



WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the magazine
for the Parish of St David’s with St. Michael
and All Angels.

The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate articles which re-
flect Church, Parish or Community interest

Please send as Word documents to:

newleavesnews@gmail.com

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name and
the date of writing

Enjoy this month’s read.

We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by
Sue Holden and Stephanie Aplin

A long obedience in the same direction: becoming a Priest

After a year had past amongst you as Deacon, Bishop Robert came to our church community of St. David's to ordain me priest. That was in September. With his hands open and the consenting prayers of all the people secured, he asked the Holy Spirit to come upon me to fulfil the works and life of a priest in His Holy Church. How awesome! How humbling! How empowering! How satisfying! How amazing! How on earth did God lead me here!? I felt honoured to preside at St. Mike's lavish Patronal Festival just a few days later.

(At the time of writing) I've presided over the Eucharist only 6 times, fewer services than I have fingers on both hands. Each time has been gloriously different, and I suspect each future time will be gloriously different again. We always hunger for food, but our shared meals are never the same. Yes, Jesus died once for all upon the cross - that will never change, but our reception changes as God knows our changing hurts and needs, both yours and mine.

The charge at my Ordination Retreat: "be with the people for God and with God for the people". This mighty charge demands a contemplative response! I cannot be and am not asked to be a god for the people; I am called to foster enriching encounters with God, and to show the difficult

way of God. Neither am I called to be measurably productive or even useful; I am called to be in the presence of God, and there to trust my necessary competencies will be forged by forgiveness and love. For those are the tools of my trade also. Help me to wield forgiveness and love in our community.

So, in full answer to the question: “What does it feel like being a Priest?” I am delighted to reply: “Satisfactory”. Come with me, and I will walk with you. Pray for me.

Rev. Christopher



Remember I am with you always - Ordination sermon

It all begins with the feet..... beautiful upon the mountains as they run

sure-footed to declare peace, bring good news, announce salvation and proclaim, 'Your God reigns'. 'Beautiful', a word which appears in the Song of Solomon as an expression of physical attraction to one's lover, is usually restricted to more likely physical attributes such as the cheek or the mouth. In our first reading it's applied to the feet – mundane, functional, often not attractive at all. But here they are beautiful because they embody the love, grace and mercy of God rushing to overwhelm a waiting, searching, suffering world. The prophet speaks of

a new dawn, a chorus of singing, a moment of great joy. The prophet anticipates the light-filled sky and angel voices that will signal the word made flesh.

Today, in this holy place, with voices which also sing for joy, we celebrate the coming of two more pairs of beautiful feet. We thank God for Anne and Christopher, who have already travelled over great distances, usually in the right direction (that's for you Anne), sometimes by still waters, at other times through some adversity. They've journeyed with loved ones, Jenny, Christopher, their families, friends, spiritual companions, encouragers and challengers. And now they will be ordained and sent out alongside fellow travellers, to continue to tell the story of God's love with every step they take. But before they do up their laces they're called to be still in the presence of God; to rest in the one in whose image they are being formed; to hear his word; declare their belief in him; pray earnestly for the gift of the spirit and an enlarging of the heart. And that pattern, practised today, is a good model to imitate before each subsequent journey....to be still, to rest in God, to read scripture, and to pray for the gift of the spirit and an enlarging of the heart.

Take my feet and let them move, swift and beautiful for thee, says the hymn. But it's not all about feet. Christopher and Anne are also to be sentinels, to use their eyes to watch for what is God is doing in the world, their ears to listen, their voices to encourage and teach, their hands to comfort and bless, their hearts to love and inspire. All that they are, their gifts and strengths, weaknesses and frailties, will be used to baptise, make disciples and build up the body of Christ.

And here's the heart of the matter. Whilst the letter to the Ephesians

celebrates the diversity of gifts that God gives to his children, it reminds us that these gifts are not to be accumulated and stored, but used for the building up of God's kingdom on earth. Over the past couple of years, I've got to know Anne really well. Christopher and I go back a little way too. Here are two gifted people, different in so many ways, yet sharing a passion to get out there and crack on. And here we all are, so different to one another, yet blessed with gifts that equip us together for the work of ministry. The Greek word for 'equip' is a lovely little word that literally means the setting of a bone. It is only as we are formed to be more and more like Christ, literally shaped and set in his image, that our gifts can be used to help the whole body grow and flourish, and so overwhelm the world with love. We must grow up into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. As we thank God for Anne and Christopher today, please thank God for the person he is forming you to be, the gifts he has blessed you with, and the difference you make in the world.

It might begin with the feet.....but for me it ends with the hands. The eleven disciples go to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus has directed them. And there, depleted by betrayal, storm-tossed by loss, death and the shock of new life, seized by adoration and doubt, perhaps in equal measure, they kneel with empty hands outstretched. Or that's how I like to imagine them anyway. And Jesus fills their empty hands with all that they need to run, speak, listen, love, teach, baptise and bless. When trying to find words to speak of priestly ministry, I often return to the language of holding. Priests are called to hold, lightly and gently, the story of God and his people. They are called to hold the invisible threads and treasures of a community. They are called to hold

precious space as people explore and grow, encountering God and one another. They are called to hold the hurting, the joyful and the everyday in prayer. They are called to hold the body of Christ, broken in love for the world and his people.

And when their arms start to ache they're called to lay it all down, and return to Galilee with empty hands outstretched. To hear again these words: Remember I am with you always. And then, and only then, to run sure-footed alongside all God's pilgrim people, beautiful upon the mountains, embodying his grace and love and mercy.

