

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory 2014

Vicar	Tom Honey	201 100 & 07837 867 680
Assistant Curate	Andy Atkins	277 882
Parish Missioner	Simon Harrison	07824 456 938
Churchwarden	Avril Pattinson	860 880
“	Dave Allin	~
Reader	Bill Pattinson	860 880
PCC Secretary	Mary Kirkland	980 660
Parish Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
Electoral Roll Officer	Jeremy Lawford	214 025
Thika Link	Kate Bray	877 162

St. David's www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

Treasurer	Barbara Allin	270 162
Asst. Treasurer	Geoff Crockett	468 073
Choir	Nigel Walsh	273 237
News Sheet	Helena Walker	notices@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Toddler Group	Julia Spruntulis	270 986
Junior Church	Bill Pattinson	860 880
Servers	Christopher Smith	259 469
Church Bookings	Mary Quest	07792 062 403
Readers & Time of Prayer Rota	Avril Pattinson	860 880

St Michael's www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk

Hon Asst Priest	John Thurmer	272 277
Hon Asst Priest	David Hastings	498 233
Chapel Warden	Richard Parker	~
Chapel Warden	George Hexter	469 479
Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
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Dear Friends,

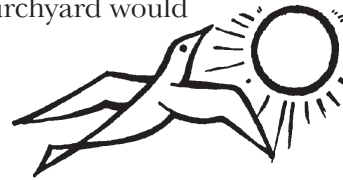
last month I attended a day conference at St James' Park, the home of Exeter City FC. The day was organised by a group called Caring for God's Acre. Not the football pitch. God's Acre is the ancient description of the churchyard or burial ground which surrounds so many parish churches. The purpose of the conference was to help people who are looking after churchyards to make the most of the green space in their care. Most people there were from Devon villages, but there were a few like me who have the care of urban churchyards. At St David's our churchyard feels like an oasis in a built-up area.

After the second world war, agriculture in this country became more intensive. Hedgerows have been lost, more land taken into production, pesticides have been sprayed widely, including the horrendous DDT (now illegal) which nearly wiped out the peregrine falcon, and neo-nicotinoids which are responsible for the catastrophic decline in bee populations. Churchyards are one of the places where natural eco-systems have remained untouched for hundreds of years. So they are of huge importance to all kinds of wildlife.

It is my dream to manage our churchyard to achieve three goals. First, to restore a quiet, peaceful and safe setting where respect is afforded to those who are buried there, and the fascinating history is available to those who study the grave stones. Secondly to provide the best possible environment for the plants and creatures which inhabit the churchyard. From the lichen on the stones to the swifts wheeling and screaming round the tower on summer evenings. And thirdly to make our church-

yard a place of recreation where local residents can walk and sit and enjoy our little piece of green.

All these aims are achievable. We have a large space, which lends itself to a variety of purposes. We have ambitious plans for the future of St David's Church; our aim is to create a warm, open and welcoming space, which is available for a variety of uses by our congregation, and by other groups, believers and non-believers, and by casual passers-by. A place of beauty and peace where it will be possible to pause and be quiet in the middle of a busy day and busy lives. For this wonderful church building to be located in a beautiful living churchyard would offer the city of Exeter something very special.

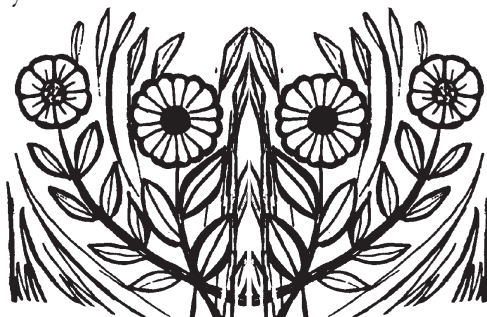


For all this to happen will require a lot of commitment from congregation and other friends; and it will require professional help. Our magazine is now available on line. If there is anyone out there reading my words, who has a desire and willingness to contribute to this great project, please contact us.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, who already do so much for our church. There are too many of you to mention individually, but without you the life of St David's would be impossible to sustain.

Thank you all very much.

Tom



with permission from

The Beaker Folk of Husborne Crawley

Going to Church is a Waste of Time

Announced by Archdruid Eileen

There is no doubt that going to Church is a waste of time.

