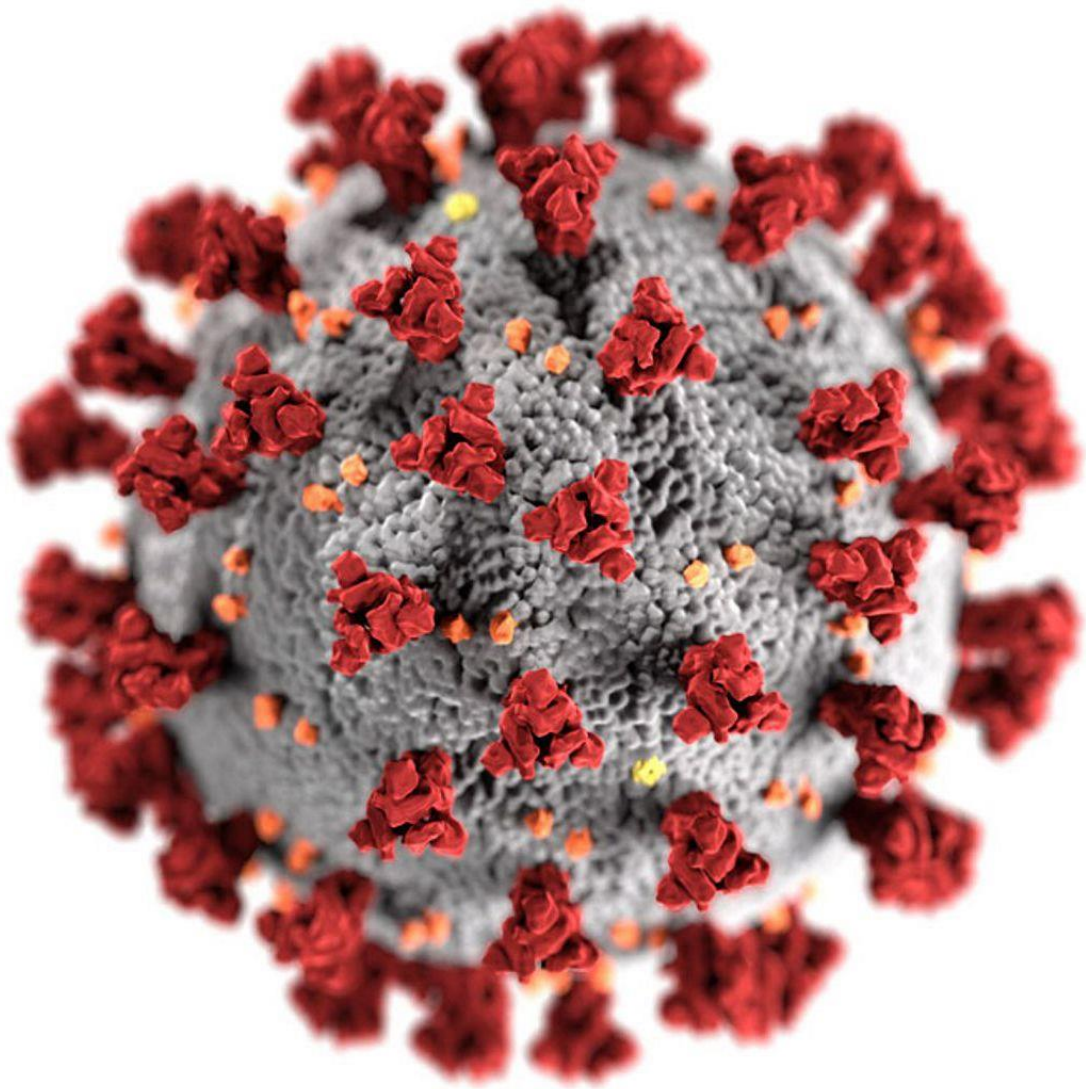


Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland



Help others,
Stay safe

Coronavirus Covid-19

Cast all your anxiety on Him for he cares for you

I wonder whether like me and many of us the unfolding situation around the Corona Virus is causing you anxiety and concern. Know that you are not alone. Each of us, our village organisations, government and NHS are all working hard to respond to uncertain and changing times. Each of us is seeking to care for one another the best way we can - to show this care in our concrete actions around good hygiene and self-isolating as well as finding ways (some new and creative) to reach out to those in need.

What to do with the anxiety then? How can we live well and courageously in uncertain times? For me the story from Jesus' life that comes to mind, is the calming of the storm. Jesus is in the boat with his disciples crossing a lake, he is asleep in the bow of the boat. As they cross the lake a great storm ensues and the disciples are in fear for their lives. The boat is in danger of being swamped. They rush to wake Jesus up. Once awake he stretches out his hands and stills the waves. Amazed, the disciples continue making their journey across the lake.

As we journey on across the lake of the next few months there will inevitably be times that the waves feel so high and we are sure we are lost. At these times we might remember the story of the calming of the storm. Remember Jesus asleep in the bow of the boat and be reminded that within each of us is God, Love, Light, Strength, the divine presence. We like the disciples can wake

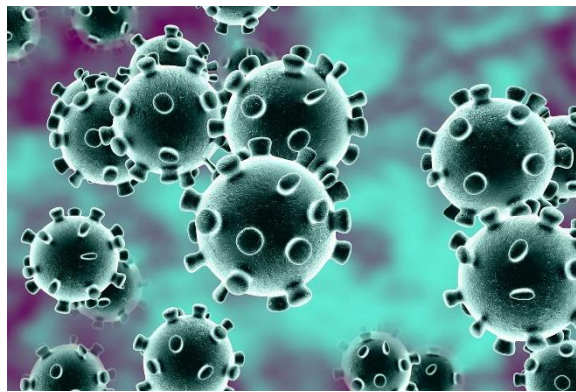
Jesus up as it were. We might say a prayer, asking for strength or hope or guidance. Simple and direct. In this we reconnect to the divine who Christians call the God of love Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In this we find a sense of peace and calm that allows us to carry on. My prayer over the months ahead is

that each of us will have courage when the waves are high to seek what is already there and put simply for many of us is lying dormant because we haven't woken it up.

As a church, whilst we have suspended public services we are keeping the church open for individuals to come and pray, to find the peace and the calm they need to make their journey. We will be working on supporting people to connect with what is lying within them - the divine - by producing prayer resources that people can use which we will place both in our churches and on our website www.missioncommunity.org.uk. I am also trying to get my head around vlogging so I can stay in touch this way - watch out!

However we connect over these next few months please be assured of my prayers for our communities and don't hesitate to pick up the phone when you need to, either for a chat or so I can say a prayer with you, particularly when you need to give that 'sleeping' Jesus a shake! Do not fear, He is with you always.

With my love and prayers at this time
Andrew



From the Rectory

Along with many things Easter will be celebrated differently this year.

Easter that great festival of God's love will certainly be celebrated differently this year for all of us. We will be working on providing resources to help you celebrate the great festival of God's love however you do this as we journey through the Easter weekend. 9th - 12th April. However we will still be celebrating that unfolding story...



