



*Joyfully sharing
the love of God
for the good of all*

CONNECTED

The monthly Anglican/Methodist
newsletter
FEBRUARY 2010

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Anglican
Rev. Kathy Roberts
The Rectory
Black Torrington
EX21 5PU
01409 231279

Church And Chapel Contact Numbers

Benefice Reader (Licensed Lay Minister)

Maureen Dean 01409 231448

Churchwardens:

Black Torrington, St Mary's

Sheila Grabham 01409 231581

Benjie Inmiss 01409 231234

Bradford, All Saints, with Cookbury, St John

Martin Taylor 01409 281327

Tony Lobley 01409 281800

Anne Bird 01409 281568

Highampton, Holy Cross

Jill Harrow 01837 810351

Val Letheren 01409 231430

Thornbury, St Peter's

Mike Chandler 01409 253150

Colin Wood 01409 261526

Chapel Stewards:

Black Torrington

Peter Ellis 01409 231309

Rose Fielder 01409 231214

Bradford (*chapel now closed for worship*)

Marjorie Smale 01409 281560

Donald Davey 01409 281438

Shebbear/Lake

Graeme Quance 01409 281248

Gerald Moore 01409 281665

Ann Vickers 01409 281126

Sheepwash

Stanley Gilbert 01409 231251

Woodacott

Mrs J Vanstone

Mrs. A Bond 01409 261221

Benefice Website:

www.black-torrington-benefice.org.uk

Circuit Website:

www.shebbearcircuit.ning.com

Magazine Contacts

Methodist: Rose Fielder 01409 231214

Anglican: Sheila Grabham 01409 231581

email: s.grabham@btconnect.com

hello from me...

**KATHY ROBERTS, PRIEST IN CHARGE
BLACK TORRINGTON BENEFICE**

After all the bad weather during December and January, it feels as though we are all coming out of hibernation!

As we move further into the New Year, as a benefice we need to look at some rather important issues. A group of people who met recently spoke about their vision for the Benefice. I wonder whether any of these resonate with you?

Growth

Taking root

Rowing in the same direction

Mission community

Relationships

Church buildings - fit for purpose

Identifying our strengths

Our focus on what the Lord wants for us.

We need to know what we are aiming for, and to hold a clear vision of what that is will help us to develop a Mission Action Plan - a plan to help us effectively work towards our common vision. Do reflect on this and pray about it. I would love to hear from you!

I have been reminded on a number of occasions that we have been talking about, considering and debating what we are to do about joining a Mission Community for a number of years - it's been going on for far too long, some people feel! This may well be true, because a significant number of people have even forgotten exactly what being a Mission community entails.

Contd.....

The Mission Community Steering group will be drawing up a brief resumé of where we are placed at the moment and what our options are. This should be available shortly. I will speak briefly about what a Mission Community is at the Benefice Holy Communion service at Black Torrington on the 31st January.

We agreed at the last Combined PCC meeting that it would be very helpful for the decisions that have been made at each parish PCC meeting be made available on the notice board of each church. Some people have wondered whether it would be useful to publish these in *Connected*. Could you let me or your church wardens know what you think about this.

Many of you will have already met Karen Wainwright, the Reader in Training who is doing her placement here. She has become involved in various activities across the benefice and has written an article for *Connected* introducing herself. She will be preaching at the service on the 31st January. The service will be a celebration of Candlemas. This is the day that marks the completion of 40 days since the birth of Jesus when Mary and Joseph took him to the temple in Jerusalem.

If there is anything particularly concerning Mission Communities, that you would like to discuss further with me, please contact me.

