

I read somewhere that we see our reflection in other people's eyes. In our quest for superiority and security we are in danger of projecting our own issues on others and then condemning them for being what we ourselves do not want to be. Human nature is complex and, in today's world, competitive and unforgiving. The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book in 2014 was called "Looking through the Cross" by Graham Tomlin. In it I learned that everything looks different in this world if we look through the lens of the cross – reconciliation, humility, power, suffering, life and atonement. Suddenly life becomes centred on the one redeeming act of humanity instead of on our own personal desires and issues.

As we journey through Advent and Christmas and Epiphany we meet, in a period of just two months, the events of many months and years as Jesus Christ is introduced to the world and the greatest story ever told begins to play out, not just in history but for us and right now.



I heard someone say recently, "Hasn't this year gone quickly?" How I now long for those holidays in my early childhood when time seemed to stand still and I was even heard to say things such as, "I'm bored" or "What can I do?" As we get older we feel time rushing past and the luxury of stopping and reflecting, even in retirement, especially in retirement, never seems to be there. Yet Advent is a time to do just that – to reflect on what has been, on what is to come, and

how we might be part of it. Advent focusses us on Christ through the cross – preparing the way, just as John the Baptist prepared the way – for Christ to burst onto the scene and change our lives forever. I say "through the cross" because without the Easter story this would have been the story of another baby being born in humble and squalid conditions. Through the cross this becomes a story of mystery and majesty, of intrigue and adventure, of something so great that we can only fully engage with it through God's grace. It is through the cross that we can see onwards to the resurrection and the promise of Jesus' second coming because Advent is as



The Doghouse - continued



much a preparation for what lies ahead as it is for the nativity. And, before we know it, it will be Christmas. Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus – the **Christ mass** – and to begin the tale of the arrival of disciples humble and regal and the human struggles of the Christ-child as he forges his place here among us and earns the right to be called King, Saviour and Lord.

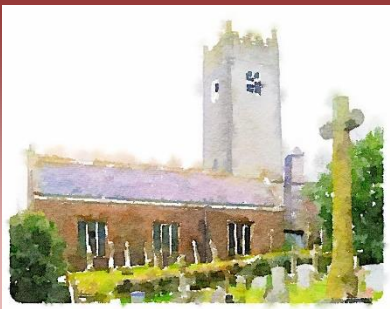
I wish you, at this special time of year, God's blessing; and my prayer is that in our times of reflection, we think of those who have so much less than we do.

O come, o come, Emmanuel.

Peter

News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



What a wonderful autumn we have had so far. The colours of the leaves and quantities of berries on the hedgerow trees and bushes have been spectacular, coupled with large numbers of interesting toadstools popping up on trunks, logs and in the foot of hedges. In the same way, the steady slide towards winter of the last couple of months has been anything but dull and dismal in our parish this year. Our harvest festival service saw us celebrating not only the bounty of the harvest, and sharing a piece of this year's harvest loaf, but also Chris and Peter's wedding anniversary. The harvest supper at The Rising Sun became an opportunity to meet several neighbours new to the parish and also catch up with some who have moved away. The Macmillan coffee morning was a great success, raising a pleasing amount for the charity with a variety of fun games and stalls, and our latest library and coffee morning saw us all sitting down together to eat a full cooked breakfast.

Christmas is, of course, the next big event on the horizon. I have known for a long time that our modern day celebration of Christmas owes most of its origin to Charles Dickens and the publication of his book "A Christmas Carol". I did not realise, though, until I was recently given the guardianship of my great grandmother's copy, that he also wrote a book of bible stories for his children. Called "The Life of Our Lord", it was published posthumously by his family and appropriately the first chapter is the story of the Nativity. Our village has several different Christmas events planned this year, starting with our candlelit Advent Carol service on 27th November. This is always a special service with an intimate atmosphere to which anyone from other parishes will always be welcomed. Our main carol service on 11th December is being taken out into the community this year and will be held in the elegant setting of Gurrington House at 6.00pm and the Rising Sun is hosting a village Christmas lunch on 17th December at 12.30pm. Please book your table directly with the Rising Sun by 9th December.

However you celebrate Christmas, be it very traditional or modern and original, I hope you have a very enjoyable day.

Helen Pearse

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



The autumn programme of services at St. Mary's got off to a great start with our Patronal Festival held on 11th September. This was a joyous and uplifting occasion with almost 90 in the congregation with many of our friends across the Mission Community in attendance. The service was followed by an excellent lunch in the village hall which included a very impressive choice of puddings. This was such a very worthwhile event and a credit to the hardworking social committee.