1. On the evening of Maundy Thursday (9th April) we celebrate how Jesus loved his disciples to the end, stopping at nothing for love. Jesus shares a meal and washes his disciples' feet.
2. On Good Friday (10th April) we celebrate Jesus' faithfulness in the light of human fickleness. A faithfulness that took him to the cross.
3. On Easter eve (Saturday 11th April) we celebrate that God could not wait to share his love and dispel fear. Jesus is risen even whilst it is still dark, in the middle of the night.
4. On Easter Day (Sunday 12th April) we begin our celebration of the mystery of this love that goes beyond death, a celebration that lasts a whole 50 days! We celebrate that in Jesus' resurrection darkness becomes light, death becomes life, sacrifice becomes love.

God's love is hard to believe, this was true for the first disciples as it is for us. We too must see and then come to believe. Celebrating Jesus' risen life and our share in it, God's love for all humanity and our call to love God's love is hard to believe, this was true for the first disciples as it is for us. We too must see and then come to believe.

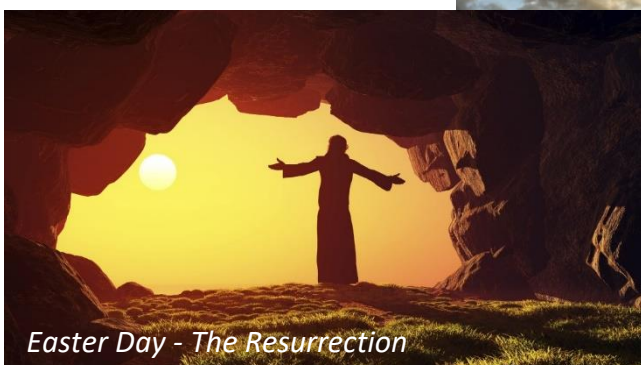
Peace and love to you all
Andrew



*Maundy Thursday
The Last Supper*



Good Friday - The Crucifixion



Easter Day - The Resurrection

A view from Torbryan



As the days get longer and the evenings lighter I find my mood lifting: I am not a winter person! But of course there is more than just the weather and the length of the days that affect a person's sense of happiness, and increasingly I have found that the news and current affairs have made me feel quite gloomy. I used to be an avid news junkie but as of December 2019 I decided to cut right back on watching the news. In order to keep abreast of the bare bones of what is happening in the world I flick through a Saturday newspaper, or a brief glance at a news website. I find that in general I feel happier without all the seemingly constant barrage of bad news that the mainstream media inflicts on us. There is the obvious accusation that burying our heads in the sand solves nothing but I would say sometimes the media broadcast such a negative view of what is going on in the world that reading or watching it is simply not good for our state of mind. If they were encouraged (or forced) to produce a certain amount of good or positive news then it might be a different matter.

I know that there have been various journalistic attempts to produce current affairs magazines that only deliver good news, and henceforth that is what I will try and deliver in this column. That does not mean avoiding the bad and worrying things that are happening in our world, but rather portraying them in a positive light. For example, you might say that the climate change emergency is a very worrying thing, but that people are increasingly becoming aware of their actions and adjusting their

behaviour for the good of the planet's future. Similarly, the corona virus scare is worrying but there are some clever people working on a vaccine and the hot summer that we are all no doubt hoping for should halt the virus in its tracks.

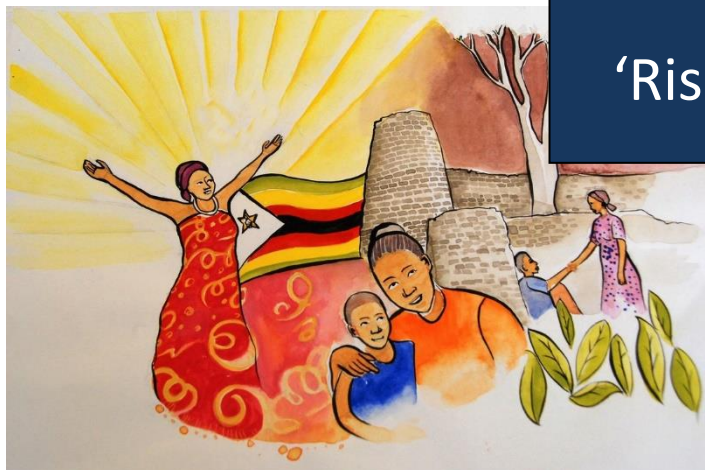
So, if you're in search of positive news here are the headlines: spring and summer are just round the corner, and autumn isn't long after that; we're lucky enough to live in Devon, one of the more beautiful counties in this country, and in what is a reasonably prosperous country, compared to some less fortunate ones. On the whole people try and treat each other decently around these parts and are sometimes so polite that a stand off as to who should go first when two cars come across each other on a narrow country lane can go on for ages: "You go first," one driver might say. "No you, I insist," says the other. Similarly, on a local level, our village pub, that so many of us have been fond of visiting, is currently closed. However, it is to be hoped that in the course of time it will again be open for business.

Georgie Brendon

Straplines

- The fact there is a highway to Hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers
- A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water
- Atheism is a non-prophet arrangement.
- By the time a man realises his father was right, he could have a son who thinks he is wrong

Women's World Day of Prayer



'Rise! Take your mat and walk'

The World Day of Prayer Service took place in St. Andrew's Church on Friday 6th March and was prepared this year by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe who call us to 'Rise! Take your mat and walk'. This lovely Service in which we participate is part of a great wave of Prayer encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends some 36 hours later in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. We join with people in over 120 countries and islands around the World.

The scene was set for this Service with fabrics of colour of the Zimbabwean flag (green, yellow, red, black and white) draped to touch the floor to symbolise unity on the Altar with three candles lit by the girls wearing the appropriate colours red representing love, white for peace, and yellow meaning reconciliation.

There were 42 of us in attendance including some men who we were very pleased to see. Many of us took part in the Leading, Bible reading, meditation, prayers of thanksgiving and intercessions. Marilyn Ellis played the instrumental 'Let there be love' between each paragraph when a letter from the Women of Zimbabwe was read and accompanied the appropriate hymns starting with 'In Christ there is no East or West' and finishing with 'The day thou gravest Lord has ended'.

Refreshments were served afterwards tea, coffee and homemade cake.

This is a moving service bringing all Christians together, hope to see you next year when the theme will be from Vanuatu*.

Marilyn Clark

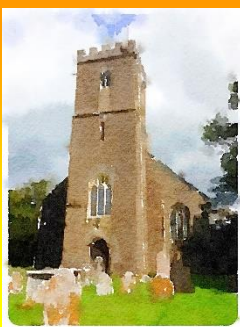
**The Republic of Vanuatu is an island nation in the South Pacific Ocean, northeast of New Caledonia, east of Australia and west of Fiji. The Y-shaped chain of fourteen main islands between the South Pacific Ocean and the Coral Sea is of volcanic origin and home to several active volcanoes.--Editor*

Straplines

- Imagination is far more important than knowledge
- It is far more impressive if others discover your good qualities without your help
- Lord, don't move any mountains that I face; just give me the strength to climb them

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



Recently released data reveals February 2020 to have been the wettest since records began for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, being the second wettest for Scotland. We have also seen the fifth wettest winter on record in the UK and the fifth mildest. We have certainly noticed the rain and floods around the lanes in Broadhempston along with road closures and trees down. But we are now entering April and are very excited to be working with B-Wild in our churchyard.

