Parish Magazine for

Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brentor

October 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 November edition to Martin Pendle, at m.pendle@icloud.com by Saturday 28th October.

From the Ministry Team

'Bible every Sunday'.

Well, it feels as if Autumn in now on its way, even from where I am writing Concarneau in France. We have not been here since BC (Before Covid) to see Joy's French 'Belle Sur', Joy's sister in law. Joy's brother was a missionary and set up a small independent protestant church in this lovely place, which praise God is still functioning.

When one is in a different culture it is lovely to remember that Saint John in his Revelation (7v9-10) was given a vision that when the kingdom of God is finally realised it will contain people from every "tribe and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"" Let us continue to remember to pray for our Lord's Universal Church and especially for all our persecuted brothers and sisters whose situation around the world is not getting any easier.

As we continue through our liturgical calendar and approach the ending of ordinary time, on 28th October we celebrate 'Bible Sunday' when we focus on how the need for the scriptures is still our essential spiritual food if we wish to grow as Christians and to become transformed into the likeness of our Lord Jesus. This is a necessary preparation for us all for life in the coming kingdom. Remember how Moses was transformed each time he met with God and his face shone brightly (Exodus 34v29). Paul when writing to the Corinthian Christians (2Cor3v18) reminds them that we are also being transformed from one degree of glory to another by the working of the Holy Spirit within us.

Is each one of us enjoying that transformation? And you may ask but how does it take place? It is through our knowledge and obedience to the 'word of God', to the scriptures, as we let the Holy Spirit work. Jesus himself in response to the evil one's temptation said that 'we should not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4v4). Paul says we require more than just the 'milk' of God's word to grow (1Corinthians3v2), or as Peter says (1Peter2v2) we need God's word to be 'our meat', our solid food.

So we can now see the significance and necessity for us to read and 'inwardly digest' the scriptures, and why in our Anglican liturgy so much is made of our four readings from across the Bible at our communion services each week. May I encourage you once again to always take away our pew sheet after our fellowship together and meditate upon the readings that we have shared, and maybe bring your own Bibles to follow those readings.

We should be interested to know what is the desire and demand for the reintroduction of our weekly Bible Study, so please feedback to me or any one of the ministry team so that we can plan ahead.

In the meantime as Advent looms up upon us let us recall the wonderful promises of the scriptures relating to the first coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, and to their perfect fulfilment in Bethlehem during the feast of Tabernacles in 3BC. So let us be encouraged to pray

for our Lord's second Advent, to Jesus second coming to establish God's kingdom of righteousness, justice and peace, so needed to heal our broken and hurting society of today.

Every blessing to you all, Rev Mike.

