

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

Harvest and Creation-tide



Summary of Contents

Theme	Harvest and Creation-tide.....	3
Services	Pattern of worship	5
	Guest Speakers	6
	Services for October, November and December	7-8
How to keep in touch	9
News	From the parishes	9-15
Articles	Various articles	16-30
	Icons - what are they and how they are created	27-29
Inspiration	How we might grow?	18
	Andrew's Spiritual bit.....	31-34
	Prayer resources	35-39
Contacts	40

From the Editor



Hello and welcome to this October/November edition of the Beacon. I hope that there is something of value and interest for you whether you come to church regularly, intermittently or hardly ever.

My thanks to all our regular and guest contributors who have made for another packed edition!

One section of our community I would like to do more for are younger readers. The St. Andrew's Junior Choir has brightened many of our lives with their Rainbow of Hope and the Maori Farewell in recent editions.

We need to add more that might interest not only students but younger readers as well. We hope to make a start in the next Christmas edition. Any ideas, suggestions, puzzles for inclusion would be warmly welcomed.

Items for the December/January edition should reach me by Sunday November 15th.

My special thanks to Charles Quartley who has helped me with editing of this edition during my absence from Ipplepen though now safely returned and 'enjoying' or enduring my fourteen day 'lockdown'.



'Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness'

An evocative call to Autumn. Although we may not get many mists around here, there is certainly a good feeling of 'mellow fruitfulness'.

The calm and tranquillity of autumn, the year's work completed, seeds produced, crops gathered, sheep sheared, nature pauses as it prepares for the winter.

Each of our four seasons is unique, but autumn must be a favourite for many. For me, it's the colours; the warm yellows through to the rich and varied reds and many oranges and browns in between, so vibrant, so colourful, so beautiful. The turning of the trees, the great variety of the colours of the leaves, fallen leaves to brush through as you walk, skeleton leaves to examine the veins and the structure of the leaf itself.

In the church calendar we celebrate **HARVEST** and '**CREATION-TIDE**' in the middle of October. Harvest - a time of thanksgiving, traditional hymns, flowers and gifts. This year some churches are collecting items for the local food banks; there'll be no hymns because of Covid 19 restrictions but we will still be thankful:

*For the beauty of the earth for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,
Lord of all to thee we raise this our grateful hymn of praise.*

‘Creation-tide’ - a time to reflect on God’s Wonderful Creation. The world of nature all around us. Squirrels gathering food, running from tree to tree, fascinating the dogs below! The intricacies of a spider’s web caught in the morning sunlight on a misty morning.

It needs a close look! A Challenge! A simple nature study!

Look out for a chestnut tree and choose a green chestnut in the leaves beneath it. Feel the spikes - How sharp are they? Why have them? Break the chestnut open, feel the soft creamy pith supporting the warm browns and reds of the nut inside; shiny, smooth with its patch of roughness where the shoot will grow in the Spring. Put the chestnut in the pocket of a winter coat and roll it in your fingers during a winter walk! Treasure!

Or pick a flower, count the petals, how are they joined to the stem. Find the stamens or the stigma, ovary and sepal supporting the flower head. Maybe get a pencil and paper and have a little draw, perhaps paint too! Enjoy!

As you wash-up, look out of the window and watch the blackbird strutting around on your lawn or that small sparrow flitting past your window. Admire those very, very thin legs - (why don't they break?), see the ever-watchful eyes, the sharp beak. Each feather, fluffy ones, flight ones - each has its purpose. Imagine inside the bird, tiny bones, the rib cage, the skull, the skeleton. Each perfectly made, each with an important part to play. Wonder!

Chestnut, flower or bird, each is beautifully made, each has evolved over time, each part of our wonderful world which so badly needs looking after right now. Each part of God's wonderful creation.

At the end of October, we have a time of **REMEMBRANCE**. All Souls’ Day comes first when we remember our kith and kin, our loved ones who have died in past years - parents, children, relatives and friends. Prayers are said and names remembered as we commit them once again to God's loving care.

A few days later it’s Remembrance Sunday (on the 8th November this year) when we remember our war heroes, those who have given their lives in recent wars and conflicts. Poppies, the two minutes silence, the great March past. (How will this be affected by Covid 19 this year?)

We seem to have done a lot of remembering recently with the anniversaries of both VE Day and VJ Day. This time let's look to the future, let’s pray for PEACE, an end to anger and conflict, for a better understanding between people and nations;

*Peace, perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord,
Peace, perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord,
Thus says the Lord, will the world know my friends,
Peace, perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord.*

Finally, at the end of November, we celebrate Christ the King, all powerful, closely followed by celebrations for St. Andrew’s Day in Ipplen and then Advent Sunday heralds the coming of Christmas.

Maybe autumn is not quite such a ‘mellow’ time after all!

Peace and good wishes to all. God Bless.

Tessa Amies

Our Pattern of Worship

Silver linings – simplicity and creativity in our worship

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. Psalm 113 v3



As we have started to be able to gather again for worship, to keep each other safe we have made a number of adaptations: keeping our distance from others, wearing masks, and washing and sanitising our hands are the obvious ones. There have been things we have not been able to do most notably singing and we have been making things simpler e.g. doing without service sheets, often only having one reading and the sermons have become shorter and become talks and reflections. Hurray I hear you cry!! Into this space of greater simplicity has come a flourishing of creativity. We have been using different forms of music both recorded and live, poetry, art and silence. Many have commented how helpful they are finding this greater sense of space, simplicity and creativity. What gifts and a real silver lining out of strange and difficult times.

Andrew

Sunday services

These are developing and there is mix of services on offer across our mission community.

1st Sunday	9.30am	Denbury, Holy Communion
	11am	Ipplepen, Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	9.30am	Woodland, Holy Communion
		Denbury, Something creative
	11am	Broadhempston, Family Communion
3rd Sunday		Ipplepen, Celtic Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Denbury, Holy Communion
	11am	Ipplepen, Holy Communion
4th Sunday	9.30am	Woodland, Holy Communion
		Denbury, Celtic Morning Prayer
	11am	Broadhempston, Family Communion
		Ipplepen, Family Service

Morning Prayer Pilgrimage

Morning Prayer is said at 9am Monday – Thursday travelling around our churches. This is a short 20 minute service consisting of Thanksgiving for a new day, Psalm, Reading from the bible, Prayers for others and finishing with a Blessing to start the day.

Mondays - Woodland
Tuesdays - Ipplepen
Wednesdays - Broadhempston
Thursdays – Denbury

Mid-week Communion Services

Tuesdays 10am - Ipplepen
Thursdays 10am – Denbury

Home Communions

Please let Caren in the office know if you or someone you know wishes to receive home communion

Do keep an eye on the parish magazines, notice boards, our beacon parish website, weekly notice sheet and our Facebook pages for updates.

Guest Speakers this month!

Celebrating Harvest

Harvest Festivals will be taking place on 11th October focusing on Creation and our care of it.

Professor Dave Griggs will be speaking at Denbury and Ipplepen on Sustainable Development, bringing to us his global experience in this important area



Hugo and Harriet Hughes of 'B-Wild', a local initiative set up to promote biodiversity in the village of Broadhempston, will be speaking there

Farming will be our focus
in Woodland



Gifts and Stewardship

Looking ahead, on 18th and 25th we are focusing on Gifts and Stewardship with Stephen Mitchell the diocesan Mission Resources Advisor

Healing



On the 21st at 6pm in Ipplepen, we are having a Taize service and the speaker with Tom Morris giving a personal reflection on Healing and the NHS

Services for October and November

Services planned at time of going to print. Please check website / Weekly Notices for updates.

