



Welcome to



Pip & Jim's Church
Ilfracombe

Monthly Pew News
December



If you are visiting Pip and Jim's Church for the first time we welcome you with open arms.

This is our monthly newsletter to keep people up to date with important notices and to let them know what is coming up in the next month. If there are any changes or urgent notices we also send out a weekly Pew News update.

If you would like to include anything in our January Pew news please could you email pipandjimsgeneral@gmail.com by Thursday 3rd January.

Dates for December

Sun 2 Dec	10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 2 Dec	6.30pm Light up a Life service at Pip and Jim's
Sat 8 Dec	4pm WI Carol Service at Pip and Jim's
Sun 9 Dec	10.30am Morning Service
Thur 13 Dec	Ilfracombe Academy Carol Service
Sun 16 Dec	10.30am Holy Communion. Toys for Christmas, collection at this service
Sun 16 Dec	Toddler Group Carol Service
Sun 23 Dec	6.30pm Carols by candlelight
Sun 23 Dec	8pm Beer and Carols at The George, Fore Street
Christmas Eve	4pm Christingle
Christmas Day	10.30am Christmas Communion
Sun 30 Dec	Joint Service at Berryabor. No service at Pip and Jim's

Notices

Toddler Group Carol Service

We plan to hold the Toddler Group Carol Service on Sunday December 16th at 2.30 p.m. in the Church Centre. All are welcome - please come and support this service - if you wish to help please speak to Laura Burch or Linda Mather.

The Veale Family

As previously reported in the October Pew News, the Veale family are returning to North Devon in February 2019. Please continue to remember them in your prayers, especially Anna who contracted Ross River virus during a trip to Darwin. This has resulted in debilitating joint pain and exhaustion which has been a challenge for her as she copes with organising packing and shipping arrangements as well as day to day chores. Please also pray that they will be able to tie up loose ends including selling their vehicle before they leave. Oli is now in New Zealand has obtained his holiday visa which will enable him to return to the Northern Territory to work next year. Thank you.

Fabric Committee

The PCC would like to inform the congregation that Dr Martin Mather has resigned as Chairperson of the Fabric Committee and would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks to him, the amount of work he has done over the last few years. Thank you Martin.

Knitting for charity



Several of us are knitting scarves hats and baby jumpers for On the Doorstep and Knit for Peace charities. If you have any oddments of double knitting wool please would you give them to Jean. If you are interested in helping by knitting

some of these items speak to Jean, who will supply you with patterns. Thank you!

Christmas Tree Festival

Huge thanks to the team who put together our best ever Christmas Tree Festival. We have displayed 111 trees – more than ever before – around half of which came from organisations and businesses not directly linked to P&J. And already we have requests from more who would like to be included next year. It has been a delight to meet our contributors, welcome them into Pip and Jim's, to encourage and support them, to get to know them better and to enable them to be part of the church community. Massive thanks to all our contributors!

The level of ingenuity and creative imagination is just amazing! A simple idea – “Decorate a Christmas Tree” - and you get trees made from everything from driftwood, to beer bottles, decorated with everything from recycled materials to delicate glass angels! Ilfracombe really does have talent!

Over the Combe Christmas Festival weekend, we believe the church was visited by around 300 people, whom we welcomed, “fed and watered”, and enjoyed chatting to. In some cases, we were privileged to listen to their stories and pray with them. We sang carols to them, too, which were much appreciated! We were delighted to welcome the children and staff of Ilfracombe Infant School for a series of visits, and enjoyed their carol singing!

So many commented on what a wonderful sense of community this Christmas Tree Festival has encouraged and facilitated.

So we really have built bridges with our neighbours “on our frontline”, and encouraged so many to contribute to growing the sense of community.

Combe Christmas Carol Service

It was a privilege to lead the Carol Service to end the Combe Christmas Festival in the Marquee in Ropery Road, but even more exciting to be accompanied by all the Nativity characters, including the camel and the live baby Jesus, as we told and acted out the Christmas story to the vast numbers who turned up. So much appreciation and praise was received. Comments included, "The best ever", "brilliant", "the icing on the cake"!

