

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory 2014

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Assistant Curate	~	~
Parish Missioner	Simon Harrison	07824 456 938
Churchwarden	Avril Pattinson	860 880
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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

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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.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Hon Asst Priest	John Thurmer	272 277
Hon Asst Priest	David Hastings	498 233
Chapel Warden	Richard Parker	~
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Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
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Magazine

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Love is All You Need

According to Jesus there are two great commandments. Love God with all your heart and mind, all your soul and strength; and love your neighbour as yourself. As Christians we take these commandments to heart; they are demanding indeed but they seem quite straightforward. I suggest, however that in most people's experience love is actually far from straightforward. In a variety of different relationships with a spouse, or children or friends, love may mean very different things. It can be very challenging. What is the most loving behaviour? Then if we think about loving people with whom we are not closely connected, it becomes even more complex. What is the most loving thing to do for a business competitor or a homeless person, or an Ebola victim? How do you love someone who doesn't like you? The word 'love' has different meanings according to the circumstances. Think about what it might mean to you in those situations.

Loving God

How do we love God? St John writes in one of his letters, "it's not so much that we love God as that God first loved us." Relationship with God is two way, and part of that is simply learning how to be loved, to experience the sense that God is holding us in the palm of his hand with an infinite tenderness. You sometimes feel that the love of God is rather different from being liked by God. God may be gritting his teeth and forcing himself to love you, when actually he rather disapproves of you. He is merciful because it is his duty but you really deserve to be chastised. And because love is a rather overused word, it can lose its meaning. Maybe we should find another word. I have always found it enormously helpful to believe that God likes me. It's hard to believe, because sometimes we don't like ourselves much. But God likes you, God

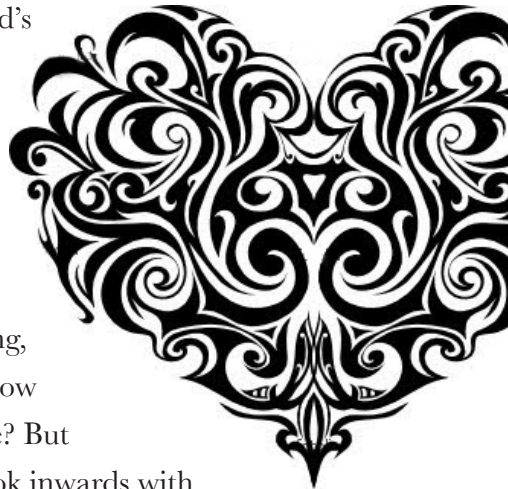
has compassion for you, God feels unconditionally positive towards you. You are dear to God.

Loving Ourselves

The command is to love your neighbour as you love yourself. You can't really love anyone else if you don't love yourself. That's another rather helpful way to look at it. If you are inclined to be hard on yourself, imagine that you are your best friend. Ask yourself, in your role as a friend, how you feel at the moment. Be aware of the tender understanding and compassion your friend is feeling for you, and try to feel it about yourself. You will have a well of self-compassion, which you can draw on to have compassion for others. God is your ultimate friend, infinitely kind. Instead of love, maybe we should adopt these two words, "friendship" and "kindness" when we think of God. There is nothing grudging, nothing conditional about God's love for you.

The month of Lent and St Valentine

February sees the beginning of Lent. Starting on Tuesday 24th we are having a Lent Course called "Who is my neighbour?" Lent is supposed to be challenging, as we ask ourselves difficult questions. How do we love those who are difficult to love? But self-compassion is the starting point. Look inwards with kindness and friendship. Then you may have a chance of loving your neighbour. On St Valentine's Day, send yourself a message of friendship and care. Give yourself a break. God can't be wrong about you.



