

NORTHMOOR NEWS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NORTHMOOR TEAM MINISTRY

February 2014

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IN THIS EDITION

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NORTHMOOR TEAM MINISTRY WEST DEVON

St Mary's Belstone with Sticklepath

St Mary the Virgin Bratton Clovelly

St Bridget's Bridestowe

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Exbourne

St German's Germansweek

St John the Baptist Hatherleigh

St Petroc's Inwardleigh

St James Jacobstowe

St Petroc's Lydford

St Michael and all Angels Meeth

St Thomas of Canterbury Northlew

All Saints Okehampton

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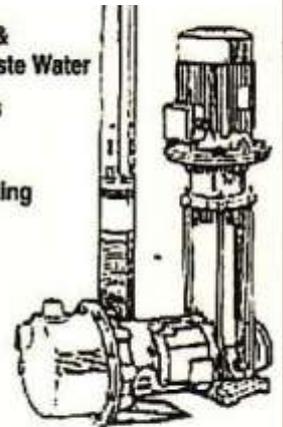
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Editorial

“If in doubt, cut it out!”

And so began my first college lesson in pruning roses! That was a February I shall always remember and every February since has brought the annual reminder: “If in doubt, cut it out!” To produce vigorous healthy rose plants, displaying in summer a magnificent show of blooms, the gardener must prune back hard in February.

In John 15:2 (He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit) Jesus shares the notion of pruning (this time of vines) to make a point. He is in the business of bringing our lives, as we give them to Him, to the very best that He planned for us in first place. But in order for the plant to flourish with beauty and fruitfulness, hard pruning is required.



As we walk through February and on into March through Lenten days towards Easter, now is the time to give thanks for all that He has cut away as well as all that He will cut from our lives . . . yes, a time of thanks for this . . . He is at work in us if we will let Him .

What can these things be that He would prune? All sorts! Sometimes in horticulture a good healthy growth must be removed to enable even better growth. Sometimes it is diseased, damaged or dead portions that are removed.

We must not be fearful when our lives feel broken or damaged. The Great Gardener will come to prune away the death and disease, and we shall thrive again.

We must not be fearful when it is for us to give up an activity or an area of service - - for it may be just what someone else needs to take on for their growth; and we too may just need to be stretched in our faith towards a new task.

If things have become dull in our lives, it may be time to rethink, re-evaluate, redirect . . .

Another wonderful thing about February is that it is definitely “Love Month”

With St Valentine being celebrated on 14th, we too as Christians can jump on this happy bandwagon. It is an opportunity to party along with all who are blessed with loving relationships: husbands and wives, engaged couples, boyfriends and girlfriends.

We can celebrate with them whilst looking back and remembering, or looking forward, perhaps to the hopes of new love.

But it is not Valentine who has the monopoly on love. God is Love and with Him we can also celebrate the love shared between other family members and friends too. The deep love that builds together the people of the Christian church inspires us to remember that Love Who came down at Christmas, Who is the Love, as the hymn writer declares: “that will not let us go”. He is the best “open secret” that we can share with everyone. He is the Lover Who prunes away guilt and sin with His secateurs of forgiveness and grace so that we live and thrive in Him. What Beauty!

Every blessing to us all, each day through February.

Chrissie Taylor (Team Reader)



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Mission Focus

Good News Week

For just one week we forecast the news will be good! From 30th March to 6th April the parish churches of Belstone, Inwardleigh and Okehampton are planning to have a “Good News Week”, a week of various and varied events which will be as easy as possible to invite friends to hear the gospel (good news) about Jesus as explained by a guest speaker.

To help us plan we have been asking ourselves three questions:

1. Who do we know? - friends, family, work colleagues, people at groups and clubs, neighbours etc.
2. What would they come to? - what would be fun to do together, and where?
3. How will they hear the good news about Jesus? - a talk, debate, topic?

At this stage of organisation there is music, craft, skittles, safari supper, children’s event, and lots of food planned!

It can be a scary or uncomfortable thing to share our faith with someone else, especially someone we know well, so we have been reminded of our motivation: John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he sent his only son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” is a verse we all know and love but sometimes forget what it means to believe that it is true!

1. People perish, or have eternal life which is a whole blessed life starting now with God. This is spelt out further in v17-18
2. People have eternal life or perish dependant on their belief in ‘the Son’ Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, and specifically in what he was ‘sent’ to do which was be raised on a cross to die for us and be raised again to give us certain hope.
3. God loves us and wants the best for us, which is to come to know him in his Son Jesus. The Good News is Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

4. How will people believe if they have not heard? Our Christian life is characterised by the summary of the law: Love God, love others. If we don’t want our friends to hear about Jesus, is it because we don’t believe the good news ourselves, or don’t love God, or don’t love our friends?

