

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

As many readers will already know, the “vacancy” is nearly over, and we greatly look forward to welcoming Andrew and his family to our parishes.

Andrew is presently Assistant Curate in the parish of St. James, Exeter. A native of Cornwall and long-time Devonian, Andrew read psychology at Exeter University and before ordination worked professionally in a number of agencies serving people with different forms of disability or addiction, including the L’Arche Community in Edinburgh and the psychology department at Channings Wood Prison. He studied for his Oxford theological degree at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and was ordained in 2014.

Andrew is married to Claire, presently a full-time mum, and they are the parents of Charlotte (age 7) and Joseph (age 5). The family will move to Ipplepen Rectory in August and subject to the completion of all legal formalities, Andrew will be instituted to his new ministry by the Bishop of Plymouth on the evening of Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at a service at St. Andrew’s at which all will be welcome.



*Welcome!*

## A little bit about your new Rector – by himself



I am a father and husband who loves to make home, be out in nature, walk, camp, mess about in boats, play guitar and sing.

I am passionate about...

...**God's love for all** ... believing that all of life is God's and of interest and importance to God.

...**worship and liturgy** where God and people can meet.

...**people** and helping them discover and be encouraged in their gifts and talents.

As I look at the Beacon Parishes I see **community, beauty, story, life, history** and this fills me with great excitement.

I also see the challenges of ...

...**being a mission community** and faithful friendship as each church deepens its gifts and call, offering these to each other.

...**managing and maintaining historic buildings** so they are buildings of and for the whole community.

...**growing closer to Christ** through exploring how we can support one another in...

Prayer...offering many and varied forms of space to encounter God.

Fellowship...encountering God in each other and growing in discipleship.

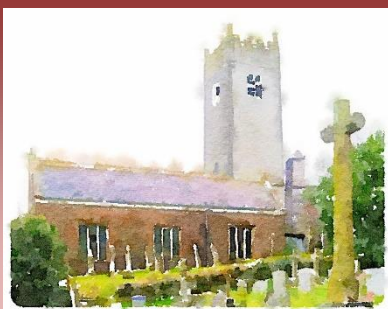
Service...loving and being with people who find themselves on the edge of society.

What I am most looking forward to is getting to know you and being known by you, learning and growing together and sharing the story of God's love.

*Andrew*

## News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



April began with Easter Sunday this year. The snow in March hit so many plants which would usually be blooming prolifically by the first of April but despite that the church was beautifully decorated with daffodils and we met for refreshments in the Village Hall after the service. It is always so appropriate that we celebrate Easter, with its focus on the renewal of life, in the springtime – and what a spring we have had! It seems to have advanced at a huge rate, going from deep winter to early summer in just a few short weeks. New seedlings have been appearing almost overnight and the tree leaves have opened so fast that you can almost see them growing. Fields within the parish have already been cut for silage and after such a long wet winter and consequent late cattle turnout I'm sure we are all hoping for good haymaking weather later in the season.

The weather, good or bad, however has not stopped our regular village gatherings over the last couple of months. April saw many of us enjoying a full cooked breakfast together at our regular library and coffee morning. The date of the May coffee morning was altered to a week earlier so that it did not clash with Heather Young's memorial service, which so many Woodland villagers attended. Despite living right on the edge of our parish, the Young family have always been, and still continue to be, a part of the village community. This was reflected in just how many of us turned up to pay tribute to Heather's life.

Also pleasing was the number of people who turned up to the coffee morning held at Lake Farm in aid of Rowcroft Hospice. I don't yet know how much was raised but it was a lovely enjoyable event. Looking to the future, I know that some of our village residents are involved in the planning and running of a charity barn dance in July, in aid of cancer charities and there are also plans for Woodland Fete to be held again this year at the Rising Sun. Of course, we are also looking forward to welcoming our new Rector and his family to the parish this summer.

*Helen Pearce*

## On the road to Damascus.....

Senior Church figures went to Damascus to meet regime officials, despite chemical weapons allegations and the recent strikes.

The group included the Right Rev. Michael Langrish, the former bishop of Exeter, and is led by Baroness Cox, a Christian activist who has visited Syria several times and met President Assad. Lady Cox told *"The Times"*: We came at the invitation of faith leaders and the visit was planned long before the recent tragic events".

Giles Fraser, the former canon chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral and a columnist for *The Guardian*, is also on the trip. He said they were guests of the Syrian Orthodox Church, not the government, after critics said their trip would be controlled by Assad's secret police. Asked if the visit would be a propaganda opportunity for Assad, he said: "There are all sorts of risks being out here, but the importance of expressing our solidarity with the suffering Christian community is a right and proper priority".



