

Pastoral Letter from the Rector

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have had the most wonderful Holy Week this year. Our service at Woodland with the palm procession and the wonderful passion retelling the story of Christ last week was truly emotional as we journeyed together into the wonderful time of Holy Week; then the Triduum with our Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot-washing, our Good Friday services, the Easter Vigil and then that glorious celebration of Easter Day.

And we have continued to journey through the Easter season to Ascension, our Novena prayers, and now Pentecost, that emotional exciting time when we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming among us all.

The difficulty for me is that the joy of sharing the journey has been tinged with sadness. Because as we undertook that journey together I knew that for me it was the last Holy Week and Easter that I would share with you.

Sometimes we must listen to the Holy Spirit. And that means that the God of surprises can take us to places that we were not expecting.

And so I am now able to share some news with you. I have been offered a job as Rector of the church of Saint John the Baptist at Weston-super-Mare. I have accepted that offer and in due course we will leave the

Mission Community to begin a new journey in the diocese of Bath and Wells.

One of the most difficult decisions one has to make in ministry is when to leave. There is no guidance other than the trust we all have in God. And that means a process of discernment this is filled with sadness and not a little scariness.

For many of you this will be difficult news to take on board. But my job over the last almost 4 years has been to prepare you for my successor. Together we have built a stronger and more united Mission Community which can truly boast of its success. During my time confidence has grown and many people undertake roles within the churches which they would not have expected to sometime ago. Indeed, it is one of my delights to see so

many people sharing the ministry, the ministry of all believers. It is truly my belief that I leave you in a strong and powerful position to go forward as you share the good news of Jesus Christ in these places together.



My prayer is that in the inevitable vacancy you do not withdraw into your own comfort zones, but that you build on the wonderful successes that are a real feature of the Church in this area.

The Doghouse - continued

I thank God for the privilege of being able to serve you here and I thank you for your kindness and your friendship and your dedication. There will be plenty of time for us to celebrate what we have and who we are but the processes of the Church of England, as you are well aware in your own dealings with the organisation, take their time and it will be sometime before Chris and I leave you. I will still be able to take all the weddings that are booked this year in the churches, and we will have time together to prepare for the vacancy. I pray that I will leave you in good heart prepared for the journey ahead stronger and more united and beacons of Christ's lights in the world for these places.

I ask for your prayers as we journey on together and then apart.

In Christ,

Peter



A warm welcome to the boilers



Now, they may just look like a lot of new shiny pipes, a big red tank and a couple of white boxes, but were we glad to see them!

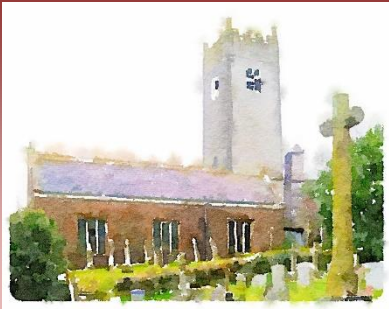
After all the delays on the faculty front, the new boilers were finally up and running in April.

It was amazing how different the church felt without the heating over the winter. Imagine what it was like in the days before the heating system was installed

For those of you have never seen inside the boiler house at St. Andrew's, here it is.

News from Woodland

**St. John the
Baptist**



The wonderful dry and sunny weather we have had over the spring has been a blessing for our livestock farmers this year. Lambing has gone well, on the whole, and the new lambs have been able to go out in the fields at the earliest moment possible – much the healthiest place for them. The current climate has also seemed to favour orchids, which have been far more numerous and widespread in our field margins and hedgerows than usual, but horse owners are needing to be vigilant against laminitis again this year as the sunny days and cold nights have led to high sugar levels in the grass.

