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The Beacon

The Beacon magazine is published every 2 months

Current and all past issues are available on the website www.missioncommunity.org.uk .

Articles for submission should be sent to the editor, Michael Price

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01803 813472.

Welcome

Seasons' greetings to all and thank you for looking at the Beacon magazine. We hope there is something to interest you however young or old you are!

For the young and young at heart there are some nativity scenes to colour in, a Christmas poem and quiz with the answers provided but not on the same page! The history of St. Nicholas- aka Santa Claus- is of interest for all ages.

Included are all the church services over the Christmas period at the different churches which make up our Beacon Mission Community.

Reports from the parishes reflect the life in all our parishes- the preceding two months have been full of activity.

The peal of church bells is a magical sound of Christmas. It is good to hear that with the fixing of new bell ropes at Denbury, Mike Bray reports the Bell restoration project is complete. A history of the bells at St. Andrew's by Andy Vickery -Tower captain is a fascinating longer read.

Articles and photographs for the February/March edition should reach me by January 21st 2024.

Meantime, a happy new year!

Michael Price, Editor

The Beacon – Donations towards costs

The cost of printing the Beacon depends on the number of pages and print run for each issue, but over the year it amounts to between £2200 and £2700.

The PCC of each parish has decided that having the printed version is essential as part of our churches outreach to our villages, and for those who do not like or have access to an electronic version.

The costs are underwritten by each parish for their copies, and the PCCs welcome anonymous donations from individuals towards these costs.

Donations can be made direct to one of the PCCs in the usual manner [cash, cheque, bank transfer] or online via QR code below or the link [Give a Little – The Beacon](#)

Donations can, of course, be Gift Aided if you are a UK tax payer. This can be done when giving online or by filling in one of the little yellow envelopes in our churches.



Beacon Magazine

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From Andrew

Christmas and New Year Traditions

I wonder what you are going to be doing over Christmas and New Year. There are many traditions; some that many people share and others that are particular to countries, communities, families and individuals. There is the singing of carols, decorating a tree, the making of a nativity scene, seeing the New Year in with fireworks to name a few. Often when I prepare



couples for marriage we talk about the traditions of Christmas and New Year. We reflect on the ones people have grown up with and how similar or different they are, why they are important and what the couple do or plan to do now that they find themselves called to one another to make their journey through this world.

As with developing relationships change occurs for all sorts of reasons: the birth of a child, the death of a loved one or perhaps a change in other circumstances such as health or job. Traditions such as those we engage with at this time of year are there to support us whatever our circumstances in our marking and celebration. Our traditions give expression to what is important for us as a community, a family and as individuals. The use and engagement with traditions does change over time as people, families and communities change. The two questions I ask each year as I prepare to celebrate Christmas and a New Year are. Firstly what of the old traditions I am familiar with are important to me, my family and my community and how will these take place and be expressed this year? And secondly: are there new traditions (or indeed ignored and forgotten ones) that might be important to include this year and how might this be done?

For our family I ask these two questions this year following the unexpected death of my father and this will mean the traditions old and new will be expressed and inhabited in a particular way. For others this year's Christmas and New Year celebrations will come following the birth of a child, the start of a new relationship, a change in work or any other number of significant events.

Importantly for us all this year we will be singing carols, eating Christmas dinners, giving presents and any number of other traditions in the context of a fragile and waring world. We celebrate with the hope that our traditions will bring some light, love and peace into the world as we celebrate again the story of God coming to us in a small, fragile baby who was immediately in danger and made a refugee and was and is the light that lightens all people.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Andrew

Sunday Services for December and January

Services planned at time of going to print. Please check website / Weekly Notices for updates.

Sunday 3rd December

First Sunday of Advent

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion with Children's Activities | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 5.00 pm | Advent Carols | - St John The Baptist, Woodland |

Sunday 10th December

Second Sunday of Advent

- | | | |
|----------|---|------------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St John the Baptist, Woodland |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion with Children's Activities | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 11.00 am | Celtic Morning Prayer | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 4.30 pm | Mission Community Christingle | - Holy Trinity, Torbryan |

Sunday 17th December

Third Sunday of Advent

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 4.00 pm | Carol Service | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 6.00 pm | Carol Service | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |

Sunday 24th December

First Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10.00 am | Holy Communion | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 11.00 am | Joint Service | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 4.00 pm | Crib Service | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 4.00 pm | Joint Crib Service | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 9.00 pm | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 pm | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 10.00 am | Family Service | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 10.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 10.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 10.00 am | Holy Communion | - St John the Baptist, Woodland |

Sunday 31st December

First Sunday of Christmas

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10.00 am | Mission Community Service | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|

Sunday 7th January

Epiphany 1 (Epiphany or Baptism of Christ)

- | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion with Children's Activities | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 5.00 pm | Reflective Celtic Service | - Holy Trinity, Torbryan |

Sunday 14th January

Epiphany 2

- | | | |
|----------|---|------------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St John the Baptist, Woodland |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion with Children's Activities | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 11.00 am | Celtic Morning Prayer | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer & Benediction | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |

Sunday 21st January

Epiphany 3 (Week of prayer for Christian Unity)

- | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion with Children's Activities | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Joint Holy Communion & Covenant Service | - Ipplepen Methodist Church |
| 4.30 pm | Come Holy Spirit | - St Andrew's Church Hall |

Sunday 28th January

Epiphany 4 (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 9.30 am | Celtic Morning Prayer | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Joint Service (All Age) | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 6.00 pm | BCP evensong | - St John the Baptist, Woodland |

Other events

Fri 1 st – Mon 25 th Dec	Advent Window Displays	- Denbury
Fri 1 st – Sat 9 th Dec	9am-5pm Christmas Tree Festival	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Sat 2 nd Dec	10 am - 12 noon Coffee Morning (1 st Saturday of each month)	- The Parish Rooms, Woodland
Mon 4 th Dec	7.00 pm Scout and Brownie Carol Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wed 6 th Dec	12 noon Food for Thought Lunch Club (Churches Together. 1 st Wednesday of each month) All welcome. To book a place please contact Maria Alsop on 01803 813110	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen
Thurs 7 th Dec	2.30 pm School Christmas Concert–KS 2	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Fri 8 th Dec	2.30 pm School Nativity – Key Stage 1	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Wed 13 th Dec	10.30 am Coffee Mates (2 nd Wednesday of each month)	- Church Cottage, Denbury
Sat 9 th Dec	10.30 am "Christmas Fair" with "Coffee & Chat!" (2 nd Saturday of each month)	- St. Andrew's, Ipplepen
Tues 12 th Dec	2pm (TBC) Ipplepen School Nativity	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wed 13 th Dec	6.00 pm Carol Concert with School	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Thurs 14 th Dec	2.30pm Denbury School Carol Concert – KS2	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Tues 19 th Dec	6.00 pm Carol Service	- St John The Baptist, Woodland
Wed 20 th Dec	7.00 pm Carols Around the Village Tree	- Ipplepen
Thurs 21 st Dec	6.30 pm Carols in the Square with Totnes Brass Band	- Broadhempston
Fri 22 nd Dec	6.00 pm Carols on the Green	- Denbury
Sat 13 th Jan	10.30 am "Coffee & Chat!" (2 nd Saturday of each month)	- St. Andrew's, Ipplepen
Sun 14 th Jan	4 or 5pm start St. Andrew's Outside	- Church Field, Ipplepen

Beacon Parishes Mission Community Weekly Events

Private Prayer

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from 9am to 5pm each day

Weekly Morning Prayer

Tuesday	9.15 am (Book of Common Prayer)	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Thursday	9.15 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am (Silent Prayer and Meditation)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

Regular Midweek Events and Communion Services

Mondays	at 3 – 5pm	'T-pot'	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	at 4.15pm	Sta*x Junior Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	at 7.30pm	Broadhempston ringers practice at various towers while Broadhempston bells not available, until further notice	
Tuesdays	at 10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesdays	at 7.00pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Wednesdays	at 7.30pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursdays	at 10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	at 4.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Life Events

We continue to pray for those we, as Beacon Parishes, have had and will have the privilege of supporting and accompanying, and also their family and friends.