Tom Honey

February 2015 from St Michael and All Angels



When do you take your Christmas decorations down? Some say it should be as soon as possible after Christmas, especially if they have been in the house since the beginning of December and the tree is looking a little threadbare; others say Epiphany after the visit of the Wise Men; yet others wait for a while, perhaps until the Baptism of Christ, and others even until Candlemass. This year we are leaving ours till then; often the tree isn't up and decorated until Christmas Eve, so it gives us longer to enjoy the seasonal scent of the pine and the sparkle in the rather dreary days of January. Even though the tree is a relatively recent introduction, there are long traditions of bringing fresh greenery and the Yule log into the house as reminders of life going on. They have their origins in the pre-Christian customs of noting the near-death of the sun, at the winter solstice, and the attempt to return the sun to

life by burning fire, encouraging light and warmth. There were obvious practical reasons, too. Perhaps we have forgotten, with our creature comforts, just how miserable the darkest, coldest part of the year could be. Power failures can only give a hint of how bone-numbing such a time could be.

Festivals should remind us of the cause and the consequences of celebration. Changes may emanate from them, as they bring us to regard their individual contributions to our lives. Each of the festivals above could have a little more said about them, though each is, in its own right a subject worthy of much lengthier treatment. I will be brief!

In a recent 'Thought for the Day', Canon Angela Tilby suggested we think again about the gifts given by the Magi. The gifts were originally associated with magic, sorcery and astrology: these ancient and arcane arts now have no place, 'for the newer rite is here.' Traditionally, they represented the life of the Christ Child that could be recognised by the faithful: gold for a King, incense for the Son of God and myrrh for death and suffering, but in a new look at them, we could consider how they affect our lives as well; the gold is still associated with wealth - but what do we do with it? Do we merely search for material goods, or can we search for spiritual riches that we can share? And what about the transitory presence of incense? We see the smoke, smell the resin and then it has gone. Is this how fame treats those who seek it? Should its glory be just a memory, a reminder of what has gone? The myrrh, she suggested, could represent the refusal to submit to earthly power or to the fear engendered by religious fanatics: it may bring suffering, death, and in the Christian faith, the hope of resurrection.

It is this promise of resurrection that is present in the Baptism of Christ. In the symbolic death by being submerged in the water (or

sprinkled in some modern ceremonies), rising again is mandatory. We rise with Christ to a new identity; this is not John's baptism of repentance, but Christ's baptism of resurrection. Who we are is given at that time: we are Christ's. In some traditions, there is a Christian name and a saint's name announced. A name, a title - are they the same way of expressing our identity? How will we work them out in our lives? Grayson Perry recently presented a television programme building identities of some well-known people. They seemed surprised at how well he had observed their characters in portraiture, pottery and tapestry. Would our lives show the evidence of baptism and growth in the faith should an observant artist create a work for each of us? We may change our names by deed-poll, but would that change who we are? A pupil once asked me if he could be un-baptised, as he no longer wanted anything to do with Christianity and hadn't chosen to be baptised. How do you cancel the 'inward and heavenly grace' signified by baptism? No doubt there will be some unscrupulous charlatan who would promise to undo the baptism, but ultimately the unction remains.

That brings me to Candlemass, which gives us a strong statement about the identity of Christ. This celebration of the Purification of Our Lady and of the presentation of Christ in the Temple was associated with the words of Simeon, who spoke of Christ as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel'. It later gave the opportunity for the blessing of candles to be used in the home for the coming year, but fell into disuse with the arrival of the Puritans who dismissed it as 'popish'. In the absence of any other way of creating light in dark places, however, the use of candle-light persisted, and along with it, the almost secret story of the Purification. It's an interesting tradition, and it's pleasing to see it recognised. Recently I have been reading 'Walking Backwards to Christmas', recommended by Fr David Hastings. The first

chapter deals with words from Anna, the Prophetess, who identified the infant Christ with his parents at the Presentation in the Temple. Anna longs for light, and knows where she can find hints of it in the building, so she stays to see it. Once she recognises the Child as the light of God, there is no reason for her to stay; she can leave and tell the story to anyone who will listen. The light cannot be enclosed in a structure. Simeon is there, too, but it is Anna's recognition of the Child that is central.

If any of these celebrations leads to changes in our lives, how do we deal with them? The former Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, spoke of Abraham, whose name was changed to indicate a shift in his relationship with God. Coping with change is not easy; there is no individual map for the future, bearing in mind that there are extraneous events that we cannot avoid, but we can hope for an inner compass, a sense of guidance from God to give us strength of character. The Father of the monotheistic faiths celebrated a new connection with God with a minor but significant change to his name; we can pray for that inner compass ourselves so that we can live in the new year with courage and confidence in Christ in whom we have our identity.

Stephanie Aplin



St David's Eucharist February

Sunday 1st February : Candlemas

Reading 1	Malachi 3: 1-5	Keith Postlethwaite
Reading 2	Hebrews 2: 14-end	Gina Redman
Gospel	Luke 2: 22-40	
Time of prayer		Hilary Frances

Junior Church Susan Mitchell

Sunday 8th February : 2nd Sunday before Lent

Reading 1	Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31	Suzi Leather
Reading 2	Colossians 1: 15-20	Pam Smith
Gospel	John 1: 1-14	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson

Junior Church Helen Sail

Sunday 15th February: Sunday before Lent (Family Service)

Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		

No Junior Church

Sunday 22nd February : 1st Sunday of Lent

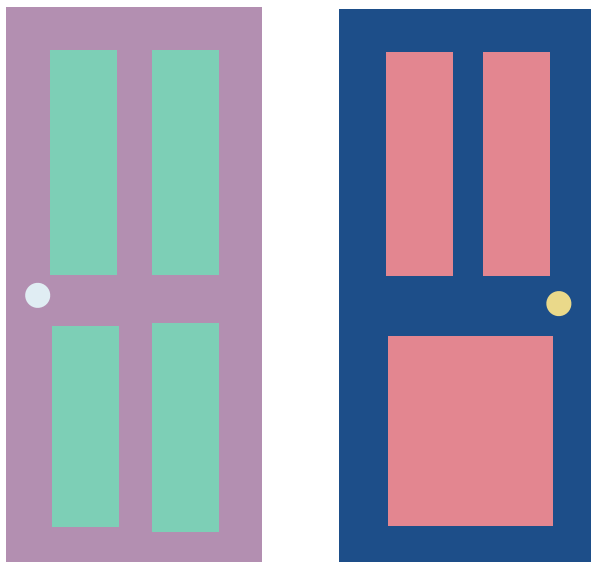
Reading 1	Genesis 9: 8-17	Julia Spruntulis
Reading 2	1 Peter 3: 18-end	Mary Kirkland
Gospel	Mark 1: 9-15	
Time of prayer		Cyrus Moghtadaii

Junior Church Sarah Harrison

Sunday 1st March : NB St David

Reading 1	Ecclesiasticus 15: 1-6	Hilary Todd
Reading 2	1 Thessalonians 2: 2-12	Hilary Francis
Gospel	Matthew 16: 24-27	
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett

Junior Church Susan Mitchell



Who is my Neighbour?

Five evenings in Lent to explore a question that Jesus asked.

7-8pm on Tuesdays.

24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March.

They will be held in St David's Church and all are welcome.



ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Revision of the parish electoral roll will begin on Sunday 22nd March
and end on Sunday 5th April 2015.

In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting on
Monday 27th April 2015, and to take part in its proceedings,
your name must be on the electoral roll.

Similarly if you wish to stand for any office (other than Churchwarden)
your name must be on the Roll.

If you would like to have your name entered on the Roll, please contact
Jeremy Lawford at St David's, or Penny McDonald at St Michael's,
who will be happy to give you an application form and/or more details.

AS THIS IS A REVISION ANYONE WHOSE NAME IS ON THE
CURRENT ELECTORAL ROLL NEED NOT APPLY
- BUT PLEASE INFORM PENNY OR JEREMY OF ANY
CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Jeremy Lawford,
Electoral Roll Officer,
Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels.

jeremy@jlawford.co.uk

Recitals @ St Michael's

Winter/spring season 2015

Friday 13th February

The Frizzante Duo

Jane Anderson-Brown and Donna-Marie Hughes (soprano)

Friday 13th March

Schools' Concert

Friday 10th April

Dr Robert Manning and Dr Tom Corfie

Organ duo

Friday 8th May

Alison Smith

Classical guitarist

Friday 19th June

Voces8

Internationally-renowned vocal chamber ensemble

7:30pm

at

St Michael & All Angels, Dinham Rd,

Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

Individual & season tickets available online via:

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/music/recitals/

Heritage & Music

at St Michael's, Mount Dinham

We need to be quick off the mark this month as Candlemas is transferred a day early to Sunday 1st February. Come and join us for the finale to the seasons of winter lights as we bless candles for the coming year and remember the drama of Jesus's Presentation in the Temple, the things which Simeon and Anna said about him, and how Mary treasured these things in her heart.