Sincere thanks to Katy Ashford for making virtually all the costumes! And to all who overcame their stage fright to dress up, parade across to the marquee and up through the crowd to create the tableau on our tiny "stage"! Casting was perfect!

Already I have – and have received - suggestions for developing the idea for next year!

We must thank Steve Trebble and his team for a great weekend of activities from the Lighting of the Lights on Friday through to the Carol Service and lighting of the Hip and Pistol tree on Sunday. They are a small but dedicated and hard-working group, and have welcomed and encouraged Pip and Jim's to be more and more involved. It is a great to know that the church is integral to their planning.

Christmas Day Family Festival Communion 10.30am

This short service will combine the joy and delight of the family service with the family meal of holy communion, with some favourite carols, of course. A meaningful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus into our world and into our lives on the festival day.

Important Notices from last weeks update

Light up a life – Sunday 2nd December, 6.30pm in Pip and Jim’s.

We support the work of North Devon Hospice and the Children’s Hospice South West while providing an act of remembrance for those who have lost someone they love. This will take place in our church full of Christmas Trees, which offer the symbol of light, eternal life and pointing the way to heaven.



Toys

As per other years, we'll be collecting toys at our service on Sunday 16th December to hand out to those in need!

If you are able to, could you please provide new, wrapped toys that are labelled with child's gender and age.

Thank you very much. Stephanie.

Fabric Committee

The PCC would like to inform the congregation that Dr Martin Mather has resigned as Chairperson of the Fabric Committee and would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks to him, the amount of work he has done over the last few years. Thank you Martin.

Where do your skills lie?

We need people to join the Fabric Committee to increase the existing numbers and to share the work load/ideas.

Please speak to Alan or Graeme if you think you could help! Even just for further information.

Hours to suit!

Also needed.....

Someone to lead this group! Please ask!!!

Our Church Finances

As we start to look towards Christmas and the New Year, let us also reflect on the faithful provisions that the Lord has made to us personally and as a Church body.

Also, a big thank you all for what you do and contribute towards the Lord's Kingdom here at Pip & Jim's.

As a family we are the body that finances the running and work of the church and we have achieved a lot this year in supporting our Youth worker, our children's work and providing a warm and safe place of worship and increasingly a space for our community.

But, all this comes at a cost and our overall giving as a body has dropped over the past few years.

2018 - This year we are looking at a **shortfall of £1,700 or £32.70pw**

2019 – the budget to run our church, without major repairs, Will cost on average £1,281pw

In turn the congregation offers £680pw

but add in the car park and we take that to £1,197pw (that's how important this mission is)

But next year we are looking at **a shortfall of £4,576 or £88pw**

Please do pray and reflect on the challenge of our church finances.

The Lord asks us to be generous in all matters and just maybe He is asking you, should you be able, to reconsider your financial giving.

If you do not already give monthly please consider this seriously perhaps join our Parish Giving Scheme, making a standing order, as if you are a tax payer we can claim the 25% Gift Aid relief automatically. If you already give regularly you may like to amend these amounts.

Both are simple and quick to undertake. Pick up the details at the back of the church.

Should you need help on any of this, our Church Treasurer can confidentially help you.

<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
Plate Giving	£	6,004
Monthly Giving	£	29,380
Other income	£	4,640
Car Park	£	22,000
	£	62,024
shortfall	£	4,576
	£	66,600

<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Common Fund	£	33,967
Church		
Running	£	19,633
Schools		
worker	£	6,000
General		
Repairs	£	7,000
	£	66,600

But let us remember "The Lord's work done in the Lord's way never lacks funding"

Nigel Vince, Church Treasurer, mobile 07887642262
November 2018

Church contact information

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Any thoughts, comments and feedback on Pew
News are always welcome. Please email
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