Lighten Our Darkness

In my study at home I have a poster of the well-known and much loved painting by the pre-Raphaelite English artist Holman Hunt called 'The Light of the World'. It is an allegorical painting representing the figure of Christ with a golden halo round his head, holding a candle-lit lantern, preparing to knock on an overgrown and long-unopened door - Revelation 3v20 *'Behold, I stand at the door and knock and if any man hears my voice and opens the door I will come unto him and will sup with him and he with me'*.

Looking at the poster as I write this in early February with its noticeable increasing daylight hours has made me reflect on light. Light is a word which, like many in our English language, can have different meaning or nuances. In fact in a dictionary and thesaurus I have there are no less than 15 references given, beginning with a scientific description of a magnetic radiation wavelength with a speed of 186,282 miles a second which stimulates light and makes things visible; consequently the distances of stars from earth are shown in light years. Interesting!

But of the remaining 14 descriptions the one I find most interesting is the one relative to theology, described as a spiritual definition of divine truth, and to me Hunt's painting does this pictorially. So it does liturgically; in our services there are many references to light, one of which is 'Lighten our

darkness we beseech thee, O Lord' - the opening petition of the collect at evensong for aid against all perils, and a particular favourite of mine.
Scripture has many references to light, the first of which is right at the beginning of the bible:
'*Then God said let there be light and there was light. And God saw that the light was good and God separated the light from darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning the first day*' Genesis1v3-4.
This reminds me of the song, a particular favourite of hers, 'Morning has broken', sung at my eldest daughter's wedding:
Morning has broken like the first day. Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.

Another hymn concerning light is 'Lead kindly light' by Cardinal (now Saint) John Henry Newman:
Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom. Lead thou me on.
The night is dark and I am far from home. Lead thou me on.
It was composed by Newman at a difficult time of his life. He was young, ill, feeling depressed, and waiting for a ship to return home to England. When he eventually found a passage the ship was becalmed and the journey home delayed. However with the 'kindly light' proclaimed by Jesus, true believers can overcome darkness as Newman did on his return to England.

John's gospel gives us one of the seven **'I am'** statements of our Lord: '*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness'* 8v12

Also in scripture we have our Lord's mountain top transfiguration portrayed in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. His glory was manifested, not by the falling of a heavenly light upon Him from without, but by the flashing forth of the radiant splendour within. Peter, who was present with James and John, attests to the historical reality of the event in his 2nd letter, c1 v 16-18: '*for we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory saying to him 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased' . We ourselves heard this voice from heaven while we were with him on the Holy mountain.*'

One of my favourite festivals of the Church's year is Candlemas. The set gospel reading for this festival is Luke 2 v 22-32. It tells of the young baby Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph to present Him to the Lord, a Jewish custom of the time with every first born male. But why, you may ask, is this festival also called Candlemas? It all has to do with light! The aged Simeon, on seeing the infant Jesus, proclaims Him to be '*a light to lighten the Gentiles.*'

In the Old and New Testaments the number 40 is used to signify a period of time as a preparation for a major event or change. Noah had to wait 40 days for the flood waters to subside, the Israelites waited 40 years in the wilderness of Sinai before they entered the promised land, and Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert - a time we recall during the period of Lent. There are 40 days from Christmas Day to Candlemas, symbolically a time of change from the 12 days of Christmas and the 28 days of Epiphany, together known as the season of the incarnation. Some church traditions, such as St Eustachius keeping the nativity crib until the end of Epiphany and the Advent candles remaining lit at services, reflect this.
The early Church Christianised the pagan festival of Imbloc held early in February; this celebrated the signs of spring with the noticeably increasing daylight hours. The dark long nights of winter were coming to an end. Simeon proclaiming Jesus to be a light to the Gentiles symbolised this idea.

So although Lent is a penitential time, may we find joy not only with the increasing signs of spring, but above all knowing that Christ, our Lord, is always with us to lighten our darkness, emotionally and spiritually.

Ian Silcox
Reader with a Diocesan Permission to Officiate

March 2020 *(Services are in Tavistock Parish Church unless otherwise indicated)*

Sun 1	**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**	
	7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**
	8 am	**Holy Communion (BCP)**
	9.45 am	**Family Communion: a service with a group for children**
	9.45 am	**Holy Communion – Christ Church, Brentor**
	11.15 am	**Holy Communion – Gulworthy**
	6 pm	**Evensong**
Tue 3	7.30 pm	Prayer and Stillness Group – 10 Courtlands Road
Wed 4	**10.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
	3.30 pm	**Messy Church**
Fri 6	**8.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
	10 am	Holy Dusters
	10 am	Friendly Friday Coffee Morning
Sun 8	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**	
	7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**
	8 am	**Holy Communion**
	9.45 am	**Family Communion: a service with a group for children**
	9.45 am	**Prayer and Praise – Christ Church, Brentor**
	11.15 am	**Holy Communion – Gulworthy**
	6 pm	**Compline**
Tue 10	**7 pm**	**Holy Communion and Gulworthy APCM**
Wed 11	**10.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
Fri 13	**8.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
	10 am	Friendly Friday Coffee Morning
Sat 14	10 am	Intercessors' Prayer Group
Sun 15	**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**	
	7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**
	8 am	**Holy Communion**
	9.30 am	**Nosh @ 9.30 - parish centre**
	9.45 am	**Family Communion**
	9.45 am	**Holy Communion – Christ Church, Brentor**
	11.15 am	**Holy Communion – Gulworthy**
	6 pm	**Holy Communion for Healing and Wholeness**