Baptisms

Saturday 21 st October 2023	Ipplepen	Jessica Hooker
Sunday 22 nd October 2023	Ipplepen	Isla Matthews

Weddings

There were no weddings October or November

Funerals

Tuesday 3 rd October 2023	Ipplepen	Ivor Partridge
Thursday 5 th October 2023	Broadhempston	Gerald Greet
Friday 27 th October 2023	Ipplepen	Fiona Muddeman
Thursday 23 rd November 2023	Ipplepen	Peter Smith
Friday 24 th November 2023	Newton Abbot	Margaret Sanders
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	Ipplepen	Peter Fairbairn

Interments of Ashes

Sunday 26 th November 2023	Broadhempston	Gerald Greet
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How to keep in touch

Weekly Notices These contain up to date information of services and activities in our parishes. Published prior to each weekend, these are given out at services and also available to pick in the churches during the week. They are also emailed out by the office to those on the email circulation list.

Website The Beacon Parishes website www.missioncommunity.org.uk is the 'go to' place for information. It also contains the Weekly Notices and Beacon Magazine.

Videos Video recordings of some of the services held in our Beacon Community can be found on the website.

Facebook Three of our parishes keep up to date Facebook pages:

www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/

www.facebook.com/denburyworship

www.facebook.com/Broad20/

and the Beacon Community Discussion group:

www.facebook.com/groups/424938598594105

Email The Church Office has an email list which is used for sending out the Weekly Notices as well as any other important information. If you or someone you know would like to be included on this list, please contact the office.

Contacts Names and telephone numbers are to be found in The Beacon.

Rector Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Church Office Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ

Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk

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.

Denbury:

For Denbury, contact Rachel Belringer 01803 812529 / 07751804007

Retrospective

Colin Williams: In memory of my dear wife Monica.

Remembering David and happy times. From Lorraine Broughton and Family. (October & November)

Week beginning 13/11/23. In memory of Margaret and Eric Wakeham

New

The month of December: Sponsored by Tim and Pam Howe

Ipplepen:

For Ipplepen, the suggested donation is £5 per occasion per week.

- Sponsor forms are available in St. Andrew's and also at www.missioncommunity.org.uk/floodlighting
- Or write to the office or email: ippleflood@beaconparishes.co.uk
- Donations can be made by cash, cheque, BACS or via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ippleflood
- If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation

Retrospective

5th – 11th Nov In loving memory of Michael Kemp on his birthday 10th November. With love from Sheila and Graham Needs and family xx

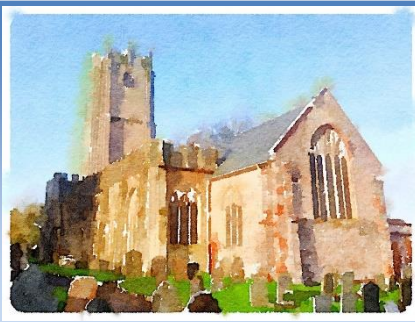
New

10 th – 16 th Dec	In loving memory of Susan Davida Kadow, on 17 th December. Sadly missed, love Richard Tossell and Tim and Gemma Barnes and grandchildren.
10 th – 16 th Dec	In memory of Len Harber on what would have been his 99 th birthday, 11 th December.
17 th – 23 rd Dec	Peter Mason remembering his wife Jan, whose birthday would have been on 23 rd December.
17 th – 23 rd Dec	David, Linda, Hannah and Katie Simmonds in memory of Hope and Faith, on 23 rd December.
17 th – 23 rd Dec	Celebrating Mary Harber's 90 th birthday on 22 nd December.
24 th – 30 th Dec	Linda, David, Hannah & Katie Simmonds in memory of Linda's parents, Fred & Doreen Holland, on their wedding anniversary on 27 th December.
31 st Dec – 6 th Jan	Remembered with love Iris and Peter Moore, Jeanette and Alan. Sadly missed by all your family. Forever in our hearts. Xxxx
7 th – 13 th Jan	In loving memory of a dear Mum, Dory Bearne on 13 th January from Barbara and John Tuckett
21 st – 27 th Jan	In loving memory of Ron Sharland. Remembering him on his birthday, 24 th January, from his loving wife Pam. I think of you every day.
28 th Jan – 3 rd Feb	In memory of Paul Kemp on his birthday January 30 th with love from Sheila , Graham and Beckie Needs and Hannah Hopkins



News from Ippelepen

St. Andrew



This was also a Bell Ringers Service where a dedicated Ringers Hymn was sung and we were given an interesting talk about the bells and ringing from Andrew Vickery (see below). We are so lucky to have such a strong and loyal team of ringers who have been ringing for many years, some over 60 years! They also welcome new ringers to practice nights on Wednesday evenings.



We had a wonderful Gift Day with our Coffee and Chat on Saturday 14th October with the cake stall, preserves and produce having many customers. The church was buzzing and plenty of coffee and cakes were served. Tom Morris played his guitar and sang. Rose from Sta*x also sang, and a few of us joined in with a sing song. Marilyn Ellis was delighted to report £400 was raised from Coffee and Chat.

Another social event held in the Church Hall was a talk by Daniela Hopkins, the Area Fundraiser for Children's Hospice South West. She was an excellent speaker and we learnt a lot about Little Bridge House which opened in 1995, the inspiration of Eddie and Jill Farwell. She showed us some slides and we heard some touching stories. Tea, Coffee and homemade cakes followed her presentation.

November 5th at 6pm was the Mission Community Annual All Souls Service led by Rev Andrew. We remembered our departed loved ones whose names were read out and as a candle was lit for each one. It was a particularly poignant service for me as my dear mother Margaret Sanders had passed away in the early hours of that day. I appreciated the comforting words and hugs from our lovely church family.



The church was filled to capacity for the Charity Concert in aid of Rowcroft Hospice and Devon Air Ambulance on Friday 10th November by Unity in Sound. The choir sang beautifully and opened the concert with a song for Remembrance which was quite emotional. A great variety of songs were sung enthusiastically and refreshments were supplied by a bar run by the Ippelepen Carnival Club and also tea, coffee and cakes served by St. Andrew's Hospitality Team.

The Churches Together Remembrance Day Service began in St. Andrew's at 10-15am led by Rev Andrew with a talk by the 1990s Gladiator Ace Warren Furman who is preparing to become ordained. As usual the church was packed with children in their uniforms of Brownies, Cub, Scouts, Pioneers and School and their families and regular congregation. We all processed to the War Memorial as the muffled bells rang and joined many more villagers who were gathered for the service here. The two minute silence was ended by



October 1st began a month of celebrating Harvest Festival. St. Andrew's was held on this day and gifts of packets and tinned food was collected for HITS.



Steve Bourne playing Reveille. The various representatives of the different village organisations laid wreaths at the beautifully decorated War Memorial. The names read out by Michael Price and the National Anthem sung to end the service.



We had a treat on Sunday afternoon 19th November in the church when the Sta*x Youth Choir and Junior Choir performed in the Tea for Two concert along with Dr Tom, Jo and Marilyn. We enjoyed hearing a variety of songs with beautiful harmonies.

The Advent and Christmas Services we look forward to, the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fayre - a special time in the Church Year.

