

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.

Editor's Corner



The big event of 2022 will surely be The Queen's Platinum Anniversary of her accension to the throne on 6th February 1952. It not only marks her 70 years of service as Queen but reflects the fact that she is the longest reigning monarch in British history. It is not going to be a one day event, but a celebration that will last 18 months or more. It began last May with the launch of the Queen's Green Canopy project: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> in which villages, towns, schools, colleges, companies, and individuals are encourage to plant a tree to both celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee and save the planet!



I can well remember the day at my primary school in Shropshire. Flags were at half mast, many adults wore black arm bands. The radio played very sombre music and all programmes it seemed to me came to a halt as a mark of respect for the passing of King George VI.

The pictures showing the young Queen and Duke returning to London Airport from Kenya being greeted by her Prime Minister Winston Churchill were particularly moving and memorable to this day. I can remember my class teacher, Miss Evans, telling us all that we were to be "Young Elizabethans".

It was to be another fifteen months until the great excitement at home with the purchase of a television set in readiness to watch the Coronation of Her Majesty on June 2nd 1953.



Can I invite you the reader to share any memories you may have of:

- A meeting with, or seeing the Queen or other members of the Royal Family (especially at local events)
- The death of King George VI
- The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth
- Celebrating previous Royal Jubilees
- Locally taken photographs of the Queen/Royal Family members, or of previous Jubilee/Coronation celebrations.

Contributions for the next edition of the Beacon (April /May) should reach me by March 21st.

Michael Price, Editor

Correction:

An apology for an error in the article on Assisted dying (p28-29) in the December/January Beacon. The christian name of the author, Seona A Wilson, was misspelt. - Editor

Sunday Services for February

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

Sunday February 6th

9.30 am

9.30 am

11.00 am

4.30 pm

Fourth Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion

Celtic Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

Reflective Evening Prayer -

St Valentine

- St John The Baptist, Woodland

- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

- Holy Trinity, Torbryan

Sunday February 13th

9.30 am

11.00 am

11.00 am

Third Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Celtic Morning Prayer

- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday February 20th

9.30 am

11.00 am

Second Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

- St John The Baptist, Woodland

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday February 27th

9.30 am

11.00 am

11.00 am

Sunday next before Lent

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Churches Together – Family Service

- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday Services for March

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

Sunday March 6th

9.30 am

9.30 am

11.00 am

First Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Celtic Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

- St John The Baptist, Woodland

- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday March 13th

9.30 am

11.00 am

11.00 am

Second Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Celtic Morning Prayer

- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday March 20th

9.30 am

11.00 am

Third Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

- St John The Baptist, Woodland

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday March 27th

9.30 am

11.00 am

11.00 am

Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Churches Together – Family Service

- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Other events for February and March

Wed 2 nd Feb	12 noon	Churches Together - Lunch Club (1 st Wednesday of each month)	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen
Wed 9 th Feb	10.30am	Coffee Mates (2 nd Wednesday of each month)	- Church Cottage, Denbury
Tuesdays	6.30pm-8pm	'Refresh, Revisit, Reflect' Course (11 th Jan to 15 th Feb)	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wed 2 nd Mar		Ash Wednesday	
	10.15am	Mission Community Service	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.00 pm	Mission Community Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wed 2 nd Mar	12 noon	Churches Together - Lunch Club (1 st Wednesday of each month)	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen
Sat 5 th Mar	10am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning (1 st Saturday of each month)	- The Parish Rooms, Woodland
Wed 9 th Mar	10.30 am	Coffee Mates (2 nd Wednesday of each month)	- Church Cottage, Denbury

Beacon Parishes Mission Community Weekly Events

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
		(except Thursday 3 rd March)	
	at 4.30pm	Junior Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen



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

The songs of spring



As winter turns to spring songbirds will begin their dawn chorus again. Starting with our resident robins and great tits who will later on be joined by migrant birds such as chiffchaffs and blackcaps. Skylarks, song-thrushes, blackbirds and robins begin to sing about an hour before sunrise whilst others such as wrens and warblers take a more relaxed approach appearing later in the morning. With the still air of the early morning and less background noise bird song can carry up to 20 times as far compared to their points in the day.

Alongside being woken up by our feathered friends from March onwards we also have a point in our church year that is all about being woken up. The season we call Lent is a season of preparation and awakening before our celebration of Easter. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday (2nd March this year) and just as the warmer and lighter days of spring bring things to life in the world around us (including bird song), during the 40 days of Lent we intentionally practice things that help bring light, warmth, awakening and new song into our lives and faith. These often include:

- Giving time to contemplation and reflection
- Making amends for things that have gone wrong
- Create more space by giving something up
- Taking up something new that is life giving
- Practically helping someone in need

If we are to listen well, receive and enjoy the dawn chorus we will need to do some preparation. The best days will be when the weather is good and there is little wind. It can be cold early in the morning so warm clothes will allow us to listen for longer. The peak of the dawn chorus is half an hour before to half an hour after sunrise however the variety of song at this time can prove confusing and so starting to listen an hour before sunrise can help. If we do this we can enjoy each new song arriving and joining the chorus.

The story of Easter is so wonderful but can be confusing. One of the ways we prepare ourselves to listen to and celebrate the different songs of the Easter chorus is through our Lenten journey. During this time we wake ourselves up, get ourselves ready and get into position so we can listen, receive and enjoy fully the song of Easter. In just the same way we might start to listen to the dawn chorus in March so we are ready and attuned to listen when most species of bird are in full song from late April to early June. Late April to early June incidentally is the same period of time the church celebrates the full chorus of Easter. An Easter season lasting 50 days.

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 30 th January 2022	Ipplepen	Charlotte Olding
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Funerals

Friday 10 th December 2021	Denbury	Valerie Denning
Thursday 16 th December 2021	Ipplepen	Cynthia Griffiths
Thursday 6 th January 2022	Denbury	Alison Foster
Friday 7 th January 2022	Broadhempston	Beryl Lentern
Friday 14 th January 2022	Ipplepen	Beryl Savery

Interments of Ashes

Friday 3 rd December 2021	Woodland	Marysia Willoughby
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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

February John Griffin: From Mary and Jo for John's birthday on 8th February

Alison Foster: to celebrate our friendship. From her "bridge" friends, Ann Toler, Lesley Childs and Jill Pill

Nic and Ged: to celebrate the birth of their second daughter Delphine (Delphie) Desforages, born Friday 14th January

