

White Cross Mission Community (Woodbury and Exton)

Digest – February 2012

Vicar: Reverend Karen Spray

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Visit the Website for the Mission at www.whitecrossdevon.org.uk



MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICES DIARY FEBRUARY 2012

| Date | Time | Form of Service | Officiant | Location |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday 5th 3rd before Lent | 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Vicar | Clyst St. George |
| | 9.30am | Main Team Holy Communion | Vicar | Aylesbeare |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Reverend C. Cant | Woodbury Salterton |
| | 11.00am | Meditative Service | Lay Led | Clyst St Mary |
| | 11.15am | All-Age Family Communion | Reverend C. Cant | Woodbury |
| | 6.00pm | Evening Service of the Word | Reverend C. Cant | Exton |
| Thursday 9th | 7.30pm | Healing Service | Vicar/Revd C. Cant | Clyst St George |
| Sunday 12th 2nd before Lent | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Revd. John Davies | Exton |
| | 9.30am | Main Team Choral Eucharist | Vicar | Woodbury |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Lay Led | Clyst St George |
| | 11.00am | Family Communion | Vicar | Clyst St Mary |
| | 11.15am | Morning Prayer | Vicar/Tr. Reader | Farrington |
| | 6.30pm | Choral Evensong | Revd. G. Wrayford | Woodbury |
| Sunday 19th Sunday next before Lent | 9.30am | Morning Prayer | Lay Led | Exton |
| | 9.30am | Family Worship | Lay Led | Woodbury Salterton |
| | 9.30am | Team Holy Communion | Vicar | Clyst St Mary |
| | 11.15am | Choral Eucharist + Sunday Club | Revd. Chris Cant | Woodbury |
| | 11.00am | Morning Prayer + Sunday Club | Reader/Vicar | Aylesbeare |
| Wednesday 22nd ASH WEDNESDAY | 7.30pm | Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes. | Vicar | Exton |
| Sunday 26th Lent 1 | 8.00am | Holy Communion (Said CW) | Vicar | Woodbury |
| | 9.30am | Main Team Holy Communion | Vicar | Exton |
| | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Revd. C. Cant | Farrington |
| | 9.30am | Morning Worship | Lay Led SERMON | Woodbury Salterton |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Reader | Clyst St George |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Lay Led | Clyst St Mary |
| | 11.15am | Morning Worship | Lay Led | Woodbury |

THE VICAR WRITES:

Who runs the church?

Who runs the church? In our villages we take it for granted that whether we attend regularly or not, our beautiful village churches are always there as a symbol of God's abiding presence with us, and as a place to mark with celebration or mourning the major milestones of our lives and those of our friends and family. But in fact, just as the little mushroom that pops up on your lawn is actually just the visible sign of a much bigger network of underground tendrils that has been growing and developing unseen, so our church buildings are just the visible sign of the village community that supports them.

Contrary to what many people believe, local churches are run entirely by local people – you and me and our neighbours. There are a number of different levels at which we can get involved, and the system can only work properly when as many people as possible DO get involved in one way or another. Otherwise it can become a vicious circle

as a dwindling number of increasingly stressed people try to do everything, while their neighbours perhaps start to regard the church as a bit of a 'closed shop' which has little relevance to their lives. The end result of that can be disaster – how many times, when a village loses its church, or shop or Post Office, are people shocked and deeply distressed, only then realising that their involvement and support might have made a real difference?

At this time of year, all Church of England churches are preparing for their Annual Meetings, so it seems a good time to run through how the system works. At the end of it, if you care enough about your local church to be reading this article, I hope you will take the opportunity to help ensure that it grows and thrives as a vital part of the village community for the years to come.

We can imagine the way the church is run a bit like an archery target, with different circles from the outside to the centre. The biggest circle, believe it or not, includes everybody legally resident in the parish, whether they attend church or not. ALL

parishioners are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and vote for the two Churchwardens. The Churchwardens are appointed by the bishop to represent the parish, and they work with the Vicar and the PCC (of which more later). They are appointed for a year at a time, are always free to stand down at the end of their year's service, and new rules now say very sensibly that they should not normally do the job for more than 6 years. It isn't a life sentence! Nor should they be the ones that are expected to do all the work – they are part of the whole team. It is very important that there are two of them. Two people working together with different gifts can support each other and help each other to see if they are getting bogged down and need to call for help. They are your representatives. You don't need to be on any membership list – if you can vote in local elections, you can vote for your Churchwardens.

