

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



The Beacon goes from strength to strength and I am grateful to everyone involved in its production and content. This edition crosses the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany – one of the busiest times of the year. To visitors, I wish you a very warm welcome!

Advent takes us through the darkest time of the year as we pass the shortest day; we think about the four last things – heaven, hell, death and judgment. It helps us to prepare for Christ's coming and, especially, his second or last coming. It reminds us of our mortality and our purpose in life. It reminds us what our priorities should be. It reminds us of what we, as Christians, are and do.

Then we come to Christmas. Christmas brings the almost inexpressible joy of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And with him comes a promise of eternal life and salvation, of hope and certainty, of joy and peace. We often speak of the "story" of Christmas as if it were a fictional tale of intrigue and violence and death, but this is a very real story of forgiveness and love and salvation, as God himself came among his people to be one of them and lead them to a better life and a greater relationship with him.

As I write this there is much to be worried about in the world – refugees, terrorism, global warming – and in the darkness of the seasons life can seem uncomfortable and uncertain. Christ was a refugee, born in a stable, hounded from the time of his birth to a foreign land in dangerous circumstances; and then captured, tortured and killed. The message of love and peace has never been stronger.



The Doghouse - continued

After Christmas we have Epiphany which comes at the end of the twelve days of Christmas (not just a time to sing that special song but rather a time to enjoy the celebrations of Christ's birth) and when God reveals himself to the Gentiles, symbolised by the Kings, taking what was essentially a Jewish faith to one in which all were welcome to follow Christ and come to faith. Epiphany ends at Candlemas on 31st January when we will have a Mission Community Christingle service. The three main events of Epiphany are the arrival of the Kings, the baptism of Jesus and Jesus' miracle at the wedding at Cana. The Church allows us to celebrate Christmas and Epiphany as one big Christmas season of forty days (a familiar number of days used at Lent). During this period we will join with the Methodist Church to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Recently I visited a year 4 class at Ipplepen Primary School to talk about what it was like to be a Christian. You can see the questions I was asked elsewhere in The Beacon – I wonder what your answers would have been.

It is so important that we model what Christ calls us to be and reflect his image to others. We are rightly proud of our faith and many wish they could have their own faith. This time of the year is an important opportunity to show everyone a loving welcome into our house of God and share the wonders of his message. When I was licensed we sang this hymn:

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

May God bless you and your loved ones
through Advent, at Christmas, and during
Epiphany.

Peter



Class 4 at Ipplepen Primary School

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



A number of the congregation from St. Mary the Virgin attended the confirmation service at Broadhempston, conducted by the Bishop of Plymouth, at the end of October and enjoyed the excellent hospitality in the village hall afterwards. This is always an uplifting occasion welcoming the candidates and worshipping together in a full church.

On November 7th we held our annual Holly Fair in the village Hall at Denbury (see picture on page 5). This event is a very important one for church fundraising. There were a number of stalls selling cakes, books, bric a brac, jewellery, plants together with raffles and competitions. Attendance was not helped by some thoroughly miserable weather for most of the morning which no doubt persuaded some not to risk venturing out, but the event was very worthwhile and enjoyed by those attending.

Although Sunday November 8th would normally have been a day that we would not have held a service at Denbury, we were able to hold a Remembrance Day service by starting slightly earlier. This was a moving occasion during which a two minute silence was observed following the Last Post played by a bugler and time available during the service for reflection on those lives given in the service of our country. Following the service a procession proceeded to the war memorial at the centre of the village for wreaths to be laid and the names of those from the village who fell during the World Wars to be remembered.

Much activity currently centres around our bell restoration appeal which is progressing very favourably.

A group of 60 children from Denbury school visited the tower (in 4 groups of 15!) to learn a bit about bell ringing, to watch some of our bell ringing team raising and lowering the bells and ringing some changes and also to have a go at chiming a bell themselves.

