

NEW LEAVES

February 2016

Dear Friends at St David's and St Michael's and in our local community,

RENEWING THE BUILDING

This month should see the beginning of building works at St David's Church. We have appointed a building contractor who specialises in churches. The firm is called Corbel and they have experience and expertise in handling the special needs of church architecture. You may see them around St David's over the next few months. In this time the main repair work is to underpin the west end of the church, and make the foundations secure so there can be no more of the movement that has caused cracks and instability over the last few years.

The work will continue with repair of the cracks by inserting pins into the walls, then renewing the mortar. The floor will be relaid using the existing tiles and wood blocks as far as possible. The font will be moved forward a little to create a wider entrance and open up the space behind. I hope that new lighting will really pick up the details of the beautiful wood and stone work at the back of the church. The aim is to restore a light, open and spacious feel to that area. New heating will make the west end a warm and welcoming space. New toilets and kitchen will improve the facilities for congregation

and visitors.

RENEWING THE WORLD

This all feels like a new beginning for St David's. The new year starts while winter is still at its height. This year the weather has been particularly depressing with weeks of persistent rain tending to dampen our spirits. On the international stage, there has been an increase of violent terrorism and the prospects for peace and reconciliation look dim. And yet something new has started. We must trust in the possibility of change and renewal. Change and renewal starts with us; sometimes at the darkest times something new is growing in us. Ask yourself what needs to be repaired, rebuilt or restored in your life over these next months. In church we are aiming to shine a new light on the innate beauty of our building. God desires to do the same for us – to shine a light on us, revealing the beauty that is there, maybe hidden, maybe as yet undiscovered. Often we see this beauty in each other. Sometimes we find it hard to see in ourselves.

RENEWING RELATIONSHIPS

In the Christian tradition one way to renewal is through forgiveness. It's a tricky concept, and I'm never quite sure if I understand forgiveness. We can't always make ourselves feel better about someone who has hurt us, or whom we have hurt. But we can make a conscious decision not to return a hurt, or pay someone back for their offence against us. In this we have the example of Jesus, who chose not to return the hurt that was done to him. We may not be able to love like

him, but we can avoid prolonging the cycle of hurt.

RENEWING OURSELVES

Silent prayer or meditation is a powerful way to personal change and renewal. In silence we are keenly aware of our thoughts and feelings. Uncomfortable memories, fantasies and emotions rise to the surface, or we are unable to stop worrying about the future or regretting the past. In silence we can take note of these thoughts, the voice of the ego, but we can also be aware that God is present, and we can return to his loving presence within us. The spirit of God in intimate relationship with my own spirit. This is a deeper reality than the passing thoughts which demand our attention. If you would like to begin to explore this deeper reality, do come to a regular silent prayer group which will be beginning at St David's on Thursday evenings once a month. Details will be published on our website. Or you could attend the twice weekly Vespers and Meditation at St Michael's, where music is the way in to silence.

RENEWING SOCIETY

This is a time for hope. My hope for the international community is that we will come to realise our common humanity. We are all children of one God. My hope for this country is that we will find a new sense of priorities. Can we learn the true value of things and people? A healthy society loves people and uses things. An unhealthy society loves things and uses people. There is no more valuable role than the role of carer, and yet those who work in caring professions are under-

paid and demoralised. Work that requires patience, tenderness, skill and compassion is done by nurses, social workers, health care workers, teachers and class room assistants, nursery staff and those who care for the elderly. Yet they are often blamed when things go wrong and they work in a system that undervalues them.

Tom Honey



February from St Michael's

Have you been following the resurgence of Dad's Army on television and the story about its beginning? It nearly didn't happen, that gently amusing series about the Home Guard, which, it is said, is nearer the truth than we know; much the same is said of 'Yes, Minister' and its follow-on series. One of the much-quoted lines from Dad's Army is 'Don't tell him, Pike!' when the men are asked to give their names to an apparently enemy officer. It's all in a name, we are told; a rose by any other name, says Shakespeare, would smell as sweet.

Last October, the novelist Paul West died, aged 85. He had been born in Britain, but lived in America, married to Diane Ackerman. They both enjoyed an extravagance of words and 'exuberant word-play'. He suffered a major stroke in 2003, which reduced his vocabulary to one syllable, 'mem'. The terrifying thing apparent to Diane was that Paul knew and understood his situation. He had over the years given her lots of pet names, but could now remember none. As part of the recovery programme that she devised, she asked him to compose a new name for her every day for 100 days. She was inspired to publish a book of these, explaining their origins, called 'One Hundred Names for Love: A Stroke, a Marriage and the Language of Healing'. Many of the names seem bizarre, but all tell of the great love and humour they enjoyed. It could be an interesting exercise to find positive names for all those people or areas in life that seem to thwart us occasionally.

Sue Perkins has a new television programme, not involving cakes, but looking at names and their effects on people. She says she is not a 'Susan' but although named such, has always been 'Sue'. I'm reminded of what I believe was a Quaker habit of giving names of virtues to children in the hope that they would grow like the qualities: Mercy, Grace, and so on. It was the custom in France until the end of the Second World War to name children from the officially accepted list and to add a saint's name relevant to the date of birth. To celebrate end of the war and end of the occupation, 'France' could be included. A teacher I met some years ago on a school exchange was one of the first to be called 'Marie-France', in honour of the liberation. An official list would at least eliminate some of the oddities found nowadays and various spellings of well-known names. The Nightingales caused much disturbance when they called their daughter 'Florence'. Family names (surnames) have reflected crafts, places of origin or even special characteristics. Now we can only refer to 'first name' and not Christian name on official documents because not everyone has a baptismal name; cultural differences must be recognised.

Arabic legend has it that the camel looks so supercilious, because of all creatures, it is the only one that knows the hundredth name of Allah; Muslims know of ninety nine, all of which tell of the greatness and mercifulness of God, but the camel has the privilege of knowing that last name, and of course, is unable to share it with the human race.

Amongst all ancient peoples, knowing and using the name of the deity was almost to give power over the deity. There was a danger that disclosing names could give an enemy magical powers over another person. Names had meanings; 'Adam' means 'man' and Eve 'mother of the living'. When Adam named the animals in the Creation story, he

was demonstrating the God-given power and responsibility he had for them. In the Old Testament we are never told the real name of God; Jewish scholars and others never write the word ‘God’, but only ‘G-d’. Jehovah or Yahweh are only approximations; Elohim is probably a plural noun in Ancient Hebrew. Moses was given a sentence to describe the Almighty: ‘I am that I am’ had to suffice when he asked God how he was to describe him to the people. So, like Moses, we have to make do with descriptions of the qualities of God rather than a name; he is a rock, a cloud, a mother hen, he is mighty in battle, a good shepherd, a loving father...

Pope Francis has designated this a Year of Mercy. To symbolise this he opened doors at St Peter’s in Rome, a gesture to open the Church to all and to recognise the needs of all for the gift of mercy; we need to be merciful to ourselves as well as others and to the world around us.

Today we celebrated the Baptism of Christ, when God made the mission clear: ‘You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ The Old Testament reading from the Prophet Isaiah looked ahead to this: Thus says the LORD... ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’

God has called us by name; how will we live up to that calling in this year of Mercy?

Stephanie Aplin

Farewell to Father David

Three years ago we welcomed Father David Hastings as our Honorary Assistant Priest at St Michael and All Angels. The time has passed so quickly; he has been our spiritual guide, our celebrant and friend over the years, carrying out his priestly work with dignity and reverence. Much of what is done as part of a vocation is never seen by the public: Father David has cared for our community quietly and generously, giving of his time and prayer for all. He is assiduous in acknowledging tasks that have been undertaken, visits made and concerns that have been passed on to him.

He has chaired our DCC meetings with a certain discipline and fair-mindedness that meant business was dealt with effectively, even briskly at times.

We hope that he will truly regard us as friends and will return to visit us when he has enjoyed his break from parish duties. We thank him for all the work he has done on our behalf. This seems a very short tribute, but I am sure that we will have our own recollections of his kindness and concern for us.

We shall miss him, and return his words of farewell frequently said or written: 'Go well, my friend.'

Stephanie Aplin



An interesting gravestone



A few months ago I was contacted by an enquirer who was seeking information about a tombstone recorded in The Graveyard of St David's Church which I had put together in the early 2000s. I had put a brief list on the internet and that is what he had seen.

The stone was that of William Willis Williams buried in 1847 at the early age of 24 and his aunt, Henrietta Susannah Williams who had died age 68 a few days later. It was a flat stone and had suffered from lichen growth making it difficult to read or photograph. It is on the south side of the graveyard just a few stones above the elaborate one of Iron Sam Kingdon.

The original inscriptions had been recorded in 1985 and read:-

*Beneath are deposited the remains of Lieut. William Willis Williams late of
H.M.9 and subsequently H.M. 13. Reg of Light Infantry on Half Pay .
He died in this city on the 18. day of December 1847 aged 24 years .*

*Also of Henrietta Susannah Willis eldest daughter of the late Henry Norton Willis
Esq. of the Palace Green Kensington and aunt of William Willis Williams .
She died in this city on Xmas day 1847 aged 68 years .*

My enquirer's interest had been sparked by a medal in his collection, the 1842 Cabul medal awarded to Lieut. Williams, (Cabul is nowa-days spelled Kabul) He had found some letters from William's aunt, Elizabeth, sister of Henrietta to Lord Fitzroy Somerset trying to buy a commission when he was 14 years old. In those days commissions were bought, not won by talent, and they also depended to some extent on the social standing of the potential officer.

Both the aunts were 'table laundresses to the Queen', I do not know whether they actually washed the tablecloths and napkins themselves or merely supervised but I suspect the latter. The deaths of both Williams and his aunt were recorded in the 1848 Gentleman's Magazine.

Later, in 1840 Elizabeth wrote again pointing out that he had been on the list for a commission by purchase for nearly three years and during that time had pursued his studies with diligence. This time he was successful and was appointed ensign in the 9th Foot by purchase of a man who had retired. Once one had a commission further promotion depended on a vacancy caused by retirement plus the making up of any financial difference.

In the 1841 census William was in Hounslow Barracks and his aunt was in London

William must have gone to Afghanistan then with his regiment since he received the Cabul medal. The British were anxious about Russian involvement in Afghanistan. This was as difficult then as it is now, then due to a complex situation with the Afghan rulers, the varying abilities of the English officers, the extremes of weather, the lie of the land and the difficulties of provisioning. For some time there was an unsettled situation with very many casualties, both the English and their native troops (sepoys). The Afghans were not pleased when families of the

officers began to come to Afghanistan, fearing that this might be a permanent arrangement. However, by 1841 the situation appeared to be somewhat settling down and so one of the very good officers, Bob Sale was recalled with his regiment, the 13th foot. It is possible that William survived to come home because of this. At that time the 13th only made it as far as Jellalabad. Meanwhile the forces left in Cabul were offered safe passage out but this was not honoured and nearly all died.

‘Fighting Bob’ Sale, as he was known, was very capable and saw to the defences of Jellalabad, mustering every member of his men when an earthquake damaged much of the walls so that they were repaired in a few days and later audaciously capturing many sheep from the besiegers when food was running low. Sale decided to try and break out and this was successful, the Afghan besiegers fled and just a week later a relieving army under a General Pollock appeared on the scene.

I sent for the death certificate of William and it read that he had died of ‘influenza (9 days) and dropsical (2 Years)’ There was an influenza outbreak in Exeter at that time. It is possible that his time in Afghanistan was a cause of dropsy as it may well follow kidney or heart damage and the weather, the lack of food, and the very hard work probably played a part in damaging his health.

However this is largely speculation on my part. I have no proof that he went with General Sale, save that had he stayed in Cabul he probably would not have survived.

Some of the background information comes from the book by William Dalrymple, ‘The Return of a King, the Battle for Afghanistan’ which is brilliant but very long. It is beautifully written and parallels are drawn between then and the present time. Some information comes from a journal Lady Sale kept in 1841-1842. She was a splendid match for

her husband writing with great fortitude after an attack “Fortunately I only had one ball in my arm...” She was one of those who remained in Cabul, but survived , complaining only of the bedbugs and lack of starch for her washing! The Afghans respected the English women, partly but not entirely because they were seen as a source of ransom. She was reunited with her husband and lived a long life. He died within a couple of years.

Then I turned to Henrietta Susannah Willis and found she had left a will written on 24th December 1847, the day before she died. Her sister had been instructed by her to see to this. I could not sort out how much money she left but she gave instructions that the expenses of the two funerals were to be paid and then there were instructions for an engraving on a tablet to be put up in Andover Parish church. Whether this remains I do not know because that church like St David’s was rebuilt in the 19thC. I have written making enquiries, and I would like to find out something about William Willis Williams’ parentage and why he and his aunt came to live in Exeter. I have not had a reply so I think this indicates the tablet is no longer there.

The parallels of Afghanistan then and now are striking particularly in the wake of the recent earthquake. The area in which this took place is still in turmoil.

Iris Sutton

Hospiscare Swimathon

Saturday 19th March

Middlemoor Police HQ Swimming Pool

What is a swimathon?

Swimmers seek sponsorship and take part in a team to raise money for Hospiscare. Each team will swim for 55 minutes in one lane with only one person swimming at once, usually one length at a time and only for as many lengths as they can manage.

Teams will consist of a minimum of five people and all swimmers must be competent in water to a depth of two metres. Having decided to enter a team the next step is to contact Hospiscare on 01392 688020 to request an application form which will be sent by email. There is an entry fee of £20 per team and that can be paid by cheque or over the phone.

On the day each team will swim for 55 minutes with start times from 9am till 1pm. Teams may organise their relay of swimmers in whatever way they think fit. It's not a race, it's a fun event.

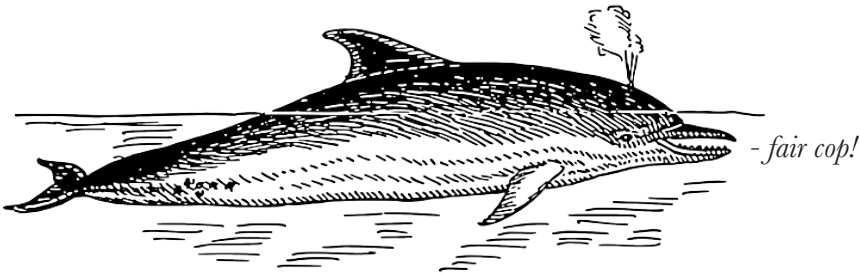
All money raised will go to Hospiscare, a local charity providing professional care for patients with life threatening illnesses and their families. All sponsorship will be registered on Swimathon sponsorship forms available when you sign on.

The important thing is to get as much sponsorship as possible and if St David's with St Michael's were able to put in a team then it is pretty certain that members of the congregation would sponsor them generously!

Please think about this if you are a swimmer and if you would like to ask any questions or find out more about the event please speak to Paula Lawford either in St David's or by email at paula@jlawford.co.uk or on 01392 214025

Thank you

- Oi! you a swimmer?



St David's Eucharist February		
February 07 : The Sunday before Lent		
Reading 1	Exodus 34: 29-end	Helen Hopwood
Reading 2	2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2	Suzi Leather
Gospel	Luke 9: 28-36	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church:		
February 14 : Lent 1		
Reading 1	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11	Keith Postlethwaite
Reading 2	Romans 10: 8b-13	Katy Tyler
Gospel	Luke 4: 1-13	
Time of prayer		Mollie Curry
Junior Church:		
February 21 : Lent 2 <i>Family Service</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
February 28 : Lent 3		
Reading 1	Isaiah 55: 1-9	Jenny Baker
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13	Alan Baker
Gospel	Luke 13: 1-9	
Time of prayer		Catherine Matlock
Junior Church:		
March 06 : Mothering Sunday <i>Family Service</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		



Join us for lots of fun
on

Saturday 30th January

4.00pm - 5.30pm

invite your friends and bring a grown-up too



<http://www.stdavidchurchexeter.org.uk/whats-on/messy-church/>

"MORNING BROTHER!"

