

The Link

January 2016



Churches 4 All

Whimple - Talaton
Clyst Hydon - Clyst St Lawrence

Mission Community Priest: Revd Chris Martin 01404 822427

The Rectory, Grove Rd, Whimble, EX5 2TP.

Email : vicar@churches4all.org

Mission Community Curate: Revd Sheila Walker 01404 813589

Email: swalk2@btinternet.com

Www.churches4all.org

Church Admin Assistant Dianne Goodwin 01404 823476

WHIMPLE

Churchwardens Stephen Godsiff 01404 822875

Gerri Turner 01404 822587

PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer Michael Ellingham 01404 822945

Pastoral Care Co-ordinators David Rastall 01404 822486

Margaret Burrough 01404 822257

Impact Cell group (Teenagers) Helen Bowker 01404 823193

'Jigsaw'/S Club Mary Godsiff 01404 822875

Bell Ringers Roger Algate 01404 822480

Mothers' Union Margaret Burrough 01404 822257

Church Flowers Margaret Bucknell 01404 822319

Magazine Distribution Margaret Burrough 01404 822257

Planned Giving Officer Gerri Turner 01404 822587

TALATON

Churchwardens Marilyn Klepacz 01404 822488

Charlie Hutchings 01404 822205

PCC Secretary Pam Weston 01404 822864

PCC Treasurer Charlie Hutchings 01404 822205

CLYST ST LAWRENCE

Churchwardens David Guthrie 01404 823275

Ray Taylor 01404 822351

PCC Secretary Jane Buxton 01404 822605

PCC Treasurer David Guthrie 01404 823275

CLYST HYDON

Churchwardens Darren Clifton-Jones 01884 277964

PCC Secretary Sarah Jones 01884 277471

PCC Treasurer Steve Clegg 01404 822889

Bell Ringers Ben Wadsworth 01884 277312

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, 2015 may already seem like a dim and distant memory. But as I write this, I'm doing my usual 'end of year' reminiscence on the year just gone, and what there may be to look forward to in the months ahead.

There has been so much to give thanks for in this last year. Perhaps the most memorable thing in the church's life locally this year has been the Alpha course. This was a wonderful example of the churches and individuals working together, in 'up front' and 'behind the scenes' ways, to sow new seeds of faith and hope and love into the lives of people in our local communities.

We recently had the final evening in which there was an opportunity for several of the nearly 60 course participants to say a few words about their experience of the course. Some brave people stood up at the microphone and spoke of how they had been treated with such love and respect, even though they would not yet claim to have found faith. Some spoke of dramatic encounters in which God had powerfully and gently removed guilt and shame, replacing it with joy and hope. Others spoke of how much they had learned from others on the course, having been Christians for many, many years.

I found these to be wonderful, inspiring and moving testimonies of love and grace and, most especially, of the willingness to listen to and learn from one another. In our service of others in Christ's name, deep listening enables us to walk alongside others from *their* starting point, to begin from where *they* are. Open, honest and authentically mutual relationships also help us to begin to recognise Christ in both friend and stranger and, if we are open to it, our own lives and faith journeys are changed and enriched as we encounter God, sometimes in the most unlikely of places and people.

Continued over page

The annual subscription for delivery, or collection, of the Link is a minimum of £4.

Otherwise, as one spiritual teacher wrote, *'The more you need people to agree with you, the less open you are to what they think, feel, and believe. You cannot share with them because you are trying to change them, and they cannot share with you because you are not listening.'*

One of the results of Alpha will be the formation of some new, small groups which I hope will enable folk to continue their journey deeper into the love of God. I hope and pray that these groups, and indeed all our church communities, will be places of deep listening.

To help us grow together in this, to enable us to further develop loving communities that serve others in Christ's name with integrity, during Lent this year we are fortunate to have Susie Ursell, an experienced Pastoral Care trainer from the Diocese of Exeter, coming to take our Lent Course on the whole area of Pastoral Care Skills and Listening to/looking after one another. There are further details in this issue, so please do keep the dates free if you would like to come.

And may God richly bless us in the year ahead as we continue to walk this part of the journey together.

Chris

From the Registers:

There were no Marriages or Baptisms in the Mission Community in December.

Funerals:

The funeral of Patrick Finlay took place in Whimple during December

Homegroups

- Thursdays, 9.15 am, Broadway Cottage, Whimble.
- Thursdays , 10.30am— contact 822945 for venue.

Please see page 12 for more news about Homegroups.

Magazine Items

Items for the next Link before 20 January please.

