

Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury and Broadhempston with Woodland

From the Editor

Welcome to this edition of the Beacon. This is also available on line from the Beacon Parishes website and it is heartening that we have regular readers in Canada and the USA.

The Mission Community's work and identity develops and grows as is evidenced by two of the articles in this edition. Rachel Belringer writes an account of another wonderful summer Patronal Festival at Denbury when the Bishop of Exeter officiated at the Eucharist and preached. John Usher describes a first joint meeting of all our PCCs. Apart from the business agenda there was a wonderful feeling of goodwill and determination to make things work.

Bishop Robert wrote a letter to the Rector following his visit which was read in all the parishes. He wrote that it "was good to hear folk talking about their mission community in such a positive and natural way. You are modelling partnership and teamwork in a way which is indeed a "beacon" to others in the Diocese".

The next edition of the Beacon for December/January will be printed in time for Advent. The deadline for articles to be included is November 16th.



The flag flying at St. Andrew's on September 9th to celebrate HM The Queen becoming our longest serving monarch. The bells were also rung that evening to mark the occasion.

We always like to have photographs to include with articles or just as a record of events and activities. Send them in with just a caption if you don't want to write an article! (just like the example on this front page).

Michael Price Editor



As I write this in September the weather is definitely changing and becoming more autumnal. The schools are back and we hope that all the pupils will be settling into their new classes and routines, especially those who have started at secondary school. Before you know it the clocks will go back (25th October) and Harvest will be upon us. It gives us a great opportunity to celebrate with our communities God's gracious creation and providence.

Anyone who has been watching The Great British Bake Off or the Great British Menu (celebrating 100 years of the WI) cannot fail to marvel at how the contestants can take a large number of disparate ingredients, mix them up, stick them in an oven and end up, most of the time, with amazing creations. But it should not really surprise us, should it? After all, God created from nothing and look at what he achieved. And yet we can marvel at the extent to which some people can spoil all that we have been given. We live in challenging times – the refugee crisis, the Assisted Dying Bill, drone assassinations and wars around the globe – so perhaps we should marvel at how resilient creation is when faced with so much onslaught. It is the duty of all of us to make an effort, no matter how small, to preserve the gift that God has given us.

After (almost) two years in post I am hugely impressed and grateful for all that people do to make our Mission Community a real community which is Christ-centred and missional in its outlook. Recently all the PCCs met together to build relationships and talk about common issues. It was one of the best meetings I have been to and I heard someone say, afterwards, "I really enjoyed the meeting" - words you don't expect to hear after a PCC meeting! The first issue we talked about is our baptism policy, the culmination of a lengthy but valuable process as we sought to discern the right way forward. The decision was clear – if we hope to make baptism a meaningful sacrament (for families as well as for our congregation) then it should ordinarily take place during our main service. I have been very pleased with the reaction to us working this out in practical ways and, in this way, everyone gets to see what an important life event it is. We also talked about rural ministry, looking at the conclusions in a national discussion paper. We could clearly see that we were doing so many things in the best possible way, something that was confirmed by Bishop Robert when he wrote to me after the patronal festival at Denbury. He wrote, "... it was good to hear folk talking about their mission community in such a positive and natural way. You are modelling partnership and teamwork in a way which is indeed a 'beacon' to others in the Diocese."

Bishop Robert ended his letter, "With my thanks for our partnership in the Gospel", sentiments I am delighted to echo here.

God bless you all

Peter

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



This time of the year tends to be a little more relaxed in respect of the number of social events held at St. Mary the Virgin as many of the congregation and the local community have been enjoying their summer breaks.

There was, however, the usual large gathering at our highly popular annual event held at the end of July, namely the Puddings Evening at Shute House. This evening allows guests to sample a number of delicious puddings from approximately 20 different dishes, hot and cold and to enjoy a drink or two whilst having a chat with friends and neighbours from the village and further afield.

The weather was kind and enabled most guests to sit outside in Mary's lovely gardens to enjoy their puddings. Not only was the evening thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending but also raised the fantastic sum of £554 for Church funds.

Almost the entire PCC (we were missing one member who was on holiday) attended the joint PCC meeting held at Broadhempston on 28th July at which interesting, frank discussions were held on two main topics, namely the treatment of Baptism within the Church and an examination of a church report on the operation of rural multi-parish ministries. Having fully reviewed a large number of topics within these headings, we came away heartened that within our Mission Community there are many areas which are going well and that the parishes are working closely with each other.

On the 16th August we celebrated the Patronal Festival at Denbury's church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. We were very fortunate in that Bishop Robert, the new Bishop of Exeter presided at the service and preached the sermon. This was a great opportunity for the congregation to get to know Bishop Robert a bit better particularly as he was able to join over 60 people for lunch after the service held at the village hall, at which he made a point of chatting to as many attendees as possible. We received a letter from Bishop Robert following his visit in which he made some very complimentary and encouraging comments regarding the progress made by the Mission Community.

