

Parish Magazine St Eustachius' Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brent Tor
September 2021

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From the Vicarage

September will see a number of new priests and deacons being ordained in the diocese. It is always very exciting and humbling to be involved with ordinations when those who have been exploring, and sometimes struggling, with their sense of vocation for many years, take an important step on the journey of discipleship. It is also hugely encouraging to see new ministry immerge alongside the existing ministry and encouragement of others.

We are, of course, all disciples. I am always greatly encouraged by the number of those who offer themselves for ministry whatever form that takes. The exploration, discovery, and nurturing of new gifts and abilities to further God's work is something which we should all celebrate and rejoice in. As Hazel Butland and Rosie Illingworth are ordained priest to serve in our benefice we should all be encouraged to take this opportunity to consider what is our calling. How do we remain faithful to our baptismal vocation? It is not always clear or obvious, sometimes for many years, how we can best exercise and enable our own ministry to be developed. However, it is the case that each of us has a ministry and each of us has a duty to try and respond to that calling from God. I hope and pray that we can all consider our own sense of call and vocation. The real fruit of Hazel and Rosie's ministry will be them enabling and encouraging others to blossom and flourish in their discipleship.

Almighty and Everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
Hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please pray for Hazel and Rosie and for all being ordained this September.

The Galley and Toilets Project at St. Eustachius'

Plans for the refurbishment of "Dora's Cupboard" are now well advanced and have been displayed in Church. Alongside the design and faculty application process, we have been looking at funding options for the project. The likely cost will be in the region of £150,000. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of St. Eustachius', and the PCC, we have funding in place of approximately £75,000 and we are now submitting grant applications hoping to secure up to a further £50,000. We do not know whether these

applications will be successful or not. The worst-case scenario is that no application is successful, and we will need to find £75,000 from other sources, or, we are successful, in which case we will need to find £25,000. Alongside this process, local weekly fund-raising initiatives continue in the parish. We are now looking to appoint a fund-raiser with a specific and focussed brief to approach local businesses to support the Galley and Toilets project. We have a strong team in place, and office support available if needed, but we do need someone to take-on/head-up this specific part of the project. If you are interested or would like to know please do speak to me.

Diocese of Exeter Next Steps

The Diocese has developed a “Next Steps” plan to help mission communities move forward from the pandemic in a way that is both creative and sustainable.

Bishop Robert says:

“The pandemic has changed every aspect of life over the last 18 months and the life of our churches is no exception. We have been challenged in all sorts of ways and I have been moved by the way people have stepped up and stepped out in faith. I give thanks for deeper engagement with local communities, proclaiming the joy of a God who yearns that people everywhere experience life in all its fullness. Most of our parishes and Mission Communities have revealed their resilience, but some are feeling fragile and apprehensive about the future.

As a Diocese, it is time to take stock so that we emerge from this extraordinary period with a clear sense of direction and a realistic plan for how to get there. We need to move forward in a way that is both creative and sustainable.

Now is the time to renew our trust in the leading of God. ‘Next Steps’ represents the crystallisation of our collective learning to date. It draws on the Listening in Deaneries consultation, ‘For Such A Time As This’, carried out in 2020 and the work of the Theological Reflections Group, a group of clergy and laity from across the Diocese who met during lockdown. It incorporates feedback from the Diocesan Synod held in May 2021 on the Church of England’s Emerging Vision for the 2020s and what I learnt at first-hand during my online visits to every deanery chapter.

With so many rural parishes, we have also drawn upon the wisdom garnered in the excellent ‘Lightening the Load’ toolkit and have consulted our Growing the Rural Church team. All these tributaries have fed into our thinking. It is my hope that, as we move forward, we can build a culture that is mutually supportive, working together to make bold decisions, always willing to listen and to adapt.

I hope the document will stimulate imaginative and realistic conversations about how our Mission Communities can develop over the next three years. That development will help inform how our stipendiary clergy can best be deployed. Recognising that some significant challenges still lie ahead of us, we need to enable our Mission Communities to flourish in ways that are fruitful and sustainable, with thriving congregations that make a difference. May God bless our endeavours as together we seek to grow in prayer, to make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.”