Whilst not a farmer himself, Jesus spoke directly to members of the farming and fishing communities who lived with a close awareness of their environment and its

seasonal changes. He also understood coming together as a group and sharing food. This is something we have enjoyed many times in the last couple of months. Not only did some of our parishioners attend the very successful Church café style service in Ipplepen but we also hosted our own bring and share lunch after the Palm Sunday service, attended by many others from the mission community. Our library and coffee mornings continue to be popular, mixed gatherings. Our last one also included a chance to swop plants and garden produce and the previous had a trip down memory lane for some when Jenny showed her video, recorded probably about 20-25 years ago, made by some Australian friends who visited to see the newly made tapestry kneelers. We meet up on the first Saturday of every month. Who knows what the next one will involve!

On a cheerful note, the Macmillan Coffee morning at Lake House raised a pleasing £350 for the charity.

Helen Pearce

Editor's apologies

- Broken pencils are pointless
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus
- I dropped out of communism class because of terrible Marx
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last!
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



Although we still have some weeks to go before the official end of Easter, it is a good time to look back at the run up to Easter Sunday and recall the services held during that period. Holy Week proved as ever to be physically tiring but spiritually invigorating, with many Denbury folk attending services across the community.

Good numbers from Denbury attended the Palm Sunday service at Woodland and joined in with the procession. As always there was much to enjoy at this service, a full church, rousing singing and fellowship with friends from other parishes particularly at the lunch in the village hall after the service.

Following the Maundy Thursday service at St. Andrew's, Denbury folk nipped back to the village to join in the watch until midnight. This is a great chance for thought and prayer and the quiet church, lit only by candlelight serves to remind us how little silence we get in our day to day lives for meditation, and how important this is.

The Easter Vigil service commenced at 9pm this year ensuring that the church was in complete darkness prior to the entry of the light of Christ represented by the new Paschal candle. Weather conditions were very calm allowing for the safe lighting of the Paschal candles from all the Mission Community churches from the bonfire outside the porch. This ancient service is always a moving occasion and is one of the highlights of Holy Week at St. Mary's. Attendees enjoyed a glass of wine and nibbles at a pleasant meeting in Church Cottage after the service.

The Easter egg hunt around the churchyard on Easter Sunday proved as popular as ever and all eggs were tracked down in double quick time by the children attending the service.

With an eye to the 700th anniversary of the church which falls due in September 2018, a meeting was convened in church cottage to which representatives of all the groups and organisations in Denbury were invited. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain ideas for the nature of the celebrations to commemorate the event and to discuss which activities any group might like to take on board to organise.

The attendance was excellent with 25 representatives from virtually every group in the area putting forward a huge array of ideas and suggestions and everyone demonstrating great enthusiasm for the project.

The village groups took away many of the ideas to investigate things further and a follow-up meeting will be held later in the year to firm up arrangements. This has the making of being an event to remember for many years to come.

The ladies of the church were very busy baking in the run up to the annual Denbury May Fair held on the May Bank Holiday, and ran a cake stall on the day; a very busy day despite less than favourable weather this year.

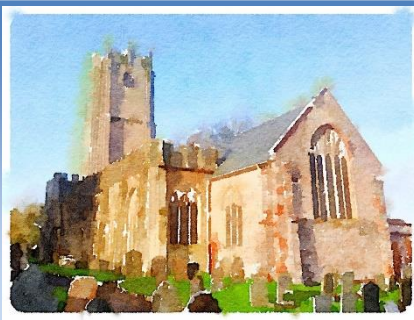
Mike Bray



Denbury's Easter Garden

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



We have enjoyed memorable services over the Easter season. Once again the Mission Community Palm Sunday service was held at Woodland. Everyone processed with their palms from the Hall to the Church singing 'All glory, laud and honour'. The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew was dramatically read with Rev. Peter taking the part of Jesus, and all the congregation taking part either individually or in crowd scenes. It was very moving. Afterwards a shared lunch was enjoyed.

During Holy Week, on Wednesday evening there was Compline, a quiet and meditative service. On Maundy Thursday the Eucharist of the Last Supper was celebrated with foot washing and afterwards a Watch was kept in St. Peter's Chapel until midnight. On Good Friday the children's service at 10am was followed by hot cross buns. At the 11am a service in church, the 'Seven Last Words' were remembered before a walk of witness to the Methodist church with Christians from different denominations. This was followed by a soup lunch.