We can all give some reason for the hope we have, but may not be comfortable in giving a full presentation of our faith to a friend, so inviting that friend to skittles in the pub with a short talk or a gentle chat over Easter-themed craft may make it easier.

So then our ‘Good News Week’ is not an addition to church life or something for an enthusiastic minority but a simple tool for those of us who would love our friends (who may not be comfortable coming to a usual church service) to hear and experience God’s good news for themselves.

- Pray that we would enjoy again the good news of Jesus for ourselves and love God more and love each other more as a result.
- Pray for us in the planning and practicalities.
- Pray for those who will speak, for those who may share something of their faith, and for all of us to have confidence in inviting.
- Pray that God will use this to grow his family, his church, here in Devon for His glory.

Look out for details of events when they are organised and feel free to bring friends if something is right for you.

We have a good God, who loves the world and longs for people to come to know him for themselves and have life and life to the full. Let’s enjoy our good God and be excited to share this ‘good news’ of Jesus Christ, whether personally or through inviting to a ‘Good News’ Event.

Dave Atallah

The State of the Team Address



American presidents give an annual “State of the Union” address, and although I have no illusions of grandeur I think it is a good idea for church leaders to regularly give some indication of their feelings about how the task is going and what the priorities should be. Otherwise we just keep going round the circle of the year. I was interested to read a recent booklet produced by the Church Growth Research Programme which identified certain characteristics of growing churches. I will use them as my headings.

Leadership

Growing churches tend to have motivated leaders who are able to engage and inspire others and who are unafraid to talk about growth and look for it. Only you can judge whether the church leaders here fit that pattern, if not I can only say that I’m afraid we are what you have got and you may have to make the most of us. We will do our very best to keep our own vision fresh and to engage with you in the work of ministry. In return could you commit yourselves to praying for us and supporting us?

Vision

Growing churches tend to have a clear understanding of where they are going and are able to articulate it. We need to stick to the task of rehearsing and implementing our Mission Action Plans this year. Producing them is one thing, putting them into practice quite another.

Reflection

Growing churches enable their members to reflect and learn. I would like to see membership of a small group of one kind or another become the norm for

engaged church members. Do you have any opportunity to discuss your faith with others? If not you are missing out.

Change

Growing churches are able to change and adapt. We are not too bad at this and I think we have got to the stage where we recognise that change is a fact of life, but inevitably there will be some hard choices to be made between what is precious to some and what is necessary if the church is to survive and thrive.

Lay people

Growing churches make good use of lay people and encourage them to grow as Christian disciples. Our record is mixed in this respect. We have some wonderful lay people but across the team churches are short of people willing to take on vital roles. This is probably our most pressing problem and will severely hinder us if it is not turned around. We need to pray, encourage and challenge.

Engagement

Growing churches engage with their local communities, often providing essential services like food-banks and debt counselling. We need to revisit and rethink our third “Mark of Mission” in each parish, where this is the focus.

Welcome

Growing churches welcome new people, not just by smiling as they come in but by actively providing for their needs: giving information, visiting at an early stage, having introductory programmes and courses and generally making them feel that they have not joined a sect but a body of people who values their presence.

Of course you can’t just measure growth in numbers and even good churches don’t grow all the time, but I do believe that if we pay attention to these important things God will honour our efforts and the kingdom will be enlarged through us.

Stephen

St Bridget's Bridestowe

Our Christmas Festivities are now a memory for another year, but a particularly joyful one was joining with our Methodist friends in Carol singing around the village (and getting very wet!). Our thanks to Rex and Jade for sustenance on our way around. We ended the evening with a visit to the White Hart Inn, where we were entertained by our local Barber Shop singers and were glad of the chance to dry out!

That evening was quickly followed by our joint churches Candlelit Carol Service held

this year at St Bridget's and led by the Rev David Muir. Before the Service our emerging group of Bridestowe bell ringers encouraged us in and were able to complete their sponsored bell ringing, providing much needed money for the Tower fund. The service itself was extremely well attended, with every spare chair set out and people also sitting in the choir stalls. The Lessons were read by a mix of older and younger people, as we celebrated the old prophecies and their fulfilment in Jesus. The evening ended with refreshments. Thank you to all who made the service possible, including our flower arrangers who decorated the Church so beautifully.

To usher Christmas in, we had midnight communion on Christmas Eve, with around 50 in church, which was a great encouragement. The service was conducted jointly by Rev David Muir and Rev Graham Warmington. Christmas Day and New Year's Eve we were with the Methodists.

This coming year will bring many changes, including losing Rev David Muir but gaining a new vicar. Rev Graham Warmington will also retire from the Methodist church, to be replaced by Mrs Iris Bray who will be travelling in from her home in Cornwall. We look forward to making the new arrangements work.

Joan Higgins & David Muir

St Thomas a Becket Sourton

Christmas in Church

The church looked lovely for our Christmas celebrations and we would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. We are very grateful to

the flower arrangers and all those who donated flowers and greenery.