The Right Reverend Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter

The “Next Steps” document can be read in full on the Exeter Diocesan Website:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Next-Steps-MC-vision-document-1-7-21.pdf>

The “Next Steps’ video “God’s Vineyard” can be viewed on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/567195612>

NEXT STEP CONVERSATIONS

The Archdeacon of Plymouth, Ven. Nick Shutt invites you to a conversation on the "Next Steps" plan on:

Thursday, 9th September, at Tavistock Parish Centre, Tavistock, at 7.00 pm
Sunday, 12th September, at St Pancras Church, Plymouth, at 2.30 pm
Thursday, 23rd September at St.Mark's Church, Ford, Plymouth, at 2.30 pm

Please do take part if you are able to do so.
With my love and prayers.

Chris Hardwick

September 2021

Gulworthy Notes for September

As I write this Roy and Viv are meeting with our architect who is carrying out our quinquennial inspection. One of our projects for St Paul's is to look at how we use the building and to consider how we may fund and build a toilet, hopefully the inspection will not give us too many if indeed any surprises.

The past two months have been a feast of joy and celebration in St Paul's. The church has been full of beautiful flowers and music. We wish our newly married couples, Darren and Tamsyn, Christopher and Charlotte and Mark and Charlotte every blessing in their married life together.

We have also welcomed Seren Edwards, Sidney Blowey and Freddie Harris to the Christian family as we celebrated their baptisms and we look forward to the baptism of George Wearing in October.

Congratulations to John and Rose Steer on the arrival of a new granddaughter Katie.

Congratulations to Colin and Lowenna Edwards on their Ruby Wedding

August is traditionally the holiday season and our Bed and Breakfasts are busy as people come and enjoy Dartmoor and all the wonderful places we too enjoy.

Peter and I found ourselves in Hope Cove for a two day break. It was beautiful and we are so fortunate we really do not have to go far to find contrasting scenery and beautiful countryside.

On Sunday September 19th we look forward to celebrating our Harvest followed by a Harvest Supper in the parish hall everyone is welcome there is no charge as such although a donation would be welcome it will be lovely to see you

As we prepare for an exciting and busy September my thanks to everyone for their support and continued contribution to the life of St Pauls.

God Bless, Judith

Diary

Sunday 19th September **6pm** -Celebration of Harvest followed by Harvest Supper

Saturday 25th September **3pm** - Hazel and Rosie's Ordination at St Eustachius

Sunday 26th September –no Service. We will be in St Eustachius for Rosie’s first celebration of Holy Communion at **9.45 am** and Hazel’s first communion is at St Michael’s Brent Tor at **6pm**

Saturday 16th October 1-4pm Car boot Sale

A Prayer for September

Dear Lord when I see you face to face
may you be able to say to me welcome to my Father's house for I was hungry and you gave me food
And when I was thirsty you gave me a drink
when I was naked you clothed me for as much as you do it to others you do it to Me

Amen.

Sponsored Cycle Ride – 11 September 2021 from 10am until 1pm

Would you like to join Rob Weston on a cycle ride visiting a dozen churches in the Tavistock area on Saturday 11 September?

Rob will be cycling round to raise funds for Devon Historic Churches Trust and for the Tavistock United Reformed Church. You are welcome to just come along for the ride (or part of the ride) or you could also find some sponsors for Devon Historic Churches and a church of your choice.

The route that Rob usually takes starts at Brentor village church (not the one up the tor), goes across to Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy before arriving at Tavistock, where most of the churches are visited, then along Drake’s Trail to Horrabridge and Yelverton. Starting at 10am from Brentor village, the route usually takes until lunchtime, around 1pm. The route is partly on the road, one section of muddy path and Drake’s Trail is a very nice section of cycle path.

If you are interested in coming along, please contact Rob on 01566 784990 or email tavistockurcminister@gmail.com

Tales from the Tower

Once again, we ringers have had the sad duty of ringing for the funeral of one of our own - this time, our dear friend and oldest ringer, George Boucher, who died in July leaving a widow, Reta, two sons, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

George was one of those people you could not dislike. His face seemed to be made for smiling, his voice was soft and gentle and if he took you by the arm and drew you aside to tell you something as if in confidence, you were compelled to listen. He was serious yet good-humoured, as ready with a thoughtful comment as with a joke. He was never unkind and always put others first.

George took his ringing seriously. He rang at Lamerton and then at St Eustachius where he served as captain during the 1970s. But he was known over a much wider area, for George was an accomplished call-

change ringer and took part in many competitions, rising to the position of President of the Devon Association of Call Change Ringers.

George continued to ring regularly into his late eighties and it was only very recently that he handed back his keys to the church tower, his ringing being somewhat curtailed by the family responsibilities he took on so gladly. But it seems very little time since we last saw him amongst us, and we will miss him for a long time to come.

