

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

As I write this we are just coming to the end of the nine days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. Each day we have met and listened and reflected and prayed together and I have come away feeling really moved and enriched by the experience. I am very grateful to those who joined me – they made it a very powerful experience – and I recommend a personal pattern of prayer to all of you. There are many ways available but the easiest is to say perhaps Night Prayer before you finish your day, giving thanks to God for that day and praying for a quiet night and a new day to come. You can follow the words at [www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx). Just choose which time of day you want to pray and then select the date.



By the time this edition of The Beacon is published we will have had our Quiet Day at Mill House Retreats near Tiverton. Past experience tells me that it is a beautiful and tranquil place where it is easy to meet God in the stillness and holiness of the place. You will have another opportunity for a Quiet Day at Hole Farm later in the year – do give it a try.

Looking back, April and May saw us journeying through Easter, always a special time of the year; we had a couple of weddings (2 on the same day!) and our Annual Parochial Church Meetings, always a good time to celebrate all that we have achieved over the last year and to give thanks to all those who give their time and talents towards making our churches the beautiful and cared-for



*One of the Torbryan panels in the process of repair and restoration. See article inside on the story so far.*

*Photo: Diana Neale/Churches Conservation Trust*

# The Doghouse - continued

places that they are. Special thanks go to our wardens, PCCs and other officers who volunteer their precious time and energy to support the work that we all do together in this Mission Community. In May I met with the wardens to reflect over the past year or so and look at our Mission Action Plan and service provision. I am heartened by how much we have achieved and how well the pattern of services has been received. Baptism, Funeral and Pastoral Care ministries have flourished, putting people at the centre of what we do. Our work with the schools and safeguarding is as important as ever. At the same time, though, we have realistically thought about what we cannot do and what needs pruning and the MAP reflects that. We are always looking for help so talk to me or the wardens about where you see your gifts lie – there's always something we can find you to do and you'll be made to feel very welcome!

Looking ahead we begin our season of Mission Community services with the Patronal Festival at Woodland on 26<sup>th</sup> June. The usual bring and share lunch with strawberries and cream provided by Woodland is a great feature of the year. The following week we all

travel to Broadhempston for their Patronal festival followed by a soup and sweets lunch in the new village hall.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July we are trying something new. Being a fifth Sunday we come together as a Mission Community and the Churches Together in Ipplepen will join us all at St. Andrew's for a Lammas Communion Service. Lammas Day (actually 1<sup>st</sup> August) is the festival of the wheat harvest and is the first harvest festival of the year. On this day it was customary to bring to church a loaf made from the first crop to be blessed. Well, whether you use newly harvested wheat or bread mix from Sainsbury's come and join us and bring your bread to be blessed. Join us then for a soup and bread lunch in the Church hall where you can try your loaf or take it home for family and friends. Let's make it a great new celebration of an ancient custom (Lammas is Anglo-Saxon for 'loaf mass').

After June and July comes holiday season. I wish you all a good rest, a lovely holiday or just a bit of down-time. A rest is just as important as being busy. May God be in your waking and in your rest.

In Christ, Peter

## Quiet appreciation

In Ipplepen Church is a display copy of the book "Devon Churches - a celebration" by Lane and Walshaw.

Devon has more churches than any other county and this book gives details of the ones the authors see as the best.

Under Ipplepen the entry starts "St. Andrew's is a large church, almost entirely of the fifteenth century, and immaculately maintained...."

And so it is. Congratulations are due to the PCC, flower arrangers, church cleaners, working party and anyone else working behind the scenes. It is good that your efforts are appreciated.

## News from Denbury

### St. Mary the Virgin



With the Easter period now fast drawing to a close it is useful to look back and reflect on some of the many services held throughout the Mission Community during this time attended by many of the congregation of St Mary's.

A strong contingent from Denbury attended the Palm Sunday communion service at Woodland incorporating a procession into church. Numbers in church were high and everyone enjoyed an uplifting service in this lovely church followed by a nice lunch in the hall with ample opportunity to chat with friends.

Following on from the Maundy Thursday service at Ipplepen members of the congregation took it in turns to watch over the Sacrament in the Lady Chapel until midnight.

The perfect silence of the church, lit only by candlelight makes you realise just how busy and noisy our lives are every day and how many distractions we have with our mobiles, tablets etc. This is a very valuable opportunity for some deep thought, meditation and prayer without disturbance, and is always a very rewarding time.

The Easter garden was completed on Good Friday and has lasted well continuing to provide an impressive centrepiece for the church.

Our Easter Vigil service held on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday takes a different form from any other during the year, not only due to the fact that it starts outside the church with the lighting of the Paschal

Candles for all the Mission Community churches with the light taken from a bonfire.

We were again fortunate this year in that the wet, windy weather seen during most of the day relented just in time for the fire to be lit and meant the lighting ceremony could proceed in relative calm. This is a very ancient service with several distinct parts and is always a moving and uplifting experience. As usual the congregation adjourned to the Church Cottage afterwards for a glass of wine, some cake and nibbles and a chance to chat over the busy week and look forward to Easter Day.

The service was attended by several families on Easter Sunday and the children as ever managed to track down all the chocolate eggs concealed around the churchyard at the Easter egg hunt after the service.