## News from Denbury

### St. Mary the Virgin



Denbury held its annual May Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday basking in sunshine and attended by many visitors and locals. The church ran the cake stall once again this year and, as is usually the case, the cakes made by the ladies of the church would have rivalled those on the Great British Bake Off. Unsurprisingly, the table was sold out in no time.

With sun hats and shorts the order of the day and with everyone very much in summer mode, we will try to cast our minds back to Easter and indeed the cold period that preceeded it to remind ourselves of how we celebrated this most important period in the church's calendar.

The Easter programme of services began with the Palm Sunday service held at Denbury and conducted by the Archdeacon. This included a short procession from the church led by the servers, around the cistern marking the centre of the village and back.

A number of Denbury folk attended the Maundy Thursday service at St. Andrew's before nipping back to Denbury with Rev. Tony Meek bringing the sacrament in time for the start of the Watch of the Passion. The Watch ran through until midnight allowing a period for thought and meditation.

Following the afternoon service on Good Friday, nine children helped construct the Easter garden which sits within the main altar. They all had a fun time putting the garden together and the end result was excellent.

Preb. John Good guided us through the Easter Vigil service on Saturday night. This is a

very old service which comprises of three distinct parts. Once again we were fortunate in experiencing a calm night which enabled the Pascal candles to be lit from the brazier outside before entering the darkened church which gradually fills with the light of Christ as candles are lit progressively.

Holy Week, although a most inspiring part of the Church's year can be tiring with a great deal of hard work taking place behind the scenes preparing the church for the various services. There was a welcome opportunity to relax with a glass of wine and some nibbles in the Church cottage following the service.

Some 65 attendees at the Easter Sunday meant a vibrant and enjoyable celebration. The many children attending enjoyed the traditional Easter egg hunt around the church and churchyard. Despite the efforts of those placing the eggs to find some challenging places to hide them, all the eggs were located and claimed in double quick time.

Three carloads of the congregation from St. Mary's enjoyed the Mission Community service at Woodland at the end of April conducted by Rev. Tony Meek. To say we enjoyed a cuppa and refreshments in the hall afterwards does not do justice to the excellent catering and friendly welcome that is always so evident on a visit to Woodland.

In Denbury much activity continues preparing for the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend in September which should make this an event to remember for years ahead.

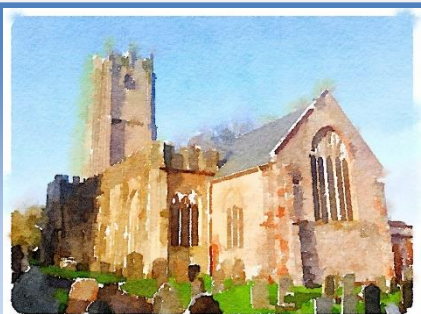
With our Bell Appeal now looking within reach we hopefully should be able to start work on the refurbishment early in 2019 subject to a final push to obtain the remaining funding.

With our new Rector announced this week there are therefore many reasons for us all to look forward with great anticipation to the months ahead.

*Mike Bray*

## News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



During the Easter Season we have enjoyed some wonderful services. The Palm Sunday service in St. Andrew's where everyone processed with their palms singing 'All glory, laud and honour' was conducted by Rev. Anne Burden. Several members of the congregation took part in the dramatic Reading of the Passion Play which was very moving.



On Maundy Thursday there was Parish Communion and stripping

of the Altar and afterwards a watch was kept until midnight in St. Peter's Chapel. With just the candles burning this is a good time to reflect and pray.

Our Good Friday service was a united service at the Methodist Church with Rev. Kevin Hook and Edward Goodman. The theme of the Service was a selection of crosses from local Parish Churches. Many of us then took part in a walk of witness stopping along the way for a hymn, reading and prayers. We finished at St. Andrew's where we then went into the welcoming warm Church Hall for hot soup, rolls and hot cross buns.



On Easter Sunday once again the Church looked beautiful with the cross filled with flowers and all the lovely floral displays by our talented flower arrangers.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we enjoyed a cafe style service in the Village Hall with our Methodist friends and Rev. Kevin Hook leading the Service. Everyone

enjoyed coffee, tea, croissants, and pastries before the Service started. Singer/songwriter Nancy Day who we met last year returned and had us singing a gospel song in Swahili and later a beautiful song which she had written. It was a lovely friendly informal Service. The St. George's lunch was also on that day in our Church Hall so a very busy time for Jane, Geraldine and the hospitality team.

The Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings were held on Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Madeleine Fredrick efficiently chaired the meeting as Lay Vice-Chairperson whilst we are still in vacancy. She said she was indebted for all the help and support given to her by so many people in their various roles in the Church and also to our two assistant priests Rev. Tony Meek and Rev. Anne Burden who have been extremely busy taking so many Services. The meeting concluded with wine and nibbles.

The choir, bellringers, partners and friends enjoyed a meal together at the Wellington Inn on April 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a great relaxed evening and entertaining when Jo's suggestion of making up limericks were read out causing much laughter.

We had a trip to Woodland (with diversions) on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April for the Mission Community Parish Communion service taken by Rev. Tony. As usual we were treated to delicious refreshments and coffee afterwards.

The events to mark the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrew's Church were all well supported. The May Fayre opened with the bells ringing at



2.00pm and many visitors climbed up to the tower to see the bells and then enjoy fantastic panoramic views of the Village bathed in glorious sunshine. Many people worked hard in the Village Hall with the wonderful array of stalls and the

serving of cream teas. Thanks to Marilyn Ellis and the fundraising team for their organisation. A grand of total of £1240 was raised



*Marilyn Clark*



# Re-dedication of the High Altar at St. Andrew's



On the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 at 7pm we welcomed the Rt. Rev'd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter to St. Andrew's Church. The Parish Communion service was very special as the Bishop re-dedicated the Altar in the chancel then later he blessed the Wall Hanging which as he said "was made with skill, creativity, hard work and love, and presented to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Altar."

"Lord of all time and place, we give thanks that you have been present at the heart of our community in Ipplepen during the long history of this Church."

The service was wonderfully uplifting, the readings and hymns well chosen. We were delighted to have Ipplepen School Choir who sang beautifully 'O Happy Day'. In addition the soloist's sang with beauty and confidence to a packed Church.

The offertory hymn was rather special as the words written by R M Tabor (a friend of Tony and Jennie) were so appropriate especially for this occasion. The Bishop who preached the sermon was assisted in the service by the Archdeacon, Rural Dean, Rev. Anne and Rev. Tony with Church Wardens Madeleine and Geraldine in attendance. The Bishop ended the service with the words "Like living stones, precious in his sight, go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God."

We celebrated afterwards in the Church Hall with superb refreshments prepared by Jane, Geraldine, and the hospitality team. The Bishop said how much he enjoyed visiting Ipplepen and enjoyed the hospitality. He cut the delicious fruit cake iced with the St. Andrew's 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo made by Vanessa Bevan. It was also a very special occasion for Fiona Muddeman who was celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday the next day, and mentioned to the Bishop her grandfather Rev. Cooke was Vicar of St. Andrew's from 1897-1940.

The Church looked spectacular with the flower arrangements and the many exhibits. Well done to everyone involved!

*Marilyn Clark*





# Re-dedication - continued



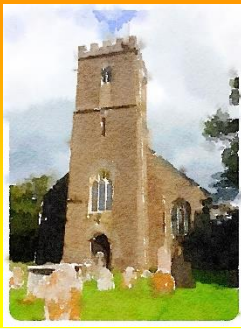
*Some pictures from the re-dedication*





## News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



Easter has come and gone and what a happy Easter we had, apart from the weather!

I had a nice surprise in the week before Easter with a phone call from the village school. This was to tell me that the children would be making Easter gardens and would we like to display them in the church. Easter Sunday came and instead of just our



traditional Easter garden we had about another twenty on display. They made a lovely contribution and were much enjoyed by the congregation. Rev. Tony Meek said he had never had so many gardens to bless in one go.

Our church renovation project is getting under way again thanks to all the hard work of Chris Parker and volunteers who are helping us. We hope to complete the repairs to the internal plasterwork and the flooring in the south aisle, side chapel and Chancel over the coming months with quite a lot more to come.

We are looking forward to the Patronal Service that we will be sharing with Woodland in Broadhempston church. This is of course a Mission Community service and will be led by

The Ven. Douglas Dettmer. We hope that you can join us for this on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June there will be a lunch to follow in the village hall at which we can all enjoy the Woodland Strawberries and cream treat.

The following weekend on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June will be the Broadhempston Village Fete an afternoon of fun for all the family, we hope that you can join us.