Hilary Dawson

25th September 2016

“Do Less!” - Sermon preached by Fr David Nixon

St Michael & All Angels, First Mass of Fr Christopher Durrant,

29.9.16

You may remember the radio show Round Britain Quiz in which contestants were asked what theme linked 4 or 5 apparently disconnected things. A local ecclesial or parish variant might be to ask for the common feature between: Tom Honey’s golf clubs, the Bishop of Exeter’s breakfast, the recent graffiti on the cathedral, David Beadle’s PhD thesis and Richard Parker’s coat. My challenge tonight is similar: can I make connections between ordination to the priesthood, celebrating a first Mass, Fr Chris Durrant, and the feast of the Angels. All in seven minutes and I’ve used up one minute already on this introduction.

I want to home in straightaway on priestly ordination, and pass on to you the advice my godfather, who was a priest and a chaplain, gave me when I became a university chaplain here. He said, “Do less!” This was not an excuse for laziness on his part, and certainly not for you or for me. Rather, those two words in some ways focus on the essence of priesthood, which is all about relationships – growing, fostering, nurturing and challenging relationships. Firstly, priesthood is a relationship with God, and then bringing others into that relationship. It means we spend time with God and time with other people. It seems to be that this is the core of priestly ministry, our USP, what deep-down others expect of us: an awesome and frightening role.

Now there is a slight catch here. Others can be better at this than we

are: better at holiness, better at prayer, better at meditation and contemplation; in fact better at almost everything we do, but we're the ones who've said "Yes" to all this as a public role, and that's what's unique. It's difficult because we're tempted to do more. Now that you, Chris, are ordained priest, people will expect more activities, more busy-ness. These parishes will probably want more out of you (the diocese will certainly seem to want more out of you); yet in becoming ever more active, we're likely to destroy the very thing that people want most, what they crave in their innermost hearts: a relationship, an encounter with the Divine, which they are looking to us to enable. So "Do less!"

Others' relationship with God is helped by yours, so this is your road to discovery, through the sacraments and the Bible, inviting others to join you. It's slow and costly, but rich in reward.

The sacraments bring us to God, and bring God to us and others, in a most intimate way, in glory and in humility. So this first Mass is a wonderful occasion – and may I just say: "So far, so good." All those years ago when I celebrated my first Mass, I went completely blank at one point, and whispered loudly to the vicar "What comes next?" He told me, and we carried on.

I did wonder what vestments might be on show this evening. Fr Chris as an ordinand was known for his wonderful tanktops, knitted lovingly by his family. So I'd hoped for a golden knitted chasuble tonight. But I do have it on good authority that the crocheted monstrance is in the sacristy.

A final word about the Angels. It strikes me that the traditional roles attributed to the archangels are not bad guides to the priestly role and character: Michael as defender and protector, Gabriel as messenger, and Raphael as healer, bridge-builder and (since he took out of Tobit's eye what blinded him), the one who helps others to see more clearly.

The myriads of countless angels who simply worship God are what we all aspire to; and today's reading from St John's Gospel which anchors the angels into a relationship with Jesus brings an additional important focus.

I was talking to a wise friend a little while ago about priestly ministry and parish work, and I said rather wearily: "Barry, you live and you learn, don't you." (It was an evening full of clichés.) And he said back to me: "No David, you live and then you live a bit more." Chris, may God go with you in your priesthood, and may you live, and live a little bit more. **Amen.**



David Nixon

David Nixon is Dean of Studies of the South West Ministerial Training Course. He studied modern languages and theology in Durham, Oxford, Rome and Exeter, with a PhD in theology entitled *Stories from the Street: Towards a Theology of Homelessness*. This has been recently published by Ashgate. He was ordained priest in 1992 and has served in Plymouth and Exeter in parishes and chaplaincy.

Thank you

Dear Tom and All at St David's

We would like to thank you so much for making us all feel welcome at the Ordination of Christopher and Anne.

It was a very powerful and moving service, enriched by the presence of

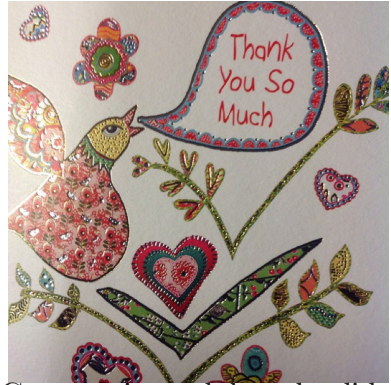
Bishop Robert, members of the Holyford Community and the splendid art work of the Junior Church.

The care, love and enormous efforts which made the service and the very warm celebrations afterwards so wonderful is greatly appreciated. The cakes were delicious!

Our heartfelt thanks to you all and we hope to see you again very soon
Best Wishes

Angela and Wayne Durrant

(Christopher's Parents)



Thank you! From St Michael's

A visitor to our Michaelmas celebrations commented on the 'wonderful spread' which concluded Fr Christopher's joyful celebration of Mass on 29th September. That spread would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors and benefactors, our 'setters-up', washers-up and clearers-up (especially the 'broom ballet' as we were leaving from Tim and Matt). Thanks to everyone who contributed to a very sociable evening.

