



### Notices:

**Look out for** the lovely things in our villages that our being re imagined and planned in COVID safe ways – Christmas lights, Advent Windows, Carol Singing...

**Denbury Crib Service (Online) 2020** Tessa Amies and Rachel Belringer have produced a Youtube video for the Crib Service in Denbury this year: <https://youtu.be/88YfKOVqmjU> Please go to the home page of our website to read the accompanying notes from Tessa and Rachel:

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

**Carol's around Ipplepen on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.** Carols start at 6.30pm at Fulton Close. Please see the poster on the home page our website for further details.

**In memory** We keep in our prayers John Noble and Alan Grimshaw.

**For prayer** In a season of waiting, we pray for those who watch and wait for news of loved ones. As we celebrate Christmas this week we pray for the Church, especially in places of conflict, Children, especially refugees, and the vulnerable.

**The Beacon** The December – January Issue of the Beacon is available to pick up from churches.

**Sermon from the Diocese for the Fourth Sunday of Advent** on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December from the Right Reverend Jackie Searle, the Bishop of Crediton, reflecting on Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel and God's promise to her. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

**Exeter Cathedral: Nativity Service this Sunday.** Exeter Cathedral will be showing Not the Exeter Nativity - Covid or not, it's Still Christmas this Sunday 20 December at 3pm. The service can be watched online: [www.facebook.com/pg/exetercathedral/videos](http://www.facebook.com/pg/exetercathedral/videos)

### Job Vacancy for a Project Support Officer – Growing the Rural Church

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Growing the Rural Church Project as it reshapes its services to meet the needs of the rural church in Devon post Covid-19. You'll need to be an effective and organised administrator. We are also looking for someone who is confident at using online technology, creative and solution-focused. Salary £23,000 per annum. Full time (36.25 hours per week). Fixed Term to end of December 2023. Closing date 10/01/21. To find out more and apply: [www.cofepathways.org/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=2910](http://www.cofepathways.org/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=2910)

### Readings

	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
First Reading	2 Samuel 7:1-11. 16	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm	Luke 1:46b-55	148
Second Reading	Romans 16:25-27	Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 2:15-21
<b>Readings for the week ahead:</b>		
Mon	21 <sup>st</sup> Luke 1:39-45	
Tue	22 <sup>nd</sup> Luke 1:46-56	
Wed	23 <sup>rd</sup> Luke 1:57-66	
Thurs	24 <sup>th</sup> Luke 1:67-79	
Fri	25 <sup>th</sup> Luke 2:1-14, Luke 2:(1-7)8-20, John 1:1-14	
Sat	26 <sup>th</sup> Matt 10:17-22	

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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Facebook pages: [www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/](http://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/)

[www.facebook.com/denburyworship](http://www.facebook.com/denburyworship) [www.facebook.com/Broad20/](http://www.facebook.com/Broad20/)

### Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
5pm	Christmas readings, poems, carols and music	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
6.30pm	Zoom Carol Service (Hillary)	- Joint with Ipplepen Methodist Church

### Next Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

### Morning Prayer

9am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom email [rev.andrewdown@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com) for a link.

### Mid-Week Communion Services

Tuesday 10am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
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### Other Services

Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> 10am	- Funeral & Burial of Alan Grimshaw	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
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### Christmas Services in the Beacon Parishes:

#### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

9am - 4pm daily	The Wonder of Christmas Display	- St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
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#### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

6.30pm	Carols on the Green (bring your own mulled wine and mince pies)	- Denbury
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#### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

6.30pm	Carols around Ipplepen (Starting at Fulton Close)	- Ipplepen
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#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
5pm	Christmas readings, poems, carols and music	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
6.30pm	Zoom Carol Service	- Joint with Ipplepen Methodist Church

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

3.30pm – 6.30pm	Journey to the Crib Christmas Trail	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4pm	Crib Service	- St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
11pm	Midnight Mass	- St Mary's, Denbury
11pm	Midnight Mass	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
10am	Family Christmas Service	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen



## Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1.26-38

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

This Sunday we will light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath. This candle invites us to think about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's faith is an inspiration to many as is her example of life-long discipleship. She was there at Jesus' birth, at his first miracle and also at his crucifixion. She was the best example of how to faithfully respond to God.

Our gospel reading is the story of the Annunciation. Here was a young, ordinary girl with no status from the insignificant village of Nazareth but she was chosen, called, and then overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. God's plan always involves using ordinary people to bring about extraordinary changes. During the Coronavirus pandemic we have seen how Marcus Rashford's campaign to extend free school meals and end child food poverty inspired councils and businesses to offer free meals to young people over half term. One person's response can make a difference.

Gabriel appeared to Mary as a man, with whom, culturally, she would have been forbidden to talk, as women were not ordinarily allowed to have conversations with strangers. He not only speaks to her as an equal but greets her as the favoured one of God. No wonder she was "much perplexed." Luke then writes she pondered about what this greeting meant. Nothing in Mary's life had prepared her for the angel's visit and so she had to ponder and try to understand what was going on. According to Luke this was the first thing that Mary pondered and treasured in her heart. Maybe it was this very act of pondering, turning Gabriel's words and God's message over and over in her mind, that allowed Mary to remain firmly resolved to obey God's will. Pondering and treasuring of the things of God has remained at the heart of Christianity. Advent is a time for pondering not only Christ's coming as a helpless baby but his Second Coming and what that means to us and the whole world.

Mary's response to Gabriel's message has similarities and differences to that of Zechariah's when he was told about John the Baptist. Both were afraid and both asked a question. Zechariah asks "how will I know that this is so?"

whereas Mary asks "how can this be?" Zechariah seems to need proof, a sign, that what Gabriel said was true. Mary's answer does not imply that she doubts that Gabriel's message is the truth just that she doesn't know how it could happen. She does not demand to know what it is exactly God is hoping to achieve. She just doesn't know how she is able to be part of God's plan.

Although Mary did not ask for a sign, Gabriel gave her the news that her relative Elizabeth, who was past child bearing age, was also going to have a son. When Mary heard this, it confirmed her belief that in God the impossible was possible. With her question answered, she gives her consent. She doesn't say "Okay, I will do it" but she replies "let it be with me according to your will." She gave her "yes" not only to bearing a son but to a way of life where she would leave the initiative to God. She had faith that whatever she was asked to do that God was with her and that his power could easily protect her.

As you ponder the story of the Annunciation, remember that we are all loved by God and that he has a plan for each of us. It is in our ordinary lives that we encounter God. God also speaks to us through scripture and expects us to be like Mary, to ponder what is said, to ask questions, to listen to the answer and then to respond.



The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner