

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



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The Beacon

The Beacon magazine is published every 2 months and due to a generous donation is currently produced at no cost to the Beacon Mission Community, which enables it to be free of advertisements.

Current and all past issues are available on the website www.missioncommunity.org.uk .

Articles for submission should be sent to the editor, Michael Price michaeljprice44@gmail.com
01803 813472.

Season's Greetings!

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and New Year – seasons all included in this December and January edition!

It can be hectic so be kind to yourself- when you take a break we hope you may find an article or two that catches your interest in the Beacon whatever your age or situation or belief. The Beacon is for all.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Michael Price



Editor's Corner

Although best known for irreverent comedy in Monty Python films, Michael Palin wants more people to discover their local church.

As a member of Monty Python, Sir Michael Palin revelled in playing characters including the Boring Prophet, Pontius Pilate and one of the three wise men in the *Life of Brian*.

Now he has joined another crusade: a movement geared towards protecting the future of our churches.

Expressing his concern about places of worship falling into disrepair, Palin said they formed a vital part of the country's history, as he put his weight behind the National Churches Trust's campaign to preserve them.

Palin, who is vice-president of the organisation, said: "Churches remain a vital and much loved part of the UK's heritage and we can't let them fall into neglect and disuse."

We are so blessed in our Beacon Community to have the presence of such beautiful churches in all our villages. Admire the pictures of them in the parish news reports and do visit them over the Christmas season! Cards depicting our churches are available to purchase at St. Andrew's to use as Christmas or greetings cards. They are from paintings by Robin Thomas, one of our congregation.

Contributions for the next edition of the Beacon (February/March) should reach me by January 18th.

Michael Price, Editor

Church Services for December and Christmas

Services planned at time of going to print. Please check website / Weekly Notices for updates.

Sunday December 5th

Second Sunday of Advent

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St John The Baptist, Woodland |
| 9.30 am | Celtic Morning Prayer | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 4.30 pm | Reflective Evening Prayer - St Lucy | - Holy Trinity, Torbryan |

Sunday December 12th

Third Sunday of Advent

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Christingle & Communion | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 11.00 am | Celtic Morning Prayer | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 6.30 pm | Carol Service | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |

Sunday December 19th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 4.00 pm | Carol Concert | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 6.00 pm | Carol Service | - St John The Baptist, Woodland |

Friday December 24th

Christmas Eve

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3.30 pm & 5pm | Crib Services | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 6.00 pm | Crib & Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 pm | Mission Community Midnight Mass | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 11.30 pm | Christmas Night Prayer | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |

Saturday December 25th

Christmas Day

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St John The Baptist, Woodland |
| 10.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 10.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 11.00 am | Crib Service | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |

Sunday December 26th

First Sunday of Christmas

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10.00 am | Mission Community Holy Communion- | St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Other events for December, Christmas and January

- | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sat 4 th Dec | 2pm – 4pm | Christmas Fair | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| Sat 4 th Dec | 7.00 pm | Community Concert | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| Tues 7 th Dec | 7.00 pm | Mission Community Compline | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| Wed 8 th Dec | 10.30 am | Coffee Mates | - Church Cottage Denbury |
| Wed 8 th Dec | 1.30 pm | Tree Decorating | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| Sat 11 th Dec | 10am – 1pm | Mission Community | |
| | | Advent Quiet Morning | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| Tues 14 th Dec | 7.00 pm | Mission Community Compline | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| Wed 15 th Dec | 6.00 pm | School Carol Concert | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| Thurs 16 th Dec | 8.00 pm | 'BroadHarmony' Concert | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| Friday 17 th Dec | 7.00 pm | Carols on the Green | - Denbury |
| Mon 20 th Dec | 7.00 pm | Carols Around the Village Tree | - Ipplepen |
| Mon 20 th Dec (onwards) | | Christmas Display and Music | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| Tues 21 st Dec | 7.00 pm | Carols in the Square | - Broadhempston |
| Tues 21 st Dec | 7.00 pm | Mission Community Compline | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| Tuesdays (11 th Jan to 15 th Feb) | 6.30pm-8pm | 'Refresh, Revisit, Reflect' Course | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |

Sunday Services for January

Services planned at time of going to print. Please check website / Weekly Notices for updates.

Sunday January 2nd

Epiphany

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John The Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday January 9th

Baptism of Christ

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday January 16th

Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John The Baptist, Woodland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday January 23rd

Third Sunday of Epiphany

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

Sunday January 30th

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00 am	Mission Community - Holy Communion - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
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Beacon Parishes Mission Community Weekly Services

Private Prayer

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

Weekly Morning Prayer

Tuesday	9.15 am (Book of Common Prayer)	- St John the Baptist. Woodland
Wednesday	9.00 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- Online using 'Zoom'

For the Zoom password, email: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Thursday	9.15 am (Common Worship)	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am (A time of silent prayer and meditation)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

Regular Midweek Events and Communion Services

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



Refresh, revisit, reflect

Six sessions exploring the Christian Way of Life



Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8.00pm in St. Andrew's, Ipplepen

1. 11/01/22 – Jesus' summary of the law - Matthew 22. 37-40
2. 18/01/22 - The Lord's Prayer - Luke 11. 1-11
3. 25/01/22 - The Apostles' Creed
4. 01/02/22 - The Beatitudes - the blessings of the gospel - Matthew 5. 3-12
5. 08/02/22 - The Eucharist as a model for life
6. 15/02/22 - God making home with us - life of the Spirit

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

Journeying with Francis through Christmas and into the New Year



Dear Reader,

As we approach Christmas for many our engagement with the Christmas story has been handed to us by St. Francis of Assisi in the crib scenes that are set up at this time of year. You may have one in your home or go to a crib service as part of your celebration of Christmas. This tradition was begun by Francis in the village of Greccio in 1223.

I have found a particular affinity with St. Francis. Why have I found this 13th Century Saint so important in my own life and my following of Christ? Saints are not perfect but are those that have tried to follow Christ in their own day and give us a vision of what following Christ might look like. The analogy that has been used about Francis is that pondering his life is rather like looking at the light of the sun reflected on the surface of the moon. We cannot look directly at the sun but can receive its reflected light as we gaze at the moon. Likewise we cannot always look directly at the light of God without being dazzled but can gaze and study God's reflected light and love in the life of Saints. So what do I see as I gaze and study St. Francis?

- Love:** Francis as a young man was a troubadour playing and singing in the streets and countryside around Assisi. He had a passionate love of the world around him and expressed this through poetry and song.
- Loss:** The young Francis in trying to become a successful and valiant knight spent a year in prison, an experience that profoundly changed him. He experienced what can best be described as a breakdown, losing his zest for life. It was through this difficult experience he came to a renewed vision of life and what it means to have life in all its fullness.
- Life:** Francis came to understand life as not being about prestige, wealth, security or indeed health but about the touch of God. The touch of love. This touch he experienced in the natural world, the poor and in the other. This led Francis to preach to and spend time with those on the edge of his society, the birds and other creatures and those of other traditions and faiths. Many companions were attracted to this new vision of life amongst them St. Clare.
- Letting go:** As his Order grew Francis let go, handing over leadership and withdrawing for a greater time of solitude. It was in this time when suffering much ill health that he received the stigmata (marks of the cross). This was something he had prayed for and a devotion to the cross as the way to true life was a hallmark of his understanding of life in all its fullness.

Beyond Christmas the turning of the year often causes us to reflect on our own pattern of life. I wonder what you will see as you gaze on your own life at the turn of this year. What light and grace will you see there that you want to make more space for and where are the shadows and dark patches for you. Importantly who will you need as a companion or companions as you journey on – St. Francis perhaps or another Saint or someone who is a Saint to you in your life right now - a friend, colleague, family member or neighbour perhaps. Do make time for them as we journey on together through Christmas and into a new year.

Peace and good wishes

Andrew

Life Events

We continue to pray for those we, as Beacon Parishes, have had and will have the privilege of supporting and accompanying, and also their family and friends.

Baptisms

Sunday 26 th September 2021	Broadhempston	Casper Vernon-Yeo
Saturday 23 rd October 2021	Denbury	Matthew Gough, Mark Richardson
Sunday 24 th October 2021	Denbury	Matilda Web

Weddings

Friday 12 th November 2021	Ipplepen	Tom Newton & Olivia O'Keeff
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Funerals

Thursday 7 th October 2021	Ipplepen	Geoffrey 'Jeff' Williamson
Thursday 14 th October 2021	Ipplepen	William Isaac
Monday 25 th October 2021	Ipplepen	Sydney 'James' Joint
Thursday 4 th November 2021	Ipplepen	Edward 'Ted' Wonnacott
Saturday 6 th November 2021	Woodland	Moira Van Den Bergh
Friday 26 th November 2021	Torquay	Muriel Hall

Memorial Services

Friday 1 st October 2021	Woodland	John Hutcheson
Tuesday 12 th October 2021	Ipplepen	David Luscombe

Interments of Ashes

Thursday 4 th November 2021	Broadhempston	Margaret 'Peggy' James
Saturday 13 th November 2021	Ipplepen	Cynthia Floyd

How to keep in touch

Weekly Notices These contain up to date information of services and activities in our parishes. Published prior to each weekend, these are given out at services and also available to pick in the churches during the week. They are also emailed out by the office to those on the email circulation list.

Website The Beacon Parishes website www.missioncommunity.org.uk is the 'go to' place for information. It also contains the Weekly Notices and Beacon Magazine.

Videos Video recordings of some of the services held in our Beacon Community can be found on the website.

Facebook Three of our parishes keep up to date Facebook pages:

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

and the Beacon Community Discussion group:

www.facebook.com/groups/424938598594105

Email The Church Office has an email list which is used for sending out the Weekly Notices as well as any other important information. If you or someone you know would like to be included on this list, please contact the office.

Contacts Names and telephone numbers are to be found in The Beacon.

Rector Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Church Office Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ
Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk

Floodlighting

The towers at both Denbury and Ipplepen have floodlighting which needs sponsorship to cover the cost of electricity and maintenance. Sponsorship is usually for a week at a time, and people often like to sponsor to mark a special occasion.

Denbury:

For Denbury, contact Rachel Belringer 01803 812529 / 07751804007

New

December Tom and Joan New: Celebrating Joan's 95th birthday on 6th and their 65th Wedding Anniversary

Tessa Amies: Marking a significant birthday, with thanks.