Our bell restoration appeal is now firmly underway and great enthusiasm has been shown by many organisations and individuals within the village with a number of fund-raising events being arranged and proposed for the future. All households in Denbury have received a detailed leaflet giving full background to the bells and the technical issues we are now having to address to keep them ringing in the future and donations have started to flow in.

Looking ahead our Autumn Fair is scheduled for the 7th November. This is an important event, being one of the main annual fundraisers for Church resources, and we look forward for a busy, productive and enjoyable day.

Mike Bray

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



August has been a busy month with a variety of services and travelling within the Mission Community.

On Sunday August 9th our Service was led by Rev'd Anne Burden with Rev'd Tony Meek who gave an interesting sermon and amongst the large congregation there were four more clergy.

The Patronal Festival at St. Mary's Church in Denbury was well supported by the Mission Community. The Bishop of Exeter Rt. Rev'd Robert Atwell gave an inspiring sermon and it was lovely service. Many of us enjoyed lunch in the Village Hall afterwards and meeting the Bishop as he moved around to speak to each table of people.

Jo Innes-Lumsden conducted our enjoyable Lay-led Service with an interesting address by Ruth Bettesworth. Marilyn Ellis played some lovely music before and after the Service.

Unfortunately it was raining for our visit to Trinity Church at Torbryan for our Mission Community Communion Service. It was good to hear the bells ringing thanks to Tony, Brian, Mike, Andrew and Jim. Madeleine Fedrick played the organ well which is not easy when it is hardly used and there were just four of us Cynthia, Vanessa, Vernon and myself in the choir. It was a lovely Service led by Rev'd Peter Ashman with Michael Price reading the lesson and prayers.

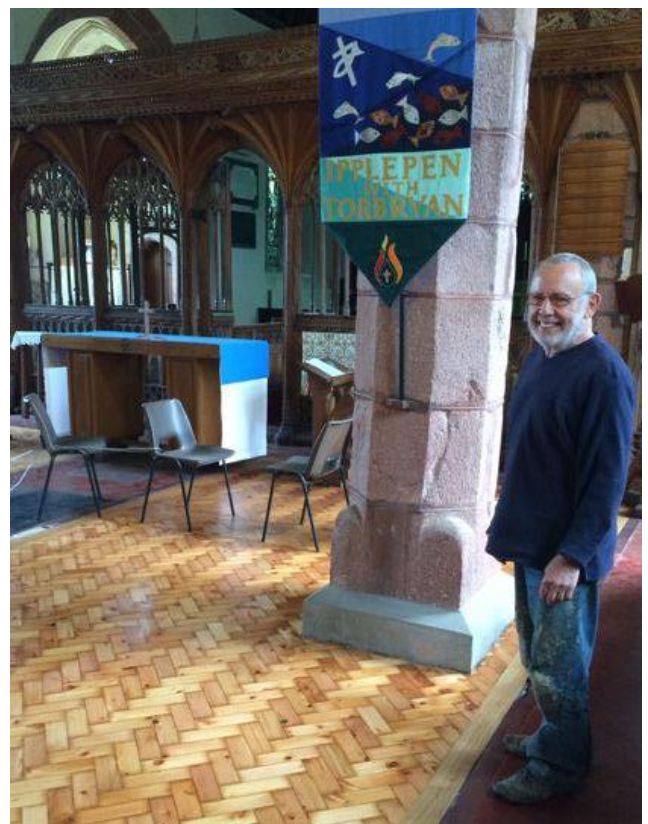
The Parish Communion Service on a beautiful September morning included a baptism. It was wonderful to see the Church so full and Peter was certainly a natural

holding baby George - a most enjoyable Service.

A working party was needed for the lifting of the front pews in preparation for the relaying of the flooring blocks so after this Service several strong men in the congregation moved them as work started on the floor the day after (see picture below).

The Hospitality Team have been busy with a coffee morning, buffet lunch after the lay-led service and 'Those were the Day's' Tea Party and are now arranging the Traditional Parish Harvest Lunch to be held on the 4th October at 12.30 in St Andrew's Church Hall. Tickets, £7, can be obtained from Geraldine Dennis on 813077 and Marilyn Ellis on 812568. There will also be a bring and buy produce stall. All are welcome!

