

# Sunday Snippets

## New Year, Same old Weather

There were not many opportunities between Christmas and New Year to venture out and walk (or run) off some of the extra pounds most of us will have gained through over-indulgence of the many irresistible goodies which were all too readily available. Storms prevailed and the only consolation was that, with very few exceptions, we escaped the trauma of floods and damage suffered by so many in the north of the country and Scotland. Our hearts go out to them and we pray that they can resume some sort of normal existence without too much delay. Some dry, settled and more normal seasonal weather seems some way off at the moment. On the world stage, we would hope that all those in power will strive to achieve greater peace amongst and within nations.



## Looking Ahead



Apart from predicting that the weather will prove unpredictable in 2016, we can also anticipate something of what will be happening in the parish during the months ahead. It is planned that work should proceed with installing the new disability toilet and baby changing facility in church in April. This year also sees the Quinquennial Inspection of St Edward's when the fabric of the building and fixtures and fitting are scrutinised to see whether they come up to scratch.

This inevitably results in a list of works to be undertaken – in priority order of importance – and the accompanying expense for which budgeting becomes necessary. We can only hope that nothing major comes to light. There are bound to be further developments in the churchyard as the year progresses. Initially, it is hoped that the bulbs will provide a colourful spring display. The insect friendly border at the foot of the west end and the wild flower meadow should be even more attractive and, who knows, the first honey may be produced by the churchyard bees? Youth work will be to the fore now that Libby is a well established staff member with some excellent volunteer workers. As the St Matthew's Academy grows, so there will be more opportunities for involvement there and we will be working much more closely with Christ Church, Estover in a new Mission Community arrangement.



## Thanks to the Donkey Sanctuary.....

A cheque for £100 is being sent to the Donkey Sanctuary as thanks for them providing the services of Boomer and handlers for the Christmas Eve Church Nativities. The donation comes from the retiring collections of both services with a balance of £70 being paid into church funds.



## PCC Meeting

This is an early reminder that the next Parochial Church Council Meeting will be held at the Vicarage on Wednesday, 20th January at 7.30pm.





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## .....and Thanks to the Workers

As well as the Nativities in church, all sorts of activities were taking place in the hall for which those responsible deserve recognition and appreciation. Particular mention should be made of the efforts of Pam, Terry and Mandy serving the refreshments (mince pies and mulled wine were most popular) and the mammoth task of washing up. The money donated totalled £138 which has been added to the church toilet fund.



## Only Joking!

A very angry Satan called a staff meeting. "Hades has become too soft," he ranted. "This is due to your complacency and idleness." Each of you little devils must tighten up, knuckle down and give guests a terrible time," he said. "I want them tested to the limit, tormented, humiliated. And there is a twist; you must hold out a false promise that things will get better." A fork-tailed junior executive, keen to prove he understood, piped up: "Like it is in golf, you mean?" Satan, taken aback, spluttered, "Hang on a bit. Nothing that strong. The guests are only human and remember they have to last out for eternity."



A woman screamed at her husband: "You're going to be really sorry. I've decided to leave you." "Make up your mind," said the husband. "Which is it going to be?"

## Communal Christmas Card

The envelopes containing donations given by those who accepted the invitation to convey their greetings to fellow church members through the communal card, thereby saving the time, trouble and expense of giving individual cards, have been sent to the Charity, Embrace the Middle East together with £50 from St Edward's. Many were Gift Aided and we will make known the amount raised when acknowledgement is received from Embrace.



## New Year's Day Swim

Sometimes you cannot quite believe what you hear but apparently it is absolutely true that members of the Routledge family – Helen, Martha, Joe and Connie - summoned up the courage to take a New Year's Day dip from Wembury beach. All in aid of a good cause – to raise funds for the Shekinah Mission. Anyone wishing to retrospectively sponsor this foolhardy quartet is very welcome to do so.



## 'Live Simply so others may Simply Live'

11th January, 10.30-3.00pm at the Old Deanery, Exeter, EX1 1HS - Celebrate the New Year with a chance to reflect and reconnect. A retreat day of prayer and thought provoking talks, including Ian and Gail Adams (Beloved Life Retreats [www.belovedlife.org](http://www.belovedlife.org)) and Eucharist at Exeter Cathedral. Lunch will be provided. To book a place contact [charlotte.vickers@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:charlotte.vickers@exeter.anglican.org) or 01392 294934.

