

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

My dear friends,

This edition of The Beacon should reach you on Palm Sunday. As a new and flourishing Mission Community I have always felt that we should, if possible, celebrate Easter together. Easter is a time when we are reminded of the greatest story ever told and we all have the opportunity to join in and become part of the story of resurrection and new life. So, this year, we are coming together at Woodland. This comes with logistical problems – it is probably our smallest church, our most rural, and the Parish Rooms will be prepared for lunch; so it will be a squeeze or maybe we will be in the farmyard if the weather is nice. But

we will be together as we re-enact Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem in our Palm Procession. Then we will hear the Passion Gospel and share the body and blood of Christ before embarking on the great time of Holy Week. This is a time to really concentrate on your faith and all it means to you. We have special services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday as we prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Day. It is a beautiful and emotional time which I encourage you to embrace fully.



Quiet Day at Mill House Retreats near Tiverton



Saturday 23rd May 2015

10am - 4.00pm



Addresses, reflections and lots of space and time to just enjoy the house, gardens and surroundings in your own way before ending the day with worship

A wonderful setting for beginners and experienced retreaters; highly recommended

Own/shared transport. £15 each. Tea, coffee and a soup and ploughman's lunch included

Contact the Rector for more information and to book; and visit millhouseretreats.co.uk

Doghouse [continued]

After Easter we are going to try managing without the pew leaflets which have the readings and prayers of the day. This follows extensive discussion about the use of the leaflets and the waste of paper and money. We will review how this has gone but in the meantime the Services section of The Beacon has the Bible references for each Sunday so that you can read them before or after the service. Ipplepen and Denbury have invested in some new NRSV (New Standard Revised Version – the preferred text) Bibles if you want to use them in church; or you may want to use your own. Whatever you do, I encourage you to concentrate on the Word at our services.

Easter is a time of rebirth and new beginnings and I will be discussing with wardens and PCCs about our Baptism policy. At the moment we operate a very open policy but recent services have made me think about whether we should encourage greater commitment by parents and godparents and a greater link to our church for those wishing to arrange a baptism. If you have strong views one way or the other please speak to me or the wardens.

May sees the first of our Patronal Festivals at Holy Trinity Torbryan on 31st May. I am pleased to have been able to secure The Very

Reverend Jonathan Draper, Dean of Exeter Cathedral, as our preacher. Jonathan will join us for lunch at Ipplepen Church Hall afterwards.

After Easter we begin our series of Annual Parochial Church Meetings. I am hugely grateful to wardens, PCC members, secretaries and treasurers who have volunteered to help run YOUR churches.

Please, in turn, help them as much as possible. So much good work is done by so many people; my thanks go to you all. As ever we struggle with diminishing numbers, ageing congregations, and the increased financial demands of running a church in today's climate and in rural and semi-rural settings. I often reflect how, as the Beacon parishes, we excel in being church in these places, and together as a Mission Community, and I am hugely thankful to you all.

As part of our Mission Action Plan and in response to requests from the parishes, I am organising two quiet days for this year – one on Saturday 23rd May at Mill House Retreats near Tiverton [see advert below] and one on Monday 13th July near Denbury.

May God bless you this Easter and beyond.

In Christ,

Peter

Interested in confirmation?

Want to know more?

The Rector is organizing another service, so please contact him.



News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



With the crib figures safely wrapped up and back in storage for another year we enter a quieter time at St. Mary the Virgin allowing for some meditation and reflective thought throughout Lent before the flurry of services heralding Easter.

With the new service pattern now underway a system has been established to ensure there are sufficient lifts available for all those who wish to attend a service at one of the Mission Community churches on those days when there is no parish communion at Denbury.

Several Denbury folk have been attending the thought provoking Lent course on the Creeds held in Ipplepen Church Hall.

Our weekly Denbury Teapot gathering held its annual party in January. These weekly get – togethers are very popular and the party was no exception being very well attended. All those present were treated to some excellent catering and entertainment making the event a great success.

A group of flower arrangers from the village were busy on the morning of 14th March putting together the posies given out on Mothering Sunday to all the ladies.

Our Lent Lunch was held in Church Cottage following the posy making and was as usual a pleasant social gathering but also providing an important opportunity to raise funds for the benefit of those in need.

We now look forward to the coming of Easter and our joint Mission Community service at Woodland on Palm Sunday.