Broadhempston Wild is a small group of Broadhempston residents trying to promote biodiversity within the parish. The Broadhempston parochial parish council are allowing small areas of the church yard to be left uncut, to encourage the existing wide variety of wild flowers to grow. These areas will be managed by B-Wild.

In consultation with David Curry, of Devon Green Churches (administered by the Diocese



of Exeter), a few small parts of the churchyard have been identified as suitable for planting.

Benefits of Wilding. A greater diversity of flora, fauna and habitat, however limited in area, contributes to the conservation of species under pressure, such as bats, hedgehogs, butterflies and other pollinating insects e.g. hoverflies and bumble bees. The pleasure of seeing these and native wild flowers in their season cannot be exaggerated and adds interest and natural colour to what otherwise can be a uniform green area.



News from Broadhempston - continued

"God filled the sky, land and sea with abundant and diverse life! How many are your works Oh Lord! In wisdom you have made them all: the earth is full of your creatures"

(Psalm 104:24)

Weddings: We have two wedding ceremonies' in our church during April and May this year always a special event for our village.

Broadharmony continue to practice on a Thursday evening in St. Peter and St. Paul's Church from 7:30pm to 9:00pm all are welcome to join us. We will be having a **Summer Concert in June** (date to follow) and there will be a **Concert with various local artists on Saturday 5th September 2020**, so please put this date in your diary.

Renovation Project: we have paused the project for the time being whilst we work out an overall plan for the next 3-5 years. There is much to do and limited resources both finance and people. In the meantime, we will carry out only urgent repair work.



Progress is being made with the furniture for the **Heritage Display** area in the south Aisle. The furniture is being made by John Read of Broadhempston from the 2 seater side pews which previously lined the wall of the south aisle – a very demanding job in terms of both skill and patience as can be seen from the photo of John in his workshop with a display board under construction.

Consideration is being given to relocating the village library from the shop to the church. We are excited by the possibility of extending the use of the church building for community facilities such as the library.

Maggie Sercombe, Churchwarden & PCC Secretary

Chris Parker, Churchwarden & PCC Treasurer

Smile



- A bishop had fallen seriously ill and was told by his doctor not to have too many visitors. However, when his long-term agnostic friend called he was ushered to the bishop's bedside. "My Lord bishop", said the visitor, "I do appreciate you seeing me when other friends have not been admitted." The bishop replied, "Well, it's like this; I feel confident of seeing my friends in the next life, but I was concerned that this might be my last chance of seeing you."
- Puzzled by his first lesson on evolution, young Johnny arrived home from school and said, "Mum is it really true that I am a descendant of apes, monkeys and gorillas." She replied, "I don't really know darling, I never knew any of your father's family."

If Jesus came into my house

A very nice lady who lives in the village let me have a poem she has written which she would like to go in the Beacon – Stephen Bryant.

She doesn't want her name attached - just 'A parishioner'.

If Jesus came to my house
Would he find a heart that's true?
One that tries to keep its promise
As each day starts anew.
Who tries to show compassion
With kind word, or helping hand
A gentle touch to one in stress
Will say you understand.
I give thanks for the blessings
That surround my days with love
In testing times have faith to ask
For help from God above.
I'll pray my human failings
Will be but very few,
Then if Jesus came to my house
He may find a heart that's true.

A Morning Prayer

So far today God, I have done alright. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper and I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. And I haven't told anyone to mind their own business and stay out of mine. I'm really glad about all that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help.

An insight into dying

A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon and someone at my side says, "She is gone." Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all; she is just as large as when I saw her. The diminished size and total loss of sight is in me and not in her, and just at the moment when someone at my side says, "She is gone", there are others who are watching her coming, and other voices take up a glad shout, "There she comes!" And that is dying.

(Bishop Brent)

Smile



- The brain is amazing. It begins from the time we are born, and works 24 hours a day 365 days a year, right up to the time you get up to speak in public.
- He was a Christian and he loved swimming in the sea. One day, a passing boat saw him swimming in a rough sea a long way from shore and someone shouted, "Do you need help?" The swimmer replied, "No, I am sure God will save me." Later, a fishing boat passed near and the fisherman called out, "It's pretty rough out here, can I help you get back to shore?" The man replied, "It's OK thanks, I know God will save me." The story goes that the man drowned and went to heaven. He asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" And God replied, "Didn't you see the two boats?"

Big Green Event

"Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation"

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



On Saturday 22nd February Exeter Cathedral's nave was filled with people from across Devon who had one thing in common... a passion for the environment. The Big Green Event was organised by Exeter Diocese and included workshops, plenary sessions and the chance to browse stalls of local and national Christian, multi-faith and secular organisations who are already tackling the climate emergency. I went with my family and found the day stimulating, informative and actually pretty positive. By this I mean that I got

the message that we **can** collectively and individually take action to address the rise in global temperatures and encourage others to take seriously the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions.

2020 is a really crucial year with the UN Climate Change Conference (aka COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November. The Lambeth Conference will also include a focus on the environment this summer. World Environment Day is on 5th June and the Season of Creation runs from Sept 1st – October 4th, around the time of harvest festivals. The keynote speaker at The Big Green Event, the Rt Revd Nick Holtam (the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment) talked about engaging with the Season of Creation along with Christians from other denominations around the world. He told us the General Synod had just voted to reduce the CofE's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030 (15 years before the previous target). It will not be easy he said as we are "addicted" to carbon-use as a society, but there is no time to lose. Churches will be asked to measure the energy we use currently with a basic Energy Footprint Tool. Then we will need to seriously think through how we can make positive changes. One option is to go for Eco Church accreditation. The charity A Roche is offering ideas and resources to support churches to achieve these awards. Some of the suggested steps are already undertaken within the Beacon Parishes Mission Community. For example, parts of Broadhempston and Denbury churchyards are deliberately managed to increase biodiversity locally. Individuals in congregations are cutting back on single-use plastic, consuming locally grown produce and using green energy suppliers. These are the actions that churches can also take to help make a difference.



Big Green Event - continued

There are obvious Christian arguments for looking after Creation that God has entrusted to us. Since seeing the world from space in the 1960s we have increased our comprehension of how fragile our planet is. But there is also the issue of climate justice. Generally speaking the poor of the world live in places that are disproportionately affected by the consequences of our exploitation of natural resources. For example, as the ice caps melt from increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the Pacific Ocean has risen to almost engulf the centre of Beniamina Island.



Beniamina Island

Photograph printed with permission from Simon Albert, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Queensland.

In our own backyard we have seen how the increased rainfall this winter has waterlogged the farms in our parishes, flooded our lanes and caused a landslide at Totnes. The climate *is* changing and the time to act is now.

If this article has led you to find out more, the following websites may be helpful:

www.hfft.org.uk Hope for the Future – offering free support to help us work with our MPs

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> A Rocha's scheme to help churches show how they care for God's world

<https://www.churchofengland.org/environment> - information about how churches could and should engage with protecting creation. The Church of England's environmental campaign is entitled 'Shrinking the Footprint'.