Later in the month a contingent of Denbury folk attended the confirmation service held at Ipplepen conducted by the Bishop of Plymouth.

A beautiful array of floral arrangements greeted visitors to St. Mary's as we celebrated Harvest once again on the first Sunday of October. Many hours of creativity by the ladies of the church produced some lovely displays which really set the scene for the annual celebration of God's bounty. Gifts of foodstuffs and other practical items were collected at the Harvest service and distributed to the local homeless charity HITS.

The day prior to Harvest saw parishioners enjoying Soup and a Sweet during a pleasant lunch in Church Cottage.

Many of us were at Ipplepen once again to attend the Deanery Communion which was again conducted by the Bishop of Plymouth. Another inspiring service was followed by lunch which provided a chance for attendees to chat and swap experiences in relaxed surroundings.

We are currently collecting items to fill shoeboxes with presents for disadvantaged boys and girls. The boxes will be collected in mid-November for distribution.

All Saints Day on 30th October was an important service during which we give thanks for all the Saints that have gone before us in faith, and recall the effect their example has had on our lives over the years.

All Souls Day followed on 2nd November and at a reflective morning service we recalled and gave thanks for the departed.

We will be remembering the fallen from the World Wars and later conflicts at a Remembrance Day service on 13th November at the end of which wreaths will be laid at the memorial at the centre of the village.

Preparations are underway for the various carol services held in church and throughout the village in the run up to Christmas and the village choir, which will perform carols at the principal carol service held the week before Christmas, have started rehearsals. As ever this is a busy time of the year for everyone connected with St. Mary's but always eagerly anticipated.

Mike Bray

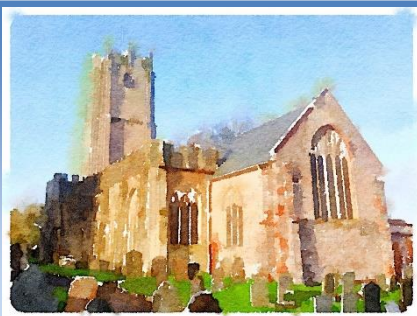
Carols on the Green

'Denbury's Carols on the Green 2016 is at 6.30pm on Friday 16th December outside the Union Inn.

Please join us to sing carols and enjoy free mulled wine and mince pies.
We will be collecting in support of Rowcroft Hospice'.

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



On the 18th September the Mission Community Baptism Confirmation and Holy Communion service was celebrated in St Andrew's with the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend Nick McKinnel officiating. I am sure the candidates, Jane Farthing, Margaret Hatton and Hannah Simmonds especially found it an inspiring and moving occasion.

The Church had been decorated beautifully with flowers, fruit and vegetables for our Harvest Festival service on 2nd October when the congregation brought food for the 'HITS' food bank. It was a joyous service giving thanks particularly to the farmers who work hard to bring us our food. Our thanks go to the talented flower arrangers for their artistic displays.

The following Sunday was a busy Service for Rev. Peter with the Baptism of Harry Marsh who was very good and enjoyed the attention. We were blessed to have another baptism within the parish communion on the 6th November for Chloe Parsons who smiled throughout the ceremony and enjoyed processing with Rev. Peter around the Church. Her brothers Toby and Ben assisted expertly with pouring the water into the font.

The Deanery Communion Service on 23rd October was very special with a full congregation with visiting clergy. Rev. Peter welcomed Bishop Nick from Plymouth who preached the sermon. The choir sang John Rutter's 'The Lord bless you and keep you'. Many people enjoyed refreshments after the service and the opportunity to chat to the Bishop; he and his wife came on to the Church Hall where some 70 people sat down for lunch. The tables were once again looking beautiful with decorations made by Aubrey. The hospitality team certainly worked hard to provide lunch for so many people and it was very rewarding to know how much it was enjoyed. Favourable comments were later received from both the bishop and the rural dean.

On Sunday 30th October we celebrated All Saints Day at the morning Service which was lay-led by Vanessa Bevan with Michael Price giving the address and leading the prayers.

At 6.00pm there was the service for "All Souls", we remembered the departed and gave thanks for their lives. The names of loved ones were read as Rev. Peter lit candles in their memory, a very special service.

We will be holding our Remembrance service on 13th November another important time as we remember all those who lost their lives during wars and conflicts.

The hospitality team and friends are busy preparing for our Christmas Fair to be held in the Village Hall on 19th November.

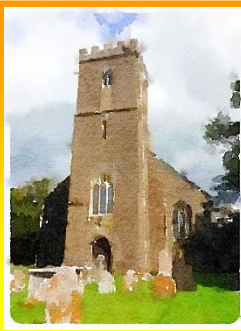
Marilyn Clark



Pictures of Harvest

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



We would like to start with a very big thank you to Ipplen for the most enjoyable lunch we shared with you all. The visit of Bishop Nick seems to have been a big success, enjoyed and appreciated by us all.