A short while ago I rang the Additional Curates Society office and said that I wanted to order a book, before I got any further the young lady said "oh is that the JR book? We've had lots of orders for that." I said it was, and received the book a few days later., It's titled simply 'JR', that's all that's needed. Not an great book, about a hundred pages long and written in a simple narrative style.

By now many of the older generation from St Michaels' will have already guessed who the book is about; It is of course, the late John Richards, Archdeacon of Exeter Cathedral when I first met him and latterly the first Bishop of Ebbsfleet, a great champion of the Catholic traditions of the Church of England and friend of St Michaels.

One of my fondest memories of John Richards was serving for him at the eight O'clock Sunday morning Mass, which I must have done a hundred times or more. His invariable greeting was "morning brother" and since he had met her several times "how's the wife?" St Michaels in those days was a much colder place on a winters' morning than it is now, but I really looked forward to being there, making sure everything was ready, and standing with him at the Lady Chapel Altar.

Long after it was dropped from the allowable services, he would sometimes say to me afterwards, "you do realise you're still saying the responses from Series One don't you?" After he became the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, I met him at number of times at F.I.F events and he always had the same greeting, a firm handshake and "how are things at St. Michaels?" I'll leave it at that, a lovely man, a great servant of the Lord, and a Priest I am glad to have known. If you want to know more about him, buy the book.

GEORGE HEXTER

Music & Events at St Michael's – February 2016

We thank all those who helped make Christmas at St Michael's a joyful feast for all the senses and a true celebration of the Incarnation. At Epiphany, the Parish said a heartfelt "Thank you" and "Go well" to Fr David Hastings as he retired from formal duties at St Michael's.

With the Nativity Story fully told, it's time to seek the spiritual meanings of the life of Jesus, pondering these things in our hearts, as we look towards Lent.

Now that we no longer have Fr David's monthly Newsletter, please check here and on the website <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk/events/> for details of events.

Sunday 31 January 10.45am Epiphany IV, Missa "Lauda Sion" by Palestrina. Motet: If Ye Love Me, by Tallis.

Tuesday 2 February 7.30pm 40 days after Christmas, we complete the Nativity narrative with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas, singing the Missa Brevis "Laetatus Sum" by Dr Nigel Browne, based on Parry's "I was Glad", and the contemporary Motet "Lux Aurumque" by Eric Whitacre.

Sunday 7 February 10.45am Quinquagesima, Sung Mass. Setting: Mass in F - Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), Motet: O Nata Lux -

Thomas Tallis (1505-85); music by two of our longest-lived composers.

Sunday 7 February 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction. Canticles: Collegium Regale, Anthem: Like as the Hart desireth the water-brooks; both by Herbert Howells (1892-1983).

Monday 8 February Chinese New Year occurs just before the start of Lent this year.

Tuesday 9 February 7pm Shrove Tuesday, Choir Practice, followed at 8.30pm by Pancakes.

Wednesday 10 February Ash Wednesday, with services both Morning & Evening.

9.30am Matins,

10am Said Low Mass with Ashes.

7.30pm Solemn Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes. Setting: Mass in A Minor – Casciolini. Motet: Hide Not Thou Thy Face – Farrant.

As is our custom, Lenten Masses use simpler Plainsong settings.

Sunday 14 February 10.45am Lent I, Sung Mass with Litany in Procession. Missa de Angelis. Motet: O Lord Look Down from Heaven – Battishill.

Sunday 21 February 10.45am Lent II, Sung Mass. Sarum Plainsong. Motet: The Call – Lloyd. Words by George Herbert, Welsh-born Anglican poet & priest (1593-1633).