After all, you could be on Twitter. You could be in B&Q or digging the garden or in bed. Or watching Great British Bake-Off on BBC iPlayer. Or checking the emails on the work Blackberry so you can respond to your boss's responses, and make it look like you're dedicated before the boss checks again. Or you could be replaying the highlights of the latest England game.

You will have to share your time with at least one, and possibly hundreds, of people who often don't have much in common with you. If a noise-sensitive type who likes reflection and peace and beautiful liturgy, you may have to be next to a baby. If a young mother or father, you may have to put up with tutting and shushing moaners.

You will be asked - though not forced - to donate money - partly to fund a building, partly to pay the person whose talks you don't like. And then you will frequently be asked to donate money to help people who have never heard of you and may not thank you. You may well be asked to give your time to help people whose position in society means they are unlikely ever to return the honour in this life.

You will spend an hour or more in singing and expressing the praises of what you cannot see, and cannot prove exists, and giving thanks for a transaction involving something called “grace” and “sacrifice” that happened 2,000 years ago - and which you cannot prove happened. You will often then drink poor quality coffee.

You will be expressing for this short period of time - even if it's the only time this week - that the world does not revolve around you. That you are, if rich, obliged to help those less privileged. If you are on the floor, you can pretend for one hour that you are able to be raised up. You will be saying, even if the echoes of the working week have rung around your head from time to time, that making money and climbing career ladders is not all that matters. You will be showing that it is possible for a varied group of people, with different lives, political views and priorities, to come together with a common purpose. You will have had the chance - in a limited way - to express love to other people. And you will have the chance to dream the impossible dream that, although this world is awe-full and beautiful, there is a future that will be more awe-full and infinitely beautiful.



Going to Church is a waste of time.

It's supposed to be.

Iris Sutton

This true story appears in the annual review of YMCA Exeter, our neighbours on St David's Hill.

Natasha's Story

I left home the day I finished school. My mother was in a violent relationship and it was putting pressure on all our lives. I felt unsafe so I made the decision to leave.

I went to stay with a friend, but then the friend said I couldn't stay there any more so I went to stay with another friend. I felt bad for both my friends having to put up with me so I did spend nights on the streets, but I was quite lucky not to have to do that too much. I slept down on the quay, under a bridge with my coat over me. It was really scary because obviously you don't know who is going to be coming past you. You don't sleep well at all; I don't think I slept for more than one hour.

After that my college found out about the situation I was in and referred me to YMCA Exeter. Last September I left YMCA Exeter to go to university to study Music Therapy. I plan to be a music therapist to help others overcome their difficult experiences. YMCA Exeter are the ones who helped me turn my life around. I am really grateful that I got to come here.

I'm so glad I came to YMCA Exeter. It's changed me, it's made me more independent and I've met some amazing people. Some of my best friends are there who I hope to stay in touch with even now I'm at Uni.

St David's Eucharist October		
Sunday 5th October : St Francis of Assisi		
Reading 1	Micah 6: 6-8	Julia Spruntulis
Reading 2	Galatians 6: 14-18	Jenny Baker
Gospel	Luke 12: 22-34	Andy Atkins
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson
<i>Junior Church</i> Susan Mitchell		
Sunday 12th October : Trinity 17		
Reading 1	Isaiah 25: 4-9	Paula Lawford
Reading 2	Philippians 4: 1-9	Jeremy Lawford
Gospel	Matthew 22: 1-10	Tom Honey
Time of prayer		Nigel Walsh
<i>Junior Church</i> Helen Sail		
Sunday 19th October : Trinity 18 <i>Something Different</i>		
Reading 1	~	~
Reading 2	~	~
Gospel		Andy Atkins
Time of prayer	~	~
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
Sunday 26th October : Trinity 19 Bible Sunday		
Reading 1	Nehemiah 8: 1-4	Hilary Frances
Reading 2	Colossians 3: 12-17	Suzi Leather
Gospel	Matthew 24: 30-35	Tom Honey
Time of prayer		Tess Lowe
<i>Junior Church</i> Sara Gibbs		
Sunday 2nd November : All Souls Day		
Reading 1	Lamentations 3: 17-26, 31-33	Cyrus Moghtadaii
Reading 2	1 Peter 1: 3-9	Emma White
Gospel	John 6: 37-40	Bill Pattinson
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
<i>Junior Church</i> Susan Mitchell		

Heritage & Music

at St Michael's, Mount Dinham

October 2014



Please use the new website at www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk to view the full Music List and Events, and our twitter feed for latest details. Here are a just a few highlights.

