

# **CHURCH OF ENGLAND DEVON: 2015 CALENDAR AND ANNUAL REPORT**

# WELCOME TO THE 2015 CALENDAR OF THE DIOCESE OF EXETER.

A graffiti artist famously sprayed on the wall of a New York subway station the slogan: 'Tomorrow has been cancelled through lack of interest'. Boredom is the great disease of the Western world which is tragic, given that we each have only one life to live. Pleasure can alleviate boredom by distracting us, but leave our real selves untouched. We can seek endless entertainment, but never liberate ourselves to live in a wholesome way. Helen Keller, the American author who was born not only deaf but blind as well, once wrote: 'One should never count the years – one should count one's interests. I have kept young, trying never to lose my childhood sense of wonderment. I am glad I still have a vivid curiosity about the world I live in.'

Some calendars are full of chocolate-box views of the Devon countryside and coastline, or pictures of some of our beautiful churches. This calendar is full of shots of people rather than buildings because at heart the church is people. The photographs reveal how rich and vibrant the life of our churches is in our witness to Jesus Christ. It testifies to a different way of living which has God at the centre and the service of others as our joy. I hope this year's calendar will not only help you organise your life better, but inspire you to treasure God's gift of life and celebrate it to the full.

+ Rul Exon

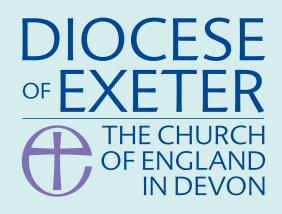
#### **USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

**Diocesan Offices: 01392 272686** 

**Safeguarding: 01392 345909/345910** 

**Bishop's Office: 01392 272362** 

Front and back cover photos: Jane Willis.

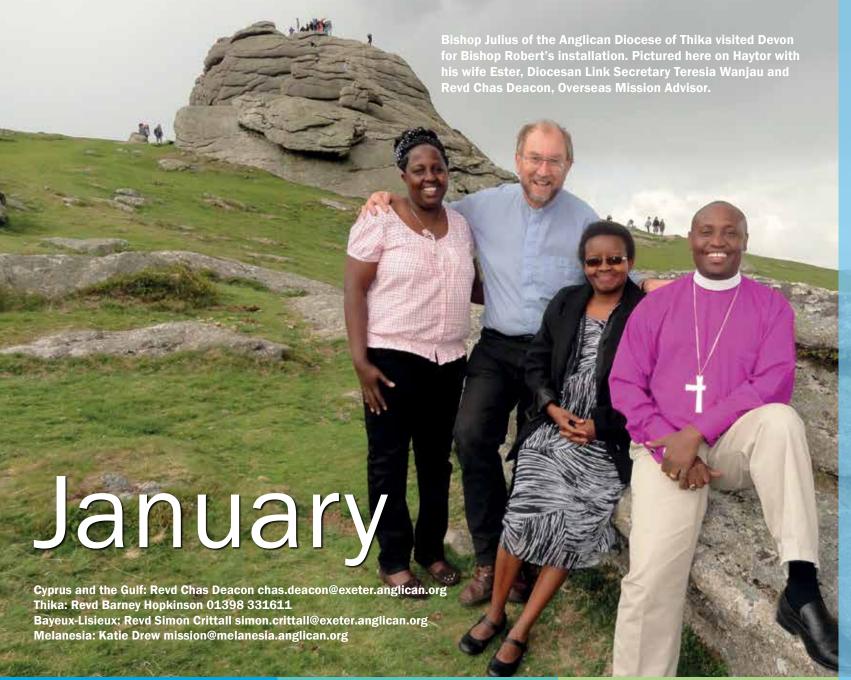




# LIVING OUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN DEVON



# **WORLD MISSION**



WE ARE GLAD to have close ties with four companion links and support each other in prayer and the outworking of the gospel.

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is perhaps the most culturally diverse in the Anglican Communion, spanning 1900 miles and nine countries. Of great concern are the situations in Iraq and The Yemen. Last year, Christians in parts of Iraq suffered terrible persecution. Please remember Bishop Michael Lewis as he encourages and leads this complex part of Christ's church.

Thika Exchange visits celebrated the installation of our new bishops, and a training placement in Thika has helped us grow in prayer and understanding. Money raised in Devon is enabling the construction of three small reservoirs in the driest area, and the Umoja Project is bringing sustainable development to needy parishes.

