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Hot cushions to keep worshippers warm



TWO churches in Devon are piloting hot cushions to keep worshippers warm during services during the winter. The re-usable, portable 'hot-bott' cushion will be used from today (Sunday 3 Nov) in churches in Broadclyst and South Tawton. Each church has been given 50 cushions to trial, with the aim of keeping worshippers warm and comfortable during services. The pilot is part of the Diocese of Exeter's 'Shrinking the Footprint' campaign to reduce carbon emissions. The Church of England in Devon is exploring a variety of new and efficient heating systems for church buildings. Three quarters of the more than 600 churches in Devon are listed buildings, and many are very old and large and difficult to heat. The cushion contains a chemically-triggered re-heatable pad which remains warm for up to 90 minutes and can be held or sat on in a church pew or seat. The pad is later boiled in water for five minutes for future use and can be re-heated up to a thousand times. The pack is biodegradable at the end of its life.

Continued on page 3

Various items in this newspaper have been
extracted from the Diocese of Exeter website

Ancient church reprieved

AN ANCIENT Exeter church has been reprieved from closure and is now entering an exciting new phase with the opening of a mini community library.

On Saturday St Mary's Church, Poltimore, will be opening a mini-library in its building and will also be celebrating the reprieve.

When villagers realised their grade 1 listed church, in the centre of the village was about to be closed because two longstanding churchwardens were retiring, they sprang into action.

Villager Jan Davey and parish clerk Jenny Edwards stepped forward to become new churchwardens, so the church could continue, whilst Carole Shaw formed the Friends of Poltimore Church and the library idea was born.

"There is a list of rectors in the church and the first one starts at 1259. How could we let our church close with all that history?" said Jan. "We are now keeping the at the heart of the community where it belongs. There is a sense that is has come to life again and it has become a focal point again."

The congregation of around 20 will continue to worship in the church.

Villagers have donated books to the mini community library, Devon County Library Service have lent four boxes of books which it will regularly change and is offering a request service.

Bookcases were donated, pews were moved and the library sits in a recess behind the organ. Volunteers will open the library on Saturday and Wednesday mornings and will be offering cups of tea.



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A new resource pack for Devon churches will help parishes, home groups or individual worshippers take part in Fairtrade Fortnight 2014.

More than just Sunday

TRAIDCRAFT HAVE A GREAT RECORD in working for justice and promoting fair trade,' says Bishop Nick. "This pack helps us explore the biblical roots of Christian concern for the poor and helpfully points to practical action that all of us can take. I am pleased to commend this resource and to encourage us to support Traidcraft in whatever ways we can."

How will you celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight 24 Feb – 9 March 2014?

Traidcraft is the Fairtrade pioneer that supplies many churches and households with Fairtrade ingredients, textiles and gifts. Their development wing, Traidcraft Exchange, is the UK's only development charity specialising in making trade work for farmers in marginalised communities. By helping farmers work together in co-operatives, address climate change, and improve business skills, their work often results in products that achieve the Fairtrade Mark and eventually find their way on to our supermarket shelves.

Exeter Diocese's Fair and Local Steering Group encourages parishes to discover more about Traidcraft Exchange's background work to Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight 2014.

So get organised now – contact a local Traidcraft Fairtrader and book a stall, get a team together and plan a Traidcraft Big Brew coffee morning, Bake Off competition, or Fairtrade Pasta Supper.

Women religious ask pope for world day of prayer against trafficking

By Carol Glatz

After Pope Francis entrusted two Vatican academies to study the problem of human trafficking, a group of women religious asked the pope to raise greater awareness in the church about the issue by establishing a worldwide day of prayer and fasting.

"The pope was very interested in our suggestion and asked us what date we would like the day to be," Consolata Sister Eugenia Bonetti told Catholic News Service.

"We told him Feb. 8 -- the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita," a Sudanese slave who found freedom in Italy and became a nun in the late 19th century.

She said the idea for a worldwide day of prayer came from "the need to do something that joins us together" to tackle the global problem; some dioceses and parishes are active on the issue while others are unaware or indifferent, she said.

Sister Eugenia, a leader among religious women in Italy working against human trafficking -- particularly women and young girls forced into prostitution -- was one of about 80 people attending a Nov. 2-3 working group on trafficking at the Vatican.

She talked to CNS Nov. 3 about her informal meeting with Pope Francis in late September when she and three other sisters from different religious congregations were invited to attend the pope's early morning Mass at his

Vatican residence.

They had written to the pope thanking him for his work and focus on the marginalized, and alerted the pope about the need for greater involvement by the church, especially by religious congregations of men, parish priests and schools in curbing the demand for prostitution by promoting a "culture of respect."

Sister Eugenia, who together with some 250 women religious through the Union of Major Superiors of Italy, has spent the past two decades fighting the illegal sex trade and helping victims.

She said that after the Mass she and the three sisters presented the pope with a signed poster, photographs and letters from women who have been rescued from traffickers, but are being held in a detention facility in Rome.

They also gave the pope a small white and blue rug that detainees had made by crocheting strips of paper bed sheets with a plastic fork, Sister Eugenia said.

The Vatican working group on trafficking was organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and the Vatican-based International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations. Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, chancellor of the academies, said Pope Francis had specifically asked him to have the academies study the problem of new forms of slavery, including the trafficking of people and human organs.

While he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, the future Pope Francis had been a strong supporter of local activists and initiatives fighting human trafficking and supporting res-

cued victims.

Bishop Sanchez told journalists that the pope wants to see the working group's findings and recommendations, and that "he will do something important" with the information.

The pope told him recently that the academies' attention to the problem was very important to him and that the work that came out of it would be "valuable," the bishop said. "The church as a whole isn't sufficiently aware of the problem" or hasn't focused deeply enough on how serious a problem it is, he told Vatican Radio.

Worldwide, at least 21 million people are victims of forced labour, including sexual exploitation, and traffickers bring in an estimated \$32 billion annually because of their illicit activities, the U.S. State Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons report said. An estimated 100,000 to 300,000 minors are victims of sex trafficking at any given time, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

The November meeting was the first time the Vatican academies had dedicated a session to studying human trafficking, the bishop said. They will have another meeting next year in the run-up to a larger gathering in 2015, the bishop told journalists.

"The pope, ever since he was an archbishop, had already intuited this serious social problem," Bishop Sanchez told Vatican Radio. "We were dumbstruck for not having figured it out beforehand."



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Sale Day

All Souls Day was blustery with intermittent squalls. But church people in Carnmarth North Deanery were up early preparing for Church Sales – not quite a Jumble Sale, and more realistically priced than a Charity Shop.

The ladies of St. Paul's Chacewater were bright eyed and bushy tailed. They had been busy preparing a range of delicious looking cakes and buns, but also had a display of clothing, books & bric-a-brac housed in a Nissan Hut, now usually the provenience of the Women's Institute and possibly a unique local example of its type. It is sited in a free car park and cosy. Some goodies were to be found that suited my eccentricities – a flower basket, some silk blooms for gift displays and a jolly good bag of Bramley Apples.

St Andrew's Redruth has a large hall adjacent to the church where it advertised a Mega Booksale! There were also many other things on offer – jigsaw puzzles, in-

cluding one of a stained glass window, nice bygones and unwanted gifts for someone who will appreciate them etc. My bag was quite full but as with most such sales the books were 90% paperback fiction and the DVD's 95% music – but the Public Library with a more varied selection is opposite. Two clergy were on the sales team and a good hot coffee with a biscuit cost 50p. No one could grumble.

These kind of sales do not attract the hustle and bustle of free-for-all jumbles, but they should be supported. Many a small useful item can be found therein. The proceeds support the church in question not a charity which however worthy, may be paying huge salaries to its management. The people at church sales are almost without exception pleasant, hard working and loyal to their church. The need everyone's support. So next time you see a church sale advertised attend it.

Primrose Peacock.

Adoption/fostering campaign



CHRISTIANS are needed to provide safe, loving and secure foster and adoptive homes for children and their church families are a great support network.

Care for the Family and the Evangelical Alliance have launched the Home for Good campaign which aims to make fostering and adoption a normal part of Church life. It says the Church could provide an excellent community of support to wrap around families.