January A Villager who likes to see the Tower lit when coming home



Ipplepen:

- For Ipplepen, the suggested donation is £5 per occasion per week.
- Sponsor forms are available in St. Andrew's and also at www.missioncommunity.org.uk/floodlighting
- Or write to the office or email: ippleflood@beaconparishes.co.uk
- Donations can be made by cash, cheque, BACS or via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ippleflood
- If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation

Retrospective

- 24th – 30th Oct From Edward and Marilyn Ellis to celebrate their Silver Wedding anniversary on 26th Oct
- 31st Oct – 6th Nov In loving memory of Pamela on 6th November, with love from Mark, Karen and Ken Squire
- 7th – 13th Nov Remembering Michael Kemp on his birthday, 10th November, a loving brother and uncle, sadly missed. Love, Sheila, Graham, Beckie and Hannah Needs
- 14th – 20th Nov We dedicate the floodlighting in loving memory of Jim Clark who passed away on 11th November 20 years ago. In fondest memory from all the family.
- In memory of Jim Clark, from Julie Collins

New

- 28th Nov – 4th Dec Joanna Wildgoose for her late Dad on his birthday, 28th November. He loved the church and enjoyed many visits there.
- In loving memory of Wendy Osborn on 30th November with love Liz and Bruce Hooker and family
- 5th – 11th Dec Marilyn and Tony Clark to celebrate their grandson Paddy's (Patrick) 16th birthday on 5th December, with love from Nanny and Grandad
- 12th – 18th Dec From Melvin and Doreen Carter, remembering their parents at Christmas – Tom and Gladys Carter & Francis and Evelyn Legge
- 19th – 25th Dec Peter Mason remembering his wife Jan, whose birthday would have been on 23rd Dec
- David, Linda, Hannah and Katie Simmonds in memory of Hope and Faith, on 23rd Dec
- 26th Dec – 1st Jan Linda, David, Hannah & Katie Simmonds in memory of Linda's parents, Fred & Doreen Holland, on their wedding anniversary on 27th December.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

One of the Silver Linings of this Covid Cloud, has been the emergence of the Church – hesitant and wide eyed! - into the era of social media technology. We now have Facebook pages, some of us have used Zoom and Services get recorded...

I'd like to draw people's attention to the Facebook Group: Beacon Community Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/424938598594105>. This was set up as a discussion forum to build on the greater Mission Community awareness generated – truly ironically – by the isolation of the lock-down. Fully aware that those who sup with the devil should use a long spoon, I'd like to add some reassurance. The group is Private, which means that only members can see, or write, posts on its page. Membership requests have to be approved by an administrator – there are 5 of us – before you can read or post in the group. The group is 'visible' on Facebook, i.e. you can find it by searching for the name, but people won't be able to go further than that without first being accepted as a member.

The thing is, having started off really well, it's now become a sort of "blog" for me!!! Much though I like having my own personal soap box, it would be much better to have others input too! As a resource it is being underused. Increasingly Andrew and the Churchwardens have Mission wide decisions and plans to develop and maintain, and to be able to use this as one of the ways to gather opinion and generate discussion would be very helpful. Any Group member can raise an issue or contribute to a discussion. There is also the fact that quite a few Group members are not regular congregation members. So this Group also has the potential to be a window into the Church community: to witness the relevance and importance of the Christian message.

Not everyone uses Facebook and that's fine – there are many ways of promoting God's work in the world. But, if you do, this is a request to look again at the potential of the Beacon Community Group, for the churches and our wider communities. If nothing else, to shut me up!

Love Rachel x



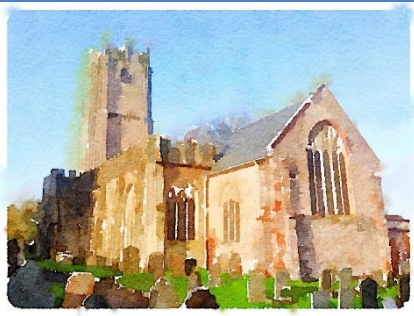
Benchmarks of success



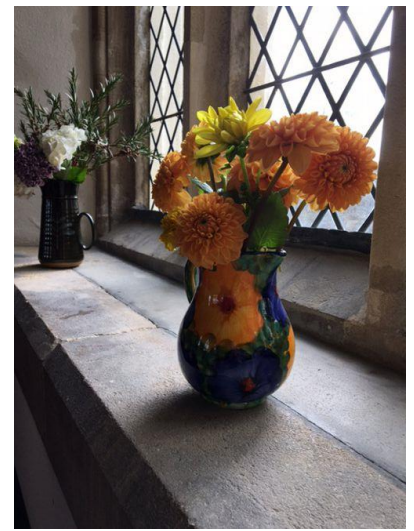
At the age of 4:	Not wetting your pants
At the age of 12:	Having friends
At the age of 35:	Having some money
At the age of 50:	Still having some money
At the age of 70:	Still having a driving licence
At the age of 75:	Still having friends
At the age of 80:	Still not wetting your pants

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



With Autumn upon us we celebrated our Harvest Festival as a joint Harvest



Communion with our friends from the Methodist Church on Sunday October 3rd. Members of the church decorated it with flowers and foliage from their gardens in an assortment of pretty teapots, jugs and pots. Donations of tins and non-perishable goods were collected for the HITS food bank.

In the afternoon in Holy Trinity Church, Torbryan there was a reflective service of evening prayer based on the life and teaching of St. Francis. We enjoyed a bible reading, a poem, and reflections with Rev. Andrew with the music and hymns played by Madeleine Fredrick.

The Celtic Morning Prayer was led by Jane Outhwaite on 10th October and it was the start of Prisons Week when we prayed for prisoners and for all involved in the prison service. At the Communion service the following week a theme reflected on Anti-Slavery Day - 18th October – modern slavery is a worldwide form of exploitation which is so often hidden.

At the Communion service for All Saints on the morning of 31st October, Rev. Tony Meek officiated and preached reflecting not only on saints of years gone but that we are surrounded by saints and can be saints ourselves by sharing our faith. That evening the service for All Souls led by Rev. Andrew was poignant. We remembered our departed loved ones whose names were read out and candles were lit for each one.

The St. Andrew's Youth Choir performed at their concert in church on Friday 29th October at 4.30pm. The audience enjoyed an hour of beautiful singing both from them, and also Tom Morris and the professional singer Rosa Rebecka. Thanks must go to Jo Innes-Lumsden, Marilyn Ellis and Tom Morris for their organisation and training the Youth Choir so well.

Sadly, Edward 'Ted' Wonnacott, a bellringer at St. Andrew's died on 20th October. A Celebration and Thanksgiving Service was conducted by Rev. Andrew Down on Thursday 4th November. The bellringers rang before the service and the tenor bell was tolled as the funeral procession entered the church. Ted was a happy, cheerful family man and his son Paul, daughter Maria and granddaughter Kirsty all gave beautiful tributes of their special memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wendy and all the family.

The Christmas Shoebox Service took place on Friday 12th November at 5pm. Rev. Andrew and Rev. Kevin Hook from the Methodist Church together led the service during which we were shown a film of shoeboxes being received by girls, boys, men and women and the delight on their faces when unpacking them. A total of 48 boxes were brought to the church. We were treated to a song from a small section of 'Unity in Sound' choir and Rev. Andrew accompanied the hymns on his guitar.

Remembrance Sunday was a Churches Together village service which started in St. Andrew's at 10.15a.m. led by Rev. Kevin Hook and Hillarie Griggs with readings from Vanessa Bevan and Dennis Smith. The poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae was read by Katherine Petty. The various uniformed organisations processed through the churchyard and were joined by the congregation

News from Ipplepen – cont'd

who proceeded to the War Memorial to the sound of the muffled bells ringing. The bugler Steve Bourne began and ended the two minutes silence at 11a.m. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the many village organisations. The names of those people on the War Memorial were read by Michael Price. The Service ended with the large gathering of villagers singing the National Anthem and saying together the Grace.

We will celebrate St. Andrew's Patronal Festival on 30th November. Hopefully the seasons of Advent and Christmas this year will be 'lockdown free'!

Season's Greetings

Marilyn Clark



St Andrew's Youth Choir concert

On Friday October 21st, after many months of singing on Zoom and outside in the churchyard through the summer, the youth choir gathered to do a workshop with Rosa Rebecka and then to perform a concert with her and Tom Morris. They had spent many weeks learning songs from around the world and singing in several languages, including Rebecka's native Swedish and Tom's Welsh. They also included the song 'Rainbow of hope' which had previously raised over £1,000 for Rowcroft Hospice. Their final song was 'Po atarau' which Rose and Katie sung in its original Maori before the others joined in in the English version 'Now is the hour'. They were full of enthusiasm and it was a joy to see how much they enjoyed performing with Tom and Rebecka.



Rebecka sang some beautiful songs as did Tom and it made for a varied and interesting concert.

The concert was attended by a large audience who gave extremely generously towards funds for any future events and music. Those who missed the concert may be pleased to know that Rebecka has promised to return with even more songs and ideas for the choir, and I know that with her and everyone's encouragement they will continue to go from strength to strength.

Jo Innes Lumsden

Rosa Rebecka and the Ipplepen Youth Choir: A review

I turned up at St. Andrew's Church on Friday 21st October, really on a whim: Part curiosity, part wanting to support Tom and Jo's young singers. Oh my! I'm so glad I did.

I had expected a concert from Rosa with the youth choir singing a few songs in support (maybe even a warm up act!!). We did indeed have some lovely songs and beautiful singing from Rosa Rebecka, and some from Tom AND a duet. But what was so wonderful was how she had clearly worked with the youngsters to build and perform some lovely pieces. The workshop they did with her before the concert produced a polished, integrated performance with the children fully engaged and confident, even though reduced in numbers (Covid strikes again). All credit to Jo and Tom too in establishing the choral awareness on which Rosa could build – a remarkable sound despite how recently "Live" rehearsals have resumed.

The song choices were a delightful mix – including several different languages (!). And at the end the choir, with Rosa and Tom, sang their own composition "Rainbow of Hope", the video of which so enchanted and encouraged us during the lock-down, when all seemed so bleak.

A lovely, well attended, evening. Thank you! Please let me know when the next one is planned....

Rachel Belringer



This year 'Churches Together in Ipplepen' will be holding two Crib Services on Christmas Eve. Both will be at St. Andrew's Church; one starting at 3:30pm and one at 5:00pm.

We will be limiting the numbers at each service so we can allow for social distancing and follow other Covid guidance. Free tickets will be available in December. Look out for posters telling you where you can get these from.

We look forward to welcoming you to hear the Christmas Story and to sing some carols.

A view from Torbryan



I am an avid reader but had never before thought to join a book club. However, I am glad I have done so, because it turns out that the rather solitary activity of reading can be enhanced by

being able to collectively pick over the bones of a book after the experience of reading it.

It turns out that not everyone will have the same view of a book, and often a seemingly fairly innocuous novel can bring about quite heated discussions as to its general worth. And personally I find that I certainly want to tell people if I have really enjoyed a book; it is great to spread the word. But equally if I have really hated a book, I can't necessarily keep it to myself. This is especially so when said book contains many reviews by fellow writers, outlining how much they have adored reading it. The whole thing makes me think of a sort of club where fellow writers signal their willingness to pat each other on the back for their rather mediocre offerings in the certainty of increasing sales. This is especially the case since, like most people, I will generally buy a book on the basis of what reviewers have said about it on the cover.

In the case of the first book we talked about (which I shan't name), the amazing thing was the polarised opinions that members had of it. A few loved it; most of us had hated it. This was in stark contrast to the gushing reviews on the front cover. Several papers had even named the novel as their book of the year. It really made me wonder: what did they see in it that we didn't? Or were the reviewers just so expectant of reading an entertaining and well-written book from a famous writer that they just assumed this one would be as well? If I hadn't been reading it for book club, I wouldn't have made it past the first 50 pages.

But maybe that actually encapsulates another positive thing about book clubs: it forces you to read genres and authors that you wouldn't normally bother with, often encountering some lovely surprises, as with the present month's offering. And yes, this time, I will name it: **Summerwater by Sarah Moss.**

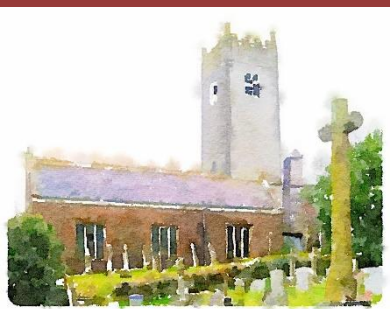
Georgie Brendon



Dramatic skies over Ipplepen – photograph by Antony Mitchell

News from Woodland

St. John the
Baptist



What a long and sunny autumn we have had. Certainly it has been very wet at times and most of our village farmers were, en masse, conspicuously absent from our village Harvest Festival service. With very heavy rains forecast for the following few days they were, at that

particular time, out in their tractors – literally ploughing the fields and scattering the good seed on the land – in an attempt to get the necessary field work done before the springs broke and the fields became too wet for cultivation. Their hard work has paid off, though, as the patchwork of bare, harvested fields across our parish are now once again green with freshly sprouted plants. Our church was, as usual, thoughtfully and bountifully decorated for Harvest Festival with produce from our village fields, gardens and orchards. Whilst the fruits and vegetables donated were taken to Brambledown after the service to be enjoyed by its residents, the flowers, very fittingly, remained in place for the memorial service to honour John Hutcheson which took place a few days later. John was a quiet man but very much a part of our village life and I remember him telling me stories of his family and time growing up here. As he died during lockdown 1 we were unable, at the time, to come together as a village and give him the honour and respect that were due at his passing.

As the seasonal slide into autumn has been so gradual this year, with trees changing colour and losing their leaves slowly, bit by bit, roses still in bloom in gardens and tomatoes still ripening fit for picking in my greenhouse, it seems inconceivable that we are now in the latter half of November and Christmas is just around the corner. Our candle lit Advent Carol Service, always held on the first Sunday in Advent, will take place on Sunday 28th November at 6pm. This is a lovely service with the flickering candlelight creating an intimate feel. Christmas festivities continue with our Christmas Carol Service, which is likely to be on Sunday 19th December. Looking to the New Year, our library and coffee mornings are currently scheduled to recommence but, as with so many things, nothing concrete has yet been decided.

We do certainly have lots to look forward to over the next few weeks but right now the sun is shining, it promises to be another warm and golden day and I am going to go outside and enjoy it while it lasts.

Helen Pearse

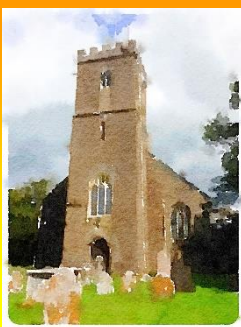
Smile



- The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
- Why do doctors, when they ask you to strip off, leave the room or close the curtains while you disrobe? They're going to see you naked anyway.

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



Remembrance Service

Following on from the success of our Harvest service, we were keen to put on another family orientated service for our village. Our normally well attended Remembrance Service felt like a good opportunity.

With some fantastic creative thinking we came up with the idea of making paper cut-out poppies and using them to decorate our wooden cross (which had been made earlier in the year for Easter) for the children's activity.

We again made a big effort to advertise the service with posters and placards around the village. We also used our Facebook page to inform about the service and the activities we were proposing for the children. All this preparation felt like a real team effort from our church members.

Fantastically, the work paid off. We had a really well attended service with young and old present. We received lots of good feedback and it was a joy to offer this to the village and it to be received so well.

We plan to continue a monthly, family orientated and "themed service" at the church using a similar structure. Our next being a Christingle service on 12th December.



Paul Russell, Broadhempston PCC Team (01803 762928)

Christmas Celebrations

As last year, our displays will be focused on the joy and hope of the Nativity story. The beautiful figures which proved so popular last year will be placed around the church illustrating the journey to the Nativity culminating, of course, in Christmas Day.

The church will be open daily from 9am to 4pm from early December through to Christmas and all are welcome to visit.

A number of events will be held in and around the church celebrating the Christmas Festival:

On **Saturday, 4th December at 7.30pm** there will be a **Broadband Concert** in the church at which we are invited "to rock the night away to some great music, bar and dancing!" Proceeds are to be donated to the fund to better equip the church for wider community use and to Jamming Station, the Totnes based organisation providing amazing opportunities to young people in music.



News from Broadhempston - continued

On **Monday and Tuesday, 6th and 7th December** the School will be performing their own **Nativity Plays** in the church.

On **Sunday, 12th December at 11.00am** there will be a **Christingle Service** with families invited to create their own "Christingles" using the traditional oranges, dried fruits, candles and ribbons provided at the church.

On **Wednesday, 15th December** at 6.00pm the village **Carol Service** will be held with the School. All are invited to attend.

On **Thursday, 16th December at 7.30pm** 'BroadHarmony' will be hosting a **Christmas Concert**, - see details below.

On **Tuesday, 21st December at 7.00pm** there will be **Carols in the Square** heralded by the ringing of the church bells with community singing of traditional carols accompanied by Totnes Brass band and sustained by mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a collection for charity and the church restoration fund.

On **Christmas Day at 11.00am** there will be a **Family Service** with the whole village invited to join.

Covid Restrictions

For all the above events, it is inevitable that some Covid restrictions will apply depending on the circumstances at the time. Please check for details on the church Facebook page and on the adverts and posters for the individual events.

Broadhempston PCC Team

BROADHARMONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Please join our local choir BroadHarmony this 16th of December at 19.30 at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Broadhempston when we will be performing a number of seasonal songs for our Christmas concert. We will also have organ accompaniment, and will invite the audience to join in with some carols, to be followed by mince pies and wine brought by the choir. Entry is free although there will be a donation bowl with proceeds to go to charity and the church restoration fund. We are limiting numbers to 70 to allow for social distancing; please contact Alex via afp01@hotmail.co.uk to book a place. We would request people respect social distancing, sign in on entry via the QR code, and to consider lateral flow testing prior to attendance.

Alex Paton, BroadHarmony Choir (01803 812021)

News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



With the lifting of most of the Covid 19 restrictions over the last couple of months, it is a great pleasure to see some of our regular, and much anticipated

church activities back on the agenda.

Our Harvest celebrations were nearly back to normal with the church flowers and harvest decorations looking lovely, and we were supporting local charity H.I.T.S once again this year.

Denbury folk were invited to donate food items and also useful, practical items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries which would help to stock the food bank shop operated by HITS in Kingsteignton. Last year we were delighted with the response but this year was even better with the church windowsills filled to overflowing with donations. A wonderful effort by the villagers of Denbury once again. For many people this winter will be very difficult with many incomes at full stretch and with considerable numbers out of work and the charities resources are likely to be very much in demand.

On the Saturday prior to Harvest we held a Soup and Sweet lunch in the church cottage, another regular fixture and one which is always well supported. Attendees enjoyed an excellent and very tasty variety of soups and an array of delicious sweets plus a very pleasant social time. Donations for this event were also collected for HITS and the lunch raised the excellent figure of £252 which was sent off to the charity to help with their work.

This is a time in the church calendar when remembrance comes to the fore. Our All Souls Day communion was held on Thursday 4th November when the names of those dear to us but whom we no longer see were read out.

On Sunday 14th November, Denbury folk joined the rest of the country in remembering those who gave their lives fighting for our freedom in the two world wars and the many conflicts since. The Last Post was played movingly on the trombone followed by two minutes silence. At the end of the formal service the congregation were led outside to the memorial at the village centre at which the names of those Denbury men who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars were read out and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council and the church. The church congregation was joined by a good number of villagers at the memorial for this short service.

An enthusiastic group of volunteers have been hard at work over the last 2-3 weeks preparing and painting the bell frame ready for the return of our refurbished and augmented peal of bells. This has involved degreasing the frame and then scraping off the metal with wire brushes to provide a smooth, clean base for a coat of specialist primer and a couple of top coats. This has been hard work but the frame is looking good and is in good shape to last many years without needing any further attention.

The refurbishment of the bells is all but complete but re-installation has been delayed as the bell contractors have had problems with a specialist boring tool needed to complete the new headstocks. The contractors are hopeful that they will have this piece of kit back in order very shortly. We are not sure that the bells will be back in a state to be rung prior to Christmas as there will still be some tidying work required once the bells have been lifted into place i.e. ceilings to be replaced but we are very confident that the end of a project, which was launched way back in 2014, is now well and truly in sight.

We now turn our attention to Christmas and the programme of services and events which we all look forward to with enhanced anticipation this year.

Mike Bray

Recipe – Grandma's Christmas Pudding

Ingredients

- 24 oz currants
- 16 oz raisins
- 16 oz sultanas
- 16 oz suet
- 7 oz self-raising flour
- 1 grated carrot
- 1 grated cooking apple
- 2 eggs
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 16oz dark brown sugar
- 2oz mixed peel
- 4oz fresh breadcrumbs
- Brandy - about 3 oz



Method

- Place all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl, stir well and make a wish!
- This mixture fills two 1½ pint sized pudding basins.
- Steam basin for about 4 hours, then leave to cool and store in cool place.
- On Christmas Day, steam for a further two hours.
- Serve with brandy butter, brandy sauce and cream.

Happy Christmas!

My experience at COP26 - Jazz Austin

Whilst chatting to Michael Price in the village, shortly after returning from the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, we decided to share my experience of attending the summit in Glasgow.

I went to Glasgow to help deliver an event through my professional role working for the RSPB in water policy. On Friday 5th November, I spent a long day travelling to Glasgow by train from Newton Abbot, full of anticipation. Despite being very well prepared, after working remotely for eighteen months, the reality of delivering a face-to-face event on an international stage was quite daunting.



I spent the Saturday visiting the Green Zone in the Glasgow Science Centre, which is where the public were able to engage with the conference through a programme of events, exhibits and workshops, most of which were livestreamed online. In advance of delivering our event in the Green Zone the following day, it was helpful to get a feel for the space and watch a few events to understand what to expect. The favourite event I saw was hosted by Steve Backshall and called 'The Future of Wildlife Filmmaking – Beyond the Frame', which explores how wildlife films can help the challenges facing the natural world and is available to watch on YouTube.

The event I was worked on was called 'Coast to coast: nature-based solutions for climate, biodiversity and people – lessons learned and stories from the ground', and co-hosted by the RSPB, the largest nature conservation organisation in Europe, and the Environment Agency. Intertidal habitats, including saltmarsh and mangroves, are vital to the survival of a huge variety of species, local livelihoods and carbon storage. They can also reduce the impact of erosion and storm surges on coastal communities.

The event premiered a 10-minute film showcasing the importance of intertidal habitats at the global and local scale and had an expert panel discussion with project representatives from the UK, Cayman Islands, China and South Korea. Roughly 150 people watched the event in person, and over 3,500 people have now watched the event online. I was very pleased that the event was well received.



To watch the event online or find out more about the habitat restoration projects showcased at the event, you can scan the QR code, or search 'Coast to Coast: Nature-Based Solutions for Climate, Biodiversity & People' on YouTube.

Church services when on holiday

I wrote some years ago about an Easter Day church service on top of a snow-covered mountain in France with an altar made of snow and ice and a multi-national congregation.

Now for something completely different:

We were lucky enough to go with our two daughters and families to St. Anthony-in-Meneage (pronounced man-aigue), Cornwall, for a week in October. This small hamlet is beautifully situated on the bank of Gillan Creek, near the mouth of the Helford River, under the headland known as Dennis Head, but more correctly called Dinas or fortress. Tradition has it that the church was built by a band of shipwrecked Normans who were caught in a storm while crossing from France to England, and driven ashore in Gillan Creek. They had vowed to St. Anthony that if they were saved from death they would build a church in his honour where they came ashore. Some credibility is given to this tradition by the fact that the tower is built of a fine-grained granite found in Normandy but not in Cornwall.



On the Sunday evening Peter and I went to Evensong (BCP) in the parish church, a stone's throw from the farmhouse where we stayed. Not as cold as on the top of a mountain but no heating and lighting by 160 candles in 10 candelabras (I think). It was beautiful and must be magical at Christmas but slightly hard on the eyes. The weekly services are in the afternoon during the winter.

Notices were given at the beginning of the service – most of which were corrected by the wardens from the back of the church.

The readings were taken from the King James' Bible read very well by a lady who had brought her cat with her in a box as it had recently had a stroke and she obviously didn't want to leave it alone at home. It was invited to howl at the full moon on its way home!

The organ is however powered by electricity and we were lucky to have an organist that night so sang the service including the Canticles, psalm and responses. We were approximately sixteen in the congregation which meant most pews were occupied and the singing was so lusty by the men that we could be heard in the farmhouse next door (I am reliably informed by the family). The church is one of four in a group serving the scattered communities of St. Martin, Newtown, Mawgan, Manaccan, Helford and of course St. Anthony.

We were made very welcome and thoroughly enjoyed the service, so if you are ever in that area do visit that tranquil tidal creek.

Vanessa Bevan

Remembering the Penlee Lifeboat tragedy 40 years on

“greater love hath no man than he gives his life....”

Forty years ago as darkness fell on 19th December 1981, the Danish-built coaster “Union Star” was in serious trouble on its maiden voyage. Both its engines failed about 6 miles south of Land’s End. The weather was appalling with winds gusting from the South West at 100 miles per hour. That’s Force 12, “Hurricane Force” on the Beaufort Scale.

Mountainous waves up to 60 feet high rolled over and through the stricken vessel. Under instructions from the owners, the captain initially refused help from a salvage tug, hoping to re-start his engines, but to no avail. The ship drifted on, helpless and awash, towards Mounts Bay and the savage rocks around Lamorna Cove.

With the lives of his 5 crew, his wife and his daughter now in mortal peril, the Skipper put out a “Mayday” call. Falmouth Coastguard responded by scrambling a Royal Navy Sea King rescue helicopter from R.N.A.S. Culdrose. At the same time the coxswain of the Penlee Lifeboat, based in Mousehole, was asked to stand by. When the Sea King arrived above the drifting casualty, the



NIGEL BROCKMAN



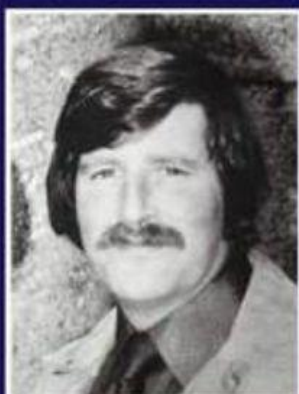
WILLIAM TREVELYAN RICHARDS



JAMES STEPHEN MADRON



CHARLES THOMAS GREENHAUGH



JOHN ROBERT BLEWITT



KEVIN SMITH



BARRY ROBERTSON TORRIE



GARY LEE WALLIS

The eight lifeboatmen who gave their lives

Penlee Lifeboat tragedy - continued

violent winds made it impossible for the aircraft to hover long enough to winch anyone from the ship. So the Coastguard tasked the Penlee Lifeboat to assist.

Many of Mousehole's men rushed down to the Lifeboat Station. The coxswain, realising the sea conditions exceeded anything he had ever experienced, refused to take more than one man from each village family. The 8 volunteers chosen stepped aboard their Lifeboat - "The Solomon Browne" - a sturdy "Watson Class" wooden Lifeboat built in 1960. It launched at 12 minutes past 8 and headed out into the darkness of the maelstrom.

They were soon alongside the dying "Union Star" where 4 of its crew successfully made the heart-stopping leap to the apparent safety of the Lifeboat. But seconds later the 935 ton casualty rolled over on top of 23 ton Lifeboat. Both vessels were lost. 16 people in all were drowned. There were no survivors.



That terrible tragedy had two poignant sequels. Within a few days the Royal National Lifeboat Institution had provided a replacement Lifeboat. The men of Mousehole stepped forward without hesitation to man it. Some were sons or brothers of those who had died. And secondly - a day or two before the disaster, Lifeboat Crewman and Electrician, Charlie Greenhaugh, had turned on Mousehole's Christmas lights. For two days after he and his crew mates were drowned, the lights were left off as a mark of respect. But on the 3rd day, Charlie's widow, Mary, asked for them to be switched back on. And to this day, if you go to Mousehole in the weeks running up to Christmas, you'll find the village lit up. But at 8 o'clock on the evening of every 19th December the lights go off for an hour in remembrance of those taken by the sea that terrible night in 1981.

Chris Prince

Let's leave the final words to the pilot of the Sea King helicopter, which remained airborne above the disaster scene throughout. He said this later:

"The greatest act of courage I have ever seen, or am ever likely to see, was the ultimate courage and dedication shown by the Penlee Lifeboat crew when they manoeuvred alongside the casualty in over 60 foot breakers and rescued 4 people, even after the Lifeboat had been lifted out of the water and bashed down onto the casualty's cargo-hatch covers. They were truly the bravest 8 men I've ever seen."

'In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.' (Luke 2:2-7)



I heard someone say: we're not human beings having a spiritual experience, we're spiritual beings having a human experience. I thought a lot about that while reflecting on this passage.

It was such a human experience. Mary had to travel 80 difficult miles because of a census called by Caesar so he could tax his subjects. She spent many nights on the road and when she did arrive in Bethlehem, there was no reservation waiting for her.

Mary was travelling with a man who was not the father of her baby and perhaps she was hoping to get away from all the gossip her pregnancy most likely caused. She wouldn't have had any privacy when giving birth and once he was born, seemingly the best place to put her baby was the animal feeding trough.

And yet, it was such a spiritual experience. Mary travelled from Nazareth to fulfil an Old Testament prophecy which foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. She travelled while pregnant following a visit from the Angel Gabriel in what the Bible calls an 'overshadowing' of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph hadn't divorced her, but only after a dream in which an angel had told him that the child was very special and not to worry about the fact that he wasn't the father. And when Jesus was born, Mary used strips of linen to wrap the baby and put him in the manger so that the shepherds would know they had found the King of Kings (v12).

Nothing was random.

- God caused Caesar to call a census so that a prophecy could be fulfilled.
- A dream with an angel caused a man thinking of divorce to marry his betrothed.
- A baby's wrappings and crib were a sign for the shepherds.

I think of the song 'Mary, did you know?' in which there's a line that says, '*the child which you delivered will soon deliver you*'. Mary delivered naturally; Jesus delivers us spiritually.

We too are both spiritual and human. We're living our lives with experience of both, just as Mary and Joseph did. God uses things of the world to work out His purposes. Sometimes we see it, sometimes we don't. Sometimes we just treasure these things in our hearts as Mary did.

Nazareth News – ‘Latest’

We are grateful to Edward Goodman who came across this recent article - Read the [latest....](#)

[The village of Nazareth thought it was pretty forward-looking when it decided to publish a periodic news-sheet. You are privileged to look over the shoulder of the Editor ...]



You may remember that towards the end of November, messengers had been despatched around the whole of Judea to tell the people that their new Governor – Quirinius – had decided to join the rest of the Empire by arranging a census in his new territory. He was used to going through this job every five years but this one – the first in Judea – would tell him how many people there were in ‘his’ new province and what they did to make a living.

There are two problems here for the local populace, though; first that they are expected to register in the town of their ancestors and second that it will be in December – the cold, wet, season in Judea. So it will not be good for travelling.

The Editor of the local news-sheet in Nazareth saw a wonderful opportunity here to project the town to the whole country, and the country to the town by calling for volunteers to send back reports on their journeys.

One of these volunteers was the local carpenter, Joseph, who will have to go with his soon-to-be-wife, Miriam to Bethlehem, because they were both descendants of David. The journey will take them almost to the other end of the country, using poor, muddy roads. The heavily pregnant Miriam would have to ride on the donkey which Joseph usually used as the beast of burden in his carpentry business. Here is his report:

Bethlehem – After several days on the road, we have now arrived in Bethlehem, having passed Jerusalem on the way. The roads have been very busy, with people travelling hither and thither in connection with the census. In a way, that was an advantage because, with so many people about, the highway robbers were unable to work.

The census has brought crowds of people to Bethlehem so that the inns were all full. Eventually, we found an inn-keeper whose wife took pity on us and persuaded him to allow us to settle in the cave where he kept his animals. They were wonderfully warm and we lay down, thankfully in their straw to sleep.

Miriam’s baby arrives – we had been awakened about midnight by Miriam’s baby deciding that it was time to make an appearance. In spite of it being her first child, the delivery was relatively smooth. The little boy was laid in a manger, from which the cattle usually ate. It made a cosy little cot.

We hoped to get back to sleep then, but were disturbed by some bright lights and some noise up on the hill outside the village. But even when those disturbances stopped, there was noise in the street outside. Some shepherds had come down from the hill, singing excitedly. It seemed that they were looking for us – or more exactly, for our new baby. They claimed (all speaking at once) that the bright lights and noise we had heard on the hill was a choir of

Nazareth News - continued

angels! They had been telling the shepherds about our baby, who just had to come and see for themselves.

Baby's first day – The rest of the village had been disturbed like us in the night and there was a constant flow of people coming to see the baby that all the fuss was about. At the same time, the inn-keeper kindly took away the birth debris to tidy the place up a bit. Well, we thought he was just being kind; he had his eye on the placenta, which we discovered that he wanted to bury it in a flower-bed to encourage the flowers!

Eventually, as the census crowds registered and began to drift off towards their homes, there was room for us to move into a spare space in the inn, which was very welcome. In that case, and because Miriam was tired from her journey, her restless night and the birth, we decided to stay for a few days more, before setting off towards Nazareth ourselves.

More visitors – After a week or so, we were nearly ready to go when another group of travellers arrived to see our baby. I never quite worked out who they were, except that they were rich and had come much further than we had. So rich were they that they brought expensive presents for little Jesus. One brought some gold; another brought some incense and another some myrrh. To a poor village carpenter, the gold would be most useful. The incense we would be able to give to the Temple, when the time came to present our baby to the priest. But the myrrh was a mystery to us. It is used to preserve dead bodies – and we didn't have one of those.

In chatting to them, we learned that our rich travellers had called at King Herod's palace on their way to us and that the king had expressed a wish to see our baby himself.

While they were preparing to go home, I had 40 winks and dreamed that Herod was secretly jealous of the baby and wanted to kill him. We all sat around the fire to discuss this and changed our plans.

Last day in Bethlehem – Early this morning, our rich friends set off homewards, carefully avoiding the direct road to Jerusalem, so as to avoid the King. Then we packed up, loaded Miriam and our baby onto the donkey and set off at sunset in the opposite direction. We felt that as long as we were in Judea, Herod's soldiers might find us and kill baby Jesus, so (as we were not too far from the border) we went into Egypt. I dread to think what will happen when Herod's soldiers come searching for Jesus and don't find him. I expect they will take their failure out on the local people, which will be very sad.

News from Egypt – I am not going to say where in Egypt we have settled in case it gets back to Herod, but the people here have been very kind. The few tools that I brought from home have enabled me to make some sort of living, mending fences, furniture and the like. Miriam is fine and the baby is growing very well.

Some months later – news reached us yesterday that King Herod had died. It seems very harsh to say that it was wonderful news for us, but it meant that he was no longer looking to kill Jesus. Which meant that we could go home! Oh, how I am looking forward to being in my workshop again. It will be a long, hard journey, but well worth it.

Joseph

(Furniture made and repaired; gates, doors and fences fixed – free quotations)

Ipplepen's Churchyard Cross

I have been asked why there is a large granite cross outside the South porch of St. Andrew's church, and so here is the best explanation available.

Standing crosses in churchyards, like Ipplepen, were usually erected during the medieval period (mid 10th to mid 16th centuries AD). They served a variety of functions where they were stations for outdoor processions, particularly in the observance of Palm Sunday, as well as places for preaching, public proclamation and penance. Often they pre-date the church, as is probably the case in Ipplepen, and they could be used by itinerant preachers as a suitable place to proclaim the Gospel.

Throughout England there were about 12,000 standing crosses, but their survival since the Reformation has been variable, being much affected by local conditions, attitudes and religious sentiment. In particular, many cross-heads were destroyed during the 16th and 17th centuries, and we can assume this is what happened to Ipplepen's cross. Now less than 2,000 medieval standing crosses, with or without cross-heads, exist so ours is quite special.

The most common form is, like ours, the stepped cross, in which the shaft is set in a socket stone and raised upon a flight of steps. This would allow the preacher to stand above the crowd and be more visible and audible.

Ipplepen's cross is unusual in that a new head and part of the shaft was made (you can see the different colour of the granite), and the whole structure was restored, as a war memorial. This was for the Boer War - the South African War 1899 - 1902.

Inside St. Andrew's, on the south wall, is a brass tablet commemorating the restoration of the cross with details of the two Ipplepen men who "fell fighting for the Empire" in the Boer War. They are Major Charles Edward Taunton, who was killed at Ladysmith on Nov 3rd 1899 and Private John Stephens Jordan who was killed at Natal on Feb 17th 1900. The tablet gives much more detail.

In other parts of the church there are memorials to local men who have died in various wars apart from the two Great Wars of the 20th Century. On 11th November each year we all repeat "We will remember them". Sadly this doesn't include those from Ipplepen who died in earlier wars, even though their names are commemorated in the church. Can we, or should we, remedy this?



Stephen Bryant

Assisted Dying – a personal view

Shona Wilson has written in response to the article in the October edition of the Beacon 'The Meacher Bill- Assisted Dying' (p.30- 31).

“At the outset, may I say that this is my personal point of view as a Christian based on my understanding of Holy Scripture, I cannot speak for other people.

Following the article, I received a letter from Christian Action Research and Education (CARE) a Christian organisation I have supported for many years. The letter expressed their concern about the Bill and asked me to write to a peer in the House of Lords. I wrote to Baroness Rawlings, following CARE’s guidelines, to express my dismay at this Bill, and to implore her not to support it.

There is no doubt in my mind that this Bill is seriously flawed and dangerous. Society is rapidly becoming secularised and as a Christian, I am compelled to stand up with the truth as laid down in the Word of God, the Bible.

The Beacon article commented that Rabbi Jonathan Romain said “There is no sanctity in suffering, nothing holy about agony”. Perhaps he should turn over the last page of the Old Testament and into the New Testament. There he would discover that the Messiah, prophesied throughout the Old Testament, died in Holy Agony on a cross for all mankind, to save us from our sins.

Speaking of Holy Agony, in the Chapel of Winchester Prison, there is a dramatically striking figure crying out in extreme agony on a cross. This is no sanitised crucifix, this is a real deal. The impact has never left me after over 40 years.

No pain I have ever experienced, or may yet endure, can compare with the suffering of Jesus on that Cross. I can only look to Him for grace to cope.

We were all made in the image of God, and contrary to popular belief, our bodies are not our own. They belong to Almighty God who created each of us in love (1 Corinthians 6. v19-20).

We know that when God had completed his work of creation, He saw that it was very good. (Genesis1 v31). However sin came into the world, goodness was corrupted, and we have lived with the consequences ever since. (Gen 3.)

The second reading of Baroness Meacher’s Bill was on Friday 22nd October. I watched three hours of the debate from a very crowded House of Lords, and listened to some very articulate and convincing arguments against the Bill. More information is available from CARE who can be contacted at mail@care.org.uk.

It is interesting to note that Baroness Tanni Gray-Thompson did not oppose the Bill from a Christian point of view- she is a self-confessed atheist; but she does have a serious disability, and is a passionate campaigner against assisted suicide.

It is certainly not the end of this debate and Christians need to be prayerfully vigilant. I have some copies of a very good CARE publication- “Ten ways to pray for end of life issues” which I will happily give away.

Assisted Dying – continued

In over 43 years of nursing sick and dying patients both at home and in hospital, I have never seen anyone die in uncontrolled pain or respiratory difficulties. This includes my own dear mother who died of lung cancer, and a few precious young friends.

In this country we are blessed with an excellent Hospice Movement which offers outstanding palliative care in every area of life.

Euthanasia is dangerous, unnecessary and morally wrong. It puts pressure on elderly and vulnerable people to end their lives rather than be a 'burden'. It is open to exploitation and abuse.

The number of people wanting assisted dying is actually very small, and does not justify weakening the law.

Historically, and today, British parliaments have voted against attempts to legalise assisted dying.

Yours, in Christ"

Shona A Wilson

I am grateful to Shona for putting succinctly, forcibly and prayerfully the view point of those who resist any change in the present law. I would be happy to publish in the Beacon the views of any who are supportive of a change in the present law. - Editor.



Anger is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind.

You can't change the past but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.



If anyone speaks badly of you, live so that none will believe it.

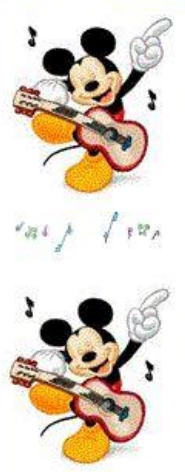
Do what you can, for who you can with what you have, and where you are.

Wishing your day be filled with love and peace!



God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him.

A hug is a great gift ... one size fits all. It can be given for any occasion and it's easy to exchange.



Laughter is God's sunshine.

Take time to laugh for it is the music of the soul.

An Ipplepen tombstone – Henry Full

In a wet week in October of this year I finally made it back to South Devon to visit some of the places my ancestors lived. (Ironically, I had lived in Buckfastleigh and Totnes in the early 1980s, but at the time had no idea that I was surrounded by places that had been important to my family). On my list was Ipplepen Church, as I had come across a 1954 guide¹ to the church in a box of old guide books stored in a cupboard in our tiny museum in Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire. These had been collected by one of the founders of the museum on his travels and had been in storage since his death.

