



# Weekly Notices

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

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

**Reading and reflection in Lent continued.....**Refresh and revisit your faith during lent –This week why not read and reflect on Jesus summary of the law - Matthew 22: 37-40. This contains three elements for a balanced life – love of God, love of neighbour, love of self. When these three are present we are stable, when any is absent or underdeveloped, we become unstable. How are you doing? Are all present? Are they in balance?

**Online Sermon for this Sunday:** from the Rev'd Prebendary Jackie Taylor who is the Dean of Women in Ministry in the Diocese of Exeter. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

**In memory** David Hallett, Peter Dewhirst, Rob Birch and Edwin Squires.

**Mission Community Lent Book Phoebe - A story by Paula Gooder**

Phoebe - A story by Paula Gooder. Paula Gooder is a leading New Testament Theologian and is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral. In this her first novel she tells the story of Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cenchreae, who Paul commends in his letter to the Romans (16:1-2). Through the imaginative telling of this story Paula hopes to open up Paul's thinking and theology. It gives a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped the faith of the early church and the role of women within it. The book is very readable but at the same time, because it is rigorously researched, it will appeal to those who would like to engage imaginatively and more deeply with Paul and his theology. For a taster of why she wrote the book [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m9-HWlCvrg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m9-HWlCvrg)

**New Beacon Community Group on Facebook.** A place for sharing, discussion and to build community. You can join the new Beacon Community Group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/424938598594105>

**Fairtrade Fortnight** is 22 February to 7 March 2021. For more information [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org)

**Census Day 2021** Remember March 21<sup>st</sup> is Census Day 2021.

**Zoom session for revisiting and refreshing our faith and preparing for confirmation** coming soon.

### Readings

	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
First Reading	Genesis 17:1-7	Exodus 20:1-7
Psalm	22:22-30	19
Second Reading	Romans 4:13-End	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Gospel	Mark 8:31-End	John 2:13-22

Readings for the week ahead:	Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thurs	4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>
		Luke 6:36-38		Matt 23:1-12		Matt 20:17-28		Luke 16:19-End		Matt 21:33-43, 45-46		Luke 15:1-3, 11-End

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

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### 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: [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com)

**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.

### Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom  
For the Zoom password, email: [rev.andrewdown@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com)

### 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, Ippelepen	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 Services

Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ippelepen
Wednesday	7pm	Compline	- St Andrew's, Ippelepen
Thursday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Mary's, Denbury
Thursday	4.30pm	Evening Prayer	- St Mary's, Denbury

### Next Sunday – Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom  
For the Zoom password, email: [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com)  
11am Holy Communion (said) - At St Andrew's Church, Ippelepen

### Funeral Services

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 10.30am St Andrew's, Ippelepen Edwin Squires

### Reading and reflection in Lent

**Phoebe: a story by Paula Gooder: Questions to ponder as you read**

*Many of the key characters in the story are slaves.*

Questions: What do you know about the issue of modern day slavery? Do you know the signs and what to do?

Action: Do some research this week - what forms does modern day slavery take? Who is vulnerable? What are the signs? Who is there to help? What can you do?

The Clewer Initiative seeks to bring recognition and support by raising awareness of all aspects of modern slavery and helping to mobilise the local church. This is a good place to look:

<https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>



## Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Second Sunday of Lent  
Mark 8:31-End  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

I'm writing this reflection on the day after the Prime Minister introduced his long awaited 'road map' out of the Covid restrictions. The atmosphere is getting slightly more positive now, and many people are literally counting the days until they can "get back to normal" - pick up the reins of life as it was. I can understand why they're doing this. So many are struggling practically and emotionally - and have been for such a long time now. People feel desperate for familiarity, and particularly for the human contact which helps so much when life is tough. Most have also realised that in all the "back to normal talk", we're no longer sure what normal is any more. Time has passed, and life must be about moving forward - not just recapturing life as it was - or how we think it should be.

Those who want to think about all this from a Christian standpoint, might wish to beware of falling into the trap Peter fell into in the Gospel reading today - the trap of assuming that we know how life should be, rather than following God's leading and guiding. In the passage Jesus is talking about how God sees his future - Peter is resisting him - and Jesus pulls him up short. God so often has plans for his people which are beyond their wildest imaginings. One example of this concerns Abram in our Old Testament reading. Abram is 99 years old we're told, and ready no doubt to put his feet up and take things easy. But God's plan - his promise - is that Abram is to be the "father of the nations", the patriarch of the Jewish people, the beginning of great things to come. Abram has the faith to believe God's promise, and finds himself with the new name Abraham, a new baby, and a new beginning!

And God has plans for us too - however frail and inadequate we consider ourselves to be - and however limited are our imaginings. I think this is what Jesus had in mind a bit further on in the gospel reading when he spoke those famous - and rather fearsome words - 'if any want to become my disciples they must take up their cross and follow me'. Our hope is in God who invites us to follow him as he moves into the future to establish his kingdom and give us the gift of life in all its fullness.

Lent is a good time to reflect on all this. God calls us on - never back - to follow him through life with its struggles and its joys - and to hold on to the hope of our share in Jesus's resurrection glory. So make the most of the extra time you might have available, and enjoy the Lenten journey.