The village shop is open once again, this was celebrated by a very well supported social morning in the village hall. Many of our shop suppliers came to join us with samples of their wares. We were entertained by the new village choir and then later by Totnes Brass Band in the village square. The ribbon was cut by County Councillor Stuart Barker and once again business is back to normal.

With best wishes from us all

*Pam Perriman*



*Stuart Barker opening the village shop*



## Rector

## Vacancy



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

Local Advocate	Mrs Carol Robinson	812800
	Mrs Ann Holroyd	411373

## The Beacon

Editor	Dr Michael Price	813472
Production	Mr Charles Quartley	812238

# Sunday Services for June and July

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Christopher Robin
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Preb. Alan White

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
10.30am	Morning Worship	Denbury	Mrs. Tessa Amies
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Preb. Alan White
4.00pm	Holy Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Anne Burden
6.00pm	Evensong	Woodland	Miss Tricia Stokes

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Preb. Alan White
11.00am	Family Service	Broadhempston	Lay led
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Anne Burden
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June – John the Baptist with Ss Peter and Paul

11.00am	Mission Community joint Patronal Festival for Woodland and Broadhempston	Broadhempston	Ven. Douglas Dettmer Archdeacon of Totnes
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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Christopher Robin
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Preb. Philip Darby

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
10.30am	Morning Worship	Denbury	Mrs. Tessa Amies
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
4.00pm	Holy Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Anne Burden
6.00pm	Evensong	Woodland	Mrs. Tessa Amies

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Preb. Alan White
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Anne Burden
11.00am	Family Service	Broadhempston	Lay led
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Preb. Alan White
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	t.b.a.
11.00am	Holy Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Preb. Alan White
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ipplepen	Lay led

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July

11.00am	Mission Community Communion Service	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
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## Mid-week Services for June and July

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

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
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Intercessors	Ipplepen Road	East Street	Community Shop	Barton House
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Introducers	The Grange & Grange Close	West Street	Radfords	Rose Cottages
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship teams	Ledsgrave	South Street	Beaston	Wickeridge Mews
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Social/Hospitality groups	Luscombe Close	The Post Office and Shop	Downe	Merryfield Farm
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Refreshments after church	Mayfair Road	The Union Inn	Knowle	Pulsford Cottages
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Cleaners	Meadow Park	Glas-Denbury	Hemsford	Springfield Wickeridge Farm
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Hall bookings	Moor Road	The Manor	Village Hall	Forder Cottage
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Outreach groups	Silver Street & Newhayes	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Butlers Retreat Wickeridge Farm
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses

## Dates ahead – June and July

### June

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	MESSY CHURCH – Picnic on Orleigh Common Outdoor meeting. Explore the Common. Games to play Bring & share picnic. Meet in car park. Cancelled if raining
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	MESSY CHURCH. Stall at Ipplepen School Fete

### July

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Ipplepen Garden Show and Ipple Tipple MESSY CHURCH stall
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# Monday T Pot

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



## 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



*5th Anniversary,  
Coffee Mates, Church  
Cottage, Denbury,  
May 2018 ('and they  
said it wouldn't last')*

## One liners.....

- Commitment is not just a word - it's an act
- *Sometimes you win and sometimes you learn*
- What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside you
- *Of all the wonders of the world, there's no doubt that a human being is the greatest*
- Never regret growing older – it is a privilege denied to many
- *If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself (Einstein)*
- How dull life would be if God gave us everything we asked for
- *Women are like tea bags- they don't realise how strong they are until they're in hot water (Eleanor Roosevelt)*



# 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 this time



## Ipplepen:

### Retrospective

- May 6<sup>th</sup> A Beacon of Light on 11<sup>th</sup> May to remember Wendy Jensen on her birthday
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Margaret Hatton in loving memory of her darling husband David, whose birthday would have been on 17<sup>th</sup> May
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Clive Tompkins remembering his wife Nicola on 14<sup>th</sup> May when they would have celebrated 25 years of marriage
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Margaret Hatton in loving memory of her darling husband David, whose birthday would have been on 17<sup>th</sup> May
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Linda, David, and Hannah Simmonds for Katie's birthday on 25<sup>th</sup> May
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Peter Mason remembering his wife Jan on 29<sup>th</sup> May, when they would have been married 53 years

### New

- July 15<sup>th</sup> Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of their son Edd and Maddie on 19<sup>th</sup> July
- July 29<sup>th</sup> Brenda and Barrie Morgan in memory of a dear friend Roger Griffiths

# 2018 and Beyond

*I have asked Madeleine Fedrick if I might reproduce her final thoughts and comments as chair person at St. Andrew's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018.*

*It would seem to have relevance for all in the Beacon Mission Community as we prepare for a new Rector - Editor.*

The APCM naturally looks back at the past year but I want to pick up the 'time frame' with **2018 and Beyond**. This meeting is the only time when we are together and can consider the future.