Whimble: Dianne Goodwin - Dianne.goodwin@btinternet.com

Talaton: Pam Weston— pamweston45@gmail.com

Clyst St Lawrence: Jane Buxton - janebuxton@btconnect.com

Clyst Hydon: Sarah Jones— sjtraining@heronsyke.co.uk



Printed on recycled paper

WHAT'S ON

5th January	Mission Community Prayer Meeting	St Mary's, Whimble 7.45pm
6th January	Mothers Union	Victory Hall, Whimble 2.30pm
12th January	Coffee Moirning	Heronyske Clyst Hydon 10am
15th January	Talaton Toddlers	St James the Great 10.30am
16th January	Women's Breakfast	Talaton Village Hall 8.30am
18th January	Round a Table and Over a Pint	8pm New Fountain
23rd January	Men's Breakfast	Victory Hall Whimble 8.30am

Mission Community Lent Course 2016

What? Pastoral Skills & Listening
to one another

Where? Talaton Parish Hall

When? Five consecutive Tuesdays
commencing 23rd February 2016

Who? Susie Ursell – Pastoral Care
Trainer, Exeter Diocese

Time? 7.30pm

Cost? Free!



*More details in the February issue,
but please note the dates for your diaries now!*



Need a lift to church?

If you would like to attend a church service in one of the other Mission Community villages but don't have transport, please contact the **Transport Co-ordinator** **David Rastall - 01404 822486** who will try and arrange one for you.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

A reminder that Churches 4 All has a Pastoral Care Team whose members have been trained and are available to lend a listening ear, visit those who are housebound, ill, in hospital, bereaved and offer prayer.

If you or someone you know would like a visit from a member of the Pastoral Care Team

please contact David Rastall (822486) or
Margaret Burrough (822257)



St Mary's Church, Whimple 'Sacred Space'

A short service in the Celtic tradition. We use a simple liturgy and allow plenty of silence for prayer and for reflection on a reading from one of the Gospels.
All welcome.

**Every Second Wednesday in the
month: 9.15 to 9.45am
(Next one is 13th January)**



Men's Breakfast

Saturday 23rd January
In the Victory Hall, Whimble



ISN'T GOD PATIENT
A talk by Dr Simon Brown

Delicious breakfast 8.30-9.45
Everyone welcome £4

Book with Dianne Goodwin on 823476



Women's Breakfast

Saturday 16th January
In the Village Hall, Talaton

A talk by Rev Sheila Walker

Delicious breakfast 8.30-9.45
Everyone welcome £3



Book with Sue Harwood on 822143 or
Marilyn Klepacz on 822488

THE GIFT OF LOVE

A look at the anti penultimate line of this poem will explain why it's in the January Link, despite it being Christmas related. It's about love being for the whole year. It's based on 1 Corinthians 13:

If I bake a Christmas cake and dozens of mince pies,

But have not love,

I am just another harassed housewife.

If I decorate my house with fairy lights and a twinkling tree,

But have not love,

I am just wasting electricity.

If I write a hundred Christmas cards,

But have not love,

I only gain writer's cramp.

Love stops baking to phone a friend in need.

Love stops decorating to hug a child.

Love stops shopping to visit a lonely neighbour.

Love does not envy the decorations in another's house,

Nor the neatly wrapped presents under a neighbour's tree.

Love does not write vain Christmas letters,

Boasting of this year's achievements.

Love does not only send cards to those who will send one back.
Love does not only buy presents for those who can return the favour.
Love does not work out how much a friend will spend on a gift,
And then seek to spend not a penny more.
Love knows the joy of giving without counting the cost.
Love is patient when faced with a queue,
And then smiles at those sharing the experience.
Love does not get angry with the kids,
It keeps no record of wrongs.
Love bears all things, believes all things,
Hopes all things and endures all things.
Love never fails.
Computer games break, chocolates soon vanish,
But the gift of love endures forever.
Love is not just for Christmas,
It lasts the whole year through.
Christ is not just for Christmas,
He wants to stay with you forever.

Home-groups

Several of those who attended the recent Alpha course have expressed their desire to continue their journey of faith by meeting together in some form of small home-group. Now that the Alpha course has finished, plans are underway to seek to accommodate these new members into new or existing home-groups right across the Mission Community.

This is no easy task as obviously it involves village geography, resourcing the groups with willing and able group-leaders, and the availability of people to offer their homes as venues to host groups.

