Parish Magazine for

Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brentor

November 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 box in St Pauls Gulworthy.

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Please send any articles for the December edition to Martin Pendle, at m.pendle@icloud.com by Tuesday 28th November.

From the Ministry Team

The month of November is a time of gently putting the earth to rest, the fallen leaves lay like a carpet on earth that is sodden but, with the hope of the coming of spring will become alive again when winter is past.

The month of November is also traditionally a time in which the Christian community remembers those who have died. It is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the Liturgical Year culminating with celebrating Christ the King, and, with a new year starting the First Sunday of Advent; the four-week period of preparation before Christmas, we find ourselves in Year B which follows Mark's gospel, a gospel in which we can hardly catch our breath so eager is Mark to convey to the world who Jesus Christ is.

The Church uses this end of the year period as a time to think of the end of life and the end of all things and the great hope that our earthly end is transition into a new life in God's heavenly reality. We give thanks for those who have gone before us and we look with prayer and hope to their new life in heaven and our desire to join them there one day.

Many churches, particularly Anglican and Catholic churches, in the United Kingdom annually mark All Saints' Day on November 1. This occasion honours all the saints in Christian history, particularly those who do not have their own special feast day.

According to some sources, the idea for All Saints' Day goes back to the fourth century when the Greek Christians kept a festival on the first Sunday after Pentecost (in late May or early June) in honour of all martyrs and saints. Other sources say that a commemoration of "All Martyrs" began to be celebrated as early as 270 CE but no specific month or date is recorded. Pope Gregory IV made All Saints' Day an authorized holiday in 837 CE. It is speculated that the chosen date for the event, November 1, may have been an attempt to supplant the pagan Festival of the Dead-- Halloween.

All Saints' Day, which is celebrated globally, is closely tied with All Souls' Day, which was first instituted at the monastery in Cluny in 993 CE and quickly spread throughout the Christian world.

Some churches, hold special services with music and prayers focused on All Souls' Day on or around November 2nd. each year. It is a time for some Christians, including those who attend these special All Souls' Day services, to remember and pray. All Saints and All Souls Day are known collectively as Hallowtide.

And, of course, there is also our national act of Remembrance, on Remembrance Sunday. I never fail to be moved as the poppies fall down from the roof of the Royal Albert Hall during the Festival of Remembrance. That remembrance is all the more poignant in our own day as the reality of war and its human cost is once again graphically displayed on our televisions and in the newspapers. These wars away from our shores, not of our causing, nevertheless cause shock, horror and outrage at the atrocities causing unbelievable devastation to the innocent. It seems all that we can do is pray and remember that Jesus taught us 'to love one another as I have loved you.'

There will be services at war memorials and in churches across the diocese as we remember those who died fighting to protect us and bring peace and justice to our world, and we pray for those serving in our Armed Forces today.

Memories, and remembering, are such central parts of our personalities and character and in many ways make up part of who we are. Being remembered is very important to us, and the thought that we might be forgotten can be heart-breaking. I sometimes read these verses from Isaiah to people who are feeling lost and abandoned for any reason, or who are grieving the passing of years which means that all those whom they knew and loved, and who held the memories of them as younger people, have died.

God says, "'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." (Isaiah 49:15-16a)

Remembering God's goodness moves us to respond to our world in hope rather than fear. Remembering God's love for us fuels our love for others. The discipline of remembering inspires us to act.

As we remember what Jesus has done for us, it enables us to stop focusing on impossibility and instead focus on the God who does the impossible.

For Christians, of course, the most significant act of remembering is when we come together to remember in bread and wine the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus' willing sacrifice of himself on the cross for the sake of others is, for Christian believers, the ultimate expression of the self-giving love at the heart of God, when Christ's hands were marked by the nails of the cross, and where week by week we hear in the Eucharistic prayer Jesus saying 'Do this in remembrance of me'.

So in this season of Remembrance, as we remember with bread and wine, candles, and poppies may we all take time to pause, reflect, pray and be thankful.

With every blessing,

Revd. Sue

Thank you to our Stewards

A huge thank you to all our faithful stewards who welcome visitors to our church during the week. We will compile a new list when we start again in the New Year. Please email catherinestoate@gmail.com if you would like to continue next year or if you would like to join the team for the first time.

We are changing arrangements so that we always have two people at each session which ensures that no one is in church alone and possibly vulnerable. Stewarding is from Easter until Goose Fair roughly. Training will be given so that you can feel confident in your role. Thank you.

A Prayer for November

One of the saints whom the church celebrates this month is St Martin of Tours whose feast day falls on 11th November. Sitting as I do in the Clothworkers' Aisle, I often think of St Martin as I look at the Rodda window which St Martin shares with St George. The window shows St Martin as a Roman soldier, cutting his cloak, half of which he is about to give to the naked beggar in whom he was led to recognise Christ. Following his baptism and his refusal, as a follower of Christ to fight, Martin was discharged from the army, and became active as a missionary. St Martin became Bishop of Tours in 370 AD. He is regarded as the father of monasticism in France, and is one of the first holy people who was not a martyr to be consecrated as a saint.

The prayer for November which I have chosen is the collect for St Martin's day, which celebrates St Martin for his compassion for the needy, and for his work as a missionary.