Sunday 1st February 10.45am. Mass. – Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

 Setting: The tuneful Mass in F by Charles Wood, in some ways the John Rutter of his era, I think.

The Candlemas Anthem “When to the Temple Mary went” by Johannes Eccard (1533–1611) is one of a host of motets by foreign composers which were supplied with translations or new words in the 19th century. The text was translated from German and given a second verse by Revd J Troutbeck (1833-99) best remembered for his translations for Bach's Passions and Christmas Oratorio. Eccard's music is frequently scored for more than four voices; this setting is in six parts. His music is thus rich and sonorous, the inner parts having their own melodic and rhythmic interest.

Singers who like a good Choral Evensong are welcome to join us on the 1st Sunday of the month to rehearse the music beforehand at 4:45 pm.

Sun 1st Feb sees Evensong and Benediction at 6pm.

The Canticles are Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells and the Anthem is Abendlied by Josef Rheinberger, from Luke 24 v29, “Bide with us, for evening shadows darken, and the day will soon be over.” O salutaris & Tantum Ergo by Upton.

Between Candlemas and Ash Wednesday, we have just 2 “gesima” Sundays before Lent. There are several ways to navigate the website <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk/> with your devices and desires for more information.

Please make a note of, and support, our monthly Recitals@StMichael's. This month it's

Friday 13th Feb, at 7.30pm. The Frizzante Sopranos, Devon-based classical duo Donna-Marie Hughes & Jane Anderson-Brown with a varied song recital. See the website

<http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk/music/recitals/> for full details.

Shrove Tuesday, 17th February, 6pm Vespers & Meditation, 7pm Choir Practice, 8.30pm Pancakes.



Ash Wednesday, 18th February, is marked with Matins at 9.30am and Low Mass with Imposition of Ashes at 10am, and in the evening at 7.30pm by Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes.

Setting: Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd and Anthem: Versa est in luctum by Alonso Lobo, My harp is tuned for lamentation, and my flute to the voice of weeping. Spare me, O Lord, for my days are as nothing.

Sunday 22nd February, Lent 1, 10.45am. Mass. Features the Litany of 1544 sung in procession, Plainsong Sarum Mass and Farrant's Hide not thou thy face from me O Lord.

Sunday 1st March, Lent 2, 10.45am. Mass. The full Anglican Folk Mass by Martin Shaw and the Anthem O nata lux by Thomas Tallis.

Sunday 1st March, 6pm. Evensong and Benediction will be more penitential, with Tallis Canticles, Allegri's sublime Miserere and Plainsong Benediction Hymns.



HLF Project

Many thanks to all who have helped us in any way with the Organ, Peregrine and Heritage Project over the past 2 years. Our final report should go to the Heritage Lottery Fund this month, to complete the Project and release the final monies. But hopefully the physical, digital and cultural legacy will serve and inspire us for many years to come. The nest box camera should be back online on the Peregrine page of the website at the beginning of March, hoping for egg laying around the Spring equinox.

Richard Barnes

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.



Book Review

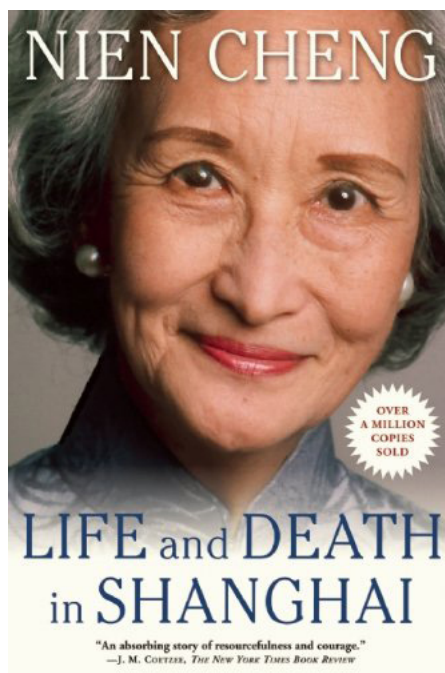
“Life and Death in Shanghai”

