

Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury and Broadhempston with Woodland

My dear friends,

June sees us entering once again Ordinary Time, though nothing is ever really ordinary in the Church. There is always so much to do and so much going on. June and July see patronal festivals at Woodland and Broadhempston as well as many other church and village events.

Since my last message "From the Doghouse" each church has had their Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting in which members of the PCC and other officers are appointed. It is an opportunity for me to thank the many people who contribute so much to the life of our churches and communities and a time to celebrate who we are and what we have done and are doing. My thanks to all who give so much of their time, talents and money to make us what we are. Special thanks go to our wardens who take on a big work load and great responsibility on your behalf to help me run our services and care for our buildings.

Their appointment as wardens will, by now, have been confirmed by the Archdeacon at his Visitation Court, an ancient service which this year was held at Kingskerswell.



As you know we have a new Archdeacon, the Venerable Douglas Dettmer. Douglas is known to many people in this Diocese as a member of General Synod and he comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge. It was with Douglas that I served on placement during my curacy in Exeter and it was he who confirmed that I might find my calling in rural ministry. So we owe him a great debt for having shown me that it was possible to serve many churches (he had ten!), albeit in a different way from the one where I served my curacy.

*The beautiful Easter garden at St. Mary's Denbury. The "sunrise" is formed from individual hands made by cut outs of children's hands*

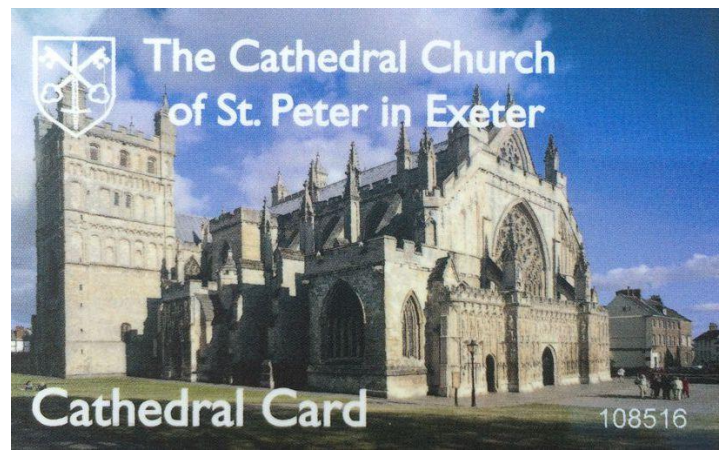


## Doghouse [continued]

On the subject of ministry, I hope by now you have had a chance to meet and talk to Robert Densmore, a Duke Divinity School student who is exploring his vocation for ordination and who is visiting us for three weeks as one of three placements he will be doing over the summer. Do welcome him and help him to understand the context in which we worship and pray.

By now we will have held our first Quiet day near Tiverton. There is another, quite different, day in July. This one will be more local and so people can come and go as they like, taking whatever time they may be able to spare. So do sign up and take some time to rest with God.

I have been given some cards by Exeter Cathedral which enable you to go into the cathedral without having to pay (you never have to pay for a service or to use the shop). Please see your wardens if you would like to borrow it. The cathedral is a great resource for and inspiration to us in the county and well worth a visit.



In the autumn we hope to have another Confirmation service so if you know anyone who might like to be confirmed please suggest they have a chat with me.

Finally, I am very aware of how much the presence of our churches are in our communities – I for one love to see the tower lit up and I make my way home in the evenings. One of the ways we make our presence known in our villages is by floodlighting the towers (in Ipplepen and Denbury) – we are always looking for sponsors (it is not expensive) to help cover the cost. Sponsors are listed in The Beacon and on the church porch notice boards. Why not mark your special occasions by sponsoring the floodlighting of your church?

In Christ

Peter

## The Lighter side!

The following have all appeared in church magazines:

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

*This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.*

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

*Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.*

## News from Denbury

### St. Mary the Virgin



As ever the very full programme of services over Holy Week left the congregation at Denbury exhausted but very satisfied spiritually. A number of Denbury folk attended and took an active part in the Maundy Thursday service at St. Andrew's and afterwards kept watch over the sacrament placed in the Lady Chapel at St. Mary's through till midnight.

The silent church, lit only by candles, provides an excellent opportunity for some quiet meditation and contemplation on the season of Easter and its meaning for us all.

This reflective mood was continued in the service held on Good Friday afternoon at which a number of the congregation took part in reading the Passion. Following this service the Easter garden was assembled. The Garden always attracts many favourable comments and, positioned within the altar with its own lighting, provides a very visual reminder of the Easter message and it is particularly eye-catching on entering the church when the main lights are off.

The Easter Vigil service on Saturday night is an ancient service with several distinct parts, all full of meaning. We were able to light the Pascal candles for all the Mission Community churches from the bonfire outside the porch (no gales this year) before entering the church which progressively fills with light as a symbol of Christ, the light of the world.