In Broadhempston we have plenty to look forward to with Christmas approaching, this is always a busy time but also one to enjoy.

We are pleased that our school choir will be with us for our Carol Service on Tuesday 13th December at 6.00pm.

We also have another treat in store as the Ashburton Singers will be coming to the Church for a Christmas Concert. The concert is called 'Ring Christmas Bells' and will be on Friday 16th December at 7.30pm.

We hope that you will be able to come and enjoy the performance with us. Tickets are £5 and that will also include a glass of wine and a mince pie. How is that for a bargain?

Tickets will be on sale in Broadhempston shop or call me on 01803 812986.



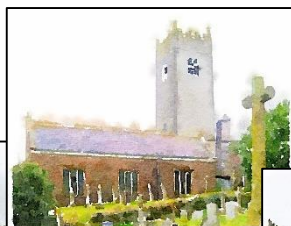
Harvest flowers at Broadhempston

Another happy event will be our 'Carols in the Square'. This is always well supported by the village particularly as it takes place outside The Monks Retreat which helps to keep us in good voice for the evening.

I will close by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and we hope a peaceful 2017 to come.

Pam Perriman

Did you notice?



The images used in the titles of the news from each parish have changed. 'watercolour pictures' courtesy of Peter Ashman – he has the originals

Bishop Nick – regular visitor!



The Bishop of Plymouth, Nick McKinnel is becoming a bit of a regular visitor to the Beacon Parishes. On 18th September he was at St. Andrew's for the Confirmation service (pictures above) and then five weeks later on 23rd October he was at the Deanery Communion service, again at St. Andrew's (picture right).



All Souls service at Ipplepen

All Souls this year was a poignant occasion, marked by a thoughtfully prepared service which meant a great deal to everyone present. The long list of names of those who are no longer with us was carefully read out, while a candle was lit for each one as they were remembered. I am sure that many more we have loved, who were not on the list, were also brought to mind. Unusually, at the end of the service, no-one was in a hurry to leave or start talking. Most finally left in silence, which only otherwise happens after Compline, and I am sure that this was a great tribute to all who had worked hard to make the evening so meaningful. Perhaps we all felt that the “great cloud of witnesses”, which St. Paul talks of in Hebrews 12, really was surrounding us that evening.

Peter spoke briefly and movingly about death, and how our funeral services were specially constructed to cover many aspects of grief, thankfulness for a life well lived, and hope for the future. One of the points he made was that we must not feel guilt for the past - it can be corrosive, we can do nothing about it, and we must put it behind us.

Afterwards I remembered a service we attended at Shillingstone in Dorset while staying with our family there.



Holy Rood, Shillingstone, Dorset

It covered just this point. The collect for the day was:

*Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to what is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy.*

Perhaps I could share with you how this collect was explained to us, as it ties in exactly with Peter's words.

“This collect tackles one of the fundamental difficulties we have as humans, which is letting go of our past mistakes. The collect prays that we may ‘forsake that which lies behind’ and this is really quite hard as we all carry around in our memories things we have said and done (or not said and done) that we regret. Such regrets can leave us with a burden of guilt and shame which has tremendous durability. We forget happy days and normal days, but bad days stay fresh in their awfulness for ages.

All of this - bad memories, regrets and guilt weigh us down, pull us back, and stop us embracing God's ‘gift of faith’ to the full. We literally have to ‘reach out’ and stretch away to enable us to move forward.

We are often very bad at seeing ourselves as God sees us - we forget that we are wonderfully and mysteriously made, that we are utterly loved. We tend to forget too that everyone around us is also loved in the same way and we fall into our usual traps of judging and criticising.

If we begin to be able to live out this most challenging collect then we will indeed start to earn our ‘crown of joy’.”

Stephen Bryant

The Company of Servers



I have been a server for many years and I have had the privilege of being a Eucharistic (Chalice) Minister for 33 years. A few years ago I was invited to join the Company of Servers.

What does it mean to be a member of the Company of Servers? Every three months we have the opportunity to meet together at a church within the diocese of Exeter. We share fellowship with one another and exchange stories within our ministry of serving and join the in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. A lovely tea is always provided by the host church and a different venue is chosen for each of our meetings so we get to visit some really beautiful churches within our diocese.