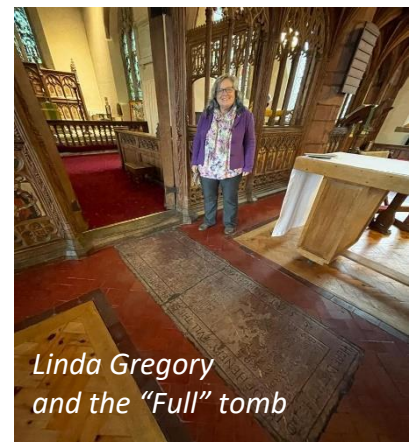
Inside the guide book I found this description:

“There are two slabs let into the floor of the nave of the family of Full of Ambrook. There is the epitaph of Henery Full, the elder, of Ambrooke (who was buried the 10th day of February 1653):

Death too unkind has lodg'd the body here
Of or deare friend who had a special care
Whilst that he liv'd to feed the hungry poor
Who deayly did frequent his open doore,
And at his death he joyfully resign'd
His will to God wh'ch shews a gracious mind
Then sure his Soule is soar'd aloft to bee
With Christ that will reward his Charity
And Crown his actions which were all full just
And shall smell sweet and blossom in the dust”

I already had Henry Full on my tree, so this was an exciting find. Henry Full is my 1st cousin 13x removed and the grandson of my 13x great grandfather, John Full of Stoke Gabriel. I was determined to visit the Church to see the tomb and felt very welcomed by the group of people I met (by chance) inside. I was excited that the tombstones of Henry and his daughter are so prominent within the Church and felt privileged to be in a building which still contained items that they would have seen.

My research has been fascinating and I have learned much about the people in my family and the society in which they lived. The Full family were quite wealthy and certainly influential from the 15th to 17th centuries in this area of the South Hams. The earliest Fulls in England were found in Stoke Gabriel and Paignton: the earliest documented individual being a John Full probably born c1485 in Stoke Gabriel whose name was found in the Devon Lay Subsidy Rolls. The Fulls owned considerable land holdings and, during the 1600s, many members of this extended family moved from Stoke Gabriel to towns and villages to the north and west, such as Berry Pomeroy, Totnes, Ipplepen, Staverton, Woodland and Dittisham among others. What led to this migration is unclear, but it is known that the salmon fisheries along the River Dart were in decline about this time. By the year 1750, there were no Full families left in Stoke Gabriel.



*Linda Gregory
and the “Full” tomb*

¹ Notes on the Churches and Parishes of Ipplepen and Torbryan by the Rev. R.D. Cooke, B.A. 1897-1939 Revised and enlarged edition '1954

Henry Full - continued

The Henry Full whose tomb is in Ipplepen church was baptised in Stoke Gabriel in about 1593, the son of John Full of Aish. There is no surviving record of his marriage, and his wife is not named on his children's baptisms. They had four recorded children: Richard (1626-1671), Henry (1628-1669), Joane (1633-1671) and Margaret (?-1652). Margaret's tomb is also in the aisle of Ipplepen Church.

His burial record and will record him as a yeoman (a man holding and cultivating a small landed estate; a freeholder), not a "gentleman" per se, but he was certainly of some wealth and influence and, if his epitaph is to be believed, well respected. There was both a manor and a farm at Ambrook and, as he makes no mention of Ambrook in his will, it is possible that he owned the farm rather than the manor.

Henry's will details a number of bequests. He left 40 shillings to the poor of Ipplepen and also to the poor of Stoke Gabriel (most wills made some bequests to the poor – it was a gesture that helped to ensure the transition of the soul to Heaven and maintained "approval ratings" for the family, but this was especially generous). He left land and tenements to his two sons, but only names "Stoake Mill". He made clear provision for his daughter Joane, which gives an insight into the status of women. He left her £300 to be paid either within six months of her marriage (providing that she marry with the consent of and to the liking of her brothers) or when she reached the age of 23, whichever came first. If she did not marry, then, until the age of 23, she should have £10 per quarter and live with her brother Henry. Richard Full should pay Henry £5 per year for her maintenance.

His brothers Christopher and John Full (both of Stoke Gabriel) were his Executors.

Christopher Full was the Constable of Stoke Gabriel (the principal officer of state responsible for administration of law and order and for the organisation and training of the King's armies) and father of the Jeffery Full who would contest the will of Joane Full, Henry's daughter. Another brother, Josias who died in 1647, was the first to refer to himself as "gentleman" in his will. Josias' son Lewis Full, is listed in the 1673 book *"Britannia, or a Geographical Description of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland with Isles and Territories"* as one of Devon's nobility and gentry, so the family were certainly upwardly mobile.

There is no record of marriages for Richard, Henry and Joane, so this line of the Full family died out. Joane died in 1671 some months after her brother Richard and in 1673 there was a dispute over her estate involving John Palke (the plaintiff), Gregory Edwards and Jeffery Full. I have not seen the original documents in the National Archives, but I am fascinated by the nature of the dispute. What I do know is that the Palke family had preceded the Fulls at Ambrook (I am also descended from Peter Palke and Michael Palke my 11x and 10x great grandfathers who lived at Ambrook until 1631). The Palkes however, from the details in their wills, seem to have been tenant farmers and a very different social standing from the Fulls.

Linda Gregory

Smile



- In a Tokyo hotel:
Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not a person to do such thing is please not to read notis.
- At the reception desk of an hotel in Athens:
Visitors are expected to complain at reception between 9 and 11am daily.

Father Christmas

Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Père Noël, Ded Moroz, Papa Noel, Babbo Natale, Papai Noel, Święty Mikołaj, Weihnachtsmann, Dziadek Mróz, Gwiazdor, Father Christmas . . . or do they mean Saint Nicholas?

It's the time of year for that very mysterious man in red to appear with his splendid white beard and sack full of gifts for children. Around the world he is known by many different names, some of which are listed above.



When translated into English we find the mysterious man in red has different names such as: Daddy Christmas, The Starman, Father Christmas, Christmas Man, Grandfather Frost, Santa Claus and perhaps most strangely of all, Christ Child, which is what Kris Kringle means.

Whatever this mysterious man is called, his original name can always be traced back to a real person – St. Nicholas. For example, Santa Claus, a popular name in the US for our mysterious man in red, is derived from when German and Dutch immigrants to America took the story of St. Nicholas with them and used the names of Sinter Klass and Sankt Nicklas. These subsequently evolved into Santa Claus which, like many American words, is now commonly used throughout the world.

St. Nicholas was born about 260AD to wealthy parents living in Patara — today it is part of Turkey. He grew up as a Christian and when he inherited the family fortune, he seems to have followed the advice of Jesus who, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, told a rich son to give away his wealth and follow him. Nicholas gave all he owned to the poor and devoted his life to the church.

This was clearly not an easy life to choose but he became a Bishop in Myra where it is said that he was persecuted for his faith and imprisoned by the Roman emperor, Diocletian. Despite this, or maybe because of it, he continued to be held in high esteem in the church. At the age of about 65 years Bishop Nicholas became a member of the First Council of Nicaea, a body which was responsible for writing the Creed that Christians around the world use today.

Bishop Nicholas died, aged about 83 years, in 343AD, he was venerated in all churches that recognise saints and so many legends about him emerged around the world. Some of the legends led to him being given the different names he has today.

It was in Victorian times that St. Nicholas became the basis for the Father Christmas that we all know and love in the UK.

In the Western world, the feast day for St. Nicholas is usually 6 December, with the day before being called the Eve of St. Nicholas. In some traditions St. Nicholas Eve is when children leave a shoe or a boot in front of the fireplace or by the front door, hoping to find it filled with gifts from St. Nicholas in the morning.

This year, St. Nicholas Eve falls on Sunday 5th December.

See the 'Wordsearch' on the back cover

Michael Price

The Advent Ring

Many churches have an Advent ring as part of their Christmas preparations, and some people have one at home as well. It is usually a ring of greenery with four candles round the edge and a larger one in the centre. Sometimes one of the outer candles is coloured pink.



On the **first** Sunday in Advent one candle on the ring is lit at the start of the main service, to burn for the whole service. Often it is lit by a child, and a special prayer may be said and/or a verse of a special hymn is sung.

On the **second** Sunday the first candle and another on the circle are lit, and (if using the hymn) two verses are sung.

On the **third** Sunday three candles (and three verses), and on the **fourth** Sunday the four candles on the ring are lit and four verses sung.

On **Christmas Day** all five candles are lit, the central symbolising Christ, the light of the light of the world.

If you have a pink candle it is lit on the fourth Sunday because this is the day we think of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. For each Sunday in Advent there is a specific theme and a watch word:

Advent 1	The Patriarchs	Awake
Advent 2	The Prophets	Be Glad
Advent 3	John the Baptist	Return
Advent 4	The Virgin Mary	Prepare
Christmas Day	The Christ	

So, during Advent we follow the pattern of God's redemption through the Old Testament and into the New and are challenged to prepare spiritually for the wonderful gift given to us at Christmas. Each candle is a light for our path through Advent.

Deidre Morris

Smile



- **Outside a New England convalescent home:**
For the sick and tired of the Episcopal Church.
- **In the window of a tattoo-parlour in Twickenham:**
Tattoos done while you wait.

Poems for Christmas

Christmas is a Song of Joy and Love

Christmas is a song of joy and love,
However it is sung, however rendered,
Rich source of childhood pleasures that will prove
In later life a lesson long remembered.
So may you share the joys of Christmas time,
Though still a child, by giving more and more,
Making child and adult combine
As slowly, slowly you approach that door,
Surer of what giving might be for.

After All, the Earth Must Wait for Spring

After all, the Earth must wait for spring.
No angel ever changed the pace of time.
Goodness is still tucked away below,
Like iron from in harshness of that clime,
As God is born in frozen Bethlehem.

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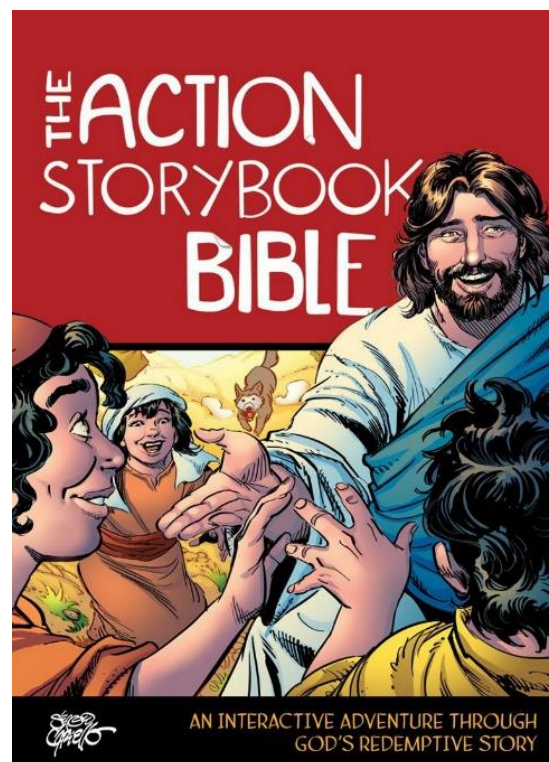
Straplines



- You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.
- Cut your own wood and it will warm you twice.
- Christmas to a child is the first terrible proof that to travel hopefully is better than to arrive. (Stephen Fry)
- Christmas isn't a date – it's a state of mind and heart.
- Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how.
- Your merry Christmas may depend on what others do for you; but your happy New Year will depend on what you do for others.