Easter Sunday attracted a good congregation and at the Easter egg hunt held after the service, the children once again made tracking down the Easter eggs concealed around the churchyard look easy.

A small but enthusiastic band of parishioners attended the annual Songs of Praise gathering held on the Sunday evening prior to the start of Denbury's May Fayre on the Green. Unfortunately, in contrast to 2014, the weather this year was challenging! Heavy rain and strong winds meant the event had to be held in the marquee rather than in the open air. Despite understandably small numbers due to the conditions, we enjoyed singing a number of favourite hymns, accompanied by Rachel on guitar, listened to a poem written by Steve which praised the beauty of God's creation with reference to the countryside around the village and joined in with some reflective prayers led by Tessa.

A very pleasant meeting which is becoming a fixture of the annual May Fayre programme.

*Mike Bray*

## More on the Lighter side

The school drama group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church hall on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

*Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.*

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'



## News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



One of the lovely things about Easter at St. Andrew's this year was the wide variety of services on offer. The Compline on the Wednesday evening of Holy Week was wonderfully simple, and all the more moving for that.

This was followed by the solemnity of the Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Maundy Watch until midnight.

Good Friday saw a joint service and walk of witness with Christians from different denominations living in the village, followed by a soup lunch at the Methodist church.

The mood on Easter Sunday was quite different. The church was bright with flowers and packed with villagers. It was lovely to see so many children, many beautifully dressed in their Easter best. They had the opportunity to take part in a Lucky Dip.

Our PCC AGM in April was well attended and gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable amount of time and effort that so many people contribute to keep the church running. Many of these roles, such as treasurer and safeguarding officer, are very much behind the scenes, but the AGM was a reminder of just how essential these, and many other posts, are for the smooth running of the church and how many people give willingly of their time to keep St. Andrew's running as a centre for Christian prayer and worship in the village. We are fortunate indeed to have such a committed team of people.

*Liz Lamport*



*Ipplepen's Easter garden*

## News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



Our little parish has had a lovely busy Spring. Lots of church and social events, coupled with several meetings both reviewing past events and planning future ones.

The Easter services started with our Mission Community Palm Sunday service, with lunch afterwards in the village hall. Our monthly library and coffee mornings are as popular as ever. A lovely way to meet with neighbours we often wave to in passing but rarely have time to talk to.

Next month there are plans to have a cooked breakfast and try out the new microwave!

Our regular afternoons sharing interests and learning new things have included an afternoon of mosaic making (first time that I have ever had a go at mixing concrete) and learning how to play the hand bells. As our starring piece was a rendition of “Little Donkey”, there were suggestions that perhaps we could prepare something for one of the future Christmas services or social events.

Looking to the future, there is a bus organised for Torbryan’s Patronal festival on 31<sup>st</sup> May and I know that plans have been discussed for our annual village fete/garden party, although I don’t yet know if any firm decisions have been made.

*Helen Pearce*

## The Easter Vigil

*An account of the traditional Easter Eve service for all in our Mission Community held at St. Mary the Virgin, Denbury.*

What a wonderful Easter we had! As always it was the triumphant climax to the most important season of the Christian year. Easter Sunday’s service is always splendid, with its joyful hymns, its beautiful flowers (including the floral cross we all helped to create) and for the children and others the egg hunt in the churchyard.

But for some of us in Denbury, the Easter Vigil on the previous night holds possibly more excitement and significance. It begins in the dark churchyard, where a small bonfire is prepared, lit and coaxed into life by Tessa. At this fire the paschal candle is ceremonially lit for each of the churches of our Mission Community, to be taken back for use throughout the year.

This year we were fortunate; there was little wind and no rain, and all went smoothly. The candles were carried into church and, as we all entered, our own little candles were lit to help illuminate the dark church - for the solemn intoning three times of “The light of Christ - Thanks be to God”.

The service which follows includes important Old Testament readings, the renewal of our baptismal vows and of course the Eucharist itself - the first celebration of Easter.

*Elizabeth Burdon*



## News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



Things have been quiet since Easter with time to enjoy the Spring and all that is around us.

We hope that all who came enjoyed our village gardens. Many thanks to all who opened their gates and to everyone who supplied great cakes for the afternoon teas.

We have had another wedding with a difference in our church; the difference being that Tracy, the bride, made all the flowers for the occasion by hand. These included decorations, bouquets and buttonholes all made from coloured felt. It made a wonderful display and I have included a photograph to show you a sample of what she achieved in a year's work.

For the month of June, Broadhempston Church will be hosting an exhibition of World War One photos and text compiled from the archives of the Totnes Image Bank. The exhibits show the contribution to the war effort made by communities in and around the South Devon area, including the War Horses of Kingsbridge. The Church is open most days from 10am to 4pm so please call in when passing.

On Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, Broadhempston PCC will be hosting an evening of jazz, rock and roll and blues played by Herbie Flowers (bass), Chris Spedding (guitar), Malcolm Mortimore (drums) and Derek Austin (keyboard). All four are well known session players in the UK who have performed with some of the top names (David Bowie, Elton John, Paul McCartney to name but a few). They will be supported by The Three Pilgrims who are touring the South West this summer. Tickets at £13 each (£10 for under 18s) are available from **Anna Beadel** on **01803 812426** or at [annabeadel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annabeadel@yahoo.co.uk) Proceeds to Church Restoration Fund.

*Pam Perriman and Chris Parker*



*Tracy's felt flowers*

# Ipplepen Marble

On our way back from a short break in South Wales we decided to use our National Trust membership and visit Tyntesfield which is situated just a stone's throw away from Bristol at Wraxall, North Somerset. This Grade 1 listed building was bought by English businessman William Gibbs in the 1830's, whose huge fortune came from guano used as fertiliser.



The house was significantly expanded and remodelled in the 1860's and a Chapel added in the 1870's.

Whilst enjoying looking around this wonderful house which was home to four generations of the Gibbs family, we spoke to a guide who pointed out some Ipplepen Marble used on door frames in the vast hallway and drawing room. This pink marble came from the quarry at Barton House in Ipplepen, and is the same type of marble used around the altar at St. Andrew's.

Ornate Gothic carvings decorate the house; there is also an extensive collection of paintings. We were amazed by the huge library where the book collection is the most extensive Victorian library collection owned by the Trust.

The Gothic Chapel was used by the family and their guests as a central part of life at

Tyntesfield and prayers were said twice-daily. The family also opened the Chapel to local people on an annual basis often during Rogation days and at Christmas. It housed an organ by William Hills and sons, and we loved the beautiful stained glass windows.

Unfortunately the Bishop of Bath and Wells would not sanction the

consecration of Tyntesfield's Chapel owing to a combined opposition from both the Vicar of the local All Saints Church, Wraxall, and the Church's patron.

The Gibb's family owned the house until the death of Richard Gibbs in 2001. Tyntesfield was purchased by the National Trust in June 2002 after a fundraising campaign to ensure it would be open to the public. It is certainly worth a visit!

*Marilyn Clark*



# They're back!!!!!!



Before 2013  
Credit - Diana Neale LRPS



2013 after theft  
Credit – The CCT



After recovery 2015  
Credit – The CCT

*Just in time for the production of The Beacon we are delighted to be able to bring you this exciting news.*

The two priceless 15th century oak panels, stolen from the rood screen of Torbryan church in August 2013, have been recovered by the police.

The decorative oak panels, bearing paintings of St Victor of Marseilles and St Margaret of Antioch, are considered of national importance, and were stolen between 2 and 9 August 2013. The panels remained missing until they were recovered by the Metropolitan Police Art & Antiques Unit after being spotted by a private collector in an online sale. This led to a raid by specialist detectives in south London in January.

The rood screen and its panels are one of only a handful of such artworks in England which survived the Reformation. The theft prompted a national media campaign to try to trace the whereabouts of the missing panels, receiving the backing of high profile figures such as Loyd Grossman, Dan Cruickshank and the late Candida Lycett Green. The collector who alerted the police recognised the panels from media coverage of the theft.

When it first came to light in 2013, the theft was a bitter blow for The Churches Conservation Trust, the national charity that cares for 347 unique churches around England including Torbryan church. Despite elation at the return of the panels, the Trust now faces a bill of £7,000 to restore the damage - the result of the thieves hacking the panels out of the screen during the theft - and has launched a campaign to raise the money. Details of how to donate can be found at [www.visitchurches.org.uk/Torbryan/](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/Torbryan/)



# When Jesus came for tea!

We received the following e-mail a while ago from my son in Canada talking about his children Eleanor (age 3) and Phoebe (2 months) -

*Thought you might like this.....*

*Our vicar (Pastor Tim) came to visit after Phoebe was born, about 8pm one evening after Ellie had gone to bed.*

*However, Eleanor woke up and unbeknown to us sat on the stairs listening to the chat, and must have heard Jesus mentioned....*

*Subsequently she got it firmly in her head that "Jesus had come for tea" !*

*We told Pastor Tim about this which he found hilarious and sent a lovely card to Eleanor....*

***Dear Eleanor***

***So sorry I missed seeing you on Wednesday evening.***

***Be certain I am not Jesus, but I do know him well and think he's pretty great - and I hope you will get to know him too.***

***With love,  
Pastor Tim***

I hope Eleanor keeps that card.

Winnie Bryant

## Quiet Day at Hole Farm near Denbury

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015

10.00am - 4.00pm



Presentations, reflections and lots of space and time to just enjoy the house, gardens and surroundings in your own way – read, draw, paint, write, sleep – the choice is entirely yours.

Come for the whole day or just part – the important thing is to relax and feel at home.