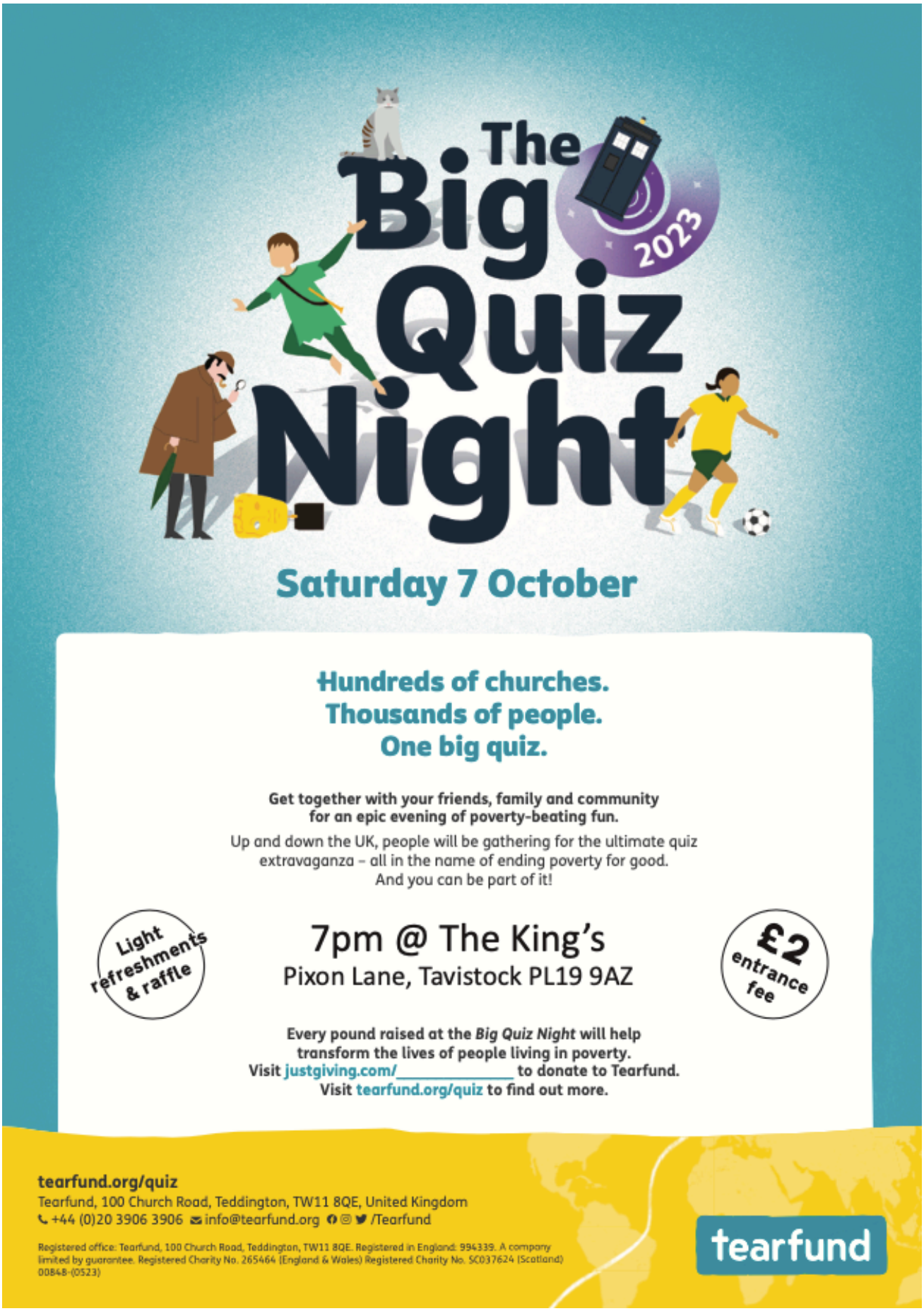
A Prayer for October

Eternal God,
You crown the year with Your goodness
and You give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

October Services in the Benefice

October 2023		
Sun 1	17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Harvest Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Holy Eucharist – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Service of the Word – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
	6.00 pm	Michaelmas Holy Communion - St Michael's Brent Tor
Wed 4	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Tavistock
Fri 6	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sat 7	3.00 pm	Forest Church - Christ Church, Brent Tor
Sun 8	18TH 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 Harvest Prayer & Praise – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 11	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 13	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 15	19TH 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, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 18	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 20	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 22	20TH 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, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 25	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 27	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 29	BIBLE SUNDAY - LAST 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, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock

Tearfund Big Quiz Night Saturday 7th October



Tales from the Tower

With summer over (what there was of it) and autumn firmly in the driving seat, one of our busiest ringing months is almost upon us.

I've often wondered just why October should be such a popular month for ringing events, at least in this part of the country, and I think it is quite possibly because of the great farming tradition in Devon. The harvest (whatever it was like) is safely gathered in, the winter storms haven't yet begun - although Agnes is raging round the house even as I write, so she's a bit early - and there's time to breathe and enjoy our favourite occupation before winter grips. And for bell ringers, of course, that means - well, ringing bells.

In Tavistock we have for some years enjoyed our outing on one of the Saturdays of either September or October. This year, for various reasons a tower outing wasn't practicable but there was a Guild Branch outing in September which we would have supported, had not two people decided that was also a good day for a wedding. And ringing for a wedding trumps anything other than for Sunday services or some great national event. Not all of us could have managed the outing anyway (I wasn't even here!).

So what is coming up in October? Well, there are at least two competitions in which some of the St Eustachius ringers will be taking part. Both are on the same day and in the same area so that some ringers will be taking part in both; one for six bells and one for eight. The eight-bell method being rung is Single Oxford Bob Triples (they do have lovely names, don't they) and has been practised regularly on Tuesday evenings for some weeks now. We can only do our best.

Then there's the Tavistock Deanery Day on the last Saturday, when as many towers in the Deanery will be open to roving bands of ringers to ring, as and when they choose, all ending at one host tower for a service and tea. (This year, Meavy will be hosting.) It's a great chance to meet with other ringers, a chance to ring at towers we might never otherwise visit and a chance for some villages, who sadly lack a band, to hear their bells rung. And on a golden October day it can be a real pleasure to jaunt around the country lanes reaching places we never normally reach, perhaps getting a little lost (despite, or maybe because of, the wonders of satnav) and generally enjoying ourselves.

Speaking of names for ringing methods, with their strict and constantly varying pattern of sound, the 'old-fashioned' or traditional call changes, in which only two bells change places at a time, have some interesting names too. Most of us know the familiar Queens change in which the bells sound in the order 135246 (on six bells) and 13572468 (on eight) and so on, and almost as familiar are Whittingtons (531246) which to my mind only work on six, as they give you the familiar tune of 'Turn Again, Whittington' and (one I can never remember and always have to explained to me by Ian) Tittums , which goes 142536 or 15263748. And there's a King's, which we used during our Coronation ringing, and a Prince's, which is less well known.

And there are, I find on a website written by Kevin Mayfield of Barrow (thank you, Kevin) quite a few others too, with equally interesting and sometimes quite baffling names. Some are pretty, some obviously bantering, some perhaps named after a person or place: Burdette, Hangdyke, Jacks, Jokers, Keg Meg (maybe she used to bring in the beer after a hard night's practice), Kennet, and See Saw. I wonder how many conductors really know and use these today, when call changes are less in favour and method ringing looked on (although not everywhere) as the 'standard'.

Call change ringing is an art in itself and calls for as much skill in handling the rope, watching the other ringers and listening to one's own bell amongst all the others, as does method ringing. Always, as does any piece of ringing, it begins with rounds - a straight progression from the lightest bell to the heaviest - and then the conductor will call two bells at a time to change, one place at a time, moving within a pattern, to reach the main change he or she is aiming for - Queens being the most popular, but any of the others could be chosen. Then, again moving only two bells one place at each time, the sequence will return to rounds before the final 'Stand' is called and everyone stops.