The purpose of The Company of Servers is to promote an understanding of the role and importance of a server. In the early church, as soon as Christians began to meet for worship there would have been some helpful person who would have assisted. We know from the Acts of the Apostles that the first Christians continued in their attendance of Jewish worship in the Temple and in the Synagogue. As good Jews they would have been familiar with the tasks that had to be done in the Temple and in the Synagogue to enable the worship of God to take place.

Our first experience of a 'server' is the boy Samuel. If we read the story of Samuel in 1 Samuel 2:18-22 and 3: we see how he assisted Eli in the care of the Temple at Shiloh. It appeared that he even slept in the Sanctuary, such were his duties.

Very quickly the early Christians began to organise their liturgy (services) and clearly defined roles began to be established. Many of the roles though, that we now see as being voluntary and performed by people who are not ordained, were done by those preparing for priesthood. They were known as 'Minor Orders' but at the Reformation they ceased to be part of the formal organisation of the Church of England.




In the Book of Common Prayer the Wardens are expected to make sure that all is provided for worship. There is no mention of servers. However, it was with the Oxford Movement in the mid 19th century with the revival of catholic liturgical practice in the Church of England that the role of the server was reintroduced into the life of our churches.






During the Rite of Admission to the Company of Servers the candidate, as a server, will confirm to promote his or her ability and understanding in assisting the clergy in presenting and offering the worship of Almighty God and enabling the congregation to share in the liturgy. They do so with reverence and respect, knowing that the things they touch are holy and that the one we serve is the Lord and servant of all. In addition, through prayer and the reading of the scriptures and by mutual support and encouragement they aim to fashion their living according to the pattern we see in Christ.

Peter Gage (Server and Eucharistic Minister)







Contacts

Rector	The Reverend Peter Ashman	 01803 813847
Hon Asst. Priests	The Reverend Tony Meek	 814370
	The Reverend Anne Burden	 813520
	Canon Tom New	 813775
Readers	Mrs Tessa Amies	 813993
	Ms Tricia Stokes	 762158








St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Churchwardens	Dr Michael Price	 813472
	Mrs Geraldine Dennis	 813077
Deputy Warden	Mrs Jane Outhwaite	 812879
Choir	Mrs Jo Innes-Lumsden	 812654
Bellringing	Mr Colin Clark	 01626 354561
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vanessa Bevan	 812812
PCC Treasurer	Mr Roger Chamberlain	 901297
Church Hall	Mrs Shirley Northwood	 813980
Flowers	Mrs Sheila Stacey	 813609
Hospitality	Mrs Jane Outhwaite	 812879





St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Churchwardens	Mr Steve Bassett	 812537
	Mr Mick Sutherland Cook	 813871
Deputy Warden	Mr Mike Bray	 812941
Bellringing	Mr Steve Bassett	 812537
PCC Secretary	Mr Mick Sutherland Cook	 813871
PCC Treasurer	Mr Mike Bray	 812941
Cottage	Mrs Fran Howells	 812971
Flowers	Mrs Ann Toler	 813255
Social	Mrs Tessa Amies	 813993

Ss Peter & Paul, Broadhempston



Churchwarden	Mrs Pam Perriman	 812986
Deputy Wardens	Mr Chris Parker	 762543
	Mrs Tracy Lambert	 813708
Bellringing	Mr Graham Pascoe	 812102
PCC Secretary	Mrs Maggie Sercombe	 813790
PCC Treasurer	Mr Chris Parker	 762543
Flowers	Mrs Jane Parker	 762543

St John the Baptist, Woodland

Churchwardens	Miss Sheila Ashford	 01626 821288
	Mrs Jane Usher	 01626 353454
PCC Secretary	Mr David Wrayford	 01364 652323
PCC Treasurer	Mr John Usher	 01626 353454

Safeguarding	Mrs Carol Robinson	 812800
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The Beacon

Editor	Dr Michael Price	 813472
Production	Mr Charles Quartley	 812238

Sunday Services for December and January

Sunday 4th December – Advent 2/St. Andrew - Isaiah 52:7-10; Romans 10:12-18; Matthew 4:18-22

11.00am	Patronal Festival followed by lunch in the Church Hall	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman, Tessa Amies preaching
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Sunday 11th December – Advent 3 – James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Chris Benson
11.00am	Parish Communion with Baptism	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.00pm	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Woodland Carols	Gurrington House	

Sunday 18th December – Advent 4 – Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadhempston	Lay-led
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.00pm	Carol Service	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Carol Service	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Parish Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve - Isaiah 62:6-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

3.00pm	Crib Service	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.30pm	Crib Service	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter & Edward
11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Denbury	Ven. Ian Wheatley

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day - Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.00am	Christmas Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
10.30am	Christmas Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Anne Burden
10.30am	Christmas Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman
10.45am	Christmas Service	Broadhempston	Tricia Stokes

Sunday 1st January – The naming and Circumcision of Jesus – Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Parish Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

Sunday 8th January – Epiphany – Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.00pm	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	Reader

Sunday 15th January – Epiphany 2 – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadhempston	Lay-led
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

Sunday 22nd January – Epiphany 3 – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ipplepen	Lay-led

Sunday 29th January – Presentation of Christ/Candlemas

11.00am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service	Ipplepen Methodist	Rev. Kevin Hooke/ Rev. Anne Burden
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Mid-week Services for December and January

Regular Mid-week (CW) services are held as follows:

Weekdays	8.15am	Ipplepen	Morning Prayer (said)
Tuesday	7.00pm	Ipplepen	Holy Communion (first Tuesday)
Wednesday	10.00am	Denbury	Holy Communion
Thursday	10.30am	Ipplepen	Holy Communion
Thursday	4.30pm	Denbury	Evening Prayer (said)

Intercessions for the Mission Community – December/January

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
4 th Dec	Those who decorate the church	Churches Together in Ipplepen	The Union Inn	Community Shop	Library
11 th Dec	Baptism ministry team	The Wellington Inn	Denbury Primary School	Radfords	Parish Rooms
18 th Dec	Vergers & sextons	The Post Office & Co-Operative Shop	Fairfield Farm	Beaston	Rising Sun
25 th Dec	Our churches	Ipplepen Primary School	Community Groups	Downe	Bremridge
1 st Jan	Wardens & Deputies	Ambrook & Dainton	The Union Inn	Knowle	Waye Farm
8 th Jan	Secretaries	Barn Park Close & Barn Park Cottages	The Manor	Hemsford	Gurrington House
15 th Jan	Treasurers & finance/stewardship committees	Beech Drive & Orchard Drive	Fairfield Farm	Village Hall	The Old Parsonage
22 nd Jan	Safeguarding officer & reps.	Biltor Road & Conniford Lane	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Lake Farm
29 th Jan	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses

Coffee Mates (Men of Denbury)

(and Friends)

this is your chance to become a 'Coffee Mate'
gather around a cup of coffee, biscuits and cake
2nd Thursday of each month at Church Cottage

10.30 am to 12.00 noon

Treat it as a 'coffee shop',
bring your newspaper, book, do the crossword

Dates Ahead – December and January

December

Saturday 3 rd	10.00am	Woodland Library
	3.00pm	Messy Church at Ipplepen Church Hall
Monday 5 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
	7.00pm	Scouts Carol Service at Methodist Church
Wednesday 7 th	12.30pm	Monthly Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
Thursday 8 th	10.30am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 10 th	10.00am	Denbury coffee and cake morning
Monday 12 th	9.30am	Ipplepen School Carols in Church
	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 13 th	6.00pm	Broadhempston Carol Service
Wednesday 14 th	7.00pm	Carols around the village starting at The Grange
Thursday 15 th	2.15pm	Denbury School Christmas performance
	6.15pm	Carols at Bramble Down, Denbury
Friday 16 th	6.30pm	Carols on the Green, Denbury
Monday 19 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
	7.00pm	Carols in Ipplepen Square followed by refreshments in the Village Hall
Tuesday 20 th		Hub Christmas meals
Monday 26 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 27 th	9.00am	Home Communion

January

Monday 2 nd	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Wednesday 4 th	12.30pm	Monthly Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
Saturday 7 th	10.00am	Woodland Library
Monday 9 th	10.00am	Ipplepen Standing Committee
	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 10 th	7.00pm	Broadhempston Standing Committee
Wednesday 11 th	7.00pm	Ipplepen bellringers' AGM
Thursday 12 th	10.30am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
	5.30pm	Denbury Standing Committee
Saturday 14 th	3.00pm	Messy Church at Ipplepen Church Hall
Monday 16 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Monday 23 rd	1.00pm	Ipplepen PCC
	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 24 th	7.30pm	Broadhempston PCC
Wednesday 25 th	4.00pm	Woodland PCC
Thursday 26 th	5.30pm	Denbury PCC
Monday 30 th	9.00am	Home Communion
	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage

Monday T Pot

each Monday, 3.00pm to 4.30pm.
Denbury Church Cottage. All welcome.



Floodlighting

The towers at both Denbury and Ipplepen have floodlighting which needs sponsorship to cover the cost of electricity and maintenance.

Sponsorship is usually for a week at a time, and people often like to sponsor to mark a special occasion.

