

**In memory** Michael Basset, Michael Harrison, Francis Harvey, David Hallett, Peter Dewhurst, Rob Birch and Edwin Squires.

**Prayer** The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called on the nation to remember the 100,000 people across the UK who have died after contracting Covid-19 and all those mourning them. In an open letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell invite everyone across England – whether they have faith or not – to pause, reflect on the “enormity of this pandemic” and to pray.

Each month the diocese produces a prayer diary which includes daily prayers for mission communities and people across Devon, as well as prayers for wider social issues.

[https://mcusercontent.com/543e9623f7379d75d88235209/files/fe27be8e-d6e8-429f-8469-038224baf4ee/PD\\_Feb\\_2021\\_Spread.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/543e9623f7379d75d88235209/files/fe27be8e-d6e8-429f-8469-038224baf4ee/PD_Feb_2021_Spread.pdf)

**Telephone support/chat following the church services:** Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila’s phone number is (01803) 814227.

**Online Sermon for this Sunday and Ash Wednesday** Our online sermon for Valentine’s Day comes from Ven. Andrew Beane and our online sermon for Ash Wednesday comes from Rev’d Professor Gina Radford: <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

**The Beacon** The February-March issue of the Beacon is now available on our website and hardcopies are available in the churches.

**The Beacon Mission is making a few adjustments to our Facebook "presence".** The aim is to encompass the whole of the Beacon Community and repeat ourselves less often! Each Church will still have its own Facebook page, for service and event announcements and reports (the "shop front"). Anyone can see these pages, but only Admin members can post on them.

Now a new Facebook Group, the "Beacon Community Group", has been set up for reflection, discussion and interaction. It’s a “Private” Group, so you have to be invited or ask to join. Once a member, however, you can invite other people to join and you can post things in the Group – either contributing to a discussion, or starting your own conversation. (Note Private Group means posts are “approved” by Admin – to stop advertising etc). It’s intended for the village-wide community, not just a Church clique and we hope will be used widely, especially during these locked down days. Search for “Beacon Community Group” and ask to join.... See you there!

**Parish Placement** Next week we welcome Sarah Nichols who is a Chaplain at Channings Wood Prison and will be doing a parish placement with us over the next month as part of her ongoing training.

## Readings

	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
First Reading	2 Kings 2:1-12	Genesis 9:8-17
Psalms	50:1-6	25:1-10
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 4:3-6 2	1 Peter 3:18-End
Gospel	Mark 9:2-9	Mark 1:9-15

<b>Readings for the week ahead:</b>	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 8.11-13
	Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 8.14-21
	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 7:24-30
	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 9:14-15
	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 5:27-32

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

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Notice Sheet\_ Sunday\_14th February 2021



## Weekly Notices

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Sunday next before Lent**

### Today’s Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	- At the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11am	Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom	
	For the Zoom password, email	<a href="mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com">rachelbelringer@gmail.com</a>

### Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am	Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom
	For the Zoom password, email Hillarie Griggs: <a href="mailto:hillarie@griggs.me.uk">hillarie@griggs.me.uk</a>

### Private Prayer & Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul’s, Broadhempston	9am to 4pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew’s, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

### Mid-Week Holy Communion Services – Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb

Wednesday	11am	- St Mary’s, Denbury
Wednesday	7pm	- St Andrew’s, Ipplepen

Please note the usual midweek communion services on Tuesday and Thursday will not take place this week.

### Next Sunday – First Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Mission Community Morning Prayer	- Zoom
	For the Zoom password, email	<a href="mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com">rachelbelringer@gmail.com</a>
11am	Holy Communion (said)	- At St Andrew’s Church, Ipplepen

### Funeral Services

Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2021 at 2pm	St Andrew’s, Ipplepen	John Peter Dewhurst
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021 at 11.45am	St Andrew’s, Ipplepen	Charles David Hallett

### Annual Leave

Rev’d Andrew Down will be on annual leave on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

### Reading and reflection in Lent

Lent begins this coming week with Ash Wednesday and is a time of refreshment, reflection and revitalisation. As a Beacon mission community we are encouraging people to read the novel

**Phoebe: a story by Paula Gooder** and reflect on 4 Christian texts during this time

1. Jesus’ Summary of the Law
2. The Lord’s Prayer
3. The Apostles Creed
4. The Beatitudes – Blessings of the Gospel – Luke 6 20-23

We will be using the notice sheet to support this reading and reflection beginning next week. Alongside this we will be offering near the end of Lent a **zoom book club** gathering to discuss Phoebe by Paula Gooder and using the 4 text as the basis for **zoom gatherings suitable for those wanting to revisit the fundamentals of our faith or prepare for confirmation.**



## Reflection by Tessa Amies

Sunday next before Lent – Valentine's Day

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Red hearts, red roses, candle-lit dinners, chocolates, more red hearts, cards with hearts and no signature . . . . .**

**All associated with St. Valentine's Day, but why? Who was he or she, why are they worth remembering? Did St. Valentine exist?**

It seems there were at least two saints called Valentine, possibly more. One was a Roman priest and doctor who was probably martyred on the Flaminian Way just outside Rome in around 350 AD. Another Valentine became the Bishop of Turni (a town about 60 miles from Rome). He too was brought to Rome and martyred in around 273 AD. This Valentine is the patron saint of bee keepers, and also those who suffer from epilepsy and the plague. (Maybe we need to pray to him at the present time?). There may have been another Valentine, who came from North Africa and was martyred about this time too. I am sure all three of these people were kind, compassionate and lovely people but none of them seem particularly connected to romantic love.

The idea might be a throw back to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, celebrated about the same time of year; connected with fertility rites and a lot of running around with very little on!

Perhaps the most endearing explanation of Valentine's romantic love appears in Medieval times. It was observed that birds began to choose their mates round about this time of year. Our very own Chaucer mentions this in his poem 'Parliament of Fowls':

*"For this was St. Valentine's Day when every bird comes to choose his mate."*

Some nobility of the time sent love notes during the bird mating season. For instance the Duke of Orleans, imprisoned in the Tower of London, wrote to his wife, Anne in February 1415 that he was "*already lovesick*" and calling her his "*very gentle valentine*".

Love, in all its forms is certainly worth celebrating, perhaps all the time not just on one day! Our English language is not too precise at distinguishing the different meanings of the word.

There is of course romantic love celebrated to-day. Then we have maternal or paternal love - the love of a parent for their child. Shown so beautifully in many paintings of the Virgin and Child. There's filial love, brotherly love for siblings and family. Love borne of respect and regard for another person. For instance, by Elisha for Elijah in to-day's passage from 2 Kings 2 1-12. Elijah is about to be taken up into heaven in the fiery chariot and Elisha does not want to say good-bye.

But, the greatest love of all is that shown by GOD to his people. Shown in the Gospels from birth to apparent death. We'll be exploring that once again during Lent and in the run up to Easter. God's love is unconditional and everlasting. St. Paul often speaks of God's love for us in his letters, take a look at 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

Meanwhile have a good St. Valentine's Day. We can watch the Denbury doves fly over the houses, choosing their mate and listen to their gentle coos down the chimney.

God Bless and keep safe.

Tessa Amies



Image: "2 Doves Drinking"  
A C5th mosaic from Ravenna