At the present moment, we are still waiting for news as to who has been appointed as the new Rector of the Beacon Mission Community. There were three candidates who were selected for interview and an offer was made. Following the offer the new rector has to formally accept the post, the paper work for the appointment, in this instant goes to the Queen, as it is a Crown Appointment this time.

During this period of waiting, it is an invaluable time for us to think about how we can help our new Rector in ways that we may not have done previously. The new Rector is going to take over four rural parishes. Three are more difficult to access especially in the dark, as they are down winding lanes. Each parish is different, each one has its own history, each one has its own traditions, and each one has its own PCC.

Although the idea of being a rector 'in wonderful Devon' can sound ideal, my concern is that because this person is going to take over the running of 4 parishes, it can become a situation where the person could very easily knock up a 70 hour week 'without batting an eyelid'. It is a very easy situation for work overload to develop. Yes we have church

wardens; yes we have volunteers who can help to a degree. However we have to bear in mind also the demands that the diocese and the deanery make with regard to meetings, courses etc. We cannot help ease the work load in those areas.

Where we may be able to help is how we work as a Mission Community. Are our demands for the services we have at the moment realistic or should we have to accept that changes will have to be made? Are we prepared to accept this, are we being realistic in our expectations? Similarly there have been discussions about reducing the number of separate meetings by the four PCCs so that they could come together to talk about some aspects of church business? This is an area that has been flagged up and needs further exploration, discussion and consideration. Ultimately we do not want an exhausted rector!

We were told by the Archdeacon, when all the PCCs met with him and the Bishop of Plymouth, when we were considering the Beacon Mission Community Profile, that as far as the numbers of people who worship in the 4 parishes, that we would, this time qualify to have a 'full time rector'. The Archdeacon went on to say that next time it could be a different situation!

What is the situation here in St. Andrew's Church? A major concern is the gradual decline in numbers of our congregation. As you will have heard, this last year 8 members of our congregation died. Have we been able to have 8 new people? Answer, NO.

There has been a steady decline in the numbers of people who attend church regularly. There has been some talk about how to increase peoples' attendance. Often I have heard a response, 'Oh well it does not



## 2018 and Beyond - continued

affect me, the problem will not occur in my life time! Unfortunately that time has now arrived! That response reflects apathy and that is, in my view dangerous as it means that the problem is being 'swept under the carpet' and nothing will be done. How can we do anything to change things in the future?

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is really the time of the 'lay people' taking on more responsibilities. You may say, 'well I am doing enough things and taking on many responsibilities, I cannot do any more.' Yes this may well be true, but there is one area where not only we, but the clergy have not developed as well as we could. That area is called "**OUTREACH**".

I am going to look at specifically Outreach with the new rector. How can we help that person make contact with his/her new village? I want to explore the idea with you. Many of you belong to one or more clubs in the village, so please consider inviting the new rector to your organisation in the next 6 months. If there are people in your club who would like to meet the new rector, then as a member of that club and a member of the church you are in an ideal situation to arrange a meeting. Perhaps the new rector will be happy to come and 'give a talk' and then meet people informally afterwards. It is an opportunity to break down barriers, as people could talk to the new rector on their territory, not in a church.

I know that some of you may be reluctant or shy or feel that it is not your responsibility, but please think about this. I am always hopeful that from this introduction to the rector to a group, there may be one or two people in the group who would feel confident in coming to church for a service and if they know you attend, the knowledge that there is at least one person they know at a service, will encourage them to come.

During 2017 to 2018 there were 17 funerals at St. Andrew's Church. Out of that number only 7 who had died were regular members of our church community. That statistic made me think. Why did the other 10 people or their families opt for a church funeral? Not all the funerals were followed by a burial in the churchyard. This led me to reflect that perhaps some people had connections with the church during their lives but these were not recent. Why not? Well this led me to consider many reasons but they all led me to the same conclusion, that if our Outreach was better, then perhaps we could have made a difference for that person.

I hope that raising these issues with you to-day, will lead you to reflect and to discuss these points amongst yourselves and with the new rector.