Following on from our Come&Sing Open Choir Practice at 7pm on **Tuesday 30th September**, we hope to welcome some new singers to the Choir on **Sunday 5th October**. Music for Mass at 10.45am (practice at 10am) is 2 old favourites from our a cappella repertoire, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (the eternal gifts of Christ) by Palestrina and Locus Iste (this place is made by God) by Bruckner.

Evensong at 6pm (practice at 4.45pm) on **Sunday 5th** will cover many musical styles; plainsong, Anglican chant, 16th century polyphony, rhythmic baroque and some Stanford romanticism. Check the music list online to work out which is which.

Owing perhaps to the height of Mount Dinham, Harvest comes a whole 4 weeks later at St Michael's than at St David's!

Sunday 19th October sees our Harvest Thanksgiving Mass at 10.45am. Gifts suitable for the Food Bank collection would be especially welcome.

Good contemporary music also features at St Mike's, as well as the best from the past 5 centuries or more. On **Sunday 26th**, Grayston Ives' version of "O for a closer walk with God" is the Motet.

Looking forward to **Sunday 2nd November**, the Calendar this year means we mark both All Saints at 10.45am and All Souls at 6pm. In place of “First Sunday Evensong” we will give a full liturgical performance of the Requiem by Gabriel Faure. Any singers who would like to join us for this service are invited to rehearse with us beforehand at 4.30pm, and if possible at the preceding Tuesday choir practice.

On **Wednesday 15th October at 7.30pm**, our St Michael’s Lecturer is Ed Paulson (Chair of NATRE) asking how RE should feature in the school curriculum.

At **7.30pm on Wed 22nd October**, Recitals @ St Michael’s continue with Margaret Thomson accompanied by John Draisey in a programme of Victorian & Edwardian Songs.

Finally, thanks to Connie Cannon and Richard Parker for their long hours manning the church during the Heritage Open Days. There was a small but steady stream of visitors on both days totalling perhaps 60 or more. All admired the beauty and presence of the church, half a dozen had a go on the new organ under Nigel Browne’s supervision, and most importantly a few needed space to sit quietly, or talk with someone about their problems and ask for prayer.

Richard Barnes

Recitals @ St Michael's

Wednesday 22nd October

Margaret Thompson (mezzo-soprano)

& John Draisey (piano)

Songs from a Century Ago



Wednesday 12th November

The Exeter Singers

Something for Everyone



Wednesday 10th December

The Choir of St Michael's

Christmas by Candlelight

7:30pm

at

St Michael & All Angels, Dinham Rd,

Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

Entrance: £5 (£3 concessions)

St Michael's has Twitter!

(@StMikes_Exeter)

Thank you to Bill Patterson for his positive and informative look at Twitter in the July/August issue. It is a happy coincidence that just as Bill was writing this, St Michael's was itself signing up to join the ranks of tweeters. We hope his words encouraged some of you to take a look at the good work the church is doing on social media! Remember you don't need to be signed up to Twitter to do this; just visit www.twitter.com/StDavids_Exeter.



Twitter allows us to do many things, one of which is to share our faith much more widely. Bill explained the real usefulness of social media for evangelising, and there are a number of ways to do this. Bible verses, readings, reflections, prayers and take-home messages from sermons can all be used to reach out to those who can't or won't go to church. Supporting the work of charities by raising awareness and by posting links to fundraising pages is also an important part of online mission. And as in real life, wishing someone congratulations or a happy birthday, or offering some words of comfort in more difficult times are some of the best ways to carry out Christ's ministry and spread God's love.

As Bill so rightly pointed out, Twitter is most popular with the younger generation, and if done right can be a brilliant way to engage with and attract young people. As you may be aware, St Michael's doesn't have a large congregation, and our hope is that Twitter can help to bring more people into the church, whether for worship, singing, concerts, lectures, socials, to see the peregrines, or anything else. In fact, running the church Twitter account has really opened our eyes to just how much we have going on here! And it's not just the church either: we've also been finding out a lot more about our congregation. Highlights so far have included 2 10km runs, a successfully orchestrated summer camp and an exhibition in the Cathedral!

As well as keeping people informed of our own activities, we're also enjoying the opportunity to interact with audiences who wouldn't normally get to hear about our church. Our posts have been favourited (see below) by Shakespeare Magazine, Pembroke College Cambridge, a New York art gallery, and the charity Creativity Australia, to name but a few.