March a villager who likes to see the tower lit



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

- 12th – 18th Dec In memory of Cynthia Griffiths – her funeral on 16th December, from Cathy Stokes
In loving memory of Susan Davida Kadow, on 17th December. Sadly missed love Richard Tossell and Tim and Gemma Barnes and grandchildren
- 9th – 15th Jan In loving memory of a dear Mum, Dory Bearne on 13th January from Barbara and John Tuckett
In memory of Sheila Stacey, who passed away on 25th June 2021, for her birthday on 9th January, from her son Christopher in Australia
- 23rd – 29th Jan In loving memory of Ron Sharland. Remembering him on his birthday, 24th January, from his loving wife Pam. I think of you every day
- 30th Jan – 5th Feb Paul Kemp on his birthday January 30th with love from Sheila, Graham and Beckie Needs and Hannah Hopkins

New

- Whole of February From Major David Hough, who enjoyed seeing the tower floodlit whilst staying in Blackstone Road last summer
- 13th – 19th Feb From Anna Heywood on February 16th in memory of the gorgeous Phil Heywood
- 20th – 26th Feb In loving memory of David Hatten, on 25th Feb, from his wife Margaret Hatten
In loving memory of Wendy Osborn on her birthday on 21st February, with love Liz and Bruce Hooker and family
- 27th Feb – 5th Mar From David, Linda, and Katie Simmonds for Hannah's birthday on 5th March
- Whole of March In memory of Margaret Kemp on her birthday 9th March, a dearly loved mother and granny, with love from Sheila, Graham, Beckie and Hannah Needs
- 6th – 12th Mar From Val and Peter Sleight remembering her parents, Phil and Peter Monks, at the time of their birthdays

Floodlighting



Ipplepen New - continued

- 13th – 19th Mar From Nick Wildgoose in memory of his dear mother Pat on her birthday
In loving memory of Rex Osborn on Sunday 13th March, with love from Liz and Bruce Hooker and family
- 27th Mar – 2nd Apr In memory of Geoffrey Williamson, on the occasion of his birthday on 29th March. He is missed so much and with us always

Volunteer required!

St. Andrew's Ipplepen are looking for a volunteer to take on the role of **PCC Treasurer**. The unpaid role would suit someone with previous accounting or finance experience, well developed IT skills and attention to detail. A good understanding of online banking would also be an advantage.

JOB ROLE

- General banking, including paying in cash & cheques, making payments and reconciling bank statements;
- General reporting on all financial matters to the PCC and charity trustees;
- Annual preparation of Accounts and submission to the Diocese or Charity Commission;
- Working closely with the Rector's PA to ensure the smooth running of the PCC finances.

The role would suit someone with good organisational and communication skills and a good knowledge of basic administration software, such as Word and Excel.

Full training will be provided by the outgoing Treasurer and he will provide back-up support as required during the new Treasurer's initial period in office.

For further information please reply to phill.harvey66@btinternet.com

Letter to the Editor – or congregational groan corner

Dear Editor

Just to make things clear to you....

"The house was updated and approved the direction of travel of work currently relating to the review of ministerial formation. The house then received a series of updates on the Emerging Church work stream. An update was given to the House on the Transforming Effectiveness work stream, followed by reflections on the reception given to the Governance Review Group and Vision and Strategy presentations at November Synod"

This is the entire report of the Church of England House of Bishops meeting 24th November 2021. I hope it helps you to appreciate where some of our Parish Share goes.

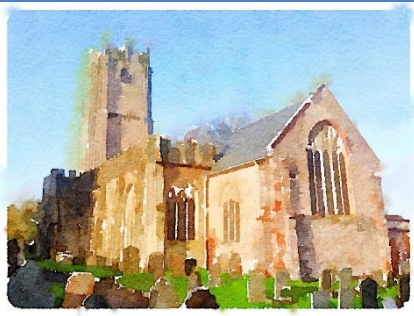
Stephen Bryant

(For further views from both priests and laity visit www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk.

Whoever said that clerics had no sense of humour!- Editor)

News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



As this New Year begins and we are still experiencing a new variant of the Coronavirus pandemic we are thankful for the vaccinations and boosters most of us have had to keep us safe. We have enjoyed a great variety of Christmas Services. It began with the Advent Carol Service held at Woodland on November 28th at 6pm. This Candlelit

Service was led by Rev Anne Burden with Rev Andrew Down and we had a small choir of us from St. Andrew's to sing 'Hail Gladdening Light' to begin with, then an anthem and to lead the lovely Advent Carols. There were traditional readings and also Michael Roberts, the organist, played a beautiful organ solo. Welcome refreshments were served in the Parish Rooms afterwards.

We held our Patronal Festival Service on St. Andrew's Day Tuesday 30th November at 7pm and refreshments were served afterwards by Sue Sanders and myself. We had a Churches Together Candlelit Service at St. Andrew's on December 12th at 6.30 pm. After the welcome greeting from Rev Andrew the service began with the traditional 'Once in Royal David's City' with the first verse beautifully sung by Rose and Katy from the Youth Choir and Theo read the 'The Birth of Jesus'. The Youth Choir also sang 'The Little Road to Bethlehem' and 'Somewhere in my memory.'

We also had an adult choir to lead the singing and descants. Dr Tom Morris played the guitar and Marilyn Ellis the organ and clavichord. During the Service of Carols and Readings there was also a talk and distribution of Christingles. Mulled wine or juice and shortbread was served afterwards.

On Saturday 18th a few of us erected and decorated the Christmas Tree and the church with baubles, candles, foliage and beautiful floral arrangements - and with the crib in place was ready for Christmas. The bells rang out in the crisp night air as we gathered around the Village Square and Christmas Tree on Monday 20th December for our carol singing. The road was closed to traffic so it was good to see so many villagers spread out enjoying this festive occasion with the singing of lots of carols, some readings and prayers. We were grateful to Jessica Petty for playing the flute and Rev Andrew Down and Rev Kevin Hook for organising it, and the Village Hall team for the welcome hot mulled wine and mince pies.

Two Crib Services took place on Christmas Eve organised by Churches Together at 3.30pm and 5pm - this was to limit numbers and allow for social distancing. Mission Community Midnight Mass service began at 11pm with Rev Andrew and Hillarie Griggs. Unfortunately owing to the pandemic numbers attending were lower than normal and singing carols with a mask quite difficult but the Christmas Message, the wonderful birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph gives us great hope not just on Christmas Day but forever.

At our service on January 2nd with Andrew and Hillarie, the Wise Men arrive and visit the crib with their gifts. The reflection says we all have gifts and talents or time to give and share with others.

The theme at the lovely Celtic Service on January 9th led by Jo Innes-Lumsden was to celebrate the Baptism of Christ and names of those recently baptised were read out during the prayers from Geraldine. We were treated to Tom Morris singing 'The Three Kings' with Marilyn Ellis accompanying him on the clavichord, we had a reading from the Acts of the Apostles by me, and a meditation read by Clive Tompkins and a choral choir recording was played to conclude the service.