The May Fair held on Denbury Green on May 2<sup>nd</sup> was unfortunately subject to some rather miserable weather this year with rain for much of the afternoon. The church ran a cake stall with delicious cakes made by many of the ladies of the congregation. Sales as you would expect were brisk!

The Bell Appeal team also took the opportunity to display some large photographs of the bells in situ showing clearly the need for restoration, together with literature detailing the success of the appeal to date with further interesting information on the project to help to keep the local community who have been so supportive right up to date.

*Mike Bray*



## News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



We enjoyed a wonderful Easter season with memorable services. On Palm Sunday we travelled to Woodland for a Mission Community service where we processed with our palm crosses from the hall to the church. After the service the congregation enjoyed a shared lunch.

During Holy Week there was the quiet and meditative Compline service on the Wednesday followed on Maundy Thursday by the Eucharist of the Last Supper with foot washing, after which a watch was kept in St. Peter's Chapel until midnight.

On Good Friday there was a children's service followed by hot cross buns. At 11am we joined the Methodists in their chapel for a service before the Walk of Witness finishing at St. Andrew's. Afterwards lunch of homemade bread and soup was served in the Church Hall.

On Easter Sunday the church was filled with flowers and a joyous congregation. It is always lovely to see the Cross filled with flowers brought by everyone. At the end of the service, the children hunted for cards placed around the church which Revd. Anne exchanged for Easter eggs.

The choir and bellringers enjoyed a joint dinner on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April which was well organised by Jo at the Wellington Inn.

The APM and APCM on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April were well attended by over seventy members of the congregation. Revd. Peter Ashman chaired the meeting and thanked all who help to keep the church running so well. He and Chris were warmly thanked by Geraldine, church warden, for their care and ministry to

all in the church and village. Wine and refreshments were served at the end.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April there was much to celebrate at our lay-led service as it was both St. George's Day and the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Vanessa introduced and led this joyous service. The speaker Ruth Bettsworth gave a thought provoking address and the music and hymns were so appropriate for this special day.

Afterwards about 40 people enjoyed an excellent lunch in the Church Hall cooked by the hospitality team. The tables looked beautiful in red, white and blue together with Aubrey's creative table displays.



*Some of Aubrey's colourful table displays*

On the May Day service we celebrated the dedication of St. Andrew's Church and also Godparents Day. Revd. Peter spoke of the importance both of godparents and stewardship. Refreshments after the Service included sparkling wine and fruit cake to celebrate this anniversary. 2018 will be the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the high altar in St. Andrew's - a date for special celebration!

*Marilyn Clark*



## News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



The last couple of months have seen many occasions to come together as a village and act as a team. One very busy morning just before Easter saw a large number of us giving the village hall a good tidy up inside and out. All those little corners, such as the oven and inside the kitchen cupboards, were given an annual once over and everything that could be polished was until it gleamed. Used shortly afterwards for the Palm Sunday celebrations and then for our regular library and coffee mornings, it still looks gleaming and well loved.

Our coffee mornings over the last couple of months have been eventful. We've had the chance to welcome new members of the parish who have come to join us for the first time and also to see again old friends who came back to visit after moving away.



*Easter Cross at Woodland  
created by Jenny Buckle*

We've had a plant swop and also have been able to use these times to collectively start planning how, as a village, we are going to celebrate the Queen's birthday this year. Our next coffee and library morning should be a chance to finalise the plans, but hopefully we have got something for everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, and a chance for anyone who wishes to become involved. At the moment, the plans are to start off at the Rising Sun on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm with a range of children's games and activities. This will slide into the evening with a range of games, activities and a quiz for the adults and the option to order a meal from the bar. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June there will be an afternoon cream tea at the village hall. Plenty of scones, cakes and homemade jam from a variety of local kitchens, both events promise to be memorable.

*Helen Pearse*

### The OTHER Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to stop beating myself for not doing things perfectly, the courage to forgive myself because I'm working on doing better, and the wisdom to know that you already love me just the way I am.

• Eleanor Brownn with 2 Ns

text and design © eleanor brownn.com

## News from Broadhempston

### St. Peter and St. Paul



Two new PCC members were elected at the recent Annual Meeting, Alex Paton and Paul Russell, and Maggie Sercombe was appointed PCC secretary.

The Patronal service for St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Broadhempston will be held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 at 11.00 am. The service will be followed by a soup lunch and delicious puddings in the new Village Hall. Please let us know via your churchwarden(s) whether you will be joining us for the lunch. All are very welcome.

On the evening of 3 July, Broadhempston PCC will be hosting an evening of music and song at the church. Mike Hatchard, a virtuoso pianist, singer/songwriter and raconteur, will be making a very welcome return to the village. He will be joined by Three Pilgrims, a band of highly talented musicians from London who will be touring the South West at that time. Mike is cycling with his electric piano from Land's End to John O'Groats and is giving a series of over 40 concerts along the way to raise money for BBC Children in Need. Please join us for what promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment. Reserve your tickets by contacting Anna on 01803 812426 or at [annabeadel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annabeadel@yahoo.co.uk). Proceeds will be shared between Children in Need and the Church Restoration Fund.

*Chris Parker*

## Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

On May 7<sup>th</sup> Carol Robinson as the Safeguarding Officer and I as the Advocate for children and vulnerable adults in our mission community attended the Diocese Safeguarding Information Sharing session at the Old Deanery in Exeter. This was organised by the Diocesan Safeguarding team. The afternoon was well attended by many with similar roles from across the Diocese and we were able to share informally ideas and experiences over a delicious afternoon tea!