What's more, the advantage of Twitter over a blog or website is that it isn't all one-way traffic. People we've never met who see our posts can quickly and easily open a conversation with us, or pass the information on for their own followers to see.

For anyone thinking of opening an account, or who just wants to make sense of the St Michael's and St David's Twitter pages, here is quick guide to some of the jargon:

- A tweet is simply an entry/post on Twitter. It is also used as a verb (i.e. to tweet something) and is produced by a tweeter (Twitter user).
- The @ symbol introduces a username e.g. @HoneyVicar. These are short and unique to each individual user. Twitter users also display their full name on their page, but the @username is needed as there may be several users with the same name, and because the 140 character limit on tweets necessitates brevity.
- Following someone on twitter means that you will automatically see all of their recent tweets in your newsfeed when you log into the website. You need to be a twitter user to do this, but if you don't have Twitter you can still read tweets from other users by going to their individual pages. All tweets are in the public domain (so can be read by absolutely anyone, anywhere in the world), unless they have set their account to private.
- Tweets beginning with an @username are addressed to that particular user (but can still be seen by everyone).
- When a #hashtag appears before a word, you can click through to see tweets from other users who are talking about the same thing. For example, #WW1 was popular on 3rd & 4th August, and #BBCProms has been throughout the summer.
- A topic that is trending is a popular hashtag; something a lot of people are talking about.
- Favouriting a tweet is a way of showing your appreciation of that particular post. The number of favourites a tweet has is indicated

with a star symbol below it. You can see a list of tweets that a user has favourite by going to 'favourites' on their Twitter page.

- Retweeting another user's tweet makes it visible for your own followers, if they don't already follow that particular tweeter. The number of retweets a tweet has received is indicated by a square double arrow symbol underneath.



If you already have Twitter, make sure to follow St Michael's @StMikes_Exeter and St David's @StDavids_Exeter.

If you aren't yet signed up, you can still see what's going on by going to:

- www.twitter.com/StMikes_Exeter (for St Michael's), or
- www.twitter.com/StDavids_Exeter (for St David's).

So what are you waiting for? Give it a go!

Marianne Connors & Sophie Nicholson



Church of St. Michael and All Angels
Mount Dinham
Parish of St. David, Exeter



St Michael's Lectures

Wednesday 15th October, 7.30pm

What is the Point of Religious Education Today?

Ed Pawson

Ed Pawson is Head of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at the King's School, Ottery St Mary, where he teaches students aged 11-18. He is an RE adviser in Devon schools and the Chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE).

What is the rationale for the teaching of RE in our schools today? Why does it continue to be a relevant subject within the school curriculum? What challenges do teachers of RE face in twenty-first century?

Everyone is warmly welcomed to the St Michael's Lectures and admission is FREE (with a voluntary retiring collection). They are followed by discussion and light refreshments. They are held in St. Michael's Church (Mount Dinham, Dinham Road, Exeter, EX4 4EB) which has a tall spire and is located by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill. For further information, or to discuss disabled access, contact David Beadle at dnb201@ex.ac.uk or visit www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Read any good books lately?

We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

It can be on any subject, not necessarily religious although we would especially welcome those.

It's just a way of sharing and enjoying things together and fostering our feelings of community.

Go on -be brave! All you need to do is to include the author, composer or performer and a short piece about it and why you enjoyed it.

Books, CDs DVDs Films.



Devon Home Library Service -
bringing books and more to people in their homes

The Devon Home Library Service works in partnership with the WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service). It aims to provide library books, (including audio books on CD, and large print books) to those people in the community who through ill health or disability can no longer visit the library.

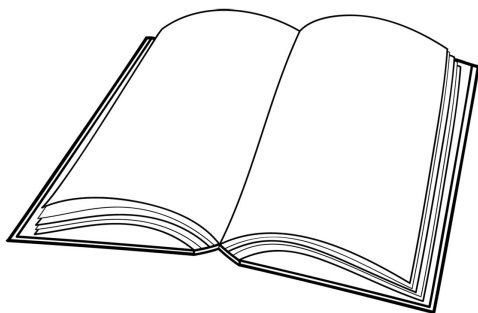
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient time. There is **no charge** for the service and there are **no fines** on books!! Clients may keep the books for as long as needed and may order books they particularly want to read.

Large print books, cassette tapes and audio CDs as well as ordinary print books are available. Some clients prefer non fiction such as biography and travel books, other prefer romantic novels or murder mysteries!

