

# Langtree Parish Magazine



Sponsored by the Green Dragon



*(a wintery scene in Langtree taken over the Christmas period by Brian Jordan)*

## Welcome from the Editor

We hope you like the fresh new look that comes in the New Year of 2011.

We are hoping to make this a community magazine where we hope that you will share your stories, letters and photos with all of us in the Parish.

We are looking for volunteers to come forward to help distribute the magazine on a quarterly basis and if anyone would like to write a regular column then please get in contact with either Tom or myself.

If you would rather not receive a paper version of the magazine please let us know by email and we can remove you from our mailing list as all the information found in this magazine can also be found on the website address below also set up by us for you.

I look forward to hearing from you

Hayley  
[magazine@langtree.net](mailto:magazine@langtree.net)

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### **Events over the next 3 months are...**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb** – The Movie Bus – Parish Hall Car Park 5pm to 8pm

**Saturday 5th February** - Walking Group Meet at Parish Hall 11am

**Friday 11th February** - Harmony Choir and Supper. This is in aid of the Church Roof Fund. Tickets £7.50p to include 2 course supper served at 7.30pm followed by the choir.

**Thursday 24th February** - Whist Drive 8pm £2.00

**Saturday 26th February** - Wine and Wisdom organised by Langtree Parents Teachers at 7.30pm

**Saturday 5th March** - Walking group Meet at Parish Hall 11am.

**Saturday 5th March** - Wine and Wisdom organised by Rotary of Torrington at 7.30pm

**Sunday 13th March** - Sunday Lunch 3 course £12.50 to include glass of wine or orange juice. Under 5's free, Primary School children £5.00 Lunches from 12.30pm

**Thursday 17th March** - Whist Drive 8pm £2.00

**Saturday 26th March** - An evening with Johnny Cowling. A talented singer and comedian. A great night guaranteed. Start 8pm Buffet supper at 9pm £10.00 Book 601602

**Sunday 27th March** - Big Breakfast in aid of North Devon Hospice. Big breakfasts all over North Devon this weekend. From 9am to 12 noon. Full breakfast £5.00. Bookings preferred! Tel 601602

**Friday 8th April** - Country and Western Night from 8pm. Phone Pat Dowson on 601495

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**Please note the following advice when taking your vehicle out this winter.**

- Check the local weather forecast for warnings of icy or snowy weather.
- DO NOT drive in these conditions unless your journey is essential.
- If your journey is essential, take great care, reduce your speed and allow more time for your journey.
- Never assume a road has been salted. Remember that showers or rain will wash salt off roads leaving them prone to ice, and in extreme cold even salting will not stop ice from forming.
- Avoid overnight travel unless absolutely essential as roads will always be more hazardous at night with less traffic and colder temperatures;
- Take an emergency kit of de-icer and ice scraper, torch, warm clothing
- and boots, first aid kit, jump leads and a shovel, together with a warm drink and emergency food in case you get stuck or your vehicle breaks down.
- You MUST be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows.
- You MUST ensure that lights are clean and number plates are clearly visible and legible.
- Make sure the mirrors are clear and the windows are de-misted thoroughly.
- Remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users.
- Check your planned route is clear of delays and that no further snowfalls or severe weather is predicted.

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**Mobile Library**

The mobile library has had a change of schedule from the start of the year, it's now at

Stibb Cross – Union Inn 16:05 to 17:05

Langtree – Parish Hall 10:30 to 11:15

The Langtree and Stibb Cross stops are not being heavily used at the moment and it would be a shame if they were lost

**Mobile Post Office at the Parish Hall**

Mon to Friday 11:40 to 13.05

**Rainfall**

We would like to thank Peter Roberts for his details on monthly Rainfall. Following his move we are looking for someone to replace him to keep us updated on the weather in Langtree





Have a look at the fantastic destinations that we have to offer, the variety is huge – from a two day London Theatre, five day Lake District tour, eight day Scottish tour to a fifteen day European tour including Sicily. We will collect you from one of our local departure points, hassle free. No Queuing at Airports to be told your flight is delayed!. We try to offer a good value for money package but not skimping on quality. You will travel in a first class top of the range executive coach with toilet, air conditioning, seat belts, reclining seats, hot and cold drink facilities driven by a first class tour driver. Hotels are chosen for their quality at a good price but again not skimping on the quality of the whole package - go on give Hemmings a try for a personal family service where you are not just a number!