March 2020 *(Services are in Tavistock Parish Church unless otherwise indicated)*

Tue 17	**7 pm**	**Holy Communion and Brentor APCM**
Wed 18	**10.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
Thurs 19	2 pm	'Living with Bereavement' – parish centre
Fri 20	**8.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
	10 am	Friendly Friday Coffee Morning
	3 pm	Mount Kelly Easter Foundation Service
Sun 22	**MOTHERING SUNDAY**	
	7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**
	8 am	**Holy Communion**
	9.45 am	**Family Communion with Baptism**
	9.45 am	**Mothering Sunday Service – Christ Church, Brentor**
	11.15 am	**Mothering Sunday Service – Gulworthy**
	6 pm	**Evensong**
Mon 23	2 pm	Gulworthy School Easter Service – St Paul's
Wed 25	**ANNUNICATION OF OUR LORD TO THE VIRGIN MARY**	
	10.30 am	**Holy Communion**
Thurs 26	9.45 am	Tavistock Primary School Easter Service
	2 pm	Tavistock College Easter Service
Fri 27	**8.30 am**	**Holy Communion**
	10 am	Friendly Friday Coffee Morning
	2 pm	St Peter's and St Rumon's Easter Service
Sat 28	12 pm	'Charizway' – lunchtime concert followed by refreshments
Sun 29	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**	
	7.30 am	**Morning Prayer**
	8 am	**Holy Communion**
	9.30 am	**Gulworthy Praise – Gulworthy**
	9.45 am	**Family Communion: a service with a group for children**
	9.45 am	**Morning Prayer – Christ Church, Brentor**
	6 pm	**Evensong**
Tue 31	7.30 pm	Prayer and Stillness Group – 10 Courtlands Road

From the Vicarage

The Season of Lent

The church's calendar is marked by short festivals that are celebrated with joy. Lent is the *season* of the forty days before Easter, however it is never 'celebrated' but only "*kept*". It is marked by what we do, and by what we don't do. It is a time of preparation and prayer - a season of reflection *before* the celebrations of Easter.

The season, which began on Ash Wednesday (26th February), may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus's time in the wilderness followed immediately on from his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded, for whatever reason, from the Church's fellowship. This history explains the characteristic themes that mark the season, namely, self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added. By observing the forty days of Lent, we seek to replicate Jesus's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. Many people set themselves a specific Lenten "discipline" perhaps by joining a Lent study group, studying the Scriptures more regularly, setting aside more time for prayer, or recommitting themselves to regular weekly worship.

The calculation of the forty days of Lent has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration and the *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. Purple is the symbolic colour for drapes and altar frontals. Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because it is the colour traditionally associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Refreshment Sunday) breaks the austerity of the season and is the day for the observance of Mothering Sunday.

As Holy Week (the last week of Lent) approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gives to the Fifth Sunday (29th March) its name of Passion Sunday.

"*Draw near to God and he will draw near to you*" (James 4.8)

Keeping a Holy Lent is an opportunity to spend more time with God and to explore, renew and refresh our faith. It is a journey over forty days and forty nights through which we are invited to draw closer to God. I invite you, with me, to keep a Holy Lent this year.

With my love and prayers *Chris Hardwick*

Prayer for the Month

Take Time

Take time to **THINK**
it is the source of power
Take time to **PLAY**
it is the secret of perpetual youth
Take time to **READ**
it is the fountain of wisdom
Take time to **PRAY**
it is the greatest power on earth
Take time to **LOVE**
and **BE LOVED**
it is a God-given privilege
Take time to **BE FRIENDLY**
it is the road to happiness
Take time to **LAUGH**
it is the music of the soul
Take time to **GIVE**
it is too short a day to be selfish
Take time to **WORK**
it is the price of success
Take time to **DO CHARITY**
it is the key to heaven

chosen by Sarah Pendle

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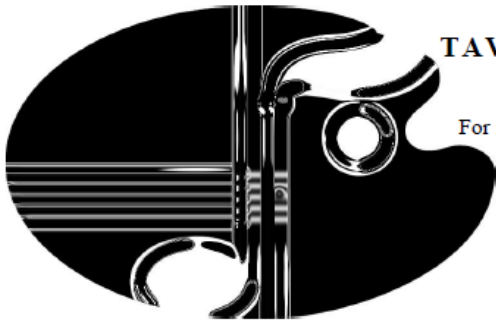

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Benefice Lent Course

Come travel with Jesus through the Holy Land and to His Passion.

Reverend Mike will be conducting a three week Lent study course on a Monday from 11.30 am to 1 pm with soup and bread for lunch.

Dates: 16 March
23 March
30 March **in the Parish Centre**

All welcome, not just from the Benefice.