For Denbury, contact Mick Sutherland Cook on 01803 813871

For Ipplepen, contact Winnie Bryant on 01803 812066



Denbury:

December Tom New in celebration of Joan's 90th birthday and their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Jan 7th Anonymous Denbury folk who like to see the Church tower illuminated



Ipplepen:

Retrospective

- Oct 9th June Wilkins remembering her dear Mother, Margaret Mancey, whose birthday would have been on 11th October
- Oct 23rd & 30th Dennis and Gill Arnum to celebrate the birth of their second grandson, Max Lindsay Arnum-White, a brother for Joseph James
- Oct 30th Betty and Shona Elders in loving memory of Raymond Elders, beloved husband and father. Now with the Great Architect of the Universe
- Nov 6th Ken Squire, Mark, Danielle, Samuel, Karen and Ellie in loving memory of Pamela – a much loved Wife, Mum and Grandma
- Maggie and Roger Cleave and Alexa and Mark Groft to mark the end of little Jessica's 18 months of chemotherapy
- Julie, Bernard, Craig, Victoria and Stephanie Collins with fond memories on the 15th anniversary of the passing of James Clark (Jim). We will always remember him, loving Dad and Grandad
- Nov 20th Fiona Muddeman remembering her husband Edward on the anniversary of his birthday, and also to celebrate their son Robert's birthday on the same day, 19th November

New

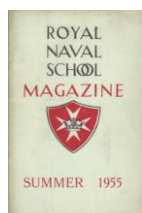
- Dec 11th David, Linda, Hannah and Katie Simmonds in memory of Hope and Faith
- Dec 18th Denis and Pat Eales in loving memory of their daughter Alison (Duncan) who lost the fight against cancer on 22nd December 2009, age 43
- Dec 18th Peter Mason remembering his wife Jan whose birthday would have been on 23rd December
- Dec 25th Charlotte Harvey to celebrate her husband Phill's 50th birthday on 26th December

Parishioner's profile – 'Boy aged 6 and ¼'

Following on from the Michael's 'selfie' interview (Beacon August issue) I have been asked to do the same. It's not easy to interview yourself so I have followed Michael's format. Nothing brings home the passing of time more vividly than writing down from memory. I was born in 1945 on a farm near Holbeton in the South Hams. Shortly after I was born we moved to Ford Park Lane, Plymouth. My first school was Hyde Park, until early 1952. When I started there some of the war damage was being repaired and a big Nissen hut was still bang in the middle of the playground. My Dad was in the Navy and in February 1952 my mum and I set off to join him, initially to Egypt then Malta.

We sailed from Liverpool on the MV Georgic, a troop ship. What an adventure for 'Boy 6 and 1/4' (no name just 'boy') as I was identified on the passenger list. During the voyage it was announced that King George VI had died. The soldiers held a parade, as they do. When we got to Port Said in North East Egypt we were told not to go onto the deck as the 'natives' might shoot at us. Our stay in Egypt was a short one as the Military Coup happened in July and we were sent to Malta.

Whilst on the Island of Malta I went to the Royal Naval School. We travelled in each day from all over the Island in old buses that very often broke down. I enjoyed being 'educated' there, as for much of the year, owing to the heat, schooling finished at



mid-day when we all went home on the rickety old buses. But whilst the local population took siesta, 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen and 'Boy 6 and 1/4' went out '. I learned to swim and my Dad taught me to sail. Life on Malta was very warm and sunny, and seemed to be a continual round of swimming galas, regattas, messing about on boats or down at the beach.

We lived on the Rue d'Argens which was very near to Manoel Island Naval Base and many of the Navy's social and sports facilities.

By the time we came home in 1959 I had two years schooling left and a lot of catching up to do, but in 1962 I managed to get a place at the College of Maritime Studies, Plymouth. Ten months into the course I was sent to the Shipping Federation Offices, Southampton for the eye sight test. I failed, being unable to distinguish well enough varying shades of red 'port lights' on a blue sea.

A potential navy career had ended before it started. Despondent? - not likely! I parked my motorcycle outside the Army Recruiting Office at Devonport and went inside to enquire about careers in the Army. The Recruiting Sergeant told me with my five 'O' Levels "You'll soon be a General me lad", but cleverly he detected that I had ridden my motorbike to his office and signed me up as a Despatch Rider in the Royal Military Police. A minimum height 5 feet 10 inches was clearly stated on the form. But I'm only 5' 7" on a tall day I

Parishioner's profile – 'Boy aged 6 and ¼', continued

remarked, "we all look taller in the saddle", said the recruiting sergeant. I think he had watched too many John Wayne films. After 6 months training and wishing I had 'applied for the post of General' they sent me back to Malta. I arrived 2 months after independence in 1964 and spent the next 12 months 'biking' messages around the island from Army HQ to various other military units.