The following prayer was written by the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Revd Robert Atwell:

*Everlasting God
whose Spirit broods everlastingly over the lands and the waters,
and endows them with form and colour:
give us, we pray, the mind and heart
to rejoice in the majesty of creation.
Teach us to be responsible stewards of this world
and to seek the common good,
that through your blessing all may flourish,
and creation sing your praise
in Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.*

Claire Down, March 2020

Beacon Quiet Day – 15th March 2020

Here are three contributions and comment from three members of our Beacon mission community, each from a different parish:

Those of us who made it to the Quiet Day, led by Rev Tom Carson, were privileged to experience a wonderful day of directed thought and quiet reflection. And a fabulous lunch! For which, many thanks to Claire Down!

Drawing on a hugely diverse mixture of spiritual writings, bible references and poetry from many different traditions and faiths, Tom explored in depth the sense of self and God within us, the things that hold us back and what we can do about it. This was interspersed with some of his own songs, which were not only pertinent to the subject in hand, but quite beautiful. Try <https://soundcloud.com/tomcarsonmusic>. There was a short period of meditation after each talk, where we were guided in how to go about it and, more importantly, how not to mind if we struggled.

Tom started with the words of Hafez, a 14th century Muslim mystic: “I wish I could show you when you are lonely or in darkness the astonishing light of your own being.” He talked about how God is within our hearts (not the sky, or in church), and therefore needs revealing, rather than being sought out. And if this is so, we need to just be. How the driven narratives of our busy lives distract from this. Too often, appearing busy and useful is valued to the exclusion of all other merits in our modern society. Oh but... “A poor life this is if, full of care, we have no time to stop and stare.” And this same life places demands upon us that God does not. His regard for us is unconditional – unlike our own and society’s expectations. The ‘what ifs’ and the untold stories of what might have been. Again, from CS Lewis, “You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” Tom led us through this with clarity and conviction. I found it immensely comforting.

Above all, there came the sense of being given permission to “just be – let God do the rest”, as Tom put it. For me, this was summed up when one of us asked, “With a prayer list this long (arms stretched to illustrate), how can I fit in meditation?” Tom said, “I make a list on a piece of paper and put it in my pocket – God already knows what you want to ask for.” Sweet!

Rachel Belringer

A very big ‘thank you’, Andrew, for putting together our Quiet Day yesterday. Tom was a superb choice as leader. There were many things I appreciated but two readily come to mind:

1. The willingness to draw on the wisdom of other faith traditions. Tom quoted Hafez, the Sufi mystic. Another Sufi mystic, Rumi, said “Somewhere beyond the realms of belief and disbelief there is a field. I will meet you there.” We have much in common and much to learn of each other.

2. The space given to meditation and silence. Rumi also said “Silence is the language of God; all else is translation.” (Forgive me throwing quotations at you but they seem particularly apt).

Please also thank Claire. It was very good of her to devote her free day to sustaining us with food and drinks and the jacket potatoes worked really well.



Beacon Quiet Day – 15th March 2020 - continued

P.S. Maybe next time we should video parts of the day for uploading onto the website. Those who were unable to attend really missed out on something special.*

Chris Parker

Seventeen people from the Beacon Mission Community met on Saturday 15th March at the Court Room in Staverton for a Quiet Day led by Rev. Tom Carson – Chaplain of Exeter School and a friend of Andrew and Claire. The day was entitled “The Light of your own Being” and aimed at looking at ourselves from the inside out and teaching us how to meditate. Lent is a time to uncover the astonishing light in our own being. Tom used poems and his own songs to illustrate his talks. The sessions were split into 3 parts with a talk and 5 minute meditation after. Tom taught us to sit straight in the chair (so as not to fall asleep!) with our feet on the floor; hands on our knees; eyes closed if possible and using a prayer word as a mantra. He suggested Maranatha but said MA – RA – NA – THA.



Part 1) The Light of your own Being. Tom talked about this being a day to leave your anxieties behind and to “be” instead of “do”. Our minds are too noisy. We all need time to “be”.

Part 2) The Gift of just Being. Our minds flit about and it is difficult to pause and consider what matters. We are easily distracted. As William Henry Davies wrote “A poor life this is if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare”.

Part 3) The Untold story of our Being. “There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you” - Maya Angelou. We only get one life and what choices do we make. We can’t go back but we can go forward. Tom told us a little about himself with music, song writing and drama important in his youth but eventually taking a PGCE in RE and teaching in London before being ordained and taking up the post at Exeter School 5 years ago. Pastoral work was very important to him. His untold story was putting the song writing away in a box until prompted by Andrew to take it out again. What are our untold stories?

In between sessions we were invited to walk outside by the River Dart or just stay. After the second session Claire provided us with a lovely lunch which was much appreciated and we finished with a time of reflection and comments on the day before prayers and time to go home after an inspirational day. Our thanks to Tom, Claire and Andrew for the organisation of a day which we hope will be repeated again.

Vanessa Bevan

*Whilst there is no video, an audio of the Quiet Day talk is available. The following link of Tom’s music can be found at

<https://soundcloud.com/tompcarson/sets/the-light-of-your-own-being-quiet-day>

Woodland's visitor's book

The Visitor's Book is a constant reminder that the church is used all the time and not just Sundays.

The current St. John the Baptist Visitor book started on 21st September 1973 and to date around 2300 people have made an entry. I wonder how many more paid a visit but did not sign the Visitor's Book?

The main reasons for visiting were (a) to find an ancestor in the churchyard, (b) remember a special occasion, (c) remember a childhood, (d) a random visit and (e) to have a quiet moment of meditation and prayer. All comments were very positive, except one person commented the lights needed dusting! The most used word was "peaceful" followed by "cared for" and "loved".

Some of the comments had real resonance and I have selected a few.

Ancestry

- *Visiting the family seat during the 10th and 11th century*
- *Thomas Culling was my ancestor and he built this church and village.*
- *Great Great Great granddaughter of the Rev Rogers.*

Miss Snow

There was a small school at Wickeridge called St. Margaret's run by a Miss Snow and her sister Elsie. I was struck by the many references to Miss Snow and the impact she had on her pupils. She must have been a remarkable woman. I have chosen comments from former pupils from London. Colorado. California and British Columbia

- *Thank you for having the Church open. Wonderful childhood memories walking here to Church each Sunday. Now to visit Miss Snow's grave. (a beautiful 'mother')*
- *Came to see Miss Snow-a lovely lady responsible for my happiness.*
- *God bless my dear Miss Snow and Aunt Elsie. You taught me about the good things in life.*
- *To dear Miss Snow and Aunt Elsie. Remembering a wonderful life with you at Wickeridge. What a lovely childhood you gave my brother and I and so many other children. I could never forget what you did for us. All love.*
- *A few moments visiting Miss Snow - always in your debt.*
- *Came to say "Hi" to my beloved Dorothy Snow and her sweet sister Elsie, who chased us out of the kitchen! Miss Snow I love you and will always miss you.*

Kneelers

- *The embroidery is a wonderful mark of the love and care for this church and all it stands for.*
- *Obvious the work you have all put in to the kneelers, you are a congregation that cares for each other. Thank you for sharing it with us.*

Meditation

- *Feel at one with one's thoughts.*
- *A good place to go and pray in.*
- *What a peaceful place to sit. Serene and peaceful.*
- *Peaceful place for quiet meditation.*
- *A Church full of peace. A healing place.*

Woodland's visitor's book

- *Thank you for such a lovely bright place to spend time with our God.*
- *In the rush of modern life it is good to find a place of peace and quiet such as this.*
- *A visit during a time of change for me. Enjoyed the tranquillity.*
- *Very peaceful, soothing to the spirit.*
- *A late evening visit seeking tranquillity. The door was open, my mind rested.*
- *Time stands still here in a moving world.*
- *A lovely peaceful place where Christ is honoured.*

The Church

There are very many comments relating to the care of the Church and churchyard that are very encouraging for those who look after this special place. Here are just a few.