A wonderful setting for everybody; highly recommended.

Own transport. The day is FREE of charge. Drinks included, bring your own lunch.

Contact the Rector for more information, directions and to book.

## Cathy talks to the Editor

Cathy Cock will be baptised and confirmed later this year. We met up over coffee in her home between her morning spent at Ipplepen School volunteering in Year 1 (Lauren's class) and returning to pick up her two daughters from school at 3 pm. A busy life on the first day of the summer term!

Cathy was brought up in Ilford Essex. Her father was a Christian but her mother had no religious belief. She does remember attending church there when she was in the Brownies and also occasionally attending local Sunday school. The family moved to Hemel Hempstead when she was nine.

When aged 19, her mother died suddenly aged 47. This was a catastrophic event for her, her elder sister and father and it took a long time for her to recovery. It seemed difficult for her to have any faith at that time and a long time after.

She moved to Starcross, Devon with her son Jamie in 1999. A few years later she met Kevin Cock and moved to Ipplepen in 2005. They now have two daughters, Hannah aged 7 and Lauren aged 5. Initially she started to come to church occasionally with her parents-in-law, Mary and Douglas Cock, then for the baptisms of her daughters. She continued to come occasionally to the monthly Family Service at St. Andrew's with the girls.

Initially she was surprised at the tolerance and friendliness of the congregation towards her and her family but it took longer for the seed of belief and faith to germinate.



Increasingly while talking to other mothers from church her interest grew- they too had experiences of coping with tragedy and were prepared to share their faith.

Cathy attended the Lent Course on the Eucharist and had found both the content and the discussion that ensued rewarding, stimulating and reassuring. She grew more confident in her faith. Again, this year's course on the Creeds and the discussion that ensued helped her to realise that we all have our difficulties and differences. Perhaps this is a strength of the Church.



## Contacts

<b>Rector</b>	<b>The Reverend Peter Ashman</b>	<b>☎ 01803 813847</b>
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	The Reverend Anne Burden	☎ 813520
	Canon Tom New	☎ 813775
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	Ms Tricia Stokes	☎ 762158
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	Mrs Geraldine Dennis	☎ 813077
Deputy Warden	Mrs Jane Outhwaite	☎ 812879
Choir	Mrs Jo Innes-Lumsden	☎ 812654
Bellringing	Mr Colin Clark	☎ 01626 354561
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vanessa Bevan	☎ 812812
PCC Treasurer	Mr Roger Chamberlain	☎ 01626 352282
Church Hall	Mrs Shirley Northwood	☎ 813980
Flowers	Mrs Sheila Stacey	☎ 813609
Hospitality	Mrs Jane Outhwaite	☎ 812879
<b>St Mary the Virgin, Denbury</b>		
Churchwardens	Mr Steve Bassett	☎ 812537
	Mr Mick Sutherland Cook	☎ 813871
Deputy Warden	Mr Mike Bray	☎ 812941
Bellringing	Mr Steve Bassett	☎ 812537
PCC Secretary	Mr Mick Sutherland Cook	☎ 813871
PCC Treasurer	Mr Mike Bray	☎ 812941
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Flowers	Mrs Ann Toler	☎ 813255
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PCC Treasurer	Mr Chris Parker	☎ 762200
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<b>Safeguarding</b>	Mrs Carol Robinson	☎ 812800
<b>The Beacon</b>		
Editor	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
Production	Mr Charles Quartley	☎ 812238

# Sunday Services for June and July

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 1 – 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

9.15am	Parish Communion with Sunday Club; Diamond Jubilee of the ordination of Canon Tom to the priesthood	Denbury	Canon Tom New; preacher Ven. Clive Cohen
11.00am	Parish Communion with Sunday Club	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
3.00pm	Churchyard Service	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 2 – 2 Cor. 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.00pm	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	Tricia Stokes

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June – John the Baptist - Isaiah 40:1-11; Acts 13:14-26; Luke 1:57-66,80

11.00am	Patronal Festival Communion Service and lunch	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman
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## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 4 – Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ipplepen	Lay-led

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Ss. Peter & Paul - Acts 12.1-11; 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17, 18; Matthew 16.13-19

11.00am	Patronal Festival Communion Service and lunch	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
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## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 6 - Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
4.00pm	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	Edward Goodman

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 7 - Ephesians 2.11-22; Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Chris Benson
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadhempston	Lay-led
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 8 - Ephesians 3.14-21; John 6.1-21

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ipplepen	Lay-led



## Mid-week Services for June and July

Regular Mid-week (CW) services are held as follows:

Weekdays	8.15am	Ipplepen	Morning Prayer (said)
Tuesday	7.00pm	Ipplepen	Holy Communion (first Tuesday)
Wednesday	10.00am	Denbury	Holy Communion
Thursday	10.30am	Ipplepen	Holy Communion
Thursday	4.30pm	Denbury	Evening Prayer (said)