Christingle Service

We would like to thank everyone who came to our Christingle Service making it such a happy occasion with a full church. We are grateful to Treetops (our local preschool) for being so well behaved and performing their Nativity Play for us. It showed us, with their story, the true meaning of Christmas and started our celebrations. Thank you to Revd. Dave Atallah for taking the service, to David Hocking and Brian Higbee for providing the music, and all the ladies who provided refreshments for the

excellent tea afterwards. It was good to welcome so many families and friends to the hall and we raised £240.50 to send to the Children's Society.

Carol Service

It was good to be welcomed to the Carol Service with the bells ringing out, and our thanks go to Tony Batten for arranging a team. We are grateful to Revd. Stephen Cook for taking the service and to the readers. The collection amounted to £150 and has been sent to "Save the Children" to help with their work in the Philippines after the disastrous flooding and destruction of homes and facilities there.

Rose Dashper

St German's Germansweek

December saw several events, 4th Dec. the Christmas tree was decorated by the ladies whilst the bell ringers rang the bells. This was followed with soup and bread rolls. 7th was Bangers and Mash night, entertainment was provided by "Homeleigh Singers" and Philip Greenaway and Peter Cresswell. The event was well attended, many having already seen Liz Cresswell switch on the village Christmas tree lights, once again a lovely display. December 8th it was the Christingle service taken by Rev. Stephen Cook, organist was Mrs Ruth James. It was a

very enjoyable service, which the children loved. Each child was presented with a gift donated by Sandy, our Church Warden. 15th was our service taken by Rev David Atallah, organist Mrs Ruth James. Afterwards tea, coffee and cakes were provided along with mulled wine and mince pies. The Christmas Hamper draw took place, the hamper being won by one of the Homeleigh Singers.

Our Christmas Day service was taken by Rev. Stuart Wilson, mulled wine was served on entering the church. A lovely service, taken by Stuart, who is always welcome back into our church. Sandy with helpers served Christmas lunch on two occasions at her home. These were once again supported and enjoyed by all.

On a disappointed note, before Christmas someone removed two poppy wreaths from the war memorial. A new year, the young replacement trees will soon be planted and we await the flowering of the daffodils and bluebells which were planted last autumn. Thank you to PCC members and the bell ringers for their hard work and dedication, to Philip and Keith Greenaway, Liz and Peter Cresswell, Paul Orchard, Robert Chalk, Ken Ogborne, Elli and Sid Collins for their help during 2013. A happy, healthy, new year to you all.

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Brian Singleton

St John the Baptist Hatherleigh

Christmas kicked off with a magical Christingle service on December 8th with over 130 adults and children filling the church. It gets bigger every year. We reflected on the fact that the way to get rid of the darkness is to turn on the light! Numerous people guarded their Christingle candle flames as they exited the church to see whether they could keep their candles alight all the way home. Congratulations to those who made it to near the top of Higher Street! Sunday Club helped present the Christmas story at the Nativity service on December 16th, and a good crowd gathered for the candlelit Carol service on December 22nd. The weather was kind to all

the people who gathered to sing Carols in the Square on Christmas Eve, and Christmas was welcomed in later at the Midnight Communion and at the Family Communion on Christmas Day.

January has seen us celebrate Joshua Bryant's baptism on January 19th and we look forward to celebrating several more baptisms in the coming months.

Old Schools is now looking beautiful and there are only a couple of small jobs that need slightly drier weather and decorating downstairs still to do!! We thank all of those who have given us grants, supported our fund-raising, and made all of this work possible, and we hope it will provide a good resource for use by the community in the years to come.

Ruth Hansford

St James Jacobstowe

Our Carol Service on December 19th resulted in a full church and the readings (by various members of the community) and carols were accompanied by the delicious fragrance of mulled wine, which was served with a plethora of mince pies after the service enabling everyone to have a good chat. Christmas Day was a smaller, but no less joyous, celebration reflecting on how Christmas is like a chocolate orange – something to share (which we did!). Despite wind and rain, the Evensong on January 5th was very well-attended and much-appreciated.

We await news of whether the Heritage Lottery Fund think we qualify for a grant before being able to progress our renovation project.

Ruth Hansford

St Petroc's Inwardleigh

A series of pleasing events led up to Christmas including the visit from the Okehampton choir to our candlelit service of lessons and carols. The church was beautifully decorated. The evening seemed cold and clear with Venus setting in the west and Jupiter rising; but then came the sleet so it was a welcoming haven inside with the candles, music and the Word.

The children's crib service lifted our spirits greatly. There were 74 in the congregation and the young folk performed in a variety of guises including a Christmas pudding, walking

presents and twinkling stars; some were magically transformed by Rev Richard into angels and shepherds!

Stormy weather was braved too by villagers for the now traditional carol singing in different parts of the parish, appreciated by many of us who listened from the comfort of our firesides.

