



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

# CONNECTED

The monthly Anglican/Methodist  
newsletter  
JANUARY 2010

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- A word from your minister ...pages 3-4
- January services ...pages 6-7
- News items and 'what's on' ...pages 8-10
- January bible readings .. ...page 12

*Anglican*  
Rev. Kathy Roberts  
The Rectory  
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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](http://www.black-torrington-benefice.org.uk)

### **Circuit Website:**

[www.shebbearcircuit.ning.com](http://www.shebbearcircuit.ning.com)

### **Magazine Contacts**

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*hello from me...*

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

2009 has now become the old year' and we greet the New Year - 2010. It is 10 years since the millennium celebrations and what momentous years they have been for us all! The future looks far less settled and secure than it did 10 years ago. There was 9/11, and then the bombings in London known as 7/7, the Iraq War which has now become the war in Afghanistan. There have been tsunamis and terrorist attacks, climate change issues, kidnaps and killings, banking crises and an economic downturn. There is much to leave us feeling somewhat pessimistic about the future!

God knows how fearful and anxious we become about all sorts of things - the future, our families, our finances. And he speaks directly to anxious frames of mind and says Fear not. The Bible contains that phrase 365 times - one for each day you wake up in the morning. Fear not, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters of trouble, I will be with you. The difficulties will come - and sometimes they come thick and fast! - but fear not, says the Lord, I am with you in it all.

The New Year for the benefice will be interesting and varied. We need to continue to pray for the work of our churches, encouraging one another to grow in faith, and always being welcoming to those who come to worship with us.

Training opportunities will continue this year. We are hoping to train people from the benefice and from the Methodist church to be pastoral visitors. I am fully aware that much pastoral visiting is done informally, but we are also needing those with a little more formal training and who are recognised by their churches as pastoral carers, to go out into our communities to be alongside people in need.

For people who want to deepen their relationship with the Lord, we will be starting *Companions in Christ* which is a 'small group experience in spiritual formation'. This will be a chance to explore informally topics such as prayer and discerning God's will. Please contact me for further details.

Christmas is hardly over and we are starting to look ahead towards Lent! Our Lent course this year is one of the very popular York courses which are widely used in Britain and throughout the world. The courses are committed to ecumenical activity and to honest exploration, sharing and deepening of faith. This year's course is entitled *When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours*. Sign-up sheets will be available in the back of the churches very shortly. Do consider committing to five weekly sessions during Lent to reflect on your faith journey.

Reader in training, Karen Wainwright, will be coming to us to observe and to share in the life of the benefice. She will also have opportunities to lead worship and to preach. She will be here between January and March. Later on in the year a South African ordinand, Ann Currie, will be staying in the benefice for a short placement. She too will have an opportunity to preach and to lead worship. We look forward to welcoming both of them amongst us!

I do trust that this coming year will be a happy and fulfilling one for you.

With my love and prayers  
Kathy

For those who feel drawn to the healing ministry, this is an opportunity not to be missed! Russ Parker has much experience in the area of the Christian healing ministry. He heads up the Acorn Christian Foundation which is an organisation working with the church in the areas of Reconciliation, Listening and Healing.

## Celebrate Christ the Healer

A time of teaching, workshops, worship and healing  
prayer

led by Rev Dr Russ Parker

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010, North Devon District  
Hospital, Barnstaple, Lecture Theatre  
2.30 – 4.30 p.m. or 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Heanton Church Hall,  
Wrafton

A choice of morning or evening sessions

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Exeter Cathedral  
10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

10.00 a.m. Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010,  
Service at St Augustine's Church, Heanton,

For further information, please contact Kathy (231279)

## **Black Torrington Benefice Services in January**

*Services at parish church unless otherwise indicated*

### **Sunday 3rd January**

9.30 am Thornbury Holy Communion  
11.15 am Black Torrington Family Holy Communion  
4.00 pm Bradford Evensong

