



**Well done to Dr Paul Russell, Churchwarden from Broadhempston, for running the London Marathon on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, for Compassion UK**, a Christian charity, supporting children in extreme poverty. Please read his article on Page 28 in The February and March 2023 edition of The Beacon Magazine. <https://challenges.compassionuk.org/profile/4850/paul-russell>  
[http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Final\\_2023\\_February\\_v1.pdf](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Final_2023_February_v1.pdf)

**The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury APCM will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**, starting with Evening Prayer at 6:30pm.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May The Ipplepen Bellringers will be bellringing at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Denbury** from 6.30pm – 7.45pm.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10am – 10.45am The Ipplepen Bellringers will be bellringing at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen** to Celebrate the King's Coronation.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 11am – Mission Community Holy Communion Celebrating the King's Coronation** at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen. All Welcome!

**Cream Teas in the Parish Rooms, Woodland, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** to celebrate the King's Coronation.

**'Coffee & Chat!' At St Andrew's Church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30am to 12 noon (ish).** Everyone is welcome to this third 'Coffee & Chat!' on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. There is no charge, donations only. This regular event takes place on the second Saturday of each Month.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm. Denbury Folk and St Mary's Church present rising stars in the folk world, Filkin's Drift (duo).** Chris and Seth are coming to St Mary's, Denbury. More details and tickets from Rachel ( [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com) 07751 804 007 )

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 5.00pm, 'St Andrew's Outside' in the Church Field, Ipplepen.** Free community event with activities, food and fire pit. Thank you prayer and core team volunteers. Church is invited to join in praying for the event. Any questions? Contact Lesley Mawson (01803) 813384.

**18-28<sup>th</sup> May 'Thy Kingdom Come 2023'** Free prayer journals and bookmarks will be available across our churches. Further details to follow.

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Acts 2:42-End	Acts 7:55-End
	Psalms 23	31:1-5, 15-16
2nd Reading	1 Peter 2:19-End	1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel	John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14

### Readings for the week ahead:

Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	John 14:1-14	Thurs	4 <sup>th</sup>	John 12:20-26
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	John 10:22-30	Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	John 14:1-6
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	John 12:44-End	Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	John 14:7-14

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 - Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 am Mission Community Service with Children's Activities - St John the Baptist, Woodland

### 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	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
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 from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

### Mid-Week

Rev Andrew Down – Day off on Mondays.

Church Office closed for bank holiday Monday.

Monday	3pm-5pm	'Cream Teas' 'T-Pot'	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer followed by the APCM	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Wednesday	12 noon	Churches Together - Lunch Club	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen
	6.30 pm	Ipplepen Bellringers visit Denbury	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	4.30-5.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Saturday	10.00 am	Bellringing to Celebrate the King's Coronation	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

### Next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Mission Community Holy Communion Celebrating the King's Coronation with Children's Activities	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

**In Memory:** Fran Howells, Geoffrey Bamford, Pamela Lloyd, Elizabeth Mills, Percy Collings and David Mills.

**Points of Prayer:** We pray for those who hunger for justice and freedom and peace and all who work to make a safer world for us to live in.



## Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because each year the lectionary gives us a reading from part of chapter ten of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd. This year we read only the first 10 verses.

Jesus always used rich and familiar images from daily life to illustrate the point he was trying to teach. Did you know that sheep are mentioned more than 200 times in the Bible, and if you also count lambs and rams the number goes up to over 500, more than any other animal? Sheep with their shepherds were a very familiar sight in the countryside during biblical times, as it still is if you visit the Holy Land today. Sheep were important as sources of wool, milk, and meat, and throughout the Bible, sheep served as symbols for God's people. God is portrayed as the shepherd of his chosen flock in the prophetic words of Isaiah and Ezekiel, and most famously in the 23rd Psalm.

In today's passage Jesus names himself as the gate for the sheep. He does not name himself as the Good Shepherd until verse 11. In Jesus' time as night came and before darkness fell the shepherds would herd their sheep, sometimes several flocks together, either into a cave, an enclosure or a temporary structure made from cut thorn branches. Each would have a gap which a shepherd would lie across keeping the sheep from danger, safe from roaming thieves, bandits and wolves. When morning came, a shepherd would call to his own sheep who,

recognising his voice, would follow him as he led them out to graze again. Jesus naming himself as the gate also speaks to me of Psalm 121 v 8 "the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." The gate would meet all their needs by allowing the sheep to come and go, when closed keeping them safe inside and opening to lead them out into new pastures.

Today's passage ends with the phrase that Jesus "came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." What does Jesus mean to live abundantly? He was not calling us to consumerism and greed, acquiring things we don't need or really want. An abundant life is more meaningful than material wealth and prosperity and is not dependant on the things we have. An abundant life is not necessary a life of comfort and ease but it is a life lived with joy as you learn to trust God. In a life lived abundantly there is freedom to be yourself.

Think about your own life. In what ways might it be called abundant? If it is abundant, what could you share or reduce, and still be living abundantly?