On Christmas morning Stephen had brought a doll as a visual aid for the sermon but was soon assisted by a real baby to the delight of us all!

The church has largely stood up to the battering of the elements. The toilet though was not so fortunate as it took to the air from the churchyard (three times in fact!) and is presently under repair.

What a grand job the bell ringers do. Through their vigilance and the offices of Mr Cleave, we saved the west window which was showing signs of severe distress as the westerly gale did its worst. We welcome new faces and consider ourselves fortunate.

Two new young members of the fold, Abigail and Thomas, were baptised on December 29.

Our thoughts have been with the Dodd and Rattenbury families. Sadly we heard of the passing of Emily. What a brave and inspirational young lady she was. Our love goes out to Lilian and John and they will, we know, convey our heartfelt sympathy to all the family.

Ken Williams

St Mary the Virgin Bratton Clovelly

A belated Happy New Year to you all. Firstly we would like to thank all those of you who are part of Stewardship giving. This is a very valuable way for the church to raise money and is much appreciated by the Treasurers.

The Festive Season was a slightly mixed picture. The Pasty and Cider Supper and Hamper Draw in the Clovelly Inn raised £425, many thanks go to Torbin and Suzy for hosting these events. The tombola stall at the Craft Fayre raised £77.55. The Crib Service went very well and was our first Family Service to be held in the School Room. The warm room made the atmosphere very welcoming and the three kings arriving at the manger by toy tractor also raised the spirits. Family Services will be held in the School Room for the foresee-

able future.

The Carol Service and the Midnight Holy Communion were well supported even though they were affected by the weather but the Carols round the village had to be cancelled.

The money raised toward the repair of the clock has all come in and the bill has been paid, thank you to the so many people who contributed towards this.

The diary for this year has been discussed but there are so many imponderables, in part due to the lack of a vicar, very little has been finalised. More details will follow when available.

The Burns Night Supper was held too late for this edition so details in March's NMN.

The payment for the Northmoor News is now overdue and Mary will be very pleased to receive any money owing as soon as possible.

Toni Kemeny

St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Exbourne

We celebrated Christmas with lots of Carol Singing at various well attended Services and events over the Christmas period, and had an exceptional Christmas Concert in the Hall with Little Bo Peep leading the evening, a splendid effort, thank you Nick. Life is getting back to normal and January has been a quiet month for a time of reflection on the coming year and all we plan to do.

Please note in your diary:
April 26th - Spring Fair
May 17th - Two village Walk
June 21st - Church Fete
September 21st - Harvest
December 6th - Christmas Fair
December 14th - Carol Service.

Lorraine Aagaard

Mon	Tue	Wed	Th
<p><i>27 January</i> The Ark toddler group Okehampton Parish Hall 9.45am - 11.45am:</p>	<p><i>28 January</i></p>	<p><i>29 January</i></p>	<p><i>30 January</i></p>
<p><i>3</i> The Ark toddler group Okehampton Parish Hall 9.45am - 11.45am</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i> <i>Worship Without Chapel</i> 10am</p>
<p><i>10</i> The Ark toddler group Okehampton Parish Hall 9.45am - 11.45am</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p>
<p><i>17</i> The Ark toddler group Okehampton Parish Hall 9.45am - 11.45am</p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i> Mothers Union Okehampton Church Hall 2pm</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>
<p><i>24</i> The Ark toddler group Okehampton Parish Hall 9.45am - 11.45am:</p>	<p><i>25</i> Mothers Union Drop-In: Okehampton Church Hall. 2.15pm-4.15pm</p>	<p><i>26</i> Northmoor Team Council: Okehampton Church Hall 7.30pm</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>

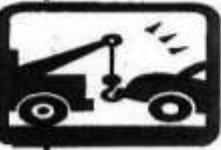
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	<p><i>31 January</i></p>	<p><i>1</i> Just Living at Okehampton Farmers Market 9am-1pm All Saints Coffee Morning Okehampton Church Hall. 9.30am-12pm</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p>Words, St James</p>	<p><i>7</i> Women's World Day of Prayer New Life Church 11am (<i>see notice board</i>) Fair Trade and Local Lunch. Okehampton Church Hall 12noon – 2pm (<i>see notice board</i>) Quiz Night Okehampton Church Hall 7.30pm</p>	<p><i>8</i> Men's Breakfast contact Dave Atallah for details Healing Okehampton outside St James Chapel, 11.30am - 1pm Jammie Dodgers 10am-11am Exbourne Village Hall (<i>see notice board</i>)</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>
	<p><i>14</i> Connected Youth Event Fairplace Church Okehampton 7pm (<i>see notice board</i>)</p>	<p><i>15</i> Just Living at Okehampton Farmers Market 9am-1pm</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>
	<p><i>21</i> Puzzle Tree Praise, All Saints Okehampton 2.30pm</p>	<p><i>22</i> Team Away Day (<i>see page 19 for details</i>)</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>
	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>1 March</i> Northlew Doodlebugs Methodist Chapel 3pm-4pm (<i>see notice board</i>)</p>	<p><i>2 March</i></p>