Wednesday 6th January *The Feast of the Epiphany*

10.00 am Bradford Holy Communion

### **Sunday 10th January**

9.30 am Bradford Morning Prayer  
11.15 am Highampton Holy Communion  
6.30 pm Thornbury Evening Prayer

*Please note there will be no service at Black Torrington, please do join with one of the other services in the Benefice*

Thursday 14th January

9.00 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

### **Sunday 17th January**

9.30 am Bradford Morning Prayer  
9.30 am Thornbury Family worship  
11.15 am Black Torrington Family Holy Communion

Monday 18th January

9.00 am Highampton Holy Communion

Thursday 21st January

9.00 am Black Torrington Morning Prayer  
9.30 am Thornbury Morning Prayer

### **Sunday 24th January**

9.30 am Bradford Holy Communion  
11.15 am Black Torrington Holy Communion  
11.15 am Highampton Morning Prayer  
6.30 pm Thornbury Holy Communion

Thursday 28th January

9.00 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

### **Sunday 31st January**

10.30 am Black Torrington Benefice Holy Communion

Gluten free wafers are available at all services of Holy Communion.

6 If you require these please inform the person on duty at the door.

## METHODIST SERVICES IN JANUARY

### Black Torrington Chapel

Service every Sunday 11.00am

*Village Sunday School fourth Sunday every month*

**Sunday 10th January**

Mr B Searle

**Sunday 17th January**

Mr R Sambles

**Sunday 24th January**

Mrs S Griffin

**Sunday 31st January**

Mr J Guy

### 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**

For details of services in January,  
please contact Iris Fry 01409 261322

## **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 **Monday 18th January**  
*Items received after the deadlines may not be included*

## **The Tuesday Group**

*Bible exploration & discussion*

11.00 am Tuesday 12th January  
The Badger House, Black Torrington  
(the home of Kate & Benjie Inness)

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 7th January**

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

## **ALPHA COURSE**

Alpha Course begins with a meal at 7.00 pm on  
Wednesday 6th January in Sheepwash village hall.

Lifts can be arranged through Maureen Ellis.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **TIME OUT LUNCH**

**12.30 pm Thursday 28th January**  
**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 9th January**

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 23rd January**  
7.00 pm—9.00 pm

## **Black Torrington Village Hall**

### **Table Top Sale**

10.00am - 12 noon

Saturday 30th January

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

Would anyone like to take on the making of the eco bags for DAK? Morag has decided to suspend operations for the time being. There are still some bags available at this time. Please contact Morag on 281800.

### **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*

### **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.

Letter received from Samaritan's Purse



St Mary's Church  
Black Torrington

Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, this year almost 21,000 boxes have been sent from the Exeter warehouse to needy children in Kiev and Serbia making their Christmas really special, a magnificent achievement in the present financial climate.

We wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Yours sincerely

*Rodney*

Rodney & Doris Olding  
District Co-ordinators

*The Collect and Readings for Sunday 27th December (1st Sunday of Christ-*

**The Readings:**

1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26  
Colossians 3: 12-17  
Luke 2: 41-52

**The Collect:**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ

**Readings for January-** to help you as you prepare for services

**Sunday 3rd January (W)**  
*2nd Sunday of Christmas*  
Jeremiah 31: 7-14  
Ephesians 1: 3-14  
John 1: 10-18

**Sunday 10th January (W)**  
*The Baptism of Christ*  
Isaiah 43: 1-7  
Acts 8: 14-17  
Luke 3: 15-17, 21, 22

**Sunday 17th January (W)**  
*2nd Sunday of Epiphany*  
Isaiah 62: 1-5  
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11  
John 2: 1-11

**Sunday 24th January (W)**  
*3rd Sunday of Epiphany*  
Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a  
Luke 4: 14-21

**Sunday 31st January (W)**  
*4th Sunday of Epiphany*  
Ezekiel 43: 27-44.4  
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13  
Luke 2: 22-40

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