God all powerful,
Who called Martin from the armies of this world
To be a faithful soldier of Christ:
Give us grace to follow him
In his love and compassion for the needy,
And enable your Church to claim for all people
Their inheritance as children of God;
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 forever.
Amen

John Rea

November Services in the Benefice

November 2023		
Wed 1	ALL SAINTS' DAY	
	9.00 am	Schools Federation All Saints' Service - Tavistock
	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Tavistock
Thu 2	ALL SOULS' DAY	
	6.00 pm	All Souls' Day Service - Christ Church, Brent Tor
Fri 3	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sat 4	3.00 pm	Forest Church - Christ Church, Brent Tor
Sun 5	4TH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT - ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (BCP said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Family Eucharist – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Family Service of the Word – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	All Souls Service - Tavistock
Wed 8	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 10	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	10.50 am	Tavistock College Remembrance Service - Tavistock
Sat 11	1.15 pm	School Remembrance Service – Gulworthy
Sun 12	3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Eucharist & Parade, with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday Service – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Remembrance Sunday Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 15	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 17	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 19	2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Family Eucharist – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Civic Service - Tavistock
Wed 22	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 24	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 26	CHRIST THE KING - SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT	
	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, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 29	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock

MOUNT KELLY

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

SBB Stannary Brass Band

Remembrance Concert

A programme of reflective and uplifting music in support of the Royal British Legion

Saturday 11 November 2023 at 19:00
St Eustachius' Church, Tavistock

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Stannary Brass Band - Conductor: Peter Jones
Mount Kelly Chamber Choir - Director: Dan Robson
Mount Kelly College Band - Director: Dan Robson
Mount Kelly Prep Senior Choir - Director: Tessa Hansford
Local Soloists

Free entry for all - no tickets or reservations required
Interval refreshments available (cash bar)

Contributions to the Royal British Legion will be taken on the night

Advent Promise

Incarnation ◊ Transformation
Salvation

Three Advent Groups, 2023

Tavistock Parish Church Centre

Programme

Group 1, Tuesday 28 November 2023, 2.30pm
❖ **'The Promise of Incarnation'**
How do Advent characters and themes point to Emmanuel—God with us?

Group 2, Tuesday 5 December 2023, 2.30pm
❖ **'The Promise of Transformation'**
How are we to understand and respond to the promise of the Second Coming of Jesus?

Group 3, Tuesday 12 December 2023, 2.30pm
❖ **'The Promise of Salvation'**
How can Advent Promises sustain us in our everyday lives as followers of Jesus?

These Lent Groups are free and open to everyone—church members or not. Led by Patti and Bob Owens, they will be quite informal, and will include Bible readings, discussion, reflection, and prayer. We will meet in the Tavistock Parish Church Centre, situated next to the Bedford Hotel on Plymouth Road, Tavistock. There is no parking at the Centre, but the Bedford Car Park (Canal Road, PL19 8AU) is only two minutes' walk away.

The Groups will meet on Tuesday afternoons. Their purpose is to renew, deepen and strengthen our faith during the weeks of Advent. They will be social as well as spiritual occasions. Together, we will explore what Advent can mean to us in our lives and witness as Christians.

What you can expect from each Group:

- ❖ An opportunity to be with others for spiritual development and support.
- ❖ A time to re-connect with God in prayer and reflection.
- ❖ Experienced group leaders.
- ❖ Encouragement to engage with the meaning of Advent and Christmas in a deeper way.

Groups will begin promptly at 2.30pm each Tuesday and will last for about an hour and a quarter, ending with a cup of tea or coffee. All readings and other study materials will be supplied.

If you would like to attend the Advent Groups—all or some of them—it would be helpful for us to know in advance so that we can make the necessary arrangements. If you have any special requirements, do get in touch with us.

Please phone, text, or email us, giving your name and contact details:

House phone: 01822762078 (there is an answerphone)
Text (Patti): 07507 805 074
Email: bobowensreader@outlook.com

All Welcome

Tales from the Tower

Competition is part of the human psyche, and church Bellringers are no more immune than anyone else. There's even a song about it - collected by the famous Sabine Baring-Gould of Lewtrenchard, and featuring a number of local churches. It begins:

'One day in October, neither drunken nor sober (*so he'd had a few already- DB*)
O'er Broadbury Down I was wending my way.
I heard of zum ringing', zum dancin' and zinging'.
I ought to remember that Jubilee Day.' (*One of Queen Victoria's jubilees, presumably.)*

'Twas in Ashwater Town, the bells they did sound,
They rang for a belt and a hat laced with gold,
But the men of North Lew rang so steady and true,
That never were better in Devon I hold….'

The tale goes on to relate how one team 'struck a note on the tenor should never have been' and there seems to have been some energetic dispute over this, for the next we hear is that the rival bands meet again, not at their first choice of tower, St Stephen's by Launceston (interestingly going out of the county for this) but in 'good Callington' where all the people, both 'the hale and the feeble, came forth to hear the sweet bell-music flow' and there the matter was settled and the team from Broadwoodwidger, who had argued the point in the first place, 'were beaten fair squarely and done in the round,' so had to 'give o'er' for 'never was better in the west to be found'.

