Parish Magazine for

Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brentor

September 2023

£1.00

Please make a minimum donation of £1.00 for this magazine, either in one of the collection boxes or by using the card machine at the church entrance at St Eustachius' or in the collection boxes in St Pauls Gulworthy and Christ Church Brentor.

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Please send any articles for the October edition to Martin Pendle, at m.pendle@icloud.com by Thursday 28th September.

From the Ministry Team

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm delighted to be writing to you in the *Parish Magazine*. Nearly eight months have passed since Patti and I moved from deepest Cornwall to live in Tavistock and join the community here in St Eustachius'. For about three months before our move, we had been renting near Bere Alston, and went to some lovely services at Gulworthy. And we'll shortly be visiting the wonderful churches in Brent Tor—looking forward to that! Altogether, we've been touched and encouraged by our warm welcome from folk across the Benefice.

It has in truth been an exhausting time for us as we moved from house to house, and especially for Patti, who has serious health issues to deal with. Despite this, we were able to lead a series of Lent Groups in March which was a great way to get to know people. Then, in June, we were re-licensed as Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers) here in Exeter Diocese. From now on you'll see more of us as we begin working in the Ministry Team.

One of the things I've loved most about worship here is the marvellous congregational hymn singing. I know I'm not alone in this, and I've been reflecting on just what it is about hymns that makes them such a special part of communal worship. For some of us, it will be partly their familiarity. We will have grown up singing hymns and remember them in the deep and lasting way that we remember other things learned in childhood. I can still hear my mother's voice trilling away in the kitchen, 'What a Friend we have in Jesus, / All our sins and griefs to bear!'

But I think there is more to it than memories of childhood. Isaac Watts, the great hymn writer at the beginning of the eighteenth century explained that he wrote hymns to give voice to 'our Love, our Fear, our Hope'. This sums up beautifully why hymns are so important in our lives and worship as Christians. In singing hymns, we express our love—for the Creator God, for our saviour Jesus Christ, for our fellow-Christians, and for our neighbours. We address through hymns our deepest fears—of suffering and death, of doubting our faith, of losing those we love. Above all, in singing hymns together we find hope. The words and music strengthen our confidence that God cares about us and walks with us at every stage of life, and that a day will come when he establishes mercy, peace, truth, and justice in his everlasting Kingdom.

It is striking how ecumenical many hymns have become. Protestants and Roman Catholics happily sing words written by Charles Wesley and John Henry Newman. A shared love of hymns unites us in a way that practically nothing else does.

Furthermore, in writing and translating hymns women made a major contribution to public and private worship, one that is often overlooked.

I'm thrilled that the Editor of the *Parish Magazine* has agreed that I should contribute a 'Hymn of the Month' in each number. The chosen hymn, whether 'Ancient' or 'Modern', will be appropriate for the season of the Church year, so we'll start in Advent. I will briefly introduce the writer of each hymn and the composer of the tune, but I especially want to focus on the words—hymns are a form of poetry, after all, and the words matter.

Hymn singing goes back to the earliest days of the Church. Jesus and his disciples ended the Last Supper by singing a hymn together (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26). They remain one of the most joyous ways in which we express our collective faith, singing with our minds, our bodies, and our souls. I hope that my little series might increase our sense of thankfulness for the hymns that are such a gift and blessing to us as Christian people.

Bob Owens

A Prayer for September

God, of your goodness, give me yourself;

you are enough for me,

and anything less that I could ask for would not do you full honour.

And if I ask anything that is less,

I shall always lack something;

but in you alone I have everything.

September Services in the Benefice

September 2023		
Fri 1	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sat 2	3.00 pm	Forest Church - Christ Church, Brentor
Sun 3	13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Holy Eucharist – Christ Church, Brentor
	11.15 am	Service of the Word – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
	6.00 pm	Evensong - St Michael's Brentor
Wed 6	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Tavistock
Fri 8	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 10	14TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Service of the Word Prayer & Praise – Christ Church, Brentor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - St Michael's Brentor
Wed 13	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 15	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 17	15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - PATRONAL DAY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Holy Eucharist – Christ Church, Brentor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evensong - Tavistock
	6.00 pm	Evensong - St Michael's Brentor
Wed 20	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 22	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 24	16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Service of the Word Family Service – Christ Church, Brentor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - St Michael's Brentor
Wed 27	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 29	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	5.30 pm	Michaelmas Day Service - St Michael's Brentor

Know your Bible

Many of you will remember our dear brother and Reader Ian Silcox who used to write a regular article for this Magazine each month on the books of the Bible. Most reading this Magazine will have been Christians and coming to Church for many years, but in that time have we really learnt what the Bible has to teach and say about our Christian lives? Perhaps we can refresh our memories in this following series of articles.

There has been quite a mention lately that 'we are all children of God' but is that actually what the bible teaches. I am told that what the bible says and means is 'open to many interpretations'. But I would argue that there are significant issues of our faith upon which the bible is quite clear and unambiguous, for why would a loving God in His revelation to us want us to go away confused after reading His word? So here is my 'interpretation' on what the bible means by the term 'children of God'.

I preface what I am about to say by stating that I firmly believe that 'we are all created in the image of God' (Genesis 1v27), and this applies to both male and female equally. I also believe that God loves each one of the human race that He has created for we read "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." That is quite unambiguous as the use of 'the world' encompasses all human kind. So what about the term 'children of God', does that also apply to all human kind?

The Hebrew Bible, our Old Testament, does not use that phrase at all when speaking of human kind but uses the term 'children of man' some seven times.
Some examples are Psalm 14v2 "The Lord-Yahweh-looks down from heaven on the 'children of man', to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God". This is then repeated in Psalm 52v2.
Then in Psalm 36v7 we read "How precious is your steadfast love, O God. The 'children of mankind' take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
And in Psalm 66v5 "Come see what God has done; he is awesome in his deeds towards the 'children of man'.