Marilyn Clark



*Jim Bell stands proudly by his handiwork.
Next stage is the section on the
other side of the main aisle*

News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist

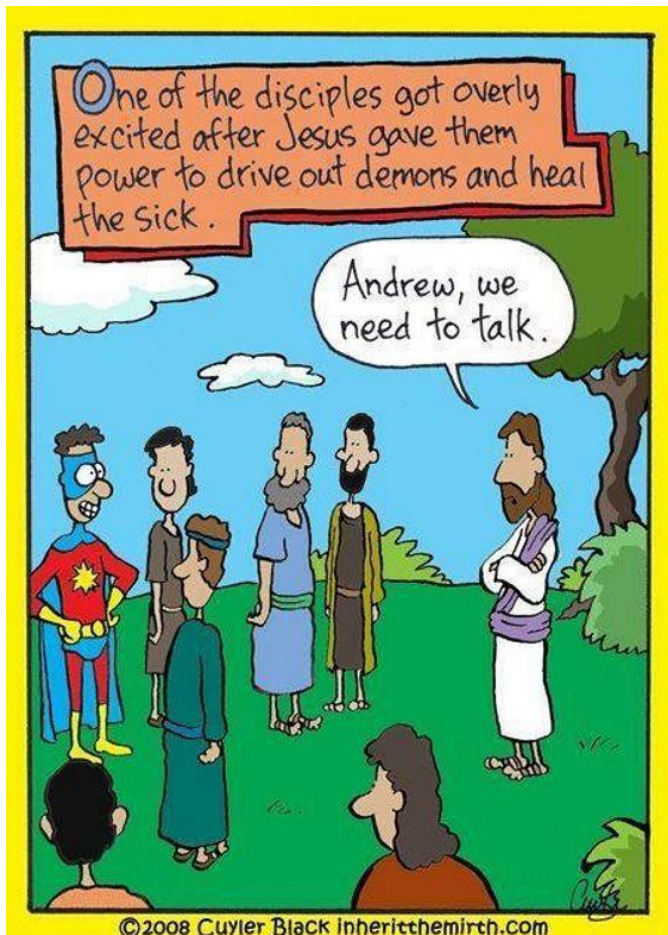


Now that the nights are drawing in and there is a distinct autumnal nip in the air the warm golden days of summer seem such a long time ago. It was on one of those beautiful sunny Sunday afternoons that we held our annual village fete / garden party in the sumptuous grounds of Gurrington House. A relaxed and friendly event, we were pleased to see those of you who came from outside our little village and hope that you enjoyed it. The sound of the string quartet masked the whirr of combine harvesters and the local roads were pretty busy with tractors and trailers making the best of the fine weather to bring the harvest in.

I know that it is hard to realise that when we stop in a gateway to look out over a beautiful landscape of patchwork fields we are looking at an industrial landscape. One of the skills of a farmer is knowing how to nurture each individual field to make the best of its productivity, yet they are all at the mercy of our unpredictable English weather. Our annual Harvest Supper at The Rising Sun is, at time of writing, in only a few days time and the Harvest Festival service will be on the 4th October. I feel glad that the dry spell at the beginning of August allowed the early cereal crops to come in well, but feel sorry for those that I know still have crops not yet harvested and hope that they will be able to soon.

The next library coffee morning, on the 3rd October, will be in aid of Macmillan.

Helen Pearse



Have you been “Badged”?

Now that you all have Beacon Parishes Mission Community badges (if you haven't got one, just ask Peter), do let us know of times when you've been asked about them and had that all-important encounter with people.



Perhaps there will be a prize for the encounter/conversation furthest away from the mission community, *and picture to go with it?*

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



Having got our breath back from the great music evening in the church in June things have been quite quiet for the summer months. The event was very successful and raised £700 for the church fabric fund.

During July and August we were very pleased to hold two Baptisms in our church. Being a small village we don't have many weddings or baptisms but there could be more to come with the births of five babies in the last few weeks, three girls and two boys. It must be a record!

We have some good events to look forward to with a Ride and Stride money raising coffee morning and Bring and Buy sale for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. Harvest Festival in October with a Devon Cream Tea. You are all of course invited on 11th October at the 4 pm service, do come and join us if you are free. Also in October will be the Confirmation Service in Broadhempston Church. So we have plenty to think about and before we know it Christmas will be arriving. They are already selling Christmas Cards in Austins - unbelievable !

I will close with a very big thank you to Denbury for the Patronal Service we attended and came away from feeling really uplifted, an event to remember.