Sunday 28 February 10.45am Lent III, Sung Mass. Praier Booke Noted – Merbecke. Motet: Panis Angelicus – arr. Nigel Browne.

Sunday 28 February 6pm in Exeter Cathedral there is a liturgical performance of Cantata 41. Jesu, nun sei gepreiset, by Exeter Bach Society.

Tuesday 1 March 6pm CBS Mass at St Michael's, with plainsong & hymns, for David, Patron Saint of Wales and our Parish church.

Sunday 6 March 10.45am Mothering Sunday, Laetare with Rose Vestments, Sung Mass.

Sunday 6 March 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction.

Times of change are unsettling but inevitable, even in a church as apparently traditional as St Michael's. Please continue to pray for and support St Michael's; we have a full rota of mainly visiting priests to welcome to our regular services between now and Easter, and much to look forward to together.

Finally, a topic guaranteed to make one unpopular. Financial giving to St Michael's, while improving a little, is still inadequate to cover basic costs, so if, like me, you have not yet joined the Parish Giving Scheme, please take an information pack from the back of the church and give it some serious consideration.

Many thanks.

Richard Barnes



Parish Socials 2016

Sign up sheets will be available in church - *all are welcome!*

Sunday 7th February after 9.30am service Castle Drogo Walk	2-3 hour walk finishing with lunch at the Castle Drogo Cafe (car shares available) dogs welcome too.
Tuesday 1st March	Celebration of St David's Day
Sunday 3rd April after 9.30 service City Wall Treasure Trails Walk	Exeter based walk 2-3 hours stopping for lunch http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk/devon/things-to-do-in-Exeter_City_Wall.html
Sunday 8th May after 9.30 service Go Ape	Fun in the Trees at Haldon Forest http://goape.co.uk/days-out/haldon Lunch at the cafe
Sunday 12th June after 9.30 service Strawberry picking, short walk and picnic	Feniton
Friday 1st July - evening Kayaking	Exeter Quay
Saturday 5th August - evening Beach Games and BBQ	Budleigh Beach
26th - 29th August Greenbelt	https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/boxoffice/

“Praying”

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Mary Oliver (2004)



ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Revision of the parish electoral roll will begin on Sunday 20th March and end on Sunday 3rd April 2016.

In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting on Wednesday 20th April 2016, 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 Philippa Keitch 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 PHILIPPA 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



*“Is it nothing to you who pass by?
Behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto
my Sorrow.”*

The Man Born to be King

by
Dorothy L. Sayers

The Passion Story

From the Last Supper to the Garden Tomb

These Plays were written for the Radio in 1942 and have not lost their impact. With the aid of music specially composed we will present the story of Christ's suffering. We are led by Sarah Hales who many people will know as the leader of the “Words for Voices” team who give such spectacular readings every Christmas. We aim to present the message of Jesus the Saviour in a fresh and compelling way.

Tuesday 15th March at 7.30 at Holy Trinity, Exmouth

Friday 18th March at 7.30 at St Stephen's, Exeter

Sunday 20th March at St Andrew's Kenn

Admission Free. Come early to get a seat

Enquiries 01392 833 485

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

Read any good books lately?

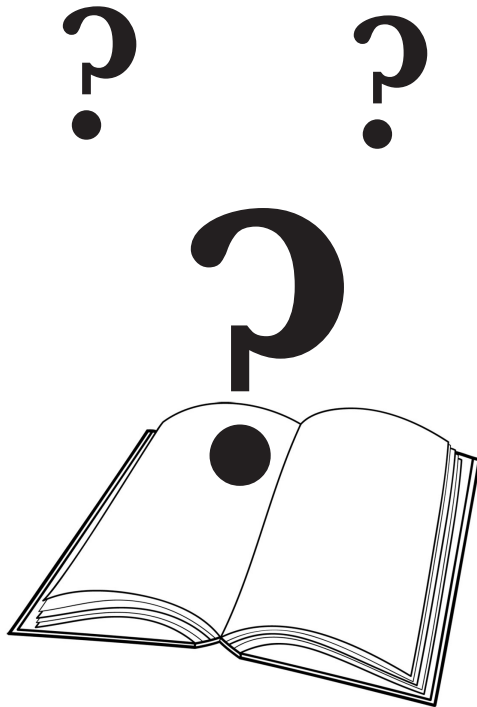
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

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.

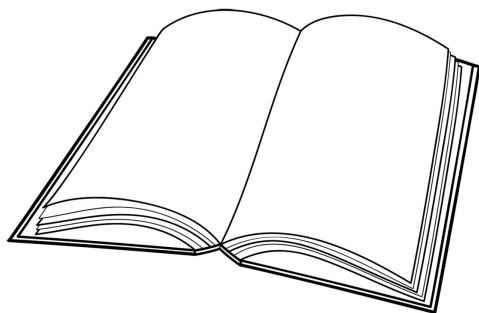
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient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



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:- 07872626168 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
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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

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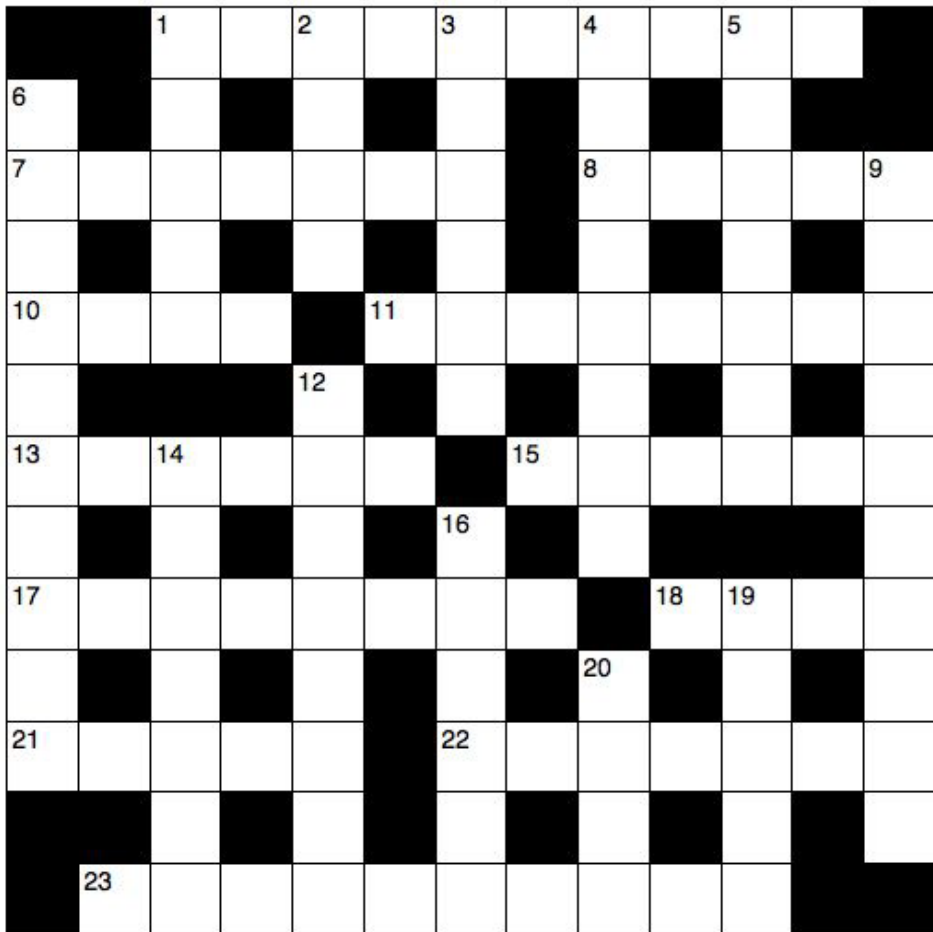
"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"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."