by Nien Cheng

Flamingo paperback, £9.99

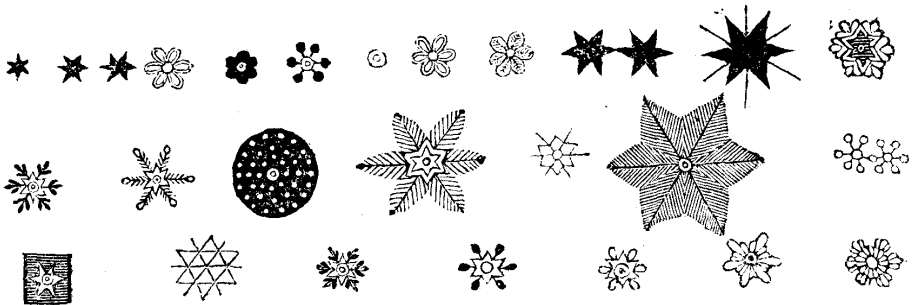
This is the amazing story of a Chinese lady who was caught up in the events of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 70s. Her husband, who had been general manager of Shell in Shanghai, died in 1957, and she herself worked for Shell for some years. As a fluent English speaker who had studied at LSE and lived for a time in Australia, she was accused of being a British spy and subjected to years of persecution, during which her house was ransacked by the Red Guards and all its contents destroyed, while she and her daughter were imprisoned in appalling conditions and systematically interrogated, humiliated and abused. For more than six years she was kept in solitary confinement, and she continued to face constant harassment and intimidation even after she was released. It is a story of extraordinary courage, determination and steadfast Christian faith.

“Life and Death in Shanghai” is not a comfortable book to read, but it is beautifully written, and as an illustration of the power of



the human spirit to survive all manner of degradation, and as an insight into an extraordinary period in Chinese history, it is outstanding.

Jeremy Lawford



Thank you

to everyone who came to and was
involved in the
Christmas Craft Fayre

It was a huge success raising £1170!

All offers of help with the Summer Fete
warmly accepted, watch this space for
more information!

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.

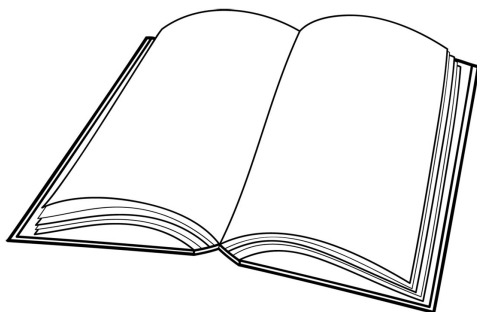
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient 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 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: 14:00 - 16:00 (from 5th November 2014)

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



For 1-2-1 IT tuition we offer a waiting list.

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
Church**

**Queens
Terrace,
Exeter**

Free play
Craft activities
Healthy snacks
Singing together

for your little ones

A drink and a chat - Support for you

Toddler Group



£ 1 for
your first
child and
then 50p

Join us in the Parish Rooms on

Thursday mornings

10.00 until 12.00

(every week - except August)

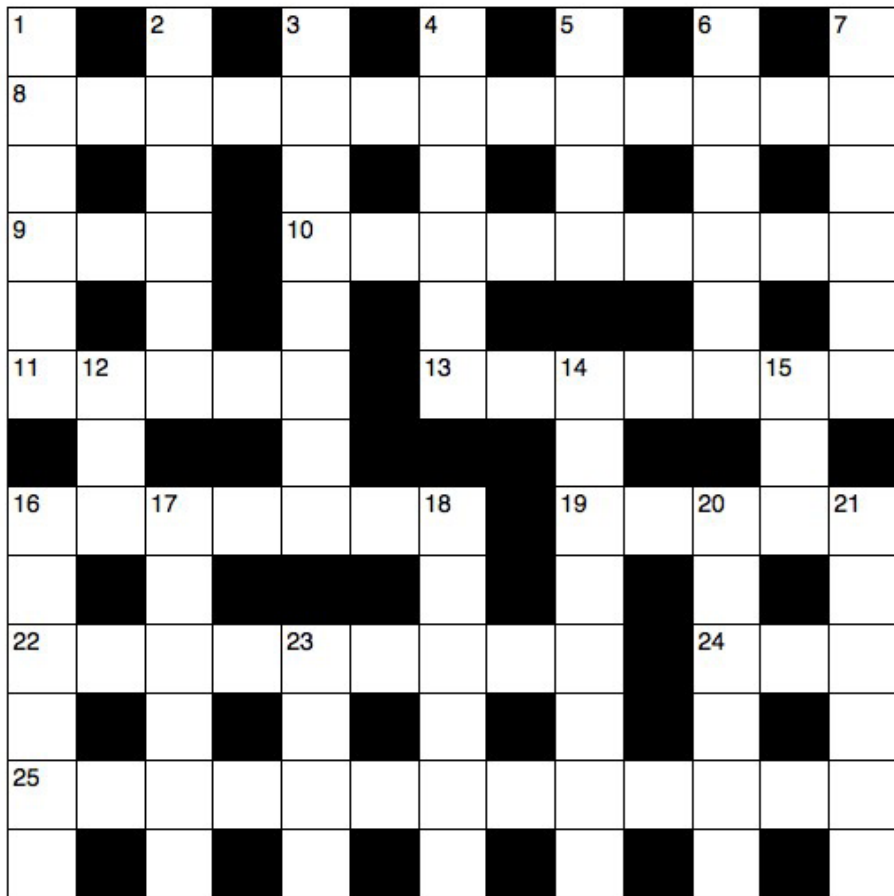
*You are very welcome to drop in and
meet us
or*

you can contact us:

Julia on 07729068567

Toddlers@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

February crossword



Across:

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On —
— let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to
God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down:

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1
Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your fa-
ther' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to
— your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me'
(Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain
(Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern
where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV)
(4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5)
(6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases
(Luke 9:1) (4)

Solutions later in the magazine



SEEING & UNDERSTANDING

Many people had seen the steam lift the lid of a kettle, but it took a James Watt to see it and go on to think of that power becoming a steam engine. It is all a matter of how we see things. We could see something a thousand times and not make the connection.

Jesus explained why he taught with parables, stories that explain some-thing in simple ways to do with everyday life that people of the time would recognise. He explained that it was because people look without seeing, and listen without understanding (Matthew chapter 13, verses 13-14).

We all do this, and that is why we need other people to help us learn more about what the stories in the Bible mean. People who can explain and help us to see with ‘new eyes’.

SEEING THE WORDS

All the words hidden in this word-search are things you see with or look at:

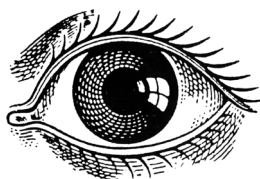
S P E C T A C L E S
L E C T E V I D Y C
G E A G L E O P E E
S W N A E P B S S N
E A K S V I D E O E
S T C L I C E L F O
S C O O S T G G R W
A H L O I U O G E E
G A M E N E U G O V

* clock * eyes * game * glasses

* goggles * lens * picture

* scene * spectacles

* television * video * view * watch



Days of Note

1 Brigid of Ireland

- compassion and love

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her Lives, written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and become a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bath-water to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least nineteen ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to ‘present him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

6 The Martyrs of Japan

- courage in persecution

Persecution of Christians in various countries is making the headlines these days. Believers facing such opposition might well find inspiration from the courage of the Japanese Christians of the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

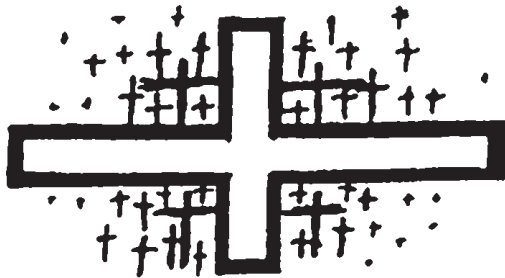
The Jesuit Francis Xavier had first brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, when he persuaded Shimazu Takahisa, the daimyo of Satsuma, to give him permission to build the first Catholic mission in Japan. All went well at first, and the Japanese responded to the message of Jesus Christ more warmly than anyone could have foretold. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there were nearly 300,000 baptised converts to Christianity in Japan.