For those people who love reading or just browsing through books, but are confined to their home, this service offers a chance to have access to the library as well as a visit from a friendly face on a regular basis. Often clients and volunteers make lasting friends so there is satisfaction on both sides.

We really want to promote and extend the service to reach as many people as possible!

If you would like to use the service, or know of someone who would, please contact Julia on 01392 757725 or email crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk



Exeter Central Library

Exeter Central Library run several groups on a variety of topics.

Please use this link for more information

www.devon.gov.uk/index/cultureheritage/libraries/yourlocal-library/exeter_libraries/exeter_central_library/events_at_exeter_central.htm

Here are a few examples of what's on offer.

Woolly Wonders Knitting Group

Date: Every month - Tuesdays

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Description: Knitting is being touted as “The new Yoga”. It can help to relieve stress and take your mind off your aches and pains, as well as keeping your mind active and reducing the risk of memory loss. All this and the added bonus of enjoying the company of other knitters.

Audience: Everyone welcome

Cost: Free

Bookings: Drop in - no need to book

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Exeter Audio Book Group

Date: Once a month meeting

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Description: A new reading group for blind and visually impaired people being launched at Exeter Central Library, The Hoskins Room Castle Street. This is a chance to get together and discuss and recommend books in large print or audio format.

Audience: Blind and Visually Impaired people with or without helpers including guide dogs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just turn up
Organiser: Ask for Liz Cordin 01392 384 209

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IT Drop -in Sessions

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Description: We can help you with: how to set up an email account and how to open and send attachments. How to use a scanner. How to upload photos to your computer. How to find what you want on the web. How to use social housing sites. How to use Ebay. How to book things online. How to use ereaders and ebooks.

Audience: Anyone who would like help sorting out their basic computer needs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just drop in

Organiser: Mike Mills & James Knight 01392 384 209



CANCELLATIONS

First.....

sadly because of the lack of numbers wanting to attend the **Parish Retreat at Glastonbury** at the beginning of September, the planned weekend has been cancelled.

And Secondly.....

In the light of the current situation in Israel and Gaza I decided that without the prospect of a seemingly lasting peace being achieved, it would be unwise to contemplate the planned visit to the Holy Land in April 2015. With this in mind the Pilgrimage has been cancelled in the fond hope that one day this visit can be re-arranged.

In the Meantime....

Please **pray** for a solution and peaceful settlement in Israel and for the people of the Gaza Strip that further bloodshed and loss of life will cease.

Fr. David



Southernhay Child Contact Centre Exeter

“... suddenly the boys came running to me .. both shouting ‘Daddy! Daddy! Big hugs for each one’”

“It was like a rugby scrum only for once I was crying. They had not forgotten me.”

We all know the statistics. There were nearly 1000 divorces in Devon in 2012. Most people will know someone who has had experience of the break-up of a marriage or partnership. With these break-ups often come problems for parents and children who no longer see each other. The trauma of separation can make healing almost impossible.

In Exeter, we're lucky because the city has the Southernhay Child Contact Centre. This is a safe and friendly place where an absent parent can see his or her children on neutral territory, and children can spend time with their brothers and sisters if they don't all live together anymore.

Southernhay Child Contact Centre is accredited by NACCC (National Association of Child Contact Centres). About 14 families currently use the Centre on Saturdays. Volunteer staff support the service. They don't supervise the contact sessions or spend time with the children but they do ensure that the Centre is a safe and welcoming place for everyone. The number of people who can use the Centre depends on the number of volunteers available to attend the sessions.

The Child Contact Centre exists to give an absent parent an opportunity to spend time with his or her child or children. There's no charge to use the Centre. Families can refer themselves, or the court or social services might order the access solution. There are lots of toys and books for children of all ages, and these often help a parent to reconnect with their child after what sometimes can be a long absence. And a child knows finally they've not been abandoned, that they are loved.

It is so important that children keep in touch with their absent parent. Frequently there has been a long (to a child a very long) break since seeing a parent. It is so rewarding and moving when the child rushes to their parent, and has not forgotten him/her.

And then the healing process can begin, a child becoming much more confident in themselves, lessening the trauma of separation, knowing they have not been abandoned.

If you would like to find out more and are prepared to offer a helping hand on either a Saturday morning or afternoon once a month do please contact the centre for further information, please email southernhaycontact@gmail.com or call 07775 158 808. 'An enhanced DBS check will be requested in the event of an individual being offered a voluntary position.'