This is the safeguard that means that the Church of England really is there for everyone, and can't become a sort of private religious club run solely for

the benefit of a few. The Annual Meeting has by law to be advertised well in advance in the church porch and will always take place sometime before the end of April. It shouldn't be a formality – it should be a place where we can all support and thank those who give their time and efforts to something we all value; where we can make constructive suggestions for ways the church might engage better with the community that it serves and where if necessary we can help to change directions that have become unhelpful. So please do come to yours if you possibly can! The next circle is the Church 'Electoral Roll', which is the nearest thing that we have to a list of 'members', and says who can vote at the APCM, the second part of the of the Annual Meetings (held immediately after the election of Churchwardens), which deals with the accounts and other more detailed issues about running the church. It is revised every year before the annual meeting, so if you are not already on it, you can make sure you are able to vote by filling in a form. It is open to anyone who 'habitually' attends the local church and who regards themselves as a member of the Church of England – and 'habitually' here doesn't mean 'regularly' or 'every week or month' but simply that this is the church where you worship. So even if you come only a few times a year on Sundays and festivals, if this is your church and you are over 16, you can join the electoral roll and have a vote at the APCM. Surprisingly, this can apply even if you are a member of another church! If you belong to a church (for instance, a Methodist or URC or Roman Catholic church) which believes in the doctrine of the Trinity but you nevertheless attend the local parish church and regard yourself as a member there too, you can go on the electoral roll. In villages, this can be a common situation.

Of course, day to day business needs more focused leadership, so the APCM elects a PCC or Parochial Church Council to run the church on its behalf for the coming year. They will meet at least 4 times during the year to further the mission of the church; to work with the vicar to plan services and other events and initiatives, raise funding, and make sure the church roof doesn't fall on anybody's head! A good PCC (and we are blessed with some wonderful PCCs in our churches here) is not a boring meeting but a group of friends and neighbours collaborating on something very special and important that makes a real difference to people's lives. The more different talents and personalities that are represented, the better it will work.

But of course the church does not just run on the talents of the PCC and Churchwardens. If you have skills that could be used to make the church better, they will always be welcomed – please do offer your services at whatever level. If 50 people are involved, the burden will be so much lighter for each of them, and running our precious churches will be what it should be – a pleasure and a privilege; a blessing to us and our neighbours and to our children and grandchildren, just as we have been blessed by the past contributions of those who now lie in the peace of our churchyards.

So, please pray for all our local churches and those who help to run them; please join the electoral roll if you regard this as your church; please come to the meetings and listen and offer support; please think what gifts and talents you have which could help the church thrive; and please remember that a healthy church can only emerge from a healthy, supportive community.

See you there!

Reverend Karen Spray 01392 877400
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REVEREND CHRISTOPHER CANT WRITES:

A Year of Arab Spring

It is a year now since the Arab Spring began in Tunisia with the fleeing of the president on January 14th 2011. Protests against authoritarian rule spread to nearly all the Arabic speaking countries of the Middle East and North Africa. One piece of good news is that Coptic Christians in Egypt celebrated Christmas on January 6th with no violence. In fact according to the Church Times The Muslim Brotherhood set up

committees "to protect the churches so that the hands of sin do not ruin the festivities like they did several times under the old regime."

Egypt has a sizable minority made up of Coptic, Catholic and Evangelical Christians. For centuries these groups have been deeply divided but now with the Arab Spring there has been an amazing coming together in prayer and unity. For example on 11th November last year in Cairo 50,000 people from all Christian backgrounds gathered for an all-night prayer meeting. They are setting aside denominational differences to work together, strengthen one another and pray for the future of their country. According to a Christian Worker in Egypt there are increased numbers of Muslims seeking to know more about Jesus. Many are watching Christian TV programmes broadcast by satellite and going on Christian websites.