24 Feb	10 Days	Nice Carnival, Menton Lemon Festival and French Riviera	£645	25 July	5 Days	Blackpool and the Lakes	£215
27 Feb	3 Days	Spanish Mini Cruise	£123	29 July	4 Days	The English Riviera	£195
4 Mar	3 Days	Mystery Weekend	£135	31 July	8 Days	Fort William and The Isle of Skye	£485
7 Mar	15 Days	Land of the Northern Lights Cruise	From £1149	5 Aug	3 Days	Mystery Weekend	£135
7 Mar	5 Days	Luxury Break in Falmouth	£259	6 Aug	8 Days	Lakes and Mountains of Switzerland	£665
7 Mar	5 Days	South Coast and Eastbourne	£220	8 Aug	2 Days	Buckingham Palace and Palace of Westminster	£159
11 Mar	4 Days	Frank Sinatra Tribute Weekend	£190	9 Aug	6 Days	Pennines and Lakes with Edinburgh Military Tattoo	£385
14 Mar	5 Days	Lake District, Southport and Old Trafford	£185	11 Aug	8 Days	Giant's Causeway and Donegal	£550
18 Mar	3 Days	Singles Tour	£135	14 Aug	7 Days	Northumbria's rugged Coast	£445
20 Mar	8 Days	Austrian Winterwonderland	£470	16 Aug	9 Days	Castle of Mey, Orkney's and the Cairngorms	£525
21 Mar	5 Days	Isle of Wight	£205	21 Aug	8 Days	South Coast and Eastbourne	£425
26 Mar	8 Days	Scottish Highlands Winterwonderland	£355	21 Aug	2 Days	Buckingham Palace and Clarence House	£159
2 April	6 Days	The Isle of Man	£350	26 Aug	4 Days	Amsterdam Diamonds, Canals, Clogs and Cheese	£279
7 April	5 Days	Cornish Gardens, Pasties and Cream	£269	28 Aug	8 Days	Jersey – By Sea	£489
10 April	2 Days	London Medieval Banquet	£150	2 Sept	3 Days	Malvern Hills and Worcester	£165
11 April	5 Days	Heart of England, Nottingham and Crich Tramway Village	£179	4 Sept	6 Days	Guernsey	£445
12 April	7 Days	Killarney and the Ring of Kerry	£435	4 Sept	8 Days	Boats and Trains of the Highlands and Islands	£460
14 April	4 Days	Harrogate with the Spring Gardening Show	£230	5 Sept	5 Days	Great Little Trains of North Wales	£289
17 April	10 Days	Lourdes and the Pyrenees	£619	8 Sept	15 Days	Magnificent Sights of Europe inc. Grand tour of Sicily	£1530
22 April	7 Days	Jersey by Air	£495	10 Sept	8 Days	Little Boats and Trains of Picture Postcard, Austria	£545
22 April	4 Days	Dutch Bulbfields	£285	16 Sept	5 Days	Harrogate and Autumn Gardening Show	£299
22 April	4 Days	Easter in Richman's Country	£199	19 Sept	5 Days	Blackpool Illuminations	£260
27 April	14 Days	The Costa Dorada – ALL INCLUSIVE	£969	21 Sept	9 Days	Lake Garda, Venice and the Dolomites	£635
2 May	5 Days	Dutch Bulbfields and Amsterdam	£345	21 Sept	8 Days	Bonnie Banks of Scotland, Isle of Bute	£385
7 May	3 Days	Mercedes Benz, Brooklands and Denbies	£165	23 Sept	3 Days	Weekend in Bournemouth	£150
7 May	8 Days	Lake Maggiore – The Lakeland Quartet	£595	26 Sept	8 Days	Jersey	£435
9 May	5 Days	Peaks and Pennines	£215	26 Sept	5 Days	Little Boats and Trains of Norfolk	£275
12 May	4 Days	Malvern Spring Gardening Show	£219	30 Sept	4 Days	Peaks and Pennines	£169
14 May	9 Days	The Isle of Mull, Lochs and Glens	£540	30 Sept	11 Days	Ken's Grand tour of Ireland	£745
19 May	5 Days	Great Houses and Gardens of Surrey and Sussex	£275	3 Oct	5 Days	Lake District	£275
21 May	8 Days	Westport and Connemara Coast	£575	5 Oct	8 Days	French Alps and Lake Annecy (Inc. Alpine descent)	£625
22 May	7 Days	Jersey by sea	£409	9 Oct	6 Days	Scenes of Yorkshire, Durham and Beamish	£285
23 May	5 Days	Beautiful Gardens and Trains of North Wales	£280	13 Oct	7 Days	The Isle of Man	£415
27 May	2 Days	Chelsea Flower Show and Saville Gardens	£170	14 Oct	5 Days	The Isles of Scilly by Helicopter	£510
29 May	3 Days	Three Day London, Chelsea Football Club and View Tube	£149	18 Oct	8 Days	The Pyrenees, Andorra and San Sebastian	£515
30 May	5 Days	Splendour of the Lake District	£260	19 Oct	5 Days	Canary Islands and Madeira Cruise	From £1149
30 May	6 Days	Tastes of Lincolnshire, Hidden Gardens and Lincoln	£319	22 Oct	3 Days	Mystery Weekend	£135
3 June	5 Days	Suffolk's Charming Villages	£249	28 Oct	4 Days	Romantic Paris	£235
4 June	7 Days	Little Trains and Boats of the Rhine and Moselle	£515	29 Oct	7 Days	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs All Inclusive	£360
6 June	5 Days	Yorkshire Railway Journey's	£279	31 Oct	5 Days	Tenby Turkey and Tinsel	£260
10 June	3 Days	Days Mystery Weekend	£135	4 Nov	4 Days	Falmouth Turkey and Tinsel	£199
12 June	6 Days	The Splendour of the Lakes and Dales	£310	7 Nov	5 Days	Lake District Turkey and Tinsel	£230
17 June	9 Days	Vienna, Danube Valley and Slovakia	£689	14 Nov	5 Days	Corton Warners Village with Thursford Spectacular	£285
17 June	3 Days	BBC Gardeners World Live and Good Food Show	£135	14 Nov	5 Days	Norfolk Turkey and Tinsel inc Thursford Spectacular	£265
20 June	5 Days	Charms of Cheshire, Tatton Park and Chester	£305	14 Nov	5 Days	Isle of Wight Turkey and Tinsel	£230
22 June	7 Days	The Isle of Man	£490	18 Nov	4 Days	South Coast and Eastbourne Turkey and Tinsel	£180
25 June	8 Days	Highland Safari and Edinburgh	£525	21 Nov	5 Days	Bognor Regis Turkey and Tinsel	£255
3 June	7 Days	Bognor Regis and the South Coast	£395	25 Nov	4 Days	Norfolk Turkey and Tinsel inc Thursford Spectacular	£220
8 July	2 Days	Hampton Court Flower Show and Saville Gardens	£139				
10 July	5 Days	Splendid Gardens and Shrewsbury	£275				
11 July	5 Days	Bournemouth, New Forest and Compton Acres	£270				
11 July	7 Days	Scenes of Yorkshire	£350				
16 July	9 Days	Inn Valley, Three Countries and Bernina Express –Austria	£580				
18 July	4 Days	Herefordshire and the Royal Welsh Show	£235				
22 July	4 Days	Cotswolds and Blenheim Palace	£199				