Early in December we were so lucky to be able to hold our Christmas Fair in Church and spread out the stalls to abide with social distancing. It took some setting up but the working party were on hand thankfully. There was a great variety of Festive looking stalls with tempting cakes, chutneys, marmalades, beautiful quilts, cushion covers and hand crafted gifts, also pretty jewellery, Christmas

cards, candle holders, books of all descriptions and bric a brac. There was a wonderful set of prizes in the raffle and also the popular bottle stall. We had a cafe area for people to sit and enjoy homemade cakes and mince pies with their tea and coffee. The fair was open from 2 until 4 and there was a lovely atmosphere and we thank everyone who came along and supported us.

Marilyn Clark

50 years a ringer at St. Andrew's



In December, Andy Vickery celebrated 50 years a ringer at St. Andrew's!

To celebrate he brought along a bottle his home made sloe gin, plus some stollen cake, to practice night.

Andy is pictured front row centre.

Cynthia Griffiths

We sadly said our goodbyes to our dear friend Cynthia Griffiths, a very loyal member of the choir for many years who passed away on November 19th after bravely battling her illnesses. Her funeral service on Thursday 16th December was led by Rev Andrew Down who spoke of Cynthia's wonderful smile and strong faith and the love of her family, Alec her late husband, two daughters and grandchildren Jenny and Oliver. After being widowed she enjoyed many years with David Hallett and also his family as well.



The family requested the choir sang Psalm 23 and although only three of us available, Jo, Inez and myself we hope we did her proud with Marilyn Ellis playing the organ. A poem was read by her daughter called 'If I should Go' by Joyce Grenfell and a reading from John 14 verses 1-6. The other hymns chosen were 'Be thou my vision', 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' and 'Tell out my soul'. The music on exit was Widor's Toccata.

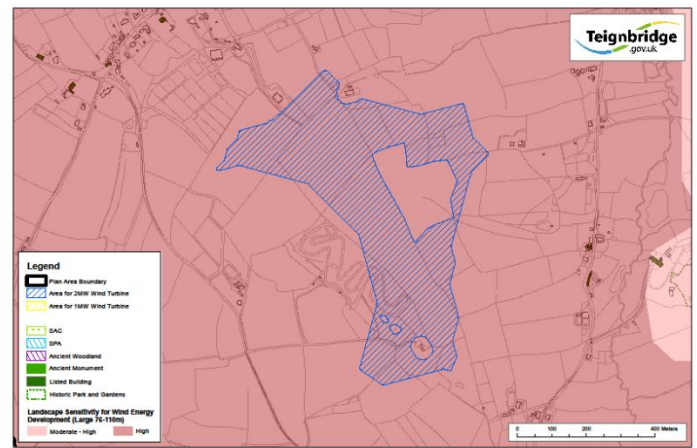
This was a celebration of a lovely lively lady who always looked on the bright side of life and who is very much missed.

Marilyn Clark

A view from Torbryan



It seems that many people in the area may still be unaware about plans by Teignbridge Council to build a wind farm on land between Ambrook and Broadhempston. It should be said that this is one of a number of sites under consideration. The plans can be inspected at <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/localplanreview>.



Obviously, wind farms have a considerable visual impact on the area in which they are situated, and it is therefore very important that great care be taken when deciding on a location. I would have thought that sites of particular natural beauty near to villages that have a number of important historic buildings might not be deemed suitable. Clearly, wind turbines are extremely large and would generally require major roads to transport the components rather than tiny country lanes. There are also health concerns relating to widely-reported issues of intrusive low-level

noise coming from wind turbines that have understandably caused upset for people living near existing sites.

That said, it is also hard to argue against the need for us to produce a lot more of our energy from renewable sources, and if we were all nimbyists then it would be impossible to address the climate emergency we are living through. My understanding is that one disadvantage particularly of on-shore wind power is that the wind does not blow all the time, leaving us still reliant on fossil fuels during calm periods. This scenario is much less common at sea where the wind blows almost non-stop, thus making offshore wind generation a generally better option. The visual impact is also obviously much lower. There are also of course many other low impact sources of renewable energy, one of which is hydro power, something that I think might very easily be developed in Torbryan.

One thing I think is beyond dispute: local people should be informed of major infrastructure projects that might drastically alter the area they live in. And in my view Teignbridge Council haven't exactly been forthcoming about publicising these plans. Many people do not have access to the Internet or might find it hard to navigate the site. So, please tell your friends and neighbours who might be unaware of this project so that we can all at least be in the loop.

Georgie Brendon

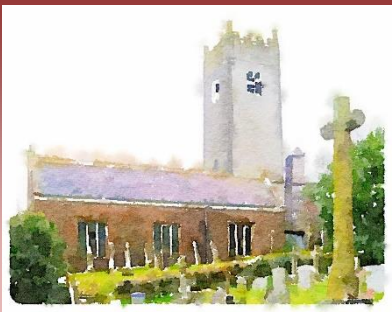
Smile



- Knowledge is knowing the tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in the fruit salad.
- Did you know the word "gullible" isn't in the dictionary? If you don't believe me try looking it up
- If a pig loses its voice, does it get disgruntled?

News from Woodland

St. John the Baptist



Christmas seems to have come and gone in a flash for me this year – partly, I suspect, because I put up the decorations and did my Christmas shopping much later than usual – and I have found myself missing the additional colour and sparkle once the Christmas tree had gone and the decorations were back in their box. Outside

in the hedges and gardens of our parish, however, the promise of springtime can be seen. The days are noticeably longer, snowdrops can be seen bursting into bloom and you can even find the occasional spring flower, such as forsythia, cautiously unfurling its petals. The first of this year's lambs are expected imminently and will soon be skipping around the fields in the sunshine (or hiding miserably under the hedges in the rain – depending on the weather at the time) so, whilst the lights and tinsel have gone, there is still much to look forward to in the coming Winter months.

Whilst very much muted and low key because of the virus situation, our village Christmas celebrations were still an important part of the season for many and we came together to worship and sing appropriate carols at our candlelit Advent Carol Service, Christmas Carol Service and morning communion service on Christmas Day. Mulled wine and mince pies were served to us at our pews after the Christmas Carol service, giving us a chance to connect socially with our friends and neighbours. The church was beautifully and abundantly decorated with greenery and the little china figures of our crib were once more telling their story in the traditional way.

Looking forward, we are still hopeful that our regular library and coffee mornings will recommence soon, once the current spike in covid cases has reduced to a more comfortable level.

Helen Pearse

Celebrity Christian Quotes

Here are some quotes from celebrities about their faith. Perhaps you might like to do some research and find some quotes from female celebrities to add to the list! If you do please send them to me for inclusion in the next edition of the Beacon. –Editor

Marcus Rashford: For me and my family, that's definitely the case. If you could see our lives 15-20 years ago to where we are now, it's impossible not to have faith in God and all he does for us.