Mike Bray



Children from Denbury School years 2 & 3 came to Church to learn about weddings

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



Christmas hardly seems to have passed and yet we are now well through Lent. It has been wonderful to see the wide variety of services put on at St Andrews during this period.

The Monday Lent courses have attracted a range of participants, and we have been happy to welcome neighbouring Christians from other churches.

In addition, members of the congregation have led the Compline services on Wednesday evenings, a quiet and reflective service which has been very well received.

Continuing St Andrew's tradition for hospitality, a Mothering Sunday lunch was provided in the church hall.

The Tuesday evening services continue to grow in popularity, with worshippers going on to the Wellington afterwards for fellowship and a meal together. We would love to see you there!

Liz Lamport

"Faith in the Villages"

As Church Warden, I recently had to collect information for the diocese filling a form called "Statistics for Mission". Some surprises for me.....

I was quite surprised at the interest in faith at St. Andrew's and Ipplepen as a whole during Easter, Advent and Christmas 2014 as reflected by the "bare numbers". It seemed worth sharing with you.

How many people came to your church at Easter 2014?

Number of communicants at service/s on Easter Day or vigil services on Easter Eve	113
Total number, including communicants, attending worship at services on Easter Day or vigil services on Easter Eve	128

How many people came to special services run by your church during Advent 2014?

Total number attending special services run by the church during advent (Advent Sunday until 23rd December) e.g. nativities, carols on the green, crib services etc, which were held for the congregation and local community	600
Total number attending special services run by the church during advent (Advent Sunday until 23rd December) e.g. school carol services, which were held specifically for civic or school organisations	200

How many people came to your church at Christmas 2014?

Number of communicants at services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day	140
Total number, including communicants, attending worship at services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day	382

Michael Price

News from Woodland

**St. John the
Baptist**



Whilst still chilly, the longer and brighter days have prompted many of us to think about tidying up and sorting out our gardens. It was the perfect timing, therefore, for our latest library and coffee morning which included a soup and roll luncheon and a plant swop. I have to say that the Michaelmas daisies, geraniums and sedums which I brought home were exactly what I was looking for to fill the gaps in a flowerbed which had become rather overcrowded with foxgloves and I'm looking forward to seeing them bloom in the summer.

The soup luncheon has not been the only recent meal which we have shared together as a village. We met together in January for a bring and share lunch to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. A lovely afternoon with large numbers of us present, it was a chance to mingle with both friends and close neighbours, catch up with those whom we don't often see and get to know those who have recently moved to the area.

With the village hall being used so much more regularly for social events, it was decided that the chairs would perhaps benefit from a few cushions. Several of the ladies enjoy making patchwork as one of their hobbies and, like the "Great British Sewing Bee" on television, we've been meeting regularly to make patchwork cushions together. Unlike the "Sewing Bee" programme, however, nobody gets sent home and not only has there been plenty of



instruction and advice, but also someone happy to run something through their sewing machine for you if you cut and pin it. The cushions which have been finished so far are looking really lovely and there's many more still to come.

We are looking forward to the Mission Community Palm Sunday service and lunch at Woodland on 29th March and Jenny Buckle is once again organising a bus, hopefully driven by Patrick, for people in our other parishes to come.

Helen Pearce

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



After the joy and celebrations of Christmas, the last couple of months have been relatively quiet. As I write this piece, we are in the midst of our Lenten journey, a journey inwards into ourselves and a time for quiet reflection as we progress towards the great festival of Easter. Nevertheless, there have been moments of celebration: in March, we had the baptism of Poppy, the youngest of our regular congregation. Poppy is 8 months old and is the daughter of Alex and Catherine Paton, both doctors, who are very welcome newcomers to our parish.

Looking ahead, on Sunday 24th May we will be holding an Open Gardens event in the village from 2.00 to 6.00pm. There will be a variety of gardens to visit, all within easy walking distance of the Village Square. The traditional Devon Cream Tea will be served in the Village Hall. Entrance will be £2.50 per person, free for children under 12, all proceeds to the Church Fabric Fund.

Another date for your diary: on Friday 19th June we will be hosting a “gig” in the church featuring Herbie Flowers, one of Britain’s most accomplished session players and Derek Austin, a renowned composer/performer. Details will be announced nearer the time.

Pam Perriman

A Smile



A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature’s best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged or stolen. For it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give

Anne Bowman

International News!



*Tracy Lambert is a member of the PCC at Broadhempston.
She is raising money for the Devon Air Ambulance and writes:*

On 2nd November 2014 I ran the New York marathon raising funds for the Devon Air Ambulance. It was an amazing experience and one that I will never forget. It began with an early morning subway ride out to catch the ferry to Staten Island where the race starts. The first part of the race is perhaps the most spectacular as you run over the Verazzano Narrows Bridge in to Brooklyn. It was very cold and windy but this was almost forgotten as I soaked up the warmth of the support from the crowds that line the sidewalks. The race covers 5 different boroughs before finishing in Central Park. It is a truly wonderful feeling to run for mile after mile with people cheering all the way. In fact it was so wonderful that I have definitely been bitten by the Running bug and am now running the London Marathon on **26th April 2015**. Once again I am running to raise funds for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust. If you would like to sponsor me then please visit my Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/Tracy-Lambert It is a very worthy charity and this run will hopefully raise funds to enable the Devon Air Ambulance to extend their flying hours.



*Tracy on her way in New York last November.
London in April next stop!*

Other Church magazines!

The following have all appeared in church magazines

- Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference includes all meals.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The missing bell at Ipplepen?

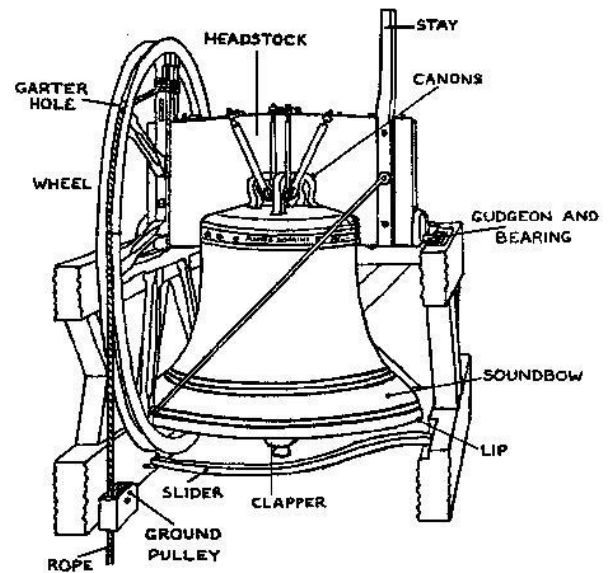
Some of you might have noticed that since the beginning of December we had been ringing seven bells. Why was this? For many months the sixth bell was becoming more and more difficult to ring, so it was decided to lift it to inspect the bearings.

I made a frame from square steel tubing, to enable the bell to be lifted (it weighs 495 Kilograms). On 2nd December John Usher, Tony Clark and myself stripped the bell of its parts, clapper, wheel etc and lifted it up using the frame, with the intention of removing the bearings. To our surprise one bearing slid off its gudgeon as expected (the two spindles which the bell swings on) but the other one came away with half of its gudgeon attached - it had broken inside the headstock. Time to call in Nicholson's bell hangers of Bridport.

Andrew Nicholson came to visit, and we climbed up to the bells to see the breakage. The outcome was that the headstock would have to be removed and taken to his factory to be machined, and new gudgeons and bearings fitted.

The removal was undertaken on 13th January by Martin Lloyd of Nicholson's with help from Victoria Weal, Tony Clark, Charles Quartley, John Robinson, Andrew Vickery, Ted Wonnacott and myself. The headstock (weighing approx 125 Kilograms) was removed and lowered down through three trap doors 95 feet to the ground floor with aid of a chain block,

On the 12th February Martin returned with the headstock complete with new gudgeons and bearings and the old gudgeons, for our "museum". From the amount of wear on them it was obvious there had been a problem for a long time. The headstock was hoisted up to the bells; this took the best part of thirty



The broken Gudgeon >



How it should have been >



The repaired headstock on its way back

Job done!



minutes, using much muscle power, by Tony Clark, Stephen Bryant and Andrew Vickery. It was duly swung into place, re assembled with all its parts, and lowered back on its frame and test rung. The whole procedure took us about ten hours.

On Sunday 25th February all eight bells rang out for morning service once again. All is now "gwain suent" (ringing well).