For passengers that opt to join at our depot, why not incorporate a treat for your car, our workshops are fully equipped for cars and commercial vehicles including HGV's. Let us MOT your car, Service your car or maybe a valet.

### LONDON THEATRE BREAKS 2011

5 April	2 Days	Jersey Boys or We Will Rock You	£160
15 June	2 Days	The Wizard of Oz	£150
02 July	2 Days	The Wizard of Oz	£179
25 Aug	2 Days	The Wizard of Oz	£150
6 Sept	2 Days	Thriller or Les Miserables	£159
12 Sept	2 Days	Shrek – The Musical	£160
19 Oct	2 Days	Phantom of the Opera or Mamma Mia	£159





A very Happy New Year 2011 to everyone! I am pleased to have been asked to contribute to this new edition of the Langtree Parish Newsletter, and wish it continued success.

One exceptional highlight of the year so far is the school's success in the joint BBC and British History Museum project, 'The Relic Challenge'. This was a competition run and sponsored by the BBC for children to produce artefacts of bygone ages. The children brought in many different articles and five were chosen to represent the school. On Friday, we were informed that two of our pieces have been selected. These were a horseshoe made from a First World War shell, presented by Matthew and Allistair Ward, and old bus tickets, punch and ticket bag from Jack Hill. BBC Radio Seven will be coming to interview them.

For the past week, Year 5 and 6 children have been performing five of Shakespeare's plays. Produced by Mr Smale, the plays were 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Twelfth Night', 'Hamlet', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Macbeth' and have been greatly enjoyed by the whole school, with Reception children joining to watch the performances of 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Miss Mellody, as some will already know, had some time off at the end of the term due to family illness and then because of very high blood pressure. We are all glad she has managed to recover sufficiently to return to full-time teaching. All governors would like to thank all the staff, especially Nigel Smale, for the fantastic way they rallied round and ensured the school continued with The Christmas Play, Carol Service and spectacular Christmas Lunch, in very trying circumstances - with the weather adding a final flourish to the festivities!

We returned to school to find that the bad weather had caused a water pipe to burst in the boys' toilets and the Head Teacher's Office, corridors and ICT suite/Library were all flooded. Luckily, due to the use of dehumidifiers, everything began to dry out before the children returned to school, but we expect that the parquet floor in the ICT suite will need to be re-laid.

We would like to thank our new governor, Mr John Lewis, for the ramp that he and a pupil from Marland School have built. This will enable wheelchairs to enter our main building by the shortest route.

Finally, can we remind parents of young children that our Curriculum Committee will be discussing new entrants for the Nursery at the start of next term. Anyone wishing to apply for a place or visit the school should please contact Mrs Louise Cook (Administrator) on 01805 601354 in the first instance, either to arrange to come and meet us or for more information about applying for a place.

**From Mrs Patricia Soby, Chair of Governors, Langtree Community School:**

### Little Acorns Toddler Group

Our group runs every Thursday morning, during term time, in the Parish Hall from 9.15 to 12 noon. You will find that we are a friendly, relaxed group and have a range of toys for babies and children to play with. We provide a snack at about 10.30am for the children, and tea or coffee for the adults, at a cost of £1 per child and 50p per sibling.

This term we said goodbye to Katie and Keith as they now start at Nursery and hope that they enjoy their time there.

We would like to welcome anybody who would like to come along and join our group. Please feel free to pop in on a Thursday morning or alternatively give



Sophie Folland a call on 01805 601244.