Further details from Mike on 01822 613231, or just come along.

Tidings from Tavistock . . .

TALES FROM THE TOWER

Well, the great news (following on from last month's Tale) is that I did get my way and we will be going to Colyton, Branscombe and a few other surrounding towers for our ringing outing in October. I'm not sure if our former curate Steve Martin is aware of this yet, but he will be soon, and we hope he will be able to join us for at least one ring in one of his churches, of not more.

This was decided at our AGM in January, and what a week of AGMs that was. I went to three myself – the bellringers, the Friends of St Eustachius' and the South West Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, which was held in Walkhampton church where we also rang the bells (of course) and had a buffet lunch, supplied as usual by our all bringing a plate of food – always the best way of ensuring an eclectic and delicious array of eats. This was a particularly significant AGM for the branch, coming as it did at the end of its centenary year, an even more significant event for the Tavistock area, since the branch was formed at Peter Tavy (I think I have already told you about our celebrations there on the anniversary in November). To commemorate this event, we were each presented with a rather charming mug, imaginatively bell-shaped (by which I mean you have to have an imagination to notice that) with a very tasteful and specially designed logo on both sides, together with a set of four coasters bearing the same logo. I was personally very pleased to add this mug to my already quite extensive collection (each one bringing its own memory of a holiday, jubilee, coronation or cute doggy picture) and am drinking my coffee out of it at this very moment.

We looked back for a while at the ringing events of 2019 – the special practices on eight or ten bells (some held here in Tavistock) which are such a pleasure and benefit to those who don't often get the opportunity to ring on such numbers; the ringing competitions, which help raise the standard of ringing generally; the outings in the spring and autumn; the Quarter Peal festival which aims to have as many quarter peals as possible rung in a certain week (or is it month? – bit of a senior moment here!); and

of course the marvellous occasion of the National 12-bell Striking Competition held in Exeter last June, at which so many of us lent a hand. 2020 looks like being an equally active year. Plans are afoot for all such activities, with courses on conducting (no, we don't have someone standing in the middle of the ringing circle waving a baton, but one of the ringers will make the calls which vary the music of the bells and lengthen the time it takes to come back to the 'rounds' we started from), Yellow and Blue Pathway focused practices (must find out what they are), courses on Ringing on Higher Numbers [of bells], Joint Practices (nothing to do with hips or knees), and, most entertaining and intriguing of all, a Kaleidoscope Practice. That sounds fun.

It's all fun, really, though it may depend on what your idea of fun is. Ringers are very individual people, with perhaps slightly odd ideas about this – I have often wondered just what moment in my early life made it inevitable that I would spend many cold, wet winter evenings in damp, unheated church towers in the middle of nowhere, pulling ropes with a group of people I have hardly exchanged a word with for hours, but somehow I have rarely passed up the opportunity to do just that again, on another cold, wet winter evening in another remote, chilly church. Nor do many of us, because as I say, we ringers are a very individual – some might say odd, but that would surely be rude – lot. And we do have those summer days, those trips to lovely, out of the way spots to ring different bells, those outings when we just relax and enjoy each other's company, those special days when we meet ringers from other parts of the county and even further afield, and – most of all – the pleasure and delight of ringing our own bells for our own church and town or village. Which, in Tavistock, is a very special pleasure indeed.

And now look – I've been so engrossed in writing this that my coffee has gone cold. In my own special centenary mug, too!

Donna Baker

Calling all Church Stewards

We have arrived once again at that time when we have to start thinking about the Stewarding rota for the coming year. With this in mind there will be a meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 24th March at 2pm. Anyone who has done the job before or who thinks they would like to join our merry band will be more than welcome. It is a very important part of the life of our Church, welcoming the many visitors we have every year and answering any questions they may have, and they are very appreciative of our presence. It is not an onerous task and takes a minimum of two hours of your time every two weeks, although, of course, we are always grateful to anyone who is prepared to do more.

Please do think very carefully about whether this something you could do. We have many willing volunteers but there is always room for more. If you think you would be interested but are unable to come to the meeting, please contact me on 01822 481179.

Mary Whalley.

Wanted

Can you donate any items for our forthcoming professional

Please contact Barbara on 616018 with details of any donations and thank you for your support.

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Wooden Garden Furniture,
Garden pots and containers.

Pine/Oak furniture,
pictures, rugs, lamps etc.

in aid of St Eustachius Church

Concert, Saturday 25 April 7.30 pm

The Ridgeway Chorale, a choir of 20 singers from Hertfordshire, will be giving a concert in Tavistock Parish Church. They will be singing a number of short items, sacred and secular, old and new, serious and fun. Among these items will be pieces by Thomas Morley, George Frederick Handel, Charles Villiers Stanford, Billy Joel, Gordon Sumner (alias 'Sting') and that famous ubiquitous composer, Anon. As their guest soloist, the singers are honoured to be joined by trumpeter Marcus Coleridge, a pupil at Mount Kelly School.

The concert will be free, but it is hoped that, at its end, audience members will contribute generously to a collection that will be divided between two good causes, firstly **CHICKS**, the splendid charity that offers week long country holidays to disadvantaged children (one of their holiday centres being in nearby Brentor), and secondly **St. Eustachius' Church** itself, a vibrant organisation within a beautiful old building.