We no longer ring for prizes such as hats laced with gold, nor for money (which would have been easier to divide up amongst the team as well as probably a lot more useful) but we do ring for points, or rather lack of them, each point being awarded for a 'fault' or badly struck bell. And this is what happened last Saturday when teams from all over Devon met for the regular eight and six-bell competitions. For some weeks now we have been practising for Cambridge Surprise Minor, on six bells, and Oxford Bob Triples, on eight, and our teams were finally able to put all that practice to good use against some of the best ringers in the county.

I am pleased to report that we came second in both entries. This didn't, of course, please those who would like to have come first, but there were very few faults' difference in either contest and in my opinion (not being one of the ringers myself) it wasn't at all a bad result.

After all, you can practise and work to make yourself as good as you can be, but you can never prevent someone else being better. (I'm not sure this gave them much comfort, but still.)

So that's the competition done, and this Saturday we have the Deanery Festival where there is no competition at all, just a friendly tour round to all of those towers in the Deanery who are happy to remain open all day for ringers to come and ring as and then they choose. We will be ending the day at Meavy this year, with a service and tea, and the inevitable raffle, amidst a lot of chat and goodwill.

That is so much a part of bellringing - the fellowship and goodwill. Often over tea and cakes (or pasties!) and sometimes, it has to be admitted, over a pint or two in the pub after practice. But that's tradition too, isn't it - we have evidence from that Jubilee Day ringer himself, 'neither drunken nor sober' but still able to tell good ringing when he heard it!

Donna Baker

Know Your Bible 3 - Salvation

Our previous study was focussed on Redemption; this time I should like us to think about Salvation. You may be asking "but is not salvation the same as redemption?" and the answer is 'well not exactly'. We saw that redemption was a universal one off event where our Lord Jesus shed his precious blood on Calvary's cross to reconcile us humankind back to our Holy God and Father following our disobedience to His commandments, whereas the scriptures describe salvation as an ongoing process throughout the lives of us Christian believers. Our salvation begins when we put our faith in Jesus and will be completed when we meet with our Lord at his return, or our calling home to paradise.

The patriarch Abraham could say when blessing his sons near his death "I wait for the salvation of the Lord" (1) and so he was clearly looking forward to a later fulfilment of that process. Similarly the psalmist also looked forward saying "my soul languishes for thy salvation" (2). Again the prophet Isaiah was also looking forward to the time when he and we will exult in God having been given 'a garment of salvation and a robe of righteousness' when we enter into the presence of our Holy God (3). Does that remind you of one of our Lord's parables? Maybe the parable of the wedding guests? (4).

Whereas Moses could see a collective element to salvation for the people of God that only God himself could perform for them, saying to the tribes of Israel in the wilderness, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord that he will bring for you today" (5). Salvation in that understanding was a deliverance that was to come from God. And the psalmist also perceived a similar aspect when pleading "O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion" (6), a plea that is so pertinent at this present time when we look at the situation in the Middle East, a plea that was first answered at the advent of Jesus in Bethlehem in September 3 BC and

will be finally fulfilled at Jesus return. So salvation has a hint of dual interpretation; both present and future.

Later the psalmist once again looked forward to his individual and personal salvation saying "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation" (7). And this is the way I believe that we as Christians should understand our salvation. God our Father has a unique and individual plan for each one of us his children, a plan to prepare us for our eternal life in his glorious presence and in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the coming kingdom.

When writing Lamentations King Solomon recognised that salvation was not to be an instantaneous process but one that we have to patiently and quietly wait for as it unfolds during our lives (8). God is affecting a transformation in us that may, and usually does take time, for most of us a lifetime in fact. This is sometimes a difficult transformation where Paul says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect" (9). Yet throughout this process the prophet Habakkuk writing around 630 BC encourages us with the words "take joy in the God of our (ongoing) salvation" (10).

The prophet was also given a deep understanding of what should be our practice as we 'patiently wait' for God's salvation; we should 'live by faith' (11).
This is such a significant 'rule' for us as Christians to live by, to live by faith and not by works, to live by our trust in Jesus, that it is quoted three times in the New Testament, twice by Saint Paul and once by the writer to the Hebrews (12).
Sometime around 520 BC the prophet Zachariah (13) saw that God's salvation, our transformation, was eventually to come to God's people, a time which Simeon declared was fulfilled when he took the baby Jesus in his arms in the Temple using the beautiful words of the 'Nunc Dimittis' "my eyes have seen thy salvation prepared in the sight of every people" (14).

When Peter and John were taken before the Jewish council after the resurrection of the Lord they boldly declared "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (15). What does that statement say to us? First that all people need God's salvation, a transformation to take place in all our lives in order to become part of God's redeemed family; and second that salvation can only come through Jesus as he sends the Holy Spirit to indwell us.

So what may that subsequent ongoing process of salvation, which will be different for each one of us, look like in our lives? Well for many it may not be an easy path. Paul when writing to the Corinthians reminds us that we may be afflicted in some way but through that affliction we may be able to comfort others who experience something similar so that they may then know they are not alone (16). Perhaps this is one of the real meanings of 'fellowship' with our brothers and sisters in the faith. Paul also says that through this 'godly grief' we may be brought to repentance and faith, so deepening our process of salvation (17).