Sunday October 4th

9.30am Holy Communion
11am Holy Communion

- 17th Sunday after Trinity Matt Ch21 v33-end

- Denbury
- Ipplepen

Sunday October 11th

9.30am Harvest Festival
Harvest Festival
11am Harvest Communion

- HARVEST Luke Ch12 v16-30: creation - Guest Dave Griggs

- Woodland – Outside if nice
- Denbury – with Dave Griggs – Churchyard, walk, etc.
- Broadhempston - with Hugo and Harriet Hughes (B-wild)
Outside if nice

Joint Harvest with the Methodists in the field - Ipplepen – with Dave Griggs

Sunday October 18th

9.30am Harvest Communion
11am Harvest Communion

- ST LUKE Luke 10. 1-9: gifts and stewardship - Guest Stephen Mitchell

- Denbury - with Stephen Mitchell
- Ipplepen - with Stephen Mitchell

Wednesday October 21st

6pm Taize Service

- Taize Service with a focus on Healing/NHS

Guest Tom Morris to give personal reflection
- Ipplepen - with Tom Morris

Sunday October 25th

9.30am Holy Communion
Celtic Morning Prayer
11am Holy Communion
Celtic Morning Prayer

- Last Sunday of Trinity Matt Ch22 v34-end: - Guest Stephen Mitchell

- Woodland – with Stephen Mitchell
- Denbury
- Broadhempston – with Stephen Mitchell
- Ipplepen

Sunday 1st November

9.30am Holy Communion
11am Holy Communion
6pm All Souls Service

- ALL SAINTS Matt Ch5 v1-12 / ALL SOULS John Ch5 19-25

- Denbury
- Ipplepen
- Ipplepen

Sunday 8th November

9.30am Holy Communion
Remembrance Service
10.45am Remembrance Service
Remembrance Service

- REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- Woodland
- Denbury
- Broadhempston
- Ipplepen

Sunday 15th November

9.30am Holy Communion
11am Holy Communion

- Second before Advent Matt Ch25 v14-30

- Denbury
- Ipplepen

Sunday 22nd November

9.30am Holy Communion
Celtic Morning Prayer
11am Holy Communion
Family Service

- CHRIST THE KING Matt Ch25 v31-end

- Woodland
- Denbury
- Broadhempston
- Ipplepen

Sunday 29th November

9.30am Holy Communion
11am Holy Communion
6pm Advent Carols

- First Sunday of Advent Mark Ch13 v24-end

- Denbury
- Ipplepen
- Broadhempston

Monday 30th November

- St. Andrew's Day

Patronal Communion being transferred to Sunday 6th December

Services for December

Services planned at time of going to print. Please check website / Weekly Notices for updates.

Sunday 6th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent Mark Ch1 v1-8

9.30am	Holy Communion	- Denbury
11am	Patronal Communion	- Ipplepen

Sunday 13th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent John 1. 6-8, 19-28

9.30am	Holy Communion	- Woodland
	Something creative	- Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- Broadhempston
	Celtic Morning Prayer	- Ipplepen
6pm	Christmas reading, poems and music	- Ipplepen

Sunday 20th December - 4th Sunday of Advent Luke Ch1 v26-38

9.30am	Holy Communion	- Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- Ipplepen
5pm	Christmas readings, poems and music	- Woodland

Thursday 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE John Ch1 v1-14

5pm	Crib Service	- Denbury
5pm	Crib Service	- Broadhempston
5pm	Crib Service	- Ipplepen
11pm	Midnight Mass	- Denbury
	Midnight Mass	- Ipplepen

Friday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY - Luke Ch2 v 1-20

9.30am	Holy Communion	- Woodland
10am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- Denbury
11am	Family Service	- Broadhempston
11am	Holy Communion	- Ipplepen

Saturday 26th December - STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR, Acts Ch7 v51-end

Sunday 27th December - JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST - John 21. 19b-end (Andrew away)

9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- Broadhempston
11am	Family Service	- Ipplepen

Monday 28th December - HOLY INNOCENTS - Matt Ch2 v13-18

Regular Midweek Services

Daily

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	- Woodland
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	- Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	- Broadhempston
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	- Denbury

Weekly

Tuesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ipplepen
Thursday	10.00 am	Holy Communion	- Denbury

Life Events

We continue to pray for those we, as Beacon Parishes, have had the privilege of supporting and accompanying, and also their family and friends.

Funerals and Interments

Elizabeth Burden - Denbury
Douglas Cock - Ipplepen
Hazel Ford - Ipplepen
Violet Lowdell - Torbryan
David Luscombe - Ipplepen
Rosemary Watson - Denbury
Nora Dennis - Ipplepen
John Eastley - Ipplepen



The Baptism of Magnus

Weddings

Sassie Tickle and David Williams - Broadhempston
Helen Newcombe and Anthony Lofts - Ipplepen

Baptisms

Magnus Barber - Denbury

How to keep in touch

Weekly Notices	These contain up to date information of services and activities in our parishes. Published prior to each weekend, these are given out at services and also available to pick in the churches during the week. They are also emailed out by the office to those on the email circulation list
Website	The Beacon Parishes website www.missioncommunity.org.uk is the 'go to' place for information. It also contains the Weekly Notices and Beacon Magazine
Videos	Video recordings of some of the services held in our Beacon Community can be found on the website
Facebook	Three of our parishes keep up to date Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/ www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/
Email	The Church Office has an email list which is used for sending out the Weekly Notices as well as any other important information. If you or someone you know would like to be included on this list, please contact the office
Contacts	Names and telephone numbers are to be found in The Beacon.
Rector	Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com
Church Office	Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk

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

or office@beaconparishes.co.uk



Denbury:

New

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

Ipplepen:

Retrospective

9th Aug – 15th Aug For Philip Hingston who celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday 16th August.

5th Sept – 18th Sept Jeremy and Sheelagh Newcombe to celebrate their daughter, Helen's wedding to Anthony Lofts at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 5th September 2020.

19th Sep – 25th Sept Brian Wallace, for his wife, Ann Wallace's, birthday on Saturday 19th September.

New

27th Sept – 3rd Oct June & Rod Wilkins for what would have been June's Father's 100th birthday on 27th September.

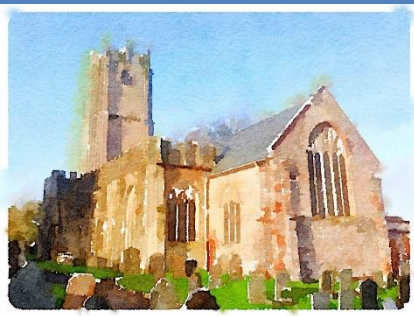
27th Sept – 24th Oct Malcolm Deen in memory of Peggy, his beautiful Wife, who passed away two years ago this week. Now interred in our lovely Churchyard.

11th Oct – 24th Oct Barbara and John Tuckett in memory of a dear Dad, Arthur Bearne, on 16th October 2020.

22nd Nov – 28th Nov Joanna Wildgoose on 28th November for her late Dad who loved the church and enjoyed many visits there.

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



It felt strange but wonderful to return to our lovely Church for a service on Sunday 2nd August after lockdown restrictions were lifted. Despite sanitising hands on entering and wearing masks and social distancing it was like returning to some normality.

Those of us who like to sing are finding it hard not to hum along behind our masks but it is good to hear the organ playing or reflective music from a CD. I know the bell ringers are missing ringing the bells in the normal way but chiming them is the next best thing and appreciated by many people. Rev Andrew explained the format of the shortened Service and how to take the bread (no wine) safely. He spoke powerfully, reflectively and hope for the new normal.

The Celtic Morning Service on 16th August was led by Jane Outhwaite with Jo playing the clavichord. I read the lesson and Ann Holroyd the Meditation. The following week at the Communion Service led by Rev Andrew we were privileged to have Jane and Charlie's grandson Nathan Curry play Allegro, First Movement from Sonata in Bb by Mozart. Nathan has just turned 17 and this was one of his Grade 8 exam pieces for which he is awaiting the results. I am sure he has done well as his playing was excellent. Rev Andrew's reflections was entitled called to be Christ's Church and what it means to gather again after the absence of our normal patterns.