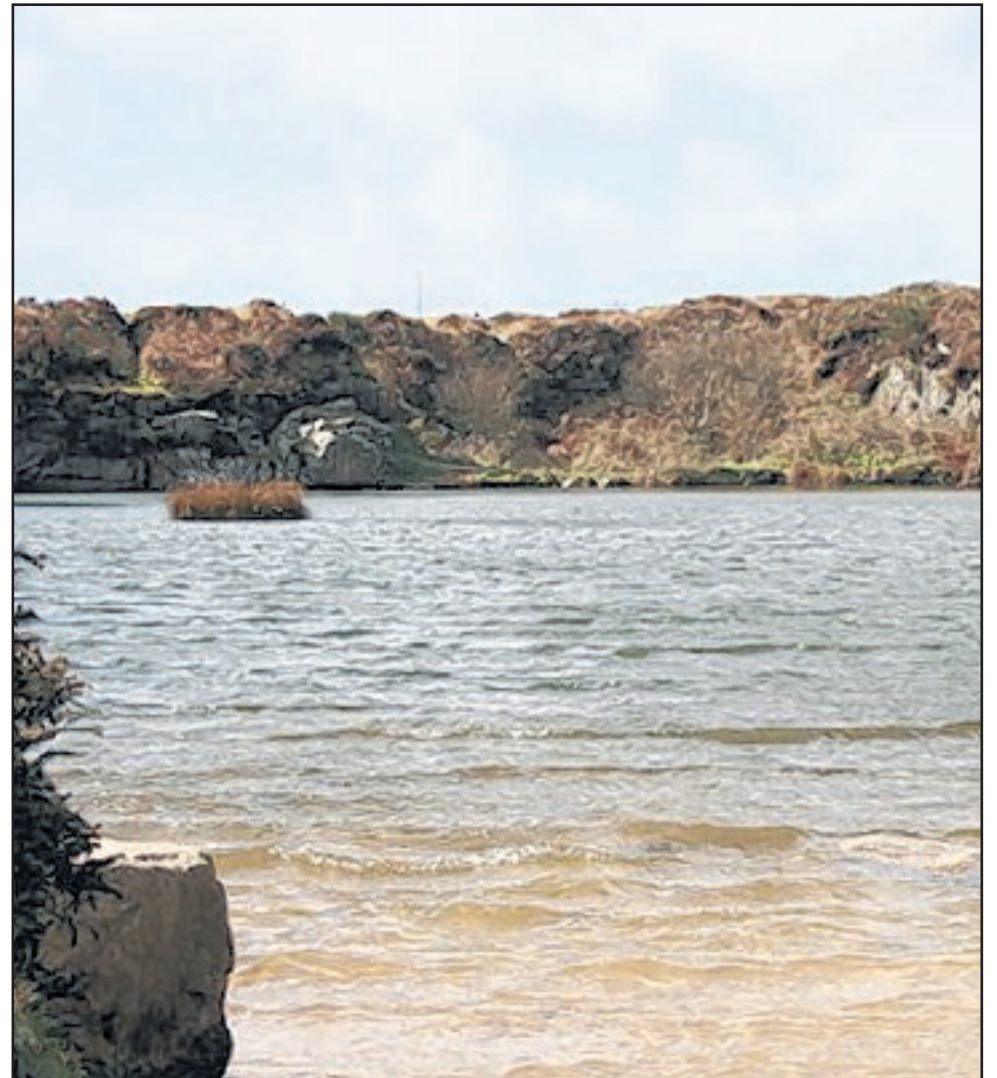
The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is among 100 church leaders and organisations who have backed the campaign which says calls on churches to look for ways to intentionally and appropriately support their foster and adoptive families and for Christians to prayerfully consider fostering and adopting so every child that needs one can find a home for good.

In Devon we have 33 children awaiting adoption, there are 700 children in care and 100 more foster families are urgently needed. Families for Children is a voluntary adoption agency and charitable trust, based in Buckfast, South Devon. Its roots stem

from the previous Exeter and Plymouth Dioceses, but it is now a separate charity in its own right, and is seeking more families. Common misconceptions preventing people from offering homes to children include:

- Being too old
- Being single
- Renting your home
- Being a Christian counts against you
- Process takes too long

Katey McDonald, FCC recruitment co-ordinator said none of the above is true and due to Government reforms this year the assessment process for adoption is just six months. "There is no such thing as an 'ideal' adoptive family and when we are looking for families we are interested in what they can offer to a child and how they can best fulfil their individual needs," said Katey. If you want to find out more about adoption contact Families for Children on 01364 645480 or visit their website www.familiesforchildren.org.uk More details about fostering are available from Devon County Council on 0345 155 1077 www.fosteringindevon.org.uk



Continued from page 1

The scheme is being piloted in two locations – Broadclyst and South Tawton on North Dartmoor for three month period from 3rd November 2013 to 26th January 2014. Both churches struggle with heating and keeping out the damp. During the pilot, churchgoers will be encouraged to test the cushions and, if successful, the project may be rolled out across Devon.

Diocesan Environment Officer Martyn Goss said, "This is a technology which has been designed for outdoor use in sports stadiums in Scotland, but we think it could have a lot of potential for church use in Devon where heating buildings can be expensive and inefficient."

Churches using the cushions should be able to save energy and on their electricity bills.



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Pope Francis

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AS TREES ?

by Joe Ridholls of St. Agnes, West Cornwall

Thomas Merton was a renowned Catholic writer on spiritual matters. In one of his books, aimed especially at monks but relevant to all Christians, he says "We must be as trees which exist silently in the dark and, by their virtual presence, purify the air. "Now there's a thought but not exactly a new thought. Doesn't it chime in with what Jesus said to his followers, "you are the salt of the earth and if the salt loses its savour wherewith shall it be salted? "These thoughts took my mind back to my long distant younger days. I was very impressed, in my earlier years, by some fine, helpful members of the "Plymouth Brethren" (as a plymouthian, who else?).

One of their great themes, as I seem to remember, was biblical prophecy, the schofield bible, the "Rapture of the Saints", the second coming of Christ, the judgement, the end of the world and



all that. Their thinking suggested that the end of the world and the judgment would take place after Christians were taken out of the

world, (the rapture of the saints) to "meet the lord in the air". The very presence of Christians in the world would delay the day of wrath, their mere existence on earth, it was suggested, had a cleansing, purifying, preserving influence on humanity as a whole. Heavy stuff? Yes, irrelevant today? not necessarily. These great, apparently outmoded themes may well have something to say to us in these days. The Christian church, especially in the affluent west, is in crisis, in some places in meltdown. Is it now the time for us to be "as trees" as Merton says? A silent minority, by the very quality of our Christian life "purifying the air"? We work hard, we give, we strive, we pray. So we should, so we must. Behind, above all this, however, we must be constantly, confidently aware of the benevolent, powerful purposes of a loving god. Don't forget what we used to

sing "the earth shall be filled with the glory of god as the waters cover the sea"



When, years ago, the great Dr Martyn Lloyd Jones read my manuscript of "Spark of Grace", the story of the "Haldane Revival" he wrote to me expressing his "Great Pleasure" and saying "this must be published!" You can read "Spark of Grace" by logging on to <http://www.archive.org/details/SparkOfGrace>.

The Octagon

You can download my story "The Octagon" free of charge on www.archive.org/details/TheOctagon You'll read about the Salvation Army, the Blackshirts and the "Blitz". A Plymouth yarn for Plymouth folks by a Plymouthian!

Comings and goings in the Exeter Diocese

Appointments

The Revd Peter Ashman Assistant Curate of Saint James to be Priest in Charge of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury and Woodland. Was licensed on 23 October 2013.

The Revd Joseph Dent Honorary Curate St Nicholas, Seveonoaks (Rochester) to be Team Rector of St Andrew, Plymouth and St Paul, Stonehouse (Exeter). Was licensed on 07 October 2013.

The Revd Trevor Jordan Non-stipendiary Minister of Long Buckby with Watford and West Haddon is Assistant Curate of the parish of St John with St Simon and St Mary and of the parish of St Gabriel (Exeter) with effect from 15 September 2013.

The Revd Frederick (Michael) Grandey Curate in Haxby and Wigginton (York) to be Priest in Charge of South Molton. Was licensed on 04 September 2013.

The Revd Keith Brimacombe Non-stipendiary Minister in Ottery St Mary, Alington, West Hill, Tipton etc now Assistant Curate of the benefice of Fremington, Instow and Westleigh. Was licensed on 24 July 2013.

The Revd Michael Loader to be Self-supporting Deacon in the Benefice of Tavistock with Brent Tor and Gulworthy. Was licensed on 11 August 2013

The Revd David Nixon Rector Stoke Damerel and Devonport Saint Aubyn to be Director of Studies at SWMT from 01 October 2013.

The Revd Steve Payne now Priest in Charge of Plymstock and Hooe. Was licensed on 02 September 2013

The Revd Christopher Penn Vicar St Andrews Avonmouth (Bristol) now Priest in Charge of Holsworthy, Hollacombe and Milton Damerel. Was licensed on 02 September 2013.

The Revd Greg Stanton Vicar Milton Abbot with Dunterton, Lamerton with Dydenham Damerel and Coryton, to be Priest in Charge of St John the Evangelist, Bovey Tracey and St Catherine, Heathfield. Was licensed on 20 September 2013.

The Revd Jackie Taylor Chaplain at the University Hospital NHS Trust (Bristol) to be Priest in Charge of

St Thomas of Canterbury, Dodbrooke and St Edmund King & Martyr, Kingsbridge. Was licensed on 25 September 2013.

The Revd James Theodosius Chaplain at Exeter University to be Lazenby Chaplain to the University of Exeter (Exeter) was licensed on 03 October 2013. The Revd Adrian Wells Associate Priest for Wolborough and Ogwell now Team Vicar in the Little Dart Team Ministry. Was licensed on 27 July 2013.

Leaving the Diocese

The Revd Ian Cook previously Assistant Curate of Saint Jude Plymouth: Assistant Curate of Saint John the Evangelist Sutton-on-Plym (Exeter) moved to St Mark's Church beside the Basin Reserve, Wellington, New Zealand in September 2013.

The Revd Margaret Cranston previously Assistant Curate in benefice of Heanton Punchardon, Marwood and West Down to be Associate Vicar in the Isle Valley Benefice (Bath and Wells) from September 2013.

The Revd Dexter Bracey previously Assistant Curate of St Marychurch Torquay (Exeter) is now Priest in Charge of Swindon New Town (Bristol) from 03 September 2013.

The Revd Tim Treanor previously Assistant Curate of Otter Vale Team Ministry (Exeter) is now Team Rector of Wellington (Bath & Wells) from September 2013.