## Intercessions for the Mission Community – June and July

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Intercessors	Ipplepen Road	East Street	Community Shop	Barton House
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Introducers	The Grange & Grange Close	West Street	Radfords	Rose Cottages
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Morning Worship teams	Ledsgrove	South Street	Beaston	Wickeridge Mews
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Social/Hospitality groups	Luscombe Close	The Post Office and Shop	Downe	Merryfield Farm
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Refreshments after church	Mayfair Road	The Union Inn	Knowle	Pulsford Cottages
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Cleaners	Meadow Park	Glas-Denbury	Hemsford	Springfield Wickeridge Farm
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Hall bookings	Moor Road	The Manor	Village Hall	Forder Cottage
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Outreach groups	Silver Street & Newhayes	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Butlers Retreat Wickeridge Farm

## Coffee Mates (Men of Denbury)

(and Friends)

this is your chance to become a 'Coffee Mate'  
gather around a cup of coffee, biscuits and cake  
2nd Thursday of each month at Church Cottage

10.30 am to 12.00 noon

Treat it as a 'coffee shop',  
bring your newspaper, book, do the crossword

# Dates ahead – June and July

## June

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 pm	Holy Communion service, Ipplepen
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30 pm	Monthly Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Woodland Library
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Denbury Churchyard Service
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee morning at Ipplepen church hall
	12.00 pm	Denbury Family Fun Day in the churchyard
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 pm	Broadhempston Standing Committee meet
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Messy Church at Ipplepen church hall
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Home Communions
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod at St. Mary's, Abbotsbury

## July

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	12.30 pm	Monthly Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Woodland Library
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Holy Communion service, Ipplepen
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Quiet Day at Hole Farm near Denbury
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Cottage Garden Show Songs of Praise at Ipplepen field
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Messy Church at Broadhempston – outdoors
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Home Communions
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Joint PCC (all parishes) at Broadhempston Village Hall

## Monday T Pot

each Monday, 3.00pm to 4.30pm.  
Denbury Church Cottage. All welcome.





# Last Supper at Ipplepen!

Hi. My name is Harry Northwood. I am 9 years old. I like to go with my mum most Sundays to St. Andrew's church in Ipplepen for the 11 o'clock service but some Sundays we go to Denbury or Broadhempston. I like having a blessing at any of the churches.

When it was Holy week I went to the Maundy Thursday service in Ipplepen where Reverend Peter Ashman washed one of my feet like Jesus would have done for his disciples before the last supper.

The bible stories I am reading are really interesting and help me to understand about God and how Jesus might have lived and what he might have said to his disciples; "whoever wants to be great in the kingdom of God, must learn how to serve others as I am serving you".

I think Jesus was a very kind man who wanted to help people but some people didn't understand him. This year at Easter I was thinking about Jesus dying on the cross for us and then rising again more than I was thinking about Easter eggs!



To help Messy Church keep going we need to raise some funds. We are working on a number of ideas and Huguette Standish has offered to do pastel pictures of children. Ideal for Christmas, birthday or special anniversary presents. If you are interested please contact Huguette or Linda Simmonds.

***Can you make sandwiches? Can you bake a jacket potato? Serve ice cream?***

Then you are just the person we need to help at Messy Church. Our team of caterers are looking for extra helpers to join their rota. The rota involves 2 or 3 simple meals a year at our Saturday Messy Church sessions. Please contact Linda Simmonds, Tessa Amies or Peter Ashman if you can help us.

*Linda Simmonds*

# Lent Course on the Creeds



The six sessions, with each one self-contained for those who “dipped in and out”, covered:

- 1. Introduction to the creeds - what are they, and why were they developed and the role they play in Christian life and faith?*
- 2. God as Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the relationship of love and self-giving within the Trinity itself - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - enables us to say that God is love.*
- 3. Jesus as fully God and fully human - the unique nature of Jesus teaching us much about God and what it is to be human.*
- 4. Sin, death and Hell - Crucified, Risen and Ascended.*
- 5. The Holy Spirit - what it means to receive the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit's role in the life of the Church.*
- 6. One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church where we explored what it means to belong to the people of God and to declare that the Church is one holy, catholic and apostolic.*

## **Learning from each other:**

These were the bones upon which the group slowly and on occasions stumbled to build up flesh. We were much enabled in this process by the skill of our facilitators, Rev'd Peter and latterly Rev'd Kevin. Our comments and thoughts were valued and evaluated, and our leaders were not embarrassed to admit their own difficulty which was helpful for the group to know that understanding God is not fully possible for human beings.

We had gelled and become good and respected pilgrims as our journey reached its end after the last session but there was a feeling there would be many more valuable learning and sharing opportunities to follow.

# Lent Course on the Creeds – cont'd

**Some feedback comments** from group members:

"Many of us experience faith doubts at times but Catholics generally accept the Creed as Church doctrine in its entirety"

"What I am starting to appreciate is the language of God and how this will help me to feel more at home in God's world"

"What I realised in the opening discussion was the appeal for me of Mary Magdalene, present at the crucifixion and the first to see our Lord on Easter morn. Just an ordinary women!?"