Following this visit to the church, Rachel arranged with Ian Avery, a very experienced ringer from Kingsteignton, to bring a set of model bells to the school so that the children could experience real ringing for themselves and view the bell mechanism in miniature, and receive some expert guidance on ringing from Ian. Again members of the bell ringing team were in attendance to help.

The enthusiasm and interest shown in the subject by the children was a joy and the bells were available after school for any parents to have a go. This has been a great way to raise awareness of the church bells and we have received requests from families to attend one of our practise sessions. Hopefully we will have some additional ringers in the team in the not too distant future.

Steve Bassett, the Tower Captain, arranged a quiz night at the Union Inn which was attended by 11 teams and was not only a fun night but also raised approximately £160 for the appeal.

We have been selling raffle tickets for a hand-made patchwork quilt made by Jean Duggan which is a beautiful item and is generating valuable funds for the appeal. Looking ahead, the village choir has now started rehearsing for the Carol Service to be held on December 20th and we look forward to hearing them at this very popular service.

Mike Bray

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



St. Andrew's has been particularly busy with workmen and women whilst the skilled Jim Bell has been relaying the floor.



Floors completed!

Thankfully some of the bellringers and other "strong members" of the congregation have been moving the heavy pews when required. Another morning was spent fixing the brackets on the front pews.



*Up a bit,
Down a bit,
Left a bit,
Right a bit!*



The sound system and electrics have been updated which meant more upheaval in the church and more dust, but has certainly been worth it.

When the work was all completed there was a BIG clean up and thanks to the team of volunteers on Saturday 24th October the Church on Sunday was dust free smelling fresh, clean and shiny and no cobwebs hanging from the chandelier as we had witnessed and photographed a few days before. It did look quite sensational with the sun shining through it.



The cobwebs! Where do the spiders live?



Who said he didn't know how to do housework?

News from Ipplepen – continued

In the glorious days of Autumn we have celebrated Harvest Festival a joyous Service and our favourite hymns “We plough the fields and scatter” and “Come, Ye thankful People, Come” sung with great gusto.

The Services on the 11th and 18th October meant the congregation had to sit at the front of the Church because of the work on the back floor. It was cosy and Peter said it was good to see everyone together so close. It was a bit more difficult for the coffee/tea makers but of course they managed it well.

Maureen Burley conducted our lay-led Service very well. The interesting address was given by Jeremy Howell who is a Reader at St. Paul's Church in Newton Abbot. It was based on the gospel reading from Mark 10 46-52 about the blind beggar who said to Jesus "My teacher, let me see again", Jesus said to him "Go, your faith has made you well". Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



*Barnaby showing his selling skills at Denbury Holly Fair
(should have been on the “Denbury” page, but no room!)*

Cathy Cock of St. Andrew's was baptised and confirmed at Broadhempston on 25th October by the Bishop of Plymouth Rt. Revd. Nick McKinnell.

It is good to have some younger members joining the Church, we certainly welcome you Cathy and your family!

Sunday 2nd November was All Saint's Day; we processed in to “O When the Saints go marching in”. Peter gave a thought provoking sermon about Saints. In the evening we had the All Souls Service where the names of our departed loved ones were beautifully read out and we all lit a candle to remember them. It was a really special moving Service - thank you Peter.



*Candles on
All Souls*

The Harvest Lunch in St. Andrew's Hall was attended by 65 people who enjoyed delicious ham, new potatoes, crusty bread, tomatoes and chutney and a lovely selection of home made apple pies and cream for pudding plus cider or elderflower juice. The Hospitality Team worked well to make it a lovely occasion, and will be busy organising many more events, so keep looking out for the posters!

