

UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - January 2007

ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan 7th | 6.00pm | Readers | Mr R Webber & Mrs G Langdon |
| | | Sidesmen | Mr P Webber |
| Jan 14th | 8.00am | HOLY COMMUNION BCP | |
| | | Readers | Me E Beckett & Mrs S Thompson |
| | | Sidesmen | Mr J Howe |
| Jan 21st | 6.00pm | EVENSONG | |
| | | Readers | Lady Burns & Mrs M Russell |
| | | Sidesman | Mr R Neal |
| Jan 28 th | 11.15am | FAMILY SERVICE | |
| | | Readers | To be arranged |
| | | Sidesman | Daniel, Nick and Mark Matravers |
| Feb 4 th | 6.00pm | EVENSONG | |

FLOWERS & BRASS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Jan 6 th & 13 th | Elaine Gardner |
| Jan 20 th & 27 th | Jackie Ablett |
| Feb 2 nd & 9 th | Jan Rice |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT A GLANCE

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 4 th | First day of school term at Cutcombe |
| January 8 th | Moorland Hall Meeting |
| January 25 th | Cutcombe PCC Meeting at Combe |

IN MEMORIAM

We were all very sorry to hear of the sad death of Ron Atkins from Pinehill, Cutcombe after a long illness. Our thoughts are with Linda and all the family. **R.I.P.**

CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday 9 th January | Teas – Jill Wood |
| Tuesday 23 rd January | Teas – Eve Cummins |

MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB – DECEMBER DRAW

£20 No. 54 Mr & Mrs Colin Stevens: £10 No. 2 George Trinkle:
£5 No 39 Major General & Mrs Beckett.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

£50 to each of the following:

No. 45 Mr & Mrs R Delve: No. 119 Mrs J Ratcliff: No. 66 Anne Clarbull:
No. 53 Mrs Jean Webber: No. 12 Mr & Mrs P Parfitt.

£20 to each of the following:

No. 49 Misses M & R Brinkley: No. 77 Phil Koch: No. 21 Janet Webber:
No. 41 Eileen Webber: No. 148 Brian Cummins.

£10 to each of the following:

No. 44 Mr & Mrs C Stevenson: No. 84 Mr Bertram Sample:
No. 15 Mr & Mrs W Land: No. 127 Mr & Mrs D Davies:
No. 52 Mr & Mrs F Messenger.

CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on 19th December, too late for a report to appear in this magazine: minutes and draft minutes of all meetings are available on the website www.wheddoncross.org.uk and are posted on the Parish noticeboards at Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge.

Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride

A meeting to discuss the Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride Scheme for future years took place on 30th November 2006 which was attended by representatives of groups using the Moorland Hall and other interested parties. A second, open, meeting is arranged for Wednesday 10th January at 6.30 pm in the Moorland Hall at which an Exmoor National Park officer will be present to answer public questions and concerns. The meeting will be chaired by Eric Clarbull, at the request of the Chairman of the Parish Council which is bringing together interested parties to discuss arrangements for future years. Please would you let Eric or Marlene have prior notice of any questions for the ENPA representative: hand them to

Eric or leave in the Londis shop folder for collection by Marlene *no later than 4th January 2007 please.*

Parish Plan

The Parish Council has completed a grant application to the Community Council for Somerset for funding to prepare a Parish Plan. If funding is received it is hoped to involve all sectors of the community in the Plan preparation: a meeting will be arranged, hopefully in late January 2007.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16th January 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Moorland Hall. The agenda will be available on the website and on the Parish Noticeboards in Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge several days beforehand. Please remember that all parishioners are warmly welcomed at Parish Council meetings and time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions and statements.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

The combined fund-raiser with the school and Moorland Hall benefited the church by in excess of £400. This was a lively and enjoyable evening with good food, fun on the gaming tables and finally finishing with an Auction of Pledges.

The Church Bingo and the Whist Drive also saw the hall full with an array of super prizes. These evenings raised £205.79 and £360 respectively. Most grateful thanks to all our most generous sponsors for all these events. Without your help the magnificent totals could not have been achieved.

The results of the Auction at Livestock Show will be in next month's magazine. Our thanks to Peter Huntley of Exmoor Farmers and the Christmas Show Committee for all their valuable support without which the Church would be very much poorer.