Retiring/Resigning

The Revd Richard Jeffrey currently Priest in Charge of Topsham and priest in charge of Countess Wear retired on 30 September 2013.

The Revd Philip Osler currently Priest in Charge of Thurstone, South Milton, West Alvington & Churchstow retired 31 August 2013.

The Revd Gavin Tyte currently Curate in Charge of Uplyme with Axmouth retired 22 September 2013.

The Revd Lesley Jean Valiant currently Team Vicar of Modbury, Bigbury, Ringmore with Kingston, Aveton Gifford, Woodleigh, Loddisswell and East Allington retired 30 September 2013.

Continuing Ministerial Education and Development in Cornwall

The Rev. Canon Paul Arthur who is the Director of Ministerial Formation and Development for the Diocese of Truro, has sent the following information regarding the 2014 programme, that is open to Anglican and Methodist Clergy, Readers, Local Preachers and others in that field.

Fr. Paul writes – "Among many other topics the 2014 programme will be looking at are Atonement Theories with our Canon Theologian, the Revd. Canon Dr. Stephen Dawes, effective communication, the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Bishop Roy (formerly Bishop of St. Germans), ministry with and to children and youth, art and creative evangelism, praying for social justice, mission here and now, Ecumenical dimensions and Authority with Bishop Tim, the management of changes in liturgy, encouraging, discipleship, digging out the text of St. Mark, rural Ministry and how statistics can help us look at our mission."

There should be something for everyone in this comprehensive programme, but of course not everyone will wish to attend everything! Further information in due course. Fr. Paul can be contacted through Diocesan House or on <paularthur@truro.anglican.org>

PP.

Long service

CHARLES HODGSON and his wife Catherine have moved to Dorset to be nearer to their family. He has served the Exeter diocese for 35 years in a variety of roles but it was probably as a 'rural champion' that Charles was most appreciated and valued. "In all of this work he was a committed, reliable and outspoken supporter. His experience and working knowledge of farms, food and energy was a great resource to much of our activity. We wish him and Catherine a wonderful retirement," said Martyn Goss, diocesan director of Church and Society.

Baptisms rise in Devon churches

The number of infant baptisms are increasing

Devon churches have seen a steady increase in baptisms and may yet see more since Prince George was baptised.

A 3.5 per cent total increase overall in the number of baptisms across Devon in a three year period has been recorded from the most recent data available. Infant baptisms have risen by 3.7 per cent, whilst the number of children aged 1-16 years increased by 1 per cent and adult baptism has risen by 11.5 per cent.

The Revd Robin Eastoe, priest-in-charge of Heavitree, Exeter, has seen a noticeable increase in baptisms over the past three years and is now conducting up to 50 baptisms a year. "We have a reputation for being very welcoming and inclusive," he said. Robin and his team are also well known in the local schools where they take assemblies and run after school clubs.

Fonts and Flapjacks

Church leaders at Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe, have introduced a number of new

ideas to ensure their baptism services are always welcoming and have seen numbers increase. There is now at least one baptism a month and recently there were five in one service.

The Revd Daniel French said: "We appreciate that some people come to baptism with all sorts of expectations and we want to begin where they are. We want to give a warm welcome to people and make this a memorable experience for all people whether they are regulars or not."

"We recognise that some families may be anxious about the service and for one service we took out plates of flapjacks with scripture quotes on them. It's a bit of fun before the service starts."

If the visiting families have lots of children the service is adapted to include them. Daniel and his team have also been working in local primary schools dispelling the myth that baptism is just for babies and at assemblies special prayers are said for children about to be baptised. Children of pri-



mary school age are asked simple questions during the church ceremony. Holy Trinity has recently had a new silver bowl made to ensure crystal clear water is used rather than the muddied water that came from the original stone font. See below to find out more about the role of parents, Godparents and the clergy.

Baptism and Parents

[http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-](http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism/interviews-about-baptism.aspx)

[baptisms-funerals/baptism/interviews-about-baptism.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism/godparents-and-baptism.aspx)
Baptism and Godparents
<http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism/godparents-and-baptism.aspx>
Baptism and clergy
<http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism/vicars-and-baptism.aspx>

Church School Outstanding

The Archdeacon of Exeter presented the certificate to the school

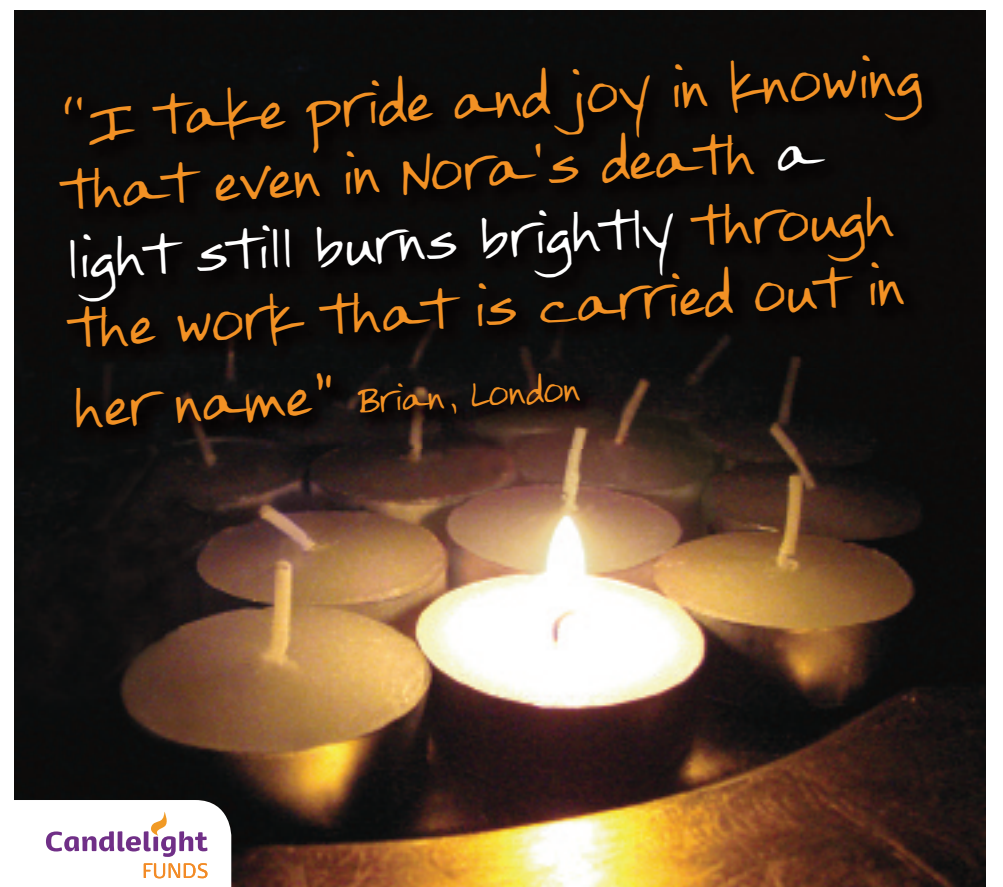


An East Devon Church school is celebrating after being declared an outstanding school. Otterton Church of England VA Primary School was upgraded from good to outstanding in the latest report by the National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools.

Headteacher Carron Saunders said: "We are delighted. There is a lovely ethos here, our children are spiritual, thoughtful and caring and we see that on a day to day basis. It's good to see it recognised by an outside body."

The report said: "The school is a welcoming and nurturing community in which all learners are effectively supported in their aca-

ademic learning and personal development. Teachers, governors, other school staff, and the local clergy, actively promote the distinctiveness of the school, and celebrate its Christian character. Learners are happy and successful, and they enjoy life at Otterton. The school community is one in which the effectiveness of the Christian foundation leads to increasing academic success, and to excellent spiritual development for all." The Archdeacon of Exeter, the Venerable Christopher Futcher, who visited the school to present the certificate said: "It is obviously a happy and confident school environment with a real sense of Christian community in which to learn and grow."



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WHERE WAS THIS PICTURE TAKEN?

by JOHN PARSONS

The phone call was brief: are you free to man an exhibition stand for Mission Direct at Spring Harvest. I knew this Christian convention was held at Minehead each Easter. I would raise awareness of the charity's overseas projects.

I had worked for MD a number of times and endorsed its ethos of showing God's love to marginalised people in the developing world, in word and deed.

I jumped at the offer. I was so excited I couldn't sleep. I thought of the interesting people I had met overseas and the possibility of meeting some of them again.

My arrival at Minehead coincided with a bitterly cold spell. I found my team leader in the Skyline Pavilion clad in a thick fleece, setting up a stand in a minuscule space. Andrew was of medium height, a mop of fair hair. He introduced himself as he erected a visual display unit, plugged in and tested the electrics.

By noon everything was shipshape. Andrew dismissed me with these words. 'See you at eight-thirty.' I understood that mid-evening the faithful would leave their forums and seminars and dawdle through the pavilion, browse the book stalls, cast an eye at the Tearfund stand and, hopefully, Mission Direct as well.

My conversation opener was to present people with a picture-card of school children dressed in red and white chequered uniforms, thick curly hair, dancing on orange-coloured ground. 'Can you guess where this was taken? If you guess correctly you could win an Ipad, and a limited edition T-shirt.' Mission Direct gave a list of ten countries from which to pick an answer. The organisation had local partners in all of them. The answer would be written on the back of the picture-card along with a name and email address.