Marilyn Clark

News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



The last couple of months have been very busy in our parish and reflect the change from summer into Winter. This seems to have come so suddenly after the glorious Indian Summer weather of October. Early October saw us celebrating the bounty of the Harvest with our Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival service. Decorating the church for this is always a community event. A bit like an allotment show at times, it is always a light hearted opportunity to compare garden produce, but also to share gardening tips, knowledge and cuttings. Of course, with our Macmillan coffee morning the next day, it was also a chance to co-ordinate who was going to make which Mary Berry cake recipe. Very successful, this raised over £400 with a combination of stalls, games, refreshments and, of course, the cakes.

November's library and coffee morning, as well as being a chance to look at some of the newly purchased books, involved cooked breakfasts. Just the thing for a wild, wet and windy morning, the efforts of those who organised tables and toasters, cooked and washed up were very much appreciated.

For those who prefer to look ahead rather than back to the past, there are several plans for seasonal village events afoot. Afternoons of cookery classes and making Christmas wreaths are still very much in the planning stages at the moment but we hope to be able to organise those soon. The festive season begins with our atmospheric candle lit Advent carol service on 29th November, parish carol service on 20th December and the Christmas Day communion service will be at 10.30 a.m. I know that Christmas carols are already being practised in our local schools – here's looking forward to a season of "comfort and joy" for you all.

Helen Pearse



Harvest loaf at Woodland

Poster Humour 1

The lords spiritual cause consternation....

A former clerk of the Commons recalls an advertising poster that claimed "80 per cent of bishops take the Times".

Underneath someone had scribbled: "The other 20 per cent buy it".

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



October brought a mixture of events to our church, some sad and some happy.

On 3rd October we had the funeral of Maurice Cock, a local farmer for many years. Maurice served our village faithfully throughout his life including a period of over thirty years as churchwarden. Appreciation of all he gave was shown by a congregation of about three hundred friends and neighbours who attended the service.

The Mission Community joined us for the Confirmation service with Bishop Nick of Plymouth for a memorable event for all.

We have had two Harvest Festival services, the regular celebration followed by an excellent cream tea and Broadhempston

School always have a service in the church to celebrate Harvest which was well supported by parents who enjoyed some excellent singing and play acting. At both services people gave very generous support with donations for the Teignbridge food bank appeal.

It is great that the children of our school take part in many events with us. They braved a cold wind for a short service around the War Memorial on Armistice Day.

In December the school choir will be joining us at our carol service on Tuesday the 8th December. This is slightly early in the month so that the choir can fit us in to their busy schedule of entertainment approaching Christmas. We do hope you may be able to join us and enjoy the singing

A very happy Christmas to all friends in the Beacon Parishes Mission Community!

Pam Perriman, Church Warden

“In the Steps of St. Paul”



Prebendary Brian Tubbs is leading a pilgrimage to Greece entitled 'In the Steps of St Paul' from 23 to 30 April 2016.

A brochure and further information can be obtained from him. Tel 01392 200506.

To look at the itinerary, go to www.toursforchurches.co.uk and search for “St. Paul” and then select “Greece”.

Mission Community Confirmation



Those who were confirmed on October 25th at Broadhempston:

Clive Britten, Kay Chambers, Beverley Cock, Robert Cock and Catherine Paton from Broadhempston, Cathy Cock from Ipplepen and Christine Wren from Kingsteignton.

Some “one line” comments from candidates -

“I was touched by the bishop’s warmth and holiness, humility and grace, and by his capacity to learn and remember our names”.

“What I remember most strongly of the day was the Bishop’s lovely face as he sat on his chair singing a hymn and how blessed I felt to have his grace (as in reverence) to take the service. Then to have you and the support of everyone at church especially those in front of us whose support was tangible”.

“Lovely to see you on Sunday, thank you for being part of the service”.

“A wonderful moving service surrounded by family and friends. A service stirring up of lots mixed emotions including Hope, Happiness, Respect, Sadness, Joy, Love and also Fear! I really feel my Christian faith journey has now begun”.



Contacts

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	The Reverend Anne Burden	☎ 813520
	Canon Tom New	☎ 813775
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Churchwardens	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
	Mrs Geraldine Dennis	☎ 813077
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Deputy Warden	Mr Mike Bray	☎ 812941
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PCC Secretary	Mr Mick Sutherland Cook	☎ 813871
PCC Treasurer	Mr Mike Bray	☎ 812941
Cottage	Mrs Fran Howells	☎ 812971
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Ss Peter & Paul, Broadhempston		
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Deputy Warden	Mrs Tracy Lambert	☎ 813708
Bellringing	Mr Graham Pascoe	☎ 812102
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PCC Treasurer	Mr Chris Parker	☎ 762543
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	Mrs Jane Usher	☎ 01626 353454
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The Beacon		
Editor	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
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Sunday Services for December and January

Sunday 6th 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, preacher Ven. Douglas Dettmer
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Sunday 13th December – Advent 3 – Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

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

Sunday 20th December – Advent 4 – Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

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	Carol Service	Woodland	Edward Goodman

Thursday 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. Anne Burden
11.00pm	Midnight Mass	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman

Friday 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. Peter Ashman
10.30am	Christmas Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden
10.45am	Christmas Service	Broadhempston	Tessa Amies

Sunday 27th December – Christmas 1 – Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

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

Sunday 3rd January – Epiphany – Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

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

Sunday 10th January – Baptism of Christ – Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21,22

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Joint service with the Methodist Church	Ipplepen Methodist	
4.00pm	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	

Sunday 17th January – Epiphany 2 – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

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 Services for December and January - continued

Sunday 24th January – Epiphany 3 – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

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

Sunday 31st January – Presentation of Christ/Candlemas – Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

11.00am	MC Christingle Service	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
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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
6 th Dec	Those who decorate the church	Churches Together in Ipplepen	The Union Inn	Community Shop	Library
13 th Dec	Baptism ministry team	The Wellington Inn	Denbury Primary School	Radfords	Parish Rooms
20 th Dec	Vergers & sextons	The Post Office & Co-Operative Shop	Fairfield Farm	Beaston	Rising Sun
27 th Dec	Our churches	Ipplepen Primary School	Community Groups	Downe	Bremridge
3 rd Jan	Wardens & Deputies	Ambrook & Dainton	The Union Inn	Knowle	Waye Farm
10 th Jan	Secretaries	Barn Park Close & Barn Park Cottages	The Manor	Hemsford	Gurrington House
17 th Jan	Treasurers & finance/stewardship committees	Beech Drive & Orchard Drive	Fairfield Farm	Village Hall	The Old Parsonage
24 th Jan	Safeguarding officer & reps.	Biltor Road & Conniford Lane	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Lake Farm
31 st Jan	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses

Dates ahead – December and January

December 2015

Wednesday 2 nd	12.30 pm	Lunch Club in the Church Hall
Saturday 5 th	10.00 am	Woodland Library
Monday 7 th	1.00 pm	Christian Ethics discussion group at Ipplepen church hall
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
	7.00 pm	Ipplepen uniformed organisations carol service
Tuesday 8 th	6.30 pm	Broadhempston carol service
Wednesday 9 th	7.30 pm	NAIT Bellringers carol service at Ipplepen
Thursday 10 th	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Monday 14 th	1.00 pm	Christian Ethics discussion group at Ipplepen church hall
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 15 th	9.30 am	Ipplepen school carol concert
Wednesday 16 th	7.00 pm	Carols around Ipplepen – meet at The Grange
Thursday 17 th	6.00 pm	Carols at Brambledown
Friday 18 th	6.00 pm	Carols on the Green at Denbury
Saturday 19 th	3.30 pm	Wedding celebration at Ipplepen for Anna and Michael
Sunday 20 th	4.00 pm	Denbury Nine Lessons and Carols
	6.00 pm	Ipplepen Nine Lessons and Carols
	6.00 pm	Woodland carol service
Monday 21 st	1.00 pm	Christian Ethics discussion group at Ipplepen church hall
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
	7.00 pm	Carols in the Square at Ipplepen
Thursday 24 th		See services for further details
Monday 28 th	9.00 am	Home Communions
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage

January 2016

Saturday 2 nd	10.00 am	Woodland Library
Monday 4 th	10.00 am	Ipplepen Standing Committee meet
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
	7.00 pm	Broadhempston Standing Committee
Wednesday 6 th	12.30 pm	Lunch Club in the Church Hall
Thursday 7 th	5.30 pm	Denbury Standing Committee
Monday 11 th	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Wednesday 13 th	7.00 pm	Ipplepen Bellringers AGM
Thursday 14 th	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Monday 18 th	10.00 am	Ipplepen PCC
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 19 th	11.30 am	Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Ipplepen Methodist Church
	7.00 pm	Broadhempston PCC
Wednesday 20 th	4.00 pm	Woodland PCC
Thursday 21 st	5.30 pm	Denbury PCC
Monday 25 th	9.00 am	Home Communions
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 30 th	3.00 pm	Messy Church in Ipplepen Church Hall (Noah)
Sunday 31 st	11.00 am	MC Christingle Service at Ipplepen

Humour from other places

A Tap on the Shoulder

A true story from the pages of the Manchester Evening Times, writes Jo Lumsden:

“Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Stafford station leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then the shaking driver said “Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me”.

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said, “I didn't realise that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly”.

The driver replied, “No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years”.

The bagpiper

Winnie and Stephen Bryant saw this report in a Dorchester Church magazine:

“As a bagpiper I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost, and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw that the funeral party had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt bad and apologised to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played “Amazing Grace” the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car I heard one of the workers say “I've never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years”.

Help !!!



Winnie and Stephen Bryant have just returned from Cornwall where they found the attached written in the Parish Magazine of St. Constantine Church:

I cannot imagine anything more horrible than having to leave
my home at short notice
and probably for ever,
with only what I could carry, leaving behind all that I hold dear,
in terror,
surrounded by a multitude of others in a similar state.

I have seen pictures in the papers of little children, crying, all their
security gone;
everything they knew destroyed,
and what was left to them?
Utter despair.

Then their family found hope,
costly promises of safety and security in a new place where they
would have all they could need.
But it was not to be so.

They were betrayed by those who put no value on human life -
who sent them off across the seas with the promise of a better life,
taking their money first,
then launching them off and away,
some to their deaths,
some to a caring welcome,
some to a 'violent' welcome.
But what then?
What then?

LORD GOD, what do YOU want us to do?

*Children in the
refugee camp at
Calais*



The History of Christmas Carols

In 2006 the Daily Telegraph invited its readers to nominate their favourite carols and the results are given below:

Rank	Carol
1	Hark the Herald Angels Sing
2	Silent Night
3	In the Bleak Midwinter
4	O Come, all ye Faithful
5	O Little Town of Bethlehem
6	Once in Royal David's City
7	God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen
8	It Came upon the Midnight Clear
9	Coventry Carol
10	Away in a Manger

Carol services are very popular and for most churches it is the best attended service of the year. Many people enjoy singing traditional Christmas carols; incumbents replace old ones with new ones at their peril! What is the origin of Christmas carols and how long have they been sung in our churches?

The word “carol” seems to have 2 origins. The ancient Greek word “Choros” means *dancing in a circle*, whilst the old French word “Carole” means *a song to accompany dancing*. From both derivations it would seem “carol” means *dances accompanied by singing*.

Initially, carols were pagan songs written and sung during the four seasons. The winter song was sung on the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced around stone circles.