Stephanie Aplin

St David's Eucharist November		
November 06 : 3rd Sunday before Advent (Baptism)		
Reading 1	Job 19: 23-27a	Alan Baker
Reading 2	2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17	Jenny Baker
Gospel	Luke 20: 27-38	
Time of prayer		
Junior Church: <i>Helen Sail</i>		
November 13 : 2nd Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)		
Reading 1	Malachi 4: 1-2a	Cathy Knowles
Reading 2	2 Thessalonians 3: 1-6a	Helen Hopwood
Gospel	Luke 21: 5-19	
Time of prayer		
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		
November 20 : <i>Christ the King (Family Service)</i>		
Reading 1	Jeremiah 23: 1-6	
Reading 2	Colossians 1: 11-20	
Gospel	Luke 23: 33-43	
Time of prayer		
Junior Church:		
November 27 : Advent Sunday (preacher Hannah Alderson)		
Reading 1	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Sue Wilson
Reading 2	Romans 13: 11-14	Clive Wilson
Gospel	Matthew 24: 36-44	
Time of prayer		
Junior Church: Helen Sail		
December 04 : Advent 2		
Reading 1	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Katy Tyler
Reading 2	Romans 15: 4-13	Suzi Leather
Gospel	Matthew 3: 1-12	
Time of prayer		
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

Some thoughts for November from St Michael's

A recent comment about history stopped me short: 'That was then. This is now. Get over it!' The Christian faith is built on remembrance; the Eucharist charges us with the words of Christ: 'Do this in remembrance of me' every time we share the bread and wine. It is sacrifice and sacrament; it is body and blood; it is past and present. It is God with us, God for us, God in us. Father Christopher celebrated his first Mass with us at Michaelmas. In the drama and joy of the Eucharist, in the music, the words, the ritual and all the elements, such as we had for that celebration, I find myself close to the drama and joy of God, finding expressions of gratitude and commitment in the offering and sharing. The rituals have been a way of revealing God's love for centuries. It is thrilling to be part of that continuum and to share it with my fellow Christians. 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation', Hymn 440 in The New English Hymnal includes vv4 and 5, often omitted, but important in reminding us that God who created the wilderness of the world has it under His control and can bring meaning by His presence to events. Remembering All Saints and All Souls at the start of the month, Guido Fawkes on the fifth of November and the cessation of two world wars shapes this month for us.

The Jewish traditions of Passover look forward and back, to the establishment of Pesach with the rituals observed during the Seder meal and ahead, with the final remarks of 'Next year in Jerusalem.' The pat-

tern of the Jewish year clearly set out the dependence on God and the importance of repetition as a way of transmitting the faith to the future. Herman Wouk, a Jewish writer once said that one could be a Jew with God, or a Jew against God, but never a Jew without God. God was in everything, whether one chose to look for Him or not.

‘Where is God in all this?’ people ask when they contemplate the horrors of war; when they see reportage of the atrocities in Syria; when natural disasters like tsunamis and hurricanes engulf and destroy cities; when crops fail and people starve; when refugees drown because of greedy people traffickers. On such a scale, it is sometimes difficult to remember that the sufferings of Christ are always present in the world, so the world needs constant redemption and sustaining through prayer. Rather like the Creation process, it was not, to my mind, a once and for all event; Creation continues to be produced and sustained by God. Seed time and harvest are evidence of on-going creative activity. I do not think he made it all and then walked off to enjoy an eternal rest, or set things going, like a clockwork motor eventually winding down and collapsing in on itself. We have the task of supporting the work. (See Norman Pittinger’s writing on Process Theology.)

Wearing the red poppy at Remembrance-tide was quite recently considered unacceptable by some, and many pacifists chose to wear white poppies. I was quite aggressively challenged once for wearing the red poppy, which made me think about its meaning. I was in no way attempting to glorify war; the colour was a strong reminder of the blood that had been shed in the past. I am not militaristic in my outlook, but I do believe we need a strong defence of Christian values in a world where they are threatened by organisations like Daesh, and where Christians are beheaded or even crucified for heresy and being anti-Islamic. The installation in Northernhay Gardens in July to com-

memorate the dead in the Battle of the Somme I found both moving and grotesque. The battles continued after that day; men died on many other days and in many other ways. It was the first time that the general public began to get a glimpse of the outrageous actions that had been called heroic. Where was God? It is an impossible question to answer without sounding glib or superficial. However, I am reminded of the words of George Santayana: 'Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.'

Stephanie Aplin

Family Services at St David's: November 2016 – March 2017

We hope you are enjoying the non-Eucharistic family services on the third Sunday of each month. Please find below details for the next six family services. We look forward to seeing you there.

Remember there is an Edibles Stall each month (not August and December) Please bring and buy homemade cakes and biscuits.

Sunday 20th November 9.30 “Christ the King” Luke 23:33-43

Leader: Bill

Sunday 18th December 9.30 “Mary, the Mother of Jesus” Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: Tom

Sunday 15th January 9.30 “Come and See” John 1:29-42

Leader: Simon

Sunday 19th February “Do not Worry” Matthew 6:25-end

Leader: Christopher

Sunday March 19th “The Samaritan Woman at the Well “ John 4:5-42

Leader: Bill

Bill Pattinson

Music & Events @ St Michael's – November 2016



Wed 2nd Nov, 7.30pm, All Souls' Day, Sung Requiem Mass. Victoria, Stanford.

Sun 6th Nov, 10.45am, Trinity XXIV, Advent-3. Viadana, Gibbons.

Sun 6th Nov, 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction. Stanford, Bainton, Rossini, Fauré.

Wed 9th Nov, 7.30pm, Exeter College Concert. Cello & Piano.

Sun 13th Nov, 10.45am, Remembrance Sunday. Sumsion, Noble.

Sun 20th Nov, 10.45am, Christ the King, Stir Up, Confirmation. Casciolini.

Tue 22nd Nov, 6pm. CBS Plainsong Mass – St Cecilia (c.230), Patroness of Musicians.