- *Found it!*
- *Unusual find (Tudor).*
- *Peaceful. I didn't realise churches were built in Tudor times.*
- *Remoteness is the feeling. There cannot be many churches of this date.*
- *Remarkable in its isolation.*
- *Part of the England of which I am so proud.*
- *A gem in the middle of nowhere.*
- *Praise be for those who care for this church.*
- *How a church should be.*
- *More churches should be like this one.*
- *The church looks loved and cared for. How nice.*
- *Came for a wander around the lovely lanes, what a place!*
- *Thank you all who look after this special place.*
- *A fine church that is a credit to the village.*

Other

- *Lovely dog in farmyard (assume that was Buster Wrayford who greeted all visitors)*
- *The Vicar is cool! (this comment was in 1997, so assume it was Rev Jack Cruise)*

Message to Phil from Kingskerswell

Phil, your first recorded visit to Woodland was 7th May 2004. Since then you have visited us a further 83 times. We do appreciate your loyalty, but we would love to meet you!

This small sample of the entries in the Visitors Book is very encouraging because it clearly demonstrates the Church still has an important continuing role in the life of the community.

John Usher

Church and the Community

There is constant reference to the decline in Church attendance, accordingly, I thought I would investigate what the current situation is.

The Church of England Research and Statistics Department publishes Church and Cathedral attendance statistics.

The figures for 2018 **(for The Church of England only)** are summarised in the table below.

Activity	Church	Cathedral	Colleges*
Regular worshippers	1,120,000	592,000	4,500
Weekly attendance	871,000	36,700	3,300
Weekly school services	175,000		
Sunday attendance	703,000	18,000	3,000
Advent including carol services	2,550,000	617,000	18,500
Christmas	2,420,000	133,000	2500
Holy week		95,000	
Easter	1,210,000	58,000	
Special services (Civic/schools)	3,000,000	939,000	
Public/civic events		1,400,000	
Visitors		10,000,000	
Baptisms	97,000		68
Marriages	37,000		168
Funerals	128,000		52

** Constituent colleges of our oldest universities have magnificent chapels with renowned student choirs. The responses are based on 19 Oxford, 17 Cambridge and 4 Durham college chapels.*

One cannot avoid the fact that the number of people who identify as belonging to the Church of England has dropped to a record low in an unrelenting decline over many years. What is even more concerning is that the British Social Attitudes survey found that only 2% of adults between 18 and 24 had an affiliation with the Church of England and the majority of every age group now has no religion. **In this context, the importance of Messy Church, Christmas and Easter Experience programmes for schools and the Rector's contact with the Mission schools cannot be over emphasised.** Should we be despondent? No, because there are some positives in the survey and actions being taken by individual parishes.

The data above shows the church still plays a significant role in the life of the community, In the survey 10% of the churches showed an increase in regular attendance.

Church and the Community - continued

Festive worshippers grew to their largest numbers in a decade. Is the attraction of Christmas partly due to people feeling they could connect with their faith without the pressure of weekly attendance?

Attendance in cathedrals increased by 17% between 2008 and 2013. Attendance at cathedral Easter services rose by 18% over the same period. The 133,000 people attending the Christmas service was the second highest since 2008.

It would be a mistake to base the importance of the church to the community on Sunday service attendance, important though that is. Although Sunday worship is declining, the worshipping community is fairly stable. Being a member of a church is more than just a matter of what we do on a Sunday. There is a real danger that the church is regarded as a building for Sunday use only. The figures in the above survey show how many more people attend services other than Sunday. The Churches' response to offer a more flexible pattern of worship is to be applauded. A feature of the survey was the low proportion of people taking communion at the festival services. The pattern of Church services has changed. In the past the core services were Matins and Evensong. These have now been replaced with Holy Communion. The Holy Sacrament is the basis of our Christian faith, but are we limiting our Sunday congregation to the confirmed? I could find no statistics relating to confirmation, but I suspect the numbers are falling. In this narrative, why is the popularity of Choral Evensong rising?

The church is often the landmark in the community with its special architectural and historic interest. Many contain priceless medieval artefacts. The church is part of the cultural fabric of the community and as such more people support the church than go to church.

The increased use of the church for functions such as concerts, exhibitions and fairs is good because it ensures it becomes more integrated with the community.

John Usher

Words of Truth and Wisdom



(Watchman Nee (or Nee T'o-sheng), was a Chinese church leader and Christian teacher who worked in China during the 20th century. In 1922, he initiated church meetings in Fuzhou that may be considered the beginning of the local churches. During his thirty years of ministry, Nee published many books expounding the Bible. He established churches throughout China and held many conferences to train Bible students and church workers. Following the Communist Revolution, Nee was persecuted and imprisoned for his faith and spent the last twenty years of his life in prison. He was honoured by Christopher H. Smith in the US Congress on July 30, 2009.) In spite of all he suffered, he wrote these stirring words:

"Alone, I cannot serve the Lord effectively, and He will spare no pains to teach me this. He will bring things to an end, allowing doors to close and leaving me effectively knocking my head against a wall; until I realize that I need the help of the church body, as well as of the Lord. There are truths taught in God's house that you won't hear anywhere else. There you will find a spiritual family to belong to, a faith to live by, and a focus that gets your eyes where they should be - on Christ! So, see you in Church on Sunday!"

Discussion and views welcomed

The following article is from The Sunday Times in January. A discussion and views will be welcomed.

Michael Price

The recent legalisation of civil partnerships for heterosexual couples has caused controversy within the Church of England. The House of Bishops responded by ruling that partnerships should be no more than “sexually abstinent friendships” and that marriage “remains the proper context for sexual activity”.

This has angered the couples many of whom have children who took their fight to the Supreme Court and formed the right to form a mixed-sex civil partnership.

The government estimated that 84,000 mixed-sex couples could form civil partnerships this year because the law changed on New Year’s Eve.

So how will couples starting a family explain to their children that the church regarded their relationship as “inappropriate”?

A petition led by activists Jayne Ozanne, a member of the General Synod, and Rev Andrew Forsheew-Cain, an Oxford University chaplain is addressed to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

It says they feel their “trust has been misplaced and we feel badly let down”. They were hoping the church would proceed in delicate discussions about the status of gay and lesbian members as it awaits a report known as Living in Love and Faith.

