



Sunday 23rd July 2023

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Denbury's Festival of Flowers: A wonderful PS to my thank you note of last week. The figures have been crunched, and the net result of the Festival Weekend is...drum roll...**£6,730!!!** It's a truly amazing result, but what was remarked on by visitors - almost as much as the glorious displays - was the welcome and the community spirit on display. Those of you who were able to come to the finishing Thanksgiving Service (like an end of term assembly!) can attest to this. The visitors had gone home. This was a celebration of Denbury! Once again – thank you!

'Coffee Morning in Woodland' next takes place on Saturday 5th August from 10am to 12 noon at The Parish Rooms, Woodland. This is a regular monthly coffee morning in Morning in Woodland which takes place on the first Saturday of each month. All Welcome!

Reflective Evening Prayer at Holy Trinity Church, Torbryan on Sunday 6th August at 4.30pm. The Theme for this month's Reflective Service is: 'Meditation, Silence and Christian Mysticism' with Guest Speaker Brijji Waterfield. Brijji Waterfield is a spiritual director, leads retreats and has had a life-long interest in meditation and the Christian mystical tradition. Please join us. All are welcome.

'Coffee Mates – Men of Denbury (and friends)' next takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, on Wednesday 9th August at 10.30am. Treat it as a coffee shop. Bring your newspaper/book or do the crossword. This is a regular monthly coffee morning in Denbury which takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All Welcome!

'Coffee & Chat!' At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen, next takes place on Saturday 12th August from 10.30am to 12 noon (ish). Everyone is welcome to this regular coffee morning held on at second Saturday of each month in St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen. There is no charge, donations only.

St Andrew's Outside...Going forward. Thank you to all who were involved in any way in our recent lovely 'St Andrew's Outside' event. We plan to continue using the Church Field bi-monthly into the autumn for 'St Andrew's Outside' on Sunday 10th September at 5pm and Sunday 12th November at 4pm. We would love to welcome you to experience St Andrew's Outside for yourself. You are also most welcome to join the team for a one-off event. No ongoing commitment is required. We are open to new ideas on how to take this forward. Please think and pray around this. I can be contacted with feedback or queries via email at: lesleymawson0@gmail.com

Readings	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:	1st Reading	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19
	Psalm	86:11-End
	2nd Reading	Romans 8:1-11
	Gospel	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
		1 Kings 3:5-12
		119:129-136
		Romans 8:26-End
		Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Readings for the week ahead:		
Mon 24 th	Matt 12:38-42	Thurs 27 th Matt 13:10-17
Tue 25 th	Matt 20:20-28	Fri 28 th Matt 13:18-23
Wed 26 th	Matt 13:16-17	Sat 29 th John 12:1-8

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

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Today - Sunday 23rd July

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 Family Service	- Ipplepen Methodist Church

Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday	9.15 am (Book of Common Prayer)	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Thursday	9.15 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am (Silent prayer and meditation)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

Reflection

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

Mid-Week

Andrew will be off work on Thursday and Friday.

Monday	3pm-5pm	'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
	6.30pm-8pm	'The Unity Course'	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- 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

Next Sunday 30th July – Eighth Sunday After Trinity

10.00 am	Mission Community Service	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
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Points of Prayer: We pray for the various projects that are run in our local area to support those in need; and for those who generously give their time in volunteering.

'Monday T-Pot' takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, this Monday 24th July from 3pm to 5pm. This is a regular weekly coffee afternoon in Denbury. All Welcome!

'The Unity Course' continues this Tuesday 25th July at St Andrew's Church Ipplepen 6.30pm – 8pm. This week is the final session and the theme will be 'Unifying and Peace-Making: Learning to disagree Christianly'. Please All welcome! Please see the poster on our notice boards, in 'The Beacon' Magazine and on the welcome page of our website for more details: www.missioncommunity.org.uk Further details about the individual sessions can be found on the Unity Course Website: <https://theunitycourse.co.uk/sessions>

Please note that the 'Food For Thought – Lunch Club' At St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen, will not take place in August. It will next take place on Wednesday 6th September at 12 noon. All welcome – To book a place please contact Maria Alsop on 01803 813110



Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

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Are you disturbed by what is happening in the world at the moment; wars, violence, injustice and inequality? Don't you just wish that God would jump in and solve all the world's and your own problems right now and forever. If that is your thought, you would be acting exactly like the slaves in today's parable and their request to go and gather the weeds in immediately.

The answer given to them is that it would be too early and both the weeds and the wheat would be disturbed and uprooted. When they are young the two plants are indistinguishable. It is not that the Master ignores and pretends that the weeds do not exist. He has the vision that the weeds and wheat can be separated more safely and easily if it is done after the crop is fully grown when the differences between them can be seen. It reminds us that the problem of good and evil is more complex than we would like it to be. In faith and hope we believe that God will win and good will overcome evil.

In the parable we are reminded that God's timing is not our timing but He does have a purpose. If judgement comes too early, when we are not fully formed, there would no chance for us to acknowledge our sins, to ask for forgiveness and ultimately there would be no chance of redemption. God desires everyone to be saved and to become His children. God loves each one of us and sees us as we really are. He has revealed Himself as supremely loving, wise, holy, merciful and just. It is these characteristics that we must remember when it comes to the matter of judgement. We must not be tempted to see God as a

sadistic monster or a far too soft and indulgent grandparent. God does not inflict dreadful punishment on us as sinners. He has patience with us allowing us to ask for forgiveness, to change our ways and again put our trust in him.

We are also reminded that it is not our job but God's to judge. If we are honest with ourselves, we would admit that we are very quick to identify with being the wheat but each of us needs to be aware that we really are a mixture of wheat and weeds. We also find it hard to admit our tendency to rush in and judge others. We are quick to decide who is in and who is out especially if we are *certain* that our point of view is the only valid one. We can then spend an inordinate amount of time and energy criticising and condemning other people. It does seem that our natural reaction to those we disagree with is for them to become our enemies. To think of them as the weeds and that they need removing. Jesus taught that we can point out their mistakes, but we are not entitled to judge them. Not easy when we have already decided who are the weeds and who are the wheat.