The Diocese Safeguarding team is currently rolling out the new national Church of England modular safeguarding training programme. Some of the modules are designed for those with specific responsibilities for ensuring a safe community whilst others are suitable for all interested parishioners.

We were interested particularly in the training programmes available to support and enhance the development of our good practice.

This was the first information sharing afternoon and people generally hoped that this would become a regular event, offering support to those involved in implementing policies and procedures for the well - being of the whole community.

*Ann Holroyd*



# The Torbryan panels

*The following is the press statement put out by the Churches Conservation Trust:*

Christopher Cooper admitted fraud, specimen theft charges, and dealing in tainted cultural objects. His thefts took place in a series of offences over three years, and included the two panels stolen from the rood screen of Holy Trinity Church at Torbryan in Devon in August 2013, during which time district crown prosecutor and CPS lead for heritage crime Stephen Davies suggested he made £150,000 from his crimes.

It took a dedicated team at West Mercia Police 18 months to fully investigate the crimes, with the support of the Metropolitan Police Art and Antiques Unit. Most of the stolen items have now been returned to their rightful owners.

Following a successful fundraising campaign to raise the money to fix damage caused by the thefts, the two priceless panels from Holy Trinity at Torbryan in Devon are now undergoing painstaking conservation work (pictured front page), and are scheduled to be returned to the church over the summer.

The decorative oak panels, bearing paintings of St Victor of Marseilles and St Margaret of Antioch, are considered of national importance, and were stolen from Holy Trinity Church at Torbryan in Devon between 2nd and 9th 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 2015.

Crispin Truman, Chief Executive of The Churches Conservation Trust, said:

*"It is good that Mr Cooper has come clean about these damaging & heart-breaking thefts*



*and has helped return valuable historic items to their rightful owners - the community. Heritage crime causes just as much heartache and anxiety as other sorts of theft, but all too often it goes unsolved. Particular thanks to West Mercia Police and the various police forces who worked so hard to bring Mr Cooper to justice.*

*"Thankfully, the generosity of our supporters and the general public is allowing the priceless artworks he hacked out of Holy Trinity Torbryan in Devon to be painstakingly conserved, and they will soon return home to the church. However, as a heritage charity reliant on donations to maintain and care for our 349 churches, that money could have been spent on other important artefacts."*

The panels are part of a rood screen which is 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, but thanks to generous donations from supporters and members of the public, £7,000 was raised to restore the damage, and thanks to a £47,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Holy Trinity is also currently the venue for a project to tell the history of the building and the surrounding village and countryside, adding imaginative new on-site interpretation and events.

West Mercia Police led the investigation into the theft as part of Operation Icarus, and recovered a treasure trove of other church artefacts, including stonework, friezes, statues, paintings, brasses, misericords, stained glass and bibles.

## Beacon Humour

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted:

"Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

It's the thought that counts or it's not what you say it's the way that you say it.....

A couple were in a busy shopping centre just before Christmas. The wife suddenly noticed that her husband was missing and, as they had a lot to do, she called him on her mobile.

The wife said, "where are you? You know we have lots to do".

He said, "you remember the jewellers we went into about 10 years ago, and you fell in love with that diamond necklace. I could not afford it at the time and I said that one day I would get it for you."

Little tears started to flow down her cheek and she got all choked up, "yes, I do remember that shop she replied....."

"Well I'm in the pub next to that."

*Jean Osborne*



## The Beacon gets around!

On a recent holiday to visit my sister who lives in Benitachell, Moraira I took a copy of the Beacon for her to read which she enjoyed.

*Marilyn Clark*



# The Olney Hymns

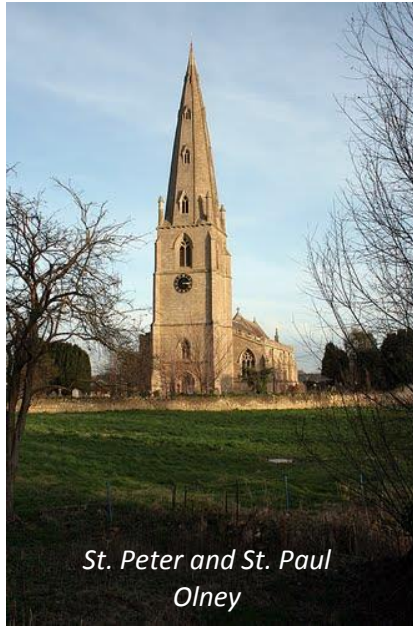
Glancing at our visitors' book I noticed someone had put their address as "Olney, Bucks, where Amazing Grace was written".

I knew the Olney Hymns, and thought a short note might be of interest here. Most people will know the story of John Newton - a self-educated sea captain, slave trader, himself a slave for a time, who became a committed Christian after surviving a storm at sea. He eventually became ordained (he had difficulty finding a Bishop willing to do so, and Dr. Gilbert, Archbishop of York, told him that he was a fool to give up his current lucrative profession). In 1764 he became Curate of the small town of Olney in Buckinghamshire. The people there were engaged in the trade of lace making and were relatively poor and uneducated.