Sat 26th Nov, 11am – 3pm. An Unusually Good Book Sale.

Sun 27th Nov, 10.45am, Advent Sunday. Wood x2.

Wed 30th Nov, 7.30pm, St Michael's Lecture. Theology & Vegetarianism – Dr Matthew Barton.

Advance Notice:-

Sun 4th Dec. 6pm, Advent Procession – Readings, Candles, Carols, Hymns.

Sun 11th Dec, 4pm, Exeter Chorale Tea-time Concert.

Sat 17th Dec, late afternoon, Charity Carol Concert given by St Michael's Choir.

Other Regular Services:-

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6pm Plainsong Vespers & Meditation.

Wednesdays, 9.30am Morning Prayer, 10am Low Mass.

See the Website & Twitter for Music List & Service details.

Book Sale, Lecture & Concert

Please support the “Unusually Good Book Sale” on Sat 26th Nov from 11am-3pm organised with St David's Neighbourhood Partnership. As well as books & other media, there will be Piano music from Matthew Wright, Organ demonstration by Nigel Browne, and a guided tour of the Church given by Richard Parker. All-in-all, a day not to miss.

On Wed 30th Nov we conclude our Autumn “isms” lectures with Dr Matthew Barton considering religious and theological aspects of Vegetarianism. Free & all welcome.

We are pleased to host a Concert on Wed 9th Nov in support of the Exeter College Chris Wilson Music Award; Jan Skrdlik, Cello & Petra Besa, Piano, play Saint-Saens, Kodaly, Dvorak. £15.

Choir Music

Our traditional All Souls' Day Requiem, Wed 2nd Nov at 7.30pm, uses the Missa Pro Defunctis a 4, by Victoria, with Stanford's motet “Justorum animae”, the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God. All are welcome to this moving Service when the list of names of the Faithful Departed is prayed.

On Sun 6th Nov at 6pm, our Evensong Anthem “And I saw a new

heaven” by Edgar Bainton continues the Remembrance-tide theme.

The Benediction hymns are Romantic settings by Rossini & Fauré, as Jesus, lifted up, draws us to himself.

For Remembrance Sunday the music is the Communion Service in F by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), who was at Gloucester Cathedral, Chorister and Organist, for 60 years. From 1917 to 1919 Sumsion served in the Queen’s Westminster Rifles and spent time in the trenches in Flanders. The Motet by Tertius Noble uses a versified form of Wisdom 3.

Souls of the righteous in the hand of God,

Nor hurt nor torment cometh them anigh;

O holy hope of immortality.

Souls of the righteous in the hand of God,

to eyes of men unwise, they seem to die;

They are at peace, O fairest liberty.

On earth as children chasten’d by Love’s rod,

As gold in furnace tried, so now on high

they shine like stars, a golden galaxy:

Souls of the righteous in the hand of God.

Please support a special service on 20th Nov – as well as being Stir-up Sunday and Christ the King, we will welcome Bishop Martin Shaw to our Sung Mass to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Amy Down. We will sing “Te Deum laudamus”, the great 4th century credal hymn in a setting by the American composer Horatio Parker, learned on our summer visit to Winchester.

On Sun 27th Nov we joyously celebrate the traditional start of the New Liturgical Year, Advent Sunday, with music by Charles Wood, his Mass in F and “O Thou the central Orb”.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, Our nature all shall feel eternal day

In fellowship with thee, transforming clay To souls erewhile unclean;
now pure within.

Richard Barnes

November Diary at St David's



There is a celebration of Holy Communion every Sunday morning at 8.00

There is a service of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion every Tuesday and Friday morning at 8 o'clock. A wonderful, uplifting way to start your day

There is a celebration of Holy Communion every Thursday morning at 10.30 followed by refreshments.

Sunday 6th November

9.30 Eucharist President: Tom Honey Preacher: Bill Pattinson

This service includes the Baptism of Danielle Robins

Junior Church Leader: Helen Sail

Thursday 10th November

Bible Study group at Ann's house 20.00-21.15

Sunday 13th November

Remembrance Sunday

9.30 Eucharist. President and Preacher: Christopher Durrant
Junior Church Leader: Sarah Harrison

Sunday 20th November

9.30 Family Service with Orchestra
Christ the King Leader: Bill Pattinson

Thursday 24th November

Bible Study Group at Iris' house 20.00-21.15

Sunday 27th November

Advent Sunday

9.30 Eucharist President: Tom Honey Preacher: Hannah Alderson
Junior Church Leader: Helen Sail
18.00 St David's Community Christmas Concert

Sunday 4th December

9.30 Eucharist President: Tom Honey Preacher: Christopher Futchet,
Archdeacon of Exeter
Junior Church Leader: Sarah Harrison



St David's New Website



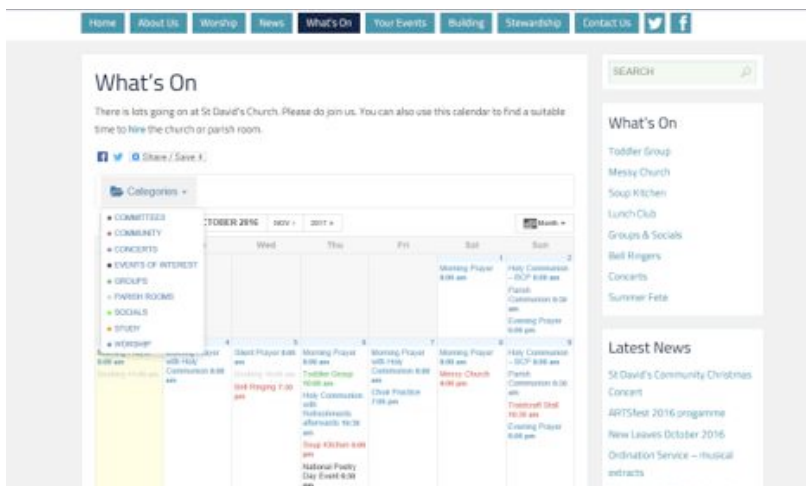
Many of you will have noticed we have a new website. The main reasons for this are to be able to provide information about our building and churchyard as part of the Transformation Project and add additional content in a flexible way that was not possible with our old site. The site we have used for the last few years was very easy to use but limited our ability to add extra features such as tours and control the sequence of information in each area. After consideration of our needs we appointed Clare Bryden from Websites Ahoy to build the website using Wordpress following the general layout of our old website. I then went about transferring and updating the information about St David's making the information more easily accessible.

If you are away or forget to take home your News Sheet you will find copies on the website. The Parish Magazine is published with colour photographs – find them by clicking on the News tab.

Double click on the What's On tab to find the full calendar

The calendar will keep you up-to-date with daily events. The 'catego-

ries' icon above the calendar codes events so that you can check when the parish room or church is booked if you are planning to hire the venue for an event.



Under the Buildings tab you will find 360 degree Tours of the church, an interactive tour of the Chancel, where you can click on the hotspots to find out about the saints. There is also information about the Transformation work.

Our next project is to build an interactive churchyard for easy access to information about those buried for people researching their family history.

I will also be offering training for anyone interested in helping maintain a page of the website or sharing the weekly updating process over time. Working with websites is not my profession but an interest, I've had to learn a huge amount and still am, if you are interested in helping, please talk to me.

The website can only be kept up-to-date if you send in the information about your event or activity, please do - web@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

I also maintain our Facebook and Twitter accounts,

Below are the statistics for the Ordination posts
Facebook

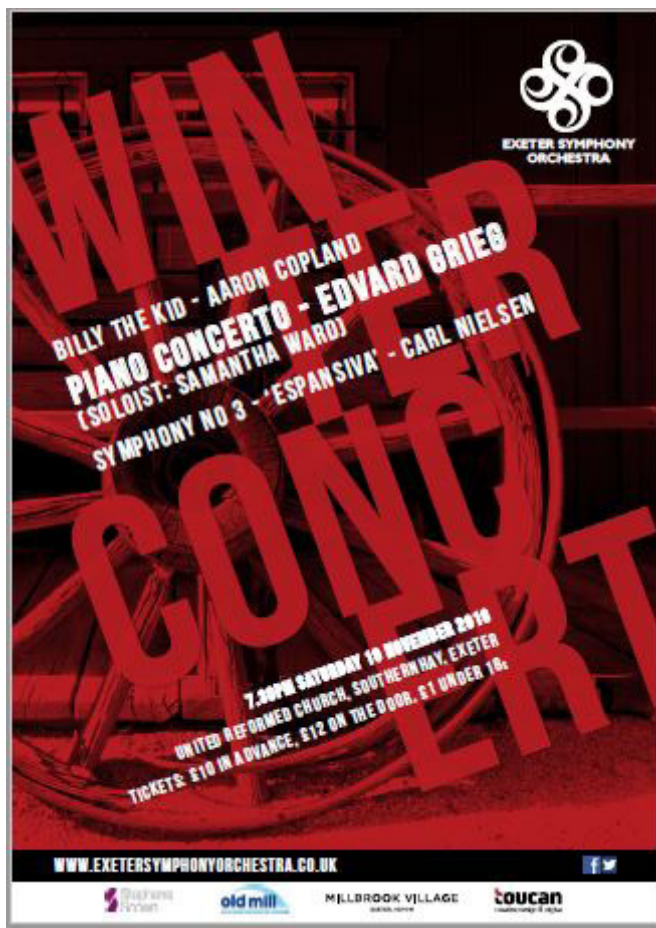
28/09/2016 15:08	 Nigel has been busy again - here is a lovely reminder of the Ordina			118	
26/09/2016 10:31	 Thanks to Nigel Walsh for the music and for this recording of our c			106	
25/09/2016 14:22	 Lovely Ordination Service Christo pher and Anne			489	

Twitter

Impressions	1,013
Total engagements	138
Media engagements	81
Detail expands	28
Likes	12
Link clicks	10
Retweets	5
Profile clicks	2

How exciting that we are reaching out to people who may not come to our services but still hear about them.

Sue Holden



Our own Singing Bishop

The Exeter Symphony Orchestra concert advertised above may be of particular interest to those of you acquainted with Bishop Martin Shaw. You may be unaware that our retired Bishop is also a trained singer with a fine baritone voice. An extra item to be included in the ESO concert programme will be The Send Off, a song for baritone and orchestra by a former member of the orchestra, and a musician who is very well known in musical circles in the West Country – Paul Painter. The Send Off is a musical setting of a Wilfred Owen First World War poem and

tells of a group of men sent from their camp, by train, to the front, very possibly never to return alive. This serves as a powerful and moving reminder of the tragedy of war, especially pertinent during this month of Remembrance and also the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme. The solo will be sung by our very own Bishop Martin.

The Grieg piano concerto will be played by Samantha Ward, one of the leading British pianists of her generation, who has performed extensively around the UK and Europe, appearing on television and radio numerous times. This will be a treat not to be missed.