The Ridgeway Chorale draws its members from Tring, Hertfordshire, and the surrounding area. Besides giving concerts, the choir sings at weddings and other services, at village entertainments, and annually from the top of Puttenham Church Tower at dawn on 1 May. They enjoy travelling and do so each year. They have given concerts during the last nineteen years in such far-flung parts of the UK as Suffolk, Derbyshire, Powys, Dorset and Jersey, and are delighted to be in Devon this year. Abroad, they have sung in Switzerland and Burgundy. They choose to sing, whenever possible (and as they will be doing on 25 April), in churches with excellent acoustics. At all these 'away' concerts, and at more local ones near Tring, the choir sings 'for free', and their accommodation and travel costs are met by individual members of the choir, so that all the proceeds can go to good causes. Since its formation in late 2001 the choir has raised over £36,000 for various charities.

The Ridgeway Chorale is directed by **Richard Grylls**, who has a strong connection with Tavistock. His ten times great grandfather, William Grylls (c.1515 - 1577), in addition to being an attorney and a tin merchant in the town, became one of the 'Eight Men of Tavistock' who ran the town for the Duke of Bedford. The duke had acquired vast amounts of land in and around Tavistock after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid 1530s. He virtually owned the town. In 1551/2, along with William Poynter, William Grylls leased some land from the duke, and founded the first grammar school in Tavistock. Research has determined that the school was situated on the edge of the old Abbey Precincts, about 15 metres straight ahead from the south door of St Eustachius' Church, and the school probably continued in the same building until 1837. Richard's ancestor and his family no doubt worshipped at St Eustachius, so they may well be listening in and looking on during the concert.

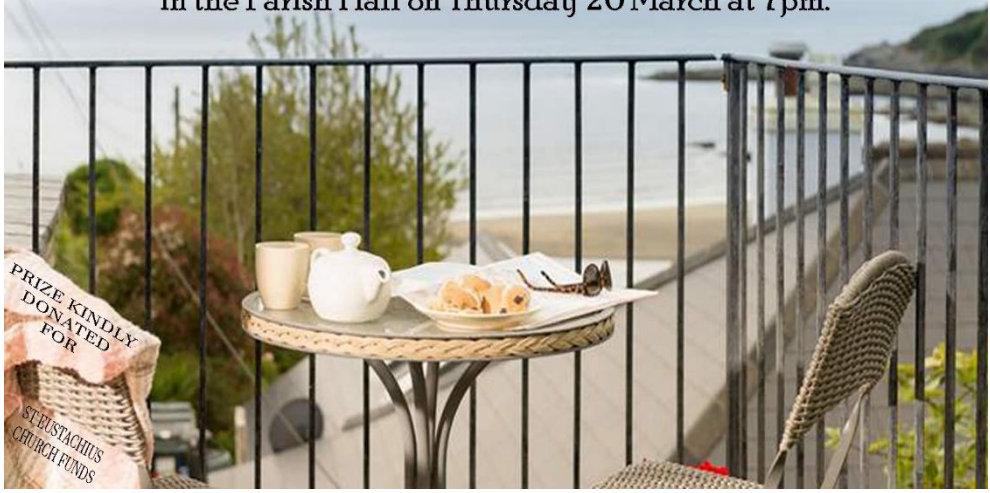
Sealed Auction Bid to win One Week's Holiday!

The property (Little Phoenix), which sleeps 2 is a delightful cottage overlooking Talland Bay, some 3 miles west of Looe, Cornwall.

Opening sealed bids start from £350 to be handed in to the Parish Office by the closing date 12 noon on 23 March 2020.

Available dates (for 2 people aged over 16): APRIL 1st to 7th, MAY 3rd to 31st, JUNE 1st to 7th and 15th to 30th, JULY 1st to 31st, AUGUST 1st to 7th and 16th to 28th, SEPTEMBER 6th to 18th OCTOBER 1st to 16th.

The winning bid will be announced at The Silent Auction Supper in the Parish Hall on Thursday 26 March at 7pm.



The Friends of St. Eustachius'
…… maintaining & enhancing the beauty of the Church

Events Diary 2020

Summer Fete
on the church green
Saturday 27th June

A 'Proper' Halloween Barn Dance!
Saturday 31st October

Christmas Tree Festival
Friday 27th November –
Sunday 6th December
Dickensian Evening 4th December

Plus many more exciting events to be announced through the year.

For further details see local press or contact
Tavistock Parish Church Office on 01822 616673

We celebrate Feast Days and Holy Days in the Church of England, and churches follow the Common Worship Lectionary. Saints' Days are also celebrated at Morning and Evening Prayer.

Saints 'celebrated' in March.

1st - David Monk, Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales. St David's monastery was known for its severity, but many came wishing to join the community. David spent much time in prayer, teaching his monks and caring for the needy folk and pilgrims who visited.

2nd - Chad Bishop and Missionary. Chad and his 3 brothers all became priests and monks. Chad travelled extensively and became much loved for his wisdom and gentleness in difficult situations. The plague was rife at this time.