I like to think that the following words of Paul to the Romans (18) describes the evolutionary nature of our salvation when he said, “our sufferings produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us”. Perhaps the picture of the ‘potter’ that the prophet Jeremiah uses to describe how God ‘reforms us’ may come to mind (19).

Peter in his first epistle (20) encourages us to “Put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation-if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good”. I trust that we have all tasted that our Lord Jesus is indeed good and we see how essential it is to meditate on and dwell in the scriptures if we are wanting to grow up into our salvation. A rather important lesson to remember after our recent celebration of ‘Bible Sunday’.

When writing to both the Ephesians and to young Titus Paul reminds them that our salvation is another sign of God’s ongoing grace towards us, it is not something we can earn (21). This is not to be just a passive process as we are also told to “work out our own salvation” (22). We have been given free will and creative intelligence so let us use those gifts wisely in developing our salvation, our transformation, for “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (23).

Saint Peter tells us that our salvation will be ‘revealed in the last days’ so that is when our ongoing salvation will be complete and will be seen as the outcome of our faith (24). Or in the words of Paul “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (25). So let us be encouraged brothers and sisters as we recognise that “our salvation is nearer now that when we first believed” (26).

Blessings, and in anticipation of what is to come, Rev. Mike

1 Genesis 49v18
2 Psalm 119v81
3 Isaiah 61v10
4 Matthew 22v10-12
5 Exodus 14v13
6 Psalm 14v6
7 Psalm 62v1
8 Lamentations 3v26
9 Romans 12v2
10 Habakkuk 3v18
11 Habakkuk 2v4
12 Romans 1v17; Galatians 3v11; Hebrews 10v38
13 Zechariah 12v7
14 Luke 2v29-32
15 Acts 4v12
16 2Corinthians 1v6
17 2Corinthians 7v10
18 Romans 5v3-5
19 Jeremiah 18 v1-6
20 1 Peter 2v1-3
21 Ephesians 2v8; Titus 2v11
22 Philippians 2v12
23 Hebrews 2v3
24 1Peter 1v5; 1v9
25 Philippians 1v6
26 Romans 13v11

NOVEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Reflecting on the words of Isaiah 43:1, we pray:

Dear God, our creator and our redeemer, thank you that you hear our prayers. You know each of us by name, you love us, and you call us to yourself. We are yours, help us surrender our whole lives to you and to trust you. Amen.

We encourage you to reflect on Isaiah 43 throughout this month and use it to guide your prayer time.

Wednesday 1st – Saturday 4th

We pray for Stress Awareness Day taking place this week, may all those feeling overwhelmed by stress experience your supernatural peace. and remember Jesus' invitation to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." *(Matthew 11:28)*

1. On All Saints Day we give thanks for the faith of the saints who now dwell with you, help us to follow their example and serve you with our lives. We pray for all the saints on earth – your church – may we delight in them: 'As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight.' *(Psalm 16:3)*

2. On All Souls Day we remember all those who have died, particularly those who have passed away recently. We pray for all those who are grieving, that they would know comfort, help us to weep with those who weep. *(Romans 12:15)*

3. For the Withycombe Raleigh Mission Community, their priest Robert Sellers, and for all who live and worship in Withycombe Raleigh.

4. For the Yealm and Erme Mission Community, its priest, Kim Lovell, LLM Tricia Stringer, and for all who live and worship in Yealmpton, Wembury, Revelstoke, Newton Ferrers, Holbeton, and Brixton.

Sunday 5th – Saturday 11th

As the 'Come and See' Weekend of Mission approaches, we pray using a prayer from the 'Come and See' resources: *Lord of all, inspire us by your Spirit to be all you require us to be, to put aside any inhibitions that prevent us from saying to others, 'Come and See'. Show us your way, O Lord, and teach us your paths. Amen.*

5. For the Alphington Mission Community, its clergy Mike Partridge, Adrian Butland, LLMs Anthony Cummings, Lesley Phillips-Cannon, Ruth Ramsbottom, and for all who live and worship in Shillingford St George, Ide, and Alphington.

6. In our link with Melanesia, we pray for all the presentations, discussions and decisions to be made at the Anglican Church of Melanesia's General Synod from 5th to 11th November.