I am concluding **2018 and Beyond** with two prayers that Jane has written as part of the Intercessions for the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parish Communion Service on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Loving God, we ask that this church may grow and reach out to the wider community, with worship, fellowship and service. We pray that your Holy Spirit may help us to spread the word of your love. Lord, in your mercy, ... hear our prayer.*

*Father, may those who do not know you hear your call; those who knew you once come to know you again and those who long to know you better receive your guidance. Come now, and draw us closer to you, to the glory of your name. Lord, in your mercy, ... hear our prayer.*

# The Medieval Garden – Ali Marshall

*Ipplepen Garden Club's contribution to the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a talk by Ali Marshall, Head Gardener at Torre Abbey – Ann Holroyd writes:*

I have come in from weeding in my garden to write this article. Many of the weeds that I have removed from the garden were eaten in medieval times. They were referred to as “wild pickings” and were essential foods. Today, those talented chefs who understand foraging can charge a great deal for creating delicacies from such “pickings”.

Ali Marshall provided an excellent introduction to our celebrations and I learned so much. I was in awe of Ali's knowledge to the extent that I wrote few notes and therefore can only share a few “titbits” with you.

I enjoy, like others, to sit in my garden, planning the next task, or admiring the plants or just enjoying the company of family and friends and it was the Romans who brought us the idea of a “pleasure garden”, or an outside space in which to sit and relax.

Just as climate change concerns us now, so it was in medieval times. Ali informed us that in 1250 it was warm and there was a huge population explosion but by 1300 a temperature drop of only one degree resulted in widespread flooding and failure of crops. The devastating climate and the Black Death meant that a practical approach to gardening was essential and every plant was assigned a use. The life expectancy for a peasant at the time of the Black Death was 17. Monastic gardens provided medicine and food for the monks and the local community and they had to be “sensible gardeners like the rest of us”. This was reassuring to me as a gardener with a lot to learn.

Gardens were measured geometrically but records show that Devon measurements were always different from everywhere else!

I learned lots of new words from Ali's talk. The monks grew herbs, vegetables and flowers within a “hortus conclusus”, or enclosed garden or cloister, but they also grew cabbages or “colewort” as a field crop along with broad beans, leeks and parsnips. Carrots were regarded as vegetables for the poor.

A bee “skep” was a term new to me. It was a basket in which colonies of bees produced the honeycomb.

Men were paid more than women, but gardens were mainly designed by women.

The pay for removing moss from lawn was sixpence for half a day's work and one pence for pruning.

The records and drawings that Ali showed us were most informative. These included a map of Paignton of 1565 with raised beds in the vegetable garden; a picture of a wheelbarrow brought back from the Crusades; long handled tools as they did not use hand tools and there were lots more.

Thanks must go to Theresa Grove-Jones for organising this event and for bringing together the Garden Club and St. Andrew's church. It was extremely worthwhile.

For other Garden Club events and visits do look on the website or come to another meeting. They are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Details are also in the parish magazine.

*Ann Holroyd*

# Ipplepen Choir & Ringers dinner

*For several years St. Andrew's choir and ringers have held an annual dinner. As "instructed" by Jo, this year guests were invited to compose and read out limericks. Here are some of them:*

*Singing one day in the choir,  
Jo made us sing higher and higher.  
But the altos objected  
To being subjected  
To notes that sounded so dire!*

*The choir it needed more singers,  
So Jo made a plea to the ringers.  
Their reply, was as usual,  
A resounding refusal,  
"We'd rather be dongers and dingers."*

*Standing one day in the belfry  
I was weary and ill at ease  
When the rope got caught in my braces  
And my trousers were round my knees.  
Some people said "Look at his long johns"  
While others said "Look at that sock"  
While the captain roared "Look at the tenor"  
But they couldn't, they all were in shock.*

*As this pitiful fracas continued  
I set up the bell on its stay  
And hooked up my wandering garments  
From the floor where they silently lay.  
We knew that the peal had been ruined  
They said I had spoilt the whole thing.  
And the moral to this my dear readers  
Is wear braces and belt when you ring.*

*Singing one day in the choir  
I noticed my robe was on fire  
I uttered a Yelp  
And cried out for help  
As the flames rose higher and higher!*



*The ringers are the first in church  
Forty steps to reach their perch  
The first peal they will rise the bells  
Hands on sallies, all looks well*

*The second peal could be Grandsire Triples  
Or the captain may call Reverse tittums  
Miss a change, it all goes wrong  
That keeps the peal not too long*

*It's time to lower: downward we go  
Take your time, make it slow.  
We pull in the bottom to make them chime  
Very rarely we finish on time*