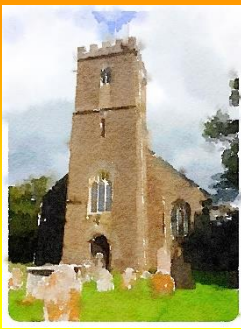
Bono: When you align yourself with God's purpose as described in the Scriptures, something special happens to your life.

Sylvester Stallone: You need to have the guidance of someone else. You cannot train yourself. I feel the same way about Christianity and what the church is: The church is the gym of the soul.

Denzel Washington: Number one: Put God first. Put God first in everything you do. Everything that you think you see in me, everything that I've accomplished, everything that you think I have – and I have a few things. Everything that I have is by the grace of God.

News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



This has been a very active Christmastide at Broadhempston church. In early December we hosted a concert by Broadband; this was followed by the School Nativity plays, a Broad Harmony concert, a Christingle Service and, finally, a Family

Service on Christmas Day. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners £1,400 was raised of which £800 will be retained in church funds and the balance shared with nominated charities.

Broadband Concert



We were delighted to be approached by David Beadel and the Broadband to put on a concert at the church during the Christmas period. We settled on Saturday 4th December.

The concert started with some introductory acts of David and his friends and family. Then the Broadband got going, playing two sets of classic tunes. With the beautiful surrounding of the

church, fantastic acoustics, a well-stocked bar and the good time music everyone seemed to really relax and enjoy themselves. There was virtually no one sat down at the end, with everyone up at the front dancing and seemingly forgetting the pandemic blues (at least for a while).

Thank you David Beadel and Broadband. We must do it again sometime soon!

Broadhempston School Nativity

The school approached us this year to put their school nativity performance at the church. Over two days at the start of December the school put on 3 nativity performances to the different classes at the school.

With the stage up and church decorated in its Christmas splendour it really provided a fantastic backdrop the nativity performances. The children seemed to really enjoy performing and it was a delight to see - something that has been so sorely missed over the past few years.

It was great to see the children once again performing and the school real.



Broad Harmony Concert

Broad Harmony were proud to perform a Christmas concert, their second performance of the year following on from the Oktoberfest. As well as some seasonal readings from members of the choir, this year we were joined by a string quartet who gave a beautiful performance of the Christmas Concerto. The choir very much enjoyed singing to a wonderful audience who were able to join in with some carols, and we raised just over £245 for the church restoration fund, for which we are exceedingly grateful.

As the New Year has started, we are still continuing with practices albeit with distancing and mitigations in place. Our goal is to join as part of the chorus for a performance of "The Moon Hares" from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, which is scheduled for March 28th in Plymouth. You can find out a little more about the project by going to the OAE website: <https://oae.co.uk/who-we-are/education/opera/the-moon-hares/>

Alex Paton, Broadhempston PCC Team (01803 812021)

Christingle December 2021

This year at SS Peter and Paul Broadhempston we decided to hold a Christingle Service on 9th December.

What is Christingle?

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony, they are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top. There is no one way to hold a Christingle celebration. From socially distanced gatherings, to intimate events online.



Because of Covid restrictions we decided to have individual paper bags containing all the 'ingredients' to make a Christingle which children and adults collected on entering the church. Andrew led a wonderful service during which children and adults made Christingles lighting the candles from the flame of the Paschal candle. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story, we all shared what we thought the meanings were, (which all seemed to differ). This one is from The Children's Society Website <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

A donation from the collection was given to The Children's Society a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Maggie Sercombe, Broadhempston PCC Team (01803 813790)

Carols in the Square

On Tuesday 21st December a very successful Carols in the Square was held in Broadhempston. A large crowd turned out to sing carols in front of the village Christmas tree accompanied by several members of Totnes Town Band. Mince pies were served during the singing and mulled wine was available in the Monks Retreat. Andrew ended the event with a Christmas blessing.



Many thanks to Jennifer and Clive Richards for, once again, arranging this event and collecting £107 for the church restoration fund and to Candy and Tony McGuinness for heating up the mince pies and allowing the use of the Monks Retreat kitchen.

Janice Parnell, Broadhempston PCC Team (07811 443624)

Christmas Day Service

We had a lovely turn out for our Christmas service. Our thanks to the bell ringers for starting the proceedings and to all who had helped to decorate the church with the nativity scene, flowers and the Christmas tree.

Although our service was traditional, the children were included and some were able to 'show and tell' the congregation a sample of the Christmas presents they had received. And so to all who attended, helped prepare the church, our organist - Anthony - the bell ringers and Andrew (for providing a lovely service) a big thank you.

Jo Winser, Broadhempston PCC Team (01803 812080)

An Appeal

Looking ahead, we face an uphill struggle to raise £15,000 each year simply to fund the day-to-day running costs of the church, the building and the churchyard. To this end, we have launched an Appeal and distributed a leaflet to every household in the parish with information on how to make a donation. If the leaflet has been lost or hasn't reached you and you would like to help, please phone our Treasurer, Chris Parker, on 01803 762543 or email chrisparker134@gmail.com or contact any member of the PCC Team. Your help will be truly appreciated.

The Broadhempston PCC Team

Smile



- Does a mermaid wear an algebra?
- Two TV aerials meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The service wasn't up to much but the reception was brilliant.
- Whose cruel idea was it to include the letter "s" in "lisp"?
- A sandwich walks into a pub. "Sorry," says the landlord. "we don't serve food in here".
- Have you ever wondered what was the best thing before sliced bread?

The Golden Girls - Broadhempston

Having spent many hours walking alone during COVID isolation days, it gave me time to reflect. Friends have always been important to me along with a love of the great outdoors. I felt I wanted to make more effort with both. And then a fortuitous post on Facebook advertising the expertise of an Open Water Swimming Coach gave me an idea!



I put a post on my Facebook page asking if anybody locally would be interested in joining me on a cold-water journey! And so, it began...

Lindy Creedy, Penny Derbyshire and Jane Collins were all quick to reply. We had six sessions with Karen Marshall based in Teignmouth focussing on safety, kit, technique and health benefits. The sessions turned out to be a real confidence booster and a lot of fun!



And we decided to continue. To see if we can swim year-round. To overcome some of the challenges as a group and to continue to laugh. Two new recruits later: Maggie Sercombe and Alison Moorley and that's what we are doing.

So, The Golden Girls head off every Monday morning to differing locations depending on the tide, waves and water quality. Our challenges are changing with the seasons. At the moment it's more about getting in, not staying in too long and getting out and dressed in a nanosecond! Difficult to imagine but the brain does extraordinary things and convinces the body once in the water that it's not that cold after all!

And then the 'even better bit!'
Coffee and cake, all justifiably deserved...