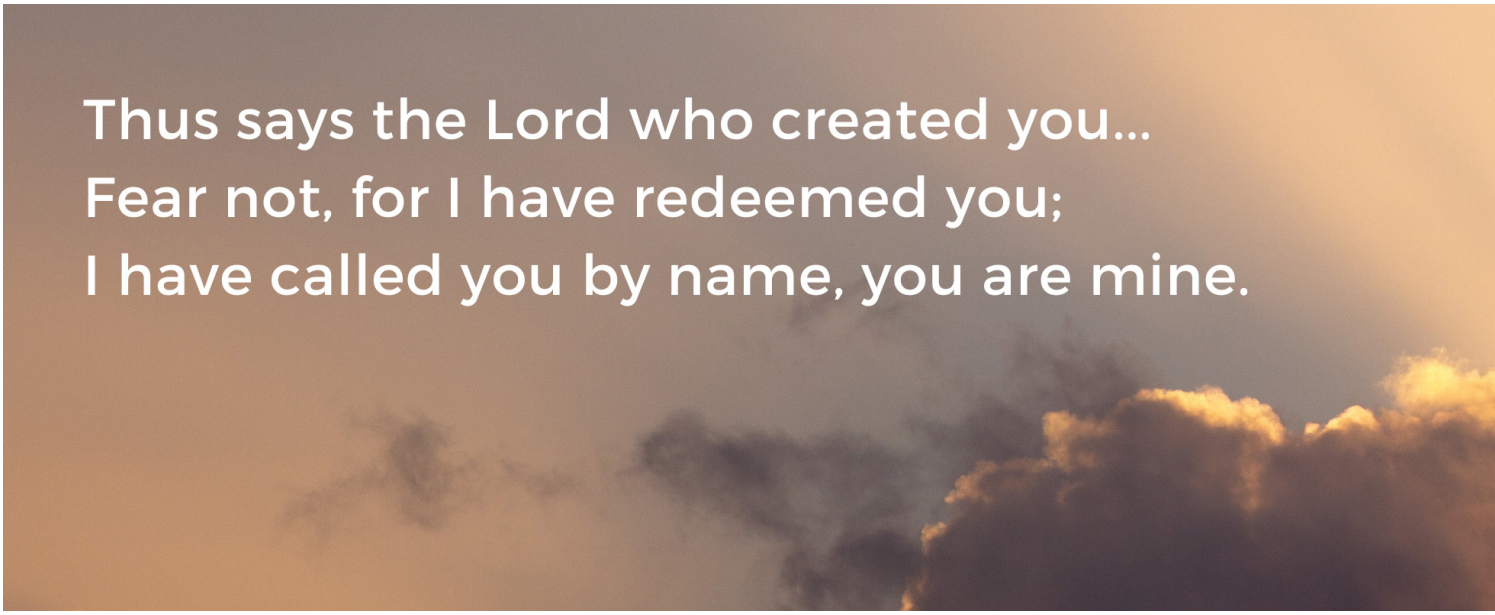
7. For the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community, its clergy Mark Rylands, John Bennett, Jenny Weigel, LLMs Chloe Axford, Mackenzie Robinson, and for all who live and worship in Widecombe in the Moor, Leusdon, Ilsington, Holne, Ashburton with Buckland in the Moor and Bickington.

8. For Prison chaplains across Devon, we pray you would continue to work through them their ministry as they come alongside prisoners and prison staff. May they reveal your love and bring hope to those who are feeling hopeless.

9. For the Aune Valley Mission Community, its priest Daniel Hartley, LLMs Peter Gornall, Nell Stamp, Pam Latimer, and for all who live and worship in Woodleigh, Thurlestone, South Milton, Loddiswell, and Churchstow.

10. During the Come and See Weekend, we pray for all events taking place across Devon and for those hosting them. We ask for boldness as we invite others to come and see the faith we have in Jesus. We pray you will give those attending soft hearts to receive the good news.

11. On Remembrance Day, we pray: *Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Sunday 12th – Saturday 18th

During Anti-Bullying Week we pray for young people, for those who have been hurt as well as those who have hurt others, may you bring healing, Lord. Please teach us all to love, honour, and forgive one another, doing to others what we would have them do to us.

12. On Remembrance Sunday, as communities come together to remember all those who have lost their lives as a result of war, we pray that your church would be a light to those who gather, reflecting your love, and pointing them to you.

13. On World Kindness Day, we remember the immeasurable grace and kindness God has shown us in all he has done for us. Help us to be kind to another: 'as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with kindness...' *(Colossians 3:12)*

14. For the Axe Valley Mission Community, its clergy Nicky Davies, Cate Edmonds, Shuna George, LLMs Ann Gray, Lesley Gubbins, Su Clark, Roger Grose, and for all who live and worship in Uplyme, Membury, Combpyne with Rousdon, Chardstock, Axmouth, and Axminster.

15. For the Beacon Parishes Mission Community, its priest Andrew Down, LLMs Tessa Amies, Hillarie Griggs, and for all who live and worship in Woodland, Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury, and Broadhempston.

16. In our link with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf we pray for the process of appointing a new Diocesan Bishop, may all those involved have wisdom and discernment, and may God send a shepherd and leader.

17. For the Barnstaple Mission Community, its clergy Martyn Tyrrell, Paul Taylor, Selina Garner, Shirley Paterson, Robin Smith, LLMs Steve Bunce, John Hartfield, Peter Nott, Joanna Pay, David Lewis, and for all who live and worship in Sticklepath with Roundswell, Pilton with Ashford, Newport, Goodleigh, Bishops Tawton, and Barnstaple.

18. On the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, we pray for all those who have lost loved ones to suicide. In times of pain and confusion, may they know you are near to the broken hearted, and that you yourself are acquainted with grief. Help us to listen well, and to walk with them in their affliction.