On Easter Sunday the Church looked beautiful with lovely floral displays and the cross filled with flowers brought by the Congregation. The choir sang the anthem 'Alleluia'; a joyous service indeed.



The lay-led Service on 23rd April was introduced and led by Maureen Burley and Tessa Amies gave the address and led the prayers. At the end of the service Marilyn Ellis played 'There will always be an England' to mark St. George's Day which was much enjoyed. The hospitality team provided an excellent lunch afterwards in the Church Hall.



The bellringers, choir and friends enjoyed a joint dinner at Dainton Golf Club at the end of March. Thanks to John Robinson for organising it.



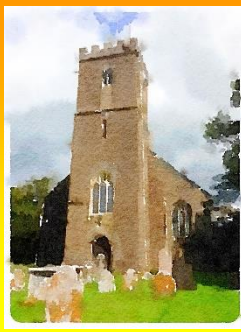
The Vestry and Annual Parochial Church meetings were held on April 24th. Rev. Peter chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and effort; so many people contribute to ensure the smooth running of the Church.

Sunday May 7th was our Dedication Communion Service. Our first hymn was 'Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live'. Rev. Peter read through the words of this five verse hymn which depicts what our Church is all about; the refrain being 'All are welcome in this place'.

Marilyn Clark

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



I can't believe how quickly requests for The Beacon articles come round, time really does fly. Broadhempston news at present is mainly the progress being made on the church building which Chris will be covering in his news.

I would like to give a mention to the contractors who are doing the work for us. If you go into the church anytime from Monday to Friday it looks as though you are entering a builder's workshop, tools, dust and materials everywhere.

Sunday comes and I go to prepare for our Sunday service and low and behold everything is back in place and looking spotless! They really do deserve a big thank you for how well they manage things. We would like to thank Ipplen for the Church café style service; those of us who came really enjoyed it. I am hoping that sometime in the future we can host a repeat event, the village hall would be ideal for a gathering.

We have much to look forward to in the next couple of months with our Patronal and village events and we hope some summer sunshine that we can all share together. So let's put aside church renovation worries for the time being I am sure it will all work out in the end.

Pam Perriman

The Renovation Project!

Thank you to all who attended our Church Open Day on 22nd April and who responded to the Questionnaire. Over one third of households in the parish completed the Questionnaire with 98 per cent in favour of a major renovation project to save our church and a similar percentage in favour of making the building available for a wider range of community activities.

After such an enthusiastic response, the ball is now back in the PCC's court. We will be announcing our follow-up plans in due course and, in the meantime, work is progressing well on the first phase of the project - the re-rendering of the South wall (see photo).

Tracy Lambert, Broadhempston PCC



Church – Café style

Sunday April 30th Ipplepen village hall was the venue for joint cafe-style worship with breakfast. The hall was a hive of activity from 9am as we set up tables and chairs, prepared in the kitchen the bacon baps, croissants, coffee and tea. The music system and screen also put in place.

The doors opened at 9.45am and very quickly people were served and enjoying their breakfast chatting or reading newspapers. The bell-ringers had an early start ringing from 9 o'clock so we're ready for refreshments.

Rev. Peter Ashman and Rev. Kevin Hook welcomed everyone to the hall and the service began at 10.15am with a hymn followed by a reading.

We were then introduced to singer/songwriter Nancy Day who now lives near Exeter but was originally from Kenya. She taught us a gospel song in Swahili which we learnt quickly and sang enthusiastically. Kevin asked Nancy many questions about her life's journey and the difference in worship. She said there was no right or wrong way to worship God but to put your trust in him. She also sang a song she had written which was very uplifting.

After another hymn we had a talk about the bells and bell-ringing presented by vice-captain Andrew Vickery. He said St. Andrew's are very lucky to have a good band of ringers many of whom have been ringing for many years, but they are also always pleased to welcome new people to learn the skill to keep the tradition going. Colin Clark, tower captain, brought along a model of a bell he had made to show people the workings of an actual bell. There was also a display about the Youth Club which meets at the Hub and the activities that members can do.