The link with the Catholic diocese of Bayeux-Lisieux in Normandy is an ecumenical friendship which has developed and grown with a biennial conference, exchange of preachers and other visits.

Devon's links with Melanesia go back 160 years when a young curate from East Devon, John Coleridge Patteson, was called to spread the Gospel there. The Anglican Church of Melanesia is so mission focused they have religious orders worldwide including the UK. Schools in Devon have active links encouraging cross cultural learning and companionship.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	wednesday	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	Bishop's Diocesan Council
Homelessness Sunday 18-25 Jan Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Holocaust Memorial Day	28	29	30	31

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### **READER MINISTRY**



**ACROSS THE DIOCESE nearly 200** licensed Readers are serving as lay ministers of the church. When robed they are identified by the wearing of a blue scarf. Readers have been selected and trained within the Church of England for nearly 150 years. Today the three year training is run by SWMTC (the South-West Ministerial Training Course) in Exeter and Plymouth. Each year men and women come forward to discern their vocation to Reader ministry. Training includes academic study, placements and supervised parish work. When Readers retire they continue to offer their ministry with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate. Many gather each year for a weekend conference in February.

The variety of work that Readers undertake is enormous – leading worship, preaching and teaching, small group leadership, pastoral visiting, home communions, funerals and bereavement ministry, baptism and confirmation preparation, ministry in schools, colleges, hospitals, prisons. The ministry given by Readers is a resource of great value as we seek to be the Church in every part of the Diocese, growing in prayer, making new disciples and serving the people of Devon.

Please pray for our diocesan Readers, readers-in-training, and those exploring whether they are called to licensed lay ministry.

CHRISTOPHER FUTCHER,
WARDEN OF READERS
archdeacon.of.exeter@exeter.anglican.org
Peter Colebrook, Reader Administrator,
peter.colebrook@exeter.anglican.org

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	wednesday	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Education Sunday						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Poverty Action Sunday 15 Feb-4 Apr The Carbon Fast	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22	23 23 Feb-8 Mar Fairtrade Fortnight	24	25	26	27	28





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# **MILLION FOR MISSION**



THE LIVING ROOM is a "not for profit" community café based at St Mary Magdalene Church in Torquay.

We opened in Summer 2011 when Trevor and Holly Tomkinson simply "put a pot of coffee on" and opened the doors of the Church.

Now The Living Room is open three days per week, supported by a number of local churches and provides coffee, bacon rolls and cake for between 60-100 people per day.

We aim to provide a relaxed, safe and friendly environment where people feel accepted, valued and respected regardless of their beliefs, background or status.

The funding we received from Million for Mission has helped provide this wonderful community cafe that is reaching and changing our community.

We recently asked our customers,"What does a bacon roll and The Living Room mean to you?" Here is what they told us:

"Having bacon rolls at The Living Room has kept me alive, I have meet new friends and I thank them from the bottom of my heart".

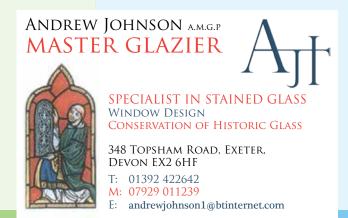
"It kept me from going hungry while I was on the streets, from all your caring I have found a home, a lot of amazing people and have become a Christian."

**REVD MARK SEARLE** 

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2-8 March Climate Week				Women's World Day of Prayer	Bishop's Diocesan Council 10:00-16:00
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	Diocesan Synod 10:00-16:00
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31				







# **CHILDREN'S WORK**

COMMITTED, faithful, hardworking, sacrificial, passionate, loving people. This could be describing many people in our congregations but it certainly applies to those who are paid or volunteer to share the Good News amongst children and families.

As they work with three generations of unchurched, it's all about building up positive encounters and friendships between families and Christians in those communities and not just on a Sunday morning. This happens in a variety of ways: lunchtime and after school Kids clubs, Messy Church, Sunday clubs, all-age worship, family fun days, Open the Book and many, many more.

Jesus didn't ask us to 'stay and wait for people to come', instead his final words charge all Christians to 'Go and make disciples' and those with a passion for children are often the ones full of ideas of how to do this. You don't have to be a children's worker to give a child (or their family) a positive experience of Christ and his church. All you need is a warm welcoming smile, a willingness to build friendships and an ability to pray regularly for the children and families you encounter. Growth is happening all over the Diocese where a person, or group of people, have said to God 'here I am, send me'. If this is you, please contact the Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, Katherine Lyddon, and find out what support, training, advice and resources are available to help you in this vital work.