For full details of the whole programme and to order tickets, please go to www.exetersymphonyorchestra.co.uk or telephone Nicky Hobbs on 01392250900

Nicky Hobbs

Creationtide!

The purpose of the Church is not to increase its own membership, irrespective of the obsession some Christians seem to have about church growth. The purpose of the Church is to extend the love of God – whatever that means. In less religious terms, this is to say we are to recognise that a healthy society is one permeated by compassion, fairness, kindness and cooperation.

It is a world where people are supported by others at times of vulnerability, uncertainty and loss. Where there is a more equal distribution of human and natural resources and a deep respect for the carrying capacity of the planet. A life where humans do not suffer from hunger or poverty or oppression – but have a full opportunity to grow into the more complete people we might become.

To return to faith language, it is to build the ‘Reign’ or ‘Kingdom of God’ (in Hebrew - Issa-ra-el) in our midst, recognising the innate goodness of all humanity and its ability to heal brokenness and support those who are broken. But this is not to do with any afterlife or heavenly pretension. This is the biblical call to find and share the love of the divine with one another in our common life together in the here and now.

This vision of wholeness is at the heart of the earliest church tradition –inclusive, welcoming, creative and ecological. Yet this is so easily lost in the institutional workings of congregations, buildings and finance. Rather than being ‘a church for others’, if we are not care-full we end up with a church existing for itself – the consequences of which can only be further decline and death.

Maybe this kind of church just has to die. Can it really be so self-cen-

tred and have a role in the contemporary culture of greed, hubris and narcissism?

However, it is perhaps precisely in being counter-cultural that it could have a future. The demise of the institution could bring the re-birth of the community.

We may live in ‘Mission Communities’ where the emphasis is on ‘mission’, but it is time now to rediscover community!

In spite of the rhetoric of neo-liberal politicians and others who say the community is nothing more than a collection of happy individuals, our faith tradition claims that it is the very relations between these people that constitutes whether we live in a loving world or a care-less one.

As with many faith traditions, Christianity does not affirm consumeristic individualism. What it does recognise is the need we all have to relate positively to the world around us, and that we can only do this through the company of others (directly or indirectly). It is not good for one to be alone; we can only grow in our humanity through the love of the wider community, family, friendships and companionships.

We cannot love ourselves – only by loving other people and other places, who then return that love to us. There is no such thing as an individual, only people in relationships. God’s judgement is ultimately about the importance we give to reciprocity, mutual support and the integrity of all life on Earth...

Martyn Goss (Director)

Church & Society

Diocese of Exeter

The Silent Prayer Group

When the silent prayer group began to meet at St David's in the spring, I didn't at first attend it, thinking: "Oh no, too difficult and austere! -not for me!"

In the past I'd been hopeless at practising regular meditation in both Christian and Buddhist traditions, and why would this be different?

But something drew me, and I did begin to go to the fortnightly meetings in church. The structure is the same each time: Tom or Catherine read a short passage either from the Bible or from other illuminating writings within the Christian tradition. Then we sit in still silence for half an hour. Then we have a cuppa. It's that simple.

But though simple, silent or centering on prayer is not easy, I find. The difficult part is not physical but mental and emotional stillness. Buddhists call the incessant, barely conscious chattering of the mind "monkey mind". Practising centering prayer is learning to gently still this burble, and pull awareness away from daydreams and fantasies. It is a practice of the heart and will; it owes a lot to the 14th-century work "The Cloud of Unknowing", with its famous line in chapter 6:

"By love may he be gotten and holden, but by thought never".

Centering prayer is a form of meditation, yet unlike in the past I find myself wanting to continue, to persevere with regular times of sitting, both alone and in the group. And I think this change is because for the first time I feel part of a praying community at St David's, and part of an ancient tradition of prayer. Trust in both the community and the tradition is so important.

At an excellent and informative day workshop Tom hosted in the summer, we learned more about the tradition of contemplative prayer and its close association with the slow and meditative reading of scripture. Here we also read poems of darkness and unknowing, and learned more about the technique of “letting go”, of nurturing an attitude of surrender. A helpful book was recommended, and having read it I can commend it now: “Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening”, by Cynthia Bourgeault.

But in the end it’s not about talking or reading. Just do the practice. The goal is the process.

“For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength”
(Isaiah 30:15)

Julia Mercer



We Will Remember Them

Taking the scenic route in Spring from Boots to Queen Street through Northernhay Gardens,

With its banks of daffodils and carpets of primroses,
And magnolia cups battered by the storm but unbowed.
The grand statues of worthy men stand guard,
While spire, pylon and crane pierce the western skyline.

But today the pointing hand of Peace holding an olive branch
Atop the Exeter War Memorial commands my attention.
Four representatives, 3 men and a woman sit and stare resolutely
Past the horrors of war to the far horizons of hope.
Soldier, sailor, nurse and P.O.W. at their cardinal points since 1923.

John Angel was their sculptor, and on closer inspection
The high figure thrusting her bosom heavenward is Victory eight foot
tall,
Holding laurel leaves aloft while treading down the Dragon of tyranny
and evil,
The sword of justice at her side, standing there on twenty foot of Dart-
moor granite,
Lest we forget that peace for selfish humankind comes with a heavy
price.

A season later and the ground is white, not with angel wings or fallen
snow,
But nineteen thousand two hundred and forty still, silent Shrouds of the
Somme.
One day's names, orders, letters, music echoing down a century of sin
and strife.
And poppies red bow to bugle's sound – we will remember them, and
millions more.