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OKEHAMPTON NEWSAGENTS 

St Petroc's Lydford

Well, Christmas 2013 is over! The decorations are packed away with the 'stable' and the crib figures on top of the cupboard in the Vestry and the floodlighting is 'off' but one thing is sure, or as sure as anything can be in this rapidly changing world, they will all be unpacked and re-arranged with just as much care and excitement for Christmas 2014. We had a good Christmas with (as is always noted) many people, notably families, who we don't often see, coming to our special services. Now the age old question - what can we do to make them

want to come to church more often?

Nothing stands still and we are already planning our fund raising so that we can keep the church looking good for all comers. I am always reminded of John Betjeman's poem 'Septuagesima' which ends with the 'two or three who keep the church for you and me' - because sometimes that is what it feels like. We are still trying to upgrade the lighting with the advice of the DAC electrical expert- what would we do without these people who freely give their time. I have every confidence that the final result will be first class. We also have a Quinquennial inspection this year which we anxiously hope

will not reveal any major requirements. So the fund raising goes on!

Saturday, 8th February at 2pm in the Nicholls Hall an illustrated talk by Simon Dell on 'Lydford, the Stannary Parliament and Lydford Law' £5 which includes tea. Simon Dell was Tavistock's Community policeman and he is a very knowledgeable and lively speaker on a wide range of subjects.

Finally, a stop press item - I have just heard that John Davies has been appointed Rector of the Cam Valley group of churches, Taunton Diocese. I am sure that everyone wishes him and Diana happiness in their new post.

Barbara Weeks

St Michael and All Angels Meeth

2013 was a year of mixed emotions for many in Meeth – some truly happy occasions but also some very sad ones too. We pray 2014 will be a time of hope, comfort and gently recovery, knowing God is with us always – through the good and bad times.

Our Advent Lunch and Christmas Bazaar was well supported – the hall was full of happy people enjoying each other's company over lunch – also buying the odd last minute Christmas present. We would like to thank all who helped to make this such a success – most of all those who came and supported us.

The Samuel Jerman Commemorative Sermon and Concert was a very uplifting time, with the Unity Gospel Choir, and Rt. Rev. Nick McKinnel Bishop of Crediton preaching the special 50p sermon. Delicious refreshments including hot cider punch were served following the service.

The church was full for the Carol Service, with some of the members of Messy Meeth Monkeys reading the lessons. The 3Ms also played the hand chimes. Several ladies from the village formed a choir. We all thoroughly enjoyed the service and the mulled wine and mince pies which followed. Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Marjorie Cleverdon for her encouragement, patience

and help with the choir and also for playing the organ at the service.

At our PCC in January, in line with our policy of giving 10% of our net income to charity, it was agreed to make donations to Shelterbox, Royal Institute for the Blind, The Children's Society, and the Jenson Tucker Appeal to enable a local child with spastic diplegia the chance of a life-enhancing operation.

There will be Lent Lunch in Meeth Village Hall on 19th March at 12.30 pm. Homemade soup, crusty bread, cheese and biscuits, fruit, tea or coffee: £4.50. Do come along and join us. You'll be made very welcome.

Beryl Toop

St Thomas of Canterbury, Northlew

Apologies for missing the last issue of Northmoor News, it was all written up, but due to the wonders of modern technology it didn't actually arrive on time. Anyway belated Happy New Year wishes from Northlew to all readers. The first exciting event of the year was when the snowdrops battled their way through the sodden ground in the church yard on January 6th, they had quite a struggle this year but the tough little things made it in the end. I know I say it every year that snowdrops remind me so much of humans who plod on regardless, some through very desperate periods

in their lives.

We all enjoyed the lovely Christmas services all of which were well attended. Then, on New Year's Eve, the bell ringers rang in the new year and Sean fired his old cannon (with the wind blowing and the cannon thudding you could almost imagine you were on the deck of an old 'wooden wall' in the middle of a battle at sea). Almost! Thanks to the ringers, Shaun and Wenna and, of course, Trixie for kindly giving the mulled wine and mince pies.

The Christmas hamper which was in the church room as a raffle prize, was won by Helen Thorne and £74 was raised for church funds. Many thanks to all who took part

and especially to Roz Jones who organised it all.

While on the subject of money could I have your £5 for the year supply of this magazine? As soon as possible, would be much appreciated as it can then be forgotten, thank you.

Rest in peace Lilian Spry aged 82. Lilian's funeral on November 30th was attended by a large number of her family friends and neighbours. It's easy to ramble on about someone like Lily, she was so much part of life in the village, even after she went to live with Helen and Andy, she still used to come back for special events. We send our sympathy to Helen, Andy and the girls.

