Parish Magazine for

Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brentor

December 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 Paul's Gulworthy.

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Please note there will be no January edition of the magazine. Please send any articles for the February edition to Martin Pendle, at m.pendle@icloud.com by Sunday 28th January.

CHRISTMAS
AT ST EUSTACHIUS' CHURCH

Sunday 3rd December
6pm Advent Carol Service

Wednesday 6th December
3:30pm Messy Church

Sunday 10th December
4pm Christingle

Sunday 17th December
6pm Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service

Christmas Eve
11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
8am Holy Eucharist
9:30am Family Eucharist

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

From the Ministry Team

It is nearly a year since my husband Bob and I moved to Tavistock from the Lizard, in Cornwall, so this is our first Advent and Christmas as residents in the town. As Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers) in Cornwall, we helped look after four small village churches which had no permanent parish priests. December was always filled with a variety of community events and services. We knew lots of people in the local villages and they knew us; our church family, friends in local shops, pubs, schools and charities. Highlights included carol singing for charity in the local pubs, Christmas plays put on by children from our two village schools and a Christmas choir drawn together from all the villages, just for the season.

Now we are part of the much larger ministry team here in Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brentor. We are looking forward to all the carol services and nativity plays to come, as well as the Christmas market, the Christmas Tree festival and the Dickensian Evening that will see lots of people flocking into the town. We hope we will get to know more of you, as we join in with these special Tavistock festivities.

The thing is, of course, that we can all get so busy and caught up in these lovely, sociable December events, that we can 'miss out' on the full meaning of Advent. And if we do, we miss the awesome miracle and majesty of God coming into our world, to be born as a helpless human baby, Jesus. So as Christians, in the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we try to prepare ourselves for Jesus Christ's arrival; the promise of *Emmanuel*, God being with us. During Advent, we are called to renew our relationship with God, through prayer and Bible reading. In this way, we can come to experience the presence of the living God in our inner being and woven into our everyday dealings with other people. We are inspired by the promise of Advent, fulfilled in the Incarnation, which shows us the extent of God's continuing love for us, despite our failings. The birth of Jesus Christ is the breakthrough moment in God's plan to restore and heal our broken world, and ultimately bring about *a new heavens and a new earth*.

God knows we need this hope, at a time when so much in our world seems out of kilter with the tradition of love and goodwill generated by Christmas. I'll end with some words from a poem that I love, and which seem particularly apt just now. It is by a little known late-Victorian poet, William Hale White.

The world, when Christ the Lord was born,
    Was at its worst; no saint had dreamed
From whence deliverance could come;
    So strong the powers of darkness seemed.

Yet down within a cattle byre,
    Obscure in Jewish Bethlehem,
Broke out from God a hidden fire;
    Where none had looked, up burst the flame.

Wishing you all every blessing at Advent, and in anticipation and gratitude for a happy Christmas,

Patti Owens

A Prayer for December

Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.

December and January Services in the Benefice

December 2023		
Fri 1	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sat 2	3.00 pm	Forest Church - Christ Church, Brent Tor
Sun 3	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (BCP said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist with Baptism: 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	Advent Carol Service - Tavistock
Wed 6	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Tavistock
Fri 8	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 10	2ND SUNDAY OF 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 Service of the Word – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	4.00 pm	Christingle - Tavistock
	5.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Tues 12	1.45 pm	Tavistock College Carol Service - Tavistock
Wed 13	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	TBC	School Nativity Service - Gulworthy
	2.00 pm	St Rumon's Nativity - Tavistock
	2.00 pm	School Christingle Service – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	6.00 pm	St Rumon's Nativity - Tavistock
Thur 14	11.00 am	Mount Kelly Prep Carol Service
Fri 15	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	1.45 pm	Tavistock Primary Christmas Service - Tavistock
Sun 17	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Family Eucharist – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	2.30 pm	Nativity Service - Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Carol Service - Tavistock
Tues 19	2.00 pm	Tavistock Church Schools Federation End of Term Service - Tavistock
Wed 20	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 22	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 24	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS EVE	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist - Tavistock
	3.30 pm	Crib Service and Christingle - Gulworthy
	4.00 pm	Nativity Service - Christ Church, Brent Tor
	4.00 pm	Crib Service - Tavistock
	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass - Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass - Tavistock

Mon 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (BCP said) - Tavistock
	9.30 am	Family Eucharist - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Family Eucharist – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	10.30 am	Family Eucharist – Gulworthy
	3.00 pm	Carol Service - St Michael's Brent Tor
Wed 27	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 29	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 31	FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Family Eucharist – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
January 2024		
Wed 3	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 5	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sat 6	3.00 pm	Forest Church – Christ Church, Brent Tor
Sun 7	EPIPHANY	
	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	Family Service of the Word – Gulworthy
	3.00 pm	Epiphany Carol Service – St Michael's, Brent Tor
	6.00 pm	Evensong - Tavistock
Wed 10	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Tavistock
Fri 12	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 14	2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
	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 17	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 19	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 21	3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
	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	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 24	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Fri 26	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
Sun 28	4TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock
	9.45 am	Family Eucharist: a service with a group for children - Tavistock
	10.00 am	Family Service of the Word – Christ Church, Brent Tor
	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist – Gulworthy
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - Tavistock
Wed 31	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist (said) - Tavistock

Tales from the Tower

Here we are, nearly Christmas again and not a stocking filled. Mind you, it is (as I write) still November, so there's some excuse. We shouldn't start celebrating Christmas too early, but with the church Christmas Tree festival opening within days, and Dickensian Evening kicking off the town festivities, and only three weeks to go after that, it won't seem at all too early by the weekend.

Ringers are making plans already. I went over to Peter Tavy yesterday evening for their practice and there was a list of various ringing dates to be filled in - Christmas Day ringing, of course, the Carol service on the previous Sunday afternoon, and then the ringing in of the New Year (and what is that going to bring? Let's hope for good things.).

In Tavistock we ring for the midnight service on Christmas Eve and since this is a Sunday this year it looks like being a busy day. There's also the candlelit service on the coming weekend, with plans for a quarter peal to be rung then; and, following from Christmas weekend, the New Year weekend looks busy too, with another Sunday for morning service and then midnight ringing.

I remember the millennium weekend, 23 years ago - how can it have been that long! - when we rang every day for ten days, including twice or was it three times on New Year's Day and with a wedding on the only 'spare' day in between. I vowed then not to be available for the next Millennium…..

Somehow, it seems to me that there is more ringing these days than ever, partly because like so many of us in Tavistock I try to help out at other nearby village churches too. Peter Tavy and Sampford Spiney are regulars on my weekly calendar and I try when possible to go to Whitchurch too, