



## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

**Celebrating the Saints at Holy Trinity Torbryan - St Francis.** 3rd October 2021, 4.30pm, Evening Prayer. Simple - Celtic inspired- time of silence - music - art - poetry – prayer.

**Denbury Church will be hosting another village wide collection of items for H.I.T.S.** Contributions welcome on the church windowsills from w/b 27th Sept.

**'T-Pot' at Church Cottage, Denbury,** has returned, every Monday from 3pm to 5pm. Chat, Tea Coffee, Bikkies and (sometimes) Cake!

**Harvest Coffee Morning in St Andrew's Church.** On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October we will be holding a Harvest Coffee Morning in St Andrew's Church from 10.30am to 12 noon for the St Andrew's annual 'Gift Day'. Donations welcome (cakes, preserves, fruit and vegetables) If you have any queries, please contact Marilyn Ellis (01803) 812568

**Lifting of lockdown rules** Clear guidance will be given at all our services. In broad terms we are recommending the continuation of social distancing and wearing of masks in our buildings.

**August and September Edition of the Beacon** The August and September Edition of the Beacon is available for you to collect from our churches. If you would like to contribute to the October and November Edition, articles need to be with the Editor, Dr Michael Price, by September 20th. 01803 813403 / [michaelprice44@gmail.com](mailto:michaelprice44@gmail.com)

**Church Times Festival of Faith and Literature** Food for the Journey 25 September, 10am - 3.30pm The September programme for the Church Times Festival of Faith and Literature includes conversations with authors, clergy and charity representatives including the Archbishop of York, the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. Tickets cost £20. <https://faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk/september-2021>

**General Synod Online Hustings Events** You are invited to a hustings "Question-Time" event at which Exeter Diocese lay and clergy candidates for the General Synod will be introducing themselves and answering key questions about the Church today. Lay Candidates Hustings: Tuesday 21 Sept, 6pm to 8.30pm (Zoom) and Clergy Candidates Hustings: Thursday 23 Sept, 6pm to 8.30pm. (Zoom). Please email: [synod@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:synod@exeter.anglican.org) to book a place a place and submit a question for consideration. <https://exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/synod/> to see a full list of candidates standing. The voting period for the elections will open on Friday 17 September.

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Wis. of Sol. 1:16-2:1, 12-22	Num. 11.4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm	54	19.7-End
2nd Reading	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	James 5:13-End
Gospel	Mark 9:30-37	Mark 9:38-End
<b>Readings for the week ahead:</b>		
Mon	20 <sup>th</sup> Luke 8.16-18	
Tue	21 <sup>st</sup> Matt 9.9-13	
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup> Luke 9.1-6	
Thurs	23 <sup>rd</sup> Luke 9:7-9	
Fri	24 <sup>th</sup> Luke 9:18-22	
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup> Luke 9:43b-45	

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

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

**Today's Sunday Services**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2.00 pm	Baptism of Ralph Sear	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

**Morning Prayer**  
 This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Tuesday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.00 am	- For the Zoom password, email: <a href="mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com">rev.andrewdown@gmail.com</a> (Please contact Andrew by the Tuesday for the zoom password)
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation at Broadhempston)

**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 5pm	Daily
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily
St John the Baptist, Woodland	10am to 4pm	Daily

**Mid-Week**  
 Rev'd Andrew Down's Day Off on Mondays each week.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	7.00 pm	PCC Meeting	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

**Next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Harvest Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Churches Together – Family Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6.00 pm	Harvest Service	- St John the Baptist, Woodland

**Online Sermon this Sunday:** This week's video sermon is kindly being given by the Rev'd Simon Franklin. He will be reflecting on the life and legacy of Bishop Patteson and pilgrimage as a spiritual journey. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

**Points for Prayer.** Ralph Sear baptised today in Broadhempston. St Andrew's PCC meeting on Tuesday 21st. All those ordained Deacon in Exeter Cathedral last weekend. Those preparing and involved in COP26 in Glasgow 1-12 Nov 2021. Those finding they need to use food banks and the work of HITS.

**In Memory.** Karen Hooper, Cynthia Floyd, Betty Adams and Jennifer Mitchelmore. Geoffrey Williamson.



## Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 20 Year B

Mark 9:30-37

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Suffering

As we hear on the news of so many tragic deaths and conflicts, the words which catch my eye in that reading from St Mark's gospel are those in verse 33: "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again". Those words prompted me to want to write not about who will be first, or welcoming little children, very important though those things are. But, whatever else happens in the world, there is always likely to be great suffering. One of the most difficult things any Christian has to face is explaining why God sometimes allows tragedies to happen. And that is what I want to write about.

"Your God cannot exist", they say. "You claim an all-loving, all-powerful God. If he really is all-powerful, he has the power to stop suffering. If he chooses not to do so, he cannot love you as you claim he does."

That question is made the more difficult when put to you through the tears and anger of bereavement, or through the childlike puzzlement of someone having to watch a loved one die slowly and painfully.

I hope I have not raised in you an expectation that I have a simple answer to those questions. My answer always has to be, "I'm sorry, as yet I just do not know."

The question "Why?" in the case of evil has so much to do with the purpose of life, of God's plan for us and for the world, and with our response to that plan. God created us to be stewards of his creation, to share that creation with him and to share in his love. To make that stewardship, that sharing, that loving, of real meaning, we have the gift of freewill, the endless capacity to 'get it wrong'. We have the capacity to get it wrong both as individuals and as the whole of mankind.

I simply do not yet know a simple answer to the problem of suffering. And I don't think that an earnest quest for that answer is finally of much use. Suffering is a part of the package, something for us to endure. What we know is that, in the words of Cardinal Newman, "Christ has given us an example, that we may follow in his steps. He went through far more, infinitely more, than we shall be called to suffer." In the words of the Good Friday hymn, "We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear; but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there."

Mother Julian wrote, "He said not, thou shall not be tempested, thou shall not be travailed, thou shall not be diseased. But he said, thou shall not be overcome."

We are called to walk in the way of the cross, and if in doing so we suffer, we know it cannot compare with the suffering of our Lord for our sakes. And most importantly, we know that as we suffer, we are never alone. Jesus has told us that he is with us always,

If, in repentance and faith, we stretch out our hands in the darkness, we know that we will find the hand of our Lord to strengthen and comfort us. You must all have seen the moving verse called 'Footprints'. When there is only one set of footprints, at the darkest times of our life, God is no longer just walking beside us: he is carrying us.

Whatever theories are put to us by learned theologians and philosophers to explain the meaning of life, or the cause of suffering, we have to deal with that suffering and to help others to do so. Our example is in our Lord. We know that God will bless us for patient endurance of our suffering. And we know that we are never alone. We know that we can stretch out our hand and walk with God. And that, when we need him most, he will carry us.