



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2018/2019

EDITOR'S NOTES

Yes, it is that time of year again when we ask for your payment if you still wish to receive a paper copy of the Bugle. We do not have a bank account as our costs are kept very low due to voluntary input and the kindness of the school in printing at cost. Therefore, please drop £3 in cash to cover the cost of 10 Bugles for the year, either to Steve at the Old School or to your distributor.

Moving on from the monetary side of things whilst at the First World War service in St Mary's it was pointed out that exactly 400 years ago Elizabeth Carew, in 1618, died in childbirth giving birth to a son. Moving back another 300 years or so the vestry door records the first vicar. Go back even further there are traces of Norman construction and who knows what pre-dated the stone building. A wooden Anglo Saxon church? Thinking about this does give you some sort of perspective on life and certainly our pretty short time scale, even going back 100 years ago to the closure of a terrible event in our history.

The Autumn this year has been one of the most colourful seen for many years. If you have never travelled north on the A396 through Tiverton, Bampton and over Exmoor to Dunster do take this route. At any time of the year it is well worth taking but this Autumn it was spectacular with the beech and oak trees at their finest.

We hope to see many of you at the traditional Christmas Service, this year to be held on the 23rd of December. Don't forget the New Year's Eve party in the village hall. Details are inside - this will be a great chance to avoid those overpriced festivities and have a fun time with others in the village. All friends will be very welcome.

In January our rector, the reverend Alan MacDonald, will be retiring. We wish Alan and his family the very best for the future and thank him for his years of service to the community.

The next Bugle will be the February publication. All that is left is for us to wish all readers the best of Seasonal Greetings and for a Happy New Year.

The Editors:

Tim Scott
Calendar Cottage

Steve Batt
The Old School

A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR



THE REVEREND ALAN MACDONALD

Dear friends,

A fond farewell

Way back in May 1995, at a Deanery Visitation in Aylesbeare Deanery, I asked the Archdeacon of Exeter whether my application to move from St John in the Wilderness, Exmouth to Exminster might be successful. He told me to forget it because the vacancy had been filled. So I asked were there any other parishes I might consider. He replied that there was the United Benefice of Silverton, Butterleigh, Bickleigh & Cadeleigh but he did not think that was right for me! He would, however, include me in the list of those to be interviewed, if I so wished. The rest is history.

I never found out why the Archdeacon had his reservations but they did not stop him supporting my appointment. I have spent the past 23 years discovering the joys and privileges of working in this lovely part of Mid Devon. Not once have I regretted coming. Not once have I thought of seeking fresh pastures.

As I approach my retirement in January I have mixed emotions. To go is the right thing: the parishes will profit from a fresh pair of eyes and new ideas that only a new incumbent can bring. But I feel sad about giving up the most rewarding of jobs which I have shared with a large group of able and supportive people.

I came to teach and have tried to do so, but I have learned much more. Through colleagues and through people trusting me with their deepest thoughts I have gained insights and understanding that no training course or book could provide. I thank all concerned.

I have been very well supported by four Church Councils and a good number of folk filling important roles, without whom our churches would have failed to function.

I will undoubtedly have disappointed and upset some people. I hope the number is small. To them I offer my sincere apologies.

Saying farewell is rarely easy and I know I am going to miss my active role as Rector. But I look forward to living in the village as a man of some leisure and to planning ways of helping the wider church in my retirement.

I will not be able to take services in the four villages until at least twelve months after my successor is appointed: that is the policy of the Diocese. That also means that I will have to worship elsewhere and to begin with I will attend the Cathedral. I am expected to keep a low profile to make way for my successor.

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ST MARY'S PEWS NEWS

DECEMBER

Christmas Services - In a major change from past decades the traditional service of Readings and Carols takes place at St Mary's Church on **Sunday 23rd December at 6.30 pm** not on Christmas Eve. The service on **Christmas Day is one of Holy Communion starting at 11 am.**

Remembrance - The focus for this centenary year since the cessation of hostilities from the First World War has been "Lest we forget". Year 5 from Bickleigh School led the school's own service of Remembrance then, later in the week, joined villagers in the Village Hall where the names of the parish fallen were read out. We were joined by Mrs Penny Roe of Cadeleigh who read a poem written by her father a Second World War veteran and handled some of Penny's and other's memorabilia from both world wars. The Parish service on the 11th raised some £200 for the work of the Royal British Legion. The school has also involved the pupils in raising funds and awareness for Children in Need and World Diabetes Day topping off November with a successful School Association Christmas Fayre.