19240 Shrouds of the Somme – Fri 1 July 2016

Richard Barnes

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Messiaen: *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* mvt. 5

Kodály: *Solo Cello Sonata, Op. 8*

Dvořák *Cello Concerto in B minor op.104*



WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 7.30

St. Michael & All Angels Church, Mount Dinham,

Exeter Tickets: £15, students, free.

To book tickets or for more details, contact:

Roz Harding: 01392 400250; rozharding@exe-coll.ac.uk

Tickets also available on the door.

ST MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2016

7.30pm Weds 28th Sept

**Ethnicity, Race and Religion in early Christian
and Jewish Texts and Modern Biblical Scholarship:
Critical Reflections on the Christian West**

Professor David Horrell

7.30pm Weds 26th Oct

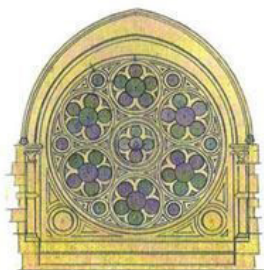
**Deliverance Ministry (Exorcism)
in the Church of England**

The Reverend Deacon John Underhill

7.30pm Weds 30th Nov

Theology and Vegetarianism

Doctor Matthew Barton



A warm welcome to our free public lectures.

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26th
11am - 3pm

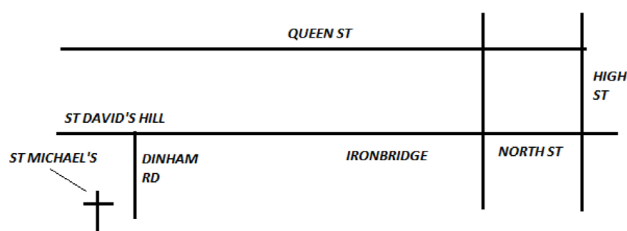
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 - ❖ **ORGAN DEMONSTRATION 1pm, Nigel Browne**
 - ❖ **TOUR OF THE CHURCH 2pm, Richard Parker**

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Bible Study Groups @ St. David's

Q) What is it?

A) An opportunity for us to gather as a small comfortable group to read scripture, share our reflections and receive some teaching.

Q) Will it be like a school class?

A) No, thankfully! I believe everyone present will have something important share. Be assured though, the clergy will have prepared a little something to start things off ;-)

Q) What sort of things will come up?

A) We're not sure, but each evening will have a theme – e.g. Creation, The Fall, God's Covenants, Sacrifice of Isaac, Jacob's Ladder, etc.

Q) I'm still not sure...

A) Come along! I pray this will be an encouraging and affirming group as we explore some of the richness of the Book of Genesis together.

We shall meet on THURSDAY evenings, 20:00 - 21:15
October 6th 13th 27th & November 10th at Ann's House
November 24th & December 8th 15th 22nd at Iris' House

Please sign your name on the list by the North Door
(Add your telephone number if you'd like to come, but don't know where
Ann or Iris live – we'll provide directions)

Rev. Christopher

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



Join us on Sunday
27th November for an evening
of fun entertainment
6pm

The poster features a stylized green Christmas tree on the left, decorated with red and gold ornaments and a gold star on top. The tree is made of a spiral ribbon. To the right of the tree, the text 'St David's Community' is in a simple font, followed by 'Christmas' in a large, pink, cursive font with small icons inside the letters, and 'Concert' in a simple font below it. The date 'Sunday 27th November 2016' and time '6pm' are listed below the title. On the right side, there are three paragraphs of text: 'An evening of entertainment from the St David's Community for your whole family', 'Tickets £5 each for adults (free for children under 16) in advance or on the door. Held at St David's Church (opposite Exeter College on Hele Road).', and 'All proceeds go towards the St David's Transformation Fund.' At the bottom, a list of activities 'Christmas Draw (1st Prize £100) * Cake Stall * Mulled wine * Soft Drinks * Mince Pies' is followed by 'Organised by St David's Church' and the website 'web@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk'.

There is still time to sign up if you would like to
take part, please see Sam

The Angel Tree 2016

Once again we will be having a Charitable Giving Collection for The Angel Tree. We have been supporting this locally based charity for many years now and our efforts are deeply appreciated. As many of you know The Angel Tree enables prisoners here in Exeter Prison to give their children a personal gift at Christmas. This simple act works powerfully to maintain family relationships when Dad is in prison as it means the children know that he has not forgotten them whilst serving a sentence.

Our collection in 2015 ensured that 86 presents were given to children of prisoners thus supporting strong family bonds.

It is all a team effort. St David's helps financially, the chaplaincy team at the prison contact the prisoners to ascertain the ages and gender of their children, members of The Prison Fellowship buy appropriate presents and a Christian book if that is desired. More people from The Fellowship wrap the presents and ensures the prisoner writes the gift tag, and yet more people take on the responsibility of getting them all posted. All are involved in The Body of Christ, each part dependent on others for The Angel Tree to achieve its purpose.

Extracts from letters from prisoners after Christmas tell the importance of this simple act:

“My partner told me of the joy on my children's' faces when they received the gift from The Angel Tree and it made me feel better.”

Another wrote,

“....though I wasn’t there to see her face, when she opened the present at least she knows I am still here and she knows her Dad loves her very much.”

So please give generously to our collection on Sunday November 27th at St David’s. If you know you won’t be in church on that day, get in touch with Margaret Grimsey. Cheques made payable to “The Prison Fellowship”.