"I found it a stimulating course with as many issues opened up as had been explained"

"Thought inspiring and provoking"

"We have enjoyed sharing and discussing views on the inexplicable and the incomprehensible"

"Having the opportunity to mull over some of the difficult questions of faith and the mystery of God has been helpful"

"Living with the questions is far more creative than knowing the answers"

"Having thought about the lent course we have found it challenging but helpful and we much appreciated the fellowship shared"

"Both enlightening and confusing- and extremely good!"

"A privilege to share thoughts and ideas"

*These comments from course members give you some idea that they were "not for ever in green pastures" but this was a "Pilgrims" course. Pilgrimages are never easy all the time but that's the challenge!*



# Behold, I make all things new (Rev 21.5)

Being an old reactionary, I find that these are some of the most worrying words in the Bible, but I comfort myself that they apply to the next world rather than this.

Over the last few months I have been privileged to work with Charles Quartley in writing a new church guide. Previous guides were a good starting point, but much has changed, and more information has come to light since they were printed.

We all know the story of the old churchwarden who had been in post for many years. A new Rector suggested that he must have seen many changes, and the reply was "Yes, and I've opposed every one".

I haven't been quite that bad, and thinking over the last 35 years there have indeed been many changes. The most significant was probably altering the church so that it was possible to have a nave altar and celebrate communion with the priest facing the congregation. The main altar was moved out from the wall at the same time, again so the priest would face the congregation. We moved the front pews, and took some out altogether. You can see where they came almost up to the screen where the parquet floor is. Later we moved some pews at the back of the church, to make room for people to have coffee after a service.

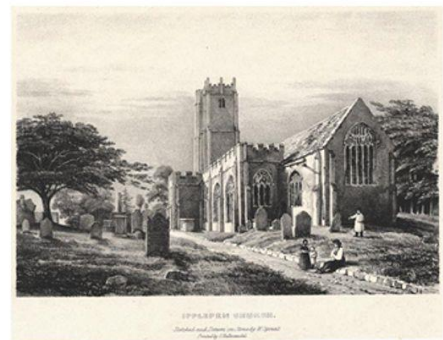
The priest used to sit in the chancel facing the main altar, and these stalls were turned ninety degrees, and another two rows were taken from the side chapel and added at the back. They now look like choir stalls.

Thirty something years ago a new Vicar was intent on having crucifixes in the church. This caused much disquiet, as we had always been told we preached Christ risen, not Christ crucified. The congregation, already a bit



**St. Andrew's, Ipplepen**

## **A short guide**



unsure about nave altars and the westward facing position, baulked at a crucifix. The Vicar wasn't to be outdone and when no-one was looking he attached a very small one to the cross on the reredos, where it has been ever since. More have arrived over the years, and we seem none the worse for it.

The other big change was the tower screen - this has made a huge difference both to the warmth and acoustics of the church. There had previously been a curtain across the back and the new screen let everyone see the accumulated junk of centuries, so the next stage was to build in fitted cupboards and a sink. More recently we added new west doors.

These are the main obvious changes, but in those 35 years we have re-roofed the church,

re-glazed the windows and repaired much of the tracery, re-rendered the outside of the building, renewed the heating system and the lighting, changed the plumbing and wiring, had new doors to the south porch, renewed much of the flooring, put up a new flagpole and installed tower floodlighting. Oh, yes, and treated everything for woodworm and beetles. Added to that we have had at least four different types of communion service and four different hymnbooks. I am sure there is much, much more that doesn't immediately come to mind and others will think of.

Researching the records for the new church guide has thrown up at least two periods of intense change. From about 1710 to 1728 it was pretty constant and disruptive. It took a whole year to re-pave the floor. The chancel was more or less re-ordered with a new set of altar rails, the ten commandments going to the back of the church, the Royal coat-of arms coming off the top of the screen and going over the west door, a new sundial placed over the porch and so on.

The late Victorian age was even more disruptive. The floor was again re-laid, this time with tiles and parquet blocks, and the chancel floor was raised to several different levels.

The Ippelepen marble steps were installed, the new reredos added, more stained glass placed in the windows, as well as changes to the pulpit base. The screen was completely overhauled with a new canopy fitted (chaos ensued because the Bishop was booked to re-dedicate it and nothing was ready on time), a new vestry was built and a coke fired central heating system installed. As if this wasn't enough the plaster ceiling over the central aisle was removed (it would have looked like Torbryan still does) the roof was taken off and all the timber and slates renewed. There were many more small alterations (and by the way, a new vicarage was built). One wonders what everyone thought - and where the money came from to do all this.