A tall guy, early twenties, thought it was Malawi. 'Have you been there?' I asked. He shook his head. 'Every sunset in Malawi is blood red. Dust in the air,' I said.

He whistled softly as he made his choice. I hoped our encounter was as meaningful for him as it was for me.

Many wrote 'Kenya'.

'Why?' I asked a couple with two serious-faced teenage children. 'We've been there



A Mission Direct worker engages two interested parties

on holiday,' said the father.

'Mission Direct works at Narok,' I explained, 'three hours drive west-north-west of Nairobi. They're building a refuge for Masai girls fleeing arranged marriages, and female genital mutilation.

'If you volunteer for Kenya you'll go the Masai Mara National Park on your final



The author at the Mission Direct exhibition stand

weekend – arguably the best game reserve in the world.' The mother inclined her head and closed her eyes. Perhaps she was re-living memories of yesteryear. 'If you're lucky you'll see the Big Five animals prized by game hunters.' I hoped this would stimulate their imagination, if such were needed. While someone picked a country, I would describe my job as promoting Mission Direct's projects of varying length. 'Have you heard of the organisation?' I would ask. A

help house Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic, work with street kids in Zambia, serve marginalised people in Cambodia. She seemed to be impressed. One morning I had a shock. 'Yes, we know which country this picture is taken in.' Two African women gave the correct answer. Their confident reply made me think there was a clue somewhere.

'How can you be sure?' I asked, digging for information.

They laughed. 'We don't know, but we are sure.'

Interestingly, on the second day some fifty per cent of the people made a correct guess. 'I don't understand,' I told my Team Leader. 'Is it a coincidence, or is a sixth sense at work.' Neither I nor my colleagues could fathom the conundrum.

One teenager told of a visit to Zimbabwe. 'I recall helping to feed orphans in the city of Mutare, Eastern Highlands. Do you know the area?' She shook her head. 'I visited people suffering from HIV, delivered maize seeds to poor families on the outskirts.' I hoped my memoirs brought back some of her own, gave her an appetite for new ones. My last evening ended on an optimistic note. A retired couple bounded up, ecstatic faces. 'We've just relocated from the South Coast,' they said excitedly. 'We'll find our feet this year and join you next year.' Their voices rang in my ears as I drove home through the night.

This couple may help those with mental health difficulties in Sierra Leone, support vulnerable pensioners in Moldova, or bring a smile to children in Uganda as their classrooms are upgraded.

Yes, manning an exhibition stand at Spring Harvest was a worthwhile venture which, I trust, will bring a positive response to Mission Direct's overseas projects in 2014.



Children's work in Malawi



Building a school in Africa

Little Peace



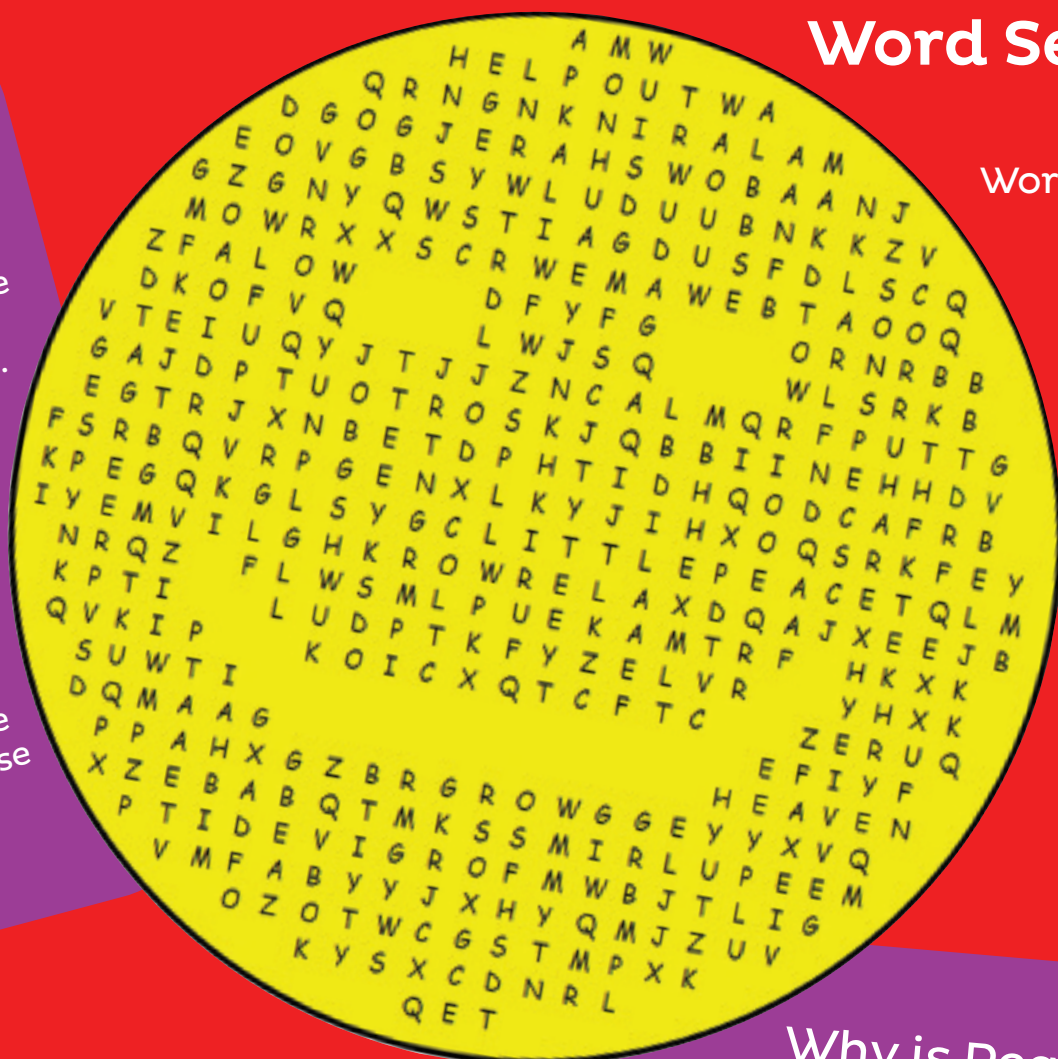
What is Peace?

You might think Peace is not fighting – but it is more than that! You might think it is quiet – but it's even more than that! Peace is about how you feel inside. If you feel calm, you are not going to be fighting and if you are fighting or you are angry you won't feel Peace inside. It could be quiet but that doesn't mean you feel Peaceful. Even when no one is around something might have happened that makes you feel sad, angry, hurt, scared or yucky. It maybe you feel bad about yourself because you've done something bad or because you don't realise how wonderful you are. All these things stop you feeling Peace.

Word Search

Words to find:

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HelpOut
Work
God
Quiet
Forgive
MakeUp
Heaven
Relax
Agree
SortOut
Calm
LittlePeace



Why is Peace so difficult?

It can be hard to make Peace – for two people getting angry or for two countries fighting. We hear about countries far away having a war – but we also see people much closer to us fighting and getting cross. Sometimes, it is us who gets cross or even fight. So...why is it so difficult for there to be peace all the time? One reason is that everyone is different – and that is good!! We don't always agree – and that isn't a problem – but what do we do when we don't agree? Do we try to sort it out or do we get cross? The best thing to do is sort it out – and that sounds quite easy. BUT...sorting it out usually means not quite getting what you want! It might be you have to do things you don't want to do: Thinking of others and helping them to be happy brings peace into our world. If we are cross with someone perhaps we can try and STOP, CALM DOWN, think about HOW THEY FEEL, then see if we can SORT IT OUT!!!

Finding Peace

– LINK the Words

Share
Help
Work
Be
Go
Little
Have
Do
Calm

More
Out
Quiet
DOWN
THINGS
Last
Hard
Less
Peace

Share

Help

Little

Work

Have

Be

Do

Go

Calm

Start

Little Peace Board game

60 FINNISH

What you Need to



IF you didn't get cross because you got a one - go ForWard 4 Spaces

CHILL out - enjoy MISSING a turn and reLAX

13

24

25

Got cross With Friend MISS a t

2

11

14

CHILL out - enjoy MISSING a turn and reLAX

Do the Little Peace CHALLENGE

35

IF you didn't argue about WHICH coin you Had go ForWardS 4 Spaces

10

Do the Little Peace CHALLENGE

22

27

Make u With a Friend Move ForWard 6 Space

4

Said Sorry to Someone, Move ForWardS 5 Spaces

16

21

IF you Have LANded ON CHILL Out and you didn't COMPLAIN take another go

33

5

8

IF you Have LANded ON CHILL Out and you didn't COMPLAIN take another go

Go ForWardS 6 Spaces

29

32

IF you LAUGHed at anyone because you got a 6 go back to Start

7

18

19

30

Go back 1 Spaces - IF you get cross go back another 5 Spaces

you have
boasted
out being
front go
back 12
spaces

58

57

Do the
Little Peace
Challenge

56

55

54

CHILL out -
enjoy
MISSING a
turn and
relax

53

play



RULES:

1. CHOOSE a COIN each
2. take a TURN each and MOVE around the board
3. IF you LAND on the LITTLE PEACE CHALLENGE - Read the PINK BOX
4. DON'T ARGUE!!!

cross
a
-
TURN

37

5

38

4

ROLL again but
Share your
MOVES WITH
another player
(if it is an odd
NUMBER give them
the Most)

3

40

2

41

you go
er

CHILL out -
enjoy
MISSING a
turn and
relax

42

43

Do the
Little Peace
Challenge

45

IF you HAVE
LANDed ON
CHILL OUT and
you didn't
complain take
another go

Little Peace Challenge

Roll the die and do the challenge below...