*The Rector is there to say the first prayer  
Silence them ringers; they should be aware  
The organist is ready to play the first hymn  
The Choir start to sing on the way in*

*The singing today sounds exceptionally great  
Descants and psalms are hard to relate  
The sermon is short, and to the point  
A baby is christened, its head to anoint*

*The service is over, the choir does parade  
At the back of the church the coffee is made  
A lot of the people meet friends of old  
New ones are welcome to join the fold.*

*There was a "young" server called Pete,  
Some of the ladies thought him quite sweet.  
Things were going just fine-  
'Til he consumed all the wine  
Which knocked him right off his feet!*



# Walter de Stapeldon, Bishop of Exeter, 1307-26

## Good Man or Bad Man?

*On 28<sup>th</sup> April as part of our 700 year celebrations we were fortunate to be given a comprehensive talk by Dr. John Maddicott, Emeritus Fellow of Exeter College Oxford, on the life of Bishop Stapeldon.*



Dr. Maddicott's father was born at Dainton, where his grandfather and great-grandfather farmed, so he has a close connection with Ipplepen.

Bishop Walter consecrated the high altar in Ipplepen church 700 years ago and Dr. Maddicott wanted to put that local event in context by giving a short survey of the Bishop's life, asking whether he was a good or bad man.

He was bishop of Exeter from 1307 to 1326, when he was murdered in the streets of London by a mob – one of very few English bishops to have been murdered. As well as being a bishop, he was one of the great civil servant churchmen of the middle ages – a time when the higher ranks of government were largely chosen from the church. He was a man of contrasts. In personal terms he was grasping, avaricious, becoming extremely rich. But on other side of the story, he was one of the great benefactors of the church – he rebuilt the east end of Exeter cathedral, where he is buried. He founded Exeter College in Oxford – dedicated to creating an educated priesthood for parishes in Devon and Cornwall. You didn't need to be a saint to be a bishop (and Stapeldon certainly wasn't that) but you did need to be a good man of business (and that Stapeldon was).

Walter de Stapeldon was born about 1260 in the hamlet of Stapeldon, about 4 miles east of Holsworthy, one of 4 sons + 3 daughters of a minor yeoman. Certainly they were not remotely aristocratic or even gentry. Yet in the 1280s Walter was already an Oxford MA and went on to have an illustrious career at Oxford. What we do know is that Walter advanced rapidly in the church. By 1294 he was rector of Aveton Gifford in the South Hams; by 1300, canon of Exeter; by

1305, cathedral precentor in charge of the choir – and then, in 1307, he became bishop.

But it was in international diplomacy that Walter's future partly lay. He entered the king's service in about 1310 – and was regularly engaged in negotiations with the French. In 1315, he conducted negotiations over dinner with the French king, Louis X. So here was this

man from an entirely unprivileged background in the Holsworthy backwoods of N. Devon dining with one of the most powerful rulers in western Europe. A remarkable progression!

Stapeldon had come a long way, but he was to go still further. His expertise lay in finance as well as in foreign affairs, and in 1320 he became King Edward II's treasurer, effectively in charge of the country's finances. It was this position that brought about his downfall. As king of England, Stapeldon's master, Edward II, was a walking disaster. In 1326 he ruled like a tyrant, piling up a huge fortune at his subjects' expense. Stapeldon was largely responsible for collecting the king's debts - which he did particularly vigorously and efficiently. In October 1326 came the reaction. An invasion from abroad overthrew the regime. King Edward was captured and murdered. Stapeldon, riding through London, was dragged off his horse, beheaded with a breadknife outside St. Paul's and his body was thrown into a pit. He was reburied a few months later, in March 1327, in Exeter cathedral - presumably with his head reattached – where you can see his exceptionally beautiful tomb. He was about 65 years old.

One contemporary wrote that he was 'greedy beyond measure'; others that he was a covetous and merciless man, irascible and without pity.

We might conclude from all this that Stapeldon was a rogue and that in 1326 the breadknife dealt him no more than his comeuppance. But that would be a very one-sided view. In many ways, he was a good man,

## Walter de Stapeldon - continued

who did the church's work and fulfilled his many obligations as bishop.

Dr. Maddicott finally considered three subjects to think briefly about here - the rebuilding of the cathedral; the founding of Exeter College, Oxford; and running the diocese of Exeter.