Tessa's reflection on 30th August spoke about the Rites of Passage or Rhythm of Life and how lockdown and Covid have done much to interrupt our lives over the past few months. However the Seasons have prevailed and now we are looking forward to Harvest Festivals planned for October.

The Service on 6th September started a little differently with Vanessa reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. Rev Andrew spoke about how we deal with conflict as a Church and in our personal lives and Rev Tony Meek wrote the interesting reflection.

Vanessa led the Celtic Morning Service on 13th September with Jo reading the lesson and Ann Holroyd the Reflection. The theme was forgiveness and after Vanessa read the Gospel, Tom Morris sang a song about this playing his guitar. He also sang another song accompanied by Marilyn Ellis on the Clavichord.

The funeral of Jonathan 'Douglas' Cock took place in St. Andrew's Church on 30th July conducted by Rev Andrew. Although limited numbers allowed it was a lovely Service with a good choice of music and hymns to listen to and follow the words. The reflection and memories given by Simon Sutcliffe was very interesting and detailed of what a busy and good life Douglas had. He was a regular Church worshipper from singing in the choir at Broadhempston from an early age and being a bell ringer and then here in Ipplepen. He loved nature, Dartmoor and his lovely family.

The funeral of Hazel Ford also took place recently. Sadly she died on 5th August aged 94. Hazel used to be an active member of the Church as well as busy with other activities in the village. She has been missed in the village since she went into Ogwell Grange. RIP Hazel and Douglas.

Andrew conducted a small but beautiful Wedding on 5th September between Helen Newcombe and Anthony Lofts. The bells were chimed before and after the ceremony by Tony, Stephen and Clive and sounded good.

As Summer draws to an end we look forward to Autumn and Harvest time.

Marilyn Clark

A view from Torbryan



Obviously, humans have had their own worries recently but nature isn't faring all that well either. In particular, on a local level ash dieback disease looks set to devastate our native ash population.

On a more positive note, though, the tree that I wanted to talk about this month is the hazel. This seems like one of our more indestructible plants. For instance, it seems to regard being cut down as a challenge and swiftly regrows.

And hazel is one of our most useful trees. The uses of the cut sticks are too numerous to mention here but obviously in the garden they are very versatile for bean support wigwams or human shelter wigwams. Many a sturdy, long lasting walking stick has also been made out of this wood over the years. In addition, hazel sticks are much used by morris dancers; I remember fondly the satisfying 'thwack' of the sticks being hit together from the days when the Border Morris used to come to the village.

Of course hazel also supplies us with hazel and cob nuts (the immature variety) although if you can get to these before the squirrels do then you are a more astute forager than I am!

Sadly, the council is obliged to cut down many of the ash trees on our beloved Orley Common, in particular the ones that might fall over the road if they became too weak to survive. But I don't think though that there is any need to worry that the Common is about to be denuded of trees: the irrepressible hazel can't wait to take over its place!

Georgie Brendon

Did I read that sign right? - take 1



In a toilet

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store:

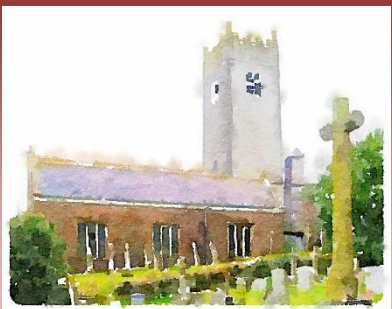
BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

News from Woodland

**St. John the
Baptist**



As I write, we are approaching one of the quarter days of the year, where day and night length are equal and summer turns into autumn and the long slow decline into winter. Indeed, despite sunny weather and high daytime temperatures the

mornings are misty now; there is a coolness in the wind which wasn't present a couple of weeks ago and it gets dark far earlier than I am ready for. The hedgerows, however, are absolutely laden with various nuts and berries. I don't think that I have ever seen the hawthorn opposite my house look so red with berries, the blackthorn is positively dripping with sloes, the rosehips plump and numerous and it feels positively dangerous walking under an oak tree with the amount of falling acorns. I have been out over the fields several times so far to pick blackberries from the hedges but have not yet seen many field mushrooms or other fungi. Environmental conditions are obviously not yet right for spore production.

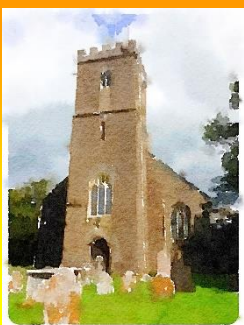
All this autumnal abundance around us serves as a reminder that Harvest Festival is nearly upon us. This year we are celebrating ours at Woodland on October 11th. It has been very prominent in the press and on television programmes such as the BBC news and Countryfile just how poor this year's wheat harvest has been. Figures from the National Farmers Union have suggested that it is 40% lower than usual and the worst harvest for 40 years so I think that many farmers will be thanking God, not for the particular quality or quantity of their crops, just thanking him that there was something to harvest at all. Why is it so low? Plant roots need both water and air to grow and support the growth of the plant above ground. Nationally most of the wheat varieties grown are ones developed to be sown in the autumn but the high levels of rainfall meant that the ground was too wet to cultivate and sow for many of these crops. The Western Morning News said that 56% of winter wheat growers had their drilling delayed by more than a month last autumn and 27% were unable to drill the majority of their crops at all. Those that were sown grew very slowly due to waterlogging and the root systems that the plants developed were shallow to avoid the plants drowning. When spring came it was hot and so dry that the ground dried up faster than the roots could grow downwards in search of the rapidly diminishing water, leading to the crop being scorched and stunted. Spring grown crops fared better, being used to growing in dry conditions right from the start and forming deeper root systems. Spring grown crops, however, are generally less productive than winter ones because the growing season is much shorter and many farmers who were unable to plant fields in winter wheat chose to plant spring barley instead, meaning that less acres of wheat have been grown. The wet weather conditions in August have meant that these crops were unable to be harvested when ripe. Indeed, combines have only recently been able to start harvesting the cereal crops planted in our village, later than ideal. Wind and rain have battered the crops making harvesting more difficult and a percentage of grain was lost out of the ear and onto the ground.

In times gone past the New Year was celebrated not at the start of January, the darkest time of the year, but at the start of November. In a farming sense this is more logical. The crops of one year have been gathered in and the soil prepared for the next year. Many keen gardeners will be able to identify with this as they will have given the garden a good end of season tidy up by then and can enjoy spending the winter months perusing the gardening catalogues and planning what to plant next year. I've always enjoyed seeing the produce of Woodland's gardens each year decorating our church for Harvest Festival and maybe, given the current productivity of our village hedgerows, I shall look out that recipe I have for hedgerow jam.

Helen Pearce

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



During lockdown our Church Facebook page has provided us with links to recorded local services around Devon and the rest of the country. The Pause and Pray link was particularly welcome

during those months. Please visit our page @Broad20 (you do not have to become a member of Facebook).

It was a joy to take our first steps back to normality in August and return to St. Peter and St. Paul on 6th, 16th & 30th August. We chose the 16th August to have a 'Thanks Giving Service' for our village community. Following Risk Assessments the church was cleaned and safety measures put in place to welcome our congregation again. It was a lovely service led by Andrew with very poignant readings, reflection and music. We have been so grateful to Rachel Belringer from Denbury who has joined us to play guitar and sing, thank you Rachel! We offered our Holy Communion after the main service for those who wished to stay and receive the sacrament. It worked very well and we are planning to use this format in some of our other services.

On 13th September we advertised our Pet Service to take place at Broadhempston Community Orchard. There was great excitement in the village bringing our families and pets together in a relaxed service of readings, reflections and music. Sadly, following the tightening of Covid 19 restrictions from Monday 14th September and revisiting our Risk Assessment, we made the very sad decision to postpone this event to the 27th.

Bell Ringing – our merry band of bell ringers led by Graham Pascoe unfortunately cannot ring the main bells but they have kindly alerted the village to our services with one person ringing the Ellacombe Chimes. The Ellacombe apparatus is a device that enables one person to ring all the bells of a church. Each of the bells is struck while the bell is static instead of the bells being rotated. The apparatus was invented by the Revd. Henry Thomas Ellacombe while curate at St. Mary's Church, Bitton (located between Bristol and Bath).

Broadharmony – we all got very excited last week thinking our choir would start meeting again during September, but following the recent restrictions our hopes were dashed. Let's hope it is not too long before we can meet up and sing again without restrictions.

The Church is open for private prayer on Sunday and Wednesday 8am to 4pm. Andrew leads a Morning Prayer at 9am every Wednesday morning as well as our advertised services.

Our plans may change and adapt depending on the latest advice or regulations - but WE'RE STILL HERE!

Maggie Sercombe, Churchwarden

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.



- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



The restoration of weekly Sunday services at St. Mary the Virgin was an event welcomed by regular worshippers who have continued to strongly support the services held since re-opening. Obviously there have been a significant

number of changes to take on board under Covid 19 regulations, but we are all now becoming quite used to the wearing of masks, the absence of group singing, the closure of pews to ensure adequate social distancing etc.

The current basis of 'sandwiching' Communion and Celtic Morning Prayer services is working well and proving popular. The Celtic service in particular allows the opportunity for experimentation with the service format and lends itself well for the introduction of new ideas. Indeed, our first Celtic service, conducted by Hillarie was held outdoors in the churchyard on a warm and pleasant day. These outdoor services are ideal for attracting the attention of the village residents, and the slightly later start time of 9.30 meant that a surprising number of dog walkers passing by the church and those just out for a stroll paused to look over the church wall to see what was taking place. Current plans for future services include a Thanksgiving Walk around the village towards the end of September incorporating a number of 'prayer stops' to acknowledge the love, care and support for one another shown by the community during lockdown. During this period when we are giving thanks for God's creation it is also very appropriate to get out amongst the countryside and enjoy and marvel at the joys to be found in Nature.

Sunday 6th September was the date of our Patronal Festival. During to the Coronavirus regulations this had to be scaled down from normal and we had to forego our usual lunch in the village hall which is traditionally a major part of a busy day. Hopefully business as usual will be resumed before next September. Although congregation numbers had to be kept low due to seating restrictions, it was great to be joined by the wardens of our fellow Beacon parishes to worship with us.

The prospect of holding social events still seems a long way off and, with the national guidelines for social distancing/group sizes etc. under constant review and revision, the format and frequency of future services remains something of an unknown.

However we continue to look forward positively and will be reflecting on our experiences over this very strange and stressful year with a view to renewing our outreach and fellowship with a renewed vigour as soon as the brakes are removed.

Mike Bray

- A rubber band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.



Where will the church buildings be in 2040?

Nearly 250 churches a year are applying to remove their Victorian pews, prompting disputes with heritage groups which complain of unnecessary destruction and parishioners who accuse them of desecration. Many churches have told preservation societies that their buildings are not museums and must modernise.

Priests have warned that churches with dwindling congregations will close unless they get a new lease of life as community hubs. Removing fixed pews and replacing them with moveable chairs creates open places that can be used for local groups and events, bringing in income and new worshippers.

Over the last decade there have been about 100 requests a year from Church of England churches to remove four or fewer pews and 140 a year to remove more than four according to unofficial estimates.

The Victorians introduced a mass of fixed pews that were free to use removing most of the enclosed 'box pews' that we see in Holy Trinity, Torbryan fitted in the Georgian era. Many parishes now have congregations that are too small to fill a nave 'crammed' with pews. There are some exceptional events such as Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas Carol Service and some funeral services when St. Andrew's has been filled to capacity.

There could be created much more flexibility with the creation of space if redundant pews were replaced with foldable or stackable chairs that can be cleared away for markets, concerts, prayer meetings, toddler groups, dinner dances or conferences. Is this not closer to how churches were used as community hubs in mediaeval times and why Rood Screens were put in place?

This might seem outrageous at the present time and there has to be a balance. We have to try to give the church a future whilst retaining as much of the heritage as possible but not keeping it going merely as a museum.

What do others think?

Michael Price

- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- Practice safe eating – always use condiments.
- Shotgun wedding – A case of wife or death.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.



Debate: 'Death of the Parish Church?'

Charles Quartley noticed this article in the paper the other day and it struck a chord!

Canon Dr. Giles Fraser, Rector of St. Mary, Newington writing in The Daily Telegraph in August referred to an article in The Church Times -a suggestion of 'an impending death' of the parish church, implied in an article by the Rev Stephen Trott. The demise would not be caused through secularisation but by the actions of Church authorities themselves, claimed Stott.

In summary, Trott's concern was the sacrifice of parishes, for centuries the bedrock of the Church's engagement with local communities, to a growing and inward- looking centralised Church structure steadily sucking resources away from it.

Earlier this summer Chelmsford diocese announced a cutting in clergy numbers from 275 to 215. Sixty priests to go in 18 months. Will other dioceses follow? For some years, smaller parishes have been clustered together in increasingly large bundles, so as to share a priest. The idea that each community has their own vicar - the central justification of the CoE's role in the establishment - seems to be a thing of the past.

Rev. Trott, the Rector of Pitsford in the Diocese of Peterborough argues the rot set in way back in the Seventies when the historic assets of individual parishes were effectively nationalised by General Synod, the Church's parliament. It was a means of redistributing wealth to poorer parishes so that they could pay their parish priest. But the unintended consequences of transferring monies to the centre was that the centre started to balloon, hiring evermore accountants, administrators and archdeacons.

What was intended to be support staff for the parish, little by little ended up paying for increasing numbers of people doing jobs with titles like 'diocesan missionary' and 'assistant archdeacon'. These clergy worked in offices, spent much of their time in meetings and managed a burgeoning administration. And yet these are the sort of job you have to do if you want to be a bishop. There used to be 26 dioceses in the Church of England. There are now 42 dioceses - all with their own administrative staff, all with an increasing number of bishops looking after a decreasing number of parish clergy. It is, claims Fraser, "a perfect recipe for institutional collapse."

All this has been accelerated by Covid when a tension was created between the centre and the periphery when the Archbishop of Canterbury advised his parish clergy they should not enter their own churches to pray raising a question amongst many parish priests about the viability of present structures - so states Giles Fraser.

Whilst parishes are appreciative of the support received from the diocese it is not without cost.

Many feel that when it is hard to raise monies it seems unnecessary to have to give so much support for what seems like a distant bureaucracy. Were parishioners to have much greater management of their own affairs, including the responsibility to support their own clergy, they might take a very different attitude towards the stewardship of the parish's resources.

But, claims Fraser, it's not just churchgoers who are adversely affected by changes that are afoot. The hastening death of the parish will tear the beating heart from many a small place that is reliant upon church to help organise its common life. Yet the response of the centre to the cry of the periphery tends to be the announcement of yet another fancy sounding yet ultimately vacuous missionary initiative.

The parish has long been the jewel in the Church of England and where Christianity finds its most stubborn resilience to secularisation. Which is why, concludes Fraser, "it is such a tragedy that the parish is now under threat from those whose very job it should be to defend it".

How might we grow?

As the people and community of the Beacon Parishes we are seek to grow in...

...Humility...We follow Jesus who washed his disciples feet

We confess we have nothing we have not received

Faults seen in others are the subject of prayer and not criticism

We are ready to take the lowest place when asked BUT

When asked to undertake things we feel unworthy or incapable we do not shrink back

...Love...Love is the distinguishing feature of all disciples; Jesus said this is how they will know you are my disciples.