Karen Barnett



News from Denbury

St. Mary the Virgin



Given the uncertain, worrying times we have all had to endure over the last couple of years, the arrival of the Christmas tree and the crib figures in church in late December provided a welcome reminder of the traditions of this time of the year that we all value and look forward to so much.

One very popular and meaningful tradition at Denbury over several years now has been the journey of the Holy Family crib figures from one household to another each day during Advent representing the journey to Bethlehem and which is known as Posada. Due to restrictions last year a new initiative was introduced whereby households were invited to create a Christmas themed window in their houses reflecting the message of Christmas. This was so well received that the idea was repeated again this year resulting in a further array of beautifully decorated windows throughout the village for everyone to enjoy.

We were also able to repeat the successful revised format for the 'Carols on the Green' evening held on the village green on December 17th. Family groups were safely spaced and enjoyed joining in well loved carols accompanied by a recorded choir. This event always gets everyone taking part into the Christmas spirit. A collection on the evening raised the excellent sum of £150 to support local based charity Families for Children.

The following Sunday saw the village choir, under the direction of Chris Eastman, performing at a carol concert held in church. The format was a bit different this time around as the congregation were not able to join in the singing of the carols due to current restrictions and the number of readings was slightly reduced from the normal nine to six. Those attending, however, still enjoyed a great evening with the choir as always performing to a high standard.

Some further alterations were seen to our normal Christmas service programme this year. Our Crib service, held on Christmas Eve, was held at the later time of 6pm and included a celebration of communion. The church is usually packed for this service with many families and children attending. As anticipated due to the current situation, numbers were well down this year. The crib was set up within the altar and illuminated providing a lovely focus point which is particularly impressive when entering a darkened church.

Midnight Mass was replaced by a shorter, contemplative service held at 11.30 and led by Tessa to welcome in Christmas Day.

All those connected with the Bell Restoration Appeal were pleased to learn this week that the machinery problems which were holding up the completion of the work on our bells refurbishment by our contractor have been resolved meaning that the new headstocks for the enlarged peal can be finished very shortly. The latest estimate is that the bells should be replaced in the tower by mid February. Allowing for a bit of making good and tidying work after installation we are hopeful that the bells will be fully functioning by Easter bringing to an end a project that has stretched over very nearly eight years.

Although the ringers are eagerly looking forward to ringing once again after a delay of some two years when the bells have been silent, initially due to Covid restrictions and then following their removal from the tower for refurbishment, it is likely a period of getting accustomed to the new set up will be needed. We will have an extra (6th) bell, will be ringing on completely new or refurbished running gear including new bearings and will be based in a different ringing room having moved from the dark and damp ground floor to the lighter and more comfortable first floor. Quite possibly the first few practise sessions might not be quite as melodic as we would like them to be!

Mike Bray

Christmas 2021 TV ratings and the Christian life

Here are the Christmas Day 2021's Top 10 TV hits. Ratings source: Broadcasters' Audience Research Board:

1. The Queen (BBC One, ITV, Sky News) — 8.96 million
2. Strictly Come Dancing (BBC One) — 5.7 million
3. Call The Midwife (BBC One) — 4.72 million
4. Michael McIntyre's Christmas Wheel (BBC One) — 4.64 million
5. Blankety Blank (BBC One) — 4.24 million
6. Mary Poppins Returns (BBC One) — 3.66 million
7. Superworm (BBC One) — 3.34 million
8. Coronation Street (ITV) — 3.25 million
9. Emmerdale (ITV) — 3 million
10. EastEnders (BBC One) — 2.92 million

As well as measuring the current popularity of TV's soaps and panel games, the annual Christmas Day TV ratings produced by BARB, the not-for-profit, Broadcasters' Audience Research Board, is a good reflection of the underlying spirit of the nation. The viewing figures for last Christmas (above) were no exception.

The love and respect for *HM The Queen* as the platinum celebrations for her devoted service as the head of the UK, the Commonwealth and the Anglican Church gets under way, was seen clearly in her return to the number one spot with a huge majority of over 3 million more viewings than the next most popular programme, the Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special.



This was despite the popularity of Strictly, a long time national favourite programme for the past 17 years, being boosted even more in the last series by the remarkable success of Rose Ayling Ellis the first deaf contestant who won the 2021 'glitter ball'. Her success relied on a close relationship that developed with her dance professional Giovanni Pernice, and by counting the beat. Her world was revealed to viewers during a remarkable silent dance

sequence when the band stopped playing for a short time. Rose's prize, however, goes way beyond the coveted 'glitter ball' because her achievement is being hailed as a huge step forward in breaking down the barriers faced by more than 11 million deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK.

About 1 million viewings below *Strictly* was *Call the Midwife*, another 'Christmas special' with a social welfare awareness theme. Set in the poverty of the dockland area of the East End of London in the 1960's, it highlighted the love, dedication and innovation of a team of midwives based in a small health centre run by nuns, and who work alongside a GP and ministers from local Christian churches. It was a world that many older people remember well. It was one before the internet, mobile phones, personal computers and virtual technology. In the world of *Call the Midwife*, one of the 'latest' developments involved the use of leeches!



A couple of viewing ratings below 'Call the Midwife' were two popular family films, 'Mary Poppins Returns' and 'Superworm'. Interestingly both these films have similar themes, not so much about social welfare among the poor, but more about the dangers of being so concerned with gaining a supposedly better life that happiness at home suffers.



Superworm is a long, strong worm with some amazing skills. He regularly saved the day for his friends who were a variety of different garden creatures and insects. However, his success in his local

environment attracts the attention of a wizard who uses *Superworm* for his own evil benefit, that is, until his friends find a way of rescuing him.

The first *Mary Poppins* film had a similar theme but this time it about the father of the Banks family becoming so engrossed with his work in a bank and his desire to become wealthy through making money work for you, that he neglected his family ... until *Mary Poppins* came to the rescue and restored the family happiness. In the second *Mary Poppins* film the Banks children are grown up but fall on hard times because of the 1930's depression. Enter *Mary Poppins* again to restore family happiness.



Superworm and *Mary Poppins* are about how life can go awry when you get distracted by the pressure and desires of the world around you from the love of your family and friends.