Pam Perriman, Church Warden

Advent Discussion Group on Christian Ethics

How we Christians understand world and personal challenges

Ipplepen Church Hall

Mondays at 1.00 pm for 1 hour

30th November

7th December

14th December

21st December



Bring newspaper articles, Facebook articles, Tweets, current affairs topics etc for discussion

No Charge - All welcome

One Hundred Years Ago - WW1



Winnie Bryant writes:

100 years ago, on 25th September 1915, my father, John Robert Tozer, sailed from Liverpool for Gallipoli - one of thousands of troops (and horses) on the SS Olympic (sister ship of the Titanic). He had trained, with his horse from the farm, with the 1st Royal Devon Yeomanry, but went to Gallipoli 'dismounted' and transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. I have his diaries - a copy of which is with the Imperial War Museum - and they make extraordinary and thought-provoking reading. The aim of the ill-fated and unsuccessful campaign was to force Turkey out of the war, and secure an ice-free sea supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles. 44,000 allied troops died, 100,000 were wounded. Very often the dead could not be dealt with for years, and their memorial stones say merely "A Soldier of the Great War, Known unto God".

He landed at Suvla Bay, one of thousands sent to replace men who had been wounded or suffered from disease and dysentery. In 1915 there had been a long drought causing white dust on the dried salt lake behind the landing beach at Suvla. Men coming ashore could be picked off at random by the Turkish troops, and many were lost before they really began. Following the hot summer, during which there was no water on Gallipoli, there was a very wet and bitterly cold winter, and an entry in the diary on 28th November reads

'Snow fell during night and it was bitterly cold on guard gun oil frozen trenches in shocking condition, mud, snow etc. Fellows standing in mud and water all night

had their wet clothes frozen on them and stood shivering and shaking with cold. Coats and blankets washed away. A sad sight.'

My father was just an ordinary soldier taking part in a "war to end all wars". But he was one of the lucky ones - he came home at the end of the war, having been wounded at Paschendale. Like so many he never talked about his experiences, and it was only years later that I read his diaries and tried to understand what he and so many others must have gone through, the horrors seen and experienced, and how it must have affected him. There was never a grumble or a word of complaint in the diaries. He did not collect his medals - he had done his duty and that was an end to it. Fortunately I was able to get them from the Ministry of Defence for his 80th birthday.



He came from a farm deep in the South Hams, and only settled in Ipplepen years later when he married my mother, Winifred Maddicott.

Stephen and I went with the British Legion some years ago to Gallipoli and we found it an extraordinarily beautiful place, jutting out into the brilliantly blue Aegean, with the Greek islands around. Crossing the Dardanelles one sees a memorial carved into the hillside and floodlit at night which, when translated reads:

"Traveller halt! The soil you tread once witnessed the end of an era"

The whole of the Gallipoli Peninsula is now a National Peace Park.

Breaking News! Bishop of Exeter headlines at Denbury Patronal Gig!!

Rachel Belringer reports:

It could have been a classic case of one-upmanship. We'd had a multitude of Patronal Festivals this summer, and now it was Denbury's turn. Who should preach? How about a Bishop? How about Robert, the new Bishop of Exeter?! Ooo! Beat that!! But, of course, it wasn't. For Bishop Robert was there for the whole Beacon Community, and the whole Beacon Community was there! Different churches host on different occasions, but these days we celebrate together, both in body and in spirit. The Bishop was very quick to pick this up and to acknowledge the hard work and generosity of spirit of both Priest and People alike to make a reality of our official status of "Mission Community".

Now those who know me well, know there's nothing like Church hierarchy and associated pomp to bring out the revolting peasant in me, but I liked this Bishop. Friendly, thoughtful and clearly an active listener. In his sermon he spoke about the meaning of saints and holiness. How rather than being abstemious types, eyes cast sorrowfully to Heaven, holy people are "fully alive". Anyone who has spent time socialising with nuns will know exactly what he means! And if holiness is fully alive, then the opposite is "hollowness". What you fill it with is up to you, rather than any outside force. The downside to this is that you only have yourself to blame if you're not Holy. Hmmm...



The Bishop of Exeter Rt. Rev'd Robert Atwell

Over 80 of us took Communion that morning, celebrating St. Mary's legacy of care in Denbury and its present and future role in both village and Mission Community. Many joined us afterwards for a simple, but delicious, lunch in the village hall. We all got the chance to talk to the Bishop and to each other, and we lingered over lunch enjoying the company and the surroundings. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this day so successful, especially Fran and her small team. The Bishop's hand written thank you letter to Peter said it so well. Well done Peter!

Well done Beacon Community!!