Then 'the Preacher' in the book of Ecclesiastes says "I have seen the business that God has given to the 'children of man' to be busy with" (3v10), and later in verse18 "I said in my heart with regard to 'the children of man' that God is testing them".
Then the great prophet Daniel describing the result of king Nebuchadnezzar lifting up his heart in pride says he was driven away from the 'children of mankind' (Daniel 5v21).

These verses taken together clearly show that God regarded us humans as 'the children of man' but when we come to the New Testament there is a whole new awakening when referring to Christians, to those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus. Now the term 'children of God' appears when referring to us who are God's adopted children. And Saint John clearly defines who these are in his gospel where he writes (1v12) "But to all those who did receive him-that is Jesus-who believed in his name, he gave the right to become 'children of

God'. This verse unambiguously shows that the 'children of God' are those who believe and trust in Jesus.

John goes on to describe how the High Priest was given a prophetic word that Jesus should die for the nation of Israel and for all nations (John11v52) saying, "that he-Jesus-was to gather into one 'the children of God' who are scattered abroad". I leave you to fathom just who these are.

Saint Paul when writing to the Christians in Rome (8v16-17) says, "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are 'children of God', and if children, then heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him". I would ask you can this possibly apply to all of the unregenerate human race?

Then Paul writes further in Romans (8v21) "the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the 'children of God'. I believe that this speaks clearly that 'the children of God' are those who have been set free from their bondage to corruption, their bondage to sin, and that unfortunately is not all of human kind.

Paul makes it even more clear when saying (Romans 9v8) "This means that it is not the children of the flesh-the Old Testament 'children of man'-who are the 'children of God', but the children of the promise are counted as offspring". See also Galatians 4v28.

Paul always has so much to write so in Ephesians (5v1) he says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children". So the 'children of God' according to Paul are those who imitate God, those who follow, worship and serve God. Here Paul is telling us how we should behave as Christians and this is certainly not applicable to all of human kind!
Paul takes up this theme of Christian behaviour when addressing the Christians in Philippi (Philippians 2v14-16), "Do all things without grumbling or disputing so that you may be blameless and innocent, 'children of God' without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain, of labour in vain". Again I ask, can this possibly describe and apply to all people?

Paul stresses why we are to be imitators of God when he says (Romans 8v29), "For those (who are) to be conformed to the image of His Son, the firstborn among many brothers (and sisters)". Sadly not all humanity is, or wants to be conformed to the image of His Son.

Paul when writing to the Corinthians (2Cor6v17-18) stresses how our lives are to be different from the rest of humankind, and with a prophetic word says, "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Then I will welcome you, and I will be your Father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

Then Saint John in his first epistle writes (1John3v1) "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called 'children of God', and so we are". It may seem arrogant but this verse, together with our previous verses, show we who have believed are set apart as

God's beloved children. Our prayer must be that many more may come into that same relationship as they put their trust in our Lord Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, the one true and living God.
Paul in Galatians (4v6) calls the believers there 'sons' or children of God who has sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts so we can call God our Father Abba'-daddy. Do all of mankind call upon and recognise God as Abba?

Saint John goes on to remind believers (1John 3v9-10) that "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed-the Holy Spirit-abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the 'children of God', and who are the children of the devil." John does not say that we who are born of God do not sin but that we aim not to go on doing so. And clearly he divides mankind here into two categories!

John also goes on to say (1John 5v2) how we who are 'children of God' are to love one another which follows from us loving God and of obeying His commandments. Again I ask, do all of human kind both love God and obey His commandments? To my mind, no.

And what did Jesus mean by the parable (Matthew 13 24-43) of the wheat and the weeds? Jesus here teaches us that there are sadly two divisions in the people on earth. The good seed, those people Jesus called the wheat and who Jesus said represented the 'children of the kingdom'; and the weeds whom he said represent those people who are the 'children of the evil one'. Comforting words for us who believe but harsh words against those who do or will not believe in our Holy and loving God. Jesus then goes on to say that there will come a time of judgement so let us rejoice that we, the wheat, shall be gathered into 'God's barn'.

And if you are still not convinced that not all of humanity are (yet) the 'children of God' then ask yourself this question. Why was it necessary for God Himself to become an incarnate man, to die upon Calvary's Cross, if we were already His children?

The American theologian Michael Heiser in his book 'The Unseen Realm' (well worth a read, but its not easy) writes, "The New Testament writers repeatedly describe salvation into Yahweh's family with words like adoption, heir and inheritance to describe what the Church really is, the reconstituted divine-human family of God. The 'believers' destiny is to become what Adam and Eve originally were, immortal, glorified imagers of God, living in God's presence as His children".

Perhaps for a little homework you may like to take a look at a similar phrase that is used in Ephesians 5v8 and 1 Thessalonians 5v5, 'children of light'.

Let me know if there are any other special phrases that you would like us to take a simple look at in the months to come.

Blessings to you all, Rev. Mike

Tales from the Tower

The summer has been a fairly quiet time in the ringing chamber, with just a few visitors to swell our numbers when depleted by holidays, family visits and other interruptions. I have to admit that I have been absent a few times myself just lately, so thought I would use the time to look at some of the 'famous and curious' bells discussed in my old school library book 'Bells of the Isle', written by a gentleman of the name of Reginald Harrison, who whimsically called himself 'Bob Major'. (Those of you who have been paying attention will know that this is the name of a ringing 'method'.)

Mr Major, or Bob - or shall we just call him Reg? - must have written this book sometime in the late 1940s or early 50s, since according to the stamp inside the front cover I was borrowing it from my grammar school library in 1954, when I had been ringing for about three years. And no, I didn't steal it or 'forget' to take it back - after having taken it out several times, the sixth-former in charge of the library said I might as well keep it, since I was the only person who ever looked at it. I can't help wondering why the school ever bought it in the first place - but I'm glad they did, because here it is, still on my shelves after almost 70 years! (Apparently, it cost five shillings.)

It's a small, slim volume yet contains quite a wealth of information. Even the Introduction is full of interesting facts about the origins of bells. For instance, did any of us know just how old bells are - not just the concept of the 'bell' as an artefact that when struck could give out a more or less (by chance rather than intent, since tuning didn't exist in those early days) musical note, but as a source of information, a call to arms or - as most usually accepted nowadays - a call to worship?

Bob - or Reginald, as he may have preferred- says the earliest bells in this country were made of flat plates, formed into a square and held together by an ornate cap - a little bit like the 'clapper' used in filming. We can see one in the British Museum (the bell of St Coulawn, dated at 908 AD) and one in Belfast - the bejewelled bell of St Patrick, 1091. I wonder how long it is since either of these were actually heard, and what their note might be.

Bells had been known here earlier than that, though. They are thought to have been introduced some time before 596, and the first tuneable ones used in England around 945. They were probably cast and founded by monks, who had practised many skilled crafts and, since the earliest times, bells were used to call to worship, it makes sense that this would have been the case.

Bells and worship, or prayer, seem to have always gone hand in hand, but they had other uses too. Their voices could sound for long distances, calling workers from their beds and in from the fields at the day's end. They could - as they still do - apprise householders of a visitor at the door, or warn of impending danger. In extreme cases, such as the early years of the Second World War, they were used as a warning of enemy invasion, although first they must be silenced, so that their sound, if suddenly heard, would be unusual and alarming. Thus, there

was no bellringing from 1940 until November 1942 when it was decreed that they could be rung to celebrate victory in Libya. After that, they were allowed on other occasions, such as Easter, but in fact, not many were rung even then. Many churches had been destroyed, many bells lost and many of the ringers themselves either away in the Services or unable for other reasons to ring. It wasn't until after the war was over that most churches were able, gradually, to hear their bells ring out again.

Which are the bells we all first remember hearing about? I'd be willing to suggest they were the bells of the London churches - first, the bells of St Clement Danes, St Martin in the Fields, Old Bailey, and the Great Bell of Bow - yes, the bells of 'Oranges and Lemons' fame. And of them all, Bow are the most famous and go back a very long way. The original ring were first mentioned in 1496 but destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. By 1667 the new ring was already installed (that seems like quite fast work, especially for those times) and although intended by Wren to be a ring of twelve, there were only eight at that time. The full peal of twelve was not completed until 1881 (not so fast after all, then). And big bells they were - the tenor weighed in at 52 cwt and was recast in 1933. Sadly, they all came crashing down in one of the bombing raids over London.

Speaking of heavy bells, I am interested to find mention of one in the Dom Tower in Cologne, weighing twenty-seven tons (to give you an idea, our tenor at St Eustachius weighs 24 cwt) made from guns captured from the French in 1870-71 and needing fifty men to ring! This would not have been rung as we ring now, with bells hung on wheels (imagine the size of wheel that would need - probably about as big as a fairground Big Wheel!) so they would have needed a rope each, or maybe one between two, and all heave together just to swing it enough to make the clapper strike. I wonder if it was ever done.

Sadly, it can't be done now. This great bell was melted down again during the First World War (to make guns again?) and only the clapper saved, and as Bob Major says, that has probably by now gone the same way. A sad and ironic end.

There is much more in this little book, which I have kept and treasured all my life, but I don't want to blind you with science. I'll save for another time the stories of the curfew bells that have sounded since the time of William the Conqueror, the criminal who hid amongst a famous ring of bells for months without being discovered, and the wandering bell founders who dug pits in the fields next to the church to cast their bells (you can often see reference to this today in the name 'Bellfield' found near a churchyard).

So there we are. And I would like to thank Mr Harrison, 'Bob Major', whose book somehow found its way into my school library and has accompanied me through my life for over seventy years. He taught me much.

Donna Baker

The Archangel's Way

wander and wonder

Join us at **Belstone** on **Saturday 30th September** for the second **MICHAELMAS GATHERING** of *The Archangel's Way*, a pilgrimage route for the 21st century where all are welcome to engage with our fascinating landscape, find sanctuary in historic churches and space for the soul through walking, poetry and the beauty of Dartmoor, past and present.

Guided walks will start from **Belstone Village Hall**:

- **10:00 am** - a challenging on and off the moor walk of between 8-10 miles
- **12 noon** - a reflective mini-pilgrimage of 1.5 hours maximum ending at St Mary's Church, Belstone

Parking will be available at **Belstone Cricket Ground**:
Grid ref: SX 621 941
what3words ref: fighters.challenge.uncle

Belstone Village Hall will be open with stalls, displays and videos about The Archangel's Way and other Devon Pilgrim routes.

There will be **Morris Dancing** on **The Green** from **2:30 pm.** Food is available in Belstone at **The Tors Inn** and **The Old School Tearoom**.

More information from
Judith Oakes judith.oakes@btinternet.com
https://www.devonpilgrim.org.uk
@thearchangelsway

The Archangel's Way *is part of a series of pilgrim routes developed by* ***Devon Pilgrim*** *across the Diocese of Exeter. It begins from St Michael's, Brentor and ends at St Michael the Archangel, Chagford. It offers places of accommodation, a Pilgrim Passport for walkers, a series of guided reflective walks through the year and poetry, music and art along the Way.*

SEPTEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Friday 1st – Saturday 9th

During Creationtide, we pray you would help us protect and steward the earth you have given us. The symbol of the Season of Creation this year is a Mighty River, we join in praying – in the words of the prophet Amos – that justice would roll on like a river for those most impacted by climate injustice.