Sunday 19th – Saturday 25th

On Safeguarding Sunday, we remember all victims of abuse and pray for healing and justice for them. We thank you for our parish safeguarding advisors, our diocesan safeguarding team and all who work so hard to make our churches safe places for all. Help us to play our part, to have the bravery to speak up and look out for all those who are vulnerable.

19. For the Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston Mission Community, its priest Nick Law, LLMs Susan Belfield, Sheila Gay, and for all who live and worship in Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston.

20. On World Children's Day, we pray for children in our families and communities, we give thanks for the wonder of child-like faith, and pray for Children and Families workers in churches and schools across Devon, may you sustain them.

21. For the Bideford and the Four Villages Mission Community, its clergy Claire Rose-Casemore, Marisa Cockfield, Kevin Beer, Robin Pirrie, Chris Hutchins, LLM Sarah Cordingley, and for all who live and worship in Weare Giffard, Monkleigh, Littleham, Landcross, and Bideford.

22. For the Bovey Valley Mission Community, its priest Graham Hamilton, LLMs Lionel Holmes, Carolyn Laycock, John Randall, and for all who live and worship in Hennock, Bovey Tracey St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury, and Bovey Tracey St John with Heathfield.

23. In our link with Bayeux-Lisieux, we pray for all those considering vocations in the Diocese, please give them wisdom and discernment. We also pray for the parishes, their clergy and people in the area of Vire.

24. For the Bradninch Mission Community, its clergy Olly Mears, Hazel Britton, and for all who live and worship in Bradninch.

25. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we give thanks for organisations fighting prejudice, discrimination and violence against women. We pray for past and present victims of abuse, please help them, Lord. May your Church lead by example as we pursue justice.

Sunday 26th – Thursday 30th

Stir-up Sunday is traditionally the day when Christmas puddings are made – as we approach the festive season, we pray for all those who are struggling to feed their families. We give thanks for churches running foodbanks, lunch clubs, warm spaces and other vital outreach. Help us to be generous with what we have been given, just as you are generous to us.

26. For the Braunton Mission Community, its priest David Baker, LLM David Rushworth, and for all who live and worship in Braunton.

27. For the Brixham Mission Community, its priest Angela Sumner, LLMs Wendy Emlyn, Hilary Hyde, Martyn Hodge, Elaine Vestey, and for all who live and worship in Lower Brixham, All Saints, Kingswear, Churston Ferrers, and Brixham St Mary.

28. In our link with Thika, we pray for the Very Rev'd Stephen Nduati, Provost of St Andrew's Cathedral, and for the associate clergy and all who worship there. We also pray for their home groups, Sunday school, youth groups and give thanks for those who lead them.

29. On the Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church, we remember that you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. We pray for all those carrying your good news to people across the world as well as here in the UK, Holy Spirit give us boldness.

30. On the Feast Day of Andrew the Apostle, one of the first called by Jesus, we remember that he left everything behind to follow Him. Lord, help us to follow you, to have that same devotion, and teach us to be 'fishers of people' like your disciple Andrew.

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

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

December is an incredibly busy month for St Eustachius. We have the wonderful opportunity to welcome hundreds of people through our doors at carol services and school services. Could you spare some time to assist us? To welcome, give out books, direct people and tidy up afterwards?

If you can, please sign the rota which will go out at the back of church in the middle of November. Thank you

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Encounter

I'm sure the scenario is familiar. Answering the doorbell, I find two people on the doorstep, suspiciously well dressed. I can sense the presence of Watchtower lurking in their bag. My heart sinks.

I suspect I am not alone in dreading such visits. I really don't like being persuaded to buy something I don't want. I know from past experience that like spiritual Kleeneze men they are well versed in their subject; my inability to counter their pitch with a detailed and referenced account of my own faith makes me feel uncomfortable and ashamed. As a Christian, though, I feel I should at least be friendly and respectful to those who have committed their time and courage to their beliefs, however misguided I might think them to be. I find striking the right note very difficult.

But the other day there was no doorbell. I was in the garden and heard someone call me from the gate. A middle aged man and a teenage girl, were there, neatly dressed and with the tell-tale bag. Armed with nothing but a hand fork and gardening gloves, I was exposed and had nowhere to hide. I went up to the gate and we had what has come for me to be the usual exchange - "You aren't going to convince me, and I'm not going to convince you so shall we leave it at that?". But this time something was different. Instead of an awkward shuffling on both sides, we started chatting. The road up to our house is steep and the man needed to catch his breath, so he leaned on the gate and we talked. We spoke about our respective faiths, not what they were, but what they meant to us. We spoke about the despair we see around us and the false trust that people we meet put in material things. And we spoke about the hope that we both have for the future in a world that often seems so bleak. The teenager joined in as we discussed how most children no longer have exposure to even the most basics elements of the Bible.

After several minutes, they returned to their mission and I to my weeding. But for the first time after a conversation with Jehovah's Witnesses I felt blessed and somehow encouraged.

The differences between us seemed at that moment trivial in comparison with what we shared. I do not seek to argue that our theological differences are unimportant, but to reflect that sometimes Jesus turns up in unexpected situations and turns things on their heads. Keeping our minds open to such possibilities is not easy, but we can miss out if we don't.