Marilyn Clark

Bellringing service 1st October 2023

Here is the text of the talk given by Andy Vickery (Tower captain) at the ringer's service

When I was very much younger, I used to live in this lovely village of Ipplepen, that was between 1965 and 1982 and I was an altar servicer for the then vicar the Rev. Fredrick Buffet. I also was an altar servicer for the once a month communion service at Torbryan. One of the churchwardens at the time, who used to drive us down to the Torbryan church, was Mr George Daw who was also captain of the Ipplepen ringers. One day, when I was about 13 years old, George Daw said they were a bit short of ringers and would I like to learn to ring? I said yes, and so I started ringing here in this church. So, fast forward from 1971 to today and here we are 52 years later and I am still ringing here.

So, let's have a look at the interesting history of the Ipplepen bells. We do know that in the inventory of 1553 by the then King Edward the sixth, Ipplepen was mentioned and that it had four church bells.

So, let's cast our mind back to that date 470 years ago. Ipplepen at the time was made up of some small farms, a few houses and cottages and a priory. There were about 84 inhabitants plus children (this is from a census taken around 470 years ago), making it one of the largest villages around here at the time, mostly centred around the church and some rather large manor houses around the outskirts, including Ambrook, Dornafeld, Dainton and Wrigwell.

We know that the church tower was built between 1430 and 1450. Just imagine what you've got here: you have a very small village, you also have a very large and impressive tower, one of the largest towers in the area at the time and you've got in it four church bells. You didn't have any other noise.

There was no television, no radio, there's no Internet!, no traffic noise. So all you had to make a big noise was the church bells. What a tremendous sound they would have made and most certainly telling the villagers the time of the day and that church is here and when you need to come and worship just as it has happened today.

Moving on a couple of hundred years, we know that by 1797, the four church bells had grown into five and then in 1797, there was a public meeting in Ipplepen, and it was agreed that they would send away the five bells and have them recast into six bells. A letter was sent to Whitechapel Bell foundry to see if this was possible. This letter cost 11p to send (according to the church account at the time) and we don't know what the letter reply was but what we do know is that the work was carried out in Cullompton.

The new six bells were returned to Ipplepen in 1799. We know that because that is the date cast into five of the bells

The fifth bell, at that time (now the seventh) has an interesting story attached to it. It is dated 1818 and not 1799 and was cast in London. We know from the church records that sometime before 1818

that bell was damaged and had a crack in it so it was sent to London to be recast, On its journey from London back to Ipplepen, which was by sea as in those days the roads were not very good, there was a storm and the bell fell from its position on the boat and was damaged with a crack to the bell. So before it got to back to Ipplepen it had to be returned back to London and recast again and then re-delivered back to Ipplepen for hanging in the tower in 1818.

We also know that two extra bells to make up the eight bells that are there now were added in 1924. In 1950 the bells were rehung in the modern frame that we have here today.

So clearly there has been a long history of bellringing in this parish of Ipplepen for over almost 500 years. I mentioned earlier that I had been ringing for 52 years however, I am not only one member of our team of ringers. I am in fact one of the youngest!

It takes a team to ring the bells. We are currently very lucky to have an excellent band of ringers in Ipplepen and we are the envy of several local churches where there are not even enough ringers to ring for the Sunday services.

We need a minimum of six or eight ringers to ring every Sunday and to practice on a Wednesday. Some of our ringers have been ringing much longer than me. We have five of our ringers that are or approaching 80 years old! We also have several ringers that have rang more than 50 years. Tony, Colin, Charles, Michael, and Brian have rung more than 60 years. In fact Brian Tuckett, is our oldest ringer at 85 - he has rang in this tower and for other towers for 73 years.

Brian started ringing when he was 12 years old and in fact if you look at the handout you will see that the bells were re-dedicated in 1950, and Brian tells me that he was at that rededication service on 20th May 1950, over 73 years ago - that's absolutely amazing.

As you know we ring every Sunday morning when there is a service here, we also ring for weddings, some funerals, special village events such as the Flower Show and the Lantern Parade, and for national events such as the Queen's Death last September and the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in May this year. We also practice on a Wednesday evening. Our first job when we get here on a Sunday or a Wednesday is to climb the 42 steps to the ringing chamber - that's no mean feat in itself! and once we have done that we then have to ring the bells for about an hour.

We currently have three ringers that we are training to ring, but we are always looking for new people to join our band. As I've mentioned, none of us are getting any younger and so therefore it is important to encourage new people into ringing and to join our ringing family and to learn the art that is bellringing or campanology.

We are a very friendly bunch of people from all walks of life. We occasionally ring at other churches around Ipplepen and have social things together but we do need to be able to pass on our skills to other people and the next generation of ringers for many more years to come.

So finally thank you for listening to me and more importantly thank you for listening to our church Bells.

Andy Vickery – Tower Captain

Tim Vine one liners



- "I went in to a pet shop. I said, 'Can I buy a goldfish?' The guy said, 'Do you want an aquarium?' I said, 'I don't care what star sign it is.'"
- "You know, I'm not very good at magic – I can only do half of a trick. I'm a member of the Magic Semi-circle."
- "He said 'I'm going to chop off the bottom of one of your trouser legs and put it in a library'. I thought 'That's a turn-up for the books.'"

Fiona Muddeman

A service of Thanksgiving for the life of dear Fiona took place at St. Andrew's Church on Friday 27th October at 12 noon. Rev Tony Meek led the funeral procession in and the music played was 'The Lark Ascending' by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Tessa Amies welcomed everyone to celebrate Fiona's long very interesting life. After the first hymn 'Praise my soul, the King of Heaven' a poem was read by Katie Lyon's. The Family Tribute gave a wonderful review of Fiona's busy life given by her son Rob. In her early years she loved horse riding on the moors. She was happily married and raised her family, helped with her Grandchildren and loved that part of her life. She was sadly widowed many years ago.



Fiona was a well-loved member of our church and loved to bake for the social coffee mornings, lunches etc and was on the Hospitality Team for many years. She loved her garden and was passionate about flowers and flower arranging. Fiona was also a fundraiser for the Cancer Trust Charity.

After the hymn 'Lord of all Hopefulness' a poem called 'Peace, My Heart' from the Gardener was read by Jemina Folkes, followed by Imogen Folkes reading a poem 'If I should never see the moon again'.

The bible reading from the Gospel of St John Chapter 14 verses 1-6 and verse 27 was read by Charles Muddeman. Rev Tony Meek gave the Address after which the hymn 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' was sung, Marilyn Ellis was the Organist.

The prayers, Commendation and Farewell, Committal, Nunc Dimittus and Blessing followed with closing music 'In Paradisum' from Requiem Gabriel Faure.

God Bless Fiona, she was a well respected, elegant lady who will be missed by everyone who were lucky to know her.

Marilyn Clark

Children's Hospice South West talk - 27th October 2023

The evening was well attended and was a huge success for the charity. Daniele came to St. Andrew's Church Hall to show us a slide show and talk about the work of the Hospice in the South West. The only children's hospice covering Bristol, North Devon and Cornwall with 38 high street shops.



There was a raffle and entry ticket of £3 plus Christmas cards from the charity to purchase and donations, the total of which came to £352. This amount of money could pay for a whole day of care and support in the family home for a child and their family, plus freshly prepared, hot meals for the whole family to enjoy together during a weekend respite stay at the hospice.


Daniela was here to spread the word of the wonderful work that is sadly so necessarily needed, and she also raised a considerable amount of funds.


So thank you to one and all for attending and also for the St Andrews Hospitality team who produced amazing cakes and raffle prizes.

Pam Thomas

'Unity in Sound' Charity Concert – Friday 10th November

Here is the Facebook write up for the concert:

**Unity in Sound Community Choir**
6 d · 🌐



❤️ Last Friday we experienced one of the most soul enriching evenings that we have had as a choir. We sold out our charity concert and performed to a packed out audience at St Andrews in Ipplepen!