With my love and ongoing prayers for you
Kathy

Pew sheet and Connected

Please forward items for the weekly pew sheet to Maureen Dean by **Wednesday** each week and for Connected to Sheila Grabham by **Tuesday 16th February**

Items received after the deadlines may not be included

Easter Sunday 2007 is a day that changed my life. Along with friends who had come to stay with us, we had gone to the service at Dolton church, where I introduced our friends to Carolyn, our rector, saying that one of them had been selected for ordination. Carolyn then asked me if I had ever thought of training for Readership, I was so surprised, but with the positive response from our friends, it brought back to me the longing, I knew I had been ignoring. As a child I knew that one day I would 'work for God', although I had never told anyone. Events in my teens and adult life took over and God receded into the background until I was forty, when, in the dark place that was my life, I turned to Jesus and that familiar 'come and work for me' was still there. I was confirmed and have never looked back; I feel I have been truly blessed.

I can recall so vividly, the moment I walked into Dolton church, about eight years ago, I just knew that my destiny was there, the church, the village, the people, I felt so strongly that my future was to serve in that community. That Easter morning the quiet voice that I had heard so often was loud and clear, I answered His call. Within a few months I had been selected to train as a Reader and the training began in the September just three days after we moved into Dolton.

The Diocese of Exeter consider Reader ministry a vital role, although not clergy, it is a fully accredited, licensed lay ministry in its own right. The training takes three years of hard work and determination and the long placement I am doing here with you, offers me an opportunity to learn from an experienced minister and to develop my own skills needed to work with others in all aspects of ministering in a wider context.

This October I will be admitted and licensed and can then establish a working agreement which will cover my first year of licensed ministry, which is also my third year of training. After that my formal training will be complete, although I suspect that when working for the Lord, the training actually never stops!

Karen Wainwright - Reader In Training

Black Torrington Benefice Services in February

Services at parish church unless otherwise indicated

Thursday 4th February

9.30 am Bradford Holy Communion

Sunday 7th February

9.30 am Thornbury Holy Communion

11.15 am Black Torrington Family Holy Communion

4.00 pm Bradford Evensong

Thursday 11th February

9.00 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

Sunday 14th February

9.30 am Bradford Holy Communion

11.15 am Highampton Holy Communion

4.00 pm Black Torrington Evening Worship

6.30 pm Thornbury Evening Prayer

Monday 15th February

9.30 am Highampton Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th February - Ash Wednesday

9.30 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

7.15 pm Bradford Holy Communion

Thursday 18th February

9.00 am Black Torrington Morning Prayer

9.30 am Thornbury Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st February

9.30 am Bradford Morning Prayer

9.30 am Thornbury Family worship

11.15 am Black Torrington Family Holy Communion

Thursday 25th February

9.00 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

Sunday 28th February

9.30 am Bradford Family Holy Communion

11.15 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

11.15 am Highampton Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Thornbury Holy Communion

Gluten free wafers are available at all services of Holy Communion.
If you require these please inform the person on duty at the door.

SHEBBEAR METHODIST CIRCUIT

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER - REVD PETER PILLINGER

Email: chair.p-e@pillinger.net Tel. 01392 272541

METHODIST SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Black Torrington Chapel Service every Sunday 11.00am
Village Sunday School fourth Sunday every month

Sunday 7th February Mr David Lewis

Sunday 14th February Mr Les Gilbert

Sunday 21st February Mrs Betty Dennis

Sunday 28th February Rev David Hull, with Sunday Club

(The first of four Services David is taking following a theme)

Lake Chapel, Shebbear

9.00pm on the last Wednesday of every month **Compline** -
*a short service for the end of the day, a particular blessing at the
day's end when there is nothing to rush off to afterwards!*

'Churches Together' monthly 24 hour prayer vigil from 9am on the 9th
day of the month, to 9am on the following day.

*for more info. on any of these events, contact a chapel steward
(see page 2)*

Weekly Ecumenical Prayer Meeting Thursdays 8.00 pm
6 Broad Street, Black Torrington *(next to the Bead Shop)*

*See MAP for full details of services in Black Torrington
and at other chapels in the Shebbear circuit*

SERVICES AT WOODACOTT METHODIST CHAPEL

Sunday 7th February	11.00 am	Rev P Bolt
Sunday 14th February	9.30 am	Mark Shepherd
Sunday 21st February	11.00 am	Joint Service with Holsworthy Beacon
Sunday 28th February	11.00 am	Pastor D Wilson

For further details, please contact Iris Fry 01409 261322

The Tuesday Group

Bible exploration & discussion

11.00 am Tuesday 9th February

The Badger House, Black Torrington

(the home of Kate & Benjie Inniss)

This month we shall continue with the topic 'Journeys',
All are welcome

LISTENING TO GOD

Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you - James 4:8

A prayer meeting to enable us to take time to 'wait upon the Lord' - to strengthen our relationship with him; to discern his will and learn how to accomplish it.