Bible Action Stories for Parents and Teachers to tell their Children

As part of my lay ministry, I spent about 15 years visiting three local primary schools to lead assemblies. When taking assemblies, I tried to share my love of Bible stories by telling the children some of my favourites. I soon discovered that it is difficult to keep up to 120 children, from rising fives to 11 year-olds, interested at 9am in the morning when they have a day's worth of energy bottled up inside them! My solution was to rewrite the stories in a way that demanded their attention. Whenever I said a certain word, they would have to join in either with an action and/or shouting or saying a response. It worked a treat, not only with 120 children but with one or two, so the stories can be used at home as well as in school and during family services in church. In June, the Church remembers St Peter and St Paul, so here is an action story to tell children about Peter in Acts 12.



First explain that every time you say God, they shout 'Alleluia', and when you say Prayer, they say 'Amen', and so on as shown below in red. It's a good idea to set boundaries for the actions such as stamping feet and tapping the floor, for example do it only twice.

God – shout 'alleluia!'

Prayer – say 'Amen'

Angel – say 'oooooo'

Herod – say 'booooo'

Smell – say 'pooh' and hold your nose

Guard – say left right, left right while stamping your feet

Door – say, 'rat-a-tat-tat' as you tap the floor with your hand

Now here's a Bible story that's true, it's about how **God** answers **prayers** for me and for you. It's about **Herod**, a bad king, his name may ring a bell, for **Herod** threw people in prison, where there was a terrible **smell**!

One day when it was late, this was to be Peter's fate.

He'd been teaching that Jesus is King, and that Jesus is great!

With chains on Peter's wrists, and **Herod's guards** by his side; some more by a big iron **door**, and then others outside. Surely, he was a prisoner for evermore?

This man, said **Herod**, in prison will stay, despite the bad **smell**, I'll put him on trial the very next day.

Peter's friends wanted to show they worried and cared, so they spent the night together, talking to **God** in **prayer**.

Now it's hard to know how but Peter slept well, even with that very bad **smell**.

But suddenly he was woken by an **Angel** who had spoken!

Bible Action Stories - continued

“Quick,” said the **Angel**, “get up out of bed, put on your shoes and cover your head. It’s time to leave your **smelly** bed!”

As Peter obeyed the chains became frayed and as he got up they fell off with a thump.

Peter thought, this can’t be true, I’m having a dream, but he put on his shoes.

He walked past the first **guard**, and then the second, but what of **Herod’s guards** by the big iron **door**?

No chance, he reckoned, it was the final straw.

Now this is also hard to believe, but as he walked to the **door**, if you please, it opened before him and no **guards** did he meet. He was now walking in the street!

The bad **smell** had gone, there were no **guards** to be seen, and when the **Angel** vanished from sight, Peter finally saw the light.

God had answered his friends’ **prayers**, it shows you what can be done if we really care.

Meanwhile, at home, his friends continued with their **prayers**, they still thought Peter was in prison, but they didn’t know where.

So to his friends Peter hurried home, it would be nice to see them and not be alone. He knocked on their **door**, and it was Rhoda who saw that Peter was there - it gave her quite a scare.

To the friends she did run and shout, it’s Peter at the **door**, he’s been let out!

No, no they said – she must be right off her head.

Again, Peter knocked and this time they saw, it really was Peter standing at the **door**.

They all started talking at the same time, but Peter said “Stop. The floor is mine. **God** sent an **Angel** to rescue me, we must give thanks to **God** before I flee.”

Now the point of my story, and it is true, is that **God** answered Peter’s friends’ **prayers** and he will do the same for you. Sometimes of course, **God** will say yes, but sometimes it will be no because he knows best. And sometimes we just have to wait, but for **God** it is never too late. So whatever you need, whatever you do, wherever you are, whoever you are, don’t forget that **God** loves you, he really does care, so always talk to him in **prayer**. THE END!

Tell the children that’s the end of the story, so no more actions, but now we are going to talk to God by praying:

God, we thank you for the wonderful true stories in the Bible that teach us so much about you. We thank you for your special gift of prayer that enables us to speak with you at any time of day or night. Help us to be like Peter’s friends and always remember to pray for other people so they may share the love that you have for all of us. This prayer we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord and friend. Amen

Dear Lord,

So far today, am I doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

Strap lines



- It is much better to hold out a hand than point a finger.
- It is much easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- It is no use walking anywhere to preach, unless we preach as we walk. (*Francis of Assisi*)
- Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.
- Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use.
- There's a lot of satisfaction in finishing things that have been started.
- Arguments are like fences – they always have two sides.
- Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it. (*Leonard Ravenhill*)
- If you don't feel it is Christmas in your heart, you will never find it under a tree

A leap into the unknown – ‘Healing Ministry’

In August Andrew was reflecting on the idea of ‘Unity in Diversity’; or was it ‘Diversity in Unity’? Either way, both are good concepts to consider in our Christian lives together. Andrew then said that grasping this concept, living into it, was a sign of ‘Spiritual Maturity’. Another good idea, although I would have said ‘Spiritual Growth’ as this would suggest an on-going journey rather than a finished product.



Either way, we are singing the same song together in harmony.

Andrew then asked if these thoughts had inspired anyone with a question or comment they would be willing to share right then and there. Being Anglicans and not Quakers, unsurprisingly no one chose to offer themselves up in this way at this time. Maybe one day we will be confident and relaxed enough to do so.

I was on the verge of sharing what jumped into my mind when I realised it would lead to too many words for that moment, and having further played with this thought I decided I would share it in this medium.

What came to my mind was a quote from the well-known American priest William Sloane Coffin to the effect that sometimes one leaps into space, and *then* grows the wings to fly. Sometimes we need to have the courage, faith and confidence to step out into the unknown, jump off our comfortable sure footing, throw away the crutches, and just do it, letting God carry us where we need to go to build up his Kingdom.

A small example from my own experience is when, 30 years ago, I was asked by the vicar to train-up and prepare a team of members of the church to participate in Healing Ministry which would be offered at every Sunday service. This was not part of my personal experience, but I studied up on it, prepared a program of sessions and the team was duly commissioned to perform this ministry every week, which continues to this day. My personal testing came when it was no longer an intellectual concept I was teaching, but an actual ministry I had to do. Lacking confidence in my ability to say the ‘right’ thing, to offer ‘proper’ prayers, I started out with a crib-sheet of official liturgical prayers in my hand. I lacked the courage, faith and confidence to step out into the unknown, jump off my comfortable sure footing, throw away my crutches, and just do it, letting God carry me where I needed to go to build his up Kingdom... until the day I leapt into space and grew wings. Letting go, I let God give me the words needed for those brief moments. I grew that day. As had everyone else at some time in the course of offering that ministry.

My greatest hope for my time in this parish is that some time down the road we can have a wider discussion in our community around Healing Ministry and how it might contribute to our growth and maturity together.

Healing - continued



But in the meantime I point out that the General Synod has said that coming out of our time of lockdown, as we push the restart button, we should not just return to things as they used to be, but re-evaluate the world as it has become and be creative in our thinking about what happens next.

I'm reminded of St. Laurence in 3rd century Rome when the Emperor decreed that all Christian clergy should be executed. As the church's treasurer, Laurence was called to present all the church's wealth to the officials. He appeared before them with a group of poor, blind, lame and suffering Christians, saying that these were the church's treasure. We today face many anxieties about our church's future, not least its finances. But Laurence reminds us that the church's real treasure is the people we serve. What will happen to the Church locally or worldwide is in God's hands. It's His Church, and He will take care of it. Our calling is to know where our treasure is, so that our hearts will be there as well.

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!" The man replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." - George VI in his Christmas broadcast 1939.

Stephen Sheldon

Smile



- The vicar's son was something of an egg-head. A visitor to the vicarage saw him involved in the kitchen and asked how he was and what he was doing. He replied, "I am working on aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment." The visitor was impressed until the father explained that he was washing dishes with hot water under his mother's supervision."
- An elderly man and his wife were avid Rugby fans and they managed to get two of the best tickets for the Rugby World Cup. The man took his seat and a young man next to him noticed that the seat on the other side of the old man was empty. Knowing that the tickets sold like hot cakes, the young man asked if someone else would be joining him. "Afraid not," said the old man. "The ticket was for my wife and we never missed these games, but sadly she died recently." The young man sympathised, and asked why he hadn't passed the ticket on to someone else in the family. "None of them could come," said the old man, "they're all at the funeral."

We are all Saints

On the Feast of All Saints this year we had the opportunity to gather for the first time since before the pandemic as a whole mission community and in this context we remembered that as the people and community of the Beacon Parishes (and along with all the saints down the ages) we are seeking to be a community that grows in and is characterised by humility, love and joy.

...Humility...We follow Jesus who washed his disciples feet

We confess we have nothing we have not received
Faults seen in others are the subject of prayer and not criticism
We are ready to take the lowest place when asked BUT
When asked to undertake things we feel unworthy or incapable we do not shrink back

...Love...Love is the distinguishing feature of all disciples; Jesus said this is how they will know you are my disciples.

We seek to love all those we are bound to by ties of family and friendship
We are on guard against anything that injures love
We seek reconciliation with those whom we are estranged
We seek the same love for those we have little natural affinity and those we may consider enemies

...Joy... We follow Jesus who came eating and drinking, loved birds and flowers, blessed children, was a friend of tax collectors and sinners and sat at the tables of both rich and poor

We delight in fun and laughter
We rejoice in God's world and all its living creatures
We mix freely with all people being ready to bind up the broken hearted
Joy is a divine gift from God still there in times of darkness and difficulty

Humility, Love and Joy are God given graces. They cannot be obtained by human effort. They are gifts of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we pray...