*Malta 1964
(1944 BSA
M20)*



*Reinactor 2010
'same bike'*

There were always opportunities in the Army to enhance one's CV. Being a bit saddle sore, I volunteered to train in water purification and well drilling (please don't ask, it just looked like an interesting sideline). Once trained, I was sent to Libya, pre-Gaddafi, to join a group of Oxford University students on a project in the Sahara Desert. We were pleased nobody died of thirst and a few desert villages got fresh water on tap for the first time. Then it was back to Malta. The Military Police were short of dog handlers so, that's where I went, Malta Dog Company Royal Military Police, Fort Mosta. Another trip to Libya in 1967 came, protecting 'expats' who worked in the oil fields. The local population had become a bit riotous during the build up to the Arab/Israeli 6 day War. That trip ended very quickly, as did the war. In July 1969 I left

Malta for the last time. The next few years saw me serving in various parts of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus with the United Nations (Blue Berets) and the Canadian Light Infantry. Whilst serving in the UK 'body watching', I learned that Harold Wilson's pipe was for public consumption and in private he preferred small cigars. From time to time the Army can be generous. A notice appeared, offering soldiers with the right educational qualifications to train as Cost and Management Accountants. Future opportunities both as a soldier and civilian were persuasive to say the least. Eventually your time is up and they 'pension you off' and 'boy 6 and 1/4' left the Army having loved every minute.

My first job as a 'civilian' was with Dan-Air as management accountant at their engineering base at Lasham, Hampshire. I then had a spell in Local Government and Sports and Leisure Management, which somehow led to becoming Director of Corporate Services for Dartmoor National Park Authority for the next 20 years. I became involved in EU funding and spent time in France on farm diversification projects. I was also lucky to work with the US National Parks Service in the Quinebaug and Shetucket River Valleys Heritage Corridor which runs through the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

During all this time Harriet and I have had a home in either Devon or Somerset. I retired in 2005 and bought a business in Torbay which I ran with my eldest son until we sold up in 2010. Our other son and daughter live in Devon and we have seven grandchildren aged 3 to 18.

Grandchildren, what a wonderful experience, 'Boy 6 and 1/4' all over again!

Mick Sutherland Cook

End of an era



The kneelers by the war memorial in St. Andrew's

The kneelers for St. Andrew's church were first started in 1988 with a committee comprising Pat Tozer, Joan Darby, Winnie Bryant, Margaret Maddicott, Mary Hoar, Kathryn Collins, Eileen Whale and Kathleen Gerry. The PCC agreed to fund the group initially with a donation of over £100 but it subsequently became self-funding with people paying £10 and later £15 for a kneeler. Kathleen and Pat went to Totnes to order and buy the first batch of materials and 49 kneelers were dedicated in November 1989.

There are now over 200 kneelers in the church including wedding kneelers and a long covered one in the choir pews by the organ. The last kneeler will be a second one in the choir pews and is being finished by Anne Hawke. We are grateful to our local upholsterer David McNulty for putting these together. Anne joined the group not long after its inception and we

have been meeting at her house for years. Some years ago the group included Joan Mugford and Mary Bennett but latterly the group has consisted of Grace Domoney, Norah Moore, Jill Earp, Sandy Ongley, Jean Woon and myself and of course Anne. Many kneelers have been sponsored in memory of loved ones; by local organisations; to celebrate grandchildren etc. It is worth having a look around and especially at the labels on the back. I think we must have one of the best collections in the area.

It is with regret that we have finally wound up the group – there is no space left in the church! I have all the original paperwork and leftover wools some of which I have been taking into school to do tapestry with Year 6 which will hopefully kindle their interest.

With thanks to everyone who has been involved over the years.

Vanessa Bevan



Some more of over 200 kneelers in the church

Light up the tower!



When floodlit, St. Andrew's church tower can be seen for miles around – even from Dartmoor. Of course, many churches are now floodlit and they all look beautiful, but we are lucky in Ipplepen that St. Andrew's is at the top of the village and can be seen from such a distance. Most will agree that it looks beautiful, and as one parishioner always says "..... it is so warm and welcoming when we enter the village". It is important that our church, any church, can be seen in this way. Although people do not constantly think about it, nevertheless it is a sign that the church and all that it represents is very much present in our community.

We hope also that perhaps someone in times of particular distress or trouble can look up and see the "Light of the Church" shining for them in their darkness, and from it gain comfort and hope and a belief that Christ, the "Light of the World", is indeed there for them - always.