Prayers were concerning those issues taken from headlines in the Saturday and Sunday papers that were suggested by various people in the congregation.

We finished the Service with the hymn 'To God be the Glory' and Peter and Kevin thanked everyone for coming along and to all those who helped to make it so successful.

Well over a hundred people attended, and the donations received after expenses were in excess of £100 (£103.84 to be precise) and will go to HITS -Homeless in Teignbridge food bank.

Marilyn Clark



*Lots going on –
café style!*

Never in doubt!

Over the last few years [at least 6] there has been a regular discussion during Sunday morning ringing about redecorating the ringing chamber at St. Andrew's. The old colours were yellow and pink [don't ask], and it was bit like being inside a Battenberg cake.



We even obtained some colour charts in 2015. Eventually we bit the bullet and fired with enthusiasm and after several attempts with taster pots, the job was actually done in March.



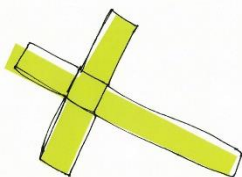
Some of the ringers and the finished job – now more like being in a cafe latte

Easter Experience

We were not able to put in pictures of the Broadhempston 'Easter Experience' in the last issue of The Beacon - so here they are:



**Experience
Easter**



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	Mrs Geraldine Dennis	☎ 813077
	Madeleine Fedrick	☎ 814134
Deputy Wardens	Mrs Jane Outhwaite	☎ 812879
	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
Choir	Mrs Jo Innes-Lumsden	☎ 812654
Bellringing	Mr Colin Clark	☎ 01626 354561
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vanessa Bevan	☎ 812812
PCC Treasurer	Mr Phill Harvey	☎ 812273
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
Local Advocate	Mrs Ann Holroyd	☎ 411373

The Beacon

Editor	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
Production	Mr Charles Quartley	☎ 812238

Sunday Services for June and July

Sunday 4th June – Pentecost – Acts 2:1-21; 1 Cor. 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
3.00pm	Churchyard Service	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

Sunday 11th June – Trinity Sunday - Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

3.00pm	Torbryan Patronal Festival and re-dedication of panels followed by cream tea	Torbryan then Ipplepen Church Hall	Bishop Robert of Exeter
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Sunday 18th June – Trinity 1 – Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8-23

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Tony Meek
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadhempston	Lay-led
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

Sunday 25th June – John the Baptist/Ss. Peter & Paul - Isaiah 40:1-11; Acts 13:14b-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80

11.00am	Patronal Festival of Woodland & Broadhempston followed by lunch	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman; Ven. John Rawlings preaching
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Sunday 2nd July – Trinity 3 – Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

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 9th July – Trinity 4 – Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Sunday 16th July – Trinity 5 – Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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 23rd July – Trinity 6 – Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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 30th July – Trinity 7 – Romans 12:1-12; Luke 5:1-11

11.00am	MC Confirmation Service and lunch	Ipplepen	Bishop Robert of Exeter
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Mid-week Services for June and July

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 – June and July

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
Jun 4 th	Intercessors	Ipplepen Road	East Street	Community Shop	Barton House
Jun 11 th	Introducers	The Grange & Grange Close	West Street	Radfords	Rose Cottages
Jun 18 th	Morning Worship teams	Ledsgrove	South Street	Beaston	Wickeridge Mews
Jun 25 th	Social/Hospitality groups	Luscombe Close	The Post Office and Shop	Downe	Merryfield Farm
Jul 2 nd	Refreshments after church	Mayfair Road	The Union Inn	Knowle	Pulsford Cottages
Jul 9 th	Cleaners	Meadow Park	Glas-Denbury	Hemsford	Springfield Wickeridge Farm
Jul 16 th	Hall bookings	Moor Road	The Manor	Village Hall	Forder Cottage
Jul 23 rd	Outreach groups	Silver Street & Newhayes	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Butlers Retreat Wickeridge Farm
Jul 30 th	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 – June and July