For those of you who are in existing home-groups, this inevitably will mean some changes. It may mean that a new person (or two) joins your existing group. Or that one or two leave it. It may mean that your existing group will meet somewhere else. It could even mean that your existing group disbands to form some completely new groups with mostly new people.

These kinds of changes can be difficult at first but please can I ask for your forbearance and for your willingness to accommodate these changes. God is at work among us and I hope that you will share my excitement that God is building his kingdom in this place and is adding to our number.....

And please do join with me in praying that these changes will allow each person to be established, strengthened and settled in the faith we share together. Thank you, and watch this space!

Revd Chris

PRAYER DIARY

January 2016

'We can be tired, weary and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that He injects into our bodies energy, power and strength.'

(Charles F Stanley)

'Prayer can solve more problems, alleviate more suffering, prevent more transgression, and bring about greater peace and contentment in the human soul than can be obtained in any other way.'

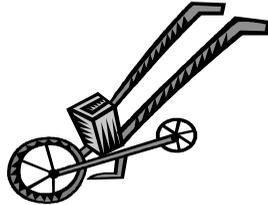
(Thomas S Monson)

1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for a year in which there are more efforts to bring peace to a number of areas around the world and where dialogue and understanding come to the fore.
2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for God's wisdom and direction in the establishing of the new, small groups emerging as a result of the Alpha course, and for God's blessing on existing homegroups.
Sun 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the people of Carlisle and other areas flooded last month, for help in the future and resilience in the face of months of repairs.
4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give thanks for the way we are blessed in our worship services by church organists, choirs and bands, who willingly use their gifts and talents to serve the Lord and his church.
5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit at the Mission Community prayer evening tonight at Whimble.
6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the US as they embark on a new presidential election campaign, in particular that statesmanship and common sense would overcome the more egotistical, intolerant and bizarre of the candidates.
7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for Susie Ursell from the Diocese of Exeter, in her preparation to come and lead our Lent course which begins next month.
8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for understanding of mainstream Islam by those who are of different faiths or no faith and that there is acceptance by all that most Muslims are peace loving and reasonable people.
9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the NHS this winter, for the doctors, nurses and other employees who work hard to ensure that we will be in good hands should something go wrong.
Sun 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for God's blessing on the farming communities of Clyst St Lawrence and surrounding areas. Pray too for the Plough Sunday service there this evening, and for guest speaker Caroline Trude.

11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for wisdom and guidance for Whimple PCC as it meets together tonight.
12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for God’s vision and direction for the future for all those engaged in rural ministry in the Diocese, and especially for Sheila and Chris.
13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The situation in Syria appears to be getting more and more complex and dangerous. Meanwhile the suffering of ordinary people goes on so let’s pray for them and their country.
14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for wisdom and guidance for Talaton PCC as it meets tonight.
15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give thanks for all our Churchwardens—Steve, Gerri, Charlie, Marilyn, Ray, David and Darren, who serve God and his church with such diligence. Pray for God to bless them in their service of Him, that it might be a joy and not a burden.
16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for all those who come to the Ladies’ Breakfast at Talaton today, and for Sheila the guest speaker.
Sun 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the light of seemingly never ending multiple shooting incidents in the US, pray that their leaders would have the will to take control of the situation.
18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for wisdom and guidance for Clyst Hydon PCC as it meets together tonight.
19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray that there will be an ‘end plan’ for Britain and France in Iraq and Syria, with peace deals being the ultimate aim.
20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for patience and tolerance when we are in life’s difficult moments. A simple smile or an act of politeness can mean a lot.

21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray that apparent corruption within international sporting organisations can be defeated and replaced by a new order.
22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When family members have a fall out, it can lead to years of no contact. Many of us will have experienced this so pray for the ability to overcome such problems and to be the one who makes the first move to reconciliation.
23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for all those who come to the Men's Breakfast at Whimble today, and for the guest speaker Dr Simon Brown.
Sun 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord, help me in my walk with you. Show me how to put you first, before the trivia I spend so much time thinking about.
25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give thanks for those who serve as Treasurers, for Mike, Charlie, Steve and David, especially at this busy time of accounts preparation.
26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray that those exposed to the cold through lack of a home or because they are trying to escape or move on will have the warmth of the Holy Spirit with them.
27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a recent report that two thirds of football referees receive regular verbal abuse, let us offer a prayer that those practising this would be able to see that such intolerant and poor behaviour is not acceptable and sets an appalling example to children.
28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the West has to deal with the IS threat, the future will clearly need to include dialogue and we should all pray to God that this can begin to happen soon.
29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for the Jigsaw team and for those who will come to the Jigsaw service at Whimble today.
30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray that families forced to use foodbanks will soon be in a position to resolve their problems and that any benefit payments due to them are paid without delay.
Sun 31st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for a tangible sense of unity and belonging as we gather for our joint Mission Community service at Clyst Hydon.