7th - Perpetua, Felicity and their companions Martyrs: Perpetua a young married woman, Felicity a slave and 3 Christian men. All were thrown to wild animals in the arena, after prison and a trial, for their faith.

8th - Edward King, Bishop. Revered for his holiness and wisdom.

- **Felix** Bishop. Established schools and monasteries. He reaped an abundant harvest of believers during his life.
- **Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy** Priest. Army Chaplain in WW1, well respected, named by his soldiers 'Woodbine Willy' as he shared cigarettes with them.

17th - Patrick Bishop, Missionary, Patron Saint of Ireland. Born in Britain and carried off to Ireland as a slave. Became a man of intense prayer. He evangelised the people of Ireland by walking all over the island gently bringing them to Christ.

18th - Cyril of Jerusalem Bishop, teacher. Known as a man profoundly orthodox and sound. His observances of Holy Week and Easter are the foundation of Christian practices to this day.

19th - Joseph of Nazareth Husband of Mary. Depicted as a holy man who trusted in God, taking Jesus as his son. With Mary he presented Jesus in the temple 40 days after his birth.

20th - Cuthbert Bishop, Missionary. As a boy he saw a vision of angels leading the soul of St Aidan to heaven and became a monk. Known for his preaching, counselling and healing. Part of his life was spent as hermit.

21st - Thomas Cranmer Archbishop, Martyr. Mainly remembered for his translation into English of the Book of Common Prayer.

24th - Walter Hilton of Thurgarton Spiritual guide, mystic. He regarded 'spiritual rest' as inward stillness and peace of conscience.

- **Oscar Romero** Archbishop. Martyred for his faith.

25th - The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mary's response; 'I am the Lord's servant; as you have spoken, so be it.'

26th - Harriet Monsell Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, Clewes. Cared for orphans, ran schools and hospitals in various countries.

31st - John Donne Priest, poet. Dean of St Paul's. People flocked to his sermons. Strong advocate of the discerning of Christian vocation.

Terry Townson

READING THE BIBLE

I have sometimes heard people say "I would like to learn more about the Bible but I don't know where to start". They may have already tried reading from the beginning of Genesis, but lost interest because of the lack of guidance. "New Daylight", published 3 times a year by the Bible Reading Fellowship, provides daily Bible readings with a commentary on the passage by a Christian writer, each of whom follows a particular theme for two weeks. At the end of the reading there is usually a sentence for meditation.

At present we have twelve people who subscribe to "New Daylight" and it would be good to increase this number. The next issue covers the months of May to August and the annual subscription of £13.80 will be due. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested and a back copy will be available for you to see.

Elizabeth Watkins 613922

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DEVON
GOOD NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF EXETER | march 2020

Inside:

JOY 2020 KEY DATES

JOY 2020 - CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE IN DEVON

SERVING WITH JOY

Reverend Nick Haigh talks about JOY 2020 and the need to engage with people outside our church walls

FAMILY FUN COOKING CLUB

"We have been looking for ways in which we can support families in the holidays with food.

"We talked to foodbanks and schools and found out that some families aren't going to foodbanks because that's not what they do.

"Others can't get to them because of the distance they have to travel. It's preventing them from accessing food for their families."

Tatiana Wilson is the Education Advisor for projects and vulnerable pupils at the Church of England in Devon.

She has taken a pilot project from the West Exmoor Federation of schools in North Devon and turned it into Family Fun Cooking Club. The aim is to encourage families to cook together and help tackle food poverty.

Tatiana's daughter Merenna Wilson is a nutritionist who has devised a series of budget-friendly recipes for families to make. The chef and food writer Jack Monroe has also given approval for some of her recipes to be used.

The recipes include: Baked Porridge, Lentil Dhal, Hot Dog Spaghetti, Green Pasta Bake and Microwave Mug Cake. Merenna says: "All the recipes have been developed using really basic ingredients which are readily available in shops and foodbanks.

"The nutritional content has also been worked out so there is a portion of fruit or veg in every recipe. They are all fun to make and are designed for children to muck in and get their hands dirty."

Churches, schools and community organisations are being encouraged to prepare bags with specific ingredients and recipe cards for families to pop in and collect for free during the school holidays or at other times of the year.

A #familyfuncookingclub Instagram account has been set-up for families to share their culinary creations.

Tatiana says: "We are hoping Family Fun Cooking Club will enable all families, wherever they are in Devon, to access good ingredients to cook a family meal together."

For more information and to download recipe cards go to: https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/faith-action/family-fun-cooking-club/ or email tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org

SWIMMING POOL MISSION

Sampford Peverell Team Mission Community have developed mission around swimming by providing a space for a swimming pool toddler group, plus a venue for child and adult baptisms.

Overtly Christian in its nature, Aqua Bears and Prayers Toddler Group provides an opportunity for pre-schoolers and their parent / carer to hear Bible stories, sing worship songs and pray together.

The swimming pool can also be used for child and adult baptisms in a range of different formats. Talking to parents the team realised some families were uncomfortable with the promises they and Godparents are asked to make during a traditional baptism service.