The point is that there always has been change, and at our annual church meeting Peter mentioned some more in the future, nothing remotely approaching what is detailed above. I am sure that after proper debate we will take them in our stride. The hymn "Abide with me" has the well-known line "Change and decay in all around I see". We must be prepared for a few things new and some change, but let's leave out the decay.

*Stephen Bryant*

### ***The new Church Guide for St Andrew's***

*This is a splendid and much needed addition for our visitors and will no doubt be rapidly read by all of us. It costs about £1 to print, and we ask that people consider making a donation towards (or even in excess of!) the cost.*

*We have a spare copy on the bookshelves at home for our own visitors but we will encourage them to buy their own copy!*

*If you haven't taken yourself on a guided tour recently, now is the time. There is so much to be discovered about the past history of our church. This booklet brings it all to life with excellent photographs to enhance, expand and explain the words of the text.*

*A .pdf version of the guide is available on the website [www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)*

*Editor*

# The Village Parson



From Anglo-Saxon times to the 21<sup>st</sup> century the Church has been the centre of village life with the priest playing a central role.

In Anglo-Saxon times the Church was built by the local lord or thegn near his house, which explains why some Churches are some distance from the village centre; is Tedburn St Mary an example? The lord appointed the priest, gave him a glebe (house and some land) and treated the Church as his private chapel. The expense of the Church and priest were financed by tithes, a system by which every parishioner was compelled to contribute one-tenth of his income in cash or in kind e.g. every 10<sup>th</sup> pig or sheep, every 10<sup>th</sup> bundle of corn or fleece.

In those days the Church was used for worship and communal activities. The nave was *de facto* the “village hall” where villagers gathered to see plays and participate in “Church Ales” These revelries were held on Holy Days (holidays) when no one worked and attendance at mass was obligatory. Church

Ales were little more than drinking followed by dancing. The ale was often brewed on site, sold and drank in the Church or Churchyard. The money raised was used to buy something special for the Church e.g. a bell (an opportunity for Denbury?). Church Ales were common throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> C, but the drinking often led to excesses and were discouraged by the more sensitive priests and ceased in the 17<sup>th</sup> C.

In Medieval England village life was hard and the life of the parish priest was little different from that of his parishioners. He lived in a similar house and tended his glebe. Typically, a priest would have 300 souls under his care. Usually, the priest was uneducated but could read and write, which meant parishioners would turn to him for comfort and guidance in all their problems.

The Reformation in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> C must have been a torrid time for the clergy. The wealth of the Church was confiscated, decorative art in Churches removed and Henry VIII assumed Papal authority, which meant the clergy had a new boss. The following century was not a lot better under Cromwell when the Puritans destroyed many statutes, church decorations, stained glass windows and white washed walls covering many old paintings. They also introduced the dismal Sunday and long sermons.

Pre-reformation, Church clergy were known as priests and parsons were priests in independent parish Churches i.e. not under control of the Catholic Church. As the Church of England established itself the clergy were divided into Rectors, Vicars and Perpetual Curates.



# The Village Parson – cont'd

Rector comes from the Latin meaning “to set straight, guide, direct”.

Vicar comes from the Latin word “vicarious” meaning “substitute”, “vice”, “deputy”. The title is very old dating back to Medieval times when secular lords, bishops or religious foundations appointed priests.

Perpetual curates. Perpetual meant they could not be removed by their nominating patron; only the bishop or ecclesiastical court could deprive them of their living. Curate comes from “Cure of Souls”.

A major difference between the 3 categories was the manner in which they were paid.

Rectors did best. They had glebe land and received both Great and Small tithes.

Vicars had no glebe land and received only Small tithes.

Perpetual curates received neither glebe land nor tithes but were awarded a stipend.

The *Act for the True Payment of Tithes* of 1548, designated tithes as Great and Small. Great tithes included the more valuable products of grain and wool; Small tithes included milk, eggs, dairy produce and young animals.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> C, Sir William Blackstone (Justice of the Common Pleas) wrote his [\*Commentaries on the Laws of England\*](#), which says “that a parson is a parish priest with the fullest legal rights to the parish properties. A parson, *persona ecclesiae*, is one that has full possession of all the rights of a parochial church. He is called parson, *persona*, because by his person the church, which is an invisible body, is represented; and he is in himself a body corporate, in order to protect and defend



*the rights of the church (which he personates)”. Sir William goes on to say “parson (sic) is the most legal, most beneficial, and most honourable title that a parish priest can enjoy”.*

During this period a Parson became the generic name for all clergy in the Church of England. An Act of Parliament of 1868 permitted perpetual curates to style themselves vicars and the term parson rapidly lost popularity. Most churches established during the Victorian era appointed vicars. Today there is no difference between Rector and Vicar and a parish appoints according to historical tradition.

What would you like your priest to be called?

Rector - someone to “set you straight, guide and direct”.

Vicar - someone who is a “substitute, vice or deputy”.

Parson - someone who “personifies the Church”.