Newton was a compelling preacher and soon filled his church and went to great pains to form a Sunday School. Within a year he had to add a gallery to the church to hold the growing congregation. His weekly prayer meetings were so successful that they outgrew the capacity of the church, and were held in The Great House in Olney - a large mansion belonging to, but not used by, Lord Dartmouth.

William Cowper was a great friend of Newton. His father was a priest, he was a well-educated man, a successful poet, but suffered from serious bouts of depression and periods of insanity. Newton helped him through these debilitating illnesses and Cowper became a lay curate in Olney.

Newton tried to write a new hymn for each of his weekly prayer meetings, and Cowper added to this growing output. In 1779 they decided to publish their collective works as "The Olney Hymns".



*St. Peter and St. Paul  
Olney*

The original edition contained 348 hymns, of which Cowper wrote 66 or 67. It was hugely popular and by 1836 the book had gone through 39 editions (Hymns Ancient and Modern did not appear until 1861). There was no specific music - people just used whichever tune fitted the words, probably 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century metrical psalm tunes.

Newton stressed that his hymns were "for the use of plain people".

"Amazing Grace", which we all know, was written for Sunday

School children, (who probably couldn't read) and like many of Newton's hymns nearly all the words are single syllables, making it easy to understand and commit to memory. The "bagpipe" tune we use is of a much later date.

Some of the Olney Hymns were written in direct response to unfolding events, and we know that "O for a closer walk with God" was written when Cowper's companion/housekeeper, Mary Unwin, was seriously ill. During one of Cowper's serious bouts of depression he tried to take his own life, but Newton found him in time. Afterwards Cowper wrote the hymn "God moves in a mysterious way" which includes the lines, then of so much meaning to him "...Ye fearful saints fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread are great with mercy..."

Much of Cowper's verse survives (including the history of John Gilpin - far removed from a hymn!) Few of the Olney Hymns survive, but a few of the best ones are in the hymn books we use now - they are listed at the back under the index of authors.

Of the 348 Olney Hymns only about 8 or 10 are used regularly. No doubt the same fate will befall many modern hymns we use today - I am sure many of them richly deserve it!

*Stephen Bryant*

# Nine days of prayer - Conversations at the Crossroads

The concept of Novena prayers for the days between Ascension Day and Pentecost was explained in the April-May edition of The Beacon under the heading “Let us pray - Thy Kingdom Come”. The Archbishops had written to every serving priest to remind them that “ministry is empty and barren without prayer” and we, as a Mission Community, took up the challenge.

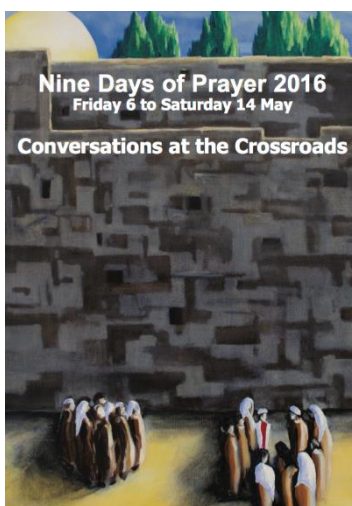
Services were held at St. Andrew’s from 12 noon to 12.30 on each of the nine days. The format was simple; a brief introduction, a Bible reading followed by an interpretation of the reading, a short psalm and some simple prayers and responses. The central theme of each service was 15 minutes of silent prayer when we were able to contemplate and pray about the challenge in the reading.

The Bible passages were familiar enough - Jacob wrestling, Jeremiah’s letter to the Exiles, Ruth gleaning in Boaz’s fields, the valley of dry bones, the angel visiting Mary, Jesus in the temple, the feeding of the five thousand, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch and the conversion of St. Paul.

But each of these passages brought us to a crossroads where we were challenged. For example, how would we welcome a stranger (a migrant perhaps) like Ruth? How could we breathe life into our own faith? Can we model conversations with people with gentle respect? How would we have reacted to the child Jesus speaking with authority in the temple and what challenges and invitations do young people offer to today’s church? What are we prepared to let go of to encourage young people into church? What kind of faithfulness and courage do we need to be where the Spirit wants us to be? And do we really mean what we say when we say “Come Holy Spirit, Come”

This is just a flavour of what Peter placed before us to think and pray about. I think we all found the 15 minutes of completely silent prayer challenging, but very rewarding - it passed very slowly, but ended too quickly. I am sure each of us realised the tremendous crossroads we all face today - it is quite some challenge to pray about.

*Stephen Bryant*



## An anecdote

The small child at the back of the class was drawing a picture: head down, tongue out, completely absorbed. The teacher comes over and asks him what he is drawing.

“I’m drawing a picture of God” said the boy.

“But”, said the teacher, “No one knows what God looks like!”

The child paused in his work, looked up, and said, “They will in a minute!”