The petition adds: “The Church of England has become the laughing stock to a nation that believes it is obsessed with sex. More importantly this statement has significantly damaged the mission of the church and it has broken the trust of those it seeks to serve.”

The church said: “While the document states the long-standing teaching of the church about sexual relationships within marriage, the bishops are keenly aware of the diversity of views and practices among members of the church and wider society about the expression of love in faithful human relationships and of the deep pain that these differences have caused and still cause today.”

Forsheew-Cain said most bishops were turning a blind eye to gay priests in sexual relationships. He said one was asked by his bishop: “Are you having sex with your partner?”

The priest replied: “No - I’m having coffee with you.”

Smile



- For her birthday I really annoyed my girlfriend by giving her a box of Celebrations; I had changed all wrappers around, with the result that she got her Snickers in a Twix.
- Heads bowed in prayer, the congregation at our Church listened in complete silence to the Minister as he said, “Now let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.” A little girl’s voice could be heard throughout the hushed congregation as she said, “Daddy, I didn’t know Jesus had a tortoise.”

Letters to the Editor

Climate change and the Youth versus Age debate

Sir,

In the debate of Youth versus Age, I know only too well the over confidence of the young. Guilty as charged: I knew EVERYTHING at the age of 17 – and am only slightly improved at the age of sixty-four and a half! But being young doesn't necessarily mean being wrong. Greta Thunberg has taken a stand – an informed and provable one – against complacency and wilful inaction. She is supported in this by no lesser person than David Attenborough, who has now been promoted above “respected older generation” to National Treasure status. Mike Berners-Lee, environmental scientist (an older generation) gave a talk at Ways with Words last year. He summarised his evaluation of the (frankly dire) situation thus: This is a climate emergency (not just change) – regulation is NOT a dirty word – and now we need to start insisting.

We need to insist. And Greta Thunberg is “insisting” rather effectively. Which is good, as those in authority are not addressing the concerns: Donald – it's snowing in Washington – Trump; Australia's PM denying climate chaos whilst his country burns... A lot is said, very little is done. Surely respect, at whatever age, needs to be earned.

I DO worry about despair. The evidence presented by Greta, David, Mike et al and pressure groups like Extinction Rebellion and Greenpeace is VERY depressing. People may turn away, feeling hopeless.

But surely this is where we come in? This is our cue! We, as Christians, deal in currency of Hope. Hope for redemption, for new life, for our world and the triumph of Love. I saw a social media post just recently. A plastic bottle floating in the sea was captioned, “It's only one plastic bottle”, said 7 billion people”. Well, that can be turned round, right? “I shall use a reusable bottle”, said 7 billion people”. Why not? Grass roots awareness has power. I'm now using hankies again, instead of tissues. Big deal?! It is, if we all do!! Positive actions, however small, building hope and confidence for the future. For the sake of our children, grandchildren, Greta and all the ‘bolshie’ teenagers still to come.

Rachel Belringer

Straplines

- Think of Jesus as being the best photograph God ever had taken.
- Grace can be described as love that cares, stoops and rescues.
- There are two types of people; those who enter a room and say, “Well, here I am,” and those who enter and say, “Ah, there you are!”

Marking Good Friday

Children look forward to hot cross buns, Easter eggs, chicks and making bonnets around Easter. Good Friday is more than a Bank Holiday – in churches it's a very special time to remember that Jesus died on a cross to save the whole world. Here are some traditional and new ways to tell children that Good Friday is all about the cross.

Hot Cross Buns

Though many places sell them all year round, hot cross buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The cross on the top is a reminder of the cross on which Jesus died, and the spices are a reminder of the spices used in his burial.

Many shops sell hot cross buns near to Easter, but there are lots of great recipes online if you'd like to make your own together.

Find a cross

When you go into a church, look round and see how many crosses you can find. Even if you're not in church, learn to spot crosses everywhere: window frames, aeroplane trails ... There will be crosses everywhere!

Many people wear a cross as jewellery, some people carry a small cross in their pocket or bag. At a christening, the minister may draw the sign of the cross on the child's forehead – the cross is a sign of belonging to God, and of the love that God has for us.

One of the most famous bible verses says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." (John chapter 3 verse 16). New parents probably understand this sort of love better than anyone: the love that means you would do anything and everything for the sake of your child. We can pray 'Our Father', because God loves us like that – Jesus' death on the cross was God being willing to do anything and everything for our sake, because he loves us.

Make an Easter Garden

This can be anything from a simple plant pot 'garden' to something much more ambitious. Usually an Easter garden includes a hill with three crosses on it, and a cave- tomb (usually a smaller plant pot laid on its side) with a stone against it. Some gardens also add a path made of gravel, and spring flowers such as primroses.

You can even make an Easter garden picture instead if you don't have the materials to make a 3D one from natural objects – try cutting the pictures out of the seed catalogues that are often delivered free from local garden centres.

When you make the garden, put the stone in front of the cave. On Easter Sunday, roll the stone to one side (or peel it off if you made a picture) to help tell the Easter story.

Eddie Sinclair - conservator

The following obituary was published by the Churches Conservation Trust

We are saddened to have learnt of the death of Eddie Sinclair. Eddie was a specialist conservator in the conservation and research of historic painted surfaces for over thirty five years. Her work included projects for Churches Conservation Trust, English Heritage, The National Trust, cathedrals, abbeys, non CCT churches, synagogues, museums, City Councils and private individuals. Some of her most recent work was at St. Mary's Lydiard Tregoze in Wiltshire.



Eddie initially trained at Exeter Cathedral through an apprenticeship which began in 1979. At Exeter she worked under Professor Robert Baker on the west front of the Cathedral and Anna Hulbert on the interior medieval polychromed roof bosses and wall paintings. During her time at Exeter, Eddie also had experience in training as a stone carver and mason.

Since 1983 she worked as a freelance conservator, gaining wider experience around the country, assisting a number of conservators in private practice, before setting up as an independent conservator, specialising in west country polychromy. It is Eddie's specialism that made her such an important conservator for Churches Conservation Trust to use.

Eddie, along with Hugh Harrison, played a vital role in painstakingly conserving and restoring the historic rood screen panels from Holy Trinity, Torbryan.



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 in 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.

Eddie's lasting legacy for us will be the panels at Torbryan. She based herself at Exeter to carry out the repairs to these panels after the Royal Albert Memorial Museum generously donated their laboratory to us to use for the conservation and repair work on the panels. Anyone who visits them today will find it hard to see how badly damaged these panels once were as a result of the theft. It is to Eddie's credit and her devotion to conserving the fabric and artefacts of historic churches that people today, and in the future, can once again admire these beautiful panels.

We, along with everyone she has worked with, owe Eddie an enormous debt of gratitude. Thank you.

From an Unknown Soldier in the 19th Century

I asked God for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for help that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of others;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.
My unspoken prayers were answered.
I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

Waiting to see his image

A verse in the Old Testament book of Malachi puzzled some women in their Bible Study. It says, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver..." The members wondered what the statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at a future meeting. She called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, simply her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames were hottest, to burn away all the impurities. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man confirmed he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was fascinated and she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - it's when I see my image in it."

Is your favourite here?