Our Rector - I recall quite clearly the day in 1995 when our Rector, the Rev Alan MacDonald, visited our parish church quietly and on his own. I happened

to meet him as he left walking down the hill. We introduced ourselves. Alan in passing said to me that in the silence of the church's interior he had felt a strong spiritual sense of peace. Alan has been our tireless shepherd and teacher since that date. Now he is retiring. As Christians we look to the future in faith; belief and trust in God. That is our teaching. Many who come into St Mary's privily, remark in the Visitors' Book that sense of peace and of beauty. I refer to a building which has served the parishioners of Bickleigh for some seven hundred years. Outside the bounds of the church lies our parish graveyard. Not as old but tended with care as "God's Acre" a home to nature as it is to our dead, beloved family members. They are never forgotten.

To Alan, his wife Eileen and their family we pray for a peaceful transition. Very many of us are indebted to Alan in ways no other person will know. I offer these few, inadequate words, to a man of God. This I know in mind and heart.

Rev Thom Thompson

Assistant Minister, tel: 01884 855309





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DECEMBER

A POEM BY PHYLLIS NICHOLS

Christmas time for for girls and boy
Look Santa came in the night
Lots of fun with all the toys
Now the sky is getting light

Paper everywhere and string
What a lovely sight to see
Tomorrow we won't find a thing
Let's sit down and have some tea

Christmas cake was oh so nice
The trifle went down a treat
And the scones were gone in a trice
I'm sure we've had too much to eat

BICKLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

On Monday Evening 12th November Bickleigh Gardening Club held its' Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall. This was followed by entertainment from the talented Johnny Penfold. We enjoyed the usual bring and share supper after which the Raffle/Draw took place and the winner of the Flower of the Month Competition was announced.

The Club next meets at Bickleigh Mill on **Wednesday 9th January** for the Annual Lunch (assemble 12 to 12.15). If you have not booked already and would like to come please phone Judi!

The Next Evening Meeting with speaker is in the Village Hall on **Monday 11th March at 7.30pm.**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all Gardeners! Look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



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BICKLEIGH DRAMA NIGHTS

The Tantalising smells of the delicious Thai and Ceylon Curry suppers pervaded the walls of Bickleigh Village Hall as the Bickleigh Drama Group put on two evenings of a tasty meal followed by a Comedy Play. This is the fifth year that this small friendship group have taken to the stage to provide wholesome entertainment in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

The play, entitled "The Sharp End", by Geoff Bamber and licenced by Lazy Bee Scripts, is set at Hillcrest Manor where the Estate is to host a lavish trade function. Lady Elvira Hillcrest, (Rose Chanin), is not convinced that this is a good idea despite the efforts of event manager Matthew Sharp (Mark Radford) and his assistant Elaine Jenner (Helen May). Unfortunately Lady Hillcrest has other things on her mind, principally her son and heir Tarquin (Richard Chanin). He seems unable to acquire a bride with a view to carrying on the family line, so the flamboyant French personal stylist, Juste Valadier (Dave Fuller) is called in to turn Tarquin into a more attractive proposition. Also in attendance is a dour Eastern European hitman (Richard Somerwill) seeking out an as yet unnamed victim and clearly willing to eliminate anyone who gets in his way. The Housekeeper

(Siobhan Gilroy) and the mysterious Luda (Lynette Parkhouse) clearly have their own secrets which all add to the intrigue of a very cleverly written storyline. Add to the mix the homeless Finneran family (Jackie Mitchell, Neil Powell and Emily Vallis) and blunt Yorkshire businessman, Norman Arbuthnot (Paul Little), with whom the Hillcrests have 'history', and the words of Matthew Sharp's mantra - 'A successful Event is an Uneventful Event'- seem to fall on stony ground. Production of the performances was by Rose Chanin and the Technician was Adam Jones.