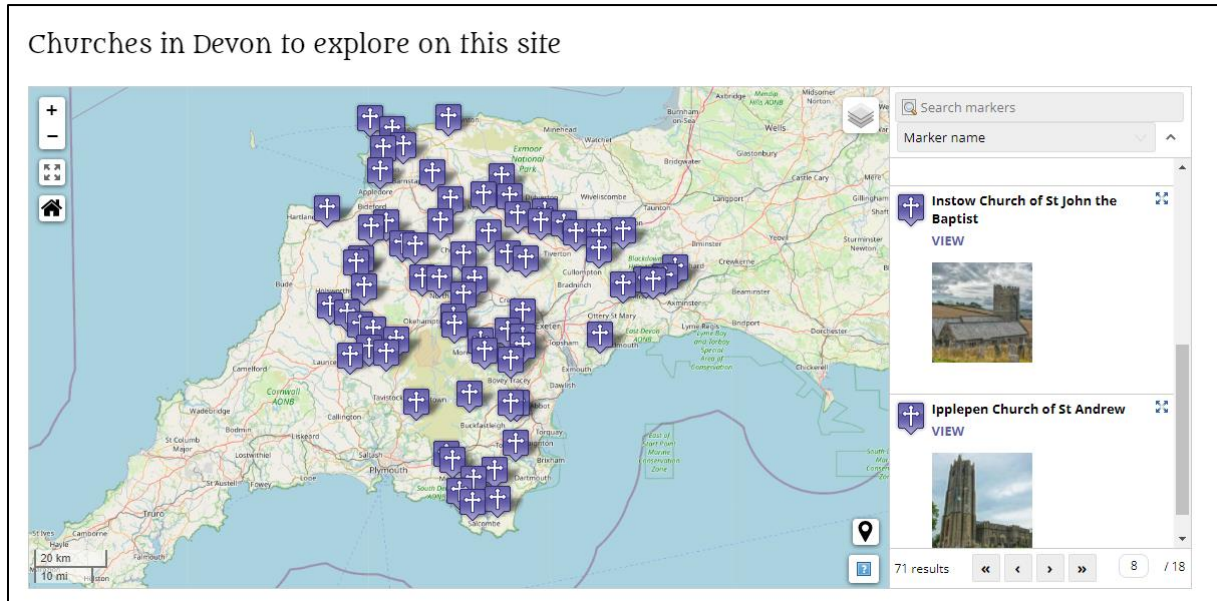
*Given the current state of our world, it is reassuring to know that **half of the top 10 TV hits on Christmas Day reflect the Christian way of life** that Jesus demonstrated both by what he said and what he did, and at the heart of them is the love that comes from God and the love that is reflected in the caring for our family, our friends and neighbours, and for the social and medical health care of the less fortunate members of society.*



Devon ChurchLand www.devonchurchland.co.uk is a continually expanding website describing an increasing number of churches in Devon. So far there are 71 churches in the list, and these can be selected from the website. The descriptions are

wide ranging and written in an easy going style.

To date, Ipplepen and Torbryan are both included, and their descriptions are well worth reading.



Likewise if you are planning a trip out to visit churches in Devon, this guide is well worth using as a starting point. You may well find that you will have more information to help you on your visit than in the guide which might be available in the church itself.

A Selection of Special Days in February

1 February – Chinese New Year: The ‘Year of the Tiger’. The Tiger is considered by the Chinese to be brave, cruel, and forceful, and is the symbol of power in Chinese culture.

2 February – Candlemas and Ground Hog Day

4 - 20 February – Winter Olympics in Beijing (*subject, of course, to Covid*)

7 - 12 February – Tinnitus Week

7 February – Charles Dickens birthday (1812)

8 February – Safer Internet Day

9 February – National Toothache Day

14 February – St Valentine’s Day

14 February – International Book Giving Day

27 February – Fairtrade Fortnight

21 February – 3 March - You Can Care Week: see: <https://www.videotile.co.uk/you-can-care-week-25th-february-3rd-march/>

'Bishop Nick to retire'

The Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend Nicholas McKinnel, is to retire in August 2022.

Bishop Nick, who is married to Jan and has four children and nine grandchildren, will be 68 and has been Bishop of Plymouth since 2015.

He said, "After 42 years of ordained ministry, now seems a good time to hand over my responsibilities and to have more time for the family and other interests.

"It has been a privilege to serve in this Diocese as a bishop for the last ten years and I would like to thank my fellow clergy and everyone in our diocese for their support, prayers and friendship."

The Bishop of Exeter, the Right Reverend Robert Atwell, said "Bishop Nick has been a superb colleague whose gentle wisdom and big pastoral heart have won him affection and respect across the county.

"He brings to his work his immense knowledge of people and places, his love of Devon and his faith in Christ.

"We wish him well in his retirement and we are glad that he is going to stay in Devon."

Bishop Nick grew-up in Devon and, after studying law and working for a development agency, was ordained in 1980.

He served his early ministry in London and Liverpool before returning to Devon in 1987 to become the Rector of Hatherleigh, Meeth, Exbourne and Jacobstowe.

From 1994 to 2012 he led St Andrew's, the Minster church of Plymouth.

He was consecrated as Bishop of Crediton in 2012, before moving to become Bishop of Plymouth in 2015, with responsibility for parishes across Dartmoor, Torbay and West Devon as well as the city itself.

There will be a farewell service for Bishop Nick at Exeter Cathedral in the summer.

Following his retirement, he has been nominated to be the High Sheriff of Devon in 2023.

Press release from the Diocese 18th January 2022



Straplines



- Any fool can criticise, condemn, and complain – and most fools do. (*Dale Carnegie*).
- Experience is the name people often give to their mistakes.
- Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are useless, but because they are priceless.
- You must be at your strongest when you are feeling at your weakest.
- To appreciate thanksgiving, the thanks must come first, followed by the giving.
- Journalism is the ability to meet the challenge of filling space. (*Rebecca West*)
- If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd.

Exeter Cathedral in 2021

The following is a review how things have been at Exeter Cathedral in 2021 by The Very Revd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter:



It was a pretty constant refrain throughout 2021: “I won’t be sorry when this year comes to an end.” Hardly surprising given the relentless restrictions imposed by Covid, rapidly rising fuel bills, shortage of stock in our supermarkets, and the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, along with too many of our faithful and much loved congregations. And on top of all that, I had to cope with turning 60 last March. As we begin a New Year, there’s a great deal we shall be glad to put behind us. Though we have managed to find some solace in laughter. I was amused by a recent Facebook post: “Having now lived through a plague, I understand why Renaissance paintings are full of fat naked people lying on couches.” Touché!

But regret is only part of the picture. If I consider life here at the Cathedral, we had some spectacular highlights as well. A fantastic Christmas for instance, with the choir on top form. Our Messiah was universally acclaimed to be the best yet, and had the remarkable bonus of four top-notch soloists, all of them parents of choristers. Our Christmas Market delighted the traders, along with the many who visited – if we are to judge by emails received. It has been so uplifting in recent months to welcome back goodly numbers for our services and concerts: a big advantage of our huge space is that we can accommodate pretty large audiences while still keeping people safe and healthy. The splendid South West Sculptors Density & Lightness exhibition in the summer helped ensure a stream of visitors to the Cathedral in what for many visitor attractions was a challengingly quiet season. And our Week of Prayer led by Father George and Sister Elizabeth Jane allowed us to focus on our personal spiritual development – so necessary for many to survive the challenges of the past year.