Dear God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Increase in our Beacon Parishes your gifts of humility, love and joy
So that we experiencing fullness of life in our community
may be witnesses to your transforming love. Amen

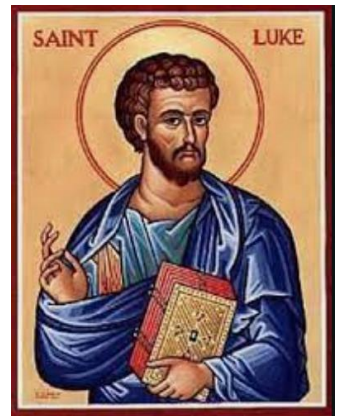
Andrew

Inspired and adapted from the Daily Principles of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis

The Gospel according to Luke – an introduction

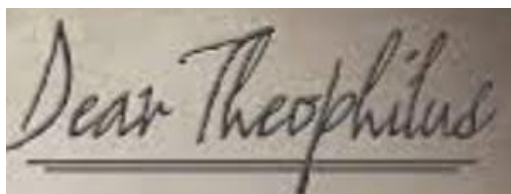
On Advent Sunday the new liturgical year begins. This year our gospel readings will principally come from Luke. This article is to give you some of the background and major themes.

The writer of the third gospel also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. In the Gospel Luke writes about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and continues the story of the early church in Acts. The way Luke writes shows him to be a cultured and well educated man. It is believed that he is the Luke mentioned in Paul's letters to the Colossians and to Timothy, making him a close companion of Paul. Luke's use of medical language gives further evidence that he was a physician. There is an assumption that he was Greek and would therefore have been a Gentile. He certainly makes fewer references to the Old Testament and when he does they are words spoken by Jesus not in his narrative. If he was a Gentile it would make him the only non-Jew to have his writing in the New Testament.



Luke wrote his gospel around the end of the first century, probably around 85CE when Christianity was spreading and was fast becoming a worldwide movement. He relies on Mark's gospel and other stories and sayings of Jesus that were circulating orally at the time. Each of the gospels have stories and teaching unique to them but Luke in particular is full of interesting and distinct parables, including the well-known and many people's favourites - The Prodigal Son and The Good Samaritan.

In Christian tradition the writers of the gospels have each been associated with one of the four faces encountered by Ezekiel. The ox has become the symbol of Luke and his gospel. Oxen, in ancient times, were the universal beasts of burden. The early church made this connection to the ox because of this gospel's stories of Jesus caring for all those who are burdened or suffering. Luke's gospel begins and ends in a temple and oxen were also used in sacrifice in the temple, So the ox also represents the priestly character of Jesus and his sacrifice on our behalf.



Luke wrote his gospel so that Theophilus, whose name means 'lover of God', "may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed." Luke wanted to investigate everything thoroughly then write an orderly account. He personally investigated all the facts and researched the material, relying on eyewitness accounts. By giving his readers an authentic

account Luke wanted to give his readers clarity and certainty about who Jesus was, the promised Messiah and Son of God. He also wanted to show that the charges by the religious leaders made against Jesus were false.

Luke is a natural storyteller and it is through stories that he writes about Jesus' identity and what his mission was. Luke tells his stories in a way that makes it very easy to imagine the scene and place yourself in the midst of the action. His main characters are Jesus, the disciples and the religious leaders. In all his stories he wants to elicit a range of emotions towards them including empathy, sympathy or antipathy.

Another writing technique Luke employs is to compare and contrast things, often placing two people or events side by side in order to make a point. In the very first chapter we see both Zechariah and Mary receive a visit from the same angel, but their interactions are very different.

Luke – continued

The Gospel can be split roughly into five parts:

Chapters 1:1-4:13	His Birth, Childhood, Early Ministry: where we see Jesus' humble beginnings.
Chapters 4:14-9:50	His Ministry in Galilee: where we see Jesus bringing hope to the oppressed and challenging those in power
Chapters 9:51-21:38	His Journey to Jerusalem: where we see Jesus teaching how his kingdom is different from the world.
Chapters 22:1-23:5	His Rejection and Death: Jesus faced rejection and increasing hostility, which eventually reached a murderous pitch and ultimately he was put to death on the cross. He was rejected by the ones he came to save.
Chapter 24:1-53	His Resurrection and Ascension: Jesus rises from the dead and encounters his disciples including on the road to Emmaus, thus validating his claims.

In his early chapters Luke anchors Jesus in human history by giving reference to historical events. After Jesus' baptism, Luke gives details of Jesus' genealogy going all the way back to Adam, the first man. He is indicating that Jesus' mission was not just to the Jewish nation but to all humanity. This idea is developed throughout the gospel where he makes it clear that Jesus' mission is not just for the Jews, as seen in his attitude towards the Samaritans, the Romans, and others outside the Jewish faith.



Luke's Jesus is revealed as showing compassion to all people, no matter their station in life. Much of the material unique to his gospel involves Jesus's interactions with individuals, many of them on the fringes of society, sinners, the poor, women, and even children. They are given an important place in his ministry. However, his concern is not just for their spiritual needs, but also their social, economical, physical and emotional needs as well.

Women were prominent in Luke's portrayal of Jesus' life, although in first century culture tended to minimise most woman's ability to take a full role in society. In the first few chapters there is Elizabeth (the mother of John the Baptist), his own mother Mary, and Anna the prophetess. All play important roles. It was the women who witnessed the crucifixion and were the first to see the empty tomb and were told about the resurrection by the angel. They in turn told the news of the resurrection to the disciples. Luke portrayed women as good examples in the early church.



Other themes running throughout the gospel are prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit. There are a number of occasions where Jesus prays before important occasions. The Holy Spirit is present at Jesus' baptism, temptation and at the beginning of his ministry of healing.

As we read passages from Luke's Gospel throughout this year first read it for its story, then look for its image of Jesus, and finally for its teaching on discipleship.

Hillarie Griggs

Teach us to pray

Praying on behalf of others

As a church and as individual Christians we commit ourselves to say prayers on behalf of others. These are known as intercessions. In our intercessions we bring our lives and the lives of those around us, neighbours both near and far, to God for his love and care.



General weekly cycle of intercessions

Sunday

We pray for... The universal church, that she proclaim the living Lord... The natural world, that we might use creation sustainably... The needy, that they might know new life...

Monday

We pray for... The people of God, for inspiration by the spirit... Traditional and digital media, for healthy communication... Those who travel, for safety and protection...

Tuesday

We pray for... The persecuted church, for protection and faithfulness... The criminal justice system, for wisdom and fairness... The world's displaced people, for freedom and security...

Wednesday

We pray for... All who follow Christ, for growth in discipleship... All in the medical profession ... All who have no one to pray for them...

Thursday

We pray for... Ministers of the gospel... Those who work for reconciliation... Those in hospital...

Friday

We pray for... The local church, for courage to take up the cross of Christ... Those in authority, for the right use of power... Victims and perpetrators of violence, for healing and repentance...

Saturday

We pray... That Christians may live as citizens of heaven... That the nations of the world will live in harmony... That the dying will know the joy of the resurrection...

Teach us to pray - continued

Local weekly cycle of intercessions

We are set in a particular time and place and so we bring our local communities and relationships to God.



Sunday

Our Bishops and those in leadership... Prisoners and staff... Our own friends, family and neighbours... Our Beacon Parishes that we may grow in... Prayer... Discipleship... and Service...

Monday

We pray for... The church community and villagers of Torbryan... Our schools... Those in hospital and the housebound...

Tuesday

We pray for... The church community and villagers of Woodland... Our pubs and restaurants... Carers and those medical professionals...

Wednesday

We pray for... The church community and villages of Denbury... Our residential and care homes... Those who care for children and young people...

Thursday

We pray for... The church community and villagers of Ipplepen... Our local shops and post offices... Our Parish Councils...

Friday

We pray for... The church community and villagers of Broadhempston... Local Farms... Local clubs and societies...

Saturday

We pray for... Our brothers and sisters of other denominations and none... Local Businesses...

Smile



- On a roadsign near Shrewsbury:
When this sign is under water this road is impassable.
- Outside a burger-shack in Nevada:
Try our burgers, you'll never get better.
- Outside Southampton Maternity Hospital:
Deliveries in yard around the back.
- In a West End shop specialising in outsize clothing:
Great bargains for men with 16 and 17 necks.
- Outside a Hong Kong tailor's shop:
Ladies may have a fit upstairs.
- On the door of a Moscow hotel:
If this is your first visit to Russia, you are welcome to it.

Intercessions for the Mission Community – December and January

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
Dec 5 th	Those who decorate the church	Churches Together in Ipplepen	The Union Inn	Community Shop	Library
Dec 12 th	Baptism ministry team	The Wellington Inn	Denbury Primary School	Radfords	Parish Rooms
Dec 19 th	Vergers & sextons	The Post Office & Co-Operative Shop	Fairfield Farm	Beaston	Levaton Farm
Dec 26 th	Our churches	Ipplepen Primary School	Community Groups	Downe	Bremridge
Jan 2 nd	Wardens & Deputies	Ambrook & Dainton	The Union Inn	Knowle	Waye Farm
Jan 9 th	Secretaries	Barn Park & Barn Park Cottages	The Manor	Hemsford	Gurrington House
Jan 16 th	Treasurers & finance/stewardship committees	Beech Drive & Orchard Drive	Fairfield Farm	Village Hall	The Old Parsonage
Jan 23 rd	Safeguarding officer & reps.	Biltor Road & Conniford Lane	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Lake Farm
Jan 30 th	PCCs & Rector	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Council & local businesses	Parish Meeting & local businesses

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Mrs Hillarie Griggs

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Sudoku

Hard

				2				
	5		4		9		6	
1								3
4	1						3	6
		2		1		8		
8	3			6			9	5
				9				
		3		4		5		
		9				3		

Hard

				6	5			2
6	2	3						9
		1	2				6	
2								
					9	2		5
8								
		2	6				8	
9	3	7						4
				5	4			3

Medium

			7		1		5	
2			4		9	7		
	7							
				7	8		3	
9	6	2	5		3			7
				6	4		9	
	8							
7			8		6	5		
			1		7		8	

Easy

3			7	2	1			8
	5		4	3			6	
	7		6			9		3
4	1	5	9	7		2		6
		2		1	3		4	7
8	3	7	2	6		1		5
	8		3			6		4
	2		8	4			1	
6			1	5	7			2

Wordsearch

Father Christmas?



FATHER CHRISTMAS

SANTA CLAUS

KRIS KRINGLE

PERE NOEL

PAPA

PAPAI

DED MOROZ

BABBO NATALE

SWIETY MIKOLAJ

WEIHNACHTSMANN

DZIADEK MROZ

GWIAZDOR

SAINT NICHOLAS