Well, we hope everyone stops! Sometimes you will hear one lone bell strike two or even more extra blows, accompanied by grins, sympathetic smiles or (if it's a competition) reproving frowns from the other ringers. But we do aim all to stop at once.

So a busy month is coming up. Listen for the bells, especially in the villages. They are the biggest musical instrument in the world and we should treasure them, for all too many now are seldom rung and hang silent and forgotten in their frames.

But the ringers of St Eustachius are working hard to make sure our bells are never forgotten!

Donna Baker

Know Your Bible 2 - Redemption

Having received no suggestions for this next study I thought we could take two compact articles on looking at the meaning and significance of 'Redemption' and 'Salvation', which are central to our holy Christian faith.

As you read through the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible called the Tanakh, you must have noticed that it is peppered with the need and practice of Redemption (1). Like the Prophets, the Psalmists and John the Baptist, our Lord began his ministry with a call for repentance saying 'Repent for the kingdom of God has come near' (2). So why is there a need for us to repent; what have we done that is wrong in God's sight? What requires us to ask His forgiveness, to turn about and to walk in the opposite direction?

Whether you take the story of Adam and Eve in the 'Garden of God' described in the opening chapters of the book of Genesis as literal or not, it tells a story that is true and descriptive of every human being. Those first truly human people were given an instruction by God, by Yahweh, not to eat of the fruit of the tree of life located at the heart of that sublime garden, not to eat the apple. And what did they do? They **disobeyed** God's command, they disobeyed God's ordinance, and ate! And the consequence was they 'no longer walked with God in the cool of the garden' (3). They no longer experienced and possessed that personal intimacy with God their and our Father, with the very creator of the universe, the very purpose for which they and all human kind had been created for.

Does that sound and feel a little familiar? Do each one of us obey God's ordinances, ordinances designed for our good and well being? Do we each experience an intimate, enjoyable relationship walking with our heavenly Father? I would suggest not. Perhaps that is part of what Saint Paul means when saying 'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God' (4). The original glory that God had intended us to enjoy with him will be restored to us in the 'new creation' when we shall share in the glory of our Lord Jesus as his children (5).

So perhaps you can now see why we all need redeeming? That is why we need to be brought and bought back to our Holy God and Father. The only way that could be made possible was by one who did live a life of obedience to God and who did walk with him.
The only one who could and who has ever done that was our Lord Jesus Christ. Only Jesus who was God himself in the person of his incarnate and most beloved Son could do that. But it was at the greatest cost the universe has ever, or will ever see, the shedding of Jesus most precious blood on the cruel Roman cross at Calvary. The psalmist recognised that cost could not possibly be paid by any ordinary human saying "No one can redeem another for to ransom a soul is too costly, there is no price one could pay for it and live for ever" (6).

That most holy and victorious act of obedience by Jesus has restored and reconciled us to God the Father. That is what is meant by our redemption. Jesus death was so costly that it has only ever, and could only ever take place once at the Jewish feast of Passover in Jerusalem in AD30 (7).

This message was contained throughout the Old Testament and clearly envisioned by Job. Possibly living around the time of the patriarch Abraham, Job could confidently say “I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God” (8). Not only had Job a hope in redemption but also in the resurrection. Similarly the two disciples returning to Emmaus on the afternoon of that first Easter day could say of and to Jesus whom they failed to recognise ”We had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel” (9). Indeed Jesus has proved to be that one and not just for Israel but for the redemption of all humanity.

That most costly act of redemption by God must have had an eternal purpose for the here and now. Paul writing to Titus says it was so that we could wait for “our blessed hope, the appearing of the great glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works” (10). And in Galatians Paul explains that our redemption is so that we “might receive adoption as sons and heirs”. As we have said before, we are redeemed to be restored as God originally intended for us, to be partakers in his family. What a glorious hope we Christians possess!

So to summarise:- Jesus has redeemed us, that is, delivered us from our state of separation from God and brought us back into an intimate relationship with him and God the Father, that very purpose God had originally intended for us before our disobedience.

Rejoice brothers and sisters and make sure that your faith and trust is in Jesus alone.
Happy studies and every blessing, Rev Mike

References to look at and meditate upon:

1 Redeeming as God’s deliverance Exodus 5v6; 13v13; Psalm 130v7
Redeeming as being bought back Leviticus 25v25, v48

2 Some Prophets Daniel 4v27 …. And see if you can find all the calls direct and indirect in the psalms and the ‘minor prophets’
John the Baptist Mark 1v4
Our Lord Mark 1v15

3 Genesis 3v8

4 Romans 3v23-26

5 Romans 8v17

6 Psalm 49v7-9

7 Romans 6v9-10

8 Job 19v25-25

9 Luke 24v21

10 Titus 2v5

Blessings to you all, Rev. Mike

Six People Elected to Help Select Next Bishop of Exeter

Six people from the Diocese of Exeter have been elected to sit on the national commission responsible for selecting the next Bishop of Exeter.

Tim Hamilton, the Very Rev'd Jonathan Greener, Annie Jefferies, the Rev'd Carl Robinson, Simon Friend and the Rev'd Karl Freeman are all members of the Diocese of Exeter's Vacancy in See committee.

They were elected to sit on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) by their fellow committee members.

Jonathan Greener is the Dean of Exeter Cathedral, Rev'd Robinson is a vicar in Exeter and Rev'd Freeman has recently retired as a vicar in Plymouth.