Colin Clark

Contacts

Rector	The Reverend Peter Ashman	☎ 01803 813847
Hon Asst Priests	The Reverend Tony Meek	☎ 814370
	The Reverend Anne Burden	☎ 813520
	Canon Tom New	☎ 813775
Readers	Mrs Tessa Amies	☎ 813993
	Ms Tricia Stokes	☎ 762158
St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen		
Churchwardens	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
	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
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury		
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
Cottage	Mrs Fran Howells	☎ 812971
Flowers	Mrs Ann Toler	☎ 813255
Social	Mrs Tessa Amies	☎ 813993
Ss Peter & Paul, Broadhempston		
Churchwardens	Mrs Pam Perriman	☎ 812986
	Mr Chris Parker	☎ 762200
Bellringing	Mr Graham Pascoe	☎ 812102
PCC Secretary	Mrs Harriet Lawson	☎ 01626 337878
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Liz Harris	☎ 813734
Flowers	Mrs Jane Parker	☎ 762200
St John the Baptist, Woodland		
Churchwardens	Miss Sheila Ashford	☎ 01626 821288
	Mrs Jane Usher	☎ 01626 353454
PCC Secretary	Mr David Wrayford	☎ 01364 652323
PCC Treasurer	Mr John Usher	☎ 01626 353454
Safeguarding	Mrs Carol Robinson	☎ 812800
The Beacon		
Editor	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
Production	Mr Charles Quartley	☎ 812238

Sunday Services for April and May

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day – Acts 10:34-43; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Rev. Tony Meek
9.15am	Parish Communion with Sunday Club and Easter Egg Hunt	Denbury	Canon Tom New
11.00am	Parish Communion with Sunday Club and Easter Egg Hunt	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion with Easter Egg Hunt	Broadhempston	Rev. Tony Meek
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

Sunday 12th April – Easter 2 – 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

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 19th April – Easter 3 – 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadhempston	Lay-led
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Anne Burden

Sunday 26th April – Easter 4 – 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

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 3rd May – Easter 5 – 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

Sunday 10th May – Easter 6 – 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ipplepen	Canon Les Harman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Anne Burden
4.00pm	Parish Communion	Broadhempston	Rev. Anne Burden
6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Woodland	Tricia Stokes

Sunday 17th May – Easter 7 – 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Morning Worship	Broadhempston	Lay-led
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost – Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

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 31st May – Trinity – Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

11.00am	Torbryan Patronal Festival – The Very Rev'd Jonathan Draper (Dean of Exeter Cathedral) preaching; with lunch at Ipplepen	Torbryan	Rev. Peter Ashman
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Mid-week Services for April and May

See separate list for Holy Week Services

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 – April and May

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
5 th April	Richard Innes-Lumsden in the office	Court Gate Close & Edgelands Lane	West End Terrace	Knowle	Oldstone House
12 th April	The Beacon team	Croft Road, Croft Meadow & Croft Orchard	Denbury Down Lane	Hemsford	Tor Farm
19 th April	The website team	Crokers Way	Woodland Road	Village Hall	Lower Woodland Farm
26 th April	Churchyard teams	Denbury Cross	Woodland Close	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Woodland Cottage
3 rd May	Fabric teams	Dornafeld Road & Dornafeld Close	Shute Lane	Main Street	Wickeridge House
10 th May	Bellringers	Dornafeld Drive East, West & Fulton Close	Halwell Farm	Houndhead Way	Oakdene
17 th May	Messy Church	East Street & Foredown Road	Bramble Down	Vicarage Hill	Orleycombe
24 th May	Sunday Club	Fore Street	North Street	Primary School	Hillside
31 st May	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses

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 – April and May

April

Wednesday 1 st	7.00 pm	Compline at St. Andrew's
Thursday 2 nd	10.30 am	No morning service at Ipplepen today
	7.00 pm	Eucharist of The Last Supper at St. Andrew's followed by the Maundy Watch at Ipplepen and Denbury until Midnight
Good Friday 3 rd	10.00 am	Children's service at St. Andrew's followed by hot cross buns
	11.00 am	Service at St. Andrew's followed by Churches Together Walk of Witness around the village; followed by a soup lunch at the Methodist Church
	2.00 pm	Good Friday liturgy at Denbury with communion from the reserved sacrament
Saturday 4 th	8.30 pm	Easter Vigil and first communion of Easter
Tuesday 7 th	7.45 pm	Ipplepen Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church
Wednesday 8 th	4.00 pm	Woodland PCC followed by APCM in Parish Rooms
Thursday 9 th	5.50 pm	Denbury PCC in the Cottage
Saturday 11 th	10.30 a.m.	Easter coffee morning in Ipplepen Church Hall
Sunday 12 th	2.00 pm	Denbury APCM in the Cottage
Tuesday 14 th	6.30 pm	Broadhempston PCC followed by APCM in church at 7.00pm
Saturday 18 th	10.00 am	Cancer Research UK coffee morning in Ipplepen Village Hall
Sunday 19 th	4.00 pm	Baptism at Woodland
Monday 27 th	Morning	Home Communions