Carol Service

A full Church with the support of the School enjoyed the start of Christmas festivities. Bryan White, our head teacher, accompanied the children in their songs including a new 'upbeat' tune to Away in a Manger. Afterwards most people stayed for coffee and mincepies.

GOODBYE FROM US

A MESSAGE FROM PAUL AND PETA

Hopefully by the time you read this we will have had the opportunity to say goodbye to you in person. But we wanted to take this more official opportunity to say a very big 'thankyou' to all our friends and neighbours in Wheddon Cross and Cutcombe who have helped make our seven years in the village such a happy time. Right from the start we felt welcomed and supported and we would like to thank all of you for that.

A special thanks must go to our immediate neighbours who have all come to our rescue during various minor crises - Roger and Eileen for numerous kindnesses, from helping us sort things out when THAT lorry drove into our lounge, to ensuring our guests were well-supplied with runner beans and field mushrooms; Chris and Teresa for coming to our aid on the many occasions we ran out of the essential ingredient for that night's dinner; Brian and Sandra for laughs, letting Paul watch Preston North End being knocked out in the play-offs on Sky TV (more laughs) and lending us Sean; Charlie for technical support and Mully for emergency washing-up and chat.

So many other people have given us so much support and kindness that we can't name you all, but we can't go without saying a particular thank you to Arthur and Edgar for all those wonderful flowers - summer's not going to be the same without them. Our final thanks must go to all those who have worked with us over the past seven years: Mully, Natalie, Nicky, Sean and the best cleaner in West Somerset - Audrey - not so much a cleaner/housekeeper, more a surrogate Mum (how Paul's supposed to remember when to put the rubbish out without her, we just don't know.) Although we are looking forward to our new life on the Isle of Wight, we

know we are going to miss Exmoor House, the village and the beauty of the Exmoor countryside. We look forward to coming back as visitors and having someone else cook OUR breakfast! And we hope some of you will make it down to visit us once we get settled on the Isle of Wight. We hope to be in our new home by the end of February, but in the meantime, our new email address is paulandpeta@hotmail.co.uk Paul and Peta

AND HELLO FROM

Rosie Davis and Frank Velandar who have just taken over from Exmoor House Country Hotel. We both originally came from the north and moved to Somerset from Worcester six months ago, staying with friends while looking around for a small hotel to buy. We liked Wheddon Cross immediately on our first visit and decided it was the place for us. Frank already knows the area fairly well from his days as the Youth Hostel Association's Regional Manager for the south west.

Between us we have many years experience in the travel and tourism industry. Frank is also a trained chef and Rosi a writer and marketing consultant. We will continue to run Exmoor House along the same lines as Paul and Peta with a high standard of accommodation and delicious breakfasts and dinners made with local produce.

In addition to offering accommodation we are planning some 'extras' too. Rosi is a complementary therapist and will be offering Reiki and Metamorphic Technique sessions. Later we will be offering courses, healing retreats and other special events: watch this space!

We reopen Exmoor House on 3rd January. The dining room will also be open from the 3rd as a daytime tearoom serving morning coffee, afternoon tea and light lunches.

On 2nd January we are having an 'Open Day' at Exmoor House from 11am til 4pm. Why not drop in for tea and cake, meet us, and have a look around.

Exmoor House Open Day

Wheddon Cross



A very special hotel, in a very special place

You are invited to visit our hotel on
Tuesday 2nd January
11am – 4pm

Come and join us for tea, coffee and
cake and have a look around

A Happy Christmas and
Prosperous New Year to everyone.

Rosi and Frank

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just to remind you that contributions towards the printing of the magazine would be gratefully received. Please can you give your money to your distributor or leave it clearly marked in an envelope at Dunkery View.

WHEDDON CROSS CARNIVAL CLUB

Due to the date of our last carnival we could not get the result in December's issue. So here we are in January.

Firstly a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Our last carnival of the season was Tiverton on the 25th November

Considering the weather we had during the day of wind, rain and hail stones the evening turned out to be perfect, the skies cleared & it was quite warm. We all arrived in plenty of time with no hitches on the way. Mick promised us once again that the train was up and running and ready to roll. And he was right it worked a treat Hurray! He took it for a test run before judging just to prove he was right but wished he hadn't after forgetting to duck before going into the cave OUCH thanks Mick.