*Story told by Ken Robinson, leading educationalist and campaigner for protecting creative arts in the curriculum.*

## Contacts

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# Sunday Services for June and July

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 2 – Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

9.15am	Parish Communion	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
11.00am	Parish Communion	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
3.00pm	Churchyard Service	Denbury	Rev. Peter Ashman
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 3 – Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

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	Tessa Amies

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 4 – Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

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

11.00am	Patronal Festival Communion Service and lunch	Woodland	Rev. Peter Ashman
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## Sunday 3<sup>rd</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 10<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 7 – Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

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 17<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 8 – Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

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 24<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 9 – Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

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 31<sup>st</sup> July – Trinity 10 - Exodus 16.11-15; 2 Corinthians 9.6-11; John 6.28-35

11.00am	MC/Churches Together Lammastide Communion Service and lunch	Ipplepen	Rev. Peter Ashman
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## 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
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Intercessors	Ipplepen Road	East Street	Community Shop	Barton House
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Introducers	The Grange & Grange Close	West Street	Radfords	Rose Cottages
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship teams	Ledsgrove	South Street	Beaston	Wickeridge Mews
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Social/Hospitality groups	Luscombe Close	The Post Office and Shop	Downe	Merryfield Farm
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Refreshments after church	Mayfair Road	The Union Inn	Knowle	Pulsford Cottages
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cleaners	Meadow Park	Glas-Denbury	Hemsford	Springfield Wickeridge Farm
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Hall bookings	Moor Road	The Manor	Village Hall	Forder Cottage
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Outreach groups	Silver Street & Newhayes	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Butlers Retreat Wickeridge Farm
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & 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 – June and July

### June

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	12.30 pm	Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
	2.00 pm	Deanery Chapter at Kingskerswell
	4.30 pm	Ipplepen Standing Committee
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Woodland Library
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Denbury Churchyard Service
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Ipplepen PCC
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Holy Communion at Ipplepen
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Woodland PCC
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
	5.30 pm	Denbury PCC
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Broadhempston Village Hall opening afternoon
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Ipplepen Village picnic for the Queen's birthday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 pm	Wedding of Peter Farthing & Jane Lloyd at Ipplepen
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00 pm	Broadhempston PCC
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Messy Church, Beacon Woods, Broadhempston
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 pm	Woodland Patronal Festival and lunch
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Home Communion
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage

### July

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am	Woodland Library
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	Broadhempston Patronal Festival and lunch
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Holy Communion at Ipplepen
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Lunch Club at Ipplepen Church Hall
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Wedding of Elizabeth Zealley & Johan Fritz at Broadhempston
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee Mates at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Ipplepen Cottage Garden Show
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Quiet Day at Hole Farm
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Home Communion
	3.00 pm	T-Pot at Denbury Cottage
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Bread making at Denbury Cottage
	3.00 pm	Bread making at Ipplepen Church Hall
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Lammas Churches Together/MC Communion service with blessing of the bread – all welcome – St. Andrew's, Ipplepen

## Monday T Pot

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





# Embroidery of Churches around the World at Broadhempston

Did you know that Broadhempston Church is home to a colourful embroidered panel, symbolising the light of Christ shining in the Christian family around the world?

When you come to services or visit the church, take a look in the Lady Chapel, where you can

press a switch to light up the rich colours. The embroidery depicts sixteen churches, each sharing a golden cross, of different denominations and styles and from many countries - places as far apart as South America, Norway, Australia,

Germany, South Africa, Canada, Russia and of course, St Peter and St Paul in Broadhempston! Some churches such as the Sacré-Cœur in Paris are well known; others, like St. Raphael's in Tasmania, may be smaller but still with faithful congregations. Central to the panel is the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth reflecting the joyful news of God's saving message to the whole world.

The embroidery was the idea of Penny Kittow and Elisabeth McElderry. Penny chose it to be in memory of her husband John, who had been Churchwarden, and Elisabeth of her parents, although she died shortly before it was completed so it is also in her memory.

The chapel has been used for activities with the children (with which Elisabeth helped) so they were very much in mind when the embroidery was being planned to enhance that space. Much thought went into the design - helping the children see how the Church spreads throughout the world. One child commented 'All the colours make me feel happy!' The ideas of the children from the school next door were incorporated into the patterns which frame the churches. Eleanor Demel, a professional embroiderer from Landscope, said how much she was inspired by

the idea and loved doing it. She spent many hours designing and stitching the different fabrics.

The expression of God's creation throughout the natural world was also important. The children's designs reflect the flowers and the dolphins which you can see carved in the church

screen as well as the colours of the stained glass in the windows. Included beside the churches are trees belonging to each country - Australian eucalyptus, a maple in New Hampshire, cherries in France, trees laden with oranges in Spain, Broadhempston's yew and

even the cabbage tree which grows in New Zealand!

The theme of light pervades the design. Looking through each 'window', the pathway begins at dawn with the Morning Star: 'Those who do what is right come to the light gladly'. (John 3. 21) It moves on through the day reminding us that Jesus says 'I am the light of the world'. (John 9.5). As night with its beautiful stars falls around the globe, we are encouraged to remember that 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out'. (John 1.5)

At the service of dedication, Nicholas Pearkes (then Rector), said 'We gather to consecrate to God's glory a gift of great worth in this church; it is a gift of such grace from hands and hearts'.

In one of the hymns we sang:  
'Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play,  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day'.

As we look at the embroidery we can surely say with the psalmist, 'This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it'.