Annie Jefferies lives in rural West Devon and is Chair of the House of Laity for the Diocese. Simon Friend lives near Cullompton and is a lay member of the Church of England's General Synod, as is Tim Hamilton, who lives in Exeter.

The Vacancy in See Committee, which has 29 members made up of clergy and laity from across the Diocese, also approved the Statement of Needs (a document like a parish profile), which will inform prospective new diocesan bishops about the strengths of the Diocese of Exeter, the challenges it is facing and the gifts the new bishop will need.

The new CNC representatives were commissioned by the Bishop of Crediton, the Rt. Rev'd Jackie Searle, who said "We thank you for offering to represent the Diocese in the discernment for a new diocesan bishop. We will pray for you and assure you of our support in this work you have undertaken."

Anne Foreman, Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee said "Our reps will play a significant part in who will be nominated as our new bishop, so please continue to pray for them as they begin their work."

It is hoped the new Bishop of Exeter will be appointed by November 2024.

OCTOBER PRAYER DIARY

Dear God, in your power, you raised Jesus from the dead, he is our Prince and Saviour, teach us to obey your commands, to trust in you and listen to you above any earthly voices. We give our lives to you. *(Acts 5:29-31)*

Sunday 1st – Saturday 7th

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we pray for all those living with breast cancer, their families and friends, and for all those who have lost loved ones to breast cancer. We give thanks for organisations working tirelessly to discover new ways to prevent and treat breast cancer and pray your love would surround each person affected by this disease.

1. In our link with the Diocese of Bayeux-Lisieux, we pray for the small Anglican community centred in Caen, and their Chaplain Fr. Mark Osborne. We also pray for the parishes, their clergy and people in the area of Villers-Bocage.

2. On the International Day of Non-Violence, we remember that Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek. We long for a world where people in power do not use violence to achieve change but strive to keep peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God."
(Matthew 5:9)

3. For the Torridge (Coastal) Mission Community, LLMs Anne Foster, Nigel Price, Jonathan Ellis, and for all who live and worship in Westward Ho!, Northam, Appledore, and Abbotsham.

4. On the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, we pray his words: 'I beg you, Lord, let the fiery, gentle power of your love take possession of my soul, and snatch it away from everything under heaven, that I may die for love of your love as you saw fit to die for love of mine.'

5. On World Teachers' Day we pray for teachers across Devon, may they know your guiding hand as they shape our young people. Please help them explore new ways of engaging with students, we pray that your love would sustain them.

6. For the Torridge Mission Community, its priest Martin Warren, Duff, LLM Jon Berry, and for all who live and worship in Sheepwash, Shebbear, Petrockstowe, Petersmarland, Newton St Petrock, Merton, Langtree, Huish, and Buckland Filleigh.

7. For all those being licensed as Lay Ministers across the Diocese today. We give thanks for the gifts you have given them, and for their willingness to respond to your call to serve. We pray that as they teach others, lead worship, and encourage the church, they too may grow in wisdom and understanding.

Sunday 8th – Saturday 14th

During Baby Loss Awareness Week, we pray for all those who have suffered the loss of a child. Lord, we thank you that you are near to those who are in pain, that you yourself are 'acquainted with grief', and that one day you will wipe away every tear. Help us weep with those who weep and point them towards your love.

8. For the Torridge 6 Ecumenical Mission Community and for all who live and worship in Monkokehampton, Iddesleigh, Dowland, and Dolton.

9. For the Torridge and Taw Mission Community, its priest Chris Painter, LLM Graham Prosser, and for all who live and worship in Westleigh, Instow, and Fremington.

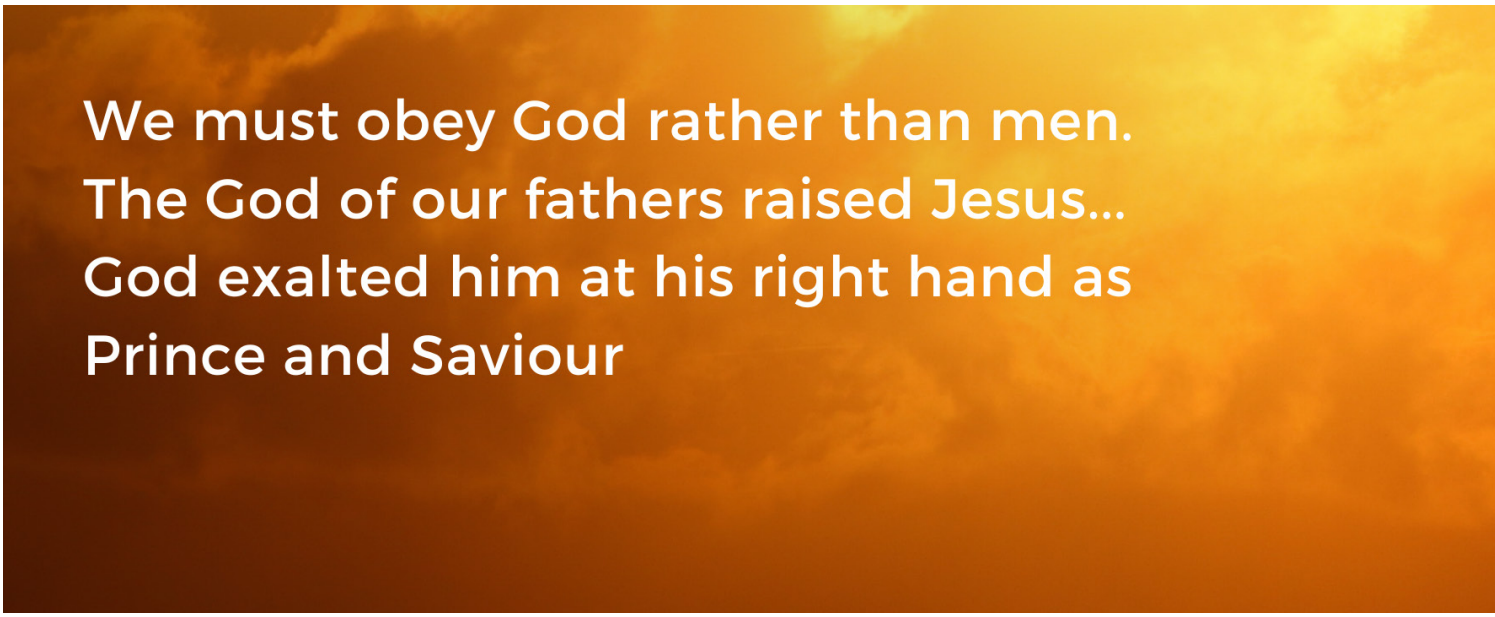
10. On World Mental Health Day, we pray for all those struggling with their mental health, that the peace of God would guard their hearts and minds and they would know that the Lord is a very present help in times of trouble. Help us to support, encourage and pray for one another when we become overwhelmed.