Katherine.lyddon@exeter.anglican.org



Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
5 Easter Sunday	6 Easter Monday	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	13	14	13	10	17	10
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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# **CHURCH BUILDINGS**



THE CHURCH BUILDINGS OFFICE covers the work of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and the **Church Buildings Strategy Committee,** and advisers Louise and Eve should be the first point of contact for any queries relating to the church building or churchyard. Calling on their range of voluntary experts and specialist consultants, the DAC provides advice to PCCs about proposed works, offers training for Churchwardens and Fabric Committees, and the Advisers can help parishes through the faculty application process. For major projects, such as the one described below, parishes are encouraged to make contact with the office at an early stage.

TRUSHAM PCC'S vision was to provide a living vibrant place for worship when major conservation work was needed to secure the future of this ancient church building, which serves a small rural community in the heart of the Teign Valley. The project included a new stone floor providing level access for all, new moveable pews, up-to-date electrical provision and the cleaning and conservation of chancel paintings and ornate woodwork. The church was also redecorated. A week by week account of the project's progress can be found at www.trushamchurch.org.uk

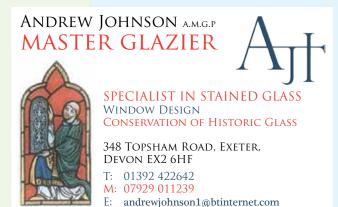
LOUISE BARTLETT,
SENIOR CHURCH BUILDINGS ADVISER
(01392) 294944
louise.bartlett@exeter.anglican.org

Eve Van der Steen, Church Buildings Adviser (01392) 294945 eve@exeter.anglican.org

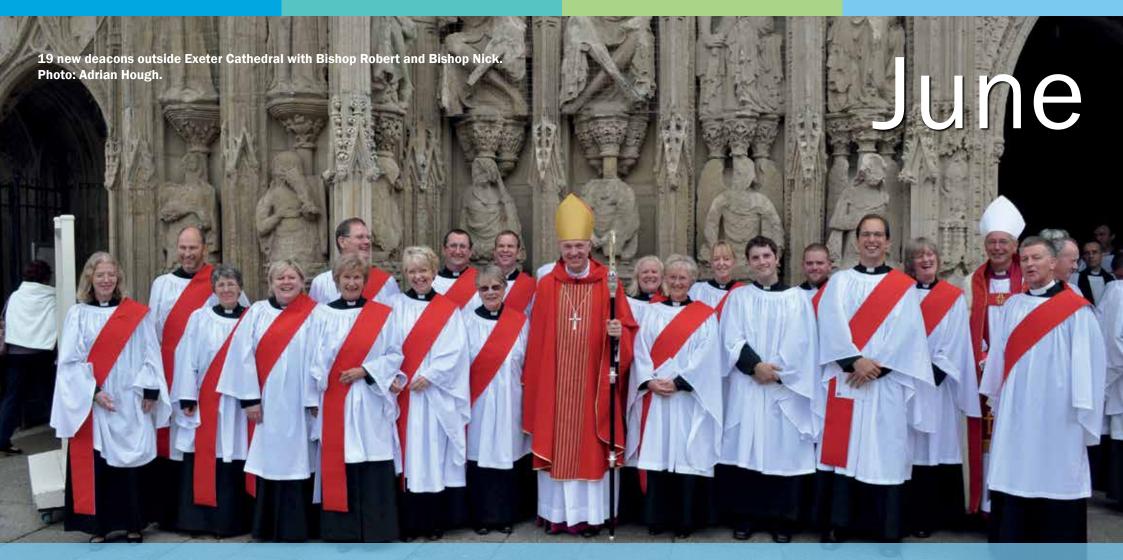
Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Early May bank holiday					World Fair Trade Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10-16 May Christian Aid Week		Bishop's Diocesan Council 18:00-21:00		Ascension Day		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	18-24 May Dementia Awareness Week					
Pentecost 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Trinity Sunday 31	Spring bank holiday					







# **ORDINATIONS**



GOD INVITES US ALL to share his mission in the world – and sometimes that means stepping outside our comfort zone! The Vocations team in the Diocese of Exeter help people explore their calling and how it might be worked out. It might be as a reader, a deacon or a priest, or it may be something completely different! Your own priest is often the best person to begin exploring your calling with.