Margaret Grimsey

13.09.2016

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David's
Church

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Terrace,
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child and
then 50p

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10.00 until 12.00

(every week - except August)

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you can contact us:

Julia on 07729068567

Toddlers@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk



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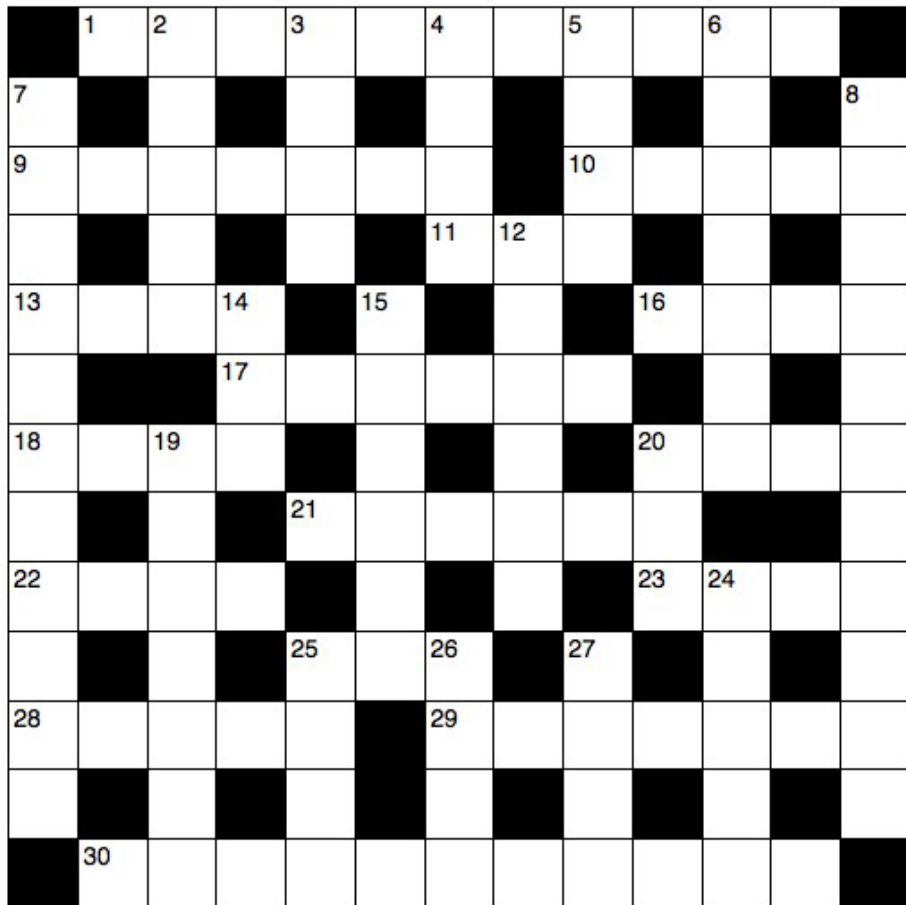
"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"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."

November crossword



Across:

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)

- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down:

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

From the Editorial Team

This month's edition of "New Leaves" hopefully provides a full report on the celebration of the priesting of Christopher. We are delighted to have Christopher ministering in our Parish. Please continue to hold him in prayer. Hilary Dawson's sermon at the ordination service and David Nixon's at Christopher's first Mass have been included - both excellent sermons.

With this copy comes your last chance to complete the questionnaire expressing your views and hopes for our Parish magazine. If you haven't yet completed a questionnaire, please do so and give it to a member of the editorial team or put it in the place provided at your church. Many thanks to all those who have already completed the questionnaire. They are proving encouraging and helpful.

Next month "New Leaves" will cover both December and January - a special two month edition which will cover the news Tom Honey has announced that he will be leaving the Parish on Sunday 1st January 2017 to become Chaplain to St Michael's Hospice in Basingstoke. If you have a special memory of Tom's ministry that you are prepared to share, we will be pleased to consider it for publication in this special edition. Please send to newleavesnews@gmail.com by Sunday 20th November - thank you!

Bill Pattinson, Richard Barnes, Sue Holden and Stephanie Aplin
18.10.2016



St MARTIN DE PORRES

Martin was born in 1579 in Lima, Peru, the son of a former slave. He grew up in poverty and was taken in by a religious order as a servant boy. The monks looked down on Martin because he was mixed-race but in time his behaviour led to the Dominican Order stopping their racial limits on admission and he was made a full brother. He worked tire-lessly on behalf of the poor, starting an orphanage and a children's hospital.

During his lifetime he was seen in other places. An African slave said Martin came to comfort him and many others. When the same man later saw him in Peru, he was very happy to meet him again and asked Martin if he had had a good voyage; but Martin had never left Lima.

In pictures, Martin de Porres is shown as a young man with a broom, since he thought all work

sacred, no matter how lowly. He is also shown with a dog, cat and mouse, all eating in peace from the one dish.

DOG, CAT & MOUSE

St Martin de Porres is often shown with mice because, according to one story, the monastery had problems with rodents and decided to put traps out. Martin was so upset that he spoke to the mice and agreed that if they would leave the monastery, he would feed them at the back door of the kitchen. From that day forward, no mouse was seen in the monastery. Which of these animals do you think are actually mentioned by name in the Bible?

1. Cat
2. Horse
3. Dog
4. Mouse
5. Lamb
6. Frog
7. Monkey
8. Lion
9. Donkey
10. Ox



Answer: all are in the Bible except numbers 1 and 7, the cat and the monkey.

Crossword solutions

November answers

ACROSS: 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase.

DOWN: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.

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





**The deadline for inclusion of articles for
the **December / January** issue of
New Leaves is
Sunday November 20th 2016**

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 the new editorial team at:

newleavesnews@gmail.com

Please send digital files via email and please make the subject

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