11. For the Torrington Mission Community, its priest Steve Turner, and for all who live and worship in Little Torrington, Great Torrington, and Frithelstock.

12. In our link with Cyprus and the Gulf, we pray for all the staff in the Diocesan Office in Nicosia, we give thanks for their hard work and service, would you sustain each of them and remind them it is all for your kingdom.

13. For the Totnes Mission Community, its clergy Jim Barlow, Jane Frost, Christian Harris, LLMs Elizabeth Waterson, Richard Frost, and for all who live and worship in Totnes with Bridgetown, Stoke Gabriel, Marldon, Dartington, Cornworthy, Berry Pomeroy, and Ashprington.

14. For Army and Navy Chaplains in Devon, we give thanks for them as they come alongside those in our armed forces and offer them the message of light and life. We pray that the Holy Spirit would work in and through them in their ministry.



Sunday 15th – Saturday 21st

During National Adoption Week, we give thanks for all those who adopt children, we pray those who are able would be stirred by love and compassion to welcome children in need into their families, just as God in his love adopted us into his family through Jesus Christ. *(Ephesians 1:5)*

15. On the International Day of Rural Women, we acknowledge the essential role women play in rural communities across the globe, particularly in developing countries. We pray for all women in agricultural roles, that you would sustain them and give them resilience through your Spirit.

16. On World Food Day, we pray for all those around the world without access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food. We give thanks for organisations working to change this. Lord, you are the bread of life, remind us of our need for the spiritual food you provide.

17. On the Feast Day of St Ignatius of Loyola, we pray his words: 'Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.'

18. On the Feast Day of St Luke the Evangelist, we give thanks for his gift to the church and pray that through his gospel, we would become more certain of who Jesus is, what he came to accomplish, and what it means to follow him.

19. For the Trinity Mission Community, its clergy Jonny Elvin, Ollie Osborn, and for all who live and worship in Holy Trinity Exeter.

20. In our link with the Diocese of Thika, we pray for Pray for the four area Archdeacons and the clergy in each Archdeaconry who head up ministry with Children, Mothers' Union, Youth, Men's groups, Mission, and Prayer Ministry.

21. For the Two Rivers Mission Community, its clergy Gary Owen, Tracey Doyle, Julia Halpin, Ally Hope, Cathy Gardiner, LLMs Gwyn Thatcher, David Halpin, Tim Overton, Jacque Ward, Carol Wyatt, and for all who live and worship in Yarnscombe, Tawstock, St Giles in the Wood, Roborough, Newton Tracey with Alverdiscott, Huntshaw, Horwood, High Bickington, Beaford, and Atherington.

Sunday 22nd – Tuesday 31st

We pray for children and young people who are on half-term this week, and for the teachers and staff in our schools, that you would bring them rest. We give thanks for churches hosting activities this week, and pray that children and young people attending would know more of who you are.

22. For the Upper Culm Mission Community, its clergy Becky Totterdell, LLM David Major, and for all who live and worship in Hemyock with Culm Davy, Culmstock, and Clayhidon.

23. For the West Dartmoor Mission Community, its clergy Andrew Thomas, Miranda Donne, Philippa Bellows, LLM Martin Jury, and for all who live and worship in Yelverton, Walkhampton, Sheepstor, Sampford Spiney, Meavy, and Horrabridge.

24. For the West Exe Mission Community, its clergy David Nixon, Ed Hodges, Mike Clark, Alison Whiting, Sarah Cumming, and for all who live and worship in Saint Thomas Exeter and Exwick.

25. For the Whiddon Mission Community, its clergy David Spence, Sue Sheppard, Harriet Every, Wes Cutler, LLMs Jill Hobbs, Jeanette Wilmot, Kay Pyne, and for all who live and worship in Spreyton, South Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, North Tawton, North Bovey, Moretonhampstead, Manaton, Lustleigh, Honeychurch, Hittisleigh, Gidleigh with Throwleigh, Drewsteignton, Chagford, and Bondleigh.