PLOUGH SERVICE
at Clyst St Lawrence
Church
Sunday 10th January
@ 6.30pm



At this special service, when we are joined by the Whimple & Broadclyst Young Farmers, a plough is brought into the church. We pray for God's blessing on farmers, asking that they will have a good harvest in the coming year.

Guest speaker Caroline Trude

Please do join us!

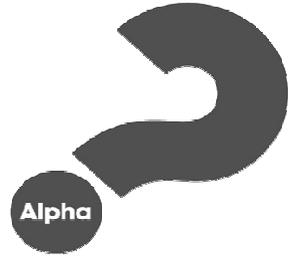
QUESTIONS AFTER ALPHA

1 After Alpha, is there a Beta?

2 Just who was this bloke Alfie?

3 What is there on TV on a Monday night?

4 When is the Recipe Book for the Puddings going to be published? (could raise lots of money for the new Church roof/bells/insert your choice)



Now for the serious questions:

1 What have I learned?

2 Can the discussions be carried over to Home Groups?

3 Do we ever ultimately know the answer to the big question that was raised at the start or have we just created more questions?

For the last three months, Monday evenings have been spent enjoying puddings and wine and the fellowship of others whilst trying to find answers to many difficult questions. I don't like to think about how much weight I have gained, and although some questions have been answered many more have appeared. It was clear from the feedback session that many people have found the sessions thought provoking and want to know more.

Some of the quotes from people include:

"I have enjoyed being among friends, having time and space to think."

"It is perfectly acceptable to be confused."

"I am sad that Alpha is coming to an end."

"Sharing together has made a difference."

"We are all on a journey"

“I feel part of a family—a Christian family.”

“The mixture of ages has provided a good cross section of opinions.”

“It has been an enjoyable experience but the overwhelming part has been the feelings of respect and love of everyone around me. I am glad I took part.”

On the final evening, thanks were given to the small group leaders, to the many people who provided delicious puddings and also to Rosie and Simon for organising the catering. Thanks were also given to those 'behind the scenes' people who prayed, washed up and/or moved tables and chairs. But the main thanks should go to Chris for organising the course. His talks at the beginning of each session were easy to follow and were full of real life examples.

I am now looking forward to Beta.

Dianne

ROUND A TABLE AND OVER A PINT

First of all can I thank all of you who have allowed me to take a RATAOAP sabbatical in order to be able to help lead the Alpha Course. Sadly I couldn't be in two places at once on a Monday evening!

I do appreciate that for those of you not involved in Alpha, you have done without a few Monday evening pints for a while. I really hope that you will all make a new year's resolution to join back into RATAOAP. It will be great to see you all again...

Monday Jan 18th New Fountain 8pm - We will re-gather as our former group! We will be discussing 'British Values', which have been in the news a lot recently. What does this phrase mean exactly? How do we find the balance between retaining our cultural heritage but also not being exclusive? Donald Trump's recent statements in terms of 'US values' have resonated with a lot of Americans but also enflamed many others. What does all this mean for us men in Whimble?

Phil Dominy.

WHIMPLE

Come and be part of the



An afternoon service for preschool to age 7 and their carers - siblings welcome!
Enjoy stories, songs, craft, prayer and fun beginning with refreshments!

Where? Whimple Church

When? Fridays 15th & 29th January

Time? Come straight from school for refreshments before the service!

For more information, please call
Mary Godsiff: 01404 822875

In December our Christmas meeting began with prayers; for peace in so many sad places in the world, innocent victims and grieving families caught up in the recent terrible events, those nearer to home who are ill and those who need our prayers for whatever reason.

This was followed by a wildlife film made by an amateur photographer who lives in Warwickshire. The film showed butterflies, moths, damselflies and dragonflies in different stages of development. The film also included footage of some beautiful birds. His filming is very clear and his commentary very informative. He must have tremendous patience making these films and we are looking forward to the next one.

This was followed by a delicious Bring and Share tea and a raffle.

Our meeting in January is on the 6th in the Victory Hall at 2.30pm. Mrs Briony Ewing will be telling us about her recent travels in southern India.