Nicolette

Toy Recycling Project

We will soon be collecting preloved toys to distribute at a free pop-up event for anyone struggling to afford gifts this Christmas for their children.

Toy donations collection points are at Tavistock Library or Tavistock Carpets from 6th-30th November.

Free Pop-up event – Saturday December 2nd at the United Reformed Church Hall 10 am till 3 pm, all welcome.

We encourage you to attend the event if you can, to choose gifts for your children, but if you can't and are in need this Christmas, please email ToyRecycleProject@outlook.com

Please help us to help very child to receive gifts this Christmas time by donating. Only toys in good condition please.

Devon Libraries

THE SALVATION ARMY

Rotary Tavistock

TAVISTOCK CARPETS

Ask John - Is Magic the same as Prayer?

Enquirer: Hi John. You got me thinking. Got a mo?

John: Oh Dear. Well, what is it now?

Enquirer: You spoke once before about blessings and curses, so is magic the same as prayer but just in a different context?

John: No. Magic is magic and prayer is prayer.

Enquirer: Well, they look the same to me!

John: Magic is an exercise of Will, manipulating subtle energies or entities to bring about change. Prayer is practising being in the presence of God, voicing Praise or Petition.

Enquirer: Err, Come again!

John: Magic depends on the practitioner's abilities and moral stance. It can so easily be misused and is open to constant temptation. Prayer, on the other hand, is looking to the Will of God in any given situation. It is usually a humbling experience rather than a statement of self.

Enquirer: I guess I am back in deep waters again.

John: Magic has been misrepresented by Harry Potter and company. Magic is not about wearing pointy hats, waving a wand around and chanting strange words. The stories might be delightful, but the truth of the matter is that magic is a very seductive path to follow. There are some terrible traps for the practitioner to fall into and his or her ethics and morals are constantly to be questioned.

John: If you want to stand in the presence of real power then stand before God in prayer.

Enquirer: Er yes. 'Wota-mistaka-to-maka'. Sorry I asked.

[apologies to 'Allo, 'Allo]

John

This concert will be under the baton of our new conductor, Dan Robson, Director of Music at Mount Kelly. Dan moved to Mount Kelly following ten years as Director of Music at Clifton College in Bristol, where he conducted choirs, orchestras and shows including Les Miserables and Phantom of the Opera. He is an accomplished singer and held a choral scholarship at Magdalen College, University of Oxford, before going on to be a Lay Clerk in the Bristol Cathedral choir where he sang as a soloist on BBC1 and BBC Radio 3.

As a choral director he has led many chapel services including sung evensongs and Christmas carol services. As a Bass/Baritone soloist he has sung with many choral societies including C.P.E Bach's Magnificat, J.S. Bach's St John Passion Jonathan Willcocks's Requiem and Haydn's Harmoniemesse. He also plays the trumpet and piano.

Gulworthy News for November

Sadly, our planned car boot sale on 21st October had to be cancelled. The weather throughout the week was too wet to be able to use the field but thank you to the Steer family for having offered to host the event. Thanks also to all those who had gathered items for sale and readied themselves for making cakes and providing refreshments. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the event in the spring.

The church will have a table at the Christmas Bazaar top at Gulworthy Hall on Sunday 26th November from 1.30pm, so if you have items that might fit on a table, please do drop them into church and mark them 'table top sale'. All proceeds from the church table will go to St Paul's.

Having trialled a seniors' high tea last year, this year we are returning to a Christmas lunch master-minded by Kate Crozier. Those of you who are over 70 in Gulworthy parish will be receiving an invitation over the next few weeks.

November is here and for our household we have the joy of a family wedding and the expression of love and commitment that it celebrates. Promises made that, for Christians everywhere, are supported and sustained with the guidance and steadfast love of God.

So, as we move towards the end of the year, our prayers at Gulworthy are for all in our community and for peace throughout the World. The latter may seem a big ask, but it is possible with tolerance and with love.

May God guide us all to bring that love and peace to the World.

God Bless

Diary

Friday 17th November. Pre-loved clothes fashion show and sale. Postponed to the spring

Sunday 26th November. From 1.30. Table top sale at the Parish Hall Christmas Bazaar

Gulworthy Senior Citizens Lunch. Parish Hall. 4th Dec. By invitation only.

Sunday 17th December. TBC 2pm Nativity Play. In and around St Paul's

Sunday 24th December. Christingle Service 3.30pm

Christmas Tree Festival 2023

We are up and running again, and are now appealing for your assistance.

If you could make cakes, savouries or soup at any time that would be wonderful.

We will also need help stewarding and serving refreshments. It is always a lovely experience.