🙏 Queues formed an hour before doors opened and the atmosphere in the church was incredible!

🎵 As a choir we were so humbled with the support for both us the choir and the two charities we were supporting; [Rowcroft Hospice](#) and [Devon Air Ambulance](#) ❤️

🙏 We want to say a massive thank you to every single person who bought a ticket, to everyone who bought raffle tickets and an even massive thankyou to these people for their support;

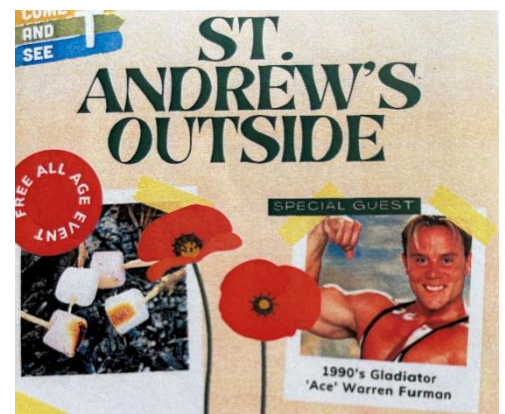
[Ipplepen Carnival Club](#) for managing the bar
@Simon Farress-Gregg for managing sound
@Mike Chamberlain for videography
Our Choir members for donating the raffle prizes
[St Andrews Church, Ipplepen](#) for allowing us to use their venue and for serving teas and coffees.
[Emma Twamley](#) for managing our marketing and social media and ensuring we sold out!
And all those who helped with front of house, managing the raffle and the myriad of jobs that needed doing!

We can't wait to do it all over again! If you would like to be kept updated with future concerts and future events drop us a DM with your email and we will make sure you are the first to hear and have first dibs on tickets!

St. Andrew's Outside - Sunday 12th November

It was also Remembrance Sunday so it was a busy long day for everyone. During the morning at the Remembrance service at the war memorial a light rain began to fall becoming heavier later but luckily by 3pm it stopped and we were blessed with the remainder of the day staying dry.

The team started setting up with Lin, Dan and I preparing the fire pit, solar lights and tables for refreshments in the field. In the church hall Maggie, Jane and Pauline were busy in the kitchen preparing and cooking the sausages, rolls and the drinks. Meanwhile Anna and Janna were setting up the tables outside for craft activities which would include stone decorating and would be supervising later. Ed and Diana set up the welcome desk which they would later man and meet the guests when they arrived. Overseeing everything were the safety officers Hillarie, Lesley the team leader and Andrew Down.



By 4pm the fire was burning and ready for anyone who wanted to toast marshmallows and the hot dogs and drinks ready and waiting for our guests. Later we were able to admire the stones that many people had taken time to decorate beautifully.

When Andrew arrived he brought with him his guests the former Gladiator 'Ace' Warren Furman and his delightful daughter. The event ended with a gathering and sing song around the glowing fire with a few words and prayers from Andrew and Warren.

The whole team pulled together to make this event a great success and we have to once again thank Lesley for her great organising and hard work that made it happen.

John Robertson

Theo, aged 10 years wrote:

“I enjoyed St. Andrew’s Outside because it was a community event where you could relax, toast marshmallows, paint a lantern, walk around the field or have a chat. We also took moments to pray and remember lost loved ones.”

Tea for Two Concert – Sunday 19th November

I have just got home from listening to an amazing concert in St. Andrew’s Church.

The church was warm and inviting with approximately 55 people attending to listen to well known and unusual songs.

We were treated to such a variety from “Yesterday” written by Paul McCartney, “Smile’ written by Charlie Chaplin to “Bring a little water Sylvie” an interesting song with *body music* – it had to be seen to be believed – Brilliant.

The harmonies were fantastic and when Tom was singing in his native Welsh “Calon Lan” you could hear a pin drop it was so beautiful. We also had a sing along with the choir when the two youngest members had written their own verses, this was very special.

All in all a wonderful afternoon followed by some delicious cakes and cups of tea.

If you missed this then I am truly sorry for you missed a great afternoon.

We left with “We’ll meet again” ringing in our ears.

Pam Thomas

A while ago, shortly after the Pandemic I think, I went to a concert put on by Sta*x Youth Choir, with Tom Morris, Jo Innes-Lumsden and Marilyn Ellis. Because of this, I went to their concert Tea for Two, on 19th November this year. Because of this, I shall make it my policy NEVER to miss a concert of theirs in the future!

We were given a wonderful eclectic mix of different styles and songs, which showed off not only the clear fresh singing of the choir, but also the amazing team they have supporting them in Tom, Jo and Marilyn. We had beautiful harmonies, action songs and ballads. The songs ranged from power ballad, “You Raise Me Up” through African rhythm harmonies to Leadbelly! (“Bring me Little Water Sylvie” – with body percussion!). Tom sang several beautiful songs, starting with two of my absolute favourites: “Nightingale in Berkeley Square” and “True Love”. And the audience got to sing too! We were also treated to a debut appearance from the Sta*x Junior choir. An abiding image is of the two youngsters stood either side of Tom being joshed and cajoled by him into singing several songs with great confidence and enjoyment. Fabulous!



To those who missed this concert, I strongly recommend you get to the next one! If you were there, you won’t need persuading...

Rachel Belringer

St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival 2023

Our second year of this festival and we are so looking forward to seeing all the exciting entries.

This year's theme is 'An interpretation of Christmas' – so who knows what we have in store!!

The displays will be in place from 1st to 9th December for voting for your favourite by visitors during this period.

The trees will then be in place up to and including Christmas for all to enjoy (a couple may be removed for children to take theirs home)

We do appreciate the huge effort that everyone puts into this festival and ask for as much support from Ipplepen by coming to see their trees. There will be coffee and mince pies for all who come to view. The winner will be announced at the end of the Christmas Fair on Saturday 9th December, at 12.30.



Garland round the door



The decoration around the inner church door has only been possible because of the generous time and commitment given by Diane Howells, Julie Cornish, Maggie McNicolls, plus Robin Thomas who supplied the wire and helped fix this. But most of all by Graham Cornish who made the 2 wonderful white pedestals. The displays will change and sometimes won't be in place but the pedestals can be offered to wedding parties and will be used time and time again.

Thank you for helping in this wonderful project

Pam Thomas



Time for a Smile



These are actual clippings from church newspapers.

- Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper, Sunday at 5.00pm - prayer and meditation to follow.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



St. Andrew's Christmas Fair

and



Coffee & Chat!



Saturday 9th December 2023

10.00 – 12.30

St. Andrew's Church

Grand Raffle

Bris & Bros

Refreshments

Books &
Puzzles

Preserves

Toys

Crafts

Bottle Stall - Tombola

Cake Stall

Cards



All proceeds to go for the upkeep of
St. Andrew's Church





Christmas 2023

at St Peter & St Paul's Church

Broadhempston

Thursday 7th December at 2.30pm

Broadhempston Primary School Christmas Concert (Key Stage 2)

Friday 8th December at 2.30pm

Broadhempston Primary School Nativity (Key Stage 1)

Sunday 10th December 4.30pm

(at Holy Trinity Church, Torbryan)

Mission Community Christingle Service

Wednesday 13th December at 6.00pm

Carol Concert with Broadhempston Primary School Performing

Thursday 21st December at 6.30pm

Carols in Broadhempston Village Square with The Totnes Brass Band

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day at 10.00am

Family Service

All Welcome!