May

Sunday 3 rd	6.00 pm	Denbury May Fair Songs of Praise
Monday 4 th		Denbury May Fair
Wednesday 13 th	7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation at St. Mary's, Kingskerswell
Sunday 17 th	12.30 pm	Ascension Day lunch in Ipplepen church hall
Monday 18 th	10.00 am	Ipplepen Standing Committee in the church hall
Thursday 21 st	5.15 pm	Denbury Standing Committee in the Cottage
Saturday 23 rd	7.00 pm	Cheese and wine in Denbury – time tba
Monday 25 th	9.00 am	Ipplepen Beating of the Bounds
	Morning	Home Communions
Thursday 28 th	8.00 am	Deanery Chapter venue tba
Sunday 31 st	11.00 am	Torbryan Patronal Festival followed by lunch at Ipplepen church hall – guest preacher The Very Reverend Jonathan Draper, Dean of Exeter Cathedral

Monday T Pot

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



To God, How did you get invented?

A six-year-old Scottish girl named Lulu wrote a letter to God: **“To God, How did you get invented?”** Lulu's father, who is not a believer, sent her letter to various church leaders: the Scottish Episcopal Church (no reply), the Presbyterians (no reply), and the Scottish Catholics (who sent a theologically complex reply). He also sent it to Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent the following letter in reply:

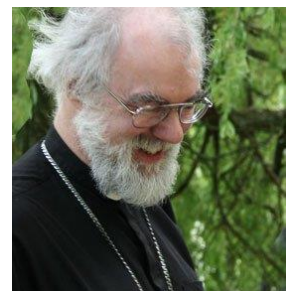
Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

‘Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected. Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – especially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I'm really like. But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!’

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off. I know he doesn't usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.

+Archbishop Rowan



Peter, our Rector comments

“Now that's what I call real theology! Isn't this exactly why we need theological specialists: not to make the faith more complicated and obscure, but to help us grasp how simple it really is?”

Lighting a Candle



Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father

These familiar words are said at each baptism as the parents or god-parents receive a lighted candle on behalf of the newly baptised. The theme of light is central to the Christian life. In Baptism God calls us to be lights; that is, our lives must shine with his love in the world. In all that we do we are to show his light and glory.

For the Christian Church candles are important. We use candles to help us pray. Lighting a candle is a powerful sign of prayer. Sometimes a candle is lit as a sign of our prayer for a particular person or concern. It may be lit for ourselves.

Sometimes we find it difficult to pray or to find the right words to say. Lighting a candle can help. We sometimes light a candle because we need help to pray. As the candle burns away in the darkness, so our prayer, or our desire to pray, burns before God.

Sometimes people light candles as they enter church as a sign of their preparation for the service. Others like to light a candle as they leave church in thanksgiving for the worship they have shared in. In some churches, people light a candle on their way back to their place after receiving Holy Communion. Please feel free to do that here. It is a sacramental act. Just as we touch the body of Christ as the host is placed into our hands, so too the physical act of lighting a candle can help us to feel more involved in the liturgy. The movement of people from the altar rail, to the candle-stand, to the pew can be a powerful expression of how life is a pilgrimage with prayer and action and movement all combined.

These words are found in Salisbury Cathedral and are reproduced here:

Lighting a candle is a prayer:

When we have gone, it stays alight,
Kindling in the hearts and minds
Of others the prayers we have
Already offered for them
And for others, for the sad,
And the sick,
And the suffering,
And prayers of thankfulness too.

Lighting a candle is a parable:

Burning itself out,
It gives light to others.
Christ gave himself for others.
He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol:

Of love and hope,
Of light and warmth.
Our world needs them all.

Lord Jesus Christ,
For the salvation of the world you went up to the cross
To give light to the world which was in darkness;
Shed that light on us, we pray, that we may come to your eternal light,
And, through the merits of your passion,
Enjoy life with you in heaven,
For you are alive and reigning now and for ever. Amen.