1. For the Shirwell Mission Community, its priest Rosie Austin, and for all who live and worship in Shirwell, Loxhore, Kentisbury, East Down with Arlington, Challacombe, and Bratton Fleming with Stoke Rivers.

2. For the South Dartmoor Mission Community, its clergy Paul Hinckley, James Harding, Frances French, Liz Grier, LLM Julie Hinckley, and for all who live and worship in Sparkwell, Ivybridge, Harford, and Cornwood.

3. In our link with the Diocese of Bayeux-Lisieux, we pray for all those in Pastoral teams, especially those supporting parishes in various ministries. We also pray for parishes, their clergy and people in the area of Pont-L'Eveque.

4. For the Silverton Mission Community, its priest Paul Kingdom, and for all who live and worship in Silverton, Cadeleigh, Butterleigh, and Bickleigh.

5. On the International Day of Charity, we give thanks for charities across Devon who support the vulnerable and champion good causes. We pray particularly for Christian charities reaching out to those in need and sharing the love of Christ with them, we pray for provision and perseverance.

6. For the Sid Valley Mission Community, its clergy David Caporn, Kim Mathers, Matthew Selman, Laura Selman, Nigel Candelent, Sarah Mounoury, LLMs John Dunster, Carolyn Croft, and for all who live and worship in Woolbrook, Sidmouth, Sidbury with Sidford, Salcombe Regis, and All Saints Sidmouth.

7. For all teachers and educational staff in Devon, particularly those in CofE schools. We give thanks for their commitment to the growth and development of children and young people, please give them wisdom and compassion and sustain them in their vocation.

8. For the South Molton Mission Community, its clergy Michael Grandey, David Coleman, Chris Pouncey, LLM Deborah Bayliss, and for all who live and worship in Warkleigh with Satterleigh, South Molton with Nymet St. George, Kingsnympton, Filleigh, Chittlehampton with Umberleigh, and Chittlehamholt.

9. For the Start Bay Mission Community, its priest Mark Neave, LLMs Andy McMullin, Ken Ball, and for all who live and worship in South Pool, Slapton, East Portlemouth, Chivelstone, Charleton, and Buckland-Tout-Saints.

Sunday 10th – Saturday 16th

At the beginning of a new academic year, we pray for all students and staff in our schools and colleges. May this new year bring renewed energy, patience, and compassion, particularly for the teachers as they shape the lives of our young people.

10. On World Suicide Prevention Day, we give thanks for services which offer support and a listening ear. We pray that those who need it would seek help, and that we would be vigilant to notice those in our lives who are feeling hopeless. We pray they would know the hope found in Christ.

11. For the Tamar Mission Community, its clergy Andy Atkins, Philip Conway, Phill Parker, LLM Richard Searight, and for all who live and worship in Thrushelton, Stowford, Milton Abbot with Dunterton, Marystowe, Lifton, Lew Trenchard, Lamerton with Sydenham Damerel, Kelly with Bradstone, Coryton, and Broadwoodwidger.

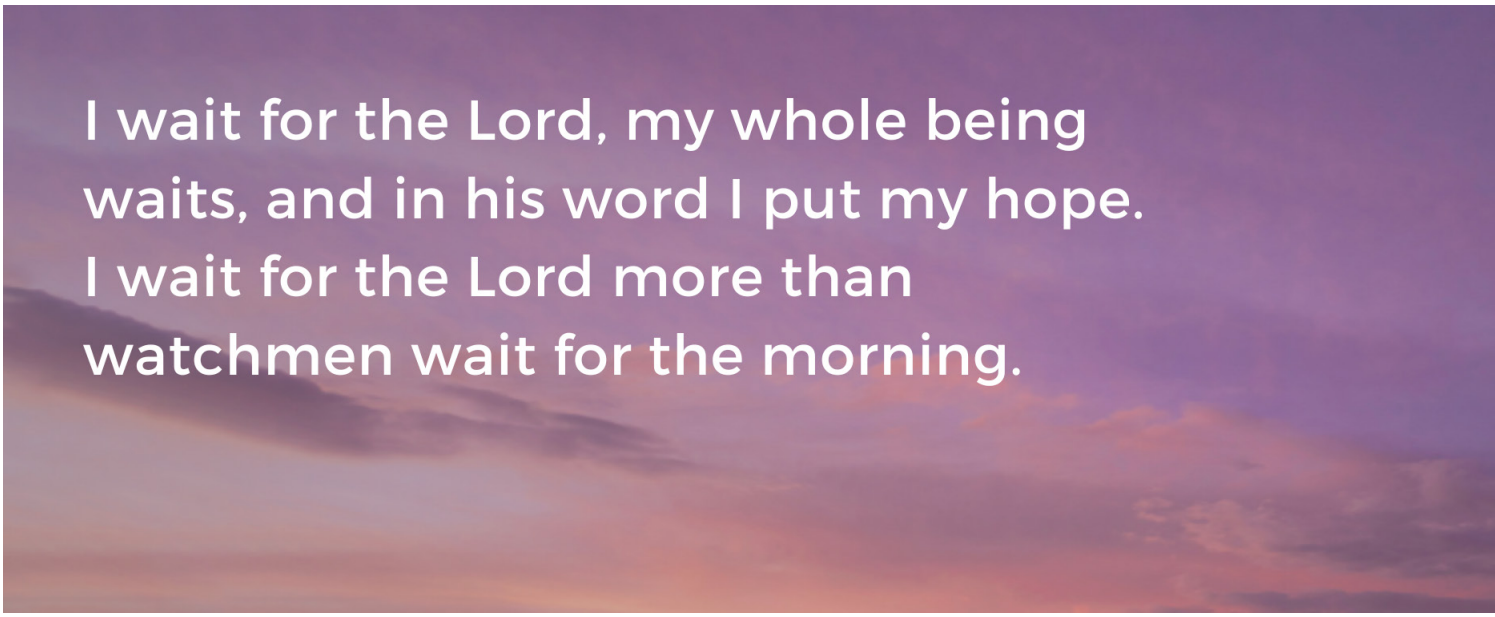
12. In our link with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, we pray for the Mission to Seafarers ordained and lay Port Chaplains who operate in the Diocese, carrying out vital work that allows seafarers to continue doing their jobs.

13. For the Tamerton Foliot and Southway Mission Community, its priest Gerda van Ommeren, and for all who live and worship in Tamerton Foliot and Southway.

14. On Holy Cross Day, we pray that we would see the cross of Christ with fresh eyes, help us each day to remember the suffering He endured to redeem the world, and to give thanks for His boundless grace. Give us the strength to pick up our own cross and follow Him.

15. For the Tavy Mission Community, its clergy Matt Godfrey, Sean Brassil, Judith Blowey, Hazel Butland, Rosie Illingworth, LLMs Anne Palfrey, Wendy Roderick Hake, Liz Bastin, Amanda Harris, Sally Pancheri, Bob Owens, and for all who live and worship in Whitchurch, Tavistock, Peter Tavy, Mary Tavy, Gulworthy, and Brent Tor.

16. For the Teign Valley and Haldon Hill Mission Community, its priest Ruth Frampton, and for all who live and worship in Dunsford, Dunchideock, Doddiscombsleigh, Christow, Bridford, and Ashton.



Sunday 17th – Saturday 23rd

As students arrive or return to our cities, we pray for all of those starting university in the coming weeks. We pray that throughout this year they would have opportunities to encounter you. We pray particularly for those who are leaving home for the first time, that they would learn to rely on you.

17. We pray for Bishop Robert's Farewell Service taking place at Exeter Cathedral today, we give thanks for the years he has spent serving your church and particularly as our Bishop. We pray for your blessing on his retirement, knowing you will continue to work in and through him for your glory.

18. For the Three Rivers Mission Community, its priest David Sayle, and for all who live and worship in Ugborough, Saint Peter Harbertonford, Moreleigh, Harberton, Halwell, Ermington, and Diptford with North Huish.

19. On Youth Mental Health Day, we pray for all young people struggling with their mental health, that they would not feel alone or afraid, but would know that God is near to all those who call on Him. We give thanks for youth work in our churches and pray you would equip us to support young people.

20. In our link with Melanesia, we remember the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop John Coleridge Patteson, may we be inspired by his commitment to share the gospel and his willingness to follow the call of God, may his death remind us of the cost of following you, Jesus.

21. On the Feast Day of Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, we remember his life as a follower of Jesus, and give thanks for his Gospel, which testifies that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the fulfilment of all of God's promises. Please teach us and remind us of these truths as we read the words of Matthew.

22. For the Three Wells Mission Community, its preist Michael Wilkie, LLMs Ian Firth, John Dunn, and for all who live and worship in Kingskerswell, Coffinswell, Abbotskerswell.

23. For the Tiverton Mission Community, its clergy Andy Humm, Christian Hill Charles Wheeler, Richard Maudsley, Miriam Brandon-Wheeler, LLMs Tim Bradshaw, David Catchpole, Jude Taylor, and for all who live and worship in Tiverton and Chevithorne with Cove.

Sunday 24th – Thursday 30th

During Generosity week, we give thanks for the generosity of the body of Christ, which provides for the mission of the church, and for those outside its walls. We remember the story of the poor widow, who 'out of her poverty, gave everything, all she had to live on' *(Mark 12:44)*. Freely we have received, help us to freely give.

24. We pray for all those being ordained as priests across the Diocese this weekend. We give thanks for their ministry and pray that you continue to give them wisdom and grow them in leadership as they serve your church.

25. For the Topsham Mission Community, its clergy Louise Grace, Margaret Stirling-Troy, and for all who live and worship in Topsham.

26. On the anniversary of the death of Wilson Carlile, founder of Church Army, we give thanks for his life and ministry. We pray for Church Army Evangelists across the UK, Holy Spirit give them boldness as they share the Good News with others.

27. For the Torquay Central Mission Community, its clergy Sam Leach, Peter March, Stephen Ball, Peter Jackson, LLM Edwina Corederoy, and for all who live and worship in Torquay St Luke, Torquay St John, Upton St Mary Magdalene, and All Saints Torre.

28. In our link with Thika, we pray for the Rt. Rev'd Julius Wanyoike, the Bishop of Thika and his wife Esther, President of the Mothers Union in Thika. May you bless them in their ministries.

29. For the Torquay West Mission Community, its clergy Paul Ireton, Samantha Stayte, Paul Evans, LLM Jeff Hacon, Stephen Vans-Colina, and for all who live and worship in Shiphay Collaton, and Cockington.

30. On International Translation Day, we give thanks for your word. We pray for all those translating the Bible into new languages for those who have not yet read it. May it be a lamp to their feet, which leads them to the figure at the centre of all scripture, Jesus Christ.

Lord, we wait for you, eagerly awaiting your return. In times of trouble, we take heart, knowing that you are coming back, as surely as the sun rises each day. Help us to place our hope in you, to rely on your word, and to stay awake, ready to meet you face-to-face.

Amen.

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

Information included in this prayer diary is taken from the diocesan database where clergy and Licenced Lay Ministers (LLMs) have given permission to use details which are accurate at the time of publication. If there are any changes please email: operations@exeter.anglican.org

Renovation of the St Eustachius' Choir Vestry - Update

You will remember from the July edition of this magazine that we have a project ongoing to renovate the Choir Vestry, partly to refurbish it's very tatty state and also to make it a welcoming and suitable space for children to use as well.

£5,000 worth of funding has been promised by the Friends of St Eustachius and the Vestry Group of children have raised £433. We made an application to the Diocese for funding from their Mission Growth Fund for £7,000, and we heard on 23rd August that they have awarded us £2,000, due to the high level of applications they received. However, a generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has stepped in to provide the missing funding of £5,000, so we are only £1,567 short of the £14,000 projected to complete the project.