Pat Durston

All Saints Okehampton

First let me wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Christmas seems a long time ago now and the weather since has not done anything to make us all feel good but I'm sure Spring must be just around the corner.

December was a busy month with our usual Coffee Morning followed by Edwardian Evening which found us in the Hall dispensing hot drinks and refreshments on a largely wet evening, so we were pleased to be able to offer some respite. We were joined by the team that produces the *Good Neighbours* magazine which is

provided for newer residents (the mulled wine went down well!) and we were also visited by our own Mayor, Mike Davies, together with his colleagues from West Devon and Tavistock.

The Christmas Tree Festival took place again with several organizations decorating trees. All Saints looked really beautiful with the flower arrangers having, as always, produced a wonderful display and although we were away for the Christmas services I know that all who attended will have enjoyed the whole atmosphere so our thanks go to all who made it possible.

Our January Coffee Morning took place a week later than usual – the decision to do

this was made some years ago as the first Saturday is always so close to Christmas that it seemed sensible to move it. Thank you to all those who supported the morning, at the beginning of the year it is probably timely to thank the small band of volunteers who month by month give their time to raise much needed funds for All Saints. Extra help is always welcome so please do offer your services!

I hope you have a copy of the social events planned for the year, do put the dates in your diaries so you don't miss anything! If you haven't seen the list, there are copies in church. Hopefully there are events to appeal to everyone.

Ann Pantrey

Caring for God's Acre

THE LIVING CHURCHYARDS PROJECT

In July 2013 All Saints Church joined the Living Churchyards Project. The Project is a joint initiative between the Devon Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Exeter to promote the sympathetic management of Devon's churchyards with the aim of providing an important refuge for a wide diversity of wildlife while maintaining churchyards as a pleasant reflective sanctuary for our congregations and visitors.

Our countryside has changed enormously over recent decades due to the modern day pressures of development and intensive farming which has led to the widespread loss of natural habitats resulting in a dramatic decline in wildlife.

Churchyards have generally remained unchanged over this time escaping ploughing and the use of fertilizers and pesticides resulting in them representing remnants of our past countryside, often supporting rare and unusual species that were once common. In addition, churchyards contain a variety of habitats within a small area, providing niches for a diversity of wildlife including wildflowers, invertebrates, birds, reptiles and mammals, together with often overlooked lichens, mosses and fungi. These reservoirs of wildlife provide corridors from which the surrounding countryside can be colonised, helping to strengthen populations of our native flora and fauna.

Understanding churchyards are sacred places, primarily for burial and remembrance, the Living Churchyards Project aims to strike a balance. A churchyard managed with sympathy for wildlife can still look well cared for and be attractive to people as well as plants and animals; conservation is not about letting things grow unchecked, it is about positive management.

As part of the project at All Saints the grass mowing regime in the two older churchyards is managed in a way to allow wild flowers to flower and seed. Other activities that have taken place is the creation of a small wildflower garden adjacent to the toilets, buddleia, lavender and pyracantha have been planted in other areas

for the benefit of insect and birds and log piles have been created for food, shelter and hibernation. Also a recent survey revealed 104 species of lichen at All Saints, of which four are nationally scarce and with thirty three species of bird being recorded, ten of which have nested in or around All Saints churchyards shows how valuable these areas are to wildlife. If every churchyard in the Northmoor Team undertook just one or two small projects in their churchyards we can all contribute to the survival of our threatened wildlife.

David Back

PS: During the survey surveyor Barbara Benfield noticed this headstone on the east end of the church. How many more headstones in our churchyards tell a story such as this one?



In expectation of a blessed resurrection Edward Cornish, vicar of this parish, has put in his will that his bones have to be placed especially here for internment lest they are removed before the last tuba has sounded. Let all the people of the parish in the coming centuries and especially all the vicars after him trustfully take care that this does not happen. He asks this humbly. May they thus find mercy on that last day. He died on the fourth day of March and was buried on the 6th in the year of the Lord 1715.

Team Clergy

Revd Stephen Cook, *Team Rector*

The Rectory, Church Path,
Okehampton EX20 1LW
01837 659297
scook9673@aol.com

Team Vicar

Position vacant

Revd Dr Ruth Hansford, *Team Vicar*

The Rectory, Hatherleigh EX20 3JY
01837 810314
maggiethecat@waitrose.com

Revd David Muir, *Pioneer Minister*

The Rectory, South Tawton EX20 2LQ
01837 840867
okehamptonpioneer@btinternet.com

Revd Dave Atallah, *Team Curate*

19 Fern Meadow,
Okehampton EX20 1PB
01837 54263
dave@atallahfamily.co.uk

Revd Richard Bache, *Team Curate*

The Rectory, Lydford
01822 820536
rich.foley@btinternet.com

Team Readers

Mrs Sandra Collier 01837 810042
Mrs Ingrid Dodd 01837 810241
Mrs Kerry Friend 01837 861304
Mrs Chrissie Taylor 01837 54052
Mrs Maurie Webber 01837 53845
Dr Michael Winter 01837 851718