“I name this child.....”



A little tale:

We all enjoyed the wonderful Baptism within our Communion service on the 15th of February - it was a happy and moving occasion, and it was good to see the church so full.

However, I was reminded of a story which I heard from a previous Bishop of Crediton, the late Wilfred Westall, who was a friend of my father.

Bishop Westall had frequently reminded one of his clergy that it was not a good idea to “take wine with his luncheon” if he had a service later in the day. The hint was forgotten and the clergyman in question, the Rector of a fairly remote country parish, had an afternoon Baptism. When he asked the child’s name the father reeled off a long list of rather unusual ones, but the Rector was having none of it. He replied “We can’t be doing with all this in a village - I shall call him “John”, and proceeded to do just that.

It was a little later as the Baptismal party left the church that the rather bemused father said to the Rector “You did know it was a maid, didn’t ‘ee?”

Stephen Bryant

And another.....

I recall hearing a story about a child who was baptised "**Pindonim**" because, when asked, that was the response to the name of the baby. What they meant was that the name was pinned on him as a reminder to the priest!

Revd Peter Ashman

Rogationtide

"Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the father in my name he will give you" John 16:23

The Rogation Days, the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day, originated in Vienne, France, in 470 after a series of natural disasters had caused much suffering among the people. Archbishop Mamertus proclaimed a fast and ordered that special litanies and prayers be said as the population processed around their fields, asking God's protection and blessing on the crops that were just beginning to sprout. The word rogation come from the latin verb

rogare meaning "to ask", thus these were "rogation" processions.

In a rural community, closely connected with the soil and highly vulnerable to the vagaries of nature, this was an idea that was adopted quickly, and the custom spread around Europe; it is thought it came to Britain in the 7th century. The Sunday before the Rogation Days came to be considered a part of Rogationtide and was known as Rogation Sunday. The Gospel formerly appointed for that day was from John 16 as above.

By the 17th century, the old the Roman festival of "Terminalia" or "Boundaries" was adopted by the Church and incorporated in to Rogationtide as "Beating the Bounds". Before Ordinance Survey Maps and digital mapping via satellites, parish boundaries were not clearly defined, especially where there were open field systems. Accordingly, the Rogation procession fulfilled a religious and civil function. As people processed around the parish, the priest would bless crops and the

gathering would stop at boundary stones and other important land marks, such as trees or ponds. The priest would read the Gospel and often attach a Cross to the landmark. To ensure the younger generation remembered the boundaries, boys of the village were bumped on boundary stones or other objects, thrown in ponds, hung upside down at fences and whipped with willow wands. Boys who suffered this indignation were given a treat at the end.



During the annual "Beating the Bounds" any violations of the boundaries could be challenged and disputes resolved. The sharing of specially brewed ale, called Ganging Beer (Gang derived from the Anglo Saxon word

"gangen" meaning "to go"), and a mysterious pastry, called Rammalation Biscuits, at the end of the walk was a good way of sealing the reconciliation and friendship. This spirit of harmony led to the tradition of seeking reconciliation in personal relationships during Rogationtide.

These rogation themes of blessing the fields and beating the bounds were commended in the 1630s by the poet George Herbert, the quintessential English country parson. He said that processions should be encouraged for four reasons:

Rogationtide [continued]

- 1 *A Blessing of God for the fruits of the field.*
- 2 *Justice in the preservation of bounds.*
- 3 *Charitie in loving, walking and neighbourly accompanying one another with reconciling of differences at the time if there be any.*
- 4 *Mercie, in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of largesse, which at the time is or ought to be used.*

Currently, Rogation Sunday often precedes Christian Aid Week.

Rogationtide developed in to an important social occasion as people used it to welcome spring, although willow wands were used to beat the boundary markers rather than the boys.

Rogationtide has declined as a feature in the Church calendar as the number of people engaged on the land has fallen; but should this be so? The majority of the population do not work on farms but they are still dependant, as ever, on the gifts of nature and this is emphasised further by an article in January's edition of the Economist which stated "*In the next 40 years, humans will need to produce more food than they did in the previous 10,000 put together. But with sprawling cities gobbling up arable land, agricultural productivity gains decreasing, and demand for biofuels increasing, supply is not keeping up with demand*". Also, people today are more concerned with the environment and stewardship of natural resources- celebration of Rogationtide would be a good way of outwardly manifesting that concern.

