



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

### Today - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion with Children's Activities	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2.00 pm	Baptism of Otilie Tewson	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
5.00pm-6.30pm	'St Andrew's Outside'	- St Andrew's Church Field, Ipplepen

### 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

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
	6.15 pm	Wedding Meeting	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	10.30 am	Coffee Mates	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	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
	4.15 pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

### Next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.30 pm	Come Holy Spirit: An Informal Service of Reflection	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen

'Family Holy Communion Service with a Crafts table and Childrens Activities' takes place in St Peter & St Paul's Church, Broadhempston, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. This regular monthly family service takes place on the second Sunday of every month.

'St Andrew's Outside' takes place in the Church Field, Ipplepen on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 5.00pm and then on Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at the slightly earlier time of 4.00pm for an exciting 'Come and See' event. This is a FREE community event with activities, food and fire pit, taking place on the second Sunday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September and November).

'Monday T-Pot' takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, this Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 3pm to 5pm. This is a regular weekly coffee afternoon in Denbury. All Welcome!

'Coffee Mates – Men of Denbury (and friends)' next takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. All Welcome!

Please note that The 'Banter' Music Gig at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Broadhempston, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 8pm has unfortunately been CANCELLED. [www.banter.band/gigs](http://www.banter.band/gigs)

'Come Holy Spirit: An Informal Service of Reflection' takes place in St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm and then on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October. This regular monthly service takes place on the third Sunday of every month.

'Harvest Soup & Sweets Lunch' takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 12 noon to 2pm. Please telephone Tessa Amies to add your name to the list for this lunch (01803) 813993

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 11am there will be the 'Harvest Holy Communion & Bellringers Service' at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.

To view all posters of our regular weekly and monthly events and also posters of special events, please remember to view the welcome page of our website: [www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>	1st Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11	Genesis 50:15-21
	Psalm 119:33-40	103:1-13
	2nd Reading Romans 13:8-End	Romans 14:1-12
	Gospel Matt 18:15-20	Matt 18:21-35
<b>Readings for the week ahead:</b>		
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 6:6-11	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> John 3:13-17
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 6:12-19	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Luke 6:39-42
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 6:20-26	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Luke 6:43-End

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/)

**Points of Prayer:** We have experienced a few hot days this week but this summer Greece and southern Europe have experienced unprecedented heatwaves and wildfires. We pray for those for whom the threat of climate change is not an abstract idea but is bringing destruction and devastation to their lives. Help us to use our talents and influence to alleviate suffering and bring harmony and peace to all. We pray for Otilie Tewson as she is baptised this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.

**In Memory:** Jean Ellen Squires.



## Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity  
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Matt 18:15-20  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Before I ever begin to preach, I say that I do so in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. I claim to be speaking in God's name. Am I doing so in the way that an officer of the law might do in the name of the King because he is acting in the King's absence? Could I possibly be implying that God is an absent sovereign, and I am speaking on God's authority because God couldn't quite get here this morning?

I certainly hope not. Notice what Jesus says at the end of today's Gospel reading: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them." Whenever we invoke the name of Jesus, we do not do so in order to stand in for an absent saviour; rather, we invoke Jesus' name to awaken ourselves to the ultimate reality of Christ's very presence in our midst.

Jesus expresses this ultimate reality when he says, "I am there among them." In Greek, this phrase literally means, "I am there *in the middle* of them." In other words, the presence of Christ forms the invisible connective tissue in our relationships. We make this connection visible when we love one another, when we serve one another, when we respect the dignity of one another, and when we reach out to those whom we might think are not all that connected to us.

We make this connection visible when we gather intentionally in Christ's name to share Christ's presence with each other. During our celebration of the Eucharist, we turn our attention to the altar. And the very first words out of our mouths will demonstrate that a gathering of at least two is necessary to celebrate God's connection to us and to each other. The presiding minister will say, "The Lord be with you." And all others will respond, "And also with you." We engage in this short conversation in order to notice that we are gathered together in God's presence.

During the ensuing prayer, the presiding minister thanks God on our behalf for all the gifts God has given us. Because this thanksgiving comes attached to the sharing of something, namely bread and wine, we are reminded that the best way to thank God for our gifts is to share them with others. At the end of the prayer, the bread is broken so that all can partake in this act of sharing. And through the praying, thanking, breaking, and sharing, we participate in the presence of God among us. We celebrate the connective tissue of Christ in each of our relationships.

But this is not the end of our awareness of the connecting power of God. This is the training, the exercise for the real work of disciples of Jesus Christ. When we walk out from church after the service, we should take with us the desire and the ability to make visible the connective tissue of Christ's presence in all of our relationships. The final dialogue of the Eucharist can be "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" to which all respond, "In the name of Christ. Amen."

We go forth in the name of Christ, not to divide, but to gather. We go forth in the name of Christ, not rejecting the chance to form a bond, but rejoicing that the connective tissue of God's presence stretches forth from us, seeking the lost and the lonely. We go forth in the name of Christ, not as delegates of an absent saviour, but as beacons of the light of Christ, which fills the space between people and pulls them closer together. Christ's presence at the very centre of our lives should make us shine out in the world so that those around us can see Christ through our words, our actions, our acts of service, through all that we do and say. A challenging thought – but precisely what we are called to do and be.