We were the first public visit in the country for Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, and the same was true for the Archbishop of Canterbury, when he came to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop John Patteson. Both occasions were full of joy for everyone present, and will create lasting memories for many.

We launched our new Ten Fifty café, in our environmentally-friendly electric van, which has managed both to keep the crowds on the Cathedral Green fed and watered, and to turn a pretty profit for the Cathedral. One of the best groups of clients was the film crew for Nick Knowles’ Heritage Rescue; and the delicious coffee and cakes clearly spurred them on to produce a great programme telling the story of our restored stained glass windows and monuments, as well as the refurb of the Chapter House. That and the North Porch were particularly cheering for me: both with an over-lengthy period of gestation, but the finished product well worth the wait.

Of course building works consumed a great deal of time and energy – not least the investigations and trials funded by our Round 1 National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant. The public consultation proved fruitful, and helped ensure that the activities we have planned really are scratching where our visitors and potential visitors itch. We were pleased in November to submit our Round 2 application, and hope that this will follow in the footsteps of a number of successful funding applications during the past 12 months. We’re already battering heaven with fervent prayer as we await the decision in March. In the meantime, we were very pleased to feature in the National Lottery Christmas video. And we were delighted and relieved in December to receive full planning permission for all the proposed works – from the Local Authority and from the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England.

Clearly this is no time to be self-satisfied or over-confident, and it has all been possible only thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and staff. 2022 is already confronting us with new challenges: having booked a number of events in the early part of the year intended to attract new audiences, we’re wondering whether Omicron might thwart some of our carefully laid plans. But if 2021 is anything to go by, we know that in spite of the daily cares and challenges, plenty of good things can still happen. That’s certainly been true for us as a Cathedral over the past year, and I hope that it has been true for you at home as well. Our prayer is that 2022 will follow suit.



Thinking of others

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 (21 February – 6 March)

Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses, and governments to make trade fair so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods. (Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed Isaiah 1:17 and, Love your neighbour as yourself Matthew 22:39).

The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Without a fairer income, farmers and workers are unable to invest in the types of mitigation and adaptation techniques needed to protect the environment, and their businesses. This represents a vicious cycle of poverty in which steps towards environmental protection and decarbonisation are likely to be beyond the reach for those who aren't even able to earn a living income because the price they receive for their produce is far too low.

When thinking of Fairtrade, most people think of bananas, chocolate or tea and coffee, but there are many other Fairtrade products, including gold, wine, clothes, beauty products and flowers. There are over 70,000 people growing, harvesting, packing, and caring for Fairtrade flowers which are traceable to the original farm. Fairtrade certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a Fairtrade Premium of 10% for every item sold, which allows workers to invest in healthcare, education and other social benefits.

Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Uganda and Tanzania. Fairtrade flowers are available from Aldi, Asda, Co-op, Lidl, M & S and Moonpig, which may be worth bearing in mind with the approach of Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday on 14th March.

Sally Churchus

“PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL” - by Chris Prince

Three times in my lifetime I've fallen from grace because of false pride.

The first was due to pride of parenthood. I was living in Nottingham but working away in London during the week. My Friday ambition was always to get home in time to put my three young boys to bed. On the evening in question I was tucking in my second son, Michael - an angelic-looking three year old with blonde hair and the bluest of eyes. Out of the blue he looked straight into my eyes and said: “we missed you this week Daddy.” I was deeply touched. Had I left it at that, it would have forever been a golden memory. However, pride of parenthood intervened to prompt me to ask why I'd been missed. Came his reply: “Mummy couldn't get the lid off the new jar of honey.”

My second fall came about through pride of possession. My next door neighbour in Nottingham (Ray) was Regional Sales Manager for Opel Cars - then a stand-alone German brand, despite being part of the GM empire. He always had a fresh car from the range on his driveway and happy to let me have a go. One day a drop-dead gorgeous two door, two seat projectile, the Opel GT, arrived outside his house. It was every man's dream car. I walked round to ogle it. Ray came out and told me it was one of only six imported into the UK to test the market. That was why it had left-hand drive (something of significance later in this story). Seeing my envious looks he said: “just borrow it tomorrow if you like, take it to the office and see what the lads think of it.” So next day I did just that. On the way home that evening I stopped at my local garage, where I was well known, to repay Ray's generosity with a petrol top-up. By the time I'd filled it and paid, the showroom and workshop staff were all stood around the car admiring it. From their chatter I deduced that they assumed the car was mine. Shamefully, I said nothing to disabuse them, and basked happily in their misplaced admiration. Finally I told them I had to get home for dinner and jumped in to drive off. They all fell about laughing - I'd got into the passenger seat!

My last fall was thanks to the pride of youth. At school in the 1950s we were taught Latin by Mr Sheehan. He was - or seemed to us - very old. He stumbled over his words and sometimes just stood there trembling in front of the class opening and closing his mouth like a goldfish while no sound came out. We called him 'Shiner' and ragged him unmercifully. Then, as Christmas approached, some of us started to regret our behaviour and suggested we give him a gift in the run-up to Christmas. However, this noble idea was hijacked by the rascally element, one of whom lived above an off-licence and tobacconist shop. He thought it would be a great wheeze if we wrapped up a dummy display bottle of whisky and a dummy carton of cigarettes. Shamefully, the idea was embraced without dissent. Come the day we presented him with these two gift-wrapped 'presents'. Tearful and choked with emotion he could barely mutter “thank you”. He was overcome by the realisation that these young savages had finer feelings after all. He took the gifts away unopened. The next day he came into class tight-lipped but said nothing about the 'gifts'. As we broke up for Christmas we all chalked up the episode as another great wheeze.

My fall came years later when I read Shiner's obituary in the Old Boys' Magazine. He had fought in the trenches in the First World War as a First Lieutenant where he had won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry. He was invalidated out of the Army in 1917 and hospitalised with Shell Shock - what today would be called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. That fall was the longest and hardest.

Why an Ash Cross at the beginning of Lent?

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return”: referencing Genesis 3:19

This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 2nd and marks the beginning of Lent, a time of reflection, prayer and penance. On this day, many Christians from different denominations will leave church bearing the sign of the cross on their forehead made from ash. They will be taking part in a custom that dates back over a thousand years, and has its origins in a tradition that goes back much earlier.