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	The Reverend Anne Burden	☎ 813520
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Editor	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
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Sunday Services for October and November

Sunday 4th October – Trinity 18 – Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

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

Sunday 11th October – Trinity 19 – Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.00pm	Harvest Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	Edward Goodman

Sunday 18th October – St. Luke – 2 Timothy 4:5-17; Luke 10:1-9

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

Sunday 25th October – Last Sunday of Trinity – Heb. 7:23-28; Mk 10:46b-52

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ipplepen	Lay-led
4.00pm	Confirmation Service	Broadhempston	Rt. Rev'd Nick McKinnell, Bishop of Plymouth

Sunday 1st November – All Saints Day - Wisdom 3:1-9; Rev. 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	All Souls Service	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday – local readings or Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 1:14-20

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
9.00am	Remembrance Service	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
10.15am	Remembrance Service	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
10.55am	Remembrance Service	Broadhempston	Tricia Stokes
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	Tessa Amies

Sunday 15th November – 2 before Advent - Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

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

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King - Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33b-37

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 November – Advent Sunday - Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

9.15am	Advent Communion & Posada	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Advent Communion & Posada	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Advent Carol Service	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

Mid-week Services for October and November

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 – October / November

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
4 th Oct	Pastoral Care Team	Totnes Road	West End Terrace	Knowle	Daisy Park
11 th Oct	Newly baptised & confirmed	Townsend Hill	Denbury Down Lane	Hemsford	Higher Woodland Farm
18 th Oct	Wedding couples	Tremlett Grove	Woodland Road	Village Hall	Larch Cottage
25 th Oct	Scouts & Guides	Two Mile Oak	Woodland Close	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Wickeridge Cottage
1 st Nov	Dearly departed	Wesley Terrace & Wesley View	Shute Lane	Main Street	Levaton Farm House
8 th Nov	Service planning group	Wrigwell Lane	Halwell Farm	Houndhead Way	Dipwell Farm
15 th Nov	Vision group	Beech Trees Lane	Bramble Down	Vicarage Hill	Higher Lake Farm
22 nd Nov	Mission Action Plan group	Elliott Court	The Post Office and Shop	Primary School	Wickeridge Farm
29 th Nov	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 – October and November

October

Saturday 3 rd		Ipplepen Gift Day
	10.00 am	Woodland library morning
	12.00 noon	Denbury Harvest soup and sweets lunch
Sunday 4 th	12.30 pm	Inter-Church Harvest lunch after the 11.00 am service at Ipplepen. Open to all but limited to 65 tickets
Monday 5 th	10.00 am	Ipplepen Church Estates Charity trustees meet
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Wednesday 7 th	12.30 pm	Monthly Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
	6.00 pm	Confirmation Class - venue tba
Thursday 8 th	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Sunday 18 th	2.30 pm	Baptism of Trixie Bellas at Ipplepen
	4.00 pm	Confirmation rehearsal at Broadhempston
Monday 19 th	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Sunday 25 th	4.00 pm	Mission Community Confirmation service at Broadhempston with Bishop Nick of Plymouth
Monday 26 th	9.00 am	Home Communion
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 31 st	3.00 - 5.30 pm	Messy Church at Ipplepen church hall

November

Monday 2 nd	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
	6.45 for 7.00 pm	Safeguarding training at Ipplepen church
Wednesday 4 th	12.30 pm	Monthly Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
Saturday 7 th	12.00 noon	Denbury Christmas Fair at Village Hall
Monday 9 th	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Thursday 12 th	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Monday 16 th	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 17 th	7.00 pm	Joint PCC at Ipplepen church hall
Monday 23 rd	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Wednesday 25 th	8.00 am	Deanery Chapter venue tba
Saturday 28 th	3.00 - 5.30 pm	Messy Church at Ipplepen church hall
	6.30 pm	Ipplepen lantern parade from Village Hall to St. Andrew's refreshments in church
Sunday 29 th	6.00 pm	Mission Community Advent Carols at Woodland Church
Monday 30 th	9.00 am	Home Communion
	1.00 pm	Christian Ethics discussion group at Ipplepen church hall
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Oct – Nov	Evening	Slides evening with Edward Ellis with Buffet supper or wine and nibbles (details later)

Monday T Pot

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



Ringers on Tour

The Broadhempston Bell Ringers annual outing took place this year on 25th of July.

As usual the venues chosen were a closely guarded secret and a keen sense of anticipation could be felt as the bus began to fill at 8am. Most of the regulars were there together with a sprinkling of first timers, eager for proceedings to begin. After collecting the last passengers at Ashburton the plans were released to the assembled ringers and supporters.

We were heading west to the beautiful county of Cornwall, down the A38 we sped with Jim Brown becoming ever more excited at the prospect of returning to the county of his birth.

First stop was Charlestown near St Austell. The bells here are very light and proved a challenge to the ringers, one which they coped with admirably. The supporters wandered off to soak up the sun, enjoy the sea air and take coffee around one of the most pleasant little harbours there is.

Onwards we went and the second stop was a change in character. Perranarworthal is a beautiful little church set in lovely Cornish countryside. These were the heaviest set of bells for the day and proved popular with the ringers.

On to the lunch stop, the busy little town of Helston. Some brought picnics, some frequented one of the many local cafes and some adjourned to one of the excellent local hostleries. The latter seemed to revolve around the Blue Anchor where in true ringing fashion the "oldest" of all Cornish Ales, "Spingo" was explored in depth!