26. For the White Cross Mission Community, its priest Bill Lemmey, LLM Christine Grist, and for all who live and worship in Woodbury with Exton, Woodbury Salterton, Farringdon, Clyst St Mary, Clyst St George, and Aylesbeare.

27. In our link with Melanesia, we pray for the Melanesian Brothers Great Conference taking place tomorrow. We also pray for the new leaders of the religious community and for their households in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Australia.

28. On the Feast Day of St Simon and St Jude the Apostles, who were faithful and zealous in their mission, we pray that we too would be full of faith as we follow Jesus. We give thanks for all the apostles, whom Jesus appointed to lead His church, and devote ourselves to their teaching as the early church did.

29. On the International Day of Care and Support, we pray for carers and support workers and those working in similar roles. May God protect them and sustain them as they work hard - often unseen - to care for, rehabilitate, and serve those in need.

30. For the Winkleigh Mission Community, its clergy Helen Blaine, Fiona Law, and for all who live and worship in Winkleigh, Brushford, Broadwood Kelly, Ashreigney.

31. As we remember Martin Luther, the Reformer, we pray his words: 'I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.'

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

Exploring Spirituality in our Church Schools

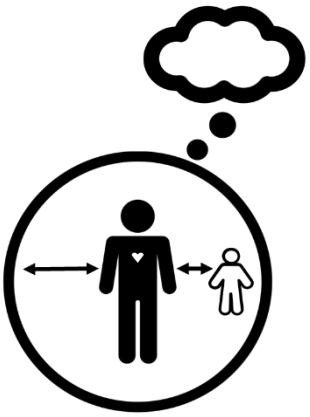
Here at St Eustachius, we are blessed to have two Church Schools, St Rumon's and St Peter's, with which we have a really close relationship.

We seek to support the schools in their aim to develop an environment in which all children can explore deeper questions of spirituality. Led by Mrs Suzy Dyter, the Headteacher, the schools' vision is to enable every child to 'Live life to the fullest' (drawing on John 10:10), which is summed up in three words – Dream, Achieve, Inspire. For this vision to be effective, it must be known, lived out and have a measurable impact upon relationships and in the curriculum.

The schools use a relationship approach, exploring spirituality through:

- Relationship with self
- Relationship with others
- Relationship with the world and beyond
- Relationship with God and the transcendent

They use the visual below to help the children to understand this and as a cue to make sure this vision is being embedded across the curriculum and school life:



A recent review of the school supported the staff and the children to reflect on how the school enables everyone to flourish. The Trust and Governors observed an assembly (nowadays called Collective Worship), led by Father Matt. They also visited RE lessons and looked at the curriculum to see how teaching and learning contributes to pupils' understanding and knowledge of the Christian faith, as well as of other faiths and of spirituality as a whole.

Together we were looking at the quality and impact of collective worship on enabling pupils and adults to flourish. The outcome of the review was very positive and encouraging.

Finally, we have vacancies on the Governing Body for the schools. If you wish to find out more about the invaluable support governors give to the schools, please see the next article or speak to Catherine Stoate, one of our Churchwardens.

St Peter's CE Junior School & ST Rumon's CE Infants School Needs YOU!

ST PETER'S CE JUNIOR SCHOOL & ST RUMON'S CE INFANTS SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Why volunteer to be a school governor?

School governors really make a difference to children's education and make a significant contribution to local communities. They are the largest volunteer force in the country with over a quarter of a million serving state funded schools in England.
Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has repeatedly noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management, this includes the local governing board.

What do local governors do?

The St Christopher's Trust Directors are responsible for every school in the Trust and through a scheme of delegation entrust local governors with making sure that things are working well in each locality. The local governing body (LGB) has four main tasks:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction for the school
- Agreeing the aims and objectives for the school and the measures that indicate success.
- Monitoring the performance of the school and its pupils against these measures.
- Challenging and supporting - especially the Headteacher and school leadership team.

This might involve engaging with staff, pupils, parents, and wider community to understand their experience/perspective of the work of the school, what's going well and what could be improved. You may even get to discuss what you know about the school's improvement journey with Ofsted who visit about every 3-5 years. The Trust School Improvement Leaders and other Trust officers are actively involved throughout, so you are well supported.

Who can become a school governor?

Anyone aged 18 or over can be a governor (with some exceptions) and you do not need to be a parent. The training available helps you to learn about current education practices and you will learn in the role too - it takes time to familiarise yourself with all the technical type language so be warned! Schools really benefit from having a range of skills and experience in their LGB such as finance, human resources, data interpretation, education, and property management as well as good old common sense and commitment to seeing the local community thrive. As a local governor, you bring your unique experience, perspective, and insights to decision-making in the interests of pupils and the school community.

What do I do if I want to Volunteer?

If you think this is something you might be interested in and you would like to support your local community, please email tcsf.clerk@stcmat.org for more information on vacancies.
To see the schools in our Trust please visit www.stchristophersmat.org

Renovation of the St Eustachius' Choir Vestry - Further Update

Just after going to print for the September Parish Magazine, when I gave the last update on this project and said we had to raise another £1,567 to reach our funding total, a second anonymous donor came forward and offered to close the gap in funding. Furthermore, this donor and the first donor have also offered to add Gift Aid to their donations, which means we have exceeded the total required.

This will enable us to cope with any unforeseen problems that might emerge with the work, but it is intended that any funds left over will go towards refurbishment of the Sacristy.