There will, therefore, be a range of options for families to choose from. These will include traditional church Baptisms, Naming and Dedication services and full immersion Baptisms in a pool. Liturgy for each type of service will be tailored accordingly.

For more information: https://sites.google.com/site/spteammc/prayer-request/baptism-christenings or email: clare.cooke@exeter.anglican.org

The Devon branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Devon) is seeking Devon's Best Churchyard of 2020 and is inviting churches of all denominations to enter the competition by the end of March. As well as the kudos of winning, there's a further incentive - a top prize of £200 and a beautiful oak plaque, made in Devon from sustainable wood, to display to locals and visitors. The deadline for entries is March 31st. **Full details and an entry fom go to: www.cpredevon.org.uk**

In addition, Caring for God's Acre, who work nationally to support groups to keep burial grounds beautiful, accessible and connected to their communities, are holding a Beautiful Burial Ground Conference on 12 March, in Cardiff. For more information go to: https://exeter.anglican.org/events/beautiful-burial-ground-conference/

Friday 6 March
Gift of Years Workshops
Bideford and Bratton Fleming

Saturday 7 March
The Big Sing!
The Big Sheep, Abbotsham

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 March
Art and Craft Exhibition
RHS Rosemoor

Sunday 8 March
Beach Clean
Putsborough Beach

Friday 20 March
Gift of Years Workshops
Sidmouth and Crediton

Friday 20 March
Bringers of Joy Dinner
Woodbury Golf and Country Club

Saturday 21 March
'Cob' Cathedral
Orange Elephant Farm

Sunday 22 March
Mothering Sunday Fun
Escot House

Sunday 22 March
Family Fun
Knightshayes

For more details go to: https://exeter.anglican.org/christian-faith/joy-2020/

JOY 2020

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE IN DEVON

Serving with joy...

NICK HAIGH

Revd Nick Haigh is the Mission Chaplain at Lee Abbey in North Devon. He moved to Devon two years ago with his family having previously been a Vicar in the North. He is from "God's own county, Yorkshire" (his words not ours!), but having taken up the call to be a missionary to the South, is enjoying life in this stunning part of the world.

How did you come to faith?

As a child I went to church, but only started to grow in my own faith through being challenged by hearing Billy Graham at Mission England and through summers camps that I attended as a young person.

We know Lee Abbey is a much loved retreat centre in North Devon. What are your plans for engaging more in your community?

Lee Abbey was set up as a Centre for Evangelism after the war. It's vision statement at the time was:

'The most urgent call to every Christian and the Church as a whole today is for adventurous evangelism and the rekindling of the fires of faith, prayer and witness. Nothing matters today more than the winning of men and women to a real experience of Christ as Saviour. This is the supreme task to which every effort must be directed.'

This quote could have been written yesterday. Our plans are to become more and more the Centre for Evangelism that was dreamed of all those years ago.

The way we have been doing this recently is by working with the local churches in the Lyn Valley. We meet monthly to pray and plan how we can reach out to the local community through initiatives such as Thy Kingdom Come, Try Praying, Love North Devon. We connect into the local community through the school, friendships and helping out with events that are organised for the area.

We are also fully engaged in helping the church regionally, through JOY 2020 and wherever we are invited. This includes working with those exploring planting Lee Abbey Small Missional Communities, leading mission trips and being a catalyst for mission and evangelism.

Why are you excited about JOY 2020?

I have been involved in the planning for each of the JOY 2020 weekends and it is great to see how the vision of the Bishops spending a weekend specifically focused on reaching those with little or no faith is helping shape the churches connection beyond the walls of the church. Whether it be The Big Sing at The Big Sheep, the Bringers of Joy Dinners or the Invitation to Try Praying to find JOY, these weekends hold within them fantastic opportunities to connect with those outside of church. The most exciting aspect of JOY 2020 for me, is how these weekends could change the way we think about, 'Serving the People of Devon with JOY' throughout the whole year and beyond.

What brings you joy?

Family, friends, faith, food and fun times – particularly the way we get to do life on the beach down here in Devon. I love going for a curry on the beach at Barricane Bay and bodyboarding at Woolacombe.

To get in touch with Revd Nick Haigh, please email: NickHaigh@leeabbey.org.uk

CHRIST-SHAPED FRUITS

Revd. Prebendary
Jackie Taylor,
Dean of Women in
Ministry

This is the month that sees the first day of Spring on 20th. It's the season whose perennial gift of newness in colour, scent, sight and sound brings with it such promise.

And as we look ahead to the fruitfulness of our gardens, it's time to be thinking about feeding our apple trees if they are to bear good fruit later in the year.

Egremont Russett, Cox and Royal Gala are all varieties grown in Devon and Cornwall, but have you heard of a Reverend Wilkes – or a Margil – both heritage varieties that are now sadly very rare.

A heritage fruit in my garden is the Medlar. This funny shaped fruit is from a tree that has pretty blossom in the spring which is an excellent attractant and nectar source for bees and other beneficial insects. But in the traditional season of harvest, these fruits are still hard and sour to taste and so they need to be bletted before they can be eaten raw or used for making sauces or preserves. 'Bletting' is simply allowing the fruit to mature and soften.