June

Thursday 1 st	5.30pm	Denbury PCC meet
Saturday 3 rd	10.00am	Woodland Library (breakfast)
Sunday 4 th		Pentecost
	12.30pm	Daily Novena Prayers final day
	3.00pm	Denbury Churchyard Service
Monday 5 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 6 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion (in church)
Wednesday 7 th	12.30pm	Lunch Club in Ipplepen Church Hall
Thursday 8 th	10.30am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 10 th	3.00pm	Messy Church (Broadhempston Woods)
Sunday 11 th	3.00pm	Torbryan patronal Festival and re-dedication of the panels followed by a cream tea at Ipplepen Church Hall
Monday 12 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 17 th	12.00 noon	Wedding of Codey Vallance & Luke Warren at Ipplepen
Monday 19 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 24 th	1.30pm	Wedding of Lucy Egginton & Alex Griffiths at Denbury
	7.00pm	Pudding evening at Shute House, Denbury
Sunday 25 th	11.00am	Joint Woodland & Broadhempston Patronal Festival at Woodland Church followed by lunch; Ven. John Rawlings preaching
Monday 26 th	9.30am	Home communions
	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage

July

Saturday 1 st	10.00am	Woodland Library
Monday 3 rd	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 4 th	7.00pm	Holy Communion (in church)
Wednesday 5 th	12.30pm	Lunch Club in Ipplepen Church Hall
Saturday 8 th	1.00pm	Wedding of Naomi Morris & Daniel Mason at Ipplepen
		Messy Church at the Ipplepen School Fair
Monday 10 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Thursday 13 th	10.30am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 15 th	12.00 noon	Ipplepen Cottage Garden Show
		Messy Church Craft stall at Ipplepen Garden Show
Monday 17 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 22 nd	2.00pm	Georgie Pocock & Mike Newman wedding at Broadhempston
		'Celebrating Creation' Exhibition of Arts & Crafts in Denbury Church and Cottage
Sunday 23 rd		'Celebrating Creation' Exhibition of Arts & Crafts in Denbury Church and Cottage
Monday 24 th	3.00pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 29 th	tba	Confirmation rehearsal
Sunday 30 th	11.00am	MC Confirmation Service; Rt. Rev. Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter presiding; lunch afterwards in the church hall
Monday 31 st	9.30am	Home communions
	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:

June Anonymous Denbury parishioner who enjoys the comfort of seeing the church floodlit

July 21st Mary Head in memory of Peter's birthday.

Ipplepen:

Retrospective

March 12th Correction to notice in the April Beacon: *Roger and Rose Chamberlain to celebrate the engagement of their daughter Claire to Anthony Cork. We wish them every happiness in their future together. Our sincere apologies for putting Anthony's surname as Clark by mistake*

May 14th Tony Clark and family to celebrate Marilyn's 65th birthday on 14th May

May 21st Linda, David and Hannah Simmonds for Katie's birthday on 25th May

May 28th Peter Mason remembering his wife Jan on 29th May when they would have been married 52 years

New

June 3rd Dennis and Gill Arnum who love to see the Church floodlit as they enter the village – it is so warm and welcoming

July 2nd Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the birthday of their grandson Enzo Dewhirst

July 16th Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of their son Edd and Maddie on 19th July

July 23rd Ray and Lyn Wright to celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 29th July

“Because you’re worth it

You probably recognise this as an advertising slogan for beauty products! But it’s also quite a good slogan for the reason behind the mission and ministry of the Church. We reach out to people, we care for people “because they’re worth it”. God created the world and everything in it, and said that his creation was “very good” (Genesis 1). He loves his people and wants us to know that we are loved - not because we are good or deserving, but because he thinks “we’re worth it” - whether we believe it or not. This idea underlies the pastoral ministry of the Church - and particularly hospital chaplaincy - which is what I’ve been asked to write about.