*Felicity McElderry*



## The “Flying Scotsman” and William Wordsworth



In the press at the moment are articles about the Flying Scotsman taking to the rails again, and pictures of masses of spring flowers everywhere. The unlikely connection between the two is the poet William Wordsworth. We all know his “Hosts of golden daffodils” and many of us could recite the whole poem - but he detested the new trains which he thought were despoiling the landscape. He did all he could to prevent or delay the railways in his area and would probably have hated the Flying Scotsman too. He thought the railway builders, or “navvies” were a rough uncouth lot. However Wordsworth was at Furness Abbey, now in Cumbria, on a summer’s day in 1845 complaining about the railway being built close by. He went into the abbey ruins and found a party of navvies resting there - and wrote this sonnet:

*Well have yon Railway Labourers to this ground  
Withdrawn for noontide rest. They sit, they walk  
Among the Ruins, but no idle talk  
Is heard; to grave demeanour all are bound;  
And from one voice a Hymn with tuneful sound  
Hallows once more the long-deserted Quire  
And thrills the old sepulchral earth, around.  
Others look up, and with fixed eyes admire  
That wide-spanned arch, wondering how it was raised,  
To keep, so high in air, its strength and grace:  
All seem to feel the spirit of the place,  
And by the general reverence God is praised:  
Profane Despoilers, stand ye not reprov'd,  
While thus these simple-hearted men are moved?*

The “profane despoiler” in question was the Duke of Devonshire who owned the land around Furness Abbey and was promoting the railway to move coal from his mines nearby.

## The “Flying Scotsman” and William Wordsworth - continued

The early Victorian period was a great railway building age. At the same time that Wordsworth was complaining about lines being built in his part of the world the Midland Railway was taking a deep cutting through Old St Pancras churchyard in London. The work was supervised by a young architect's assistant called Thomas Hardy (later of Tess of the d'Urbervilles fame). He was faced with a particularly difficult task when the French church asked for the body of an important ecclesiastical dignitary to be exhumed and returned to them. On opening the grave, the railway navies found three skeletons instead of the expected one. Posed with the question as to which was which they had the idea that as the gentleman concerned was “foreign” his bones must be the blackest. So they sorted out the right number of the darkest bones to make up a complete set, placed them in a fresh coffin, and shipped them off to France. The name of this high placed ecclesiastic was and is kept well under wraps, as the bones are now venerated as the genuine article. Hardy saw the black humour in all this and his poem “The levelled churchyard” includes the words

*We late-lamented resting here  
Are mixed to human jam  
And each to each exclaims with fear  
“I know not which I am”!*

I haven't yet had a train delayed because of “Daffodils on the line”, but no doubt it is only a matter of time.....

*Stephen Bryant*

## Wise words

Love your family. Spend time, be kind and serve one another. Make no room for regrets. Tomorrow is not promised and today is short. *M. Grundler*

The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day. *M. Grundler*

Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future. *Gail Lumet Buckley*

The happiest moments of my life have been those which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family. *Thomas Jefferson*

“I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much.” *Mother Teresa*



## A Shropshire lad .....

*Following on the brief mention in the last Beacon of the award of the Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Legion d'honneur to Nigel Sarjeant at the age of 91 he told me more of those earlier days...*

Nigel Sarjeant's early memories of his home town of Wellington in Shropshire were of a post Great War Britain. Ex-soldiers doing menial tasks to help ends meet, school children - girls and boys - wearing boots from the "boot fund" and a great feeling of the importance of "Empire". News of Hitler was already increasing by the early 1930's and he remembers young Jewish evacuees that he met and socialised with at the church youth club. He was an only child and recalls Sundays attending morning service with his parents, Sunday school in the afternoon followed by wonderful teas with family and friends.

After Grammar school he joined Lloyd's Bank in 1940, following the footsteps of his grandfather who himself had been a bank manager. The branch was in the next town of Shifnal so he kept pretty fit cycling some ten miles a day to and from work. On one occasion he blacked out and fell off his bike and was off work for several months. Despite no real cause being found he was called up in 1942 aged just 18 and passed 'A1' for military service!

He was enrolled in the Royal Armoured Corps and learned to drive scout and armoured cars in County Durham. By 1943 he had been selected for an officer course but this was to be with the infantry. He declined preferring to stay with the RAC. However by one of those strange quirks of fate he was then transferred to a Royal Artillery Anti-Tank regiment! He later volunteered for the Maritime Royal Artillery-acting as a gunner on



merchant ships. He was on regular trips up the East coast with supplies from the Thames to ports of call as far as Leith in Scotland.

In 1944, after further postings in the south west it was back to London to join the invasion fleet for the long awaited return to France. On 5<sup>th</sup> June they left the Thames estuary to join the south coastal convoys. They were headed for Sword Beach and the start of the D-Day landings. Nigel recalls being both scared and excited but his lasting memory was of the fearful noise.

They later made many channel crossings with food and medical supplies often using the Mulberry Harbour. They were to be one of the first ships to re-enter Dieppe harbour.

He was finally demobbed in 1947 by which time he had been transferred to the Royal Engineers, and posted to Egypt.

Nigel decided on a teaching career and trained at St. John's College York from 1949-1951. During that time he met Wilma and they married in 1952. They celebrated their diamond jubilee in 2012 with their two daughters, Mandy and Helen, family and friends.

Initially teaching History and Geography to secondary school children in a hospital school for those with physical handicaps, he later transferred to be involved with children of primary school age who had social and emotional problems finally acting in a role as a trouble shooter for East Sussex which included the setting up of secure units.

Since 1996, he and Wilma have lived in Ipplepen. Nigel has for many years been an active member of St. Andrew's until very recently a regular on the church reading rota. Wilma has continued as a faithful member of St. Andrew's choir.