Parish Office

01837 52731
northmoorteam@btinternet.com

Website

www.northmoor-churches.org

Services around the Team

* = Joint service with other denominations, venue alternates

** = Always on the last Sunday of the month; venue rotates

Belstone St Mary's

1st, 3rd, 5th Sun 9.30 Morning Prayer
2nd, 4th Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion

Bratton Clovelly St Mary the Virgin

1st, 3rd Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 9.30 Family Service
Last Sunday 10.30 Shared Communion Service**
(4th Sunday if 5) 9.30 Morning Prayer

Bridestowe St Bridget's

1st Sunday 11.00 United Family Service*
2nd (4th) Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer
Last Sunday 10.30 Shared Communion Service**
1st, 3rd Weds 10.15 Holy Communion

Exbourne St Mary the Blessed Virgin

1st Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 11.00 Family Service
3rd Sunday 11.00 Morning Prayer
4th Sunday 11.00 United Service*
5th Sunday varies Benefice Service
2nd Thursday 8.45pm Compline
4th Wednesday 8.30am Morning Prayer

Germansweek St German's

1st Sunday 11.15 Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 11.15 Morning Prayer
Last Sunday 10.30 Shared Communion Service**

Hatherleigh St John the Baptist

1st Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 11.00 Morning Prayer
[Sunday School meets 10-12]
3rd Sunday 11.00 Family Service
6.00 Evening Prayer
4th Sunday 11.00 United Service*
5th Sunday varies Benefice Service

Inwardleigh St Petroc's

5th Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer
Other Sundays 9.30 Holy Communion

Jacobstowe St James

2nd, 4th Sundays 9.30 Holy Communion
5th Sunday varies Benefice Service

Lydford St Petroc's

1st Sunday 11.00 Morning Prayer
2nd, 4th Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 11.00 Matins
5th Sunday 10.30 Shared Communion Service

Meeth St Michael and all Angels

1st Sunday 9.30 All Age Worship
2nd Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer
5th Sunday varies Benefice Service

Northlew St Thomas of Canterbury

1st, 3rd Sundays 9.30 Holy Communion
6.30 Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday 9.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Evening Prayer
4th Sunday 11.00 Family Service
6.30 Holy Communion
5th Sunday varies Benefice Service
1st Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion

Okehampton All Saints

1st Sunday 11.00 Family Service
6.30 Holy Communion
Other Sundays 11.00 Holy Communion
[Sunday School during service]
6.30 Evensong
3rd Friday 2.30 Puzzletree Praise

Okehampton St James Chapel

1st Thursdays 10.00 'Worship Without Words'
Other Thursdays 10.00 Holy Communion

Sourton St Thomas a Becket

1st Sunday 8.00 Holy Communion
2nd (4th) Sunday 11.00 Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday 11.00 Family Communion
Last Sunday 10.30 Shared Communion Service**

Sticklepath St Mary's

2nd Sunday 11.00 Morning Prayer
4th Sunday 8.30 Holy Communion

NOTICE BOARD

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'STREAMS IN THE DESERT'

Prepared by Christian women of Egypt

7th March
New Life Church 11am

'Fair and Local' Lunch

to celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight

*including ingredients from
Palestinian farmers*

7 March 2014, 12noon – 2pm
Okehampton Church Hall, Market St

Participants in Women's World Day of
Prayer are welcome to book a table:
please phone June on 840867

Northlew Doodlebugs
Come and have fun with us
at our churches' Children's Group

Saturday 1st March

The End of a Dynasty
(please note this change from the
normal date due to half-term)

3-4pm, Methodist Chapel

Come and be CONNECTED Youth Event

God loves you - and now...??

Great grub and networking
Fantastic worship with band

Join us for this pioneering youth event
Bring your friends

Friday 14th Feb 2014

Fairplace Church, Okehampton
7pm - 9.30pm

Details: Dave Atallah 01837 54263

Johnny Cowling

(Cornwall's comedy export)

With Michelle Hewitt

(Country and Western singer)

Bridestowe Village Hall

Friday April 11th 7pm for 7.30pm
In aid of St Bridget's Church

Tickets £12 (includes pasty and glass of
cider) from Mavis 01837 861241

Jammie Dodgers

children's group run

by the Church in Exbourne

Saturday 8th February 2014

Valentine's Day Special:

Abraham & Sarah

Make a card for someone special

10.00-11.00am

Exbourne Village Hall

followed by light refreshments

Games and activities are geared towards Primary
School age children and younger. Parents are wel-
come to stay and we would ask that all under 5's
are accompanied by a parent or carer.