Walter Stapeldon was responsible for completing the east end of Exeter cathedral and gave, in modern terms about £322,000 of his own money towards it. In about 1311 he decided to found a college at Oxford. It was a very small body, comprising just 12 scholars and chaplain, all of whom were to come from Exeter diocese. His purpose was that his College should supply a continuous stream of educated clergy for the churches of his diocese. First known as "Stapeldon Hall" - it shows the vanity of human wishes - in the next century it came to be known permanently as Exeter College. Go into any Devon church and you'll probably find, if you do a bit of research, that a high proportion of vicars and rectors have come from this single college.

Until he was appointed treasurer Walter Stapeldon spent about 40% of his time in his diocese, which comprised the two counties of Devon and Cornwall. Here he governed vigorously doing what bishops did and to some extent still do - ordaining priests, confirming children, dedicating churches, and visiting and reforming parish churches and monasteries. At Hartland Abbey in North Devon in 1320, Stapeldon found that the abbot absented himself from church services, the bell tower was badly roofed, and pigs were running loose within the monastic enclosure. It says something for the variety in a medieval bishop's life that at one time he might be having dinner with the king of France and at another proclaiming the need for pig styes in a North Devon abbey.

Visitations must have been arduous experiences, with a cortege of horses and wagons trundling slowly through muddy and unsurfaced lanes and aiming to stop for a night or so at one or other of the bishop's rural manors. We know

from Stapeldon's register that on 23 April 1318 the bishop and his party set out for south Devon.

They stopped for about five days at Chudleigh and on 1 May they reached Kingsteignton, where the bishop dedicated the church's high altar. Then on 3 May, as we all know, they reached Ipplepen and dedicated the high altar there. It's difficult to know quite the significance of this ceremony, but it probably marked the completion of the rebuilding of the chancel. It certainly didn't mark the foundation of the church, since there'd probably been a church at Ipplepen since the 11<sup>th</sup> century, if not before. From Ipplepen off they went again - to Totnes on 5 May, Paignton between 6 and 14 May, then to Townstal, at Dartmouth on 15 May and on to Slapton on the 16<sup>th</sup> for two more altar dedications. By 21 May he was at Tavistock and he then moved on into Cornwall, reaching as far west as St. Michael's Mount by 30 July and returning to Exeter via Barnstaple and north Devon in mid September. It's perhaps of some local interest that he dedicated the altar at Denbury on 27 August. So Ipplepen's dedication was part of a grand working tour of the diocese stretching over nearly five months.

We should see Bishop Stapeldon as a busy man, conscientiously travelling his diocese. As to whether he was a good man or a bad man it would be presumptuous to judge. What we can say is that Stapeldon himself was seriously worried about his future prospects, not in this world but in the next. In 1322 he endowed a chantry chapel in the cathedral where prayers were to be said for his soul. He was racked with anxiety about the fate of his soul - as we may think he had good reason to be! It may help us to humanise Walter Stapeldon finally, to know that after his death when his possessions were valued, we can be sure that he was quite exceptionally rich. The eye of the needle was there to be negotiated.

*Stephen Bryant*

# What a good idea!

*but the Editor accepts no responsibility for any of these suggestions!.....*

- Create a thrifty watering can by puncturing holes in the top of a used milk bottle.
- Flip a toaster on its side to make grilled cheese.
- Water straight from the tap becomes cloudy when frozen. To make ice cubes crystal clear, allow a kettle of boiled water to cool slightly and use this to fill your ice cube trays.
- Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven - it will help keep them upright.
- To prevent potatoes budding, add an apple in the bag.
- Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells easier to peel off.
- WD40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!
- To tell if eggs are fresh, immerse them in a bowl of water. Fresh eggs will lie on the bottom, while stale eggs will float to the surface.
- Prevent soil from escaping through the holes in the base of flowerpots by lining with large coffee filters.

## From the Editor



This is a wondrous time of year! A new rector has been finally appointed and in Ipplepen, St. Andrew's has celebrated the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the High Altar.

I am delighted that Rev. Andrew Down has given us a photo and has provided us with a short article for this edition prior to his Induction on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to so many 'volunteers' from Ipplepen for their excellent accounts of St. Andrew's 700<sup>th</sup> celebrations. They really did not take too much cajoling or persuasion and as one who was away during the week they have given a real flavour of the atmosphere of the excitement and history of the occasion.

My thanks too, to all the regular contributors and those who are so free in offering their photographs.

We shall look forward to Patronal festivals at Torbryan, Broadhempston and Woodland over the summer together with more historical celebrations in Denbury in August. It is becoming quite a year for all in the Mission Community.

Enjoy the summertime! Copy for the next edition should be sent by July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Price

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*The Beacon is produced at no  
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