Work has been slightly delayed due to the availability of the builder, but is expected to start in the middle of September on the ceiling repairs and moving the toilet door (to make a bigger toilet space). Repainting of the ceiling will take place after this. Work on the wardrobe units and shelving will start in early September and roll on throughout the month, installing each unit as they are finished. The rest of the work (including carpet, toilet refurbishment, children's storage area) will carry on into October.

You will notice that the music storage shelves are being moved into the church in preparation for the work. They will remain there until the new shelves are installed in the Choir Vestry.

I would like to state our thanks to the following for their funding:

- The Friends of St Eustachius
- The Diocese of Exeter
- The Vestry Group Children Fundraisers
- Our anonymous donor

To close the gap of £1,567, the Vestry Group will be doing some more fundraising and we would still really appreciate further donations to this project.

You can make a donation either through the card machine at the church entrance, or though the website at:

www.tavistockparishchurch.org.uk/choir-vestry-renovation/

Both of these options allow gift aid to be donated as well. Thank you.

Martin Pendle

Ask John - Is a Halo Real?

Enquirer: Hi John.

John: Oh. Hello again. I thought you had had enough last time.

Enquirer: Not really. It was something you said last time that made me think. Is a halo real?

John: Yes.

Enquirer: Oh!

Enquirer: Is that all? I thought it was just a fictitious conceit to show who the Gaffer was compared to his mates.

John: Of course it is real! It is the part of the aura that surrounds the head.

Enquirer: I thought it was just, you know, used in art to denote a Saint? Well if it is real then why can't I see it? Or does it only exist around saints' heads?

John: *You* might not see it, but I can assure you it exists around everyone's head to some degree or other – including yours!

Enquirer: You're pulling my leg! I'm no saint – at least that is what everyone tells me. Is it really around my head?

John: That is what I am telling you. Yes, it is there. It is the topmost part of the aura. And before you ask me, the aura is a non-physical field effect that surrounds all living [and some inanimate] things. You can detect this with sensitive potentiometers and even take photographs of it with special Kirlian cameras.

Enquirer: I'll take your word for that for now, but why not paint it on all people, why only saints?

John: Because the aura, and the halo in particular, is different for everyone. The strength or depth of the field effect depends upon various factors such as the health of the person, or their spirituality.

Enquirer: So we ARE back to that one again, are we? Spirituality!

John: Yes, for the stronger the spirituality of the person, the more spiritually mature the person is, the deeper and more intense the aura is. It is always stronger around the brain, or head, so if the person is not terribly saintly then probably only the aura around the head could be seen. Hence the artist's interpretation.

Enquirer: And these artists had sensitive potentiometers, did they?

John: Don't be absurd, obtuse or facetious! Some people's ability means they see colours differently – colour blindness, whilst others may see something of the aura. They painted what they saw. It's not rocket science.

Enquirer: How do you know all about these things?

John: Because that is the business I am in. Subtle energies are very real. They are the stuff of blessings, curses, prayer and healing. It is not imagination or wishful thinking. All of that is very, very real.

Enquirer: Okay, so I'll go as far as believing that halos are real. You certainly make me think. Next you'll have me believing in angels and demons!!!

John: Oh dear. Well seeing we on that subject……

Enquirer suddenly realises what the time is and beats a hasty retreat. "Got to fly!"

John

Soaring Running Walking

Those who hope in the Lord…will ***soar***…like eagles; they will ***run*** and not grow weary, they will ***walk*** and not faint. Today let's look at each:

(1) ***Soaring***: Birds have three ways of flying; (a) *flapping* their wings to counteract gravity. This isn't particularly graceful and it's a lot of work (b) *gliding*, where they build up enough speed to coast for a while before gravity kicks in (c) *soaring*, where they utilize thermal currents and without moving a feather, climb to great heights. Sometimes we soar; we're carried on the currents of God's power and He uses us in amazing ways. We're productive and we experience a strength and wisdom beyond our natural abilities.

(2) ***Running****: S*ome days you can't soar, but you can run without growing weary. You may have to flap a little, but with persistence you see results and know that at least you're still in the race. When you run, never compare yourself with those who are soaring. Don't try to manufacture spiritual ecstasy; just keep running and your time will come.

(3) ***Walking****:* Some days pain, failure and fatigue make it impossible to sort or run; all you can do is walk without fainting, and even that hard. Today, give yourself permission to be where you are. Walking counts with God. When it's the best you can do - it's enough! God's requirements never exceed the grace He provides. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other and following Him, for sometimes He values walking more than running or soaring.

Gulworthy News for September

“The sun always shines in Newquay” That’s what my sister-in-law says. She lives overlooking the sea and from the living room you can watch the rain coming onto land from about 10 miles away! Admittedly, it has been lovely for the past couple of days.

It’s been a disturbing summer across the globe. Fires and scorching heat over the whole of southern Europe and North America, floods in other parts of the world and here in the UK, constant rain from the start of the school summer holidays. Undoubtedly, just to rub it in, the weather will improve once the children have gone back, but they have had a rough time of it.

Preparations for the Gulworthy Dog Show were not immune to the wet and windy weather. Volunteers arrived on a Saturday afternoon to put up the marquees and promptly abandoned it until the next morning. The rain held off well for the actual show and we had a good number of visitors, though maybe not as many as would have come out if the sun had been shining. The dogs proudly wore their rosettes and as they were fewer in number than previous years, they all went home with prizes. The stalls did well, people were cheerful and it was a fun afternoon. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who helped put up and take down tents in the drizzle; provided the raffle prizes; made delicious cakes; cooked the BBQ; served the cream teas, managed the bar; ran game stalls; kept control of excited dogs; arranged childrens’ games; sold books, Bric-a-brac and plants and generally made a damp day very enjoyable. Despite the weather we took just short of £2000 which is shared between the Hall and the Church. If I have missed anyone -THANK YOU ALL.