May I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Margaret Burrough

Brass Cleaner for January: Mrs Helen Holborrow

Brass Cleaners for February: David and Daphne Rastall

TALATON



Talaton Toddlers
Parents and Babies Get Together
within the Church in the North Aisle Room
Friday 15th January 2016
10.30am -12noon

Join us in friendship and a different activity each month
RSVP 01404 822482 Refreshments Provided



Talaton Church Cleaning Rota

2nd Frances Samson
9th Lady Anne Boles
16th Sue Harwood
23rd Rita Wright
30th Greta Scott



TALATON

If you would like to ring please contact either Chris Trimmer 01404 850831 or Peppi Shaw 01404 822482. We try and ring for the first Sunday of the month at 9am and on special holy days.

Practice is 5pm most Wednesdays. Please come and join us in the Church tower, learners welcome, you can start at any age.

Tale Valley Choir

Meets generally alternate Wednesdays
in the Church of St James the Great
Talatton EX5 2RL

7.30 - 9.00 pm

£3 per person payable half-termly

Contact Emma Palmer if you are interested in joining us

empall@icloud.com or 01404 823083

Music reading, not necessary, sense of humour, vital



READINGS AND ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2016
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CLYST ST LAWRENCE		
	SERVICES	READINGS
10th	Plough Sunday	James 5:1-6 Luke 8:4-15
24th	Holy Communion (BCP)	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4: 14-21
31st	Mission Community Service of Holy Communion at Clyst Hydon	

. CLYST HYDON		
	SERVICES	READINGS
3rd	Morning Worship (with Baptism)	Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18
17th	Holy Communion	Isaiah 62: 1-5 John 2: 1-11
31st	Mission Community Service of Holy Communion at Clyst Hydon	Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40

Readings & Rotas for Jan 2016

TALATON

	SERVICES	READINGS	READERS	SIDESMEN	COFFEE
3rd	Holy Communion (CW)	Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18	Peppi Shaw Lucy Channon	Marilyn Klepacz	Greta Scott Rita Wright
10th	Morning Worship	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22	Jane Jackson Harry Channon	Harry & Lucy Channon	
17th	Holy Communion (CW)	Isaiah 62: 1-5 John 2: 1-11	Val Peterson Lizzie Fox	Lizzie Fox	
24th	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4: 14-21	Julia Hutchings Pam Weston	Julia Hutchings	
31st	Mission Community Service of Holy Communion at Clyst Hydon				

Readings & Rotas for Jan 2016

WHIMPLE

	SERVICES	READINGS	READERS	PRAYERS	SIDESMEN	COFFEE
3rd	Holy Communion	Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18				
	Evening Praise				Jenny & Branco Love	Briony Ewing
10th	Holy Communion	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22	Gill Bridger Gerri Turner	Malcolm Crozier	Avril Ellingham David Rastall	Jenny Love
17th	Holy Communion	Isaiah 62: 1-5 John 2: 1-11				
	Celebration Service				Tim & Briony Ewing	Maggie Spicer
24th	Morning Worship	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4: 14-21	Janthia Algate Margaret Burrough	Helen Bowker	Pauline & Leslie French	Avril Ellingham
31st	Mission Community Service of Holy Communion at Clyst Hydon					

PROGRAMME OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2016

January 2016	Jan 3rd 2 nd Sunday of Christmas	Jan 10th Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1	Jan 17th Epiphany 2	Jan 24th Epiphany 3	Jan 31st Presentation of Christ in the temple
St Mary's - Whimble	8am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Praise – The Space	11am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion 9.30 Celebration service with bring & share breakfast at 9am (Lay led)	11am Morning Worship	10.30am MC Communion service at Clyst Hydon
St James the Great - Talatton	9.30am Holy Communion (CW)	9.30am Morning Worship	11am Holy Communion (CW)	4pm BCP Evening Prayer	10.30am MC Communion service at Clyst Hydon
St Lawrence - Clyst St Lawrence		6.30pm Plough Sunday with guest speaker Caroline Trude		9.30am BCP Holy Communion	10.30am MC Communion service at Clyst Hydon
St Andrew's - Clyst Hydon	11am Morning Worship with Baptism		6.30pm Holy Communion		10.30am MC Communion service at Clyst Hydon

Would you like to advertise on this page?

We are very grateful to Larkbeare Grange who have supported the printing costs of The Link for a number of years by taking the advertising space on the back cover. If any other business in the Mission Community area would like to take on this space in 2016 (£60 p.a for a full page advert each month) then please contact Dianne Goodwin for further information.