All enquiries welcome.

Held at: **Southernhay Church, Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1QD**

The Soup Kitchen at St. David's

As many of you will know, Thursday evening is the time we receive a number of homeless folk at St. David's and provide soup and refreshments to sustain them through the cold nights.

They need warm clothing and shoes, so if you have fleeces, sweaters, coats, jeans, or trousers you would like to pass on, they will be gratefully received.

We also like to have paperbacks they can take to read, so if you are parting with books please think of leaving them with us.

Thank you.

Contact Mary on:- 07872 626 168 if you need to leave donated goods





every Wednesday
Exeter Community Centre
17 St Davids Hill
Exeter

Affordable Community Acupuncture

£15 - £30 per treatment session
pay what you feel you can afford

**We are a friendly team of qualified acupuncturists
offering treatment for pain and many other
conditions to help improve your quality of life**

contact us to find out more about how acupuncture could help you

**www.peoplesacupunctureproject.com
07834 160906 or 07910 453794**

St. Sidwell's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

York Road, Exeter, EX4 6PG

Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Hood

Tel: 01392 255551 Website: www.st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk



For children aged 3 to 11 years

**Come and visit our successful school
which includes a purpose built Nursery/Foundation Stage
Breakfast and After School Clubs available**

**We have a long-standing tradition of high quality education
within a caring, Christian ethos.**

"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"An outstanding feature of the school is the care, guidance and support it gives pupils."

"The personal development of pupils is also outstanding."

"Spiritual development is excellent." "Behaviour is exemplary."

St. David's Parent and Toddler group

If you're walking past the Parish Room on a Thursday morning around midday you may well hear several voices singing out the Okey Cokey and wonder what's going on. In fact this song has become the informal signature tune of the Toddler Group thanks to the enthusiasm of the children and their parents/carers.

The weekly session is 10:00am to midday, all year (except August and Christmas).

We charge £1 per child plus 50p for a sibling and this funds the cost of our art and craft resources, snacks, milk and Christmas party. We usually have ten to twelve children in the age range from new born up to four. There is a rota of helpers; Barbara, Freya, Julia and myself, who are all CRB checked.

As soon as they come in the children get stuck in to playing with the many toys which have been donated to us over the years. By far the most popular is the sandpit, but the children also love the mini-slide, the ride-on toys, painting on the easel and shopping for plastic fruit in the tent. There is usually a simple activity on the table such as play-dough, puzzles, drawing or glueing. We have even managed cooking on occasions.

The adults have a tea or coffee and then at about 11:00am it's snack time and the children sit down to fruit, milk and rice cakes. The fact we offer a healthy snack is an important issue for many parents.

When it's tidy up time, we wind down the play and get the children involved in clearing up. They love to join in putting the toys away in the cupboards and getting the musical instruments out ready for our nursery rhyme singing and the grand finale of the Okey Cokey.

Our thanks go to the Church for letting us use the Parish Room for the last seven years, thereby supporting what is a very necessary resource for parents of young children. Over the years we have had several parents who have made lasting friendships through the group and given each other a lot of practical and moral support in child-rearing. This can be a really good way of combatting the sense of isolation that some parents of toddlers may experience, especially, for example when people are new to the area, if they don't have family living nearby or their partners have come to work/study at the university for short periods of time. Toddler groups are also a great way of introducing young children to some of the activities that they will encounter in pre-school.

Toddlers is great fun for children and a nice break for adults. The St. David's group is (so we are told by current parents) one of the friendliest in Exeter. If you know anyone with pre-school children or grandchildren, then please do recommend us.