Well with the children on top form & everything working the judges showed their appreciation & gave us FIRST prize in the juvenile class. Thanks to all involved for your hard work and commitment. Thanks again to all our sponsors & also to Eddie Schofield & Philip Webber for giving us some diesel when we were running low in the generator.

Finally we are hoping to start a Bonus Ball fundraising game early in 2007 with some other events to follow. Watch this space for more details
Chris Matravers (secretary)

CUTCOMBE SCHOOL

I wish to thank everybody for a tremendous first term. It is such a pleasure to work in such a wonderful school in a great community - I have loved every minute! When I look back at the term we have achieved so much.

Not only have the children been learning a great deal, they have had specialist gymnastics and dance coaches, visited Bristol (music concert) and Wells (Cathedral), been involved with designing stained glass windows and a drumming workshop. All culminating in an extremely successful Christmas Nativity last week, raising over £100 for charity (St. John's and Children's Hospice).

As with any new Head there are bound to be some changes, but with the excellent support from parents, governors and staff I have already had I believe we can make these changes together for the benefit of the children.

The memory of this term I will take away this Christmas is the children's faces when they had finished the Nativity. They were the tallest I had seen them with huge smiling faces – it was fan dappy dossy!

Bryan White

The children performed a fantastic production called 'Rock around the Flock' in the Moorland hall on the new stage with music and dancing and sang three songs at St John's Church Carol Service.

The end of term saw a visit from Father Christmas at the their party, a visit to Aladdin at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter and Christmas lunch at the Rest and be Thankful.

4th Jan – First Day back to school after the Christmas holidays.

Tesco Vouchers

If you do have any vouchers lying around then now is the time to send them in. Please bring them in as soon as possible to the office. Thank you.



COMPUTER DROP-IN SESSIONS

Two sessions will be held during January at the Moorland Hall on Tuesdays the 9th and 23rd from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Cost: £2 per hour. Maximum of 4. Tel: Marlene on 841193 to book (one hour or two): ***a place cannot be guaranteed if not prebooked.***

Proceeds from the sessions have so far purchased two new typing chairs with arms and a mouse for the laptop computer.

WEATHER EYE



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**

November was a month of 2 parts weatherwise. The first week was dry, with sunny days, light winds and white overnight frosts with 4 of the 6 recorded air frosts for the month. The lowest temperature on the 3rd was -3°C. By the 7th a change was on the way, with fog morning and evening and only hazy sunshine. The 8th brought a rise in temperature and more grey skies, but with some sun in the afternoon and damp overnight. The 9th was a beautiful sunny day with frost early in the evening and a low overnight temperature of -2°C. The 10th, after a frosty start, was grey with a chilly west wind and rain after dark. This set the trend for the rest of the month.

The remainder of November proved very unsettled. Damp grey days followed each other with gales at times. St Hilda's Day, on the 17th, brought thunder and lightning overnight into the 18th, which in turn gave us heavy showers with hail at times.

Thunder in November – a beautiful year to follow

More hail showers fell on the 21st, but the 22nd proved milder although foggy first thing. The rest of the month continued mainly mild with lots of showers. A bumble bee was seen on the 26th on the winter flowering honeysuckle and a dragonfly on the 28th in Knowle Lane.

The 30th, St Cuthbert's Mayne's Day, was almost totally dry with some sun. Cuthbert Mayne was born near Barnstaple in 1544, educated at Barnstaple Grammar School and subsequently ordained a Protestant

Minister. He went to Oxford University (graduating with a M.A.) where he changed to Catholic persuasions. He was arrested and executed in 1577 for refusing to swear to Elizabeth 1st's ecclesiastical supremacy.

Total rainfall was 225mm (9") falling on 22 days making this the wettest November since 2002, which had 227.5mm.

COPY FOR MAGAZINE

Do please keep sending in bits and pieces of interest. If possible please send them to me at cynthste@talktalk.net or ring me on telephone 01643 831513 and arrange somewhere for me to collect your article. *Thanks Cynthia*