



**In Memory:** Kay Simmonds, Pamela Langworthy, Kathleen Woodier, Marie Pook, Margaret 'Jean' Harvey, John Ducker, Diana Hunt, Steven Lloyd, Beryl Humphrey and Michael Retter.

**Points of Prayer:** We pray for all those attending COP 27 in Egypt that there will be fruitful discussions and a positive outcome for the world.

**Thank you to everyone whom made the Jim Causley such a happy, successful event.** The refreshments team, the furniture shifting and cleaning team and everyone who came to support. It was a wonderful occasion which Jim really enjoyed too - especially Denbury Church's spectacular acoustics. We think he'll be back! In addition to raising a considerable amount for church funds, we also (cheekily) asked for spare change in a retiring collection for the H.I.T.S. Harvest cause, as the audience was surrounded by piles of donated products on the window sills. Glad we did - £161 was collected to add to the £200 raised by our Harvest Lunch!!

**Celebrating our Gifts, the small group sessions.** We will meet this Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen when the topic will be 'Leading and Facilitating Worship'. Please see the poster on our website [www.missioncommunity.org.uk/](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk/) or contact the Church Office for more details.

**Bellringing practice has resumed in Broadhempston** on Mondays at 7.30pm.

**Bellringing practice has resumed in Denbury.** Bellringing is now on Wednesdays from 7pm -8pm.

**The dedication service of shoeboxes will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm at The Methodist Church** and all are welcome. the Beacon Parishes Churches and Ipplepen Methodist Church are supporting the Christmas shoebox appeal for FSCI. Boxes will go to vulnerable and needy children and adults in Southeast Europe. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to join in and spread a little Christmas joy. Leaflets explaining how to take part are available at the Beacon Parishes Churches and The Ipplepen Hub/Ipplepen Methodist Church (or can be downloaded from [www.fscinet.org](http://www.fscinet.org) ). If you have any spare shoe boxes, please help to keep a few spare shoe boxes near the leaflets.

**On Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00pm at St. Andrews Church Ipplepen, The War Graves Commission and the Royal British Legion are both giving a talk.** Mark Bailey is the speaker for CWGC and his talk will cover The history of the CWGC and its work today. It will be interesting to all ages. Coffee and cake will be served. Entry £2.50 per person.

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>	1st Reading Job 19:23-27a	Malachi 4:1-2a
	Psalm 17:1-9	98
	2nd Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-End	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
	Gospel Luke 20:27-38	Luke 21:5-19

### Readings for the week ahead:

Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 20:27-38	Thurs	10 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 17:20-25
Tue	8 <sup>th</sup>	John 17:18-23	Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 17:26-End
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 17:11-19	Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 18:1-8

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

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: [rev.andrewdown@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com)

Office: Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ

Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 12 noon to 3pm. Thurs: 11am to 3pm

Tel: 01803 814178 E: [office@beaconparishes.co.uk](mailto:office@beaconparishes.co.uk) W: [www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)

Facebook pages: [www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/](http://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/)

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

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

### Today - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- <b>Church Cottage, Denbury</b>
11.00 am	Holy Communion with Children's Activities	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
1.30 pm	<b>Wedding Ceremony of Andrew DoPrado and Samantha Roache</b>	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.30 pm	Come Holy Spirit: An Informal Reflective Service	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen

### 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.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
	7.30-8.30pm	Denbury Christmas Choir Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
	7 pm	Group Session: Leading & Facilitating Worship	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Wednesday	10.30am-12	Coffee Mates	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.00 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- <b>Church Cottage, Denbury</b>
	4.30-5.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	5.00 pm	Shoebox Gift Service	- <b>Ipplepen Methodist Church</b>
Friday	1.00 pm	Funeral and Burial Service of Steven Charles Lloyd	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	7.00 pm	Commonwealth War Graves Talk	- St Andrew's Ipplepen

### Next Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 - Remembrance Sunday / Second Sunday before Advent

9.30 am	Holy Communion followed by Act of Remembrance at the Cistern	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
10.15 am	Remembrance Service in Church followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
10.55 am	Remembrance Day Service	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston



## Reflection by Steven Sheldon

Luke 20:27-38  
6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

For 1000 years before Jesus the religious teachers of Israel had looked at and studied the 613 laws of Moses. They vigorously debated and argued how best to apply those laws in the ever-changing times of their nation. Often the debate sought to find interpretations which would create loopholes in the law that would excuse one from avoiding what the law seemed to be demanding. Classrooms of students would be asked questions by the rabbi exactly like the one the Sadducees asked Jesus in this Gospel reading. Or like classrooms of ministry trainees would be asked by their tutors today.