The first stop after lunch was at Gwenapp, a pretty little church where the tower is separate to the main church. Some of the supporters were delighted to find that a beer festival was in full swing at the local pub.

The last stop was at St. Newlyn East, a pleasant place where the church is situated literally in the middle of the village. The church itself was a magnificent building and much admired by all.

The trip home now began and along the way we stopped at The Hunting Lodge near Ivybridge for a scrumptious evening meal. The bus arrived back in Broadhempston at just before 9 pm, where we all disembarked tired but happy after a very enjoyable day.

Next year's trip, as usual will be on the last Saturday of July. Please let Graham Pascoe or myself know if you would be interested in coming with us.



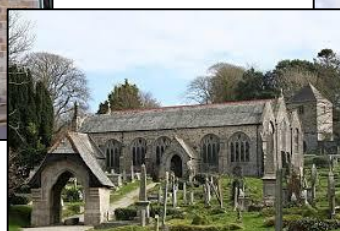
Charlestown



Perranarworthal



The Blue Anchor



Gwenapp



St. Newlyn East

Julia Jarvis

First joint PCC meeting – a report

I used to be well known for saying “All committees should contain odd numbers and three is too many”. Accordingly, I went to the first Joint PCC meeting with some reservations.

The meeting was well attended and led by Peter Ashman.

There were 2 main issues for discussion:

1. The Mission approach to baptism.

Mike Price gave a short report on the deliberations of his small committee of PCC representatives from the Mission Community. They had considered baptism in terms of its religious context, Canon Law, family involvement and practicalities. Although the work is not finished, I understand an interim report has been produced.

Two points struck me. Firstly, I had no idea this small group were meeting and from the comments of others, I don't think I was the only one; must be a lesson here for me and maybe others! Secondly, what a great initiative. These days baptism tends to focus on the social aspects rather than the religious significance. Mike's group are recommending and operating a system whereby families are prepared for baptism. People are prepared for confirmation, why not for baptism? The process involves lay people visiting the families to discuss the religious significance and practicalities of the service. I think this is a great example of “outreach” and making people feel welcome. The group are considering the best way to “follow up” the baptism in the hope of keeping the family in contact with the Church.

I did not realise you could not be a Godparent if you had not been baptised yourself and parish priests cannot baptise adults, at least in Diocese of Exeter.

2. Growing the Rural Church

This is a recent report published by the Rural Affairs Group of General Synod under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Knaresborough.

The report consists of 36 pages and Peter wisely assumed many present had not read the report. He led the discussion by giving some basic statistics and quoting pertinent comments from clergy and laity. He then covered the key issues in the report indirectly by getting each group of PCC members to respond to key questions.

The statistics demonstrated how important the rural church is to the Church of England. 66% of parishes (8394), 65% of churches (10199) and 67% of deaneries (467) are in rural areas, BUT they only have 42% of the clergy.

One could be cynical and say the report is good on analysis but not so good on solutions, but I think it is relevant to the Beacon Mission Community because it shows how much has been achieved in a short time and a possible roadmap for the future.

Basically, the report identifies the key issues of fewer clergy and declining congregations.

The solutions offered are increased lay participation and amalgamation of governance i.e. multi – church Mission Communities and Benefices.

If creating Mission Communities and Benefices is just an administrative exercise then it is doomed to failure. This is the strength of Beacon Mission Community; we have become far more integrated and adopted many of recommendations of the report as shown by joint services, messy church, social gatherings and lay involvement including counselling. The cohesion has been strengthened by the Beacon Magazine (how well it has been received) and Jenny Buckle's mini bus.

First joint PCC meeting – a report (continued)

However, the report indicates there is more to do, but it will take time and there will be difficulties.

The report states the ministry of lay people is essential for the future of the rural church. Lay involvement in services raises a number of issues that will not be easy to resolve. As the report states many people want traditional services that necessitate a priest. Again with visiting, for many only a priest will do. In the report a priest states *“we have a lot of lay people...who do a lot of visiting and I still get the comment that ‘we haven’t seen you...come and visit us’ ”* I can understand the sentiment – if you visit the doctor would you be happy to see a health visitor instead?

Again if lay people become more involved there could be an issue of leadership. In my view leadership must always remain with the clergy – there can only be one queen bee in a hive (true Jenny?).

There is also the issue of training lay people for specific tasks. The Counselling course in our Mission is a good example. What support can lay people get from the Diocese to develop their skills?