We seek to love all those we are bound to by ties of family and friendship

We are on guard against anything that injures love

We seek reconciliation with those whom we are estranged

We seek the same love for those we have little natural affinity and those we may consider enemies

...Joy... We follow Jesus who came eating and drinking, loved birds and flowers, blessed children, was a friend of tax collectors and sinners and sat at the tables of both rich and poor

We delight in fun and laughter

We rejoice in God's world and all its living creatures

We mix freely with all people being ready to bind up the broken hearted

Joy is a divine gift from God still there in times of darkness and difficulty

Humility, Love and Joy are God given graces. They cannot be obtained by human effort. They are gifts of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we pray...

Dear God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Increase in our Beacon Parishes your gifts of humility, love and joy

So that we experiencing fullness of life in our community

may be witnesses to your transforming love.

Amen

Inspired and adapted from the Daily Principles of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis

Andrew

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times when on the last night of October, they celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun.

Samhain had a very dark side. It marked the onset of winter when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, spirits, and witches roamed the earth, so the Druids lit bonfires and held magic rites to appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived with their harvest festival which honoured the goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. The first day of November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian martyrs and saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before was a time for prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', the holy evening, hence: 'Halloween'.

For centuries fear of the supernatural remained strong. In the Middle Ages, animal costumes and masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic and charms were used to ward off bad luck, and people believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular using nuts and apples so Halloween is sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. The deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. We can all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us.

Michael Price

Lockdown – Spare a thought

Our Editor has asked us to share some further thoughts on Lockdown and what people have been living through. He did actually ask for "positive and encouraging aspects", so perhaps this does not quite fit the bill, but nevertheless I would ask you to spare a thought for those in prison at this time, especially as we have one nearby.

We on the outside have been in Lockdown in its varying forms - which has been a lot worse for some than for others. We then had some easing of this for a while, and now have further restrictions again. Those in prison have been locked in their cells for 23 hours a day every day since Lockdown began on 23rd March this year. They have had no visits from family or friends, and only one 10 minute phone call approximately every two weeks (only a few prisons have in-cell phones). Whatever the reason for them being in prison, life must be tough, and I hope you agree that they are deserving of our thoughts and prayers.

Winnie Bryant

There are Lies, Damned Lies and, of course, Statistics

We might each be forgiven for being bemused by all the statistics thrown around during the Coronavirus pandemic. But you may never have heard of Sir Francis Galton, who may be considered the father of statistics.

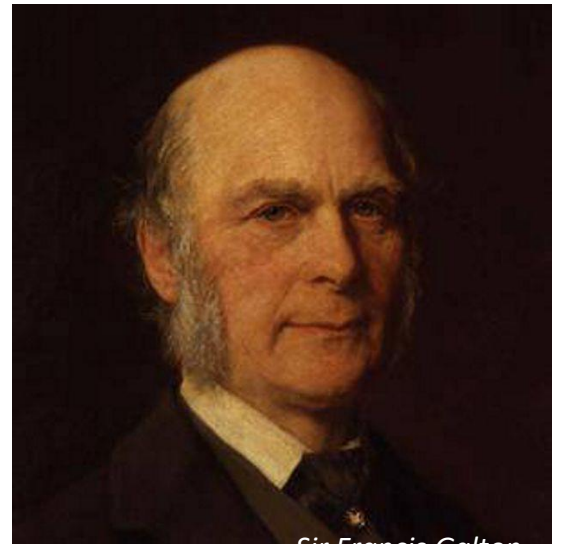
He was a distinguished scientist, born in 1822, who was the founder of intelligence tests, fingerprinting, and the science of eugenics.

Amongst many projects he had a pocket counting device to record the number of pretty women he saw, with a view to making a “Beauty Map” of Britain. And he produced a best-seller, running into many editions, on The Art of Travel, packed with useful tips on how to survive in unfriendly territory (most of them pretty bizarre).

Sir Francis managed to upset many people on the way - including the prime minister, Mr Gladstone (about the size of his head, statistically speaking!). He also upset the London Zoo authorities by testing an ultrasonic whistle on the animals, which caused a stampede.

But most of all he upset the Church of England Bishops, with a statistical analysis of the power of prayer. He said that if clergy really believed in what they preached, they wouldn't put lightning conductors on their buildings. Further, he pointed out that although the health and well-being of monarchs and the royal family were constantly prayed for in church, statistically speaking on average they died earlier than other folk, for whom nobody prayed. As an atheist he demonstrated this by living until he was 89 - 7 years longer than that long-lived of monarchs, Queen Victoria.

But we may know better, statistically speaking. Despite the State prayers for the Queen and Royal Family in the Prayer Book being rarely used these days, our Queen, her late mother and Prince Philip have proved Sir Francis wrong - or possibly right, depending how you use the evidence.



Stephen Bryant

Did I read that sign right? – take 2



In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Why Bother? – Juliet Vintner, Icon painter and egg tempera artist

I recently purchased two beautiful icons from the wonderful icon writer Juliet Venter. One of Jonah which I have been admiring since 2014 when I first stumbled across Juliet's work and the second a small miniature of St. Francis to accompany me on my journey with the third order of the society of St Francis of which I am currently a postulant. What's a postulant? I hear you cry. Well that will wait for another time, for now, Juliet has very kindly penned some words about icons for which I am most grateful. Enjoy.

Andrew



The last time I was asked to contribute something about my icon-painting to a parish magazine, I had not been selling my work for long. I had to telephone the editor. “Oh,” she exclaimed, without a hint of sarcasm, “I thought you had to be terribly holy to paint icons!” Ten years further into my modest art career, I can say in this parish magazine that I am now sure no amount of icon-painting is going to ease my passage into the kingdom of heaven and that sadly, no amount of prayer on its own will improve my technique. My non-religious friend visited one day and found me struggling over some finicking detail. “Juliet, why ever do you bother?” It’s a fair enough question. There must be a payback: not much gets done in this world for purely

altruistic reasons. Authentically made icons are a slow, painstaking and (given the time and costly materials involved) financially unprofitable art form. In my religious work, I create mainly miniatures and small scale pieces for private homes, studies and prayer corners, and as gifts for important spiritual occasions: weddings and baptisms, ordinations and retirements. I have the personal satisfaction of creating something that is not planned as part of the interior decor, but will be a valued part of spiritual life, opening vistas that I could never imagine or intend. I am glad to work for ‘real’ people who don’t have huge homes and a few thousand to spend on a massive canvas to create a statement in the sitting room.

These days in the West we have much greater awareness of the silent prayer practice to which these images call us, whether they express our personal devotion to a particular saint, invoke the power of the Trinity, or help us to concentrate on ‘the prayer of the heart’. A good icon is human enough to be a focus for meditation and abstract enough to remind us that Christ and his saints live both present with us and transfigured in God’s eternal present. Practising any type of art



Juliet Venter

Why Bother? – continued



Icon of Peter and the risen Christ, Juliet Venter 2015
WWW.JULIET-ICONS.CO.UK

Why Bother? – concluded

can be an out-of-body experience - mainly when things are going well and hand and eye are working in unison with thoughts: an elusive joy which keeps one keeping on. For me, icon-painting redoubles that rare joy.

The technical process is exacting and uses organic materials which behave unpredictably. You can't waltz into your local art shop and expect to find the materials on the shelf in tubes. They haven't changed much in 1500 years and, given the shortage of slaves and studio acolytes these days, I have to be a hands-on craftsman as well as a painter. Philosophy is also a part of it: each practical step in creating an icon is overlaid with spiritual symbolism accumulated through centuries of oral tradition. The board, with its inset 'ark' for the actual image has to be made out of properly seasoned wood, something not inclined to crack or warp. Like the tree of life, or the holy cross, the grain runs vertical to the figure. It is shrouded like a mummy for the tomb with a barrier cloth and many layers of chalky white size, then scraped and sanded to perfect smoothness. A pure white board, with its silky eggshell surface, is more intimidating than a blank sheet of paper.