How does Parson Pete sound?

## The Village Parson – cont'd

The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> C saw the rise of the village parson in social status until he became, like his medieval predecessor, the centre of village life. He set up schools where he, his wife and daughters might teach. He set up Sunday Schools, organised bazaars and fetes in the parsonage garden. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> C the parsonage set the moral, educational and spiritual standards of village life. This period also saw the arrival of the “Squarson”. It was the custom for younger sons of the landed gentry to enter the Church (older siblings went into politics and the army) and take over a parish on the estate. It was not uncommon for such a parson to inherit the estate on the death of an older brother and combine the role of squire and parson, hence Squarson. Some were very good like Rev Charles Slingsby from North Yorkshire, who was well respected as squire and parson. However, there were some who were thoroughly disreputable who put their clerical duties in the hands of underpaid curates whilst they lived the lives as hard riding, hard drinking sporting squires. It was during this period that wealthy landowners took an interest in their local Church, rebuilding some in classical style whilst refurbishing others with new pews, floors, and heating systems. Some added

marble statues and family chapels. Their influence can be seen in our Churches today, not least the ornate marble reredos. Another symbol of the wealth of those times was the opulence of the new rectory or vicarage. These were large mansions with servants' quarters and stabling; the old rectory in Broadhempston is a good example. The old rectory in Torbryan is a handsome house; how did the rector occupy his time in that parish?

Today we have Mission Communities and Benefices with Team Rectors and Team Vicars and here lies the challenge for both clergy and congregation. Changes in the way clergy operate are inevitable as an incumbent takes on more parishes, BUT reorganisation must not diminish their fundamental role of spiritual leadership/guidance and pastoral care. Expectation of the congregation must be realistic in the current situation; clergy will not be able to function as they did 50 years ago and they will need greater support from the laity. Finally, there are some people (mercifully a few) who still expect the priest to represent the divine in humanity; sorry, impossible as there was only 1 person where this happened and he lived over 2000 years ago.

*John Usher*

# Floodlighting

The towers at both Denbury and Ipplepen have floodlighting which needs sponsorship to cover the cost of electricity and maintenance.

Sponsorship is usually for a week at a time, and people often like to sponsor to mark a special occasion.

For Denbury, contact Mick Sutherland Cook on 01803 813871

For Ipplepen, contact Winnie Bryant on 01803 812066

## Denbury:

### Retrospective

20<sup>th</sup> March

Elizabeth Burdon – Thanksgiving for several friends and relatives recovering from illness and remembering recent losses too

### New

7<sup>th</sup> June

Canon Tom New for his Diamond Jubilee  
(60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood)



## Ipplepen:

### Retrospective

20<sup>th</sup> March

5<sup>th</sup> April

12<sup>th</sup> April

19<sup>th</sup> April

Gill and Dennis Arnum who love to see the Church floodlit as they enter the village - it is so warm and welcoming

26<sup>th</sup> April

Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of their son Alex and Jonas on 26<sup>th</sup> April

17<sup>th</sup> May

Vanessa and Peter Bevan to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary on 17<sup>th</sup> May

31<sup>st</sup> May

Dennis Arnum and family in loving memory of their father Roy Arnum

### New

7<sup>th</sup> June

14<sup>th</sup> June

21<sup>st</sup> June

Dennis Arnum and family in loving memory of their father Roy Arnum

Dennis Arnum and family in loving memory of their father Roy Arnum

Dennis Arnum and family in loving memory of their father Roy Arnum

19<sup>th</sup> July

Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of their son Edd and Maddie on 19<sup>th</sup> July





### A Mediterranean Perspective

We were in Menorca on the first Sunday in May. In church the reading from the Acts was about Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian. Perhaps an overstatement to say that it was a rescue but in a way it was a rescue from uncertainty and confusion.

In the eastern Mediterranean the story in the news was of a rescue of another Ethiopian- well, Eritrean- but the distinction is a modern one - Wagasi Nebiat, by a Greek Antonis Deligiorgis. She was a refugee on a boat that foundered on the rocks off the Greek Island of Rhodes; he was a soldier off duty on the beach who waded out into the water to save her and a number of others. The refugee crisis continues to beset the European countries that border the Mediterranean.

We need to remember that to place oneself and one's children in a flimsy boat says much about the lack of safety of the land. The rescue of Wagasi by Antonis, like the humanitarian response to the earthquake in Nepal, shines the light of a glimmer of hope into a world where the darkness of disaster seems to loom constantly.

The hope is that that now it is culturally expected that we will give assistance to those in need.



The Christian ethic of helping one's neighbour is a small sign that the "Kingdom" of which Jesus spoke is in fact a little nearer.

Thanks to you the reader and to all our contributors for this edition recording our churches work in this corner of Devon.

Our next dateline for articles for the August/ September edition is **Monday 20th July.**

Remember that past editions of the Beacon can be seen at

[www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)

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