



## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Second Sunday after Trinity

**In Memory:** Muriel Duke, Jean Rogers-Came, Sam Ward, Clifford Raymont, Anthony 'Tony' Squire Parnell, Marina Harris, Lawrence Hurley, Penelope Hurley, Ann Toler and Eric Wakeham.

**Patronal Festival at St John the Baptist Woodland on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.** This will be celebrated by a special Evensong at 5pm. Cream teas will be served beforehand in the Parish rooms starting at 4pm. All are welcome.

**Bishop of Exeter Signs Rwanda Asylum Policy Letter** The Bishop of Exeter has joined his fellow Lords' Spiritual in signing an open letter to the Times newspaper today voicing alarm about the Government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. You can read the full text at <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/bishops-letter-times-rwanda-asylum-policy> Bishop Robert is one of 26 bishops to serve in the House of Lords.

**Threads Through Creation Exhibition at Exeter Cathedral, 8<sup>th</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> July.** Threads through Creation is a spectacular sequence of twelve huge textile panels which tell the creation story. The exhibition, which opens at Exeter Cathedral tomorrow, is believed to be one of the largest textile projects by a single artist, ever. It has been created by Christian artist Jacqui Parkinson, from Chudleigh, and took nearly three years to complete. The work includes layers of silk, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers and gold leaf, miles of thread – and more than eight million stitches! You can find out more about the exhibition here.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/threads-through-creation/>

**Devon County Show, 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July, Exeter Westpoint Showground: Call for Cake and Volunteers!** At the Devon County Show, there will be a Devon Churches area with stalls, children's activities, worship and a cafe area serving free tea, coffee and cakes. This will be a great opportunity to bless the thousands of visitors to the show and share our faith with them. Could you make a cake for the cafe? We have four cake recipes to choose from in order to comply with current food health and safety regulations. Recipes and guidance can be found at <https://exeter.anglican.org/events/devon-county-show-2022/> Cakes can be delivered direct to the Devon Churches area at the show.

Could you volunteer in the children's area? If you would be willing to volunteer a few hours to welcome children and families and help with simple craft activities and the play area, please contact Clare Cooke: [clare.cooke@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:clare.cooke@exeter.anglican.org)

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-End	Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm	16	66:1-8
2nd Reading	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Galatians 6:1-16
Gospel	Luke 9:51-End	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### Readings for the week ahead:

Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 8:18-22	Thurs	30 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 9:1-8
Tue	28 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 8:23-27	Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	Matt 9:9-13
Wed	29 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 16:13-19	Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Matt 9:14-17

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

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### Today's Sunday Services

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	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
1.30 pm	Baptism of Noah Heale	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.00 pm	Cream Teas	- The Parish Rooms, Woodland
5.00 pm	Patronal Evensong	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
5.30 pm	Wedding Blessings 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	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
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.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
	1.00 pm	Funeral & Burial Service of Eric Wakeham	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Wednesday	9.45 am	Steering Group Meeting	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin Denbury
	4.30 pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Saturday	1.30 pm	Wedding of Carl Tonepohl and Fiona Hill	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

### Next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 – Third Sunday after Trinity

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 – Family Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2.00 pm	Memorial Service followed by Interment of Ashes for Sam Ward	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

**Points for Prayer.** We pray for the many thousands of people in Afghanistan who have been affected by the powerful earthquake, and for the Aid agencies providing assistance.



## Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

Luke 9:51-End  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

As often as possible churches aim to hold events which also attract those who are not usually in their congregations. I always try particularly to engage with them. One visitor spoke enthusiastically about the church to which she 'belonged' and to which, she told me proudly, she went 'regularly' – never missing a Harvest Festival or Midnight Mass. To be fair, she did say 'regularly', not 'frequently'! I was tempted to ask her if, at her Confirmation, she had said to God, "I will love and serve you when I feel like it."

But many of us hold the same opinion. We think we can decide the terms of our commitment to Christ and have a day off from being a Christian whenever we fancy it. But is this permissible?

In the Gospel passage set for today, we read of Jesus meeting three men.

The second man who came to Christ thought like that.

"*Lord, first let me go and bury my father,*" might seem to us a very reasonable request. But the ritual involved in that process in the Jewish culture of the time was long and, perhaps it seemed in Jesus' view, excessive. Jesus was against the prolonged public show of grief, the refusal to let go of the departed. The would-be disciple needed to be told at the outset that commitment to Christ was a total thing, which would inevitably lead to a clash of loyalties.

Christ expects an exclusive allegiance that will take precedence over all else, even parents and family. Even these have to come second to Christ. Following Jesus means being willing to leave something behind. In the case of Andrew and Peter, it was their nets; with James and John it was their father. So this man who came to Jesus had to be ready to sever the family ties now. Many people are willing to be Christians tomorrow, or next week, or whenever it might be more convenient. But not quite yet.

In the light of this, the reaction of Jesus to the first man is all the more puzzling. The man seemed so keen to serve Jesus straight away, "*I will follow you wherever you go,*" he said, yet Jesus did his best to put him off. The trouble was that his offer was prior to Christ's call. He was trying to call and convert himself. This is something that Jesus could not allow. Jesus wanted the man to think very carefully before deciding, and to realise what he was saying. A quick but shallow response would not last. There would be no roots.

The third man was cautious, wanting to say good-bye to his people at home. "*I will follow you Lord, BUT...*" Perhaps he kept glancing over his shoulder at what he was leaving behind. He wanted to have a foot in both camps. This is how some people see Christianity. For them it is a kind of religious hobby or leisure pursuit, or an insurance policy in case there really is something in this 'God' business. It is to be fitted in if there is a window in the diary. The devil will do his best to ensure that there is no window, so that we never have time to look for God. It is said that if you look back too much, you will soon be heading in that direction. There must be a ruthless break with the past, a whole-hearted response to Christ.

Is our response whole-hearted? Or do we say in our hearts, "*I will follow you Lord, BUT...*"?

Do you know the old story of the pig and the hen? They escaped from the farm and wandered into the local town. They looked at the shops and stopped outside a café. Seeing egg and bacon on the menu, the hen said to the pig, "*Isn't it wonderful to think of the way we serve these humans?*" "*It's all very well for you to talk,*" said the pig, "*it is easy for you. Yours is only a contribution. For me it is a total commitment!*"

Are we pigs or hens? Are we just trying to make a contribution to Christianity, or are we totally committed to Jesus Christ?