The under-drawing itself is a labour of prayer and research, especially if I am asked to paint an unfamiliar saint. St. Issui, anyone? The gilded background and haloes have to be completed before anything is painted, because gold leaf has a trying tendency to stick everywhere except where it's wanted. Polished gilding is a stressful business which is best adapted to a damp cloister, not in a cosy, dry twentieth century home. But when the gold is finally completed, it creates an extraordinary dimensionless heaven in which the figures float away from the wall. Candlelight and semi-darkness breathe special movement into a gilded piece.

When it is finally time to paint, I mix my colours using pure powder pigments and egg yolk. Most of the pigments in my palette - ochres, minerals and lakes - are sourced from the earth and their names describe their origins: umber from Umbria in Italy, Bohemian green earth from the Czech Republic, Cyprus yellow, English red. Like a poor shadow of the Creator making Adam, the artist breathes life into clay and dirt. I paint the icon mainly from dark to light, with successive shadings, glazing and highlighting layers, until I can place the final flashes of pure white which light up the eyes and face and give expression. When everything is painted, dry and varnished, I send off my precious creation cheerfully to a new life with its owner, knowing that it will hang in some inner room doing its silent work.

www.juliet-icons.co.uk

- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

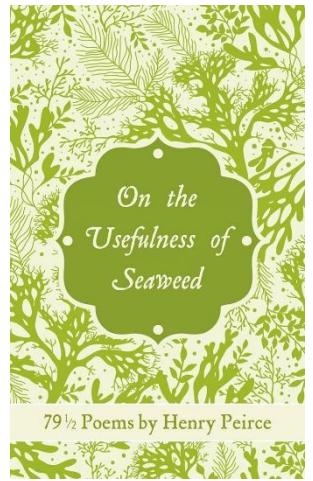


- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron". The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive".

"GP"

This little piece is from "On the Usefulness of Seaweed - 79 and a half poems" by Devon doctor Henry Peirce (ISBN 13: 9781910298992) and with thanks to him for allowing me to use it.

Vanessa



In the churchyard in the corner there's a little square stone
Which I often stop to ponder when I'm walking alone.
The inscription on the old stone is as plain as could be
Just two letters keep the memory of a certain "GP".

And I wonder when I stop there who this person once was
Man or Woman? Had they family to lament their sad loss?
Some young milkmaid of misfortune and untimely demise?
Or a mother of ten children who had grown old and wise?
Or a soldier? Or a sailor lost far off from his kin?
Or a ploughman from the village who once drank in the inn?

So I look on and imagine all these possible lives
And I wonder if some record of their story survives
And at least, though it's a poor way to record their decease
Since that digging in the thirties they've been left there in peace.
Thus I ponder by that old stone that the modern world shuns
In that corner of that churchyard where the gas pipeline runs.

- Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal?
His goal: transcend dental medication.
- In a democracy it's your vote that counts.
In feudalism it's your count that votes.
- If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
- A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: "Keep off the Grass."



Church giving

Riding home after church one Sunday morning, a mother commented, "The choir was awful this morning." And the father said, "I thought the sermon was far too long." Their cheeky 7-year-old daughter piped up from the back seat, "You have to admit though, it was a pretty good morning out for a pound."

Did you smile at the quote above when you read it in a recent Beacon magazine?

Sadly, it actually reflects the attitude some people have to church-going and church giving. How did you decide on the amount you currently give to your church each week? When did you last really think about how much you choose to put in the weekly collection envelope, or in the basket, or in the Standing Order? And more importantly, why do you choose to donate anything at all? No-one makes you pay anything to attend church. You are welcome to go every week and no one would demand that you pay even a £1, as the family above did.

But think for a moment of all that God provides for us - life, family, friends, health, the riches of nature, music, beauty, art, and even his own Son to die for our sins on the cross and rise again to give us everlasting life. Yes, God gives freely, even abundantly, so isn't it reasonable to ask how should we respond to his generosity?

Each church is where it is because, in the past, people have given generously. Many people would see the building as the church, but in reality it is the people who worship in it that are the 'real' church. We are a community gathered in the love of God, seeking to share the good news of that love. Part of our worship is to give thanks to God for all he has done for us. And in response we can give our time, and our skills, but also a regular gift of money. The church needs all of these to function properly. It is often said that people only value what they pay for, so isn't it reasonable for us to think of the value of what God has done for us?

Surely, we can't argue with this quote from the Bible: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (*Matthew 6:21*)

Michael Price

How History repeats itself?

We heard an excellent sermon a short while ago when the following was included:

During a frustrating argument with a Cardinal, Napoleon Bonaparte suddenly burst out "Your Eminence, are you not aware that I have the power to destroy your Church?"

The Cardinal, so the story goes, responded ruefully "Your Majesty. We, the clergy, have done our best to destroy the Church for the last 1800 years. We have not succeeded, and neither will you".

Despite the best efforts of the upper echelons of the C of E during the recent pandemic, history will undoubtedly repeat itself.

Stephen Bryant

Book Review – ‘Lights for the path’

The question that troubled CS Lewis after the death of his wife, “Where is she now?” recorded in *A Grief Observed* was also an issue for Madeleine Davies. She wanted to be able to ‘place’ her mother who had died when she was twelve years old.

The early loss of a parent or sibling is thankfully rare in comparison with earlier generations but not as unusual as might be assumed. The Child Bereavement Network estimates that every day 112 children lose a parent in the UK. When Madeleine began researching her book on teenage bereavement, she found that many members of the clergy, including some Anglican bishops, were among this number.

What struck her was how vividly her interviewees could recall moments, often decades later. The thoughts that went through their head as they sat through a funeral, the comforting and some times tactless things that adults had said to them. She learnt, too, that faith, although tested, had helped people to survive the loss. Sam, a vicar in London, spoke about the story of Shadrach, Meshac and Abednego, three men thrown into the fire after refusing to bow down to an idol. A fourth person appears with them in the flames. “They found God with them in the fire” said Sam. This sense of God’s presence, his closeness to those traversing the valley of the shadow of death was described by others with whom she spoke.

In some ways however having a faith raises more questions. How could God allow it to happen? Why weren’t my prayers answered? One of those she interviews is Malcom, a university chaplain who remarked that it was “very proper” that he should be on the receiving end of grieving students’ anger towards God. Dan, whose brother took his own life, recalled storming out of church where all the worship songs were about “how wonderful God was”.



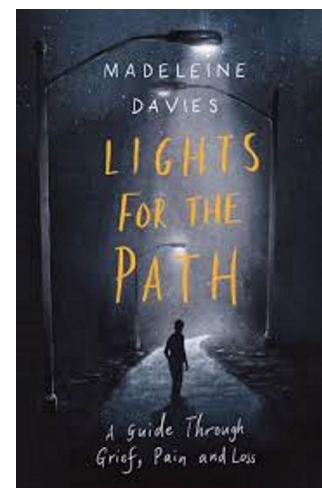
lie beyond it have become more urgent than ever for young people.

While in her book, the author treads with great sensitivity in her stories of young people’s experience of coping with grief as well as her own, her conviction is that the church has something beautiful to contribute. The message that God draws close to those that grieve, who is with us in the fire, a God who came to free us from the fear of death, into whose everlasting arms we commit those who die. Whether we know it or not, he is close to the broken -hearted. Ready to talk when we are. This engaging and easy to read book feels like a hand to hold through the darkest moments of life. Davies offers a gracious acknowledgement and comfort for the whole range of emotions a young person experiencing death will encounter. Sharing her own story of losing her mum as a teenager, and the stories of others, creates a safe place to air ones thoughts, feelings and questions for God. It is a reminder that others have walked and that what whatever we are feeling it is perfectly ‘normal’ and ok.

Madeleine Davies is deputy news editor of the Church Times.

