

Modern day mural brings new life

A **MURAL** has been painted on the west wall of St Peter's Church, Lamerton as part of renovation work to ensure the church is there for future generations.

Over £40,000 was raised locally towards the work, costing £200,000, to repair the tower and east gable ends. Eight other funding bodies provided grants.

Inspired by murals seen on other churches, it was also decided that, as the west wall needed to be replastered and as a dedication to the church's patron saint, a modern mural would be painted bringing alive some of the references in the New Testament concerning St Peter. Churchwarden of seven years Ian Minshull



Bishop Nick, pictured with mural painter Jon Minshull, rededicated the church following completion of the project.

said: "We went on a bell ringing tour and visited a church near Wells where they have uncovered a medieval painting. We were inspired by that and decided to do our own. People who have seen it have found it very moving."

Funds were donated to pay for Ian's son Jon, a professional artist, to paint the mural and Ian explains: "My son is not particularly religious but this was an amazing experience for him. It was very personal and not just work for him."

Ian adds: "The mural took just two weeks of very intensive work to complete. We feel it is an extremely beautiful and very relevant addition to St Peter's Church and we hope all visitors enjoy it."

COMMON WORSHIP CARTOONS

A series of cartoons by the Rev Peter Murphy, based in Winchester Diocese, light-heartedly explore the themes and meanings within the Sunday Gospel readings. The set, covering Year C, costing £36, and other free cartoons can be found at: www.verycommonlectionary.com



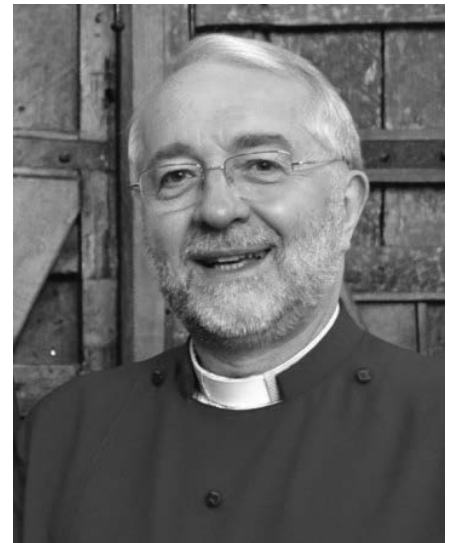
Spirituality Co-ordinator announced

I T HAS BEEN announced that Preb Graham Stones has been appointed as diocesan Spirituality Co-ordinator, a new role, to help the diocese focus on prayer and spirituality, one of Bishop Robert's prime objectives.

Graham, who retired from full-time parish ministry at the end of 2014, said: "Looking beyond ourselves and specifically looking to Jesus, are at the heart of our Christian spirituality. I

am excited by the varied initiatives that are already on offer and hopeful that, by sharing news of them more widely, more and more people will benefit from them and that we will see real growth in prayer across the diocese."

More information on Prayer, Spiritual Accompaniment and Retreats & Quiet Days has recently been added to the relevant pages of the diocesan website. Graham



Graham Stones

can be contacted by email at: spirituality.coordinator@exeter.anglican.org or on 01404 46430 or by post via the Old Deanery.

Bishop Robert opens new academy

S T MATTHEW'S CofE Primary and Nursery Academy in Plymouth has been officially opened by the Bishop of Exeter. The school is the first brand new foundation church school to be built by the Diocese of Exeter for over 100 years and Bishop Robert was joined by council leaders, pupils, staff, governors, the construction team, diocesan staff and members of local business at the formal opening.



The **BIG** questions

FOR **BARRY DUGMORE**, now working as Diocesan Mission Enabler, the opportunity to ask the 'big questions' meant that he came to faith. Barry worked as an industrial chemist and it was the acceptance and welcome he received through the local church which made all the difference to him discovering a living faith.

When he married Suzanne, who was already a churchgoer, he adds: "It was being accepted and welcomed through the journey of the baptism of our children which helped me in exploring the faith journey. We had a vicar who was keen to listen to me as I was asking lots of questions. That was paramount for me. He helped me connect life and God." That vicar was Bob Evens who went on to be Bishop of Crediton.

Barry began to get more involved in the church, playing his guitar and helping with the children's work, before feeling called to church leadership.

He explains: "I was in Sales and Marketing in the Pharmaceutical Industry and I began to train as a Reader. I felt God calling me to do 'marketing' for him."

Then in 2001, Barry was ordained as a priest and he spent the last eight years in Tiverton before taking on the diocesan role.

He says: "I believe that God was calling me to ordained ministry. Knowing where I'd travelled from and where I'd got to, I found this amazing."

As a musician Barry released a single but he now focuses his ambitions on working for God.

He adds: "I am looking forward to helping churches by resourcing them with tools for growth and discipleship and to help them with Fresh Expressions so that together we can become more confident in sharing the good news of Jesus in our communities."

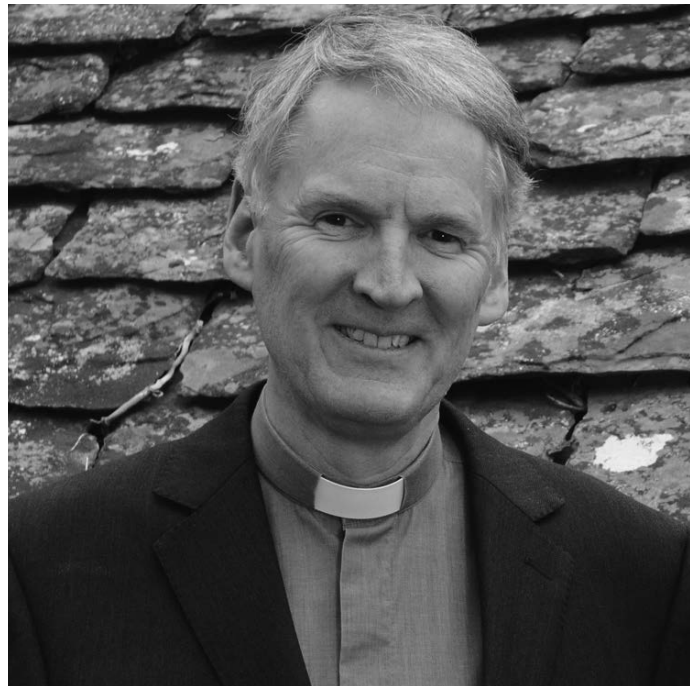


Contact Barry on 01392 294920 or email:
barry.dugmore@exeter.anglican.org

A new year in Christ

JANUARY 1ST and a New Year begins. The Roman god Janus, after whom January is named, is famously depicted with two faces, one looking backwards to all that has been and one looking forwards to all that will be. We do a lot of that ourselves at the turn of the year. We look back to the good moments, and the difficult ones. Sometimes we judge the past year as a happy one, sometimes as an *annus horribilis* as the Queen put it – one we're glad to put behind us. At the same time we look forward expectantly with pristine diaries and calendars to all that the new year will bring. And on radio and TV and in our newspapers, we are bombarded with memories of the last twelve months and predictions for the next twelve. Pundits will be wheeled out to comment on the highs and lows of 2015 and to polish wise forecasts out of their crystal balls for 2016.

As Christians, we also look both ways. We look back to Jesus, to his birth, life, death and resurrection. We ground ourselves in his teaching, we trust in the new life he brought us, we see him as the wellspring of who we are and why we are. We look back also



to glimpses in our own lives of God's love enfolding us, his healing touch renewing us, his Spirit calling us. In that backward-looking, our faith is rooted and ever renewed. But we also look forward – and are called forward – to the future fullness of God's Kingdom, in which God's will for us and his creation will find completion. That gives us hope and it gives us our vision and our mission as God's pilgrim people here and now. Rooted in the past, we look to the future and together those shape our lives in the present. Christ yesterday, today and for ever.

How, I wonder, will our New Year resolutions reflect all of this? Often they can be rather superficial. But that need not be so – not if they grow out of our rootedness in Christ looking back and our hope in Christ looking forward. What will you resolve as his disciple for 2016?

**THE VEN DR MARK BUTCHERS
ARCHDEACON OF BARNSTAPLE**