BibleGateway, www.biblegateway.com, is a web-based platform and they have listed the most viewed or searched for Bible verses for 2019. Psalm 23 proved to be demonstrating the Psalm's popularity among Christians but perhaps also among those who hear the Psalm at funerals or other events within the Church. Indeed, if you added up all the usage percentages, Psalm 23 would be the most popular Bible passage of 2019 on this largely web-based platform.

However, if we only give one mention to Psalm 23, then the most popular verses are:

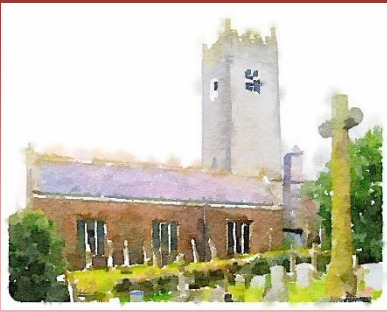
1. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
2. Jer 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
3. Phil 4:13: I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
4. Ps 23:4: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (*Ps 23.6 was 7th, Ps 23.5 was 8th, Ps 23.1 was 9th & Ps 23.3 was 10th*)
5. Rom 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
6. Rom 12:2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.
7. Matt 6:33: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
8. Isa 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
9. Phil 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
10. John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

A hymn parody for all gardeners

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.
All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.
The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses he also gave us these.
The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.
The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.
The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.
The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardeners' outlook, though green may be their thumbs.
But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray that what hits neighbours will somehow bypass ours.

News from Woodland

**St. John the
Baptist**



I'm sure I'm not alone in finding that this winter seems to have been going on forever. Spring, however, is definitely now in the air. Days are noticeably longer, the birds are currently nesting and I had occasion to stand and watch a pigeon with a twig in its beak that was three or four times its length. I'm still wondering how it managed to build a nest with that! As I walk and ride around the village I often hear or see young lambs in the fields and spring flowers have been popping up in all the gardens and hedgerows – just in time for the making of colourful little posies to be handed out at our Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March.

Despite the weather, and we've certainly had an awful lot of that at times, we have still been active socially with several different village events. In absolute deluge conditions in February, seven of us met at the village hall for a morning class making bread with an enriched dough. We had the option of making either hot cross buns, Chelsea buns or a fruit loaf and I have to say that the loaf I brought home was absolutely delicious, although with the flood waters rapidly rising I felt I was very lucky to get home at all! Later that month we held our annual Snowdrop Lunch, also in the village hall. As always, it was a lovely opportunity to chat to neighbours and enjoy a wide range of food from everyone's home kitchens. We have, of course, continued to hold our regular library and coffee mornings, which have been as popular as ever.

With Easter coming up, many events are currently pencilled in for the next couple of months, including all of the usual Easter services. Of course we know that these things depend on the church and government's advice due to coronavirus but at time of writing there will also be a Mission Community service in Woodland church on 29th March at 11.00am to which we welcome all our friends and neighbours from the surrounding parishes. Plans have also been discussed for a coffee morning in aid of the Red Cross after one of our parishioners said that she had been asked by the charity if she could host one, but this is likely to be much later on in the summer or early autumn.

Helen Pearse

Oh my God, where are you?

Why is it that I think I must get somewhere, assume some position, be gathered together, or separated apart in the quest of my study to pray? Why is it that I feel I have to go somewhere, or do some particular act to find you and talk with you. Your presence is here - in the city, on the busy bus, in the factory, in the cockpit of the aeroplane, in the hospital, in the patients' room, in the intensive care unit, in the waiting room, in the home at dinner, in the bedroom, in the family room, at my workplace, in the car, in the car park and at the traffic light. Lord, reveal your presence to me everywhere and help me become aware of your presence each moment of the day. May your presence fill the non-answers, empty glances and lonely times of my life.

Robert Wood

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



At the time of the last Beacon issue we were hopeful that some positive developments regarding the Denbury bell restoration would come to fruition early in the year. The PCC have had a number of discussions over recent months regarding the project and decided that the original plan to move the ringing room to the first floor (to provide a larger and more comfortable ringing area) was a 'nice to do' rather than a 'must do' and the decision was taken to leave the ringing room on the ground floor, at least for the time being, with all other improvements i.e. the complete refurbishment of all running gear and the enlargement of the peal to six bells, remaining as originally planned.

This has meant that the project costs reduced to an extent whereby we are able to give the contractors the green light to press on with the restoration work. To date meetings have been held with all parties involved, a programme of dates for the various stages drawn up and initial surveys to finalise lifting gear etc. completed. Nicholson's, our bell hangers, have an extremely busy work schedule but we are confident that the new peal should be in place by early 2021.

The project to raise funds for the restoration commenced in earnest in 2015 and it has been quite a long slog to get to this point. Support from the local community has been fantastic and everyone connected to the bell project is delighted that the sound of the enlarged and re-energised peal should ring out over Denbury in the very near future.

We are now well into Lent and this traditional period of reflection and meditation marks a quieter period for church activities. Our Ash Wednesday service began the Lent season and was conducted by Canon Tom New.

The traditional Lent Lunch was held this year at Mary Head's house. A good number of attendees from Denbury and our beacon Community churches enjoyed a very pleasant lunch of bread, cheese and fruit and a great opportunity to socialise. A collection raised £170 to be donated to Barnado's.

We are looking forward to participating in the Lent Quiet Day to be held at Staverton with Rev. Tom Carson, Chaplain of Exeter School as guest speaker. We all need a period of calm each day in our increasingly busy lives, away from intrusion from our phones, laptops, TVs and the multitude of high tech gadgets we all have in our homes these days. The above Quiet Day should provide an ideal opportunity for some peaceful hours to think, to pray and to reflect.

We are now in a very anxious time due to the spread of the Coronavirus and we will all need to support each other to the best of our abilities until normality is resumed.

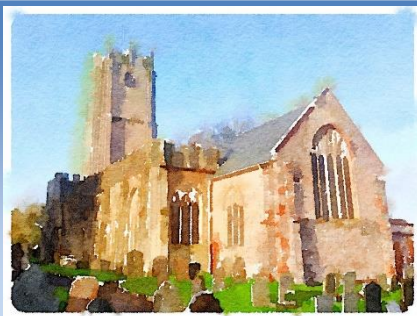
Mike Bray

Denbury Bells

Bell	Weight	Note	Diameter	Dated	Founder
1		E	25.63"	1846	William & Charles Pannell
2		D	27.00"	1633	Robert Pennington
3		C#	29.25"	1907	Mears & Stainbank
4		B	32.75"	1631	
5	8cwt	A	34.88"	1829	William Hambling

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



Welcome to Springtime! It is wonderful to see the colourful flowers of this season. We celebrated the presentation of Christ in the Temple at our Service on Sunday 2nd February and it concluded with Rev Andrew with his guitar singing the 'Nunc Dimittis'.