Signing up sheets will be in church in early November.
Or contact Pat Morrison tavitreefest@gmail.com 01822 613614

THANK YOU!!
Pat

Tavistock Parish Public Events for November *(events are in the Parish Centre unless otherwise stated)*

November 2023 (events are in the Parish Centre unless otherwise stated)		
Fri 3	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church) Autumn Raffle Draw**
	6.30 pm	**Parish Meal "Breaking Bread Together"**
Mon 6	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
Tues 7	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Wed 8	**2-4 pm**	**Handicraft Group**
Fri 10	**Afternoon**	**Cream tea in Church (St E. Church) (note no Friendly Fridays)**
Mon 13	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
	2.30 - 4.30 pm	**Prayer and Stillness Group**
Tues 14	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Thur 16	**2 - 4 pm**	**Bereavement Group**
Fri 17	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Mon 20	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
Tues 21	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Fri 24	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Mon 27	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
Tues 28	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Wed 29	**2-4 pm**	**Handicraft Group**

Senior Clergy Reflection for November 2023

Rev'd Canon Deborah Parsons, Diocesan Interfaith Advisor

Welcoming the Stranger

An Army Chaplain once told me that at any one time in our life, we'll only ever know a handful of people very well. Influencers have followers, facebook users have friends but in a world population of 8.1 billion most of the population will be strangers to us.

Migration has brought diverse groups of people together from different national, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Those once seen as "exotic" have become "strangers" in our own communities. 2.3 percent of the world's population, live outside their country of nationality.

Being a stranger, is a recurring motif in the Christian Tradition. Abraham leaves his homeland; the Israelites wander in the wilderness and Jesus himself was a refugee and had an itinerant ministry.

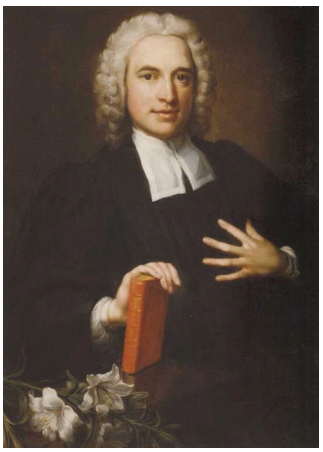
In the Bible, we see two different responses to strangers; one based on fear; the other on faith. Ezra and Nehemiah show hostility to strangers. They are keen to establish a clear group identity as God`s people. They fear intermarriage will dilute their national, religious and cultural identity. In contrast to this, the book of Ruth, the story of the Good Samaritan and Jesus`s own ministry show a deep love and care for the stranger.

In the pandemic, many of us got to know our neighbours better and the war in Ukraine has seen many open their homes to strangers.

On a visit to Bahrain, to strengthen links with our companion dioceses, I was impressed by their work in welcoming the stranger through King Hamad`s Centre for Peaceful Co-existence, which encourages interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance and by their conversations supporting safe migration through the Just Good Works App.

Interfaith week runs from 12-19 November. How might our churches act as crucibles for encounter, conversation and social action?

Hymn for the Month: ‘Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus’



As we prepare to enter the Advent season, it seems fitting to begin this ‘Hymn for the Month’ series with a much-loved Advent hymn, ‘Come, thou long-expected Jesus’. It was written by Charles Wesley (1707-88), one of the greatest hymn-writers of all time in terms of quality as well as quantity. He wrote thousands of hymns, and many of them are still sung today. ‘Come, thou long-expected Jesus’ was first published in 1745, in a much-reprinted pamphlet collection of eighteen *Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord*. It is now included in hymnals of all denominations across the English-speaking world.

Let’s look at the words of the text. (I always find it helpful and enjoyable to read verse aloud to myself, savouring the words and rhythms.)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

‘Come thou long-expected Jesus’ may seem fairly simple but it is skilfully constructed and written—as satisfying to read as it is to sing—and it abounds in Scriptural images and allusions. In four short verses, it presents the double nature of Advent, speaking not only of the first but also of the second coming of Jesus. The opening line recalls the words at the end of Revelation: ‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus’. It draws, too, on the gospel stories of the birth of Jesus, which incorporate references to the many Old Testament promises of the Messiah (‘Israel’s strength and consolation’), the long-awaited saviour who will set his people free.

Jesus is this Messiah, ‘born a child and yet a king’. But by bringing salvation for both Jews and Gentiles, he is the ‘hope of all the earth’, the ‘desire of every nation’ and the ‘Joy of every longing heart’. He will not only inaugurate his ‘gracious kingdom’ on earth, but will ‘reign in us for ever’, and, through the ‘eternal Spirit’, will ‘rule in all our hearts’ and bring us to eternal life. This personal note on which ‘Come, thou long-expected Jesus’ ends is characteristic of many of Wesley’s hymns.

There are two tunes to which ‘Come, thou long-expected Jesus’ is sung. One is ‘Stuttgart’ by the Lutheran composer Christian Friedrich Witt (1660–1716), first published in 1715. More usually nowadays it is sung to the beautiful tune ‘Cross of Jesus’, from the 1887 oratorio *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer (1840–1901). You can find many performances on YouTube, including a particularly lovely one by the Choir of St John’s College, Cambridge.

Bob Owens

Concerts in 2023 and 2024

All concerts are in St Eustachius’

2023

Sat 11th Nov at 7.00 pm: Mount Kelly and Stannary Brass Band Remembrance 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

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St Eustachius' Church Useful Contacts

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

Churchwardens: Mrs Catherine Stoate - 07773 162553 or **catherinestoate@gmail.com and** Mrs Pam Hunter 01822 614200 or **HntPam3@aol.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**

Bellringers: George Mudge (tower captain) 01822 615456, or email **phil.dunn.3cc@btinternet.com**

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