Work on the construction of the wardrobes for the choir robes and shelves for their music has already started, but they won't be installed until all the building work, painting and carpet laying is complete. The building work to repair the ceiling and enlarge the loo space is planned to start on Monday 16th October. This should take one working week, and the painting will follow once the plaster coat has dried out. Following that, the carpet will be laid, the shelves and wardrobes installed and the loo refurbishment will be undertaken.

It is very pleasing to be in the happy position of having all the necessary funds for this project and I would like to re-state our thanks to all those who have donated:

- The Friends of St Eustachius
- The Diocese of Exeter
- The Vestry Group Children Fundraisers
- Both of our anonymous donors

People have also been very generous in donations to the Vestry Group children fundraising so I would like to thank them as well. This funding will be kept in a separate 'pot' for resources for the children's activities, and the children are continuing to conduct some modest extra fundraising to enhance this. Donations can still be made (with Gift Aid if you wish) either through the card machine at the church entrance, or though the website at:

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

Martin Pendle

Ask John - What is Prayer?

Enquirer: Hi John. Say one for me when you next speak to Him upstairs.

John: Don't you think you could do that for yourself?

Enquirer: Well I haven't done that since I was in school assembly. I've forgotten what to do or say. What is it then, just speak the words out loud?

John: No. That is just speaking words out loud.

Enquirer: Ha ha. So what is the difference?

John: It would surely be funny if it was not so sad, but why is it always presumed that everyone knows instinctively how to pray?

Enquirer: Come on, give us a clue.

John: Look at the abysmal record most of us have concerning prayer. It is a half-remembered idea from Sunday School days that all prayer is some kind of speaking in a funny kind of way to God. Usually the prayer begins with "Dear Heavenly Father" and finishes with "through Jesus Christ our Lord." The whole thing is chanted out loud in a sing song voice and God will hear it somehow or other, for that is what God does! All the relevant requests and issues that are needed to be covered are put together in this strange formula of a child's celestial letter, and just like a letter it must always begin and end in a certain way. The process of praying is switched off somehow by the magical word "amen" and God won't listen in any more to your private thoughts.

Enquirer: I hadn't thought of it that way. So what should I do?

John: A child usually finds no trouble in addressing God for the mind at that age is not troubled by abstract concepts. To think of God as somewhere out there or up there is easily imagined, and the thoughts or words are consigned to the correct destination. The child is relating to God even though the notions of God, spirit and heaven are childish. It could not be otherwise. However for an adult to do the same thing is foolishness, for the concept and practice is still childish. We know that the reality of the physical world does not allow this.

John: So an adult needs an adult concept of relating to God. Jesus spoke of the kingdom God being within. In other words the relationship is not one of 'out there' but 'in there' – within – God, the Holy Spirit, being within us, within our hearts so to speak. So when an adult needs to communicate with God, to pray, it is a reaching *within* to the spiritual realms. It almost doesn't matter what outward form or words that communication may take. It is the intention, of practicing being in the presence of God, that matters. That is why so often the lament of seemingly only speaking to a brick wall is only too true – a braying to the wind.

John: A good place to start is to remember to "Lift up your Hearts".

Enquirer: Er yes. I'm still not sure I understand, but thanks for that anyway. Got to go….

John

Gulworthy News for October

September has given us every weather we could imagine. A beautiful late summer spell and almost overnight, showers, full-on rain and wind. The late sun encouraged various plants in my garden to have another flowering and even the melon in my greenhouse decided to set more fruit.

September in Gulworthy seems to have flown by. It started with a film night, when we were privileged to have a rare showing of a film directed by Drummond Challis, "Backstage at Covent Garden," presented and narrated by the then Prince Charles. It was a fascinating glimpse into the life of Covent Garden Opera House in 1979 and was created to both showcase the work done on stage and behind the scenes and to be used to fundraise for the improvements they so badly needed. It showed the glamour of the on-stage performances, but also the uncomfortable, cramped and often rather grubby conditions backstage. As someone who was studying singing at music college in 1979, it was particularly fascinating for me, and was a snapshot of the musical and dancing talent of the time. Thankyou so much Drummond for sharing this with us and allowing us to use it as our own fundraiser for St Paul's. Around 45 people attended, shared a sumptuous cold buffet, and raised £770. Many thanks to everyone who decorated the hall, made the delicious food and washed up afterwards! It was a fun evening.

On Sunday 24th we celebrated our Harvest thanksgiving service followed by a bring and share lunch in the church. Every harvest in Gulworthy, we remember and give thanks for our farming community; for their hard work, skill and dedication in feeding the people of Devon and beyond. Thank you and God Bless you.

We welcome the return of Barry Hodge as our caretaker treasurer. Thank you for stepping into the breech. But a massive thank you is due to Lesley, our retiring Treasurer for her time, energy and dedication to keeping our finances in the black and producing our accounts in such clear form. We are incredibly grateful to you for all she has done.

We hope very much, that we will soon be at the stage of sending our re-ordering plans to the Diocese for their approval, after which, we will be able to share them with the parish and beyond and start to fundraise in earnest. A toilet and servery will not be cheap, but St Paul's feel that this is something we really want to do to enable the church to be used more widely and to be a warm welcome to everyone. Meanwhile, we have various community and church events in our diary over the next few months and as always, if any one has an event that they think could be fun, please do not hesitate to share it!