Just after I retired from full-time parish ministry and moved to Ipplepen, I was invited by the then Chaplain of Torbay Hospital to give some time to the Chaplaincy Team. I agreed to give it a try and joined a group of volunteers who came into the hospital on a Wednesday morning for a couple of hours. There was a Friday team as well, and a rota of people who came in on Sundays to take Communion to people on the wards following on from the service in the Chapel. We were from different denominations, different ages and experience - but found that we had much to learn from each other, and from the paid chaplains who invited us to visit patients they already knew and to develop our own interests by general visiting and building a link with a particular ward. I visited the Women’s Health Ward - sadly now closed - and found that a friendly female face was appreciated by people who were often anxious about their treatment or what was happening back home.

It goes without saying that people in hospital feel vulnerable both physically and

emotionally. They may be in pain or feeling very unwell, they may be anxious about tests or treatment or rehabilitation. They may have received bad news or be having dark thoughts in the strange and frightening hospital atmosphere. All this is properly the concern of the medical staff - but sometimes there is a place alongside this for a chaplain who can make listening a priority without having to rush off to the next patient. Giving people time is the most valuable thing that chaplains do. Sometimes there is a need for prayer or communion or making a link with a home church, but more often there is no desire for ‘God-talk’ - only a need for contact with a person who has time and is not afraid to be ‘real’ - who will listen with warmth and compassion simply “because they’re worth it”.

About 15 months ago three of us moved over to Newton Abbot Hospital. The Community Hospitals had become part of a new Hospital Trust with Torbay, so it was easy to extend the Chaplaincy service to another site and still be part of the main team. Newton Abbot is very different from Torbay - less acute and critical care and more emphasis on rehabilitation and plans to make discharges possible. But the patients are just as vulnerable, and often feel puzzled and out of control at what is happening to them. Decisions have to be made about whether the patient will ever be able to return to their own home, worries about family or not having a family are just as strong, and people can often feel just as lonely and frightened. Chaplaincy at Newton Abbot can be both easier and more difficult than at a main hospital. It can be more difficult to seek out patients who want to have a conversation - so often they’re

“Because you’re worth it” - continued

receiving care, going to physio, asleep, or just too muddled to want to talk to a stranger. But if you’re lucky - you meet someone with wonderful tales to tell of when life was different and they could conquer the world. Sometimes the tales are sad or painful - but they need telling to someone who will not get scared and run away. The most common thing people say is “thank you for stopping, thank you for calling in”. It can be simple to show respect - and to find the person of worth inside.

Generally speaking chaplains don’t have to be problem solvers or information providers - that’s for the wider team. What they can do is to listen to what concerns people. It may be about the church they belong to or used to attend - or the faith they never had the chance to develop. But it may be more

generally about their hopes and fears for the future - or how they perceive the life that they have left. You never know. Chaplaincy is about providing a meeting place between two people - knowing that God is there already - guiding us on the way and blessing our endeavours. It can be a privilege and satisfying, also challenging and tiring. But as we visit we know that we are there in God’s name - ministering to his people simply “because they’re worth it”.

Anne Burden

If you would like more information about chaplaincy or think you might want to be a volunteer, feel free to get in touch. Volunteers get very good training, orientation, on the job support - no one is left to flounder, or to take on any more than is right for them. So think about it!!

Rural Dean’s Visit to the Beacon Mission Community



The Rev. Prebendary Alan White Rural Dean of Newton Abbot and Ipplepen Deanery, visited all four churches in our Mission Community on May 9th 2017. The purpose of the visit was for The Rural Dean to visit each church and speak with the church wardens in their churches about the following areas: the encouraging developments there are in the mission and ministry of the parish; what areas of the church building that

were listed in the Quinquennial Report requiring attention or have been repaired/replaced; the general condition of the church and churchyard; and the recording of the condition of and maintenance of all registers and other legal documents.

The day started with the Rural Dean visiting Denbury, then Broadhempston followed by Woodland. During lunch at the Wellington we enjoyed talking and sharing experiences. After lunch the Rural Dean came to see the church in Ipplepen.