But soon the very success of the Japanese Church led it into trouble: its vibrant growth as an indigenous community believing a faith brought in from the West meant trouble. It was caught up in a maelstrom of tensions between the shogunate, imperial government, Buddhist monks, Shintoists, and colonial ambitions of Spain and Portugal. Gradually, the Japanese rulers came to see Christians as a threat. So Christianity was banned, and those Japanese who refused to abandon their faith were to be killed.

Trouble flared at Nagasaki on 6 February 1597, when six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys, were executed in a form of crucifixion by being elevated on crosses and then pierced with spears. Within a year, more than 130 churches had been burned. The persecution subsided, then flared up in 1613. Japanese Christians were beheaded,

burned alive or imprisoned. They responded with courage and a willingness to sing praises and preach the gospel even as they were led to their deaths.

Such was the brutality of the persecution that by 1630 the Japanese Church had been driven underground, and was thought to be lost. So when missionaries arrived in the 19th century, they were astonished to find a community of Japanese Christians. It had survived for 250 years without clergy, churches, the Bible and only a sketchy idea of the Christian faith beyond one main thing: that Jesus Christ was Lord.



14 Saint Valentine's Day

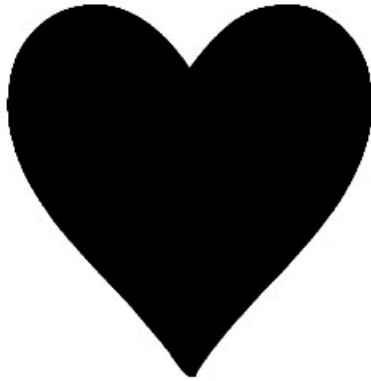
Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.



27 Gabriel Possenti

– and the enjoyment of romance

If you have been hurt in your search for romantic love, Gabriel Possenti (1838-62) may be a good saint for you. Because Possenti, born to the governor of Assisi, began by having it all. He grew up doing the mid-19th century equivalent of eBay, nightclubs, cinema and online dating, only in those days it was done by having a tailor who made you an exquisite wardrobe, and going often to the dances and the theatre with as many young ladies as he could possibly find. Gabriel loved romance; he loved women: his friends called him Il Damerino (the ladies' man).

But the beautiful young ladies were not there for him when Gabriel fell gravely ill. Lying alone in bed Gabriel turned to the only One who could still be found. He prayed that if God would heal him, he would devote his life to him. Sure enough, Gabriel got well. But - he forgot God, and returned to his insatiable search for romantic love.

Gabriel fell ill again, and again the doctors despaired of his life. Again he prayed, again he was healed, again he returned to his women.

But then one night, when he had joined a sacred procession of the miraculous ikon of Spoleto, something suddenly happened to Gabriel Possenti. He was suddenly overcome by a sense of the presence of God, and the love of God. It was a love he had never dreamed of, and far better than anything he had found with his many women. That night Gabriel decided to forsake the search for the perfect romance, and return to the Lover of his soul.

He joined the Passionist monastery at Morrovalle in 1856, and although his new life was very austere, Possenti was now full of joy that depended on no one but God, and so could never be taken away from

him. Sadly, he died young of tuberculosis – at only 24, but his sunny personality and love for God were so outstanding that he became patron of youth. Immense numbers of pilgrims have visited his shrine down the years.



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Crossword solutions

February answers

ACROSS: 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN: 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

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Barbara`s Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.
We need you!

NEXT DATE:

SUNDAY 15th February

Many thanks.
Sarah Black





The deadline for inclusion of articles for the **March issue of the parish magazine is Sunday 8th February 2015**

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.

Thank you to Amelie Ryder-Potter for her cover image.