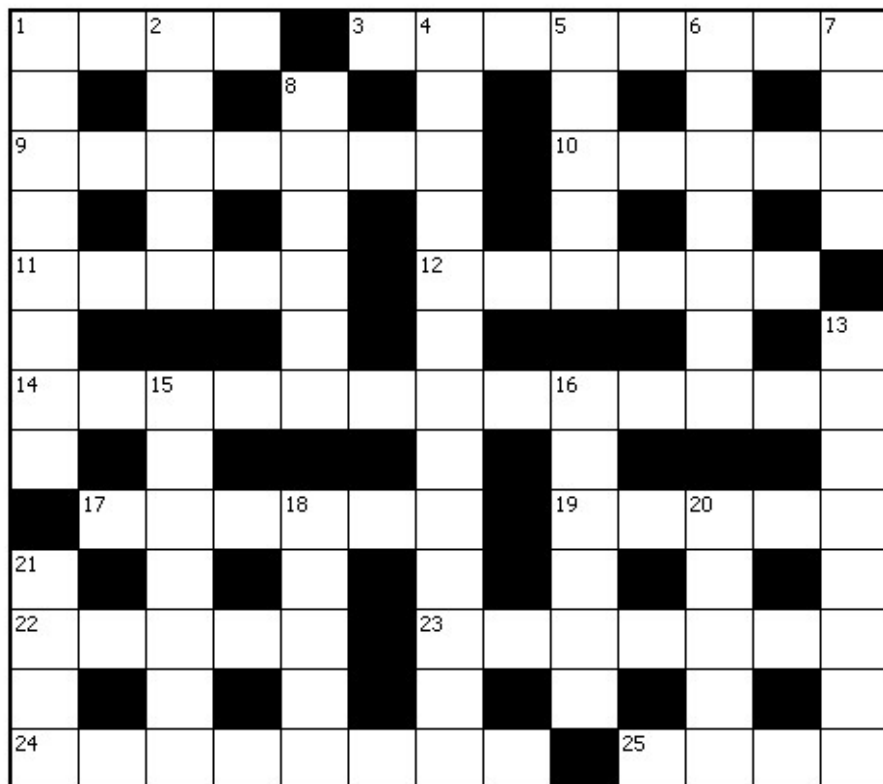
They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

Contact:

toddlers@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

Sam Wellbelove

October crossword



Across:

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)

- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down:

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Solutions later in the magazine



31st OCTOBER – ALL HALLOW'S EVE

Many customs are linked with this day – most of them because this was the ‘day before’. To the Celts it was the day before winter and the New Year officially began. In later years it became the day before, or eve of, the Christian festival of All Hallows, or All Saints’ Day.

The Eve of All Hallows (Hallow’s Eve gradually became the word ‘Halloween’) was the day for driving out evil – which makes it seem very strange now that some people ‘celebrate’ Halloween by dressing up as witches and monsters and having special parties.

Wouldn’t it be better for us as Christians to celebrate by dressing

up as angels and saints rather than as ghosts and devils



BEFORE & AFTER

The answer to these questions are either ‘befores’ or ‘afters’...

1. What comes before thunder?
2. What comes after red on traffic lights?
3. What comes after Advent?
4. What comes before green in the colours of the rainbow?
5. What comes after dusk?
6. What comes after revision?
7. What comes before a surname?
8. What book comes before the Book of Ruth in the Bible?
9. What comes after Lent?
10. According to the proverb, what comes before a fall?

~}{~

Answers: 1. lightning 2. amber
3. Christmas 4. yellow 5. night 6.
exams 7. fore or Christian names
8. Judges 9. Easter 10. pride

Days of Note

4 St. Francis of Assisi – love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at 45, and was canonised in 1228.



Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental

nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

8 Demetrius of Sirmium - taking a stand, and suffering for it

Demetrius of Sirmium (4th century) should be the patron saint of anyone who takes a stand for the right, despite knowing they will suffer for it.

Demetrius was a soldier from Serbia in the fourth century. He fought for the Roman Emperor, and that took courage. Then Demetrius converted to Christianity – and took his stand with the Christians. That took more courage – for Demetrius was then tortured and martyred under the emperor Maxmian.

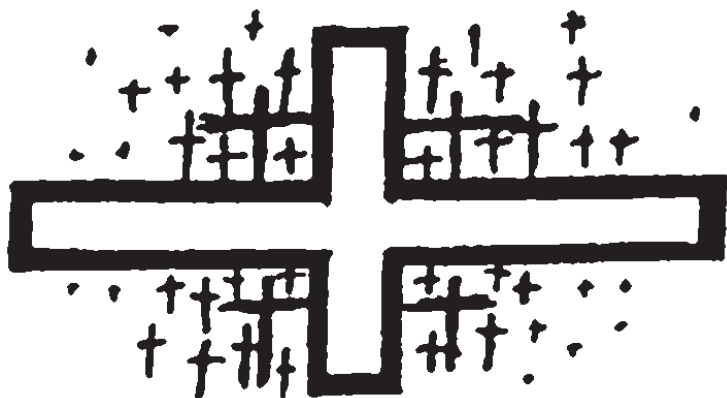
His bravery was not forgotten, and in the years to come he became immensely popular in the Church, where he was called 'The Great Martyr'. Christians thought of his example of faith and devotion to Jesus when they themselves were in trouble, and when they were facing attack from evil spirits and evil people.