Madeleine Fedrick

Devon's Living Churchyards

Steve and I attended the first 'Managing God's Acre in Devon' Conference.

More than 70 participants from churches across Devon met at Buckfast Abbey conference centre on 6th May to discuss how local churchyards can be improved for the benefit of wildlife and the wider community. Diocesan Environment Officer, Martyn Goss, encouraged those present to view their church land as opportunities, not millstones, and to explore how they may be points of re-connecting with nature, with history and with God. Ecologist David Curry from Plymouth spoke of the tragic loss of biodiversity in recent years – disappearing birds and trees but how Christian Conservation charity, *A Rocha* ('The Rock') is working across the world to address this situation [<http://arocha.org.uk/>]. One new campaign is 'Eco Church' – prompting congregations to sign up to actively care for God's Creation, with Exeter registered as an EcoDiocese. David also welcomed reviving old Christian ceremonies such as Lammas and Plough Sunday, I think we are ahead of the game at the Beacon Parishes.

Director of the Conservation Foundation, David Shreeve, pointed to the newly funded scheme to help heritage bodies to better manage bats and inspired all to plant and care for more trees on church land. He presented a sapling cut from an ancient yew to the parish of Chivelstone now to be planted in the southern-most part of Devon.

Rev. Colin Randall referred to an initiative to install bird boxes, in churchyards, for the rapidly declining Spotted Flycatchers. He handed plans for the simple construction of boxes to participants for their own use.

Workshop leaders outlined other possibilities. Emily Stallworthy encouraged people to look at sympathetic planting to attract bees and butterflies in churchyards.

Vix Hill enthused about edible plant species which can enhance cooking and salads, Steve became an instant convert, no more weed killer in our churchyard! Helen Sands and Mark Bedford see the importance of re-introducing story-telling, including under historic yews and at lychgates. Terry Palmer talked about churchyards as Quiet Spaces and appreciating them as places for spiritual reflection, and even using labyrinths. I attended both these workshops and came away quite enthused. The story telling fits well with our 700th Anniversary plans.



Meanwhile, Aaron Southgate, who is head gardener at Buckfast Abbey, led a guided walk around the grounds alongside the river Dart. He reminded us of the historic value of the site, which no longer uses chemicals, and offers a place for re-energising not only for the monks but for others too. The Abbey produces most of its electricity from renewable sources, including hydro power from the river.

Unfortunately no one mentioned how we overcome some of the restrictions imposed by Churchyard Regulations, Faculties, TPOs, Conservation Areas etc. However, the overall message of the day: *look for opportunities to use the land around our churches to enhance Nature, to learn about our heritage, to celebrate community life and to express God's glory.*

Mick Sutherland-Cook

Smile!

A contribution sent in by both Anne Bowman and Elizabeth Burdon:

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment, but the memory of it lasts forever. None is so rich and mighty that he can get along without it and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the hoe, fosters good will in business and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheers to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as the one who has no more to give.

Author unknown

The Torbryan panels – the last lap



On June 11th, the restored panels at Torbryan will be rededicated by Bishop Robert of Exeter.

There is an excellent report on the restoration by Eddie Sinclair which can be accessed via the Beacon Mission Community web site

www.missioncommunity.org.uk



Inside:**SEA BAPTISM
JOY IN TORQUAY**

Nine people from St Mary Magdalene church baptised on Easter Day

**FROM
SERVING
IN IRAQ TO
SERVING THE
CHURCH**

Kim Stanton on her journey from army to the priesthood

CHRISTIANS URGED TO PRAY AND VOTE AT ELECTION

Christians are being urged to pray and get involved in the General Election to take place on 8 June.

Faith has a central role to play in politics say the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in a letter sent to all parishes ahead of the General Election.

The Archbishops suggest Christians could organise hustings or volunteer for candidates as well as ensuring to vote.

They said that we should pray for those standing in the election and “renounce cynicism” by “engaging prayerfully” with candidates and issues.

They add: “Our Christian heritage, our current choices and our obligations to future generations and to God’s world will all play a shaping role.”