36 years ago as part of my training I was faced with writing an essay on a subject I had hoped never to have to think seriously about. The title I was given was: *Has Christianity anything distinctive to say about abortion?*

At the time I was as confused and undecided as I imagine many people are. But I tackled the assignment with great zeal and read quite widely and extensively on the subject, discovering why many of us are so confused and undecided on this subject.

I discovered that not only is there an unbridgeable gap of belief between Christian and secular moral philosophies, not only is there an unbridgeable gap between Catholic and Protestant ethical teaching, but there is also a wide range of belief among just the Protestant writers.

In the end I found it best to return to what Jesus taught, especially as found in the Sermon on the Mount where we find the hard and uncompromising standard of behaviour that is unconditional love, which if subjected to any type of qualification, loses all credibility. We are not to put our trust in the philosophies of the World but in the love of Jesus. We are to put our trust in the God who is Love. I believe that Mankind by its sinful nature and its cultural prejudices will always be incompetent to properly qualify or interpret God's unchanging requirement for our lives, that is, to love our neighbours as ourselves.

I concluded that because it is against God's desire to love and be loved, abortion is at all times a moral wrong and cannot be justified, that is, it can never be made a right action, it can never be made innocent.

*However*, because we live in a broken and sinful world where we face moral dilemmas, where there can be *no innocent choices*, if done in the name of love, justice, mercy and compassion, abortion can be excused. And more importantly, regardless of the motivation behind the action, because God so loved the world he gave his only son to die on the cross for our sins, that we may be reconciled to him, abortion can always be forgiven. That is what is distinctive about what Christianity has to say on the subject of abortion. This was 8 years before I had to, with love and mercy, accompany my 15-year-old daughter to Torbay Hospital for such a procedure.

Jesus has given us a hard and uncompromising standard of behaviour that we dare not try to qualify for our own selfish purposes; and this ethical approach can be applied in a variety of circumstances. Killing of any kind is always in all circumstances wrong and can never be justified, never be made innocent.

But because we live in a broken sinful world, sometimes killing can be excused, and if repented of can always be forgiven by God our Father.

The uncompromising injunctions Jesus laid down in the Sermon on the Mount tell us that not only are our *actions* subject to God's judgment, but also *the emotions behind them*.

Who has never, ever been angry; who has never, ever had even a momentary, fleeting moment of hatred. Anger and hatred are against God's desire for love, can never be made innocent, and are as bad as if we actually violently attacked someone. Looking at another lustily is the same as actual adultery. But because we live in a broken and sinful world, sometimes these feelings happen and if repented of, God will freely forgive them. Fear not, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Which brings me to the ethical dilemma raised by the Sadducees: Christianity and divorce. A couple that has come together and made a public vow of a life-long loving companionship are expected to honour that vow; therefore, because it is against God's desire for love, divorce can never be justified, made innocent. But because we live in a broken and sinful world, where we can face moral dilemmas where there are no innocent choices, where we have to pick our way through to the least bad decision, divorce does happen and can be excused. And we may never know if that was in truth the least bad choice until we find ourselves standing before the throne of God for our final judgment. But the great thing is that our final judgment will not be based on our sins, because through the victory of Jesus Christ our sins have been removed from us as far as the east is from the west; because our Judge is also our Saviour.

Instead, God is going to be judging us according to what we have done with what he has given to us. God has revealed himself as a God of love, mercy and compassion, and given us individual gifts and talents and resources to share this Good News with the world. We will be judged on how well we have used what we have been given to tell what we have learned.

I have never been a perfect Christian....man...husband...father...anything. I've made at least as many mistakes since I've become an active Christian than before when I only paid lip service to Jesus Christ, only now I have no excuse for those mistakes.

I'm not God's best servant; I'm certainly not the Body of Christ's best speaker. I have not been, nor ever will be a perfect Christian. '*O God, you know my foolishness, and my faults are not hidden from you*' Ps 69.6. Even though I've not been the Christian I should be, Jesus has always been the Saviour he said he would be.

The reason I can write this to you with victory in my heart and joy in my life is not because of my own perfection, but because of the perfection of my Saviour; not because I've learned to trust in myself, but because I've learned to trust in the love Jesus has for me.

I would never set myself up as an example of how to love, but how to BE loved by our gracious God & Father. I've learned through faith that despite my personal mistakes and failures, I am a winner. And so are you...