The report is supportive of amalgamation of governance. This is a very delicate issue because it affects sovereignty of individual PCC’s. The current governance is based on the PCC with the assumption the parish is a discreet entity with its own priest. This situation no longer exists and the question arises of how relevant is this historical system of governance to the multi-church system? The report indicates some multi-church arrangements have 13 constituent churches – pity the poor incumbent who has to attend 13 PCCs. The report gives an example *“....the population of the entire Benefice is 5,500. So out of 5,500 to find 26 churchwardens, 13 treasurers etc and*

then fill 13 church councils is a big ask. The whole structure of... bureaucracy is a huge burden that these parishes carry”. The report also states in some cases the number of possible places on the PCC outnumber the regular congregation.

There is an obvious need for new structures, and it seems from the report that, at present, it is up to the priest to devise the new format of governance. I wonder how much training clergy get in managing multi-church arrangements?

I would suggest if multi-church arrangements are the format of the future, then the hierarchy of the church should devise guidelines for a new structure of governance.

Hopefully, any new structure would:

- Reduce bureaucracy by simplifying structures and processes
- Reduce number of office holders
- Retain some sovereignty for individual church PCCs. The congregation’s first allegiance will normally be to their church rather than the Mission or Benefice.
- Devise a simple working relationship between Mission/Benefice governance and PCC’s. Getting this right would be very important.

One could envisage the PCC dealing with fabric, finance and domestic matters (let’s be honest, this is what occupies most PCC meetings) and the Mission meeting focussing on mission (outreach) and ministry; the joint meeting was a good example of this in action.

I think the meeting was thoroughly worthwhile because I don’t think an individual PCC meeting would have achieved the same positive outcome.

John Usher

News from India

You will probably remember that last year, as part of its charitable giving, the PCC at St. Andrew's made a generous donation of £350 to a charity called Salt of the Earth (SOTE). This donation was in addition to the incredible financial support that people in Ipplepen have given to SOTE and its work supporting social change and development for poor, rural people in Tamil Nadu in southern India. I've just receive the latest Newsletter from SOTE and want to tell you about how this generosity is helping communities nearly 8,000 miles away.

There is considerable evidence that poor nutrition in the very early years of life, both before and after birth, can permanently stunt the physical and mental development of children. For this reason, one of the priorities for SOTE this year has been a pilot project in 10 villages to see how modest funding could be used to improve the nutrition of very young children. One of the key elements of this pilot has been the recruitment of 2 young mothers from each village who have been trained and are employed on a part time basis to work as Village Nutrition Activists. These activists work with pregnant women and young mothers to teach them about nutrition for themselves and their children as well as practical food preparation, good hygiene and general healthcare. The results from the first 6 months of this project have been spectacular. There has been a 50% fall in the number of children in the pilot with severe and moderate stunting (measured through height and age). There has also been a significant increase in the average weight of pregnant women and malnutrition of young children has fallen from 28% to 11%.



Children with one of the projects

The pilot is still being evaluated but it looks likely to show that small amounts of money, properly targeted, can make a big difference to the lives of people living in poverty. SOTE also funds a wide range of activities in over 500 villages. These range from cataract operations, education, health training for adolescent girls, nutrition and farming, support for disabled people, care of the elderly and empowerment training for women. We can be really pleased that St Andrew's and people in Ipplepen have made a significant contribution to this important work.

If you would like to find out more about SOTE's work or would like to raise some money for its future work, please let me know. I can be contacted on 01803 812849 or at fin.heath@hotmail.co.uk

Have a look at the SOTE website
www.salt-of-the-earth.org.uk

Fin Heath

Messy Church

On Saturday 26th September, Messy Church will be celebrating its 4th Birthday, and the beginning of its 5th year – AN ACHIEVEMENT !!

Please pray for the children, parents, volunteers and leaders. And a Great Big THANKYOU must go out to all the volunteers – who keep the show on the road and without whom we wouldn't be able to function.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MESSY CHURCH!



Messy Church meets on the last Saturday of the month in St Andrew's Church Hall in Ipplepen*, starting at 3pm and ending at 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

What is Messy Church?

Messy Church meets once a month for everyone from 0-100 to enjoy a wide variety of crafts, prayers & celebration based on a particular theme and a shared meal - and to have fun! There is no fixed charge though we do ask for donations to help with our running costs for materials and food.

Please note that Messy Church isn't a crèche or a traditional Sunday School - it's for the whole family & adults & young people too.

If you would like to know more about Messy Church contact Tessa Amies on 813993 or Linda Simmonds on 812619.

We look forward to seeing you at Messy Church!

** occasionally we meet in different places like on Broadhempston Beacon or at Denbury Church Cottage or on Orley Common and dates may vary from time to time - please keep an eye out for posters advertising this month's date and location.*

Dates for your diary:

- September 26th - The Big Party
- October 31st - Remembering
- November 28th - Lighting Up The World
- *no Messy Church in December due to Christmas holidays*
- January 30th - A New Start

'Those were the days' - Tea nostalgia in Ipplepen



The Hospitality Team met at 1 30 pm St. Andrew's Church Hall to prepare for our Tea Party. A variety of sandwiches were cut, traditional scones with cream and jam, Pam's famous cheese scones, lovely homemade cakes of all descriptions and shortbread. These were all arranged on the pretty tiered cake stands and plates. The tables and chairs were set up around the room with the food on a long table in the middle. The lovely flower arrangements by Sheila were on each table.

Just before three o'clock people started arriving as they made their way through the busy churchyard as the Wedding Party were taking photographs. Richard Lumsden brought his old records to play on his record player and many of the old songs and tunes brought back memories to people, some were humming or singing quietly along.



Jo arranged old photographs on a board and table as they were brought in and it was good to see everyone talking and reminiscing over old village memorabilia and various local books.

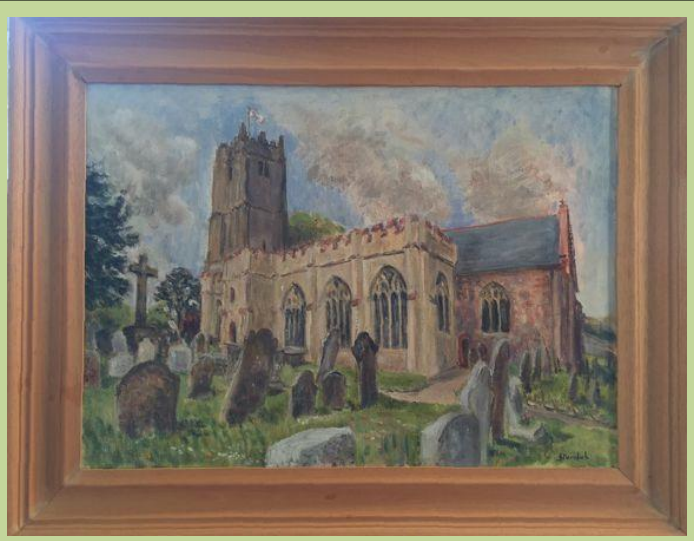
Vanessa had a book and produce stall.

Everyone agreed it was a super afternoon raising over £170 for Church funds. Thank you to Marilyn Ellis and all the team for their hard but rewarding work!

Marilyn Clark

Patronal Raffle

Rose and Roger Chamberlain have kindly donated this picture, and wish it to be raffled for Church Funds. Tickets cost £1 each and will be drawn at the St. Andrew's Patronal Service of December 6th. Tickets available from St. Andrew's Churchwardens



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:

There are no sponsors lined up for October and November.



Ipplepen:

Retrospective

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 16 th Aug | Michael Brewer for his wife Sarah's 60 th birthday on 22nd August |
| 6 th Sept | Ann Bowman in memory of Bernard on the first anniversary of his death on 9 th September |
| 6 th Sept | Christine Lewis remembering her late parents, Ralph and Doreen Lewis, who were married at St. Andrew's on 12 th September 1942 |

New

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 4 th Oct | Gill and Dennis Arnum who love to see the Church floodlit as they enter the village – it is so warm and welcoming |
| 11 th Oct | Denis Eales for his wife Patricia's 80 th birthday on 11 th |
| 11 th Oct | Barbara and John Tuckett in memory of a dear Dad, Arthur Bearne |
| 18 th Oct | Tony and Marilyn Clark and family in loving memory of Margery Clark |
| 1 st Nov | Ken Squire remembering Pamela, a loving wife and mother to Mark and Karen, who passed away 6 th November 2014. "Pamela was the best part of every day" |
| 8 th Nov | Tony and Marilyn Clark and family in loving memory of Jim Clark |

Christmas starts with Christ

I will again be organising the ordering of The Real Advent Calendar from The Meaningful Chocolate Company. The poster will be on the board at the back of St. Andrew's Church and the form on the table. The sale of these calendars will help improve clinic facilities for hundreds of mothers and babies on Funzi Island in Kenya. The clinic provides medical care to the community 24 hours per day, providing ante- and post-natal care, immunisations, baby weighing and growth monitoring. You can find out more at www.funzi.org.uk

The *Only* Calendar with a Free Advent Activity Booklet.

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

New Design Available Now

RRP £3.99

Christmas starts with Christ

The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to share the Christmas story.

The calendars are £3.99 but to you and I £4 as it is easier to deal in whole numbers. I have to order in multiples of 18 by 1st November and would appreciate cash with order. The calendar comes with a free 32-page Christmas story activity booklet and behind each of the 24 windows is a Fairtrade chocolate and a line of the Christmas story. If you can't get to St. Andrew's ring 812812 or e.mail me at pgbteach2@btinternet.com

Vanessa Bevan

"The Beacon" is produced at no cost to the parishes of the Mission Community