- 1) If you have made another player sad or cross today say "sorry".
- 2) STOP, RELAX and stay CALM for 20 seconds.
- 3) Choose a player that needs help, (happily) move back 2 spaces and move them forwards 6 OR if you are last, move forwards 6.
- 4) EVERYONE has to be calm and silent for 20 seconds
- 5) Swap your coin with someone that wanted your coin. If no one wanted your coin go forwards 3 spaces.
- 6) Do or say something nice to another player.

ROLL again but
Share your
MOVES WITH
another player
(if it is an odd
NUMBER give them
the Most)

50

IF you HAVEN'T
been angry
during the game
go Forwards 10
Spaces.
IF you argue about
it go back 5.

48

47

Thinking point...



Where do you wish there was more Peace?

In the classroom?
In the playground?
with brothers and sisters?
with parents?
with relatives?
with friends?
with people I don't like?
when I am playing?
when I use the computer?

How do you get your Peace back?

If something has happened that makes us feel bad and we feel yucky inside – we need to sort it out to feel at Peace. BUT HOW?

There's no easy answer – BUT...there is an easy first step – GO AND TALK TO SOMEONE!!

First person you can always talk to is God! Perhaps when you are lying in bed, think about what makes you feel bad and tell God about it and ask Him to help. Then think of someone you trust – a parent, a teacher, a friend – find a GOOD MOMENT to talk and tell them about it.

If you can talk to someone you trust you will feel better and they try to help you get your Peace back.

Resource

Go to www.CathComReach.com/teachers

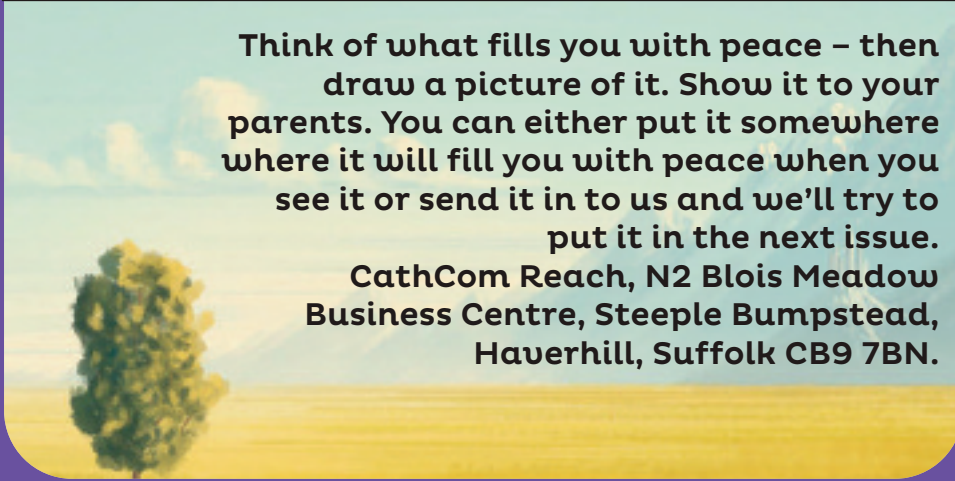
Classroom activities to address **Internet Bullying**, and to create a **classroom agreement** to prevent conflict.



Activity Zone

Think of what fills you with peace – then draw a picture of it. Show it to your parents. You can either put it somewhere where it will fill you with peace when you see it or send it in to us and we'll try to put it in the next issue.

CathCom Reach, N2 Blois Meadow
Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead,
Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7BN.



Cornish Methodists

A large audience attended the annual lecture of the Cornish Methodist Historical Association on 17th October in Truro Methodist Church. It had been preceded by the A.G.M. of the organisation. The Annual lecture, open to all was given by the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Dawes and his subject was The Future of Methodism as I Perceive it. Dr. Dawes first outlined his personal history

in the Methodist Church commencing with training at two colleges, followed by ministerial work in several locations including being District Chair in Cornwall from 1992-2001. Although now officially retired he is still busy as a popular theologian and teacher. He is also an Ecumenical Canon of Truro Cathedral and Diocesan Theologian with a particular in depth knowledge of the Old Testament.

After a brief outline of the history of Methodism and similar churches Dr. Dawes had to admit that with the possible exception of "new" evangelical churches often led by self-appointed 'pastors' and Anglican Catholics all denominations are experiencing a decline in numbers, problems recruiting Ministers of a suitable calibre and backward looking outlooks. Methodism he stated is downsizing, although some would call it a terminal decline. He used facts and figures to support this in the Cornish Connexion and drew attention to the increased costs of maintaining and repairing Victorian premises and finding suitable people both lay and ordained to staff them. But he then looked on the positive side and suggested that although the facts had to be accepted, they did not proclaim an instant end of the road. The offered 'Hospice Care' for the mainly elderly rural 'holy huddles' and suggested that Putting the House in Order must be a priority. No congregation should be just abandoned. If the roof blows off, then find another cheaper place to worship he suggested. It all, to an outsider with many Methodist friends, sounded rather gloomy and was not helped when contributions from the floor were invited by The Rev. Ian Haile who chaired the meeting. We were subjected to

an over long session of negative waffle that culminated in a very shrill woman castigating the Church of England, that is now working very well in Ecumenical partnership with Cornwall Methodists. In fact an Ecumenical Declaration of intent between the two churches and others is to be signed in Bodmin shortly in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. While waiting for the door to open I picked up the weekly notice sheet for Truro Methodist Church and Circuit. It belies much of what we heard later although the shortage of clergy is acute. TMC as it is known has a list of activities with something happening every day of the week. They include uniformed youth groups for various ages, 'Fellowship' meetings, Walks, Mission, Musical events and of course services. TMC also runs one of the best economically priced coffee shops in Truro has various House Groups and Bible Study sessions. These are hardly the diary of a church or a circuit (where the pastoral care far exceeds that of some other denominations,) about to pull the plug? I suspect that members and friends of any historical organisation are a little too ready to look back as opposed to seeing a light on the horizon.

Primrose Peacock.

'Time of transition' as we wait for new bishop



Bishop Nick told the Diocese that we are in a "time of transition" as we wait to hear who will be appointed as the new Bishop of Exeter. He called for diocesan synod to live out this time "with wisdom, charity, imagination and with an ultimate concern for the glory of God". "Part of our challenge as a Synod is to look beyond our own understandable preoccupations to the county which we serve" he said.

Credit union offices in Okehampton and Plymouth already provide over 2,200 members with financial services and are set to expand their reach Devon-wide

Best for borrowers, safe for savers



"IT'S ENCOURAGING the Archbishop has been so outspoken on payday lending and highlighting credit unions as an affordable alternative," says Paula Anscomb, manager of Devon's largest credit union Plough and Share. Archbishop Justin Welby recently praised credit unions and their role in deprived areas. He has just launched a new credit union for clergy and church staff, in a drive to boost credit unions in all communities.

Plough and Share recently merged with four others to serve all of Devon. Together with Plymouth's two credit unions, the City of Plymouth Credit Union and Hope (Plymouth) Credit Union, they belong to The Association of British Credit Unions Ltd (ABCUL), the leading trade association for credit unions.

Continued on page 11

Kernow Credit Union



Kernow Credit Union was due to reopen on Wednesday 6th November in the Town Hall. It was previously for some time located in Frances St. but closed. The new service point, one of sixteen in Cornwall will operate on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10.30am - 1.30pm. Persons wishing to join must provide photo ID, address ID (utility bill) and £1.50 fee.

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Church joins forces with credit unions in Devon

The Bishop of Crediton and archdeacons from the Church of England in Devon are this week sending out a strong message of support to Devon's credit unions, urging churches to save or borrow money with them.

There are nearly 6,000 members of Devon's three credit unions, who are estimated to be borrowing £800,000 in loans and saving £1.2 million

Plough and Share has 35 service points across the county, the City of Plymouth Credit Union has 16 collection points in schools, cafes and libraries in the city and Plymouth's Hope Credit union has 12 service points.

Bishop Nick said: "We want to spread the word about Credit Unions to encourage people in our communities to join them and promote them, telling others they are safe places to save and borrow."

He watched a piece of street theatre in Crediton on Sunday, which highlighted the dangers of some high cost lenders. Only 13 per cent of people on low incomes are aware of credit unions and the services they provide.

Thursday 17th October was International Credit Union Day and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has urged churches to make contact with their local credit unions. He has pledged to compete payday lenders like Wonga out of business and double the membership of credit unions, offering to let them use church buildings to offer their services.

Devon's four archdeacons – senior clergy in the Church of England – visited their local credit unions and invited local civic dignitaries and MPs to come along too. Rachel Lyons, the Lord Mayor of Exeter visited the Exeter offices, The Archdeacon of Exeter, the Venerable Christopher Fletcher visited the Exeter offices and was delighted to meet staff, volunteers and other partnership agencies. He said: "It was good to meet the team, especially some of the volunteers who have been there since the beginning and to be able to celebrate with them the the credit union's vision of encouraging a culture of saving as well as borrowing, but also, being able to respond with loans for those in immediate need."