We welcomed Robert Blowey into St Paul’s at his christening during our Family Service in August. The church was packed with children and it was a truly joyous occasion. Please come and join us at these family friendly services – the more the merrier! They are held on the first Sunday of each month and are very informal and relaxed with activities for the children.

We are moving to the next stage of our plans to have a toilet and servery in Church. Hopefully we will soon have artist’s impressions of the design so that we can share them with the Parish. Fundraising for this and the work of St Paul’s is always ongoing, so we hope to have various events throughout the Autumn. Our first is in the Parish Hall at 7pm on 8th September when Drummond Challis will be showing his film made in 1979 entitled “Prince Charles Backstage in Covent Garden”. This should be a fascinating evening with a pre-film talk and a cold buffet supper. Tickets are £12.50. Details below. Later in the year we will be having our annual senior citizens lunch and we hope to have a fashion show and the Nativity play. Watch this space for updates!

We do hope that all in Gulworthy have been able to make the most of the summer. That those who were on holiday managed to have fun and that our farming community was not hit by the vagaries of the Devon weather! The whole Parish is in our Sunday prayers. If any one is in need or distress, please ask for help. It is here for you. God Bless.

Diary

Friday Sept 8th. "Prince Charles backstage in Covent Garden" Film show in the Parish Hall. 7pm. Tickets £12.50 to include a cold buffet supper. Gill 834105 Judith 832374 & Lowenna 616435

Sunday 24th Sept Harvest Festival. Time and details to follow.

Sunday 17th December. Nativity Play. To be confirmed

Sunday 24th December. Christingle Service 3.30pm

Gulworthy Senior Citizens lunch. Parish Hall. Date to be confirmed.

St Paul's Church Gulworthy

Friday 8th September 7pm

'Prince Charles: Backstage at Covent Garden.' (1979)

A film directed by Drummond Challis.

Join us in Gulworthy Parish Hall to have a rare opportunity to see this fascinating 34min film, accompanied by a short talk from the director.

Cold Buffet style supper included in ticket, wine and soft drinks available

Tickets £12.50

Gill 834105 Judith 832374 Lowenna 616435

Sung Eucharist Marks Musical Couple's Ruby Celebration

Article and photos by Juliette Bowers

CHOIR director Mary Mazur-Park and husband, Leslie, were making their own music on Sunday, August 20, when they played at a special Sung Eucharist to mark their Ruby Wedding anniversary.

The service was at St Mary the Virgin Parish Church in Lifton, where the couple were married 40 years ago. Mary played the organ and Tavistock Parish Church choir, including Leslie, led the singing.

Musical pieces included the Wedding Psalm (67) sung to a setting composed by Leslie. Others were Anton Bruckner's "Locus Iste" for the Introit, John Merbecke's "Gloria in Excelsis" plus the Communion motets, "God Be in My Head" (John Rutter), "Lead Me Lord" (Samuel Sebastian Wesley). Leslie's personal composition, "I Saw the Lord" was also sung.

For the Gospel Acclamation, chorister Carri Anderton sang Mozart's "Alleluia" from Exultate Jubilate. The service, led by the Rev Philip Conway, concluded with "The Tavistock Amen", a choral piece written by Leslie, sung for the first time.

Afterwards, a party was held in the church, with a buffet and celebration cake, at which Mary and Leslie were toasted and presented with gifts from both the choir and St Mary's congregation.

Leslie and Mary would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support and kindness.

Tavistock Parish Public Events for September

September 2023 (events are in the Parish Centre unless otherwise stated)		
Tues 5	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Fri 8	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
	6.15 pm	**Parish Meal "Breaking Bread Together"**
Sat 9	**10.30 am - 12 noon**	**Devon Historic Churches Day Song & a Sandwich (Christ Church, Brentor)**
Mon 11	**2.30 - 4.30 pm**	**Prayer and Stillness Group**
Tues 12	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Wed 13	**2 - 4 pm**	**Handicraft Group**
Fri 15	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Tues 19	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Thur 21	**2 - 4 pm**	**Bereavement Group**
Fri 22	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Tues 26	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Wed 27	**2-4 pm**	**Handicraft Group**
Fri 29	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**

