

NEWS FROM EAST SHALLOWFORD

CHRISTMAS 2013



FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this we are again at the beginning of the season of Advent. That's the time when Christians look back with thanksgiving to the Incarnation. That was the most amazing event of human history.

God came and lived among us, taking on our vulnerability and, eventually, giving His life for all the world.

But Advent is also a time of looking forward. Christians believe that there is going to be a time when Jesus Christ will return physically to our world. That is one of the great Christian hopes.

In quite a different way, those of us who are involved with The Shallowford Trust are looking back. We are all grateful to God

for the vision of Elizabeth Braund, and how that vision came to fruition in the work of Providence House in London and East Shallowford Farm in Devon, the many lives that were touched, and those whose direction was changed by coming to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. We are also looking forward to the task that lies ahead! Yes it is exciting but of course very challenging. **Holding onto** the core message, being there for those who often have had no-one to be there for them, and introducing them to God's wonderful Creation that surrounds Shallowford.

We are delighted that Debbie Sandels and her husband Alastair are going to head up the work at East Shallowford.

Would you please pray for them as they take up residence in the New Year. Thank you for all your support, we need it!

May you have a joyous Christmas!

David Ursell

Chair of the Shallowford Trust.



Debbie Sandels

Shallowford Trust Manager

Debbie is married to Alastair. They have two grown up sons, Chris and James, and have been worshipping at St Peter, Paul and Thomas's in Bovey Tracey for 24 years.

The boys worship at Exeter Network Church, though James is currently in Australia with Youth with a Mission. Debbie has been working with children on Dartmoor for 24 years after being a Biology teacher in secondary education.

After leaving teaching, her family bought a small farm of 48 acres in Hennock which they developed into a residential centre, for small groups of children to enjoy farm life and the beautiful Teign valley.

After 14 years they sold Longlands and Debbie took many of the groups with her to join the team at Heatree Activity Centre. There she assisted the manager in running the centre and developed environmental experiences, helping children to discover and appreciate God's Creation.

Debbie is now ready for a new challenge at East Shallowford, developing the work of Elizabeth Braund, enabling more groups of young people and families to stay at the farm, experience a loving Christian environment, learn about farm life and discover the wonders of Dartmoor.

Providence House @ East Shallowford October 2013

To East Shallowford with two young men and six boys. From bright autumn skies and seasonal colours all along the motorways and high roads, until the misty hills of Dartmoor, and rain that grew with heaviness throughout the evening and into the night. On arrival we were straight out to the farm, and the lads joined in with differing degrees of enthusiasm, varying with the task and the weather. Looking for the horses on the marsh, finding the bull calf who had got detached from the rest, mucking out a couple of sheds, feeding the pigs and poultry, and for those who could stick it moving dozens of concrete blocks from the cattle stand onto the trailer. (Don't tell them we have to move them all again somewhere else tomorrow). Drying in front of the fire, games, watching Mark heating his rag tin ready for a bonfire the next day. A night walk after supper in the rain. Bellever, eventually to bed, or rather eventually the room quiet at midnight.

Thursday 31st October 2013

More rain, and then more rain, with gaps for breezy interludes, but little sun. Nevertheless the lads did really well, worked hard, and even when they didn't, they enjoyed themselves, with only minimal fuss.



In the morning, in groups or all together, we watched Mark fell and trim a tree, then built a bonfire for the bits, while stacking the logs to weather for next year's firewood; we helped Evie feed sheep, poultry & pigs, and mucked out their shelters; we helped to fence off the stack of silage in the field where the horses are about to graze. In the afternoon, Serena led a walk over Hookney Tor, Grimspound and some of the old tin workings, while back at the farm in front of the fire Mark demonstrated starting the fire with his magnesium flint and the rags from the last night. Roast dinner and a

few stories around the fireplace. Night walk. It was halloween, and we wanted to do something scary. Serena had arranged for a couple of ghosts to appear out of the trees at the back end of Bellever Forest, near to the old quarry entrance. Unfortunately the ghosts were a bit wet and ragged by the time we arrived, and spooked none of us. It was wet with strong winds, and very dark. There was very little scariness, but we did get lost. It was a long walk. At least they slept quite well.

Friday 1st November 2013



Early start today. We woke two of the lads at 5.30am, to take them to East Shallowford, where they helped Paul load some sheep into the trailer, then off to market in Exeter. It was just a small part of their growing understanding of farm life. Paul brought them back to the youth hostel for breakfast. Last morning at the farm. Fed a few animals and then to Widecombe for the first hunt meeting of the year.

The boys enjoyed the feel of the occasion, the hounds, the horses, the black and red coats, and the eagle owl. A walk back over the moor through Frenches' Lane, with the lads finding their own way home. Last meal, last reflections.

It is as ever a long drive home. Looking back it was very worthwhile for all the boys, for the young men as leaders too. Although we needed to be on alert to keep boys at times from being at each other, they were a good group and without doubt enjoyed the whole experience.

We will be back for more.

Robert Musgrave

Providence House

Don't forget! The Shallowford Nativity

Saturday 21st December
from 6pm.

**'The Timeless story of the
Saviour's birth'**

Bethlehem comes to Dartmoor.

Refreshments & Bethlehem Bazaar

For more info contact East Shallowford.



*For more information or to join
Friends of Shallowford please
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