Langtree.Net is currently in talks with the Big sheep on discounts for our readers. Please check the Website for Updates

**More Details in the Next Edition**

**Saturday 9th - Fri 25th April 2011 Easter Eggravaganza Egg Hunt  
Sat 14th & Sun 15th May 2011 - Superhero Weekend**



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### Zion Methodist Chapel

We are working through a period of big changes at the moment. Our last Minister Rev David Wheeler took early retirement in July 2009 due to ill-health and there is no available minister to replace him. Because our Methodist Circuit is small we shall now almost certainly join with a neighbouring larger Circuit. Two of the possible options are to join either Holswothy or Bideford Circuits. After much prayer and discussion we are moving towards a strong probability of joining with Bideford Circuit which also includes Torrington Chapel. This would seem to be a natural progression for Langtree, but perhaps not so much so for some of the other chapels in our group. By the time you read this a decision will have been taken as to whether the joining takes place, and, if it will be taking effect from September 2011, or a later date. The Rev Graham Slingo, Minister of Torrington has been overseeing Langtree Chapel for some months now and he is hoping to write in a future copy of the magazine to introduce himself to you all. Various events have been taking place to help the two groups of people get to know each other better but each Circuit will be voting individually late in January to record their decision on the way forward.

We continue with our bring-and-share meal followed by teaching video each Thursday evening at 7.15pm and have found them extremely helpful and encouraging in facing the challenges of Christian Discipleship The prayer group meet on Tuesdays at 7.30 and it is our privilege to pray for anyone within the Parish or further afield who is unwell or in need of any kind.

Our services for the coming weeks are as follows, each starting at 11.00am

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> - Pastor C Bourne  
Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - Anglican Service  
Feb 20<sup>th</sup> - Mr J Guy  
Feb 27<sup>th</sup> - Mrs M Knapman  
March 6<sup>th</sup> - Congregational  
March 13<sup>th</sup> - Anglican  
March 20<sup>th</sup> - to be arranged  
March 27<sup>th</sup> - to be arranged  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Congregational  
April 10<sup>th</sup> - Anglican  
April 17<sup>th</sup> - to be arranged  
April 24<sup>th</sup> - to be arranged  
May 1<sup>st</sup> - Congregational  
May 8<sup>th</sup> - Anglican  
May 15<sup>th</sup> - to be arranged  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> - to be arranged  
May 29<sup>th</sup> - to be arranged



### Parish Council News

The weather has once again been challenging with gritters trying to keep up and pavements and minor roads like a skating rink. Thanks to all those who did their bit with shovels and tractors, as well as looking after neighbours; you might be needed again yet. Of course frost plays havoc with our roads so report any potholes to us or to

DCC Highways so at least they know about them.

Its been Budget time again for Langtree and we have had to make an increase of 1.5% which still ends up at less than £21 per household. Next year we are hoping to reduce that figure as we will have finally paid off a loan in connection with the Parish Hall.

The January meeting welcomed the Principal of Marland School Keith Bennett who gave us an interesting talk on the work of the DCC Unit in our adjoining parish. Keith explained what outcomes he achieves from the boys and how his staff approach what is a difficult but rewarding job.

Report Pot Holes at -- <http://www.devon.gov.uk/form-pothole>

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### Local History Group

We have acquired from the Devon Family History Society a CD of the Torrington Deanery record of Baptisms 1813-1840, Marriages 1755-1837, and Deaths, 1813-1837 for the Parish of Langtree. It makes fascinating and sometimes very sad reading as there were 104 deaths recorded of children aged five or under in those 24 years, some of them with Surnames well documented within the Parish, i.e. Mills, Cole, Blight, Short, Johns, Ley, Walter, Morrish, Whitlock, Hearn, Nethaway, Richards, Hackwell, Vanstone, Copp, Ayers, & Thorne. There are also Baptisms where the single mothers address is given as Langtree Poor House. Three deaths are recorded of people who lived/died at the poor house. There were 21 people who lived into their 80's and 11 who made it into their 90's the oldest being a Catherine Cory who died on 23-2-1833 at the age of 98. There are three sets of twins recorded, Sally & Mary Lee, 30-11-1828, Mary & Thomas Hedger, 28-5-1830, & Jacob & Esau Balkwell, 8-8-1837. In some instances the Families residence is given, in others it's simply listed as 'Langtree'. These records for the parish of Langtree have been printed off and are available from the History Group on short term loan.

When research was undertaken for the Langtree Parish book there were rumours of a Langtree Poor house having existed but no real evidence. In the years since then more and more bits of evidence have come to light confirming its existence, location and uses, as in the above mentioned church records. This is what the history group enjoys doing and the above records are part of our increasing archive. We are always interested in any records or pictures you may have and are willing for us to copy and record for the Parish. Peter Roberts has passed on to us for safe keeping the rainfall records so diligently kept by his wife Sheila and latterly by himself, and allowed us to copy an old picture of the forge possibly taken around 1920. He has also given us sight of some old deeds with much interesting information. We are very grateful to him for this.