Ash Wednesday does not have its origin in the New Testament but comes from ancient Jewish tradition, probably from earlier than the 7th century BC, where ash was used to symbolise mourning, mortality and penance. The use of ash can be found throughout the Old Testament. In the Book of Esther (4:1), Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes when he heard that King Xerxes of Persia wanted to kill all of the Jewish people in his kingdom. Job repented in dust and ashes after his realisation that as a man he did not have the knowledge to question God's wisdom and that he had been mistaken in his belief that God owed him a full explanation of his suffering, (Job 42:6). When prophesying the Babylonian captivity of Jerusalem, Daniel cried out *“Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes”* (Daniel 9:3). After Jonah told the town of Nineveh they had forty days to repent before the city would be destroyed they believed God's message and proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, and the king covered himself with sackcloth and sat in the ashes (Jonah 3:5-6).



Jesus himself would have recognised the practice of using ash and would have understood what this meant symbolically. He made reference to it when he referred to towns that refused to repent of sin although they had witnessed the miracles and heard the gospel, *“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”* (Matthew 11:21).

The wearing of ashes as a sign of penitence, was used from the earliest times of the Church and is referred to in the writing of both the theologian Tertullian (c. 160-220) and the early church historian Eusebius (260-340). It is believed that, at this time, it was primarily associated with public penance when those who had been excommunicated for serious sins would stand at the doors of the church dressed in sackcloth and be sprinkled with ashes as penitential psalms were sung. The doors were then shut and the penitents were not received back into the church until Maundy Thursday.

By the Middle Ages the customs of fasting and putting ashes on everyone's forehead had become common practice. In about 1000 AD an Anglo-Saxon monk named Aelfric preached, “We read in the



books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast.”

This practice has survived until the present day with ashes made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are mixed with sweet smelling oil to help it stick to the foreheads better, and blessed before being used.

When received, the ash cross is a visible physical mark of an inward spiritual journey, connecting our bodies

to our faith. In this simple act we are reminded of our baptism, our own mortality and our need of forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

Hillarie Griggs

Candlemas and Groundhog Day

For Christians throughout the world, February gets underway with Candlemas, a special celebration officially held on 2nd February, or the nearest Sunday to it – this year, according to the Church of England lectionary it has been moved forward to Sunday 30th January, other denominations may be different.

Candlemas is also known as the ‘Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple’ and recalls the events recorded in the Gospel of Luke 2.22-40. The ceremony described by Luke complied to the Old Testament Jewish rite of purification when, following the birth of a child the mother had to be ‘purified’ by offering a burnt offering in the Temple of a lamb, although for the poor, a young pigeon or dove was acceptable.

Candlemas is held 40 days after Christmas and complies with the length of time that is prescribed for most of the major events in the Christian calendar, for example the 40 days of Lent which this year begins on Ash Wednesday 2nd March, and what was originally, 40 days of Advent. For some Christians around the world, it is still the time decorations are taken down. Today, however, it is more generally recognised that The Epiphany, which marks the visit by the magi, and which is celebrated 12 days after Christmas Day, is the time to take them down.

Another spin-off from the ancient Christian festival of Candlemas is Groundhog Day which is also on 2nd February. Groundhog Day is primarily a time for a family feast and party in North America. Like the Christingle, it has its roots in Germany and it reached America via Dutch speaking emigres who took with them their superstitions about predicting spring. Basically, this superstition says that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on Candlemas Day and sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. Like the St. Swithin’s Day superstition – which is on 15th July and predicts 40 days and 40 nights of rain – there is no real scientific evidence that supports the groundhog phenomenon, but this does not stop people enjoying themselves!

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...

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** We pray for... 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...

Intercessions for the Mission Community – February and March

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
Feb 6 th	Hon. Asst. Priests	Blackstone Road	The Green	Main Street	Chardanay
Feb 13 th	Electoral Roll Officers	Bowden Road	Down View Road	Houndhead Way	Sunset Cottage
Feb 20 th	Servers	Bridge Street & Fore Street	Greenhill Lane	Vicarage Hill	Hawkes Farm
Feb 27 th	Eucharistic Ministers	Caunters Close & Harris Court	Fairview	Primary School	Orchard Cottage
Mar 6 th	Sidespeople	Church Path & Paternoster Lane	Moorland Avenue	Community Shop	Pulsford View
Mar 13 th	Sacristans	Clampitt Road and Clampitt Close	Orchard Close	Radfords	Pulsford Farm
Mar 20 th	Organists	Clarendon Road & Motehole Road	Heathfield Road	Beaston	Wickeridge Lodge
Mar 27 th	Choirs and Musical Directors	Cooke Drive & Lang Way	Heathfield Terrace	Downe	Quarry Farm

Beacon Parishes Office

PA and Administrator

office@beaconparishes.co.uk

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☎ 01803 814178

Contacts**Rector**

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The Reverend Andrew Down

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The Reverend Tony Meek

☎ 814370

The Reverend Anne Burden

☎ 813520

Canon Tom New

☎ 813775

Readers

Mrs Tessa Amies

☎ 813993

Mrs Hillarie Griggs

☎ 812197

St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Churchwardens

Mrs Jane Outhwaite

☎ 812879

Mr Clive Tompkins

☎ 813695

Mrs Sheila Sheldon

☎ 814227

Mrs Sue Hird

☎ 813386

Mrs Bridget Vickerstaff

☎ 813505

Mrs Geraldine Dennis

☎ 813077

PCC Secretary

Mrs Vanessa Bevan

☎ 812812

PCC Treasurer

Planned Giving Officer Mr Roger Chamberlain

☎ 368964

Choir

Mrs Jo Innes-Lumsden

☎ 812654

Organist

Mrs Marilyn Ellis

☎ 812568

Bellringing

Mr Colin Clark

☎ 01626 354561

Church Hall

Mrs Shirley Northwood

☎ 813980

Flowers

Mrs Sue Sanders

☎ 812247

Hospitality

Mrs Sue Sanders

☎ 812247

Mrs Marilyn Clark

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St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Churchwardens

Mr Steve Bassett

☎ 812537

Mrs Tessa Amies

☎ 813993

Mr Mike Bray

☎ 812941

Bellringing

Mr Steve Bassett

☎ 812537

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☎ 812941

Cottage

Mrs Fran Howells

☎ 812971

Flowers

Mrs Tessa Amies

☎ 813993

Social

Mrs Mary Head

☎ 812092

Ss Peter & Paul, Broadhempston

Churchwardens

Mr Chris Parker

☎ 762543

Mrs Maggie Sercombe

☎ 813790

Dr Alex Paton

☎ 812021

Dr Paul Russell

☎ 762928

Mrs Janice Parnell

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☎ 813790

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☎ 762543

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Mrs Jane Usher ☎ 01626 353454

PCC Secretary

Mr David Wrayford

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PCC Treasurer

Mr John Usher

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Safeguarding

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☎ 814227

Denbury:

Mrs Tessa Amies

☎ 813993

Broadhempston:

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Sudoku

Hard

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

Hard

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

Medium

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

Easy

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