The next step may be – if you are exploring a call to ordained or licensed ministry – to contact Vocations Adviser Philip Sourbut on philip.sourbut@exeter.anglican.org. Philip runs Exploring Ministry days several times each year and he can also arrange for you to meet a vocations adviser who will listen to you and support you as you explore God's calling. He also works closely with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Becky Totterdell and the Reader Administrator, Peter Colebrook. Bishop Robert last year ordained 19 new deacons and many new readers. We give thanks for each and every one and pray for more. Join us in praying and be aware that God may call you in answer to that prayer!

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Open Farm Sunday Environment Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 15-21 Jun Refugee Week	16	17	18	19	20
21 Poverty Sunday	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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# **SAFEGUARDING**



Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Disability Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sea Sunday	13	14	15	Bishop's Diocesan Council 18:00-21:00	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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# **YOUTH WORK**



IT SEEMS that youth work is like marmite. You either love it or hate it. It is either the answer to all our churches' problems or the beginning of all our complaints. We often get frustrated when we hear it said that young people are the future of the church because we feel that somehow we don't matter anymore.

It turns out a lot of young people don't want to be part of the future of the church either, they want to be a part of the church now.

In a recent survey, young people were asked to comment on their views of church. One focused on the fact that the youth don't want to be served – they want to serve. "Why should I wait until I'm older, why should I listen to the same lessons that applied to the generation before me and yet still make little difference today?"

How about leading prayers, being part of the welcome team, even letting them take over the pulpit one Sunday!

...surely it can't be that simple?
Well, in some ways it is and in others it isn't. Involving young people in the leadership of a church often means change which can be uncomfortable, but change also often means growth.
We have a rich resource in our youth, not only because of what they can bring but also because of we can learn from them.

PAUL REISBACH
DIOCESAN YOUTH ADVISER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Summer bank holiday 31					

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# **CHURCH SCHOOLS**

DURING THE PAST YEAR we have been allocated new primary schools in Plymouth and Exeter. This is exciting, as we haven't had a new church school in the diocese for over 100 years.

In Plymouth we were awarded the large primary school to serve the new housing development at Derriford, on land currently used by the hospital. It is due to open in September next year, which is a challenging timescale!

The school will be built under Plymouth Local Authority control, and will open in stages as the houses are built and occupied. It will eventually grow to have 630 pupils and a nursery. The governing body has been set up to undergo all the necessary tasks up to opening – setting the admissions policy, appointing the Headteacher, deciding upon the uniform – just a few things to keep them busy in a very short time. It is in the parish of Eggbuckland, and will be called St Matthew's. The school will be an Academy and be part of the St Christopher's Multi-Academy Trust.

In Exeter, our new school will be a Voluntary Aided Primary at Seabrook Orchard, Newcourt. The school is part of Michael Dart's visionary plan for the community, and will be close to shops, medical facilities and other services. It will open in September 2016, and will build up to a two form entry school of 420 children plus nursery.

PHILIP MANTELL,
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	1 Sep-4 Oct Creation Time	9	10	11	12
Racial Justice Sunday	14	15	16	17	18	19
Peacemaking Sunday 20-26 Sep World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel 20 Sep-4 Oct British Food Fortnight	Bishop's Diocesan Council 18:00-21:00 UN International Day of Peace	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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# **FAITH IN ACTION**



"LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD or in tongue, but in deed and in truth," said Francis of Assisi, and the Church and Society team helps people put their faith into action.

Almost a quarter of people living in Devon earn less than they need to cover basic costs. Church volunteers have supported 25 Foodbanks in Devon, which feed up to 466 people a week and the Devon and Cornwall Food Association has redistributed over 130 tonnes of food in Plymouth and Exeter areas. To address underlying causes, churches are taking part in the Living Wage campaign, debt management, fuel-poverty work and credit unions.

Over five thousand people are members of Devon's three credit unions: Plough and Share, The City of Plymouth and Plymouth Hope. This keeps £1.7 million savings within our communities, ready to lend to those in need. Thanks to local churchgoers, new Plough and Share branches have opened in Exmouth and Torrington and a Plymouth Hope branch in Plymstock library, reaching new customers. The Diocese of Exeter is a corporate member of each and encourages churchgoers to join.