Next meeting 8.00pm Thursday 11th February

6, Broad Street, Black Torrington

(the home of Gavin and Kelly O'Meara)

ALL WELCOME - PLEASE JOIN US

More info if required from Maureen 231448

Benefice Prayer Breakfast

Monday mornings

The Rectory, Black Torrington

8.00 am (breakfast) 8.30 am (prayers)

All Welcome

THE PRAYER CHAIN

A group of people who pray privately (and in strict confidence)
for specific situations.

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of prayer for any reason,
please contact:

Maureen Dean - 231448 (if unavailable Kelly O'Meara - 020 3174 0047)

Margaret Taylor - 281327 (if unavailable Sheila Granger 281383)

*...and if you would like to be part of this unseen but essential ministry,
please contact Maureen*

TIME OUT LUNCH

12.30 pm Thursday 25th February
Black Torrington Village Hall

Have lunch with us!

Everyone within Black Torrington benefice and the local Methodist area is invited to join us for a light meal and a time of friendship. No set charge, but a small donation towards costs is appreciated.

Bookings to Maureen or Alan
01409 231448

The BBC (benefice families and children's group) invite families with primary aged children and beyond, to join in the fun at Bradford Village Hall, 10.30-11.30 am on the 2nd Saturday in each month

Next meeting: **Saturday 13th February**

Games, craft, stories, songs, refreshments - and a chance to learn simple Christian truths and beliefs.
More info from: Gina 01409 281652 or Morag 01409 281800

Youth Group

For ages 11 to 16
Meeting at Bradford Village Hall
Saturday 27th February
7.00 pm—9.00 pm

Deanery Confirmation

The 2010 Deanery confirmation, with Bishop Bob presiding, will be held in St Mary's on June 13th.
If you, or anyone you know, are thinking of being confirmed, or would like to explore again what it means to be confirmed, please contact Kathy (231279) as soon as possible.

Black Torrington Village Hall

Table Top Sale

10.00am - 12 noon

Saturday 27th February

Suitable items for St Mary's table (cakes, saleable bric-a-brac, etc) will be gratefully received, and may be given to Sheila (231581) or Anne (231231)

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, HIGHAMPTON

HAITI DISASTER APPEAL

Coffee Morning

'Little Acorns' Burdon Lane, Highampton
(*the home of Val and David Letheren*)

10.00 am - 12 noon Thursday 11th February

Raffle, etc.

raffle prizes, and offers of help on the day gratefully received.

Contact Val 231430

Open Day at Cookbury Church

Friday 26th February

Time to be advised - please see posters/pewsheets for details

Drop in for coffee and refreshments and a time to discuss the issues of poverty.

Provisional programme features Vivian England from Devon Aid Korogwe... school children's thoughts and ideas about poverty.