So many people of the Middle East long for freedom combined with responsibility, justice combined with mercy and truth combined with trust - values fundamental to the teachings of Christ.

It will continue to be tough for Christians in Egypt but with God's power at work the Church can be an inspiration for the whole nation and for us in the West. Let us pray for our Egyptian brothers and sisters and all the peoples of the Middle East that somehow good will come and the name of Jesus will be honoured.

Christopher Cant

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WHITE CROSS MISSION BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Hosted by **Joyce Hocking**, at Trelawney, Sandygate, Exeter. **2.30pm every first and third Wednesday of the month.** Everyone Welcome.

WOODBURY NEWS

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are looking for one or two more people to act as Sacristan. Duties are:- once or twice a month in preparing the Altar for Communion Service. Training will be given. Also needed are two more members of the congregation to assist the Priest, serving wine at Communion. If you are interested please contact Ken Crundwell or Sue Hudson.

COFFEE MORNINGS FEBRUARY

Tuesday 7th. Hosted by Marion & Derek Mead, 12 Culverly Close. **10.30am-11.30am.** All welcome.

Tuesday 21st Coffee Morning and Woodbury PCC Monthly Draw in the Family Corner at St. Swithun's Church, **10.30am-11.30am.** All welcome.

ST. SWITHUN'S MONTHLY DRAW

Winner of the January Draw was No. 94 Mr & Mrs K.M. Crundwell. **Congratulations!** Prize Every Month.

NEW FLOODLIGHTING

Our application for a faculty was submitted in September to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. The DAC have asked for a demonstration of the proposed floodlights before they grant the certificate.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 2ND MARCH 2012 AT 1.30PM

This year's Service will be held at **St. Swithun's Church** in conjunction with Christchurch. Please see posters for details. Everyone welcome. Please join us for tea and cake after the Service.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

As part of the celebrations for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Exeter will be holding a **FLOWER FESTIVAL from 11th-15th July 2012.** All monies raised will be helping with the Restoration of the historic John Loosemore Pipe Organ, and all supporters will be featured in the official program.

Barbara Hill, Sandra Huish, and Sue Hudson will be involved with a flower display and will be holding coffee mornings and afternoon tea parties to raise our share of the cost of the flowers on behalf of St. Swithun's Church, Woodbury. It is hoped that other parishioners will be able to support this great event

by volunteering to Steward in the Cathedral at some time. Sue Hudson will have forms available in church from 1st-22nd January 2012 for anyone to fill in. Just contact Sue if you don't see her, on 01395 232203. We will keep you posted.

Also St. Swithun's Church Choir is planning to perform Handel's Glorious anthem - 'Zadok the Priest' on **Sunday 3rd June at the 11.15am Service.** We invite anyone who would like to sing this anthem to augment the choir on this occasion. We need people in all sections of the choir. By joining us on the day you may find that you would like to join the choir on a more permanent basis.

If you would like to take part, please contact Nigel Alcock, Director of Music, on 01395 239363 or email nigel.alcock@tiscali.co.uk

LOST PROPERTY @ ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH

Have you lost something??? There is a quantity of lost property at the back of the church in the servery area –including gloves, hats, scarves, spectacles and several umbrellas. Please claim any thing that belongs to you. All of it will be removed at the end of March if not claimed. **Churchwardens.**

EXTON NEWS

Thursday 16th February.

The second meeting of the Craft Group, **2 - 4pm in St. Andrew's Church, Exton.**

An informal social group meeting to knit, sew, spin, do origami, whatever craft you choose or none, A cup of tea and a chat with friends. Do come and join us.

Thursday 16th. St Andrew's Hall 7pm.

A talk entitled, "Waterways of England & Wales" by Bernard and Anne Hughes. **Tickets £10.** to include supper, obtainable from **Eileen Pratt 01392 877917** Proceeds towards flood prevention measures for the hall. This promises to be a fascinating evening.

DEADLINES:

Woodbury News Page:-

Tuesday 14 February 2012

Digest :-

Monday 20th February 2012

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We reserve the right to edit or omit any items.

'Digest' only carries items of Church and School news