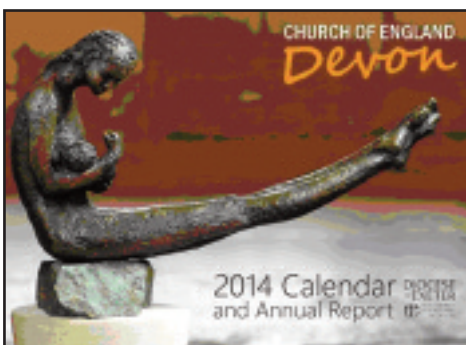


2014 Diocesan Calendar

Our 2014 Diocesan calendar which is filled with inspiring photos and stories of the life of God's church in Devon is now on sale.

Bishop Nick gives a thought provoking message and we have great photos; Harry Channon, 88, abseiling down a church tower in a fundraising event, school-children in a growing CoE school jumping for joy, and pre-school children enjoying a Living Churchyard.

We also celebrate a £1.5m transformation of an ancient church into a busy, contemporary, community space and a mission community on a bond-



ing weekend.

Copies cost £2 each (cost price) and can be collected from the Old Deanery, Exeter, or posted for £4.50, (max 5 copies) please make cheques payable to EDBF Ltd. To order your copies please contact Publications Officer Liz Straw: Email: liz.straw@exeter.anglican.org or call 01392 294905.

An interesting opportunity

An interesting job opportunity has arisen for a Christian who wants to encourage churches to work together at local and county level. Churches Together in Devon (CTD) encourages and supports churches in co-operation and visible expression of Christian unity, in the area covered by Devon County Council and Plymouth and Torbay Councils. It is at an exciting stage in renewing the way it works with church leaders, local groups and wider networks, and is appointing a new County Ecumenical Officer (CEO) to be its executive officer.

CTD is a charity, with trustees nominated by the Diocese of Exeter, Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District, and south west United Reformed Church, Baptist and Salvation Army leaders. It is also open to other denominations or networks of churches. It draws on national guidance and examples from Churches Together in England, and seeks to encourage and support the many forms of joint working among churches at town and village level in Devon.

The CEO could find themselves speaking at a joint service one day, selecting events and resources for a news bulletin and writing up meeting notes the next, and then organising a volunteer review team to help one of the county's local ecumenical partnerships. The post is part time, working from home and travelling as needed. Not surprisingly, being able to plan your own time is one of the qualities sought.

The closing date for applications is 6th January 2014. Details of the post and how to apply are on www.churchestogether.org/devon.

STAINED GLASS GLORY



The Isles of Scilly Church Windows

by Primrose Peacock

When I spent a season working on a St. Mary's flower farm in 1957 I met two very well known personalities on the Island – Victor who drove a rather ramshackle Airport bus and Violet who was his wife or sister. She had a rather commanding presence in the harbour, but both of them were pleasant people and very kind to temporary residents. When I returned to Scilly for a short holiday in 1999 I saw them again - depicted in the stained glass windows of St. Mary's Church.

Stained Glass Glory does not include either Vic or Vi but is the work of children at the Five Island Primary School and has achieved national publicity. During the last week of October the completed 'windows' were hung in the north transept of Truro Cathedral for public admiration.

The project funded by the Anglican Diocese of Truro was conceived to teach the children about the various saints and themes depicted in their local church windows. The island teachers and artist Mr Tony Minnion oversaw it. The children attended screen-printing workshops and then their efforts on fine cloth were digitally photographed and printed on a taffeta base before assembly as a life-size window.

The Children of St. Mary's concentrated on local saints, the Air Ambulance and Skybus on whom the islanders are dependent. St Martin's window reflected kindness and compassion, including the story of The Good Samaritan from the east window of their church.

Tresco and Bryher concentrated on parables reflecting the rose window in Tresco



church.

St Agnes, the most westerly inhabited island (apart from the lighthouses) theme was saving people at sea, a function known only too well to all the islanders.

Young children always have their own ideas when anything is depicted and more detailed information could have benefited the Cathedral exhibit, as the finished articles were hung well above head height but back-lit to good effect. However an advertising leaflet shows people in bed, boats on the sea, an ambulance, tractors and various animals. The 'windows' are due to be returned to Scilly for display in their home churches where both the local population and visitors are bound to enjoy them. Congratulations to all involved for a really charming project.



A Warm Welcome

COMMUNITY and relationships are at the core of a new church evolving in the new town of Cranbrook being built near Exeter. Ecumenical minister, the Revd Mark Gilborson is working hard to build community and form relationships through his church running club, coffee morning, toddlers group and use of social media.

Mark knocks on the door of every new family moving into Cranbrook, gives them a packet of biscuits and a community welcome pack. So far 250 homes are occu-

pied. Mark started the Cornerstone Church in his living room, meeting weekly with another family, but encouragingly the group has outgrown this space and meets at St Martin's CoE School of which Mark is a governor and very actively involved. He has had eight requests for baptisms, more requests for wedding blessings, has conducted a funeral and shared conducting a wedding at a nearby village church.

Cornerstone is founded on the Biblical text: "Blessed to be a blessing," as Mark wants

an outward looking church and is hoping to have a once a month "sacrificial" service, helping the community by offering car washes, litter picking and baking lessons. The 'Belonging to Cornerstone' Facebook page has 400 followers who call themselves Cranberries and is proving a vital communication tool in a new community. Mark is on a mission to welcome every new family when they move into the town and with several moving in each week, he is keeping busy!

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RETURN TO: RETURN TO: Mother General, Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London, W2 2LJ. Phone: 020 7723 7262.

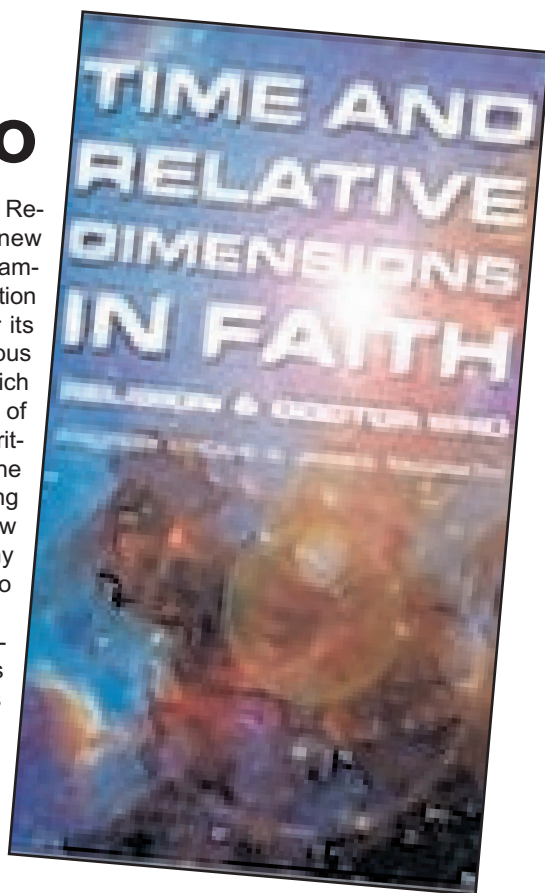
Book Reviews

Religion and Dr Who

Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith: Religion & Doctor Who, a forthcoming new book from Darton Longman & Todd, examines in depth for the first time, the interaction between religion and Doctor Who over its 50 year lifespan, considering both religious themes on the show and the way in which religious organisations have made use of the programme. A collection of essays written in a scholarly yet accessible style, the book brings together academics working in History, Film, Theology, Sociology, Law and Anthropology to consider the many ways in which religion and Doctor Who have interacted.

The first half of the book contains chapters looking at the way religious themes have been used throughout the show's lifespan, from the question of immortality, to changing uses of the concept of fate; from the portrayal of Buddhism to the Doctor's continued challenges to "false Gods". The second half of the book turns its attention to Doctor Who in the wider world. How has the show represented the changing face of British religion? And to what extent could Doctor Who fandom be considered a religion?

Indeed, since its return in 2005 Doctor Who has been nominated for a US 'Epiphany Award' by Evangelical Christians, featured a guest appearance by Richard Dawkins, and served as the basis of a Church of England conference on using the show in evangelism.



All of this underlines the importance of religious themes in the seminal series.

Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith: Religion & Doctor Who
edited by Andrew Crome & James McGrath. Published by Darton, Longman & Todd

978 0232 53021 6 £14.99
Published: 29 October 2013

Mary in the Mystery

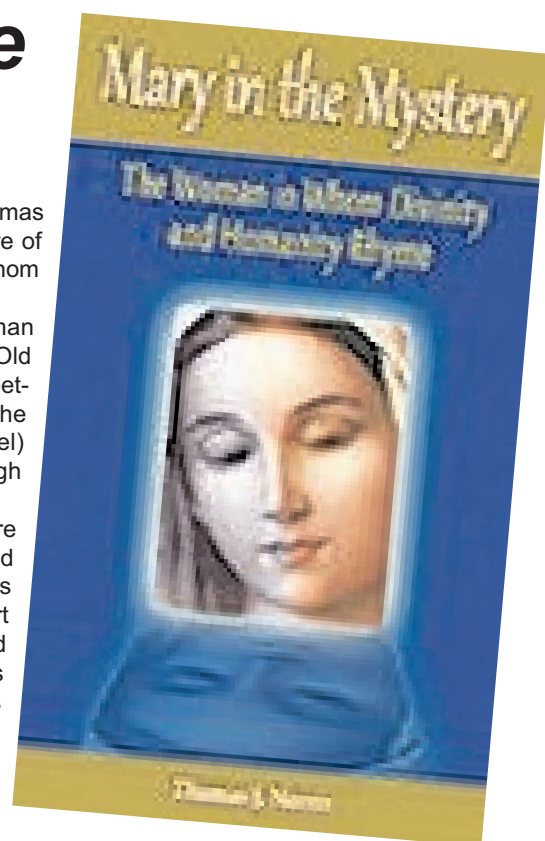
In 'Mary in the Mystery' theologian Thomas J Norris beautifully articulates the nature of Mary Mother of God as "the woman in whom divinity and humanity rhyme".

