

Roots - 27th May 2011

Welcome to the first issue of our new e-bulletin!

We hope you have seen and tried out the new Diocesan website, which we designed to be simpler and easier to use. As ever, we are constantly striving to improve it and would welcome any feedback you may have. We hope this regular bulletin will help keep you up to date with news and resources as they are added to the website.

Thanks for all your support for our recent initiative, our hot cross bun cards. It is the second year we have run this initiative and this year 15,000 cards were sent out to parishes across the diocese. If there is anyone in your parish or mission community who would like to receive this regular e-bulletin, please sign them up via our home page www.exeter.anglican.org

best wishes

Rebecca

[Vacancies in the Diocese of Exeter](#)

New on the website

- [Church of England Devon Magazine](#)
- [Women in the Episcopate](#)

Recent News

[Christian children important for Church Schools](#)

At the beginning of the new school term, the Bishop of Exeter, Rt Revd Michael Langrish, has issued the following statement about Church Schools.

The Church of England has always been committed to the education of all children and its Church Schools have a proud track record of service to the communities of which they are a part. Many of these schools are set in challenging urban and rural areas and provided local education long before the introduction of a national statutory provision of schools funded by the government. There are 131 Church of England Schools in Devon, including Plymouth and Torbay, and both I and my colleagues are extremely proud of the Schools, their Staff and their Pupils.

The work of all our Church Schools is grounded in a Christian

Forthcoming Events

09

Jun

[Torquay - Parish and Mission Community Resource Day](#)

11

Jun

[Exeter - Parish and Mission Community Resource Day](#)

21

Jun

[Okehampton - Parish and Mission Community Resource Day](#)

25

Jun

[Messy Church and Fresh Expressions](#)

05

Jul

[Over the hill and down the other side](#)

understanding of the nature of human beings and their relationship both with other people and with God. This understanding finds expression in teaching, in pastoral care, in worship and in the total school ethos that produces the schools that are so popular with parents. A Church School is about far more than explicit Christian teaching and also encompasses a whole ethos which is usually quite apparent to any visitor to the school even before religion gets a mention.

At one time, this general educational philosophy was shared by the country and schools as a whole. However, over the years, both Government policy and an increasingly secular agenda have diverged significantly from this understanding and as a result two things have happened. The first is that, inevitably, Christian parents have looked increasingly to Church schools to provide the education for their children that they cannot get elsewhere and it is right that school governors and Diocesan Boards of Education should seek to respond positively to this need. The second is that, given changes in popular culture, it becomes increasingly important for schools to ensure that there are sufficient numbers among staff, parents, pupils and governors to provide that critical mass by which the school's ethos is maintained. It is up to each of our schools and its local Governing Body, in consultation with the Diocesan Board of Education, to make their own judgement on how best to meet the needs of its local community.

[A pilgrimage to the Holy Land](#)

Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Exeter and Bishop John, the Bishop of Plymouth will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from the 6th-15th November 2012.

The 10 day trip will be based around Jerusalem and Galilee and is organised through McCabe Pilgrimages.

If you would like more information please contact [Revd Tim Thorp by email](#) or by phoning 01752 350580.

[80ft fundraising abseil](#)

80ft fundraising abseil

The Rev Sue Blade and three generations of the same family abseiled 80 ft from the top of St Mary's Church at Burlescombe on Saturday, May 21. Parishioners cheered their support from the base in the event organised by the Friends of St Mary's Church to raise money to decorate the interior of the church. Although apprehensive beforehand, Sue has not ruled out a repeat

performance for another worthy cause.

Three members of the Wheatley family took it in turns to take part in the charity abseil. George, 79, was followed by his granddaughter Nina, 15 and son Graham, 52.

In total thirty five people took part in the abseil during the day, and organisers hope the total of £2,000 raised last year will be exceeded once all the sponsorship money is collected. £10,000 is needed to complete the decoration.

Teddy bears were also parachuted from the top of the tower in between the abseiling efforts which were supervised by highly experienced instructor Mike Bradford.

Secretary of the Friends, Janet Webber, who abseiled down the tower, said: "It was a really exciting day with people of all ages enjoying the abseil and teddy parachute. We thank everyone who helped us make the event such a great success."

Thanks for keeping in touch with news, resources and events in the Diocese of Exeter. If you know someone who would like to get this regular mailing, do please sign them up on our website www.exeter.anglican.org

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