Cafe style Church held jointly with the Methodist Church took place in the Village Hall on Sunday 23rd February. It was so good to see many people enjoying a continental breakfast with tea or coffee before the Service commenced at 10am. Rev Andrew and Rev Kevin leading the Service worked well together. Nancy from Exeter was welcomed back to sing and she taught us a Swahili song. The feedback from everyone was positive that this type of service was enjoyed. On Ash Wednesday 26th February Rev Andrew marked a cross on each member of the congregation with the ashes. This is a special service, the beginning of Lent and a time to reflect. Each Tuesday evening during Lent we have a service of Compline from 7 to 7.30pm where we can listen to readings, meditations, prayers and music

contemplatively. At our Communion Service on March 8th Rev Andrew said that in view of the Coronavirus there would be no wine just the bread at communion and no shaking hands at the exchange of the peace; we looked and smiled to each other. Steven Sheldon assisted Andrew and gave a powerful address. Since then of course, all services and meetings have been cancelled. The APCM will be held at a later date

Marilyn Clark

Culinary Straplines

- If you eat a pasty, followed by an antipasti, that's a zero-calorie day.
- Herbs on fish? There's a thyme and a plaice.
- Pop corm: the only food you can enjoy three times-once in the cinema; again when the lights come on at the end of the film and you find it all over your lap; and again when you're getting ready for bed and another four bits fall out from somewhere
- and by the way -Selfridges sell fridges.
- The land of milk and honey was great for everyone, apart from the lactose-intolerant and vegans.
- Drones will only be fully welcomed by the public when they can fling a pizza through an open window.

The Eucharist

As we are rapidly approaching the season of Easter, I thought it would be an appropriate time to take this opportunity to reflect not only on our Christian faith but also on the Sacraments, in this case, The Eucharist.

Easter is the most important season of the Christian calendar and at the beginning of the Easter Triduum (the sacred and last three days of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) where we come together to celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday.

To understand better the Eucharist we celebrate, it is necessary to know what Jesus did at the Last Supper. This is essential because our Eucharistic celebration is modelled on what Jesus did and told us to do on Holy Thursday evening.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. He took bread gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "This is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me". In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22: 14-21). The Institution of the Eucharist is also recorded by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-25.

The Eucharist is at the heart of the church's life. The centre of all Christian life is Christ Himself. Rich in symbolism, it mediates to us His saving work. By His incarnation and His work of redemption we are healed and called to share a new life, a life that binds men and women together as people of God and sharers in the life of the Blessed and Holy Trinity.

In describing the life of the early Church, Christian writers of that time gave special



attention to the Eucharist. For the Eucharist was the community's essential celebration, it signified and kept the presence of Christ within the community. From Acts, it is clear that from a very early date the Eucharist was a regular part of Christian worship. It is for this very reason that the Eucharist is the centre and crown of Christian life.

The Eucharist as received sacramentally is called 'Holy Communion' this name is appropriate because as the word 'communion' indicates, it is the sharing of a gift God gives to all. It is a coming into close union with Christ, and with one's brothers and sisters in Him. Jesus Himself stressed our need to receive Communion "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and remains in me and I in him." (John 6: 53-56).

The word sacrament also means a visible or outward sign of an inward grace and the receiving of the Eucharist when we attend church or when administered during house communion can, I believe, help us all to achieve this inner grace in drawing closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are seven Sacraments within the Church of England and they are separated by two major ones, Baptism and the Eucharist and five others, Confirmation, Ordination (Holy Orders), Reconciliation, Holy Matrimony, and the Anointing of the Sick.

Peter R Gage (Server and Eucharist Minister)

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 Rachel Belringer 01803 812529
Mobile: 07751804007
For Ipplepen, contact the Church office on 01803 814078



Denbury:

Retrospective

- 1st – 29th Feb From Mavis Gooding in loving memory of her dear husband, George
2nd – 10th Feb To celebrate John's 80th birthday, from Mary Griffin
1st – 31st Mar From Tessa Amies for lots of family celebrations this month

New

A villager who likes to see the church lit up (Anon.)

Ipplepen:

Retrospective

- 2nd – 8th Feb Charlie and Jane Outhwaite in loving memory of dear gentle Pippin, who gave so much love.
"Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened."
(Anatole France)
9th Feb – 7th Mar In memory of George and Ida Ellis who both died on 14th February 1980.
8th Mar– 14th Mar Remembering Margaret Kemp a dearly loved mother and granny on her birthday 9th March from Sheila, Graham, Beckie and Hannah Needs.
22nd – 28th Mar For our grand-daughter, Amelie Quartley's, 16th birthday on 23rd March. From Vanessa and Peter Bevan.

New

- 12th – 18th April Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the birthday of Otto Mace on 12th April.
12th – 18th April Dennis Hurrell and family in memory of his wife, Sally, whose birthday would have been on 14th April.
12th – 18th April Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the birthday of Franz Mace on 15th April.
25th Apr – 2nd May Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of Alex and Jonas on 26th April.
25th Apr – 2nd May Antony Mitchell remembering his mother Mary, and Grandfather George Came.
3rd – 16th May From Christine Lewis in memory of her late Father's, Ralph Lewis', birthday.
17th – 23rd May From Christine Lewis in memory of her late Mother's, Doreen Lewis', birthday on 21st May.
17th – 23rd May Margaret Hatten in loving memory of her darling husband David whose birthday would have been 17th May.
24th – 30th May Linda, David and Hannah Simmonds for Katie's birthday on 25th May.
24th – 30th May Peter Mason remembering his wife Jan on 29th May.

WEEKLY CYCLE OF PRAYER

People may like to use the following weekly cycle of prayer which has been put together by Andrew.

Every day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life • In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The universal Church • Bishops, synods and all who lead the Church • The leaders of the nations • The natural world and the resources of the earth • All who are in any kind of need
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The media and the arts • Farming and fishing • Commerce and industry • Those whose work is unfulfilling, stressful or fraught with danger • All who are unemployed
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All who are sick in body, mind or spirit • Those in the midst of famine or disaster • Victims of abuse and violence, intolerance and prejudice • Those who are bereaved • All who work in the medical and healing professions
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social services • All who work in the criminal justice system • Victims and perpetrators of crime • The work of aid agencies throughout the world • Those living in poverty or under oppression
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government, community leaders • All who provide local services • Those who work with young or elderly people • Schools, colleges and universities • Emergency and rescue organizations
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queen, members of parliament and the armed forces • Peace and justice in the world • Those who work for reconciliation • All whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife • Prisoners, refugees and homeless people
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our homes, families, friends and all whom we love • Those whose time is spent caring for others • Those who are close to death • Those who have lost hope • The worship of the Church

Diary – April and May

- As we go to print, Ipplepen, Denbury and Broadhempston churches are open for private prayer during the day as going to print. Woodland is not open due to recent thefts.
- See the website for other information. www.missioncommunity.org.uk

Intercessions for the Mission Community – April and May

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

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Straplines

- Your merry Christmas may depend on what others do for you; but your happy new year will depend on what you do for others.
- You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future.
- You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.
- I never think about the future; it comes soon enough. (Albert Einstein)

From the Editor



As we face a pandemic with Coronavirus (COVID-19), this prayer from Bishop Robert:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

My thanks to the many who have given us some splendid articles and reports in this Lent edition. We look forward to the coming of Easter wishing you well at this difficult time.

Articles for the June/July edition should reach me by May 17th.

Michael Price

www.missioncommunity.org.uk

*The Beacon is produced at no
cost to the Mission Community*

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