



Online Sermon for this Sunday: This week, Revd Deborah Parsons, Diocesan Interfaith Advisor, will be preaching on Exodus 20.1-17 & John 2.13-22. The theme will be "Going in the wrong direction.": <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

In memory 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.

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>

Census Day 2021 Remember March 21st is Census Day 2021.

Refresh, revisit, reflect. 6 sessions exploring the Christian Way of Life – for all and particularly those wanting to prepare for confirmation.

Sunday's at 4.30pm via zoom and supported through the weekly notice sheet

1. 14/03/21 - Jesus summary of the law - Matt 22 37-40
2. 21/03/21 - The Lord's Prayer - Luke 11 1-11
3. 28/03/21 - The Apostles Creed
4. 18/04/21 - The Beatitudes - the blessings of the gospel - Matthew 5 3-12
5. 25/04/21 - The Eucharist as a model for life
6. 02/05/21 - God making home with us - life of the Spirit

To join the classes please email office@beaconparishes.co.uk. To register your interest in Confirmation please download and complete the 'Beacon Parishes Confirmation Application Form' on our website: www.missioncommunity.org.uk/confirmation

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday: First Reading	Exodus 20:1-7	Exodus 2:1-10
Psalm	19	34:11-20
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	2 Corinthians 1:3-7
Gospel	John 2:13-22	Luke 2:33-35

Readings for the week ahead:	Day	Reading
	Mon	8 th Luke 4:24-30
	Tue	9 th Matt 18:21-22
	Wed	10 th Matt 5:17-19
	Thurs	11 th Luke 11:14-23
	Fri	12 th Mark 12:28-34
	Sat	13 th Luke 18:9-14

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

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www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today's Sunday Services

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

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

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 Services

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

Next Sunday – Mothering Sunday

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
11am Mothering Sunday Service - St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Funeral Services

Tues 9th March 2021 at 11.30am St Andrew's, Ipplepen John Minnis (Interment of Ashes)

Reading and reflection in Lent

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

Gathering in Community and for worship are key to the Christian life described in the book.

What strikes you about the descriptions of community and worship as told in the book? What is similar to our church communities? What is different? What might we learn or want to grow in? How might we do this?

The Lord's Prayer: Luke 11: 1-11

Read the passage slowly a couple of times. What strikes you today? – identify a particular verse or phrase. Spend time today with this verse or phrase – contemplating it, receiving from it.



Reflection by Steve Sheldon

Third Sunday of Lent
John 2:13-22
Sunday 7th March 2021

John's Gospel was written many years after the other three and brings a more mature reflective approach to the story of Jesus. He has no problem with lifting the stories from the other Gospels and putting them in a different order to make specific points. In this reading John has condensed two different stories, stitched them together and moved them from the end of Jesus' ministry to the beginning, in part so we can begin to understand why the corrupt authorities in Jerusalem were so determined to stop Jesus at any cost. I only have space here to focus on one often forgotten aspect of this story where Jesus is confronted by those whom he would later call hypocrites, blind fools, vipers and white-washed tombs.

Representatives of Israel's ruling elite have come to Jesus in the Temple grounds and ask him, "*What right have you to do these things? Who gave you this authority?*"

So why *did* Jesus make such a fuss in the market square? *Why* was Jesus so completely and totally full of righteous anger? The prophet Isaiah wrote: The Lord says to those foreigners who become part of his people, who love him and serve him, *'I will bring you to Zion, give you joy in my house of prayer, and accept the sacrifices you offer on my altar. My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.'* Amazingly that last phrase often gets dropped when this story is told, which causes it to lose its meaning. To say that a Temple will be called a house of prayer is kind of stating the obvious. To say that and no more implies that Jesus' objection was to the noise and hubbub of the market stalls in the Outer Courtyard distracting from the quiet reverential calm of the Inner Courtyard. But that's not really the point.

The Outer Courtyard where the merchants held sway was also called the Courtyard of the Gentiles. This was where non-Jews who sought to worship the one true God of Israel came to offer their prayers. Gentile converts were not permitted in the Inner Courtyard and had to gather in the space that was now being dominated by mercantile activity; lucrative mercantile activity that surely netted a tidy sum in ground rent for the Temple treasury. So Jesus' objection is not about the practice of trade within the Temple grounds, but the fact that the trade prevented Gentiles from worshipping there.

Jesus' enacted prophecy, the clearing out of the Temple's Outer Courtyard, was a sign that the movement to usher in the Kingdom of God was beginning now. Jesus was saying that God would no longer tolerate a status quo that hindered God's mission to bring all of mankind into a loving relationship with him.

This has always been God's mission. It was Israel's mission, to be a beacon on a hill drawing the world to the truth. It was Jesus' mission, coming to the world to speak about that truth. It is now the Church's mission to be that beacon, to speak that truth about God. Like Israel, like Jesus, we are to trust in God, to have faith in God and be an example of God's love so that the world may come to know him through us and our actions.

We are to produce proper fruit, the good fruit. That's our mission. Mission is not about bums on pews, head-counts, and who's got the biggest attendance. But then the job of bringing in the Kingdom does get that much harder the fewer of us there are. The responsibility we have been handed is a lot easier if there are more of us here to share the workload, with the greater diversity of skills that would result in. *But that's not the mission.*

Bearing proper fruit is the mission. Being an example for all to see is the mission. Making sure there is plenty of space in the Courtyard *for everyone* to join in and praise God is the mission. For everyone to join in. For all the people of all the nations... for all the people of our neighbourhood. All bearing the proper fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

So now I'm asking you to think about things, because when you *do* sit and think about things, when you stop to pray about things, that's when the Holy Spirit can best do her work, whisper in your ear and inspire you so that then *God* can direct you and encourage you.

What I want you to think about in the days to come is how Jesus cleared the Courtyard of the Temple so that the Gentiles, the outsiders, could come in and worship God. How best can the Courtyard of this Temple, our parishes, be cleared of any rubble, of any impediment that prevents outsiders being drawn to come in and worship God? Not necessarily in our buildings, in the Inner Courtyard as nice as that would be, but worshipping God in the Temple of their lives. Worshipping God and producing that good fruit.