Norris brings Mary to life as a woman deeply steeped in awareness of the Old Testament. He expresses her as the meeting point between Salvation history (the story of Abraham and the God of Israel) and the Christian Mystery born through Christ.

In a simple yet richly developed structure of three parts, Norris places Christ, and by extension Mary, within mankind's search for answers to the human heart and mind. He describes how Man and God are "searching" for each other, as portrayed in the call out of Egypt. Norris writes that God and Man are two partners in dialogue with one another. The dialogue reaches its fulfilment in Mary and the Incarnation, where God makes his "final move".

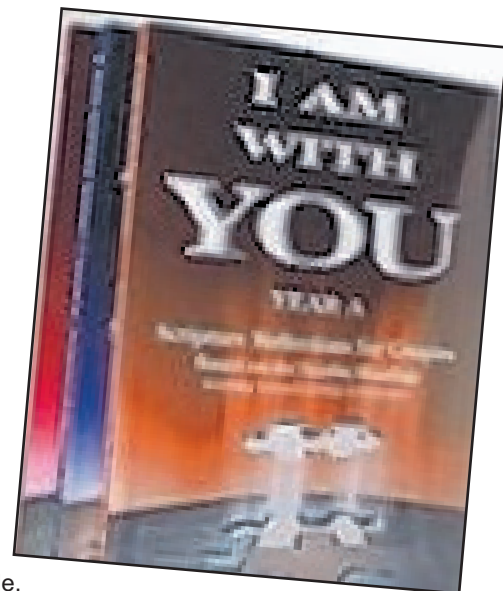
In the second part of the book, Norris looks at "the adventure of Mary, her own unique spirituality". He describes how Mary is "wrapped in the Word" and how she is the greatest "hearer and doer of the Word", standing before the God of Israel with an attitude of total readiness. Always ready to do His will, Mary enables God to carry out a "gathering into unity of the scattered children of God" (Jn 11:52). At the foot of the cross God is able to form His family of the children of God when Jesus gives Mary to John as his mother and then John to Mary as her son.

This idea is extended in the third chapter where Norris describes Mary's entry into the mission of Christ and his Church. At the foot of the cross Mary receives her mission of "second motherhood" writes Norris. She "now receives her mission of a motherhood



set into the communion of the Church. The Son puts her forward to the point of appointing her Mother of all the redeemed". This beautiful and concise book explains the context around Catholic Mariology. It draws from Scripture, theology and poetry to firmly identify why Mary is exalted in Catholic doctrine. It provides a very optimistic look at the Mother of God, recognising that our understanding of her is unfolding and revealed, rather than fixed and static. Through the depths of revelation and the history of the Church, Norris confidently and inspiringly explains the importance and sanctity of Mary in the communion of the Church. 'Mary in the Mystery' by Thomas J Norris is published by New City Press and available online at <http://www.newcitypress.com/mary-in-the-mystery.html>

I Am With You - Scripture reflections for couples



I Am With You (Cycle A, B and C) is an exciting box set of Scripture reflections for couples that aids listening to God and each other through reflections on the Bible.

These books focusing on the question: what are these readings saying to me or us about our relationship, offers those who believe in the power of prayer and the Word of God, a blessed resource that can speak right into the heart of their love for one another!

Fr Daniel O'Leary, Priest of the Diocese of Leeds, author, theologian, and international speaker, said: "Human love is God's love in disguise. God is worshipped in the most ordinary and extraordinary moments of married life. All such moments are full of grace. But too often we fail to recognise God's presence in each other. We forget the astonishing meaning of the Incarnation. Friendship, love and marriage are sacred because they call out our deepest and most authentic humanity - a humanity that is made in God's image."

"Because of their hard but loving experiences, the authors of 'I am with You' write with a unique honesty. Each page offers wise ways of recovering, sustaining and increasing intimacy in marriage - unconditionally. And whatever resource values, purifies and deepens human loving, reveals, at the same time, something of the divine love that lives at the heart of every marriage."

Bishop John Hine, responsible for Marriage & Family Life for the Bishops Conference of England & Wales, said: "I am more than happy to recommend this book which will

be a most helpful resource to couples who are looking for a way to strengthen their relationship as husband and wife.... it could help them to focus the light of God's Word on their relationship and help them to see the 'extraordinary in the ordinary'".

Geoff & Gina Poulter, Directors of the Catholic Bible School commended Book A, saying: "A truly wonderful and deeply thought provoking book that will be an excellent tool for those couples who pray together and want to link into the Sunday readings of the Catholic Church. Written and compiled by couples for couples... couples who obviously 'practice what they preach'. Highly recommended; after all as it is said 'those who pray together - stay together'".

"Any resource promoting Christian marriage and family life is very welcome. This appealing book combines simplicity with depth, and could be of great and lasting value to couples and families of any Christian tradition," said Tony Castle, Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese of Brentwood and writer.

I Am With You (Years A, B and C) is published by MacCrimmons. ISBN: TF-IAWY-B. For more information or to order the books see:

<http://www.mccrimmons.com/product/417/1897>

A new Ebook- coming soon!

Having to sit down with the cat for six months is lovely for pussy but exceedingly boring for her owner. So I obtained a Laptop and wrote a book, which will shortly be available on line or through various electronic devices.

(which I have no desire to acquire.)

Give Us This Albanian Day

By Primrose Peacock.

It is a story about a fictional typical Albanian family in Korçe, a Truro sized market town set against a factual background between 1995-1997. It was a period of economic and political turmoil and the resurrection of Christianity - Orthodox and Roman Catholic, plus the odd misguided self-promoting 'missionary'. Most of the events actually occurred but places have been re-arranged. All names except Heads of State are fictional. During the last two hundred years over five hundred print books, in English, wholly or partly about Albania have been published from the author's point of view. The Friends of Albanian archive possessed most of them, but that was sold in 2011 leaving me only the Dictionaries, Guidebooks, Dairies & Maps with a good memory! My new book is written from the Albanian point of view and aims to correct

some of the misinformation distributed by the media regarding a very fine race of self-sufficient, kind, caring and warm-hearted people. There was at the time and now real poverty, not the faux Western variety, in many quarters, inappropriate aid, patronising distributors and a few 'bad apples'. There were also some fine Christian clergy & Religious doing good things. By co-incidence the only Albanian I know now in Cornwall was instrumental in introducing me to the producer who is fairly local. The electronic versions should be 'on line' by Christmas, and the text is open to offers from appropriate print publishers. The proceeds will be donated to Albania Community Assist in Tirana. They provide sewing machines so that poor women can earn a living, and wheelchairs for the disabled among other things.

pearose@mypostoffice.co.uk

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Britain is afflicted by a hidden violence on its poorest citizens

"Britain is afflicted by a hidden violence on its poorest citizens that is in danger of destroying society." This strong warning was recently given by the highly respected former master of the Dominicans Father Timothy Radcliffe.

Speaking at Westminster Abbey to a distinguished audience Father Radcliffe added that we need to "open our eyes" to this issue. I noted that his words came just a few days after The Archbishop of Westminster and the Anglican Bishop of London had met to pray in the Tower of London cell occupied by Saint Thomas More prior to his martyrdom in 1535. I understand the Anglican church has regarded Thomas More as a saint since 1980 and the Archbishop and Bishop were keen to rejoice that many wounds dividing Catholics and Anglicans have been healed and they prayed that our "Unity may be deepened."

Although Thomas More and Timothy Radcliffe lived about 500 years apart they both felt the need to speak out on the great issues of their day, indeed Fr Radcliffe was speaking to the Archbishop Romero lecture to an audience of 600 as he spoke of the Archbishops' commitment to the poor of El Salvador.

Britain today may not be the El-Salvador of Archbishop Romero's time but Fr Radcliffe was surely right to say that people should respect "the dignity of the marginalised" and to speak of their "courage", he clearly was concerned by the description of "skivers and parasites". Are we now needing more public figures to not only speak

out on behalf of the poor but also on the issue of Europe and immigration? Around the time of Fr Radcliffe's lecture the National Institute for Economic and Social Research suggested that employers hire foreigners because they work harder and are better qualified. This rather revealing study spoke of recruiting from outside the UK which had "allowed employers to fill skilled and specialist roles and enabled some organisations to expand". The issue of foreign nationals and our membership of the European Union is closely linked and perhaps it will take a brave politician to speak up for both. The recent CBI Conference like Fr Radcliffe's lecture was never going to make big headlines but the Confederation of British Industries has made a strong case for Britain to stay in Europe their president stating that British business needed EU membership. The Prime Minister wants to stay in Europe but feels "A lot of things in the EU badly need reform", he may well be right Fr Radcliffe certainly was. As we start Advent and the "Year of Faith" comes to a close we should be grateful to all who have worked so hard during this momentous year to ensure the Christian message is not lost to those who need it most. It can be difficult to understand all the issues which we will face in 2014 but we should pray that our leaders will continue to serve us well and speak out when we need them to.

Frank Goulding

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A government Credit Union Expansion Project is helping credit unions upgrade their services, attract further members, and offer a wider range of affordable loans, ethical increase in the cap on loan interest for credit unions has been controversial for some in the credit union movement, but it's aimed at therefore, more sustainable footing for their members and our communities. Loans will still be low-cost.

"A Plough and Share loan of £400 will cost £450.67 to repay over 52 weeks, a loan of £400 with a major payday loan company will cost £527.15 to repay in 30 days," says Paula.

"Credit unions offer small loans which banks don't offer and the interest is calculated on the diminishing balance."

In Ireland, over 70% of the population belong to a credit union, in America and UK only 2% of the population is a credit union member. Up to now credit unions have varied widely in sustainability and for some savers there has been concern about the safety of investing.

"There's been a wariness associated with the term 'credit union' which may carry negative connotations," says Plough and Share volunteer Paul Snell. "Archbishop Welby's encouragement to support credit unions gives welcome recognition."

"Credit unions are regulated by both the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority and up to £85,000 savings are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme," says Paul. "However, unlike banks, Plough and Share and other credit unions are not -for-profit organisations Once running costs are met, any remainder is used to return to the members."

How can churchgoers support local Devon credit unions? Without the marketing budgets of other high-cost lenders, our distribution of posters and leaflets throughout our communities will help ensure those who need loans, turn to them. We can deposit

some of our savings, keeping our money within Devon and investing in our communities long term.

We can offer our skills and train as volunteers. And we can offer our buildings to help provide further service points in hard to reach areas.

"Plough and Share want to become the lender of choice and steer people away from high interest loans offered by doorstep lenders and online loan companies," says Paula.

"We certainly have the resources for further membership and would welcome savers and borrowers who would like to become members."

Alternative to Payday Loans

Devon's Plough and Share says 'In

Devon today we are seeing more applications where payday lenders are being used, in a high percentage of cases more than one loan. Where possible, we

try to pay off the payday loan and offer reduced and affordable payments.'

Nearly one in three loans in the payday loan market is repaid late or not repaid at all. Additional repayments on these loans make up half the industry's total revenue, according to research from the office of Fair Trading.

For further information about how to support all of the credit unions in Devon please visit www.exeter.anglican.org/yourchurch/community/creditunions.

Contacts

PLOUGH & SHARE
01837 658123

www.ploughandshare.co.uk
THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH CREDIT UNION

01752 201329 www.cpcu.co.uk
HOPE (PLYMOUTH) CREDIT UNION

01752 301871
www.hopecreditunion.co.uk

EVENTS AT TRURO CATHEDRAL

Sunday 1

All day World Aids Day

Sunday 1

11.30am - Sunday Carvery Lunch in the Cathedral Restaurant Choose either a one (£8.50) or two (£10.50) course menu. Pre-book on 01872 245011

Monday 2

7:30pm Richard Lander School Christmas Carol Service The Cathedral

Wednesday 4

7-9pm - Late Night Shopping in Truro The Cathedral's Christmas Shop is open, hot drinks and mince pies, children's activities and musical entertainment. Also 11th and 18th. Collection for St Petroc's Society.

Friday 6

2pm - Motor Neurone Disease Carol Service

Friday 6

7pm - St Petroc's Society Christmas Carol Service

Saturday 7

7:30 pm - Bach's Christmas Oratorio Join St Mary's Singers and their professional orchestra with some of London's finest young soloists for a spellbindingly candlelit performance of Bach's Christmas Oratorio. (Reserved seating. Tickets from Truro Cathedral Box Office, www.trurocathedral.org.uk or 01872 245001 (Box Office opens 24 October)

Sunday 8

6pm - From Darkness to Light a magical Advent Carol Service with the Cathedral Choir celebrating the light of Christ at this special time of year. Free with collection.

Sunday 8

8pm - Open to Question - An informal chance to reflect on issues of Faith with Canon Dr Stephen Dawes in the Pearson Room. Free

Monday 9

2pm - Cornwall Carers Christmas Carol

Service

Monday 9

7.30pm - Truro School Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 10

7pm - BBC Radio Cornwall Christmas Concert A popular concert each year. Listen to BBC Radio Cornwall for details of when and how to apply for tickets.

Wednesday 11

10-11.30am - Friends' Coffee Morning in the Pearson Room. All welcome.

Wednesday 11

7-9pm - Late Night Shopping in Truro The Cathedral's Christmas Shop is open together with hot drinks and mince pies, children's activities and musical entertainment. Also 18th.

Thursday 12

2pm - Diocesan Mothers' Union Advent Carol Service All welcome

Thursday 12

6pm - Polwhele House School Carol Service

Friday 13

7.30pm - Truro's BIG Christmas Sing - Come and sing your favourite carols. Singing for sheer enjoyment! All Welcome. Free with a collection for the work of

Christian Aid

Saturday 14

7.30pm - Silent Night A Celebration of Christmas with Truro Cathedral Choir in association with Cornwall Today Magazine (www.cornwalltoday.co.uk) Join Truro Cathedral Choir as they celebrate this special time of year with a mix of favourite carols, readings and music. (Reserved seating. Tickets £12-15 from Truro Cathedral Box Office, www.trurocathedral.org.uk or 01872 245001 (Box Office opens 24 October)

Sunday 15

After service - Fairtrade table

Tuesday 17

7pm - The reconstruction of the 1880 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols This famous service originated in Truro (devised by the first Bishop of Truro, Edward White Benson) and has gone on to be adapted, most famously by King's College, into the most popular Christmas service in the world. Join Truro Cathedral Choir and its Musical Director, Christopher Gray, to experience the original settings including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. A short talk will be given at 6pm with congregation asked to be seated by 6.30pm.

Wednesday 18

7-9pm - Late Night Shopping in Truro The Cathedral's Christmas Shop is open together with hot drinks and mince pies, children's activities and musical entertainment.

Friday 20

7.30pm - Cornwall Young Farmers Carol Service (Tickets available strictly from 1st November by sending a stamped SAE to Cornwall YFC, Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, PL27 7JE; any envelopes received prior to 1st November will be destroyed.

Saturday 21

1pm - Cornwall Community Choir Informal lunchtime concert. Free

Sunday 22

6pm - Christmas Organ Recital with Luke Bond and Rachel Mahon Tickets £7 (Students £5, U18s free)

Monday 23

4:30-6pm - CATHEDRAL CLOSED

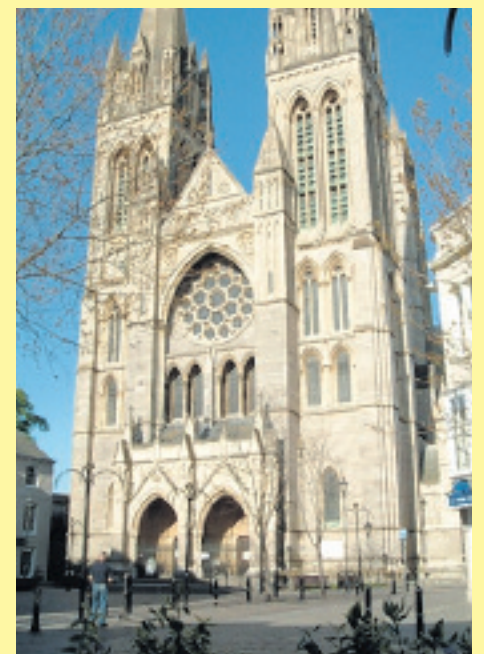
Monday 23

7pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols This service IS NOT ticketed for 2013.

Doors open at 6pm. No reserving of seats is allowed.

Tuesday 24

4:30-6pm - CATHEDRAL CLOSED



Tuesday 24

7pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols This service IS NOT ticketed for 2013.

Doors open at 6pm. No reserving of seats is allowed.

Tuesday 24

8:30-10:30pm - CATHEDRAL CLOSED

Tuesday 24

11.30pm Midnight Mass Join us as we celebrate the joy of the coming of Christ into the world. Not ticketed.

Wednesday 25

10am - Christmas Day Service One of the highlights of the year. Join the Cathedral Choir and Bishop Tim at this wonderful and uplifting service. Not ticketed.

Thursday 26

9:30am - CATHEDRAL OPENS AT 9.30 am

Sunday 29

2pm - Children and Pets Carol Service a fun filled carol service for two and four legged friends. No pet too big, no child too small. Great fun.

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A healthy diet during pregnancy can help prevent birth defects and clefts. Eat a healthy diet that contains lots of fruits and vegetables and foods fortified with folic acid. The U.K. Government recommends women should take sufficient levels of folic acid (400 micrograms/day) during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy to help prevent neural tube defects and reduce the risk for cleft lip and palate. When folic acid is taken one month before conception and throughout the first trimester, it has been proven to reduce the risk for neural tube defects by 50 to 70 percent. Be sure to receive proper prenatal care, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and follow your health care provider's guidelines for foods to avoid during pregnancy. Foods to avoid may include raw or undercooked seafood, beef, pork, poultry, delicatessen meats, fish that contain high levels of mercury, smoked seafood, fish exposed to pollutants, raw shellfish, eggs, soft cheeses, unpasteurized milk, pâté, caffeine and unwashed vegetables. For more information, visit www.smiletrain.org.uk

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