy Linden Flowers and Cleaning 2 / 9 Feb

Eleri Pugh Flowers and Cleaning 16 / 23 Feb

Gloria Woollacott Lent no flowers 1 / 8 Mar  
Claire Trevelyan-Thomas Cleaning only 15 / 22 Mar

Sue Coffin Cleaning only 29 Mar / 5 April

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# PARISH ROUND-UP

## WASHFIELD

February is the border between a harsh winter and milder Spring, When sunshine steepens the boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within.

**A** Very Happy New Year to you all!

It was good to see the Church filled to overflowing on Christmas Eve for the traditional Carol Service and our thanks go to all who helped in any way. It was especially good to have so many young readers taking part in telling the Christmas story and we were very grateful to Janet Roche for playing for us - a great kindness and much appreciated.

The Tobey family was much in our minds over Christmas. We send our sympathy and prayers at this sad time of family bereavement. Their family was very much missed.

Christmas Day at Calverleigh was a great time of celebration when we met together for Holy Communion on this special day.

All the Church activities are starting again so please look at Steph's page for details. We hope to see you at the APCM on 9 March. Come and hear about what we did in 2019 and hear our plans for this year from Steph - and give us your ideas of how the Church can contribute to the Community. Refreshments at 6.30 pm for Meeting at 7 pm in the Hall..

Easter Saturday - 11 April. The Coffee and Hot Cross Buns following Egg Rolling etc. will be accompanied by the Plant and Produce stall, so please start sowing seeds and taking cuttings now!

The PCC is very grateful to the WI for donating the proceeds of Carol Singing

round the Village to the appeal for repairing the stained glass window bars, which are rusting and damaging the stonework. The appeal is on-going and the repairs are planned soon.

Grateful thanks to all who helped in any way at the Coffee Morning on 7 December. We had a happy time and also raised the amazing amount of £240 for running costs of the Church.

We look forward to the new bell ropes being dedicated by Steph at the Group Service on 23 Feb when we will be able to express our thanks to those who contributed to the cost, fitted them and who ring the bells so faithfully.

We all miss Allison in the Church and Village and send her our very best wishes for a restful recovery. Our heartfelt good wishes go to all those amongst us who are not feeling well, are receiving or awaiting treatments and recovering from operations. May you soon turn the corner into better health.

To those celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries we wish you many good wishes.

As reported in the last issue, the Social Club has upgraded its licence to show films. The first of these has now been screened to an appreciative audience. Look out for those to follow - See Dates for your Diary below. Volunteers are needed to choose the films they would love to see.

Remember: Social Club subs, if you haven't already paid, these are now due and are just £5.

Carol Singing took place around the Village on 17 December. It was a very foggy evening and this meant less people turned up, plus the weather hampered the singers' way around the Village.

Nevertheless the amazing sum of £115 was raised towards the Church window bars repairs. Well done to all who braved the elements.

### Dates for your Diary

Sat 1 Feb Film Show at Social Club. "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" (15) at 7.30pm.

Tues 11 Feb teatime@thehall 2.30pm in the hall. Come along to this friendly, welcoming, informal group for tea, cake and chat.

Thurs 13 Feb W.I. in hall 10.30 start. Speaker: Laurie Cowie on Cyber crime and computer safety tips.

Sat 15 Feb Quiz night at Social Club. Time tba

Thurs 20 Feb Lunch Club restarts for 2020. Newcomers welcome to join in with these monthly lunches 12 for 12.30. Just £6 for a welcome drink plus a two course meal, hot drink and mints to finish. Please phone Anne 255298 to book in for this first one of the year.

Sat 7 Mar Six Nations Rugby at the Social Club from 4.30pm.

Mon 9 Mar Hall AGM in hall from 8pm. All welcome to attend and potential committee members always welcomed. Drinks and nibbles.

Tues 10 Mar teatime@thehall from 2.30pm. Come along and join in.

Thurs 12 Mar W.I. in hall 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr Hannah Wright on Prison Horticulture and Agriculture.

Sat 14 Mar Skittles Evening at Social Club (with EVBH) Time tba

Thurs 19 Mar Lunch Club in hall 12 for 12.30

Sat 21 Mar Film Show at Social Club.

Sat 4 Apr Film night at Social Club (Film tba)

### KEEP THE DATE

Sat 22 Aug Social Club's Big 30th Anniversary Party

*continued overleaf* ➔

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Church Altar Flowers Rota

February 2 Mrs Harding  
February 9 Mrs French  
February 16/23 Mrs Pannifer  
March 1-29 LENT

### Church Cleaning Rota

Jan 27/Feb 3 Mrs French  
Feb 10/17 Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones  
Feb 24/Mar 2 Mrs Albery  
Mar 9/16 Mr & Mrs Ellis  
Mar 23/30 Mrs French  
April 6/13 Mrs Harding/Mrs Jones

In addition to the cluster Communion Service at Cruwys Morchard on Christmas Eve, a non-Communion Service was held at St Catherine's at our usual time of 11.30pm to 'Welcome in Christmas'. The attendance at the Service, led by our own Church members, was very encouraging.