Published 2020 by SPCK: ISBN 978-0-281-08356-5.eBook: ISBN 978-0-281-08357-2

Michael Price



What is a Grandparent?



Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds. You'll love it:

- Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other peoples.
- A grandfather is a man & a grandmother is a lady!
- Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.
- When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.
- They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.'
- They don't say, "Hurry up".
- Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.
- They wear glasses and funny underwear.
- They can take their teeth and gums out.
- Grandparents don't have to be smart.
- They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'
- When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.
- Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.
- They know we should have snack time before bed time, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted badly.
- A 6 year old was asked where his Grandma lived. "Oh," he said "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go to her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport".
- Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!
- It's funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale

The seven critical-care COVID Hospitals have been named after Florence Nightingale, and a post-COVID rehabilitation facility named after Mary Seacole, both prominent figures in nursing history and role models in the NHS.



Mary Seacole was a pioneering nurse and heroine of the Crimean War, who as a woman of mixed race is today celebrated as an inspiration for the many BAME people who sustain our NHS. Born Mary Jane Grant in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805 to a Scottish soldier and Jamaican mother, Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother who kept a boarding house for invalid soldiers. She was an inveterate traveller, and before her marriage to Edwin Seacole in 1836 visited other parts of the Caribbean, as well as Central America and Britain. On these trips, she complemented her knowledge of traditional medicine with European medical ideas. In 1854 Mary approached the War Office, asking to be sent as an army nurse to the Crimea. She was

refused, but undaunted, funded her own trip to the Crimea where she established the 'British Hotel' near Balaclava for sick and convalescent officers. She also visited the battlefield, sometimes under fire, to nurse the wounded, and became known as 'Mother Seacole'.

Florence Nightingale was born in 1820 into a wealthy family. In the face of their opposition, she insisted that she wished to train in nursing. In 1853, she finally achieved her wish and headed her own private nursing institute in London. Her efforts at improving conditions for the wounded during the Crimean War won her great acclaim and she devoted the rest of her life to reforming nursing care. Her school at St. Thomas' Hospital became significant in helping to elevate nursing into a profession.



Poetry we have been reflecting on

Listening to and reflecting on poetry is becoming a regular part of our services in the Beacon Parishes. Here are two poems we have recently reflected on.

Brightfield by R.S. Thomas

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.



When I Am Among the Trees by Mary Oliver



When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.
Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

Broadhempston Library now in Church!

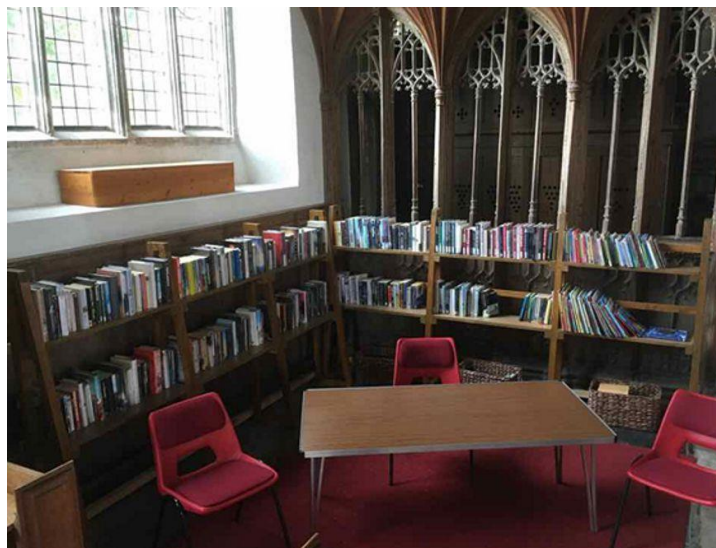
It has been decided to relocate the Village Library from its present location in the Community Shop to the Church. We feel that is an appropriate use of space in the church and adds to the other community activities which take place in the building such as the Heritage Displays, Community Choir practices and, of course, the gigs, concerts and performances. The serenity of the church provides the ideal setting for villagers to pop in and enjoy a few minutes in peace whilst reading a book.

We intend to experiment with this arrangement for a few months and, if it is successful, to establish the facility on a more permanent basis.

The PCC is always looking for new ways in which the building can be used for the benefit of the community. Any ideas for uses which recognise and respect the special character of the building would be most welcome

Unfortunately, these activities are suspended for the time being because of Covid related restrictions.

Chris Parker, Churchwarden



Val Berry – some memories from husband John

Valerie was my rock and my best friend.

In January 1976 we wrote to each other through a marriage bureau in Exeter.

I wanted to settle down, having been in the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Merchant Navy twice, once as a chef and later as a purser catering officer. We were both looking for some excitement again.

We met on February 2nd at Madge Mellors over a piece of cake and a cup of tea. It was love at first sight.

We married some 32 days later, in March at Newton Abbot Registry Office. On our honeymoon we drove to her home town of Bridlington.

I loved to drive Val around Devon and Cornwall. On one trip we flew in a helicopter from Hartland, where I had been stationed in the RAF, to Lundy Island.

We both loved horses and owned Tigger and Smokey, and over the years we had eleven different doggies.

Our 44 years together were wonderful.



John Berry

Andrew's Spiritual bit

The Rectory in Ipplepen is on Paternoster Lane. Pater Noster is Latin for Our Father. In Luke's Gospel we hear of Jesus teaching his disciples about prayer and giving them the prayer we know as the Our Father or Lord's Prayer.

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

*Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial."*

Luke Ch11 v1-4

The number of people walking or ride up and down Paternoster Lane has dried up during lockdown, and it got me thinking about what people today make of the Lord's Prayer. For those brought up in or around the church this prayer will be familiar and be part of them, they will be able to recite it by heart, it is a gift and resource that has become part of them. Even when mind and body fail it will be there for them. For others not familiar with Christianity or the church the Our Father will be unfamiliar and indeed strange. This unfamiliarity is also a gift and a resource. This is how the disciples in the gospel would have heard this prayer - with a freshness and immediacy and the questions that come from hearing it for the first time.

The invitation I hear as I reflect on the Lord's Prayer and Paternoster Lane is that conversations between those familiar and those unfamiliar are vital if we are to receive the gifts and resources contained in the Our Father (or for that matter any other of God's generous gifts). There is a giving and receiving, a collaboration, a conversation where room is made for both those familiar and those unfamiliar. Where both are given a place we experience more fully the gifts and resources on offer and not just part of them.

There are often conversations between people as they walk or ride up and down Paternoster Lane and this is what I feel invited to today as I pray the Our Father - a conversation which has room for both familiar and unfamiliar voices.

What follows is a suggestion of how to make the Our Father your own maybe for the first time or maybe breathing new life into a familiar and well used prayer.

Peace and good wishes

Andrew

Andrew's Spiritual bit - continued

Read:

Luke Ch11 v1-13

Meditate:

What word or phrase attracts you?

How does this reading touch your life today?

What do you believe God wants you to do today in response?

Do:

This week take each phrase of the Lord's prayer and spend time with it.

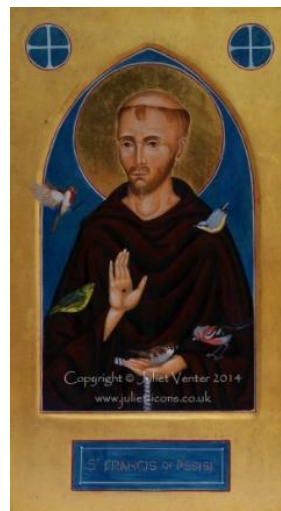
In response to each phrase you may wish to:

draw;

write some words or poetry;

ponder a phrase a day whilst on a walk.

Here is St. Francis of Assisi's response to the Lord's Prayer as inspiration



O Our Father most holy:

Our Creator, Redeemer, Consoler, and Saviour

Who are in heaven:

In the angels and the saints,
enlightening them to know, for You, Lord, are light;
inflaming them to love, for You, Lord, are love;
dwelling in them and filling them with happiness,
for You, Lord, are Supreme Good, the Eternal Good,
from Whom all good comes
without Whom there is no good.