Dementia touches many lives in Devon.
Churches and local partners in eight
cities and towns have worked to become
Dementia-Friendly. To help communities
include those living with early dementia,
eight clergy and Readers have trained
as Dementia Champions.

SALLY FARRANT 01392 294940 sally.farrant@exeter.anglican.org

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	wednesday	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	Diocesan Synod 10:00-16:00
11-18 Oct Week of Prayer for World Peace	12	13	14	15 International Credit Union (ICU) Day	16	17
Freedom Sunday 18-25 Oct One World Week	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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# **CHRISTIAN GIVING**



CONTRIBUTIONS from parishes last year enabled the Church of England in Devon to continue to provide mission and ministry across the whole of the diocese – we are all truly grateful for this. In 2013 our 613 churches contributed £8,621,000 towards the Common Fund and this enabled us to provide clergy, lay readers and staff to work with our schools.

A new initiative called the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is being offered to parishes across the diocese. It's an innovative way of encouraging regular giving in parishes and has a track record, in other dioceses, of increasing the level of giving. It has the facility for donors to ask for their contributions to rise each year in line with inflation - addressing the issue of static giving. The scheme is most successful when introduced as part of a giving/stewardship initiative within a parish. All of the administration is dealt with by the team looking after the PGS, which reduces the burden locally. All donations are received via a direct debit system, with the amount for each parish paid directly into the PCC's bank account each month, with gift aid already added.

We are all called to be God's disciples, and mission is a very important part of discipleship. This mission cannot happen without sacrificial giving. As it says in Hebrews 13:16 "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

katie.roscorla@exeter.anglican.org 01392 294960

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Saints Day 1 Nov–7 Nov Living Wage Week						
Remembrance Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
15-21 Nov Prisons Week 15-21 Nov Interfaith Week International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	Bishop's Diocesan Council
29	30					
First Sunday in Advent						

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# **EXETER CATHEDRAL**

2015 HAS BEEN the 350th anniversary of the building of the organ of Exeter Cathedral which was repaired recently at a cost of nearly £1m. Music – and the part it plays in our worship and mission – is a central part of the Cathedral's life.

December, and the huge number of musical events which take place during Advent and Christmas, is a great example of the ways in which music can help people add a spiritual dimension to their lives and have a sense of the presence of God.

The Cathedral, whether through music, education, looking after visitors or simply being a backdrop to peoples' picnics in the warm days of summer, seeks to be a gateway through which people might be able to respond to the call of God to them, and a place from which God's grace can be made known to many.

As we celebrate the Incarnation of our God among us in the birth of Jesus at this time, so we celebrate the opportunities we have to make the message of God's love among us known in our city and county.

As 2015 draws to a close, so we also look forward to a New Year full of the good things God will do for us as we seek to build with God his kingdom of justice, mercy and peace on earth.

THE VERY REVD JONATHAN DRAPER, DEAN OF EXETER www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		World Aids Day				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Second Sunday in Advent				Human Rights Day		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Third Sunday in Advent						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Fourth Sunday in Advent					Christmas Day	Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31		



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# **CLERGY HOUSING**

NEARLY 230 CLERGY FAMILIES live in houses maintained by the Property Services Team, enabling them to live within the communities that they serve. These houses often operate as study space, meeting room, church office and training venue, as well as private family home. They are a base from which to start ministry and a retreat in which to recharge from ministry.

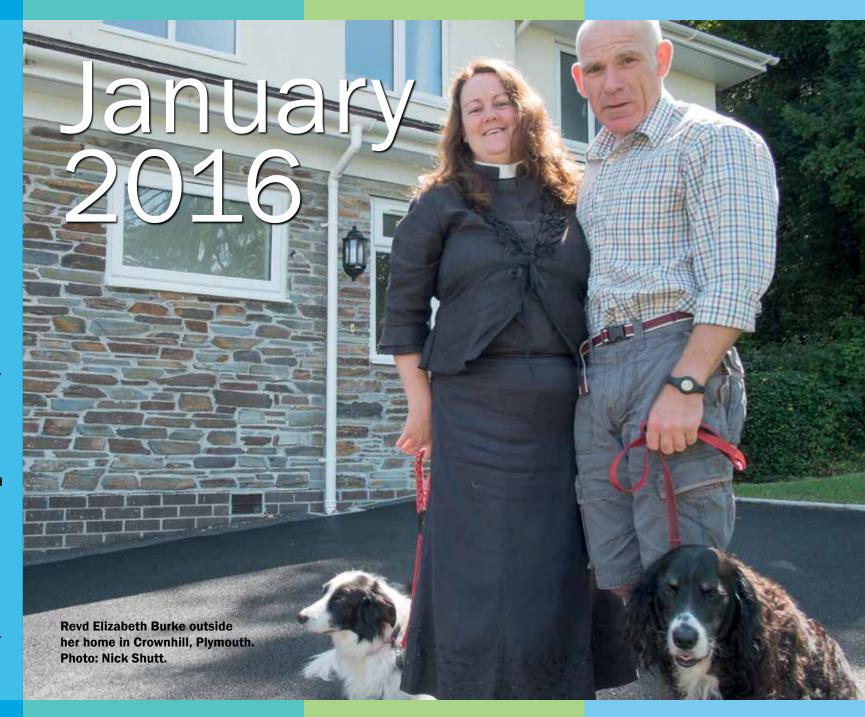
Each property is reviewed every five years, and as each new occupant moves in, so that major repair and redecoration is undertaken regularly.

Running repairs are also taken care of, whenever they arise, so clergy families spend as little time as possible with a faulty boiler or a leaky pipe.

The Revd Elizabeth Burke, Curate in the Holy Family Mission Community, is in her first post. "This is my first property as a curate and we have felt very supported by the property services team. They quickly dealt with any queries we had and gave us all the help they could. It was all sorted very quickly. Going into a new place we found we really didn't need to think about it."

This work is done by surveyors Graham Davies, Peter Stanton and Mark Lewis, and those who work with them, supporting clergy and their families by keeping their homes in order and removing some of the essential tasks that come with them. It is part of their ministry; serving those who serve others.

GRAHAM DAVIES,
PROPERTY SERVICES DIRECTOR



Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	New Year's Day	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Notes and numbers

# **FINANCE REPORT 2013-2014**

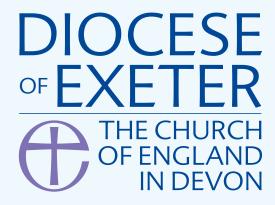
**DIOCESAN SYNOD** approved the paper 'Towards a Diocesan Mission Action Plan' in 2013 and this now guides where the diocese's resources are spent and which areas receive priority. This process has proved very beneficial; as it ensures that spending decisions are focussed on delivering key priorities. It was necessary to make significant budget savings in order to deliver an affordable budget in both 2013 and 2014 and maintaining an affordable budget is a key on-going priority. However, it has been possible to commit funds to support the development of mission communities over the next five years, by establishing a mission community development team, that now works in and alongside mission communities.

Financial performance in the last two years has been encouraging, with continuing increases in the level of Common Fund contributions received from parishes and a reduction in the number of parishes facing significant problems. However, we must not allow ourselves to become complacent. We have also seen an increase in the value of our investments and this enables the level of requested increase in Common Fund to be kept low, while at the same time providing resources to stimulate growth.

The biggest challenge facing the diocese over the next few years is how we respond to the projected fall in the number of people in our congregations, resulting from the current older age profile. If we are to remain relevant in today's society, then we must work together to grow significantly the number of young people and families involved with church in the future, through both traditional and new expressions of church – we must respond to the changing culture and engage with people in new ways. From a purely financial perspective, the first priority is to assess the impact of the projected fall in numbers and then to come up with realistic plans for how we can grow the number of people involved from younger age groups. This will involve investing in new initiatives and trying different ways to grow our church – key to this will be identifying the leadership and support required to stimulate this growth.

Initiatives such as the Parish Giving Scheme will hopefully assist parishes to increase the level of giving, which will then enable them to allocate more funds to support their local mission. We remain very positive about the future and we need to continue working as one family to ensure that every human community in Devon has a praying, worshipping and witnessing Christian presence, working to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to bring that community's life into the kingdom of God and that everyone has the opportunity to engage with the fullness of the Church's life locally.

**NEIL WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** 





# **INCOME 2014**

Where do we get our money from?

Breakdown of every £10 we receive



# **EXPENDITURE 2014**

Where do we spend the money we receive?

\* Other costs include Lay Pension deficit, EDBF Audit and Insurance, Human Resources and Land Registration

CLERGY, INCLUDING HOUSING £7.54

How every £10 we receive is spent

# Church of England Devon

# A Year in Pictures 2015 Calendar