*Michael Price*

# Norway honours war veteran, 95

A TORQUAY veteran has been awarded a medal for his war service 75 years ago.

Eric Waldron (pictured), 95, of Brunswick Square, is one of three surviving veterans awarded the Commemorative Medal and was presented his by the Norwegian Consul for Devon and Cornwall, Jill Sanders.

She said: "Eric is an amazing gentleman who is now 95 and had an incredible war record. He is probably one of the few remaining locals who can recall in detail his experiences during the war."

The Norwegian government decided last year to award the Commemorative Medal to members of the Norwegian and foreign military, the merchant navy and to civilians as a mark of gratitude for contributions during World War Two.

Eric said the first he knew of it was when he had a letter from the Norwegian embassy before Christmas.

"When I read it I realised I was going to be awarded a medal thanking us for what we did in 1940," he said.

Eric said he had been serving in France at the time and was brought back to Scotland and sent out to Norway. He said as their ship arrived German fighter planes came out of nowhere and dive bombed.

They were sent to protect the small contingent of British troops hitting back at the German invasion of Norway.

He had a lucky escape when one of the men he was firing a gun with was riddled with bullets. "It's 75 years later but I appreciate it all the same."

Local authorities were asked to nominate people who satisfy the criteria for the Commemorative Medal. The contributions had to be corroborated through documentation, time witnesses or local knowledge.

The commendation states: "You were part of the English 55th Lt. AA Regiment put ashore near Harstad. When the Germans moved north towards



Nordland, the regiment was ordered to advance southwards.

"Just south of Mo i Rana, near Stien at Dalselv, around May 17, 1940, the regiment took

positions. The British troops met with strong resistance from the Germans and thus had to beat a retreat back north through the Dunderlandsdalen valley and across the Saltfjell.

"Here you blew up bridges to slow the German advance. At Krokstrand you were attacked by German fighter planes on May 20, 1940.

"Your friend and fellow soldier, Albert Badham, was hit and died there. He was buried by the side of the road, but was later moved to Mo Cemetery.

"The Norwegian government thanks you for the effort you made on our behalf during World War Two and hereby awards you the government's Commemorative Medal in appreciation."

This article has been "cut" from the Herald Express and gives some more information of Eric's experiences in Norway. This was not the end of the war for Eric and, quoting from the paper again:

*Following his tour of Norway, Mr Waldron came home to Britain only to be on guard duty at Chequers every time Churchill was there and manned one of the 12 anti aircraft guns dotted around the grounds.*

*Guard duty was soon followed by a two-and-a half-year stint in the Far East, first in Sri Lanka, then Burma where he fought against the Japanese and also in India where he was a member of the 5th Indian Division. He said: "I got injured in the Battle of Kohima. I got sick with dysentery and malaria. It was tough... the jungle, the heat, the snakes and the bugs.*

*"We were in Calcutta when the war finished. But it was another six months before we got repatriated home. We were the Forgotten Army."*



# A visit from Canada



My name is Karen Bearns. I live just outside St. John's Newfoundland Canada. For those of you who are not familiar with Newfoundland, it is the most easterly place in North America. I work for the Canadian Government but in

my free time I love to research my family tree. I began my research in 1994 and on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 I took, what was for me, the trip of a lifetime.

During my research I knew that the Bearns family had lived in Ashburton. My 3X great grandfather Thomas along with his brother William and sisters Sarah and Susanna left their home in 1829 and made the trip across the ocean to Newfoundland. Within 5

years both William and Sarah had both passed away leaving just Thomas and Susanna.

Susanna returned to England with her husband, who was a clergyman, and children, leaving Thomas the only one left across the ocean. I stayed in Ashburton to make exploring the area the Bearns lived in easier.

While conducting my research prior to going to England, I discovered that my 4X great grandparents were married on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1791 in a place called Woodland. I enquired on one of the Devon family history groups regarding this new discovery. The name "Woodland" alone sounded peaceful, unspoiled and a mystery to me. A member of the group informed me that Woodland was a small hamlet not far from Ashburton and the church was named in honour of St. John the Baptist. I thought how ironic since the church the Bearns family attends in Newfoundland is also named in



honour of St. John the Baptist. I wondered if those Bearns that came to Newfoundland all those years ago felt a little more at home worshipped at a church with the same name as the one their parents were married at.

Michael Price put me in contact with Jane Usher, the Church Warden at Woodland who offered an open invitation to visit the church once I landed in England. I was so excited at the thought of seeing what my great grandparents seen on their wedding day and to actually be somewhere where they had been. No one in my family had ever visited anywhere where our ancestors had lived their lives so this was going to be an

absolute first for us.

My mother and I arrived in Woodland hours before the service on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. We were greeted by Buster the dog from David's farm beside the church. I am a huge dog lover so being greeted by a dog when I arrived at the church was the perfect welcome for me. I knew without a doubt this place was "home." We explored around the church and I was in awe. I was where our Bearns family began and imagined if William Bearns and Susanna Holditch did not marry in this church that day in December 1791, I would not be here. I was so grateful to God for allowing me to take this trip of a lifetime with my mother and for us to share in this beautiful experience. Shortly thereafter the congregation began to arrive and we were able to actually enter inside the church. It was a very emotional experience for both my mother and I. I felt the walls and gazed upon the altar which I imagined William



## A visit from Canada - continued



and Susanna marrying in front of. I imagined what it must have been like-it was probably lit by candlelight and decorated for the Christmas season since they married just two days before Christmas. The congregation was so welcoming and every person who entered the church spoke to us and welcomed us to their church in Woodland. They made us feel so at home and a part of the Church; I never experienced anything like it before in my life. Even Reverend Peter gave us a special welcome during the service.