Leontius, prefect of Illyricum, built two churches in honour of Demetrius in the early 5th century, one at Sirmium and one at Thessalonica. During the Crusades, Demetrius was 'adopted' by the western soldiers. Over 200 churches in the Balkans are dedicated to him, and he is today the patron of Belgrade. Demetrius' fearless stand against evil makes him a good saint to be remembered in October, with Halloween coming.

14 Donation - North Africa Christian martyr

Some Christians today have the curious idea that being a Christian guarantees a prosperous life in this world. St Paul was more realistic – throughout his epistles he urges Christians to pray for patience and endurance in this world. Donation (martyred c 484) is a timely reminder that we are called to be witnesses, and that that may not be easy.

When Hunneric, the King of the Vandals, closed all the churches in North Africa in the late fifth century, Donation and his friends were tortured, driven into the desert, and left to die of exposure. Many Christians in Muslim Africa today face similar dangers for Christ. Pray for them, that they find the courage and endurance they need.



22 Donatus - and the danger of exploring an unfamiliar church

When you are out and about on the road far from home, ever feel tempted to pop in and explore an unfamiliar church? If so, think of

Donatus as your patron saint – and beware. You don't know what you may be letting yourself in for...

In 829 Donatus, an Irish monk, had completed a prayerful pilgrimage to Rome, and thought his adventures were over. Now there only remained the long road home to Ireland. He had got as far as the beautiful little town of Fiesole, which sits high above Florence in Tuscany, when he saw a lot of people milling about the cathedral. Curious, he decided to look in.... as he entered the cathedral, the bells rang, the lamps were lit and wham! Without any diocesan paperwork at all, he was acclaimed to be the new bishop the people had been praying for.

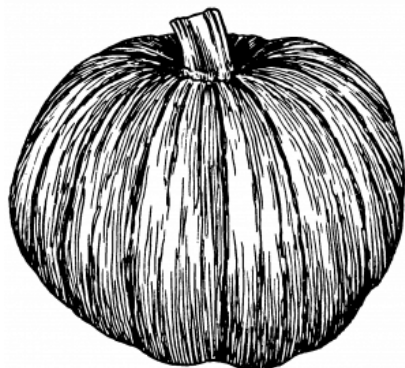
Donatus was very surprised, but accepted that this turn of events must be God's will for his life. So he became bishop, in a time when bishops did even more dangerous things than they do nowadays. Instead of verbal forays into the national press, Donatus was given the job of leading Pope Louis the Pious' troops against the Saracens. Safely back in Fiesole, Donatus settled down as a scholar and teacher of his new flock. But he never forgot his native Ireland, and so did the 9th century equivalent of 'twinning' his diocese, for he opened a little hospice where any Irish pilgrims passing through Tuscany could stay in safety. He died in 876, and 12 centuries later, his relics lie in the present cathedral of Fiesole.

31 All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or ‘Summer’s End’. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.



When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Crossword solutions

October answers

ACROSS: 1 Dare, 3 Cherubim, 9 Son Tohu, 10 Yield, 11 Ranch, 12 Enlist, 14 Baalah of Judah, 17 Edward, 19 Sheol, 22 Media, 23 Open air, 24 Apostasy, 25 Eton,

DOWN: 1 Describe, 2 Run in, 4 Household gods, 5 Royal, 6 Blessed, 7 MIDI, 8 Joshua, 13 Children, 15 Added to, 16 Jasper, 18 Await, 20 Exalt, 21 YMCA

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originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)



Women's Group

Dear All

Here's the last in the current programme of the Women's Group.

Thursday 9th October
Colour me Beautiful

Cost £9.00

We do hope as many as possible will come.

Look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes

Mary Kirkland

07872 626 168



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Barbara's Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.
We need you!

NEXT DATE:

SUNDAY 19th October

Many thanks.
Sarah Black





The deadline for inclusion of articles for the November issue of the parish magazine is Sunday October 12th 2014

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us.

Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Ashley and Johanne via St David's Church or our email: thedairy@btclick.com

Please send digital files (Word docs are best) via email if at all possible.

Please make the subject header fit the content of the email preferably with 'New Leaves' included in the title - thanks!



Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine - his hard work is much appreciated.