We hope you are enjoying the beauty of autumn and of our lovely countryside.

With many blessings from St Paul's.

Diary

Saturday 21st October. Car Boot sale at Stubberlands, **TBC 10-12.30.** Venue – Stubberlands. Ring Rosie Steer 01822 833084 for details and to pre-book a slot. £7 per car.

Friday 17th November. "Preloved Clothes Fashion Show." In St Eustachius Parish Centre. **TBC**

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.

'Glad and Generous Hearts'

They [the members of the early church] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This passage from the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is one I keep returning to and thinking about. It comes at the end of a long account of the formation of the early church. You'll remember how, as the followers of Jesus met in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, a rushing wind and tongues of fire descended from heaven and everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter addresses a great crowd, calling on everyone to repent and be baptized. Then, in six brief verses, we are given a glimpse of these first Christians as a community, how they worshipped and lived together. There are three things about them that seem deeply significant to me.

The first is that these early Christians felt a strong bond of unity and love. They lived in fellowship and demonstrated their care for each other through practical action. They had a

kind of ‘support system’ in place, so that if one was in need, the others would help them out — even to the extent of selling their own possessions and sharing the money they raised. Their faith was expressed in ‘doing’ as well as in ‘believing’, by looking after bodies as well as souls.

Secondly, these first Christians were serious about their faith. They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to attendance at worship, and to prayer. Most importantly of all, they broke bread together. The phrase ‘breaking bread together’ doesn’t only refer to eating food in the ordinary sense. It’s also used in the New Testament of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. These early Christians were in communion not only with each other but with God. They would have known Paul’s words in first Corinthians 10:16, ‘The bread that we break, is […] a sharing in the body of Christ’.

But thirdly, we are told that these followers of Jesus ‘ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people’. Isn’t that a lovely description of what a Christian life can be? The phrase ‘generous hearts’ stands out for me here. We tend nowadays to speak of generosity in relation to money, as when someone gives more money than is strictly necessary or expected. But in the past the word related more to a person’s whole character. We still use it like this when we say someone is ‘generous-hearted’, or ‘generous-natured’. Generosity in this larger sense is about how we treat other people. We can be generous with our time, our compassion, our love, our prayers, not just with our money.

The idea that these early Christians had ‘glad and generous hearts’ made me think again of those wonderful words of Jesus, where he speaks of coming not just to give us life, but to give it in abundance (John 10:10). This is God’s amazing generosity. The life he brings us, like the love he has for us, isn’t measured out: it’s immeasurable. He gives us life beyond life, love beyond love. There’s no limit to his generosity. That’s a thought to carry with us.

Bob Owens

Tavistock Parish Public Events for October

October 2023 (events are in the Parish Centre unless otherwise stated)		
Sun 1	**12.30 am**	**Harvest Bring and Share Lunch**
Tues 3	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Fri 6	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
	6.15 pm	**Parish Meal "Breaking Bread Together"**
Mon 9	**2.30 - 4.30 pm**	**Prayer and Stillness Group**
Tues 10	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Fri 13	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Tues 17	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Thur 19	**2 - 4 pm**	**Bereavement Group**
Wed 25	**2-4 pm**	**Handicraft Group**
Fri 27	**9 am - 1 pm**	**Craft Fair**
	10 am - 12 noon	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Tues 31	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**

Senior Clergy Reflection for October 2023

Ven. Jane Bakker, Archdeacon of Plymouth

We are in a period of change as a diocese. We have said our farewells to Bishop Robert and the process to find his replacement is well underway. We are grateful to the many people involved in this process and for Bishop Jackie who will lead us in this time of transition.

The church often has an uncomfortable relationship with change. I meet people regularly who dislike change and want to resist it at all costs. This has always baffled me because change is all around us.

Our lives are a catalogue of changes. As we grow up, the pace of change is incredibly fast and it barely slows down during our adolescence and adulthood. Growing older also brings significant change to our lifestyle, our health and our outlook. Change cannot be avoided at any stage of life. Our bodies, our families and our photo albums record the hundreds and thousands of changes we have lived through. Change is everywhere.

The Bible is shot through with change. From the nomadic tribes of the Old Testament to the formation of the church in the New, change is found on every page. Jesus' conception, birth, ministry, death and resurrection all disrupt the status quo. His teaching confronts those who are comfortable; challenges the religiously secure and gives a home to the marginalised. His interactions were surprising and were all a departure from expectation. Nothing stays the same around Jesus.

So, why do we find change so difficult?

Change creates uncertainty. At this time, we don't know what our new bishop will be like. Nor do we know what her/his ministry will mean for us. We don't know what further changes will inevitably lie ahead.

But God does.

The Bible teaches us that we can face the future with confidence because God will be with us. Whatever we face, we do not face it alone. We can confidently face uncertainty knowing that Jesus has promised to be with his followers 'until the end of the age' (Matt 28.20) When it comes to life's changes, whether big or small, we can be assured that we God will be with us, through it all.

Concerts in 2023 and 2024

All concerts are in St Eustachius'

2023

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

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

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

Wed 20th Dec at 7.30 pm: Concert by Wheelhouse Folk Choir

2024

Sat 23rd Mar at 7.30: South West Chamber Choir

Sat 13th Apr at 7.30 pm: Ridgeway Chorale Choir

Sat 27th Apr lunchtime and evening: Tavistock Festival

Sat 4th May lunchtime and evening: 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**