Advance Notice

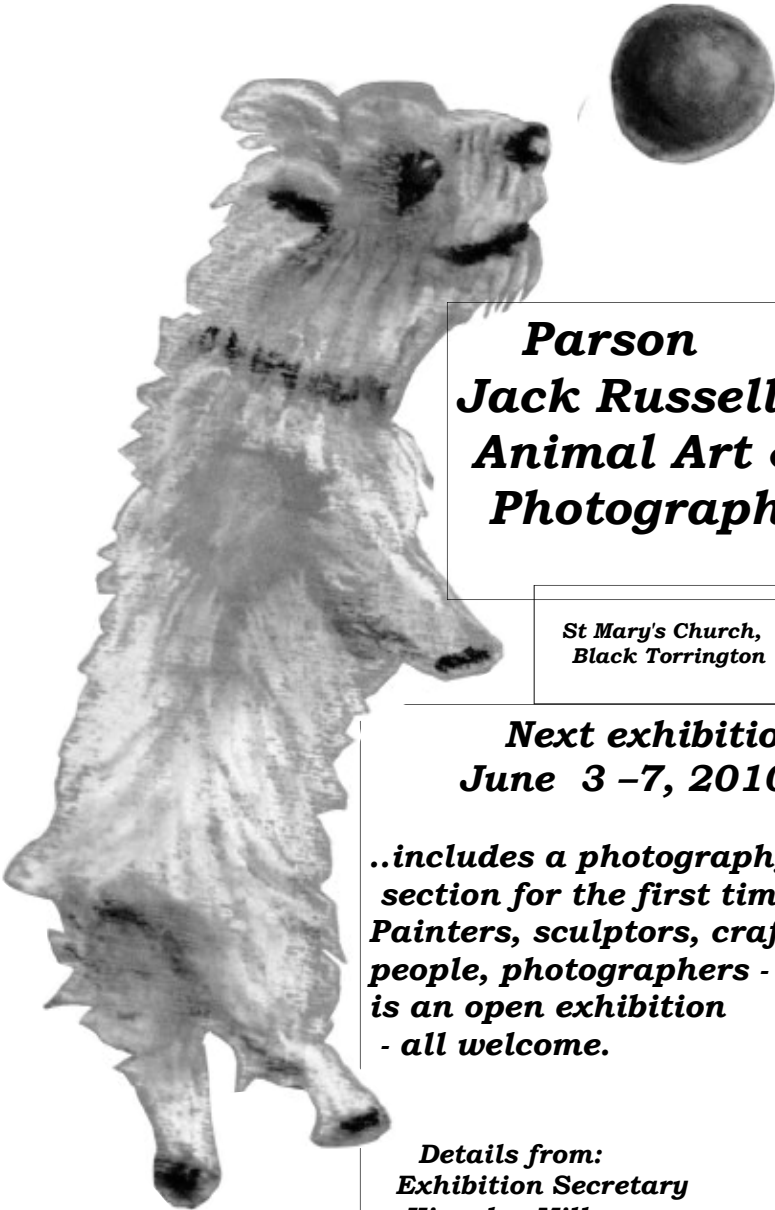


Burdon Grange Easter Fair

Saturday 27th March - 2.00 pm
Highampton Village Hall

Easter Bonnet Competition

Categories: Child/Adult/Resident



**Parson
Jack Russell
Animal Art &
Photography**

*St Mary's Church,
Black Torrington*

**Next exhibition
June 3 -7, 2010...**

***..includes a photography
section for the first time.
Painters, sculptors, crafts
people, photographers - this
is an open exhibition
- all welcome.***

***Details from:
Exhibition Secretary
Kingsley Mill
Black Torrington
Beaworthy EX21 5HS
Tel: 01409 231209
Email: lanefox@hotmail.com***

The Collect and Readings for Sunday 31st January

(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

The Readings:

Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-end
Luke 2:22-40

The Collect:

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. Amen

Readings for February- to help you as you prepare for services

Sunday 7th February (G) *2nd Sunday before Lent*

Genesis 2: 4b-9,15-end
Revelation 4
Luke 8: 22-25

Sunday 21st February (P) *1st Sunday of Lent*

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Romans 10: 8b-13
Luke 4: 1-13

Sunday 14th February (G) *Sunday next before Lent*

Exodus 34: 29-end
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9: 28-36

Sunday 28th February (P) *2nd Sunday of Lent*

Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18
Philippians 3: 17-4:1
Luke 13: 31-end

Note: readings may vary at some services, according to the theme

THE PILGRIM'S GUIDE TO DEVON'S CHURCHES

*The Location, History, Architecture and Stories of Devon's
618 Church of England Churches*

We still have a limited number of these books for sale at
below the recommended price - please ask a churchwarden
if you would like to see a copy.