**Bratton Clovelly
Auction of Promises**

Friday 21st March
7.30pm

in the Parish Hall
in aid of the church.

St Mary's Belstone with Sticklepath

Nothing to report from Belstone and Sticklepath this month

We Believe

No article on this series this month. It will continue next month.

ROTAS

Sourton

Flowers

2nd Laura Ley
9th Laura Ley
16th Helen Alford
23rd Helen Alford

March

2nd Helen Alford

Inwardleigh

Readers

2nd Wendy
9th Nigel
16th Sandra
23rd Nan

March

2nd Pam

Sidespeople

2nd Dot
9th Janet
16th Ken
23rd John

March

2nd Roy

Flowers

2nd Judy
9th Judy
16th Lilian
23rd Lilian

March

2nd Ann

Finally...

Calling all skittlers!

Further to the note to all Parishes, some have already entered skittles teams. If you are not aware, the Team is holding a parish skittles competition.

If your parish has not already entered please contact Sandra on 01837 810042 or email, sandracollier57@gmail.com

The idea is that there will be a group stage, three parishes in each group, and the draw will be done when all teams are entered.

Games are arranged amongst yourselves. Eight in a team, four from the Electoral Roll, and four others (minimum of 2 females).

Treat this as an outreach opportunity. The winners of each group will come together for a finals night at the Waie Inn on Friday 16th May.

Sandra Collier

Two Moors Festival at Okehampton

On Monday 21st October, the Two Moors Festival came to All Saints, and it was truly a wonderful night with very accomplished musicians presenting the theme of 'Light'. They were superb and appreciated the wonderful acoustics of the church.

The event was hosted as usual by The Friends of All Saints, and we served many suppers and wines, raising £671 for funds.

Well done everyone for all your efforts, in making it a great success. We received many comments of appreciation for our hosting with lovely food and wine, from a lot of people, in particular from John and Penny Adie, the festival directors. Thanks are also due to other people who helped in any way with car park marshalling and food preparation.

The piano movers had a lot of difficulty getting the piano loaded onto the removal van, but finally managed it (thank goodness), and we finally got home at 1.30 am.

George Ware

Northmoor Team 'Away Day'

Saturday 22nd February 2014 10am - 4pm
 at the **Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum,**
 Crediton EX17 6DF. Phone 01363 82348
www.waieinn.co.uk



Abundant Living : *Led by Tim Newcombe*

Our Lord said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it in abundance' John 10.10

"This year we shall be exploring together what abundance of life means. I shall be using art, film and music. There will also be things to do so please bring something with you that is important to you - a memento, a keepsake or a childhood treasure perhaps. It need not have an intrinsic value, so don't bring the Ming Vase or the Grandfather clock! We won't be doing Antiques Road Show. Everything in the day is designed to help us enjoy **ABUNDANT LIVING, physically, mentally and spiritually**". *Tim Newcombe*

It's that time of the year again but this year we are going to the **Waie Inn**. The day is an opportunity for every member of the Northmoor Churches to get together, to relax and enjoy each other's company. There will be time for quiet as well as time to chat and have a swim - if you feel brave enough (it's an indoor pool); a time for personal reflection and to share worship at the end of the day. The day is being led (with help from others) by Tim Newcombe, a retired Priest who now lives in Okehampton and is known to many of us.

- There will be tea/coffee on arrival at 10am
- Lunch will be 12.30pm to 2pm. On arrival you will be asked to choose from the menu. There is a wide range, from snacks to full meals including children's meals. Everyone to pay individually
- The swimming pool is booked for our use between 1pm and 2pm
- We have exclusive use of the Lantern Suite for the day
- There are facilities and an indoor play area with climbing frames, slides, ball pools and air cannons for children. If any Northmoor families are interested in coming, please have a word with Dave Atallah on 01837 54263 or email dave@atallahfamily.co.uk as soon as possible to see how and if this could be coordinated.



Location from Okehampton:

Follow Crediton Road B3215 towards North Tawton where it meets the A3072 towards Crediton. Follow on to Bow and turn left in Bow Square turn down Water Lane and follow 2 miles into Zeal Monachorum where the Waie Inn can be found on the right at the bottom of the village.

To book your place

Please telephone Ann Pantrey on 01837 55830 or email annpantry@btinternet.com. The idea is to share cars; if you are able to offer a lift please say when booking.

Comment from the 'Away Day' 2013

"It was a wonderful day for renewing friendships and meeting others, as well as a time 'away from it all' to think about things and to be refreshed and renewed. Interesting ideas were tossed about and new approaches to all sorts of aspects of our Christian lives were discussed". [*Jenny Reynolds*]

Thank you for reading Northmoor News.

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"To Heaven to begin a new life"

and ... our personal favourite from an 8 year old girl

"I don't know, but I hope it's a nice place" out of the mouth of babes ...

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