Life is a series of seasons. We are gifted with the season of Lent as we journey towards and are pointed to the greatest story of all time.

This is the story that is grounded in the grittiness of reality and recognizes the worst in humanity. Yet it is also the story that is grounded in the reality of the unfathomable depth of God's love for humanity; the love poured out on the Cross.

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It's a time of being nourished and growing in faith and re-centering our lives on God. It's a time in which we can reflect on the 'bletting' that he allows to take place in our lives, that will bring maturing and softening as we open our hearts and minds to God. This reflection will help us to bear fruit that is beneficial as disciples of Christ and for the growing of his kingdom in the communities of which we are a part.

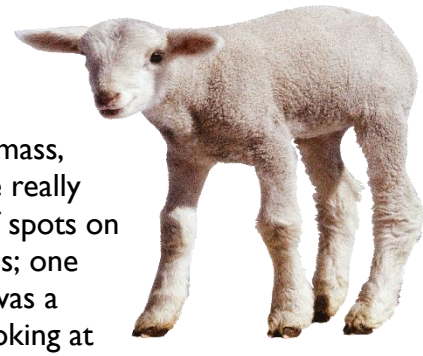
So let our prayer for this month be that we can become Christ-shaped fruits that, like apples, are nutritious and beneficial for our wellbeing and the wellbeing of others, but unlike apples and even medlars, are for every season and can bear fruit for all eternity.

Gulworthy Notes . . .

Careful – thankful – prayerful

Looking at a map I have counted at least a dozen farms within the Gulworthy parish boundaries, but there are probably more – and it seems to me that Gulworthy has been, and still is, a mainly farming economy, interrupted only briefly by the few decades of the copper boom. Farmers and food producers over the centuries were doing, are doing and will continue to do, exactly what we have asked them to do – to produce food in large quantities, at high quality and at a price we all want to pay. But I wonder if the farmers of Gulworthy in the mid-nineteenth century got as much flack as our farmers do today? Whether it be from environmentalists, animal welfare or ethical consumers, they must despair at the carping and criticism for doing what everybody wanted them to do.

I have just had the privilege of being allowed to spend a few days with a local farming family who indulged me in my spoken desire to experience lambing. They taught me so much about sheep care and though I did a piffling few days of work and did not venture into a night shift, I found the whole experience amazing and I stand in awe of their dedication and hard work. Farmers are full of care – careful - for their animals or crops; full of thanks – thankful - when lambs are born safe and well and yes, probably, prayerful at the end of long days of hard work.



Having spent those few days amongst the ewes, I began to see them not as a woolly mass, but as individuals. I could see that each one really was different. A slightly different pattern of spots on their head; a wide brow; slightly lighter eyes; one floppy ear. The farmer knew if the animal was a first-time mother or an old hand not by looking at an ear tag but just by looking! I could imagine that the shepherd looking for his lost sheep in Jesus's parable wasn't just looking for any old sheep but for an individual **sheep**, **sheep**, **sheep** or even *sheep*! The shepherd was careful of his flock, thankful for their wellbeing and prayerful at the end of each day for his blessings. What a true sacrifice it was for

him, then, to give up a lamb as an offering to the Lord when he had invested so much time and energy into its very existence.
As Spring lurks around the corner, I personally will try harder to be careful of friends, family, loved ones, and strangers I meet, thankful for all the blessings in my life and for the food on my table and more prayerful.
We are both physical and spiritual creatures and we not only need sustenance to sustain our bodies but food for our souls. Our Gulworthy farmers feed us our daily bread and our little church of St Paul's is a welcome place in which to feed our spirit.

With love and blessings from all at St Paul's.
Gill Reed

Diary

Tuesday 10 March 7pm - said Holy Communion followed by St Paul's Gulworthy APCM

Sunday 29 March 9.30am - "Gulworthy Praise" non-Communion worship at St Paul's

Friday 10 April 12 noon, Good Friday - Hot cross bun making in Gulworthy Village Hall, followed by a short service in the Church at 12.30

Sunday 12 April 11.15am - Easter Sunday communion service

Friday 24 April, 7 for 7.30pm - Quiz night at Gulworthy Village Hall. Bring your own picnic & drinks, teams of 4-6 people, £4 per person. Join a team if you can't get a foursome.
Proceeds to Gulworthy Church.
Details – Rosie Steer 01822 833084

Saturday 16 May Barn Dance at Morwellham Quay – details TBC

Gulworthy & Tavistock Women's Institute

Our speakers this month were two members of the NHS 999 Call Takers team. As well as being given instruction and a demonstration on the use of defibrillators we were asked if we knew where, in Tavistock, these aids might be located. Sam and Slade told us that South West Ambulance Services covers eight counties. There are two call centres: Bristol and Exeter. The ways in which people who call 999 for assistance are prioritised was spoken about and we were told that an App can be downloaded which will give any ambulance your location to within three metres.

'Whatthreewords.com' is the name of the App and can prove particularly useful if walking off the beaten track and need to call for help – other services are using this too.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month at TASS (the Anchorage Building), adjacent to Tavistock Bus Station. We are a lively group with a growing membership. There are a variety of subjects upon which our speakers talk. We have a 'Ladies Wot Lunch' group, going out once a month to different venues. A 'Film' group – going to The Wharf. A 'Walking' group which hopes to resume our walks again this month. There are also outings during the summer months.

Please come along and see us; should you wish to have further information then please contact the Secretary on: trish.gandtwi@gmail.com.
We look forward to meeting you!

Bring your own supper

Quiz Night

Friday 24 April 7 pm for 7.30 pm start

Teams 4 - 6 people

£4 per person

nibble your supper whilst you quiz !

(You can bring Champagne and caviar or just a bag of crisps and a beer !!!)

Enquiries Rosie Steer 01822833084

In aid of Gulworthy Church funds

Draw

Draw

The Old Testament books of Amos and Obadiah

Amos –

Amos was a shepherd in southern Judah who, on experiencing messages from God, felt moved to go to the northern kingdom of Israel. He prophesied there in the 8 century BC a few years before Isaiah; the time was one of prosperity for Israel with Jeroboam 11 as king and their enemies defeated , but Amos saw the beginning of a decline with an increasing amount of corruption and social injustice about which he prophesied against . The most notable passage of scripture is recorded in chapter 5 verses 21-24 of his book, especially verse 24, a well-known and frequently quoted:-

"But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream"

Obadiah-

This is the shortest book in the Old Testament and mainly a prophecy against the Edomites, a nation living to the south-east of Judah in the area where the city of Petra was later to be built. The Edomites took advantage of Jerusalem's misfortune of being plundered and eventually falling to the Babylonians in 586 BC.

Ian Silcox

No partner necessary, but sensible soft shoes will help!

Scottish Country Dancing

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Mission Community events for March 2020.

Tuesdays from 3 March: 11 am ~ 1 pm Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy. Short Mat Bowls. Please come and join us.

Tuesdays from 3 March: 7 ~ 9 pm Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy. Table Tennis.

Tuesdays from 3 March: 7:25 pm Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy, Ballroom Dancing.

Tuesday 3 March: 7:30 pm Ecumenical Prayer Group at Charlotte Cottage; thereafter Mondays; **01822 810166**.

Wednesdays from 4 March: 7 ~ 9 pm Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy. Short Mat Bowls.

Wednesdays from 4 March: 7 ~ 8 pm Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy. Table Tennis *(in the bar area of Coronation Hall).*

Thursdays from 5 March: 9:45 am Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy. Pilates with Sally Cinnamond. **£6** per person.

Thursdays from 5 March: 12 ~ 3 pm Knit & Natter Group meet at the Mary Tavy Chapel Hall: **(***New contact: Sue 01822 810297***).**

Friday 6 March: 2 pm World Day of Prayer 2020: at the Abbey Chapel, Tavistock.

Tuesday 10 March: 7:30 pm Whist Drive ~ all welcome ~ beginners to 'old hands' alike. Peter Tavy Village Hall. Contact Peter Tinson , (**01822 810314).**

Thursday 12th March: 12 ~ 1:30 pm
Peter Tavy Methodist Chapel Soup and Dessert Lunch. All welcome.

Saturday 14 March: 10:30 am ~ 12 noon. Coffee Morning at **4 The Oaks, Bal Lane, Mary Tavy**, in aid of St. Mary's Church. All very welcome.

Saturday 14 March: from 10 am ~ 12:00 noon. Coffee Morning at **Manor Farm, Cudlipptown, Peter Tavy** in aid of St. Peter's Church. All very welcome.

Monday 16 March: 10 am ~ 12 noon. Mary Tavy Chapel Hall: Monthly Jigsaw swap, chat, tea & coffee: Contact Pauline on **01822 610079**.

Thursday 19 March: 2:30 pm Brentor Garden Club in Brentor Village Hall; A talk by Charlie Elder entitled "Everyday Guide to Bird Watching." Visitors welcome at **£3** on the door. **01822 810004**.

Tuesday 24 March: 10 a.m. ~ 12 noon. Devon Sensory Group meet at Mary Tavy Chapel Hall: for those with hearing and/or sight loss. All welcome.

Our Lent Appeal 2020

At this time of year, we regularly appeal to parishioners to consider your Lenten offering, urging you not to give something *up* but to *do something positive*. Every year we get the much-needed response.
Thank you. *Please* help us again this year.

Will you consider inviting an international student to your home, for a one day (daytime only) or for a weekend? Share a meal, conversation and exchange cultural traditions and views of the world. It is so very rewarding for both host and student guest.

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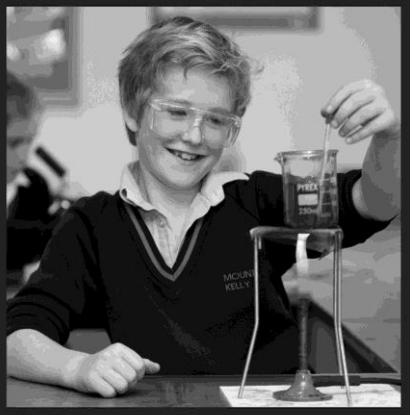

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