



## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022

## Third Sunday of Easter

**Points for Prayer.** We hold in prayer the ongoing conflict in Ukraine praying for peace. We particularly pray for those families who are facing separation due to the conflict.

**Family Fest South West, 10-12 June, book now for earlybird discount!** After a break of two years, the Family Fest camping weekend at the River Dart County Park is back!! The Christian camp is organised by a group of Diocese of Exeter churches, with the aim of making it affordable to everyone. It is an opportunity to gather together with other families and share a weekend of activities, games, workshops, music and worship. The cost is £20 per person (including camping pitch and most food) if you book before 1 May (£25 after 1 May). Find out more and book your place here. <https://familyfestsouthwest.com/>

**Ukraine Refugee Project Update** Thank you to the 340 potential hosts who have registered an interest in offering accommodation to Ukrainian refugees. Thank you also for your patience as we work with Citizens UK to start the matching process. Please do look at our website's Ukraine web page for many useful links. <https://exeter.anglican.org/pray-for-ukraine>

**PCC Training Evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.** How's your PCC doing? Focused, fun and fruitful? Or a little different to that? A training evening for your whole PCC:

<https://anglican.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=543e9623f7379d75d88235209&id=9ab651fbca&e=694cd75516>

[https://www.cpas.org.uk/browse/events?audience=All&k=&dt=All&t=11&query=field\\_date\\_value+ASC](https://www.cpas.org.uk/browse/events?audience=All&k=&dt=All&t=11&query=field_date_value+ASC)

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Acts 9:1-6, 7-20	Acts 9:36-End
Psalm	30	23
2nd Reading	Revelation 5:11-End	Revelation 7:9-End
Gospel	John 21:1-19	John 10:22-30

**Readings for the week ahead:**

Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	John 14:1-14	Thurs	5 <sup>th</sup>	John 6:44-51
Tue	3 <sup>rd</sup>	John 6:30-35	Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	John 6:52-59
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	John 12:20-26	Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	John 6:60-69

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

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

### Today's Sunday Services

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2.00 pm	Wedding Meeting	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.00 pm	Wedding Meeting	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

### Morning Prayer

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

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

### Reflection

All our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

### Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down - Day off on Mondays. Church Office closed for bank holiday Monday.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
	7.00 pm	APCM	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Churches Together Lunch Club	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	11.00 am	APCM	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	4.30 pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	6.30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Saturday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	- The Parish Rooms, Woodland
	1.00 pm	Wedding of Paul Warren and Louise Atkinson	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

### Next Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

**In Memory:** Penelope Kittow, Royston Hopkins, Gwen Hayman, Anne Vooght, Muriel Duke, Jean Rogers-Came and Sam Ward.



## Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

**Acts 9:1-20**  
**Conversion of St Paul**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

What happened to St Paul on his journey from Jerusalem to Damascus not only had a dramatic effect on his own life but was also a significant and important story within the early church. Luke, in his Acts of the Apostles, tells the story in this chapter but it is also retold in Paul's own words in chapters 22 and 26.

It is hard to exaggerate the change in Saul on that day. Here was a devout man who believed in God and wanted to seek and to serve Him in the only way he knew how. He would have seen himself as a defender of the faith, making sure that nothing was changed and all religious practices were strictly observed. He would have seen Jesus' followers as the biggest threat to his understanding of religion and would have felt compelled to "rescue" it from their "polluting lies". He certainly would not have seen himself as a persecutor, after all he was obeying all God's Laws and he was one of the "good guys". Could he be a classic example of a person who is so determined to do what is right and proper that he has become blind to the consequences of his actions? Remember he was there when St Stephen was martyred and had obtained permission to arrest, send for trial and have others killed. Did he have such narrow tunnel vision that he could not see what harm his "good" was doing? Was he so wrapped up in his religious tradition that he couldn't see what new things God was trying to do? Can we all be like that at times?

That road to Damascus experience turned Saul's life upside down and inside out. His emotions would have rapidly turned from terror, to shame, to horror and then probably straight back to terror. As he realised who Jesus is and what type of man he had become, that he had made the choice to be filled with hate and murderous threats. From that point he becomes a follower of Jesus then an apostle. It was this personal experience of Jesus and the grace of God that changed Saul to Paul as no human argument could have changed a point of view so rapidly and with such conviction that it changed the whole direction of his life.

The experience left Saul blind and probably shell shocked that he spent the next three days in prayer and fasting waiting to be told what to do next. It was through Ananias that God completed the changes to, and the course of, Saul's life. Firstly, Ananias welcomed him into the life of the church with the words "Brother Saul." This could not have been easy as Saul's reputation would have proceeded him. Once cured of his blindness, he is filled with the Holy Spirit and is baptised. He then begins to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, the role given to him by God.

The end of this reading reminds us that conversion should lead to commissioning. Jesus didn't just come to make Saul a Christian, he changed him so that he could do a particular job. Saul seemed such an unlikely candidate as he was doing everything in his power to destroy anyone who testified about Jesus. But God used him in a way that still has an impact today. With our own feelings of inferiority and unworthiness we feel that God would not choose us but each of us has our own unique job to do.

Most of us do not have such a Damascus Road experience of conversion but each day we are given the choice whether to respond to God as he calls us by name, to leave our past behind us and trust Him and the purpose he has for us.