Early Christians disapproved of the pagan ritual and took over the Winter Solstice celebrations replacing pagan songs with Christian ones. The first Christmas hymn for Christians was probably that written in AD129 by a Roman Bishop who decreed that his song called “Angel’s Hymn” must be sung at Christmas services in Rome. In the 4th Century



another Christmas song was written in Rome called *Veni redemptor gentium* (Come redeemer of the nations) followed in the 9th Century with *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come Creator Spirit). Both these would seem more appropriate as Advent Carols.

Carols were not popular with congregations because they were in Latin, a language most people could not understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200’s) most people had lost interest in carols and celebrating Christmas. This changed in 1223 when St Francis of Assisi started his Nativity plays and the participants told the story through words and song normally in the language the audience could understand.

Carols started to become far too popular and fun for the Church hierarchy and in 1290 the Council at Avignon banned the singing of carols, but the common people continued to sing them in secret.

Christmas carols in English first appeared in 1426, the work of John Awdlay, a Shropshire curate. Carols as we know them today were originally communal songs sung at celebrations such as harvest and Christmas.

It was after the Reformation that carols became popular, sung in churches and associated with Christmas.

In 1647, when Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans came to power, carol singing was banned by an Act of Parliament. Anyone singing carols, particularly in Scotland, took the risk of being accused of witchcraft with dire consequences.

History of Carols - continued

When Charles II was restored to the throne in 1660, the ban on carol singing was lifted but people had changed their ways and carols were no longer thought as appropriate for a Christian Festival. Indeed, many churches banned carol singing and protagonists took to standing outside churches to sing. It is thought this led to the tradition of singing carols around villages, visiting houses.

The 18th century saw a change in the Church's attitude and slowly some carols were allowed as part of the Christmas celebration. Amongst the first carols to be accepted were Hark the Herald Angels Sing and While Shepherds Watched their Flocks. The Holly and the Ivy, and others, were banned because of their pagan symbolism.

Carols remained unsung until Victorian times, when William Sandys and David Gilbert collected old Christmas music from villages in England.

Most of the carols sung today were written in the 19th Century.



The carol *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the congregation sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time in the little Austrian Church at Oberndorf. The first instrument accompanying the carol was a guitar.

The carol was translated in to the English version Silent Night by John Freeman Young (a priest at Holy Trinity, New York) in 1859. The carol has been translated in to 140 languages.

The carol was sung simultaneously in English, French and German by soldiers during the Christmas truce in 1914 because it was one known by all the combatants.

White Christmas by Irving Berlin is the biggest-selling Christmas song of all time. It is estimated to have sold approximately 350 million copies on record and sheet music.

John Usher

Poster Humour 2

On a poster outside a Merseyside church was the question “What would you do if Jesus came to Liverpool?”.

Underneath had been added: "Play Him on the right wing".

A week later was added- perhaps more effectively: “No! In goal, Jesus saves!”.

Lay-Led Morning Worship

Lay led Morning Worship at St Andrew's is at 11a.m. on the 4th Sunday of the month except in May when it will be the 5th Sunday. Our programme of leaders and preachers is given below.

Date	Service led by	Address given by and Intercessions led by
Jan 24th	Mrs. Jo Lumsden	Mrs Tessa Amies
Feb 28th	Mrs. Jane Outhwaite	Mr Steven Sheldon, Reader at Highweek
April 24th	Mrs Vanessa Bevan	Mrs Ruth Bettsworth, Reader at Abbotskerswell
May 29th	Mrs Maureen Burley	Mrs Tessa Amies
July 24th	Dr Michael Price	Mr Edward Goodman
August 28th	Mrs Jo Lumsden	Mrs Ruth Bettsworth, Reader at Abbotskerswell
Sept 25th	Mrs. Jane Outhwaite	Mrs Tessa Amies
October 23rd	Mrs Vanessa Bevan	Mr Jeremy Howell, Reader at St. Paul's, Newton Abbot
Nov 27 th Advent 1	Dr Michael Price	Mrs Tessa Amies

The service lasts about 45 minutes. Refreshments are available at the back of church at the end of the service when there is an opportunity to meet with the visiting preacher.