In other news - well, there's not a lot of other news, to be honest. We are gathering together now, with some caution, to ring for Sunday services and our Tuesday evening practices. Some of us are still a little tentative about being in a confined space with little ventilation, and not all are vaccinated, which brings some anxiety about spreading the dreaded Covid virus, both to them and to others of us who feel vulnerable. It seems we are not by any means out of this wood yet.

Nevertheless, we are all ringing when we are able, and very happy we are to be back with a rope in our hands, feeling that incomparable sensation of controlling a beautifully tuned bell, hearing the music created above, and renewing that bond and kinship that only ringers can fully understand.

Let's hope that it won't be too long before we can meet and mix freely again, without anxiety, and return fully to the performance of the art we are privileged to enjoy. Meanwhile, we do what we can to bring the sound of church bells to Tavistock once more.

And we will long remember George Boucher, with his rosy face and beaming smile, and the glow his presence always seemed to bring to any tower where he rang.

Donna Baker

Tavistock Local History Society

A group of volunteers from Tavistock Local History Society have checked and updated a transcription of the memorials in St Eustachius' Churchyard as well as other burial sites in Tavistock. That work is now complete and they have a spreadsheet and plan to identify & locate the memorials. An enquiry service is now available on their website for anyone who is interested in finding out information.

Their website is at: <https://www.tavistockhistory.co.uk/memoriallookup>

Mission of the month for September



USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock and champion justice. Each year USPG has a Harvest Appeal and this year's is in aid of Zimbabwe's Gardens of Life.

While Zimbabwe is on the way to reducing HIV and AIDS, many of those who live with HIV still face stigma around disclosing their status. To support local people, the Church of Zimbabwe's Stigma Reduction Programme trains church leaders on issues of HIV and has created wellness groups that provide a network to people living with HIV. As well as emotional support, they offer access with developing sustainable livelihoods.

Hope is 48 years old and a mother of 4 children. She tested positive for HIV five years ago and immediately experienced a negative impact on her family and food insecurity with some of her children having to drop out of school, causing a lot of stress in the family and a deterioration in her health. Hope and others living with HIV in her area tried to mobilise themselves but there was no support for them.

Then the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo introduced the HIV Stigma Reduction programme and her community embraced it. They were helped to set up a nutrition garden where they were able to meet and support each other as they grew vegetables. The income generating activities that Hope was taught in the garden enabled Hope to send her children back to school. Her health has improved with the extra nutrition, along with adhering to her Antiretroviral therapy. She now shares her story in her village and many of those who initially shunned her have joined the wellness groups.

Last year St Eustachius' donated £187.50 to the Harvest Appeal and we shall be having a retiring collection at one of the services in September.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Elizabeth Watkins

Paul's Letter to the Colossians



Paul's letter to the Colossians

The central subject is the greatness and supremacy of Christ. Paul writes to a church he did not establish, which is adopting a mixture of beliefs and is dangerously losing sight of all that Christ means.

Contents of the Colossians are

Greeting and thanksgiving (chapter 1: 1-14)

Despite his concerns, Paul is characteristically encouraging and is full of thanksgiving. He longs for God to give the members of the church direction in their ministry and a fuller understanding and wisdom of what they must do.

'...we pray that God will show you everything He wants you to do and that you have all the wisdom and understanding His Spirit gives.' (verse 9)

The supremacy of Christ (chapter 1: 15-23)

Paul describes God's rescue mission and he writes poetically about the nature and work of Christ, as Jesus being the living expression of God Himself. He urges the church to remain hopeful and *'to stay deeply rooted and firm in your faith'* (verse 23)

An appeal for Christian maturity (chapter 2:6 – chapter 4:6)

Paul warns the Colossian Christians not to return to early Jewish mystical practices, but to base their faith on the example of Jesus Christ, showing love and forgiveness and living a life of prayer and thanksgiving to God.

Paul sets out some rules for everyday life, which can make hard reading for us in the present day, but it is all about love:

'Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.' (3:14)

Final greeting and personal news (chapter 4: 7-18)

Paul sends messages and greetings to his fellow Christians by name. Easy perhaps for us to gloss over, but replace those Biblical names with our own and we would feel greatly encouraged to have our own ministry and challenges recognised and understood. Paul is describing the team of faithful people who are devoted to serving Jesus Christ.

Are we part of that team?