Andrew's Spiritual bit - continued

Holy be Your Name:

May knowledge of You become clearer in us
that we may know
the breadth of Your blessings,
the length of Your promises,
the height of Your majesty,
the depth of Your judgements.

Your kingdom come:

That You may rule in us through Your grace
and enable us to come to Your kingdom
where there is clear vision of You,
perfect love of You,
blessed companionship with You,
eternal enjoyment of You.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven:

That we may love You
with our whole heart by always thinking of You,
with our whole soul by always desiring You,
with our whole mind by always directing all our intentions to You,
and by seeking Your glory in everything
with all our whole strength
by exerting all our energies and affections of body and soul
in the service of Your love and of nothing else;
and we may love our neighbour as ourselves
by drawing them all to Your love with our whole strength,
by rejoicing in the good of others as in our own
by suffering with others at their misfortunes,
and by giving offence to no one.

Give us this day:

in remembrance, understanding and reverence
of that love which our Lord Jesus Christ had for us
and of those things that He said and did and suffered for us.

Andrew's Spiritual bit - concluded

Our daily bread:

Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Forgive us our trespasses:

through Your ineffable mercy
through the power of the passion of Your beloved Son
and through the merits and intercession of the ever blessed Virgin
and all Your elect.

As we forgive those who trespass against us:

And what we do not completely forgive,
make us, Lord, forgive completely
that we may truly love our enemies because of You
and we may fervently intercede for them before You,
returning no one evil for evil
and we may strive to help everyone in You.

And lead us not into temptation:

hidden or obvious,
sudden or persistent.

But deliver us from evil:

past, present and to come.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

And...

With whom will you share what you discover?
(a friend, family, the Church family, God....)

Prayer

Praying on behalf of others

As a church and as individual Christians we commit ourselves to say prayers on behalf of others. These are known as intercessions. In our intercessions we bring our lives and the lives of those around us, neighbours both near and far, to God for his love and care.



Andrew has put together a number of different prayer patterns:

General weekly cycle of intercessions – the wider world

Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The universal church, that she proclaim the living Lord...• The natural world, that we might use creation sustainably...• The needy, that they might know new life...
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The people of God, for inspiration by the spirit...• Traditional and digital media, for healthy communication...• Those who travel, for safety and protection...
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The persecuted church, for protection and faithfulness...• The criminal justice system, for wisdom and fairness...• The world's displaced people, for freedom and security...
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All who follow Christ, for growth in discipleship...• All in the medical profession ...• All who have no one to pray for them...
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministers of the gospel...• Those who work for reconciliation...• Those in hospital...
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local church, for courage to take up the cross of Christ...• Those in authority, for the right use of power...• Victims and perpetrators of violence, for healing and repentance...
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That Christians may live as citizens of heaven...• That the nations of the world will live in harmony...• That the dying will know the joy of the resurrection...

Local weekly cycle of intercessions



We are set in a particular time and place and so we bring our local communities and relationships to God.

Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Bishops and those in leadership... • Prisoners and staff... • Our own friends, family and neighbours... • Our Beacon Parishes that we may grow in... • Prayer... • Discipleship... • Service...
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villagers and church community in Woodland... • Our schools... • Those in hospital and the housebound...
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villagers and church community in Ipplepen... • Our pubs and restaurants... • Carers and medical professionals...
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villagers and church community in Broadhempston... • Our residential and care Homes... • Those who care for children and young people...
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villagers and church community in Denbury... • Our local shops and post offices... • Our Parish councils...
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villagers and church community in Torbryan... • Local farms... • Local clubs and societies...
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our brothers and sisters of other denominations, faiths and none... • Local businesses...

Alternative weekly cycle of prayer

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

Prayer for Saints' Days and from All Saints to Advent



As we approach the end of the church year we pray...

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord...

We pray...

That the Church May bear the fruit of the Spirit
That the world may hear the word of God
That the saints on earth may be inspired by the saints in glory

Intercessions for the Mission Community – October & November

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
Oct 4 th	Pastoral Care Team	Totnes Road	West End Terrace	Knowle	Daisy Park
Oct 11 th	Newly baptised & confirmed	Townsend Hill	Denbury Down Lane	Hemsford	Higher Woodland Farm
Oct 18 th	Wedding couples	Tremlett Grove	Woodland Road	Village Hall	Larch Cottage
Oct 25 th	Scouts & Guides	Two Mile Oak	Woodland Close	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Wickeridge Cottage
Nov 1 st	Dearly departed	Wesley Terrace & Wesley View	Shute Lane	Main Street	Levaton Farm House
Nov 8 th	Service planning group	Wrigwell Lane	Halwell Farm	Houndhead Way	Dipwell Farm
Nov 15 th	Vision group	Beech Trees Lane	Bramble Down	Vicarage Hill	Higher Lake Farm
Nov 22 nd	Mission Action Plan group	Elliott Court	The Post Office and Shop	Primary School	Wickeridge Farm
Nov 29 th	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses

Notes

Beacon Parishes Office	office@beaconparishes.co.uk	
PA and Administrator	Mrs Caren Martin	☎ 01803 814178
Rector	The Reverend Andrew Down	☎ 813403
Hon Asst. Priests	The Reverend Tony Meek	☎ 814370
	The Reverend Anne Burden	☎ 813520
	Canon Tom New	☎ 813775
Readers	Mrs Tessa Amies	☎ 813993
	Mrs Hillarie Griggs	☎ 812197

St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Churchwarden	Mrs Jane Outhwaite	☎ 812879
Deputy Wardens	Mrs Geraldine Dennis	☎ 813077
	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
	Mr Clive Tompkins	☎ 813695
Choir	Mrs Jo Innes-Lumsden	☎ 812654
Bellringing	Mr Colin Clark	☎ 01626 354561
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vanessa Bevan	☎ 812812
PCC Treasurer	Mr Phill Harvey	☎ 812273
Church Hall	Mrs Shirley Northwood	☎ 813980
Flowers	Mrs Sheila Stacey	☎ 813609
Hospitality	Mrs Sue Sanders	☎ 812247
	Mrs Marilyn Clark	☎ 813010
	Mrs Sue Hird	☎ 813386

St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Churchwardens	Mr Steve Bassett	☎ 812537
	Mrs Tessa Amies	☎ 813993
Deputy Warden	Mr Mike Bray	☎ 812941
Bellringing	Mr Steve Bassett	☎ 812537
PCC Secretary		
PCC Treasurer	Mr Mike Bray	☎ 812941
Cottage	Mrs Fran Howells	☎ 812971
Flowers	Mrs Tessa Amies	☎ 813993
Social	Mrs Mary Head	☎ 812092

Ss Peter & Paul, Broadhempston

Churchwardens	Mr Chris Parker (& PCC Treasurer)	☎ 762543
	Mrs Maggie Sercombe (& PCC Secretary)	☎ 813790
	Mrs Janice Parnell	☎ 07811 443624
	Dr Alex Paton	☎ 812021
	Dr Paul Russell	☎ 762928
Bellringing	Mr Graham Pascoe	☎ 812102
Flowers	Mrs Jane Parker	☎ 762543

St John the Baptist, Woodland

Churchwardens	Miss Sheila Ashford	☎ 01626 821288
	Mrs Jane Usher	☎ 01626 353454
PCC Secretary	Mr David Wrayford	☎ 01364 652323
PCC Treasurer	Mr John Usher	☎ 01626 353454

Safeguarding

	The Reverend Andrew Down	☎ 813403
Local Advocate	Mrs Ann Holroyd	☎ 411373

The Beacon

Editor	Dr Michael Price	☎ 813472
Production	Mr Charles Quartley	☎ 812238

Contacts