

## Axmouth Church Report

April 2013

As well as providing a time of worship every Sunday morning over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our links with the village community.

We have started **Messy Church**- an informal gathering of families, parents and children, on the first Thursday of the month, from 3.30 till 6 pm. We meet in the village hall and provide craft activities and toys, then a story and a song, based on a different Christian theme each month; the afternoon ends with a meal shared by helpers, parents and children. It's great fun for families and helpers alike!

Our plan was to have a six-month trial of Messy Church, and so far it has been really successful; we had a total of 17 children for the first two sessions, from our village and around, and although the numbers dropped in April due to the school holidays we are optimistic for the future.

The **Parish Magazine** continues to be produced by the church, with essential input from contributors, and editorial help from Dennis Hall. It is funded by income from the adverts, a contribution from the church and a grant from the Parish Council. The aim of the magazine is to make it relevant and interesting to the whole village, and anyone is welcome to contribute an article or report or to express their point of view.

It would be good if we could think of a way of collecting payment from those who receive the magazine; at the moment copies are delivered free of charge by a willing band of helpers to all households in the parish-( as far as we are able!) It is also read by members of our church congregation from Seaton and beyond who attend church on a Sunday, and who pick up their copy from the table there.

Another monthly event is our **Friendship Lunch**, organised by Rose Tidball, for all in the village (and one or two from the church community) who are of pensionable age and who live alone. We have a special menu for lunch on the first Monday of the month with a choice of dishes provided by The Ship- 2 courses for £10. This has been very popular and up to 20 people have been coming along. Recently we have made exceptions to our 'singles' rule and included couples, where one partner is almost a full-time carer for the other.

As for **music in the church**:- we now have no regular organist but instead we have a 'music machine'- an ipad and speaker – which we are getting used to. We have live music when either Mary Briggs or Roger Grose play the organ, and occasionally Rosemary and Terry Barratt accompany us on Paraguayan harp and guitar. On special occasions we have a 'Community Choir' and at Advent, Easter and Christmas we are joined by the Gregorian chanting group (who meet to practise every month at the Spiral Sanctuary).

Hilary Harron