February crossword



Across:

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)

- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down:

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’ (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’ (Matthew 16:18) (5)
 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)
Answers later in the magazine

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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.or
or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

Sam Wellbelove



Dates of Note

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.

10 Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

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 I 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.*



29 Oswald - the saint for Leap Year

There is a saint for Leap Year: St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.



St. Oswald, Archbishop of York
St. Oswald, + 992
 Ferdinand Stiefesser, Archbishop
 of York and Bishop
 of Ulm, Orléans, Italy.
 On ground a large stone, with which the Saint has been
 named the "Pavement"

Oswald was a popular Archbishop, who was in the habit of washing the feet of the poor every day in Lent. On the 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester, when he collapsed and died. Later Oswald and his successor at Worcester, Wulfstan came to be the two chief saints of Worcester. You can see them together, for instance, flanking the tomb of King John before the high altar of the cathedral.



HYMNS

When you come to church you hear hymns. Hymns are songs of praise to God. Some are very old and some, like the ones you may sing at school, are new.

Have you ever wondered who wrote the hymns we sing? For example, one hymn writer was Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Londonderry. She wrote a book called 'Hymns for Little Children' which was dedicated to her godchildren. The book was published in 1848 and contained hymns that we know well today; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'.

It is said that she wrote the last hymn because of the view from the Bishop's palace. The house looked out over the city walls to the green hills in the distance. So

the words we sing today come from the view that Mrs Alexander had from her window.

HYMN TITLES

All the following hymn titles have some words missing – can you fill in the blanks.

All the hymns are from Mission Praise and the answers are below.

1. While ____ watched
2. Lead us, ____ ____, lead us.
3. Away in a ____
4. Forty days and ____ ____
5. Hark! The ____ ____ sing
6. ____ has broken
7. ____ night, ____ night
8. There is a ____ ____ far away
9. We plough the ____ and scatter
10. Amazing ____

Answers: 1. While shepherds
watched 2. Lead us, heavenly
Father, lead us 3. Away in a man-
ger 4. Forty days and forty nights
5. Hark, the herald angels sing
6. Morning has broken 7. Silent
night, holy night 8. There is a
green hill far away 9. We plough
the fields and scatter 10. Amazing
Grace.

Crossword solutions

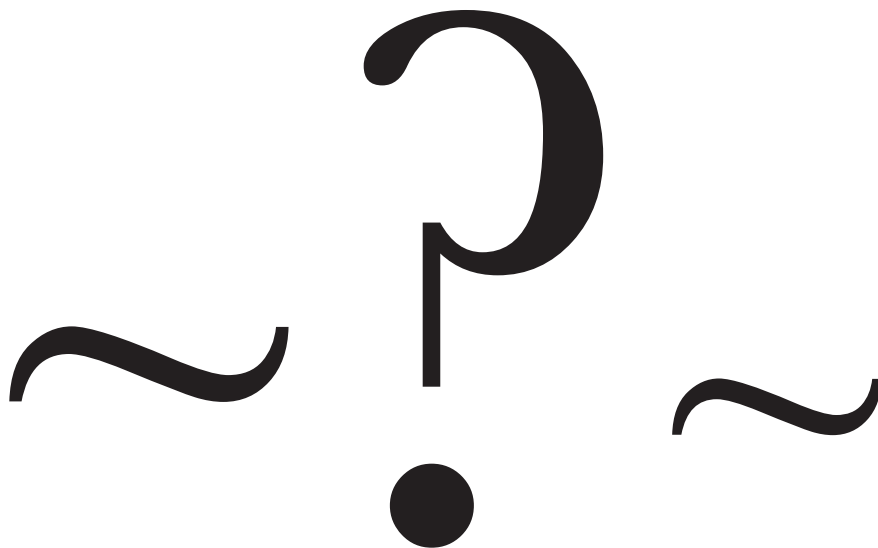
February answers

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.

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**The deadline for inclusion of articles for
the **March** issue of New Leaves is
Sunday February 7th 2016**

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

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

Please send digital files via email if at all possible and please make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!

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