John Usher

Note: "Beating the Bounds" of the parish of Ipplepen is on Monday May 25th

Hospital Chart Bloopers

1. The patient refused autopsy.
2. Patient was alert and unresponsive.
3. Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
4. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
5. On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.
6. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
7. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
8. Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
9. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
10. She is numb from her toes down.
11. The skin was moist and dry.

More thoughts on those Shepherds

Following on from “Some thoughts on the Shepherds” by Stephen Bryant in the last edition of the Beacon when he expanded on the role of the shepherds not just as poor and disreputable but “awake and watching” recent correspondence in the Church Times has again focused on the shepherds. Readers may be interested in some comments from a Monmouth clergyman:-

“The description of the Bethlehem shepherds as “disreputable characters” is not the product of a Christian urban myth, but is based on rabbinic traditions, the precise date of which unfortunately remains uncertain.

As a class, shepherds acquired a bad reputation as being lawless, dishonest, and unreliable, above all because of their habit of trespassing on other people’s lands to graze their flocks.

Many New Testament scholars are convinced that he intended the despised and outcast shepherds to represent the sinners whom Christ Jesus came to save. This view is certainly supported by the way the angels' announcement is directly addressed to them (Luke 2.11).

It is likely that Luke meant readers to discover **several levels of meaning in the story of the shepherds** at Christ's birth, of which the sinner/salvation theme is one of importance.”

Canon Terry Palmer, Magor, Monmouthshire

Churchwardens Together

In the early 1990’s, a church in Cornwall was sued by a visitor who tripped on the uneven mediaeval floor and broke a leg. At that time

I was one of Denbury’s representatives on Deanery Synod and I well remember the shock waves that seemed to radiate through all levels of the church.

My recollection of the exact details are somewhat dimmed now, but a settlement of around £20,000 rings a bell. A hefty amount. From that date onwards the church started to take health and safety very seriously indeed.

It might seem strange, but the fact is that we fall under health and safety legislation as much as any industry does; and as soon as anybody comes on to our ‘property’ we are responsible for their safety.

On the 12th February the wardens from each of the churches met at St Andrew’s Church Hall. We have produced a Health and Safety File, one for each church in the MC, and over the coming weeks will be tweaking and adjusting them to make them more accurate. The files themselves will be kept in church and available to look at. Please do look at them, and if you think you can add or amend them in any way, please tell the wardens. The more input we get, the more accurate they will be.

We have a responsibility of care, not just for those who visit our beautiful old buildings, but to ourselves as well; we need to protect ourselves and each other. In an age where people will sue at the drop of a hat, a well-considered and managed health and safety culture will help us do this.

Steve Bassett



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:

No sponsors



Ipplepen:

Retrospective

- | | |
|--|---|
| 18 th January | Gill and Dennis Arnum who love to see the Church floodlit as they enter the village - it is so warm and welcoming |
| 25 th January | Roger Caney remembering Ruby |
| 1 st and 8 th February | John and Iris with grateful thanks for the help they received with their Faculty Application |
| 22 nd February | James and Joanna Webber in memory of Miles |

New

- | | |
|---|--|
| 15 th and 22 nd March | Gill and Denis Arnum who love to see the Church floodlit as they enter the village - it is so warm and welcoming |
| 24 th May | Linda, David, and Hannah Simmonds for Katie's birthday on 25 th May |
| | Peter Mason remembering his late wife Janet, especially on 29 th May which would have been their 50 th Wedding Anniversary |

Welcome to Spring!



Editor's corner

An illuminating day for the Parish Magazine Editor!

I recently attended a training day for people producing parish magazines in the Exeter Diocese. The day ran from 10am – 2pm and was organised by the Revd Nicki Davies who edits the Diocesan News letter and Rebecca Paveley (Head of Communications) and a past journalist with the Church Times.

Ten editors met from different parts of the diocese including Tiverton, Exeter, Topsham and Thurlestone.

We had several outside resources used by the diocesan news team, including their web designer and a fascinating talk over lunch from the Lay Canon librarian. The really useful part though was sharing our experiences.



What was the most valuable learning I took away? - The value of “Faith stories”; accounts of peoples own lives and religious experience are what makes a parish magazine worth reading.

So please send your contributions for the June/July edition of the Beacon by May 18th.

Remember that Past editions of the Beacon can be seen at

www.missioncommunity.org.uk

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