*The floodlit tower of St. Andrew's
like a "Beacon"! © David Hanks*

The floodlighting was installed early in 1999 and at that time it was decided to charge £5 per week or £1 per night. That charge has never changed (although no one now asks for only one night!) and so far it has never cost the church anything. But of course we do rely on **YOU** to sponsor the floodlighting - perhaps for a birthday, a wedding, in memory of a loved one, many different reasons, or just because you like to see it there each night.

Rather than turn the lighting off during a week when there is no sponsor, we keep it on, always in the hope that it brings comfort even to just one person looking up at it.

So please help us to keep that "Light" shining for everyone.

Winnie Bryant

CHURCH OF ENGLAND DEVON

GOOD NEWS FROM THE
DIOCESE OF EXETER DECEMBER 2016

AS THOUGHTS TURN to Christmas, to gifts, parties and meals with family and friends, it can be easy to forget those in need, who may have no-one special to share it with, nowhere to go and no special food to enjoy.

That's why the work of church projects around the diocese is so important at this time, as they work, not only to keep people warm, but to help them experience some Christmas joy.

One such project is The Living Room, which has been operating in St Mary Magdalene Church in Torquay for over five years.

Every week the church doors are flung open on Wednesdays and Fridays and bacon rolls, homemade cakes and coffee is served to those who come. Some have addictions, some are homeless and some are retired and lonely, but all find a warm, non-judgemental welcome. It is a place where friendships are formed and where people are around with a listening ear who can point people towards help, if they ask for it?



For the last three years, The Living Room has run an event called *Christmas in a Bap* offering the contents of a roast dinner in a bun, and due to popular demand it will be repeated this year on Friday 16 December.

Kitchen Leader Petrina Jones, a former drug addict who was helped herself through the centre, is enthusiastic about the Christmas celebration and said: "Last year we gave out presents too and had live music. It is a really special morning."

She adds: "As Christians we can show God's love through our actions rather than just our words."

And that is why they are all looking forward to *Christmas in a Bap* as they show God's love and celebrate Christmas with all who come.

A helping hand at Christmas



Whoops!

Due to a mix up in the editing/production process we unfortunately got the Gordon family's surname incorrect in the last issue. Here is the photo again with the correct caption.



Guy and Kelly Gordon with Eleanor and Phoebe at Phoebe's blessing in August

The answer !

Stephen Bryant sent in the following response to last issue's question:

I am probably the 94th person to say this is the marriage at Cana - you can see the bride and groom at the top table, and water being poured into the wine jars. Mary is on the left telling them what to do, and Jesus is a rather drab left of centre.



Mary

Jesus

From the Editor



I am writing this on the last day of October. The Clarence Hotel, all but destroyed by fire over the last 72 hours has been a cause of much sadness both within Exeter and the County. Headlines in the paper today warn that Putin is “set to launch huge attack on Aleppo”. We see around us plenty of anger, strife, disputation and sadness.

I also see in my Beacon church diary that today we commemorate Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546. The Rt. Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds tells the story of visiting a bookshop for a copy of a new biography of Martin Luther. Unable to find it he went for help to an assistant. The conversation apparently went something like this:

“You mean Martin Luther King?”

“No, I mean Martin Luther.”

“I’ve never heard of him. Who is he?”

“He was a German monk who set off the Reformation in Europe”

“A German monk? He’s probably in ‘Religion’.”

(It reminded me of the other bookshop tale when someone went into a bookshop and asked where he could find Oscar Wilde. The answer? “He’s not in today.”)

Eventually, the Bishop found the book under “German History”. He writes that he was taken aback, not so much because of the religious illiteracy it demonstrated but the historical ignorance. It is impossible to have any understanding of the modern world - especially modern Europe - without some reference to the German monk. Some histories we ignore at our peril.

Luther was a complicated man: intense, argumentative and bad tempered. He said some terrible things about Jews (which in turn had terrible consequences even four centuries later) and he wasn’t exactly a proto-feminist. He challenged one political power only to find himself colluding with others. He was brave, disciplined and sharp as a knife. He changed the German language forever, and shaped what became the modern world by following up on an idea: that God loves us anyway.

In other words Luther was a complex human being-just like the rest of us. We don’t have to ignore his faults or take him out of his times in order to make him palatable to twenty-first century sensibilities. Praise him or damn him, we still have to take seriously what he did at the time he did it.

Essentially Luther was empowered by one simple discovery; we can never be perfect, but we can be liberated by knowing we are freely loved by God. ‘Grace’ it was called. It changed him, and he changed the world.

So, in this troubled strife torn world of this morning, it is no bad thing to rediscover grace. And also to re-discover history?

Articles for the February/March edition of the Beacon need to reach the Editor by 15th January

Mike Price