Was this really happening?! Am I really here sitting in the same church that my 4X great grandparents married in 225 years ago?! The service was beautiful with lovely music and relevant messages for all of us. A memory I will hold close forever.

When the service was over, the congregation all assembled at the back and chatted. Again every person in attendance that Sunday evening made a special effort to speak to my mother and I and enquired how we are enjoying our trip and what our connection to Woodland was.

Most everyone was surprised to know that I had a family connection to Woodland from all those years ago. Even after the service was over, Sheila Ashford and David Wrayford took the time to fill us in on all things related to Woodland and Devon in general. One of the things that will stand out the most about my entire trip was the people in Woodland. They were so hospitable and welcoming. I enjoyed talking to each and every one of them and I learned more about Woodland by speaking to them than I could ever learn on the internet. Thank you for making my experience more than I could have ever imagined. I never thought it could have been better than what I

imagined but the people that I meet while I was there made it happen.

As I had at the beginning of my letter this was the trip of a lifetime for me. I can truly say that Woodland was a dream comes true. It exceeded every expectation that I had plus more. My goal now is to attend services at Woodland during the Christmas season. With a little saving on my part and the grace of God, this will happen.

I will hold you all in my prayers and ask God to keep you safe until I see you again

*Karen Bearns*

## Another anecdote

The first ever cordless 'phone was created by God. He named it "Prayer".

It never loses its signal and you never have to recharge it.

Use it anywhere!

*Contributed by Maureen Burley*

*(However the Rector still prefers our earthly physical phones to be switched off during church services!-Ed.)*



or



?

Today was the absolute worst day ever  
And don't try to convince me that  
There's something good in every day  
Because, when you take a closer look,  
This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if

Some goodness does shine through once in a while  
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.

And it's not true that

It's all in the mind and heart

Because

True happiness can be obtained  
Only if one's surroundings are good  
It's not true that good exists

I'm sure you can agree that

The reality

Creates

My attitude

It's all beyond my control

And you'll never in a million years hear me say that  
Today was a good day.

*Now read from bottom to top*

## Happy memories

This is a lovely picture of Roger Caney and Arthur French who passed away this year.



*Some pictures  
from Easter at  
Ipplepen and  
Denbury.  
Pictures  
courtesy of  
Chris Ashman  
and Antony  
Mitchell*



# 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:

There are no sponsors for Denbury this time

## Ipplepen:

### Retrospective

April 10<sup>th</sup> Mark, Danielle and Samuel, Karen, Ellie and Ken Squire remembering Pamela who sadly passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, and whose birthday would have been on 10th April. You will always be in our thoughts as a loving Grandma, Mother and Wife. We all miss you so much.

April 17<sup>th</sup> Wilma, Mandy and Helen, Chris and Brian, and all the grandchildren congratulating Nigel Sarjeant on his appointment to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur. And also his comrades.

April 24<sup>th</sup> Antony Mitchell remembering his mother Mary, and grandfather George Came.

May 8<sup>th</sup> Dennis and Gill Arnum who love to see the Church floodlit as they enter the village – it is so warm and welcoming.

Hazel and Jeffery Mayne for the Baptism of their grandchildren, Benjamin Robert and Ella Mali Mayne, on 8<sup>th</sup> May in Melbourne, Australia.  
May God bless them and keep them safe always.

May 15<sup>th</sup> Fiona Muddeman to celebrate the birthday of her grand daughter Anna on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### New

June 5<sup>th</sup> Fiona Muddeman to celebrate the birthday of her grand daughter Katie on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

June 12<sup>th</sup> Tony and Huguetta Standish to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

July 17<sup>th</sup> Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of their son Edd and Maddie on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

July 24<sup>th</sup> Brenda and Barrie in memory of dear Roger Griffiths.





## Quiet Day at Hole Farm near Denbury

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July



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.

## From the Editor



Welcome to this edition of The Beacon. It is the time of year when we enjoy the delights of our Patronal festivals at Woodland and Broadhempston and we will have just celebrated Trinity Sunday together as a Mission Community at Holy Trinity, Torbryan.

As always there is news from our four Beacon Parishes and my thanks to our faithful reporters.

It is always good to have an international dimension, so it was a welcome surprise as editor to receive an email in April from Canada which read “My name is Karen Bearns and I will be visiting Ashburton Devon from March 29-April 5<sup>th</sup> ....”. Read her impressions in this issue. It is a real pleasure to have another Woodland contribution even if the Bearns family have been in Newfoundland, Canada for the last 200 years!

A report of our response to the Archbishop’s call to “Nine days of Prayer” is also included. Those who came - if like me - may have experienced many challenges at the “crossroads”. The accompanying course booklet had a variety of pictures provoking our listening and prayer.

All articles, contributions including photos are much welcomed. They need to reach me by July 16<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the August - September edition.