The play was performed for the evenings of 27th and 28th October and the responsive audiences indicated, without question, that the characterisation by all cast members enabled a complex tale to be delivered in a very approachable and easily-followed storyline.

Such was the enjoyment of the audience that their very generous donations to the charity enabled the cast to present a cheque to representatives of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust for the staggering amount of £1,634.77.

Rose Chanin



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BICKLEIGH VILLAGE HALL NEWS

QUIZ NIGHT - Our second quiz night, held on Saturday 17th November ran very smoothly and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The winners were 'Pennymoor Youth', who scooped the cash prize. The bar was well used - thanks to the two Steves for running it! The quiz night also raised around £50 for Shelter Box, through a 'Higher or Lower' cards round and a 'True or False?' round.

NEW FLOORING - The village hall will be closed for the week beginning 3rd December, as the old floor will be lifted and a new polysafe vinyl floor laid. We look forward to seeing the results!

NEW YEARS' EVE PARTY - Are you fed up with spending a fortune on overpriced meals out on New Years Eve? Not being able to drink as you have to drive home? Pricy babysitters? We have a solution! Join us on New Years' Eve for our all-ages New

Years' Eve party - children welcome! There will be a well-stocked bar (including Exe Valley beers and Venton's Cider). It is bring food to share and there will be an opportunity to have a dance with your friends and neighbours! Tickets are just £2 each and are available from Michelle Dennis in Lilac Cottage.

Email: michelledennis79@gmail.com

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EARLY PURCHASE OF TICKETS, SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH DRINK TO ORDER!

Here are our future events:

The BVH Committee

Richard S, Matt M, Lauren H, Kerry P, Derek H and Steve B.

NYE PARTY TIME!

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and all in-between!**

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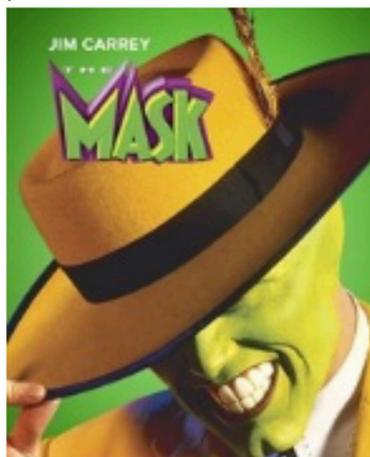
Fri 18th Jan.

Film night 'The Mask'

7pm for 7.30pm start.

Cans/Popcorn on sale

Suggested entry donation £2 per person



MORE DATES AT BVH....

Fri 1st Feb....

Bingo night!

6pm for 6.30pm start.

Chocolate prizes! Tuck shop/ bar.

Sat 23rd March...

The Embezzlers- live ska band from Exeter- dance the night away! Full bar

Coming soon.... 'Hidden Kitchen' village event.

Details soon!

HERE COMES CHRISTMAS IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Here comes Christmas it's that time of time of year for Santa to appear.

Snow is falling on the ground, everywhere you look snowflakes can be found.

Children wearing mittens in the snow, making snowballs they intend to throw.

Jingle bells a ringing, jing-a-ling, the sounds of Christmas echoes ring.

Parents and children skate on the lake, the children home for holiday break.

Children dream of Santa Claus as parents shop without a pause.

The days are bright, the nights so clear, the love and spirit of Christmas permeates throughout the wintery air.

Christmas carols sung at night under a dancing moon that glows so bright.

Chestnuts roasting, grown-ups toasting this special time of year, after a nip or two, all our woes and troubles seem to disappear.

Here comes Santa, it's Christmas Eve, he's finally here it's hard to believe.

Santa and his reindeers are now flying high, their lonely silhouettes dot the blackboard sky.

Empty stockings line the living room wall, hung for boys and girls who have images of Santa's gifts racing through their minds.

All in hope that they will find their stockings filled to the very top with toys and presents of every kind.

Joseph P. Martino



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Holy Communion St Mary's 8 am	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Remembrance Service St Mary's 10:55	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Family service St Mary's 11 am	17	18 Soup 'n' Pud Village Hall Midday-1pm	19	20	21	22
23 Readings & Carols St Mary's 6:30pm	24	25 Holy Communion St Mary's 11:00am	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve Party Village Hall 8pm until late					