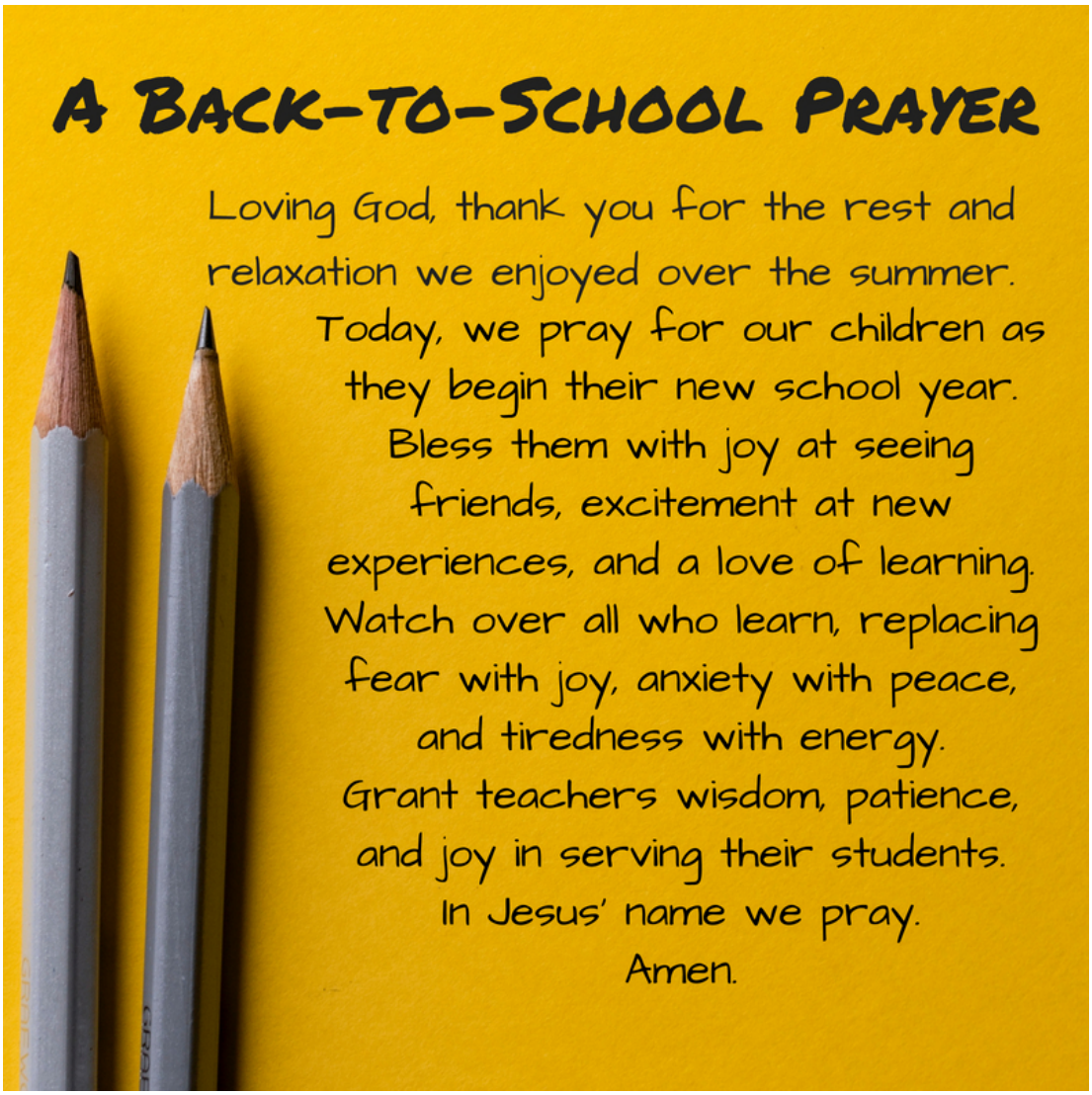
Senior Clergy Reflection for September 2023

Very Rev'd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter Cathedral

Exeter Cathedral is a building site - with a new Cloister slowly taking shape in the garden, and a big white protective tent in the quire, while they're laying underfloor heating and a new floor incorporating a variety of colourful Devon marbles with romantic names: Dove Happaway, Kitley Green, Radford Rose Red and Ipplepen Yellow. The archaeologists have been hard at work, and to our delight have uncovered the floor of the Norman cathedral with its high altar, the outline of the cathedral apse, some bishops' tombs and a crypt no one really knew was there. You may be aware that before the current cathedral, there was a great Norman building on the site, and we still benefit from its immense towers and some internal walls. Following the dig, I've been surprisingly moved to walk on the Norman floor and picture our predecessors standing at their altar 800 years ago, celebrating the eucharist, with pilgrims coming to reverence the relics in the crypt below - none of them having the slightest idea about the exquisite Gothic edifice that would soon come and replace their monumental cathedral.

Building on what's gone before: the story of the Church over the past 2000 years. Seeking to bring the Gospel to life for each successive generation. Taking all that's been good and true, and with those solid foundations, telling the Good News afresh for today. A similar story too for those of us involved with the Vacancy in See Committee, considering what's been good during Bishop Robert's episcopate over the past nine and a half years (of which there's been much), and seeking to discern what is needed for this next stage of our diocesan journey together. Please pray for all those involved in the appointments process for our new bishop: it feels like a weighty responsibility, but at least there's a great deal of good on which to build.

A ‘Back to School’ Prayer



Concerts in 2023 and 2024

All concerts are in St Eustachius'

2023

Sat 30th Sep at 7.30 pm: Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir Autumn Concert

Sat 14th Oct at 7.30 pm: HMS Drake Volunteer Band (moved from 23rd Sep)

Sat 25th Nov at 7.30: Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert

Sat 16th Dec at 7.30 pm: Stannary Brass Band Christmas Concert

2024

Sat 23rd Mar at 7.30: South West Chamber Choir

Sat 27th Apr: Tavistock Festival

Sat 4th May: Tavistock Festival

Sat 11th May at 7.30 pm: Vocal Harem Concert

Sat 29th Jun at 7.30 pm: Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir Gala Concert

Sat 28th Sep at 7.30: Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir Autumn Concert

Sat 19th Oct at 7.30 pm: Centenary Celebration of Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould

Sat 30th Nov at 7.30 pm: Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert

Sat 14th Dec at 7.30 pm: Stannary Brass Band Christmas Concert

St Eustachius' Church Useful Contacts

Revd. Matt Godfrey, Vicar - 07341 665510 or **vicar@tavistockparishchurch.org.uk**

Churchwarden: Mrs Catherine Stoate - 07773 162553 or **catherinestoate@gmail.com**

Choir Director: Andrew Lundie - **andrewlundie@gmail.com**

Organist – Mrs Mary Mazur-Park **marymazurpark@gmail.com**

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Mrs Elizabeth Maslen – 01822 613512

Parish Giving Officer: Mr Peter Rowan – 01822 617999

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Miss Rita Bilverstone – 01822 614825 or **safeguarding@tavistockparishchurch.org.uk**

Parish Office: Jo Barton (open M-F 10am to 12 noon) 01822 616673, **parishoffice@tavistockparishchurch.org.uk**

All other contacts - see church website **www.tavistockparishchurch.org.uk**