For a copy of the archbishops’ letter and for further resources go to the news section of our website:
www.exeter.anglican.org

Director of Church and Society Martyn Goss added, “Through public elections Christians are called to remember that they are also citizens and therefore have responsibilities for both the local community and the wider society in which they live. We are invited to make choices that will have consequences not only for our generation but also for the future.

“Deep at the heart of the Gospel is a message to be concerned and caring for the most vulnerable people in our world – those whose human growth is stunted by disease or poverty or oppression. All Christians have a moral duty to look beyond their own interests and speak up for justice and kindness.”



communications
@exeter.anglican.org



Please help St. Andrew's Church Hall

The **co-operative** food

St. Andrew's Church Hall Committee are running a project to improve the toilet facilities in the hall.

We have recently installed a new disabled toilet cubicle, and now wish to up-grade the other cubicles, firstly with new safety flooring, redecoration with tiling and improvements to the cloakroom area.

When shopping at the village shop, if you purchase Co-op branded products and services, the Co-op will give 1% to a local cause. We have been selected as one of the causes they support.

Please therefore go to www.co-op.co.uk/membership and log in with your name and membership number and choose St. ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL as your charity.

Your support can raise moneys for us – every penny raised will help improve your church hall, for the benefit of the whole community

Saturday 10th June

Beacon Woods, Broadhempston.
Meet in car park at 3.00pm
Please bring a picnic

Saturday 8th July

Craft Stall at Ipplepen School Fete

Saturday 15th July

Craft Stall at Ipplepen Garden Show



Sumptuous Sweets

Saturday 24th June 7pm
Midsummer Puddings Evening
Shute House, Shute Lane, Denbury
Tickets £6 from Mary Head 01803 812092

"Celebrating Creation"

Saturday/Sunday 22nd/23rd July
An Exhibition of Arts & Crafts
Denbury Church and Church Cottage
Details from Tessa Amies 01803 813993

From the Editor



*'Memories-may be beautiful and yet-
what's too painful to remember,
we simply forget'*

sang Barbara Streisand in The Way We Were.

There is an imbedded truth in the lyrics of the song-and it may well be related to the way in which our brains work. Research has shown that there is a common network underlying memory and imagination. They are separate functions; yet when we remember something, we actually re-imagine it, which is why at times memory is unreliable. For example, recollection of pain may be something too difficult to handle.

Since ancient times humanity may have been taking advantage of this characteristic, as re-enacting has been away of remembering events, traditions and beliefs.

The Mystery Plays of the Middle Ages in England and fiesta processions in Spain are ways of re-enacting the stories of faith and of the saints. Further back in time the most time-honoured tradition of remembering by re-enactment is the Jewish Passover meal in which the story of Passover and escape by the people of Israel from Egypt is told through a symbolic meal. In Christian tradition, those in our own mission community re-enacted the important events of Holy Week with pupils in our three primary schools. This was described by one head teacher as having been a rewarding and powerful experience for them. For ourselves our reporters tell of the re-enactment with the Palm Sunday procession at Woodland and the enactment of the Passion at the same service with the congregation placed in the role of people crying 'Crucify'- which is a good way of challenging us to ask where we would have placed ourselves; certainly a "moving experience" as Marilyn describes it.

In many ways, Christian worship is a way of re-enactment, with Holy Communion being the re-creation of a meal in which there is intense meaning, and in which there is a constant re-imagining of our place as people fed spiritually.

At the beginning of June , we will celebrate the festival of Pentecost, often described as the event at which the Church was born- remembering something that was too intense to fit in ordinary language, so we have imagery of 'tongues fire' upon those given the gift of speaking the gospel. And what is 'speaking the gospel'? I leave that for you!

Enjoy the reports of our Lent and Easter in 2017 as we look forward to summer events.

The next edition of the Beacon will be for August and September. Articles and photos for inclusion should be with us by July 17th.

Mike Price

www.missioncommunity.org.uk

*The Beacon is produced at no
cost to the Mission Community*

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