This is an ideal opportunity to invite a friend to come. We usually have a congregation of forty to fifty people, at present mainly from Ipplepen but we would welcome all visitors!

Michael Price

The Beacon challenge for all parents and grandparents!

What would be your reply to the children?

Below are some challenging questions for the Rector from Year 4 Ipplepen Primary School children when he visited their class in November.

1. Why are you a Christian?
2. Why do you believe in God?
3. Why do you go to church every Sunday?
4. Have you performed any miracles?
5. Do you believe in any other gods?
6. Did all the stories in the Bible really happen?
7. Does Jesus protect you when you are hurt or in danger?
8. Who did Jesus speak to and change?
9. How did Jesus do all of his miracles?
10. How old was Jesus?

What excellent questions! The Rector had an engaging and challenging time!

(Our thanks to Amanda Clark, the form teacher for letting us have the list - Editor)

Communion and Fellowship!



“All are welcome in this place”

At 7pm on the first Tuesday evening each month Ipplepen Church holds a communion service. Originally established as an option for people whose work or family commitments might make it difficult to come along on Sunday mornings, the service has evolved and now has a character all of its own. There is no music so the service is quieter and more reflective than many. The dark beyond the church windows somehow increases the focus on the service itself as the small band of worshippers prays, listens to scripture and a brief sermon and takes Holy Communion.

At the end of the service Peter offers to anoint the worshippers with holy oils, a fitting and reverential end.

And then, in complete contrast, we go to the Wellie to share a meal and fellowship!

So far the service has been attended by a small, but very loyal group. We would love you to join us.

Liz Lamport

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:

Whole of December

Tom and Joan New in celebration of their
Wedding anniversary and Joan's birthday



Ipplepen:

Retrospective

- Oct 25th - Betty Elders and her daughter Shona in memory of a dear husband and father
- Margaret Preston and Jean Preston-Woon remembering the families of those who lost loved ones this time last year

New

- Nov 15th - Someone who loves the floodlighting
- Bev Mendl for the birthday of her brother John Mitchelmore on 14th November
- Dec 13th - David, Linda, Hannah, and Katie Simmonds in memory of Hope and Faith
- Dec 20th - Peter Mason remembering his late wife Janet, especially on 23rd which would have been her birthday
- Pam Lloyd and family in memory of Peter who died 22nd December 2014
- Denis and Pat Eales in loving memory of their daughter, Alison Duncan, who lost her fight against cancer at the age of 43 on 22nd December 2009



A foggy evening at Ipplepen, taken by Peter Ashman

From the Editor

This may be the first copy of our magazine you have seen, particularly if you are parents or visitors coming to school Christmas concerts, Crib services or to the services marking the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons in our churches. A special warm welcome to you!

It is a busy and special time of year for all of us in the Beacon Parishes Mission Community.

This edition of the Beacon needs to be carefully kept like the Christmas editions of Radio Times in years past to keep abreast of what's on and events and services too special to miss!

There is also news of the events over the past two months. Wow! What a lot has been going on. My thanks to our reporters from all four parishes for their contributions covering October and November.

I want to highlight two "specials" to borrow a term from the restaurant trade. In addition to the well advertised services there are two "newer" services at St. Andrew's which are open to all in the Mission Community and to which you would be warmly welcomed.



Liz Lamport writes on the monthly Eucharist at St. Andrew's held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. There is also a note of our preachers who have agreed to come to our Lay led services at St. Andrew's on the fourth Sunday of each month. This is a service of Morning Worship lasting about forty five minutes and at which there is a core congregation of some forty people. It may be a service you may like to try and at which you will be warmly welcomed.

The next edition of the Beacon is for February and March. The deadline for articles and photos will be Monday 18th January. We have been delighted to have received so many photos after our request in the last edition. Do keep them coming in!

Michael Price Editor

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