Our Late Christmas Meal on Saturday 11 January, in the Village Hall, was a resounding success, with the fifty-seven present being treated to a superb three-course feast. Our grateful thanks go to Brenda and Sara who were responsible for the majority of the catering, and to all who were involved in the setting out, preparation, serving, washing-up, raffle, etc. As well as being a great social occasion, and not intended to be profit making, over £500 was raised for Village Hall funds.

**Witleigh Quiz Night**, is on 31 Friday January, 7.30pm in the Hall. (No mobiles phones please!) Teams of up to 6 people. Entry will cost £6 each which includes a pasty and a hot or cold soft drink during the interval. You are welcome to bring your own drinks. For more information or to book a table please call Sara 01884 252949 or Brenda 01884 252431.

Our **Annual Church Meeting** will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 26 March, beginning at 7pm. All are welcome to attend, to hear what has been going on during the past year, and to elect churchwardens and PCC for the coming year.

If you want to start collecting some early Easter Eggs, then come along to our **Annual Easter Beetle Drive**, where there will be plenty of eggs to win. We are in the

Hall on Saturday 4 April at 7.30pm. There's no need to book, just come along on the evening.

**A date for your diary;** our next Community Lunch will be held on Thursday 23 April in the Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm.

A reminder that, as from February, the normal time of our morning Services has changed from 10.30am to 10.45am. Having said that, our Family Service on 2 February will be at 3pm, when Martha, daughter of Henry and Hannah will be baptized into the Church family.

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

Thursday 13 February, speaker Rose Chanin, 'My Nonsense'

Thursday 12 March, speaker Stephen Powles, 'In pursuit of the Improbable'

Congratulations to any who are celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries.

Get well wishes go to all those known to us who are receiving treatment, recovering from operations or who are not well at the moment.

### Forthcoming Events;

Friday 31 Jan Witleigh Quiz Night at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Thursday 13 Feb WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm.

Thursday 12 Mar WI in the Village Hall at 7.15pm. Sunday

22 Mar Mothering Sunday Service in Church at 10.45am.

## WITLEIGH

**O**ur Craft Fayre on 23 November was a great success. Our thanks to the stall-holders, and to all who came along to support the event, which raised £1,191.

A big "Thank You" to all who decorated the Church so beautifully for our Christmas Services. The Services were well attended, beginning with our Christingle on the afternoon of Sunday 8 December, led by Steph. Thank you, also, to Janet, David and Christine for making the Christingles.

Our Carol Service on the evening of Sunday 22 December proved as popular as ever. Our thanks, again, to those who provided and served the mulled wine, coffee, mince pies and shortbread, which followed the service. During the Service, gifts of non-perishable food, toiletries and cleaning items were left under the tree for CHAT. Thank you, Brenda, for delivering all the donations to CHAT the following day.

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## PARISH ROUND-UP

### Flower Rota:

2 February Brenda Tucker  
9 / 16 / 23 Feb Sara Kittow  
1 Mar LENT (Please remove flowers)

### Weekly Events;

Tuesdays Yoga in the Village Hall at 7pm.  
Wednesdays Short Mat Bowls in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### Monthly Diary Dates:

Second Monday Whist Drive  
Second Thursday W.I.

### 3 MUSINGS

Speak well of your enemies -  
after all, *YOU* made them !

Adam blamed Eve -  
and Eve blamed the Serpent -  
and it didn't have a leg to stand on !

"We don't like their sound and guitar  
music is on the way out" quoted by  
Decca Recording Company when  
rejecting The Beatles in 1962

### Thoughts for Everyday by Patience Strong ~ for 19 February *REGRETS*

Sometimes it's too late to say  
the things you meant to say.  
Too late to say you're sorry  
or some kindness to repay.

Too late to speak the loving word  
or lend the helping hand -  
To show appreciation  
or to give the gift you'd planned.

Thus we pile up vain regrets  
that haunt the years ahead;  
Memories of all the things  
we might have done or said.

So save yourself that pain  
and take each opportunity -  
of doing all that's in your power  
for friends and family.

### Thoughts for Everyday by Patience Strong ~ for 11 March *JUST A LITTLE*

Just a little sympathy  
can go a long, long way -  
to help a breaking heart to face  
a world that's hard and grey.

A little snatch of melody  
can fill the world with song -  
and put some music into life,  
when things are going wrong.

Just a little friendliness,  
a little bit of praise -  
can urge a tired, discouraged soul,  
to live the dreary day.

A golden streak of sunshine  
in a sky that looks like rain -  
can make a weary traveller  
look up and smile again.

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### GOING TO HEAVEN

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Class, to see if they understood the concept of getting to  
Heaven. She asked them "If I sold my house and my car,  
had a big car boot sale and gave all my money to the  
Church, would that get me into heaven?"

"NO !" The children answered.

"If I cleaned the Church every day, mowed the Churchyard  
and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into  
Heaven?" Again the answer was "NO !"

Now she was smiling. They're getting it, she thought.  
"Well then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all  
the children, and loved my husband, would that get me  
into Heaven?" She asked. Again, the answer was "NO!"

By now she was bursting with pride for them.  
"Well then" she continued " how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year old boy shouted "YOU HAVE TO BE DEAD !!!"



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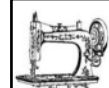


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