We have arranged a family History day at the Parish Hall for Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 11.00AM – 4.00PM when you can learn how to research more of your family History. Members of the Bideford History Society are coming to lead this event. More details nearer the time, but please book it in your diary now.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday each month in the Parish Hall 7.00pm-9.00pm except August & December, though as a one off we have made a change for February by swapping with the WI to accommodate their speaker, and will meet on the third Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup>) for that month only. Come along and join us if you are interested.

#### **Jobs**

West Heanton is looking for Carers for its new Home Care Service, Full Driving Licence required, Car provided for round.

Ring Tom for More Details  
01409 281754

#### **For Sale**

Powertrek Motorised Treadmill -  
£50 Ring Val on 07881814762

Pine Computer Desk - £20  
Pine TV Cabinet - £50  
Ring Hayley on 01805601502

#### **Ian Hobbs – Aerobics Class**

**Starting 8<sup>th</sup> February at the  
Parish Hall**

**6:30pm to 7:30pm - £5**

**Please bring a mat, towel,  
water and trainers**

## WI Report

At our Annual Meeting in November Mary Nichols, Linda Westall and myself were returned as President, Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Sue Folland has decided to take a break as an Officer after a number of years as either President or Vice President, and we all thank her for the time and effort she has supplied and hope she will return to the Committee soon. Sue Lee is the new Vice President and Maggie Jordan has joined the Committee.

The past year's Competition Cup was won by Margaret Knapman and Sue Lee for the flower Competition. We have three new members this year. Jenny Hurley who has been visiting since April, Helen Hughes who moved into Fore St in October and Cindy Watson from Southland Drive.

### January

Speaker was Helen Stapleton who showed us how to wrap and decorate boxes.

### February

meeting on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY will be Girls from Banburys demonstrating how to wear scarves, and hopefully they will bring some for sale.

### March

Penny McRoberts cooking up fish Dishes in the Kitchen. If any non members wish to attend could they please let me know so that we can arrange chairs etc.

### April

meeting will be on the SECOND WEDNESDAY as the Group meeting is on our usual night. Sandy Huxtable will be Arranging Flowers.

Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings as a visitor. The cost is £2-50 and you will meet some lovely ladies, enjoy the speaker and get tea and biscuits.

Patricia Soby. 601421



## Alpha at the Inn

### What is Alpha?

- An opportunity to discuss the big questions – life and death and their meaning, in a supportive atmosphere.

### Who is it for?

- Anyone interested in finding out more about Christianity.
- Those who want to refresh their faith.
- No age limit.

### Where will it be held?

- The Union Inn, Stibb Cross (out of opening hours)

### When will it start?

- Introductory Session Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-noon
- First of 10 weekly sessions Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> 9.45am-noon

### How can I find out more?

- Contact Sheila Mears (01805 601140) or
- Contact Martin Warren (01409 281424)

**Numbers would be useful but feel free to just turn up.**

**Invite friends and neighbours.**

**Chat over a cup of coffee.**

**Try out the introductory session.**

**Bring your young children and discuss childcare needs.**

**Introductory Session and Course are free.**

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## An Anecdotal story of a Police episode by Mike Evans

As many of you know, Brixton is a suburb in South East London. It was then, and in essence is now, run down and deprived.

The year is 1981, the weekend after Easter. Subsequent to a big, month long anti street crime initiative, the area explodes into the worst riot ever seen in mainland UK up to that time. Several streets and city blocks go up in flames, with scenes reminiscent of the WW2 Blitz. Emergency "Aid" [extra police manpower] was rounded up and coppers from all over London were called in from leave, from off duty, and the streets were stripped to a bare minimum, to send them to Brixton to quell the riot. I was the communication officer at my station that day. For the past two years I had been a riot-training instructor on a part time basis, working one week in four away from my station training policemen in riot control techniques, including the use of shields. I'm obviously one of the first assigned to a 'Shield serial', a team of 15 PC's and a Sergeant.

With 29 other PC's, two sergeants and an Inspector, we draw riot shields and embus en route for Brixton. In the crew are two real old sweats, Jack and Mickey. No last names. They have avoided all attempts to send them for riot training. On the way they say "What the heck do we do with these shields." A riot shield is 5ft high and 2ft wide, high impact polycarbonate. No worries the Inspector says. "Stick with Mike Evans and he'll fill you in and look after you." There then ensues a short but pithy conversation as what to do. Basically, I tell them to stick with me, and do what I do! We arrive and deploy. It really seems it is like the blitz! Buildings are on fire, and hordes of extremely agitated and athletic young black men are lobbing rocks, bricks, bottles etc. at the police. The ground is littered with debris. Out we go, Jack and Mickey on my coat-tails. Within three strides I stumble and fall over some rubble and measure my length on the deck, falling onto my shield. Jack and Mickey throw their shields down alongside me and lay down on them. Twenty seven large, excited and energetic coppers then run across our backs, just like a WW 1 movie where they cover the barbed wire with a man and run over him.

"Instructor!" said Jack, "More like bloody self destructor". He retired in a huff to our 'bus' and stayed there till we went home. Nobody blamed him.