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Christmas 2023

at The Church of St Mary the Virgin

Denbury

From 1st December

Advent Window Displays Start in Denbury

Sunday 10th December 4.30pm

Mission Community Christingle Service at Holy Trinity Church, Torbryan

Thursday 14th December at 2.30pm

Denbury School Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at the Church of St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm

Christmas Carol Service at the Church of St Mary the Virgin

Thursday 21st December at 6.00pm

Carol Singing to the Residents of 'Brambledown', Denbury

Friday 22nd December at 6.00pm

Carols on the Green, Denbury

Sunday 24th December at 4.00pm

Crib Service for Children and Families at the Church of St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 24th December at 9.00pm

Christmas Eve Communion at the Church of St Mary the Virgin

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day at 10.00am

Holy Communion Service at the Church of St Mary the Virgin

All Welcome!

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Christmas 2023

at St Andrew's Church

Ipplepen

Friday 1st December to Saturday 9th December (Except Tuesday morning and Sunday Morning) – Open 10am to 4pm
'Christmas Tree Display Festival' at St Andrew's Church

Monday 4th December at 7pm
Scout and Brownie Carol Service at St Andrew's Church

Saturday 9th December at 10am – 12 noon
The Christmas Fair (with 'Coffee & Chat!' and winning Christmas Tree team to be announced) at St Andrew's Church

Sunday 10th December 4.30pm
Mission Community Christingle Service at Holy Trinity Church, Torbryan

Tuesday 12th December at 2pm (Time TBC)
Ipplepen Primary School's Nativity Performance (reception year & years 4, 5 & 6) at St Andrew's Church

Sunday 17th December at 6pm
Christmas Carol Service at St Andrew's Church

Wednesday 20th December at 7.00pm
Carol's Around the Village Tree, Fore Street, Ipplepen

Sunday 24th December at 4.00pm
Crib Service for Children and Families - Churches Together (with The Methodist Church) at St Andrew's Church

Sunday 24th December at 11.00pm
Christmas Eve Communion at St Andrew's Church

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day at 10.00am
Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church

All Welcome!

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Christmas 2023
at The Church of St John the Baptist
Woodland

Sunday 3rd December at 5.00pm
Advent Carol Service

Sunday 10th December at 4.30pm
(at Holy Trinity Church, Torbryan)
Mission Community Christingle Service

Tuesday 19th December at 6.00pm
Christmas Carol Service

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day at 10.00am
Holy Communion Service

All Welcome!

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

A view from Torbryan



On the international stage, there has certainly been a lot of war and destruction recently. Pushing aside the ongoing horrendous events in Ukraine has been the situation in Gaza. The situation in Ukraine is fairly clear-cut: the country has been invaded by a despot with no regard for the rule of law or the sovereignty of nations.

However, in Gaza, the politics of the politics are much less obvious. The history of the region is so complex that I think only a few historians truly understand it. Of course, that has not stopped a lot of commentators taking a position from an ill-informed stance, often doing so on social media to allow many to be witness to their views.

All I can say about any of these conflicts is that I just wish that the fighting would stop and the various parties could get round the negotiating table and talk rather than shoot at each other. I think when that process of dialogue has been started peace can develop, but until it has there will only be enmity. How to get to that position? Short of a worldwide ban on the manufacture of guns, bombs and other weapons of destruction, I simply don't know. It is what is known in academia as a wicked problem: a multifaceted and complex situation with no obvious solution.

I suppose one solution on an individual level is to try and be kind to everyone we come across on a day-to-day basis. And maybe if enough people did that, it could spread to some of the desperate war-torn areas of our world. That will be my Christmas and New Year resolution.

Georgie Brendon

Time for a Smile

On a beautiful summer's day, two English motorcyclists were driving through Wales. They stopped at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllylantysiliogogoch for lunch, and one of the riders asked the waitress, 'Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very slowly?'

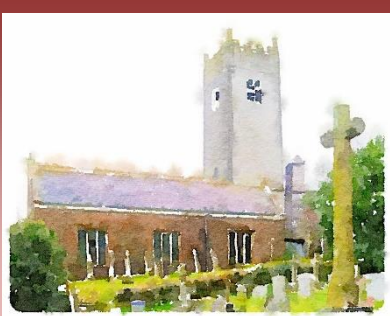
The girl leaned over and said, 'Burrr ... gurr ... king'.....



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



By the time you read this, Christmas will be just around the corner. The shops have been highly decorated for weeks, with Christmas products prominently displayed; Christmas adverts have been playing on the television and town and city Christmas light displays have all been officially switched on days ago. The warm, wet and very windy autumn weather is sliding

inexorably towards something drier and colder and mornings and evenings get darker and darker as we head towards the shortest day of the year. In Woodland the Christmas season usually starts with our candlelit Advent Carol Service, this year on December 3rd, although our regular library and coffee morning in the Village Hall on the 2nd December may also have a festive theme. Our Christmas Carol Service will then take place on 19th December, with refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards, giving us a lovely chance to wish our neighbours all the best for the Christmas season and forthcoming New Year, before the big day itself and its usual celebratory service.

Whilst Christmas is a time for giving, it is not the only time of year where gifts are appreciated. Macmillan is a charity which we have supported as a village for many years and this one was no exception. During our October library and coffee morning we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning, with a few fun games and a tombola alongside our usual sociable get together. So many people donated wonderful prizes, ran games, made cakes, served tea or just popped in, even for just a few minutes, to make it a real community event and we raised a very pleasing £240.85 – not bad for a small village! Cancer is such a common ailment that all of us know someone who has, at some time or other, had a cancer diagnosis. The support of cancer charities such as Macmillan can make a huge difference to both cancer sufferers and their close friends and family during this time, which makes it such a worthy cause for us to support.

In the last edition of the Beacon I wrote about the profusion of berries in our hedgerows this autumn. The holly is no exception this year as each stalk contains more berries than I have ever seen. Whether these can last on the tree until Christmas remains to be seen as the joint activity of winter gales and wild life nourishment usually seem to leave few berries present when I want to gather holly for Christmas decoration. I am ever hopeful! Ivy, however, never seems to be in short supply...

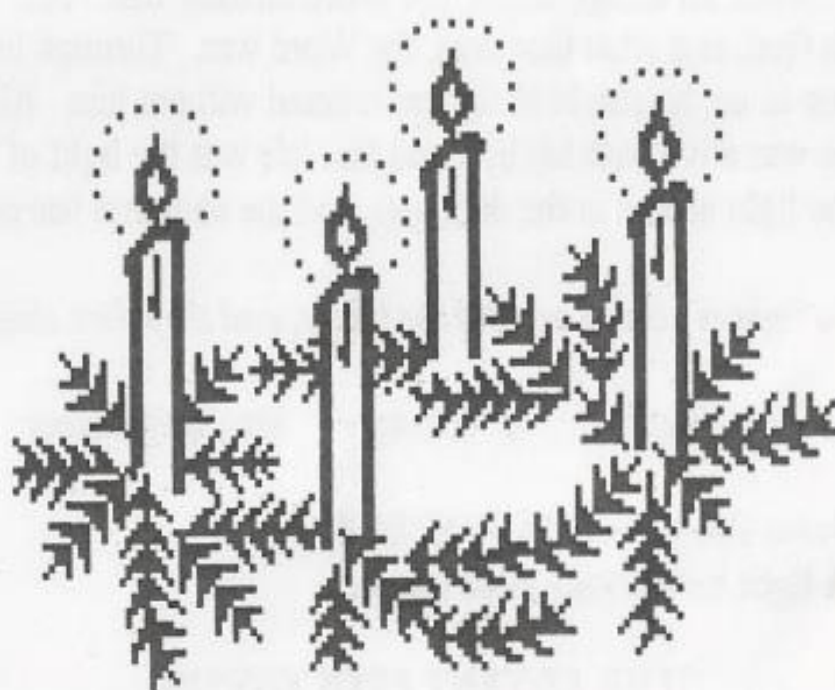
Helen Pearce

Straplines

- As you grow older, make sure you don't regret the chances you didn't take, the relationships you were afraid to have, and the decisions you waited too long to take.
- Confidence is keeping your chin up; overconfidence is sticking it out.
- Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back and reasons to stay. (*Dalai Lama*)
- I will go anywhere, provided it be forward. (*David Livingstone*)

**The Beacon Parishes Mission Community
of Ipplepen with Torbryan,
Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland**

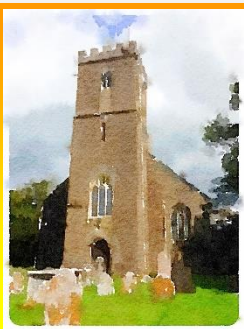
Advent Carol Service



**Sunday 3rd December 2023
at 5 pm
at
The Parish Church of St John the Baptist,
Woodland**

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



on Remembrance Sunday in November. The children made poppies out of red and purple card and during the hymn, Make me a Channel of your Peace, the children invited the congregation up to place the poppies on the cross. They also made a Remembrance wreath on a paper plate and placed them at the foot of the cross.

Our Family Service is held on the second Sunday of the month all children are welcome to come and take part at the craft table.

Children's Craft Table

After a break for the summer, the craft table resumed in October. The children made animals out of paper plates, which was the theme of one of the hymns sung during the service. They then gave out their paper animals to members of the congregation.



Our Family Service was held



Blues in the Pews



On Saturday 18th November St Peter & St Paul's Church held a Blues in the Pews concert featuring Bad Knees Blues Band and their support act.

A great deal of work took place in setting up and resetting, the bar, the food and helping on the night. Everyone was delighted with the turnout - at its peak well over 100 estimated - and the enjoyment everyone had from the music. We are still counting the money but think we made a decent profit after paying the musicians, which will go towards the Church Restoration Fund.

A big thank you to David and Anna Beadel and Paul Russell for organising this event and to all who helped to set up and clear up after.

Advent and Christmas

The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

Woodland's Advent Carol Service for all our Mission Community is always a very special service on December 3rd at 5pm.

Torbryan Holy Trinity Church is hosting a Mission Community Christingle service on December 10th at 4:30pm.

All our Sunday Services and Events, dates and times are in The Beacon.

As last year, our displays will be focused on the joy and hope of the Nativity story. The beautiful figures which proved so popular over the past few years will be placed around the church illustrating the journey to the Nativity culminating, of course, on Christmas Day.

Finally, on behalf of our PCC and the parishioners of Broadhempston, may we wish you a joyous Christmas and let us all pray for a peaceful New Year.



The Broadhempston PCC Team

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



During the month of September, as we celebrated the season of harvest, the local community again showed their generosity by supporting the collection of foodstuffs and other household items for distribution to local charity Homeless in Teignbridge Support (H.I.T.S.) As in previous years, the window ledges throughout the church were piled high with donations which were

then delivered to the charity's base in Kingsteignton at the end of the month.

We held our annual Soup and Sweet lunch in Church Cottage as part of our harvest celebrations which as ever was well supported. On Sunday 1st October we tried a new format for our Harvest Thanksgiving service. Drawing on the success of the event held at the end of the Festival of Flowers held in the summer, we incorporated a mix of songs, instrumental pieces and poems together with a couple of traditional, well-known hymns and prayers which attracted a large congregation and some very favourable comments from regular churchgoers and visitors alike. One of the many highlights was a stirring rendition of a traditional song 'Bringing in the Sheaves' performed by members of Denbury Folk Club with the audience joining in with the rousing chorus. Although this was a departure from our normal Harvest Thanksgiving the popularity of the event could well mean it will become a feature for future years.

Another new initiative took place on the Saturday prior to Remembrance Sunday with a short service led by Tessa at Brambledown Nursing Home in the village. The service again included the reading of appropriate poems and the singing of several of the old wartime songs, such as 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag' which were very appreciated by the residents of the home.

On the Sunday the congregation was increased by a number of visitors for the formal Remembrance Day service led by Anne Burden at the conclusion of which we all moved outside to the Memorial at the centre of the village where wreaths were laid and the names of those from Denbury who gave their lives in both World Wars read out.

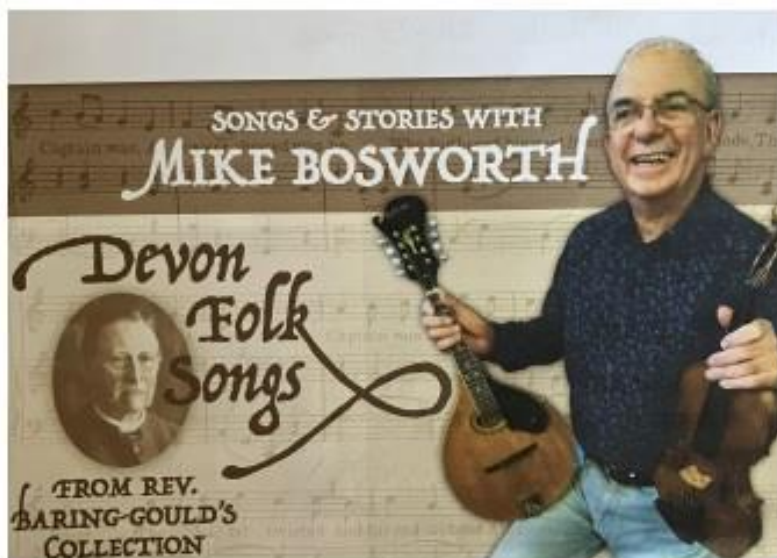
A Coffee, Cake and Craft day was held on 18th November in Church Cottage which provides an opportunity for local people to showcase their craft making skills. The upstairs area of the cottage was filled with high quality craft items which could be bought (ideal Christmas presents perhaps) with cakes and refreshments available downstairs. The event attracted plenty of visitors and represents another of the activities where we are involving the local community, an area which will be so important in the years ahead.

After a wait of over 12 months we have now received and fitted our new set of bellropes. This effectively brings the Bell Restoration project to a close (apart from the fitting of a floorcovering for the new ringing room in due course).

We look forward to a welcome return to St. Mary's of highly rated folk singer Jim Causley on 26th November. Jim will be performing a Christmas themed concert which will no doubt be as well supported as his last visit to Denbury.

The season of Advent is approaching fast and although it doesn't feel very wintry at present the much loved traditional events and services of Christmastide will be here before we know it.

Mike Bray



CENTENARY CONCERT THE FIRST IN A SOUTH DEVON CHURCH

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SABINE BARING-GOULD

**SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 2024
At 2pm
DENBURY CHURCH, TQ12 6DH**

A wonderful afternoon hearing about the life of
The Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould
(b1824 Exeter-d1924 Lewtrenchard Manor his estate in West Devon),
an exceptional Devon parson and squire, probably best
remembered as the composer of the hymns 'Onward
Christian Soldiers' and "Now the Day is Over" a prolific
collector of folk songs and writer of novels.
Listen and maybe even join in singing some of the songs
he collected from 1888-1903 and learn about the
'Song Men' he collected them from.

**BOOK AND BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE
LIMITED AVAILABILITY**

£10.per person including mid session refreshments
Email; imwdavey@gmail.com or tele/text 07767 771590

A Poem for Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost
 To heal the broken
 To feed the hungry
 To bring consolation to those with no hope
 To rebuild the nations
 To bring peace among all people
 And to make music in the heart.*

*Blessed are you, O Christmas Christ,
That your cradle was so low that shepherds,
Poorest and simplest of earthly folk,
Could kneel beside it and look level-eyed into the face of God.*

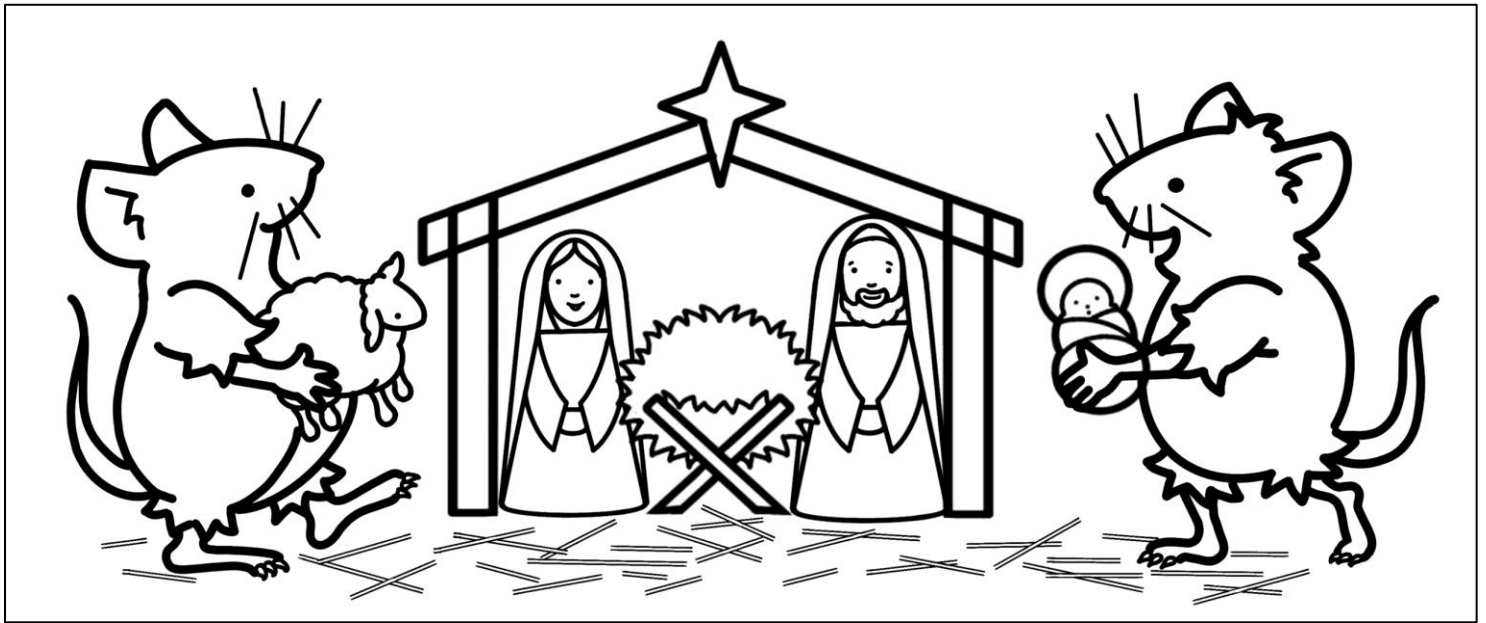
Heard at Carol Service, HMP Channings Wood 2007

Winnie Bryant

A Quiz for Christmas

1. According to the song, what gift was brought on the fourth day of Christmas?
2. When was the first Nativity scene invented?
3. Who invented the Nativity Scene?
4. Which King was on the throne when Father Christmas first appeared in the UK?
5. Who is Santa Claus named after?
6. Why do we have 12 days of Christmas?
7. Who invented the Christmas tree?
8. How many Christmas trees are grown in Europe?
9. Why is Christmas Day on 25 December?
10. What names have been given to the Magi and from where did they come?
11. Where in the Bible is the story of the birth of Christ?
12. Who told Joseph to call their baby 'Jesus'?

Get colouring



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.

In one year we will complete our wedding



Then God's messenger angel came to see Mary.



Don't be afraid!

You will have God's baby, and call him Jesus, 'God saves', because he will save people from what they do wrong.

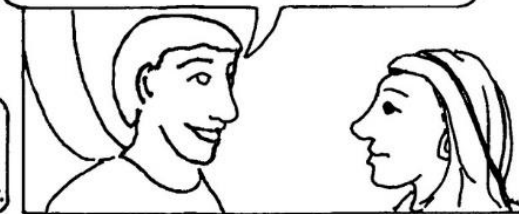


How can this happen?



With God, nothing is impossible.

Your cousin Elizabeth, who couldn't have children, is now 6 months pregnant.



Mary visited Elizabeth.



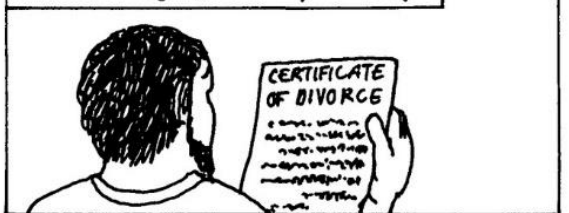
When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, he was very upset



This will bring shame on me and my family.



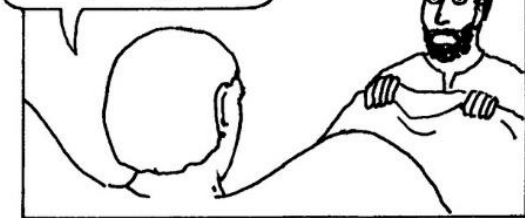
He always did what was right so he decided to end their marriage, but quietly.



But the angel came to him in a dream.



Don't be afraid to marry Mary. The baby is God's, and you will call him Jesus.



So Joseph and Mary completed their marriage.



St. Nicholas, patron saint of children

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.



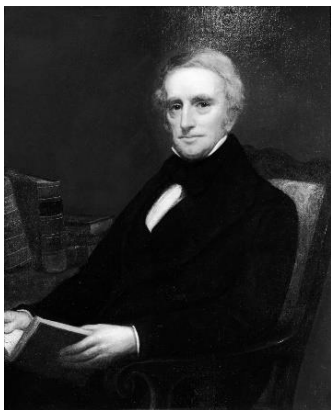
Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.



In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.



It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his lifework of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His "The Visit of St. Nicholas" is now universally known by its first line: "T'was the Night Before Christmas".

From Clement Moore we discovered that St. Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St. Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get around all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



The Seats of Prayer – Part 2

Some time ago I wrote an article for The Beacon about the “magnetic pew” - the first choice for any newcomer to the church (and for a number of old comers too). Thinking about pews in church it occurred to me that there can be very few in St Andrew’s congregation who can remember what the church seating looked like 40 or so years ago.

The church was “full” of pews. All the parquet floor area, right to the front, was fitted with pews, as were the side aisles from front to back. The small area at the East end of the South aisle, where the candle stand is, was also full of pews.

So why the changes?

When coffins for a funeral service started to be placed at the East end of the main aisle, rather than in the chancel, undertakers complained that they had difficulty turning around to carry them out. So in about 1985 we moved the front row of oak pews back one place, and took out a row of pine ones further back. We hadn’t the slightest idea of asking the Diocese what they thought about it - we just got on with it. The change just made life a bit easier.

This alteration more-or-less coincided with liturgical changes when the move to having nave altars started. Up until then the priest conducted the communion service at the main altar, facing East. The general view at the time was unfavourable, the phrase “getting matey with the Almighty” was used. I think the Diocese must have put pressure on the clergy - there were a number of “Alternative Services” on offer and the Prayer Book started to take a secondary role. Don Hearder made the moveable nave altar for us in 1985, and it was given by the late Margaret Maddicott in memory of her mother.

8am Communion Services were still conducted at the main altar, but even that was changed and moved away from the reredos so that the priest could stand behind it and face the congregation. A close inspection will see where it originally fitted.

One of the other changes was in the chancel. What looks like choir stalls are no such thing. Originally there was a block of three clergy stalls either side of the entrance to the chancel, facing East, away from the congregation. They were given in memory of a past Vicar, the Rev Robert Cook. They are now at right angles to the original placing. A careful look will show that they were a tight fit, and the end of each block is carefully curved so that the screen doors would have room to open.

It looks as if there have always been two rows of “choir stalls” in their present position, but this is not so. The rear seats were originally pews in the small “chapel” where the candle stand is. It was decided that this area was cramped and rarely used and when David Hallett was Churchwarden (being a builder) he made a base for each side of the chancel and fixed the pews and clergy stalls together as one block, facing inwards to look like choir stalls.

The Vicar (as the title was then) was still expected to sit in these stalls for services other than communion - Matins was still held regularly.

The Rev’d Roy James, when he became Vicar, baulked at sitting there. His comment was that he wasn’t going to take services “sitting in a bird cage”. So more change, and chairs and kneeling desks were moved out of the sanctuary and placed beside the nave altar. This also meant that the large eagle lectern was in the way, so that was moved to one side, and a small easily moved lectern was provided instead.

At about this time we also removed a row of pews at the back of the church so that people could have refreshments after the service - an unheard of novelty at the time.

We did all this, without any hesitation, on behalf of the Wardens and PCC. We certainly didn't even think of consulting anyone at the Diocese about it. The idea never entered our heads!

During all this there was a spare pew which we placed in the area by the candle stand "out of the way". Much later on we wanted more space there, and decided to remove it and put some more modern chairs there instead. At about the same time it was decided that we could do with more space by the nave altar and yet another row of pews would be removed from the front of the church (in fact the oak pews were moved back another row, and pine ones removed).

At this stage it was decided that perhaps we should ask the Diocese for permission - and bureaucracy took over. I lost count of the number of individuals and organisations that got involved, plus the need for a Faculty (formal permission to carry out the changes). Plans had to be provided. Various committees had to consider the type of chairs, the colour of the seats, how the wood should be coloured to match the screen, exactly which pews were moved, why, how far, how they would be placed and fixed and so on. Various individuals and committees carried out inspections. This took well over a year, while the Wardens were losing the will to live and wished they had never thought of the changes. However, it did all happen in the end.

I suppose that it is right that there should be overall supervision as to how churches are "ordered" and how pews and other furniture are moved. But it was a lot simpler 40 years ago!

Stephen Bryant

** The Magnetic pew article written by Stephen Bryant can be found in the Coronation edition of the Beacon (April 2023), page 26 -Ed)*

A Quiz for Christmas - Answers.....

1. Four calling birds
2. 1223
3. St Francis of Assisi
4. Henry VIII
5. Saint Nicholas
6. It is based on the Christian theology that marks 12 days between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Magi.
7. German Lutherans in the 16th Century, when a tree was placed in the Cathedral of Strasbourg in 1539, under the leadership of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Bucer.
8. About 60 million
9. It is 9 months after the traditional date of the conception of Jesus on 25 March.
10. Melchior from Europe, Caspar from Arabia, and Balthazar from Africa
11. Matthew and Luke
12. An angel of the Lord

Training for Everyone - Foundation Course



In September this year I started my Foundation in Christian Ministry course. A foundation based on God produces steadfast faith and life, and allows us to be living examples to others. A ministry is God's calling for every believer, but the foundation of our ministry is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the centre of life, the centre of ministry and source of strength. Godly character is the foundation of true ministry.

The Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation stone of the Christian faith.

During our course we can meet new people. We can make friends, and the most important we can extend our knowledge about God, theology and spirituality.

Krzysztof (Chris) Ramus

The Training for Everyone course is one of several run by South West Ministry Training.

What students have said

"Each study day was totally inspirational" ... "Teaching was excellent" ... "Tutors hugely encouraging and inspiring" ... "Encouraged me to become involved in planning worship" ... "Affirmed my calling"

SWMTC delivers this one-year course for the Diocese of Exeter, to give a foundation for lay ministry.

The course's aims are:

- to deepen your Christian **discipleship**
- to give you a grounded SWMTC **understanding** of the Bible, Christian theology, and spirituality
- to help form your **gifts** for ministry and discern God's call for your next step
- to provide you with a foundation for **further training** in lay ministry

Seven study days are delivered on Saturdays through the year, starting in September. These provide teaching on the Bible, Theology, Spirituality and Pastoral Care. Students meet in smaller tutor groups to reflect together on their experiences of the course, and spend time together in worship, socialising and vocational exploration.

Students also participate in discussion groups in their parishes, and are invited to carry out a small number of written exercises. Resources are recommended for further reading.

Other courses include training for becoming a Reader, and for Ordination.

More details www.swmtc.org.uk .

Teach us to pray

Praying on behalf of others

As a church and as individual Christians we commit ourselves to say prayers on behalf of others. These are known as intercessions. In our intercessions we bring our lives and the lives of those around us, neighbours both near and far, to God for his love and care.



General weekly cycle of intercessions

- Sunday** We pray for... The universal church, that she proclaim the living Lord... The natural world, that we might use creation sustainably... The needy, that they might know new life...
- Monday** We pray for... The people of God, for inspiration by the spirit... Traditional and digital media, for healthy communication... Those who travel, for safety and protection...
- Tuesday** We pray for... The persecuted church, for protection and faithfulness... The criminal justice system, for wisdom and fairness... The world's displaced people, for freedom and security...
- Wednesday** We pray for... All who follow Christ, for growth in discipleship... All in the medical profession ... All who have no one to pray for them...
- Thursday** We pray for... Ministers of the gospel... Those who work for reconciliation... Those in hospital...
- Friday** We pray for... The local church, for courage to take up the cross of Christ... Those in authority, for the right use of power... Victims and perpetrators of violence, for healing and repentance...
- Saturday** We pray... That Christians may live as citizens of heaven... That the nations of the world will live in harmony... That the dying will know the joy of the resurrection...

Local weekly cycle of intercessions

We are set in a particular time and place and so we bring our local communities and relationships to God.



- Sunday** We pray for... Our Bishops and those in leadership... Prisoners and staff... Our own friends, family and neighbours... Our Beacon Parishes that we may grow in... Prayer... Discipleship... and Service...
- Monday** We pray for... The church community and villagers of Torbryan... Our schools... Those in hospital and the housebound...
- Tuesday** We pray for... The church community and villagers of Woodland... Our pubs and restaurants... Carers and those medical professionals...
- Wednesday** We pray for... The church community and villages of Denbury... Our residential and care homes... Those who care for children and young people...
- Thursday** We pray for... The church community and villagers of Ipplepen... Our local shops and post offices... Our Parish Councils...
- Friday** We pray for... The church community and villagers of Broadhempston... Local Farms... Local clubs and societies...
- Saturday** We pray for... Our brothers and sisters of other denominations and none... Local Businesses...

Intercessions for the Mission Community – December and January

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
Dec 3 rd	Those who decorate the church	Churches Together in Ipplepen	The Union Inn	Community Shop	Library
Dec 10 th	Baptism ministry team	The Wellington Inn	Denbury Primary School	Radfords	Parish Rooms
Dec 17 th	Vergers & sextons	The Post Office & Co-Operative Shop	Fairfield Farm	Beaston	Levaton Farm
Dec 24 th	Our churches	Ipplepen Primary School	Community Groups	Downe	Bremridge
Dec 31 st	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses
Jan 7 th	Wardens & Deputies	Ambrook & Dainton	The Union Inn	Knowle	Waye Farm
Jan 14 th	Secretaries	Barn Park & Barn Park Cottages	The Manor	Hemsford	Gurrington House
Jan 21 st	Treasurers & finance/stewardship committees	Beech Drive & Orchard Drive	Fairfield Farm	Village Hall	The Old Parsonage
Jan 28 th	Safeguarding officer & reps.	Biltor Road & Conniford Lane	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Lake Farm

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