That same day, or rather, the same night, we are deployed to cordon off a street where the locals are getting well out of hand. They have not yet discovered how to make petrol bombs, but kerosene soaked rags are a fine substitute. We have amongst us an officer, Ron Humphries, known affectionately as "The Cloud", (inasmuch that he always appeared to have black cloud of doom floating above him. He was Murphy's Law personified), He wore size 14 custom made boots. From out of the night sails a bunch of burning rags to land on Ron's boots. There they stick and start to ignite them and his uniform trousers."Oh , ooh „aah Bugger it " shouts Ron, and starts jumping up and down, a real fire dance. From way down the line a voice bellows out "For Cryin'out loud Humphries, stop that dancin'. Don't you think the natives are wound up enough without you encouraging more war dances."?

For a while the riot is forgotten as the line dissolves into hysterics.

Over the years we always found some level of light relief at these occasions.

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**G'day from the Poms Down Under.....Keith and  
Linda Watson, formerly of Buda Cottage, Langtree**

Is it really FOUR years since we arrived in Australia???

Our decision to take the opportunity to come to Australia in our retirement has been a good one for us.

When our son and his then new wife sowed the seed by inviting us to join them here in Oz, they emphasized that we would be very welcome but that we should not come expecting to have grandchildren as they intended to keep dogs!!!! However within the last four years they have produced two delightful grandchildren - Jack and Matilda (Tilly) and we feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to be close to them and involved in their lives.

Of course it was sad leaving our daughter, good friends and the rest of our family in the U.K. but we grasped at the opportunity of a lifetime and to date have no real regrets. The grass is not necessarily greener here. There are the same old problems for the whingers (not always the Poms!) re the increasing cost of utilities, food, politicians etc, etc and yes the weather!!!!

On our arrival here in January 2007, we settled easily into our new lifestyle We bought our new home at Charlestown, just 2 ½ hours north of Sydney, near to our family and within 10-15 mins drive to all that we need e.g. shops, banks, medical



facilities, the beautiful Lake Macquarie, an inland lake larger than Sydney Harbour and one of our favorite local areas, and of course the quintessential Ozzie beaches and we are only 45 mins drive to the Hunter Valley Vineyards.

Within a few months of our arrival we became volunteers at Blackbutt Reserve which is an undulating, natural environment consisting of peaceful picnic settings, wide open spaces, bushwalking trails and a diverse range of habitats and ecosystems. It also features wildlife exhibits which are spacious and allow close viewing of the native animals e.g. koalas, kangaroos, wombats, emus etc. Our involvement here has helped us to integrate into the local community and also has given us knowledge about Australian Flora and Fauna and has taught us to have a healthy respect for the nasties ....spiders, snakes, mozzies, which are not all as deadly as we had been led to believe. Our duties are in the old Pioneer Information Cottage where we hand out information regarding the animals, bush walks etc , and sell light refreshments and souvenirs. It is good when folks visiting the reserve from the U.K. recognize our accents and we can chat with them about our homeland.

Having had our first introduction to bowls at the Langtree Short Mat Bowls Club, both Keith and I have become very keen on Lawn Bowls here in Australia....again within a few months of our arrival, we joined one of at least four very local clubs, all within ten minutes drive. We bowl independently twice a week and together at least twice a week. Belonging to the club gives us the opportunity to play at different venues and thus again opens up our lives by meeting other bowlers, many of whom, like us are immigrants from all over the world. We have had a fair amount of success with our games but one of the things we found really interesting was that no matter if you win or lose a game, you are

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often fortunate to be a 'lucky' winner or loser and gain a tray of meat, meat vouchers, and at Christmas huge Ham joints....this year we won FOUR of these. We very rarely have to buy our meat these days as we seem to get a steady supply from our bowls games!! These meat trays are usually on offer at what they call Gala games but of course there is a more serious side to the game when we can enter in competitions within our own club or against other clubs, when money prizes are more normal.

Since our arrival we have managed several trips to different areas of New South Wales and last year spent a few weeks of our winter period, which lasts through June, July and August, in Far North Queensland, a three hour flight from our local Newcastle Airport. We viewed the Great Barrier Reef, experienced the Daintree River and Rainforest.....seeing Crocs sunbathing on the river banks. It was a truly interesting and peaceful area to visit. In our hire car we returned to Cairns Airport, via the Atherton Tablelands, a vast farming area, very pretty and productive of tea, coffee, mangos, avocados, bananas etc.

Australia is such a vast continent and there are so many areas we would like to explore. The U.K. would fit into NSW alone, six times, which gives some idea of the distances to be travelled throughout this strange but beautiful country. Many of our Ozzie acquaintances have done the 'Big Trip' round Oz taking several months to do so. Those in our age group are known here as the Grey Nomads. Very apt!! We have concentrated up to now on exploring more local areas in NSW and as yet have to discover the Outback with the deep red soils and vast areas of 'nothing', although having said that there is a surreal beauty in this land of differences. Our own area in NSW is positively green and lush in comparison with many other areas.

There are quite naturally times when we miss the soft, gentle countryside of Devon, the lambs, primroses, the narrow, winding country lanes, but we are more than happy to swap those things for the hugs and whoops of delight which welcome us when we visit our grandchildren.

Yes, Australia suits us very well just now.  
 Yes, it is very different, yet very similar to being in England.  
 Yes, it is a tough country and those who have seen the news of terrible bush fires in Victoria last year and the devastating floods of Queensland more recently will note how cruel it can be here. Personally we have been very fortunate and so far have only been





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very slightly affected by a 'once in 50 year flood' in our area during the big storms of June 2007..... what an initiation that was! We were not directly affected in our suburb but those who lived closer to Newcastle suffered considerable flood damage.

Our plans for the future???  
 Hopefully to travel and explore more of this vast and beautiful land while we are still fit enough to do so. We are so very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to spread our wings at a time when we might so easily be just plodding along in the same old routine and missing out on the special times we are now experiencing with our young family.

'When your dreams take flight, follow them' - a quote we used to read on a seat on Torrington Common before our big trip Down Under!



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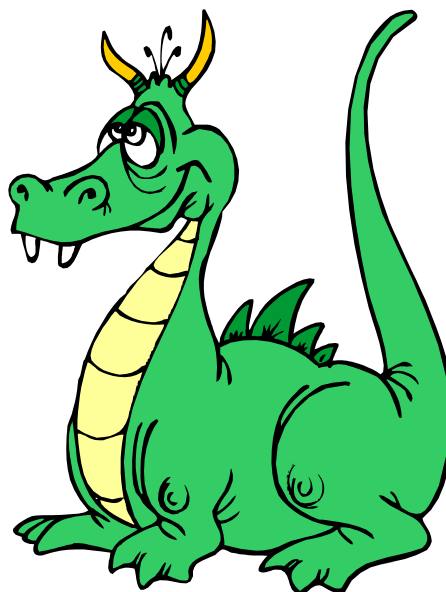
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### **BRIDGEY TAKES OVER THE RESTAURANT AT THE GREEN DRAGON**

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**From the Team Rector Rev Martin Warren, Tel: 01409-281424**

There are some wonderful traditions associated with the beginning of February.

So it goes on Feb 2nd (Candlemas), the badger pops his head out of the set. If the sun is out, and all is fair, then the badger returns to his sleep. Winter is not over yet. But if it is cloudy and dull, then it's time to be up and about.

For in the Celtic calendar, Feb 1st marks the beginning of Spring. The snowdrops are making an appearance; life is beginning to move under the piles of dead and rotting leaves. Go out and have look, see the birds beginning to look good again. Nest building won't be far off. The days are lengthening. There is light after the darkness.

And Feb 1st is also St. Bridget's Day. Bridget was an Irish saint of the 500s. On her day, her gift of hospitality is remembered. Crosses are made of reeds or stems and placed on doorways to bless the home.

As the light of day grows once again, may light be in our homes. May they be places of welcome.

Yours,

Martin Warren.

### **Anglican Services**

(at the Methodist Chapel until further notice)

6th Feb 9.30am Morning Prayer

13th Feb 11.00am Holy Communion

20th Feb 11.00am United Methodist Service

27th Feb 9.30am Holy Communion

6th Mar 9.30am Morning Prayer

13th Mar 11.00am Holy Communion

20th Mar 11.00am United Methodist Service

27th Mar 9.30am Holy Communion

3rd Apr 9.30am Morning Service

10th Apr 11.00am Holy Communion

17th Apr 11.00am United Methodist Service

22nd Apr 5.30pm At the Foot of the Cross (Good Friday Worship)

24th Apr 9.30am Easter Communion

1st May 9.30am Morning Service

### **Update on the Building Work on the Church.**

Things seem to be progressing well. As you will see, slates have started to go back on. That means that most of the woodwork in the roof has been completed. There will then be considerable work to do on the ceilings inside the building. Finally the windows and organ can be dealt with. There's a long way to go yet. However the work has gone forward remarkably smoothly. In no small way is that thanks to the team working on it. They have worked hard and been wonderfully co-operative. It seems that no weather has stopped them. Indeed it was slightly disconcerting seeing them working on the roof during the snow in short sleeves! Ok, under the cover, but still! Proper job!

Thank you to all who sponsored a slate. We had a great afternoon in early December, ducking the rain. And other sponsorships have come in since. Your names and messages are now on the roof. Around £1000 was raised through that venture. Wonderful effort. The end of the fund-raising for the work is in sight. We are grateful for grants and donations that have come in recently. Thank you very much. There's still a little way to go. Please God, we can complete it all in the next few months.

The completion date is early April. Hopefully we should be back in the building after that. The we will probably have to do some decoration work. Any help will be appreciated. We are looking to sometime in the summer to celebrate the work done. Watch this space for further details.

### **Annual Church Meeting**

The date is still to be fixed, but will be in April sometime. It's the time when we report back, and make elections. If you would like to be on the church's membership list, please contact Martin Warren or Pat Chappell (601733). This is completed before the Annual meeting each year.



### Lent Series

## **GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD**

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Prof. Tim Gorringe, Martyn Goss

### **From the Registers**

Funeral: Our prayers for the bereaved

2nd Nov: Ken Marochan

## Langtree Short Mat Bowls Club

The Christmas and New Year break from roll – up sessions and matches is now behind us and we are into the second half of our winter season hoping that the extra exercise will help us shed the seasonal excesses; well that is certainly the hope of the writer!

In the lead up to Christmas we enjoyed a very social and festive meal at the Green Dragon and our thanks go to Colin, Julie and their team for making us very welcome.

The latest postings on the league web site show us as leaders in our respective divisions of the North Devon and North Cornwall Afternoon Triples and Evening Fours competitions. We are also through to the second round of the Mary Kent and Tony Stephens Cups and in the Semi Final of the Alan Wright Cup.

We are pleased that some fairly new residents of the village have tried bowls and are now members of the club and we would be delighted to see anyone else who fancies giving the game a go and joining our friendly roll-up sessions which take place at 7.15pm Mondays and 1.15 pm and 7.15 pm on Wednesdays.

Please give me a call if you would like any further information.

Brian Jordan 601392

### Ken Marochan

Margaret would like to thank everybody who sent cards, letters, and came to the Funeral service of Ken at Barnstaple crematorium

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## Parish Hall Players

Anyone interested in taking part in any capacity whatsoever, Please come along to a meeting at the Parish Hall Tuesday 22nd Feb 2011 at 7.30pm.

I will be discussing what the next production will be. It could be a revue, with sketches and various other entertainments, to be performed in the Spring or maybe the Autumn.

It could be a new panto, taking place early next year.

If you have any other ideas come along and have your say. If you cannot make the meeting please call or email me so that and your views can be noted and discussed.

Many thanks

Sylvie Smith (01805 601485)

Email: [sylvie.smith@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sylvie.smith@tiscali.co.uk)

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## THE 200 CLUB

### October

1 <sup>st</sup> 120 L Kirk	£30
2 <sup>nd</sup> 313 Mrs Andrews	£20
3 <sup>rd</sup> 225 T Palmer	£12
4 <sup>th</sup> 21 S Hood	£5

### November

1 <sup>st</sup> 288 J Mills	£30
2 <sup>nd</sup> 55 G Carswell	£20
3 <sup>rd</sup> 85 H Dick	£12
4 <sup>th</sup> 198 S Horn	£5

### December

1 <sup>st</sup> 212 L Westall	£30
2 <sup>nd</sup> 75 J Mitchell	£20
3 <sup>rd</sup> 149 B Jordan	£12
4 <sup>th</sup> C Galloway	£5

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## Langtree Parish Hall

Our A.G.M was held in December where the following were elected

Pat Mitchell - Chairman Tel 601415  
Geoff Bond - Vice Chairman Tel 601240  
Sylvie Smith - Treasurer Tel 601485  
Sue Lee - Secretary Tel 601602  
Anne Cadman - Booking secretary Tel 601609

Our accounts for the year ending 30th September have been sent to the auditor and at the time of writing have not yet been returned . However our Treasurer reported another successful year with our bank balance increasing by over £10000 despite purchases including carpet, blinds, oven, gravel and fridges of over £9500, running costs including all utilities. Hall insurance and cleaning amounted to over £10000. The audited accounts will be published as soon as they are received. It is hoped that we will be able to use some of the bank balance to extend the small committee room and also to introduce some energy saving features into the building such as PVC's for generating electricity.

Some of the planned events before Christmas were cancelled due to the snow. These included a carol concert as many of the singers were unable to get out of their drives. Christmas Whist was also cancelled but this has been rescheduled for 27th January. Our Christmas lunch was well attended, Thank you to all who helped in any way especially those who contributed to the fantastic array of desserts. The Christmas Auction was a lot of fun with £2000 being made on donated gifts and promises. £1000 has been sent to Devon Air Ambulance and £1000 to Church Roof Fund.

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### Mid Torrington Poppy Appeal 2010

Thank you very much for donating to the Poppy Appeal in November

You will be amazed to hear that even in these difficult times, the response has been magnificent and we have raised more than ever before.

Our grand total is £4149.45  
Langtree Parish contributed £736.00

The volunteer collectors and holder of static boxes are:

Mr and Mrs D Hill  
Mrs M Goaman  
Mr and Mrs K Wickham  
Mrs D Daniel, this year kindly assisted by Mrs R Wood  
Langtree Community School  
Greed Dragon Inn  
Union Inn  
Travis Perkins  
Cerrywood Stores

On behalf of all those who will benefit, thank you so much for your support and generosity

Ruth Neal  
Mid Torrington Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser



### 100 Club Winners In aid of the Langtree Magazine and Website

#### December 2010

1 <sup>st</sup> Gary Copp	109
2 <sup>nd</sup> Raymond Vanstone	121
3 <sup>rd</sup> Edward Heath	36

#### January 2011

1 <sup>st</sup> John Richardson	51
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ceri Brown	01
3 <sup>rd</sup> Stuart Fishleigh	10

### Deadline

We have planned our next edition for the end of April – Deadline for articles is the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2011

We are also looking for help with delivering the magazine in the parish,

Please even if you could deliver a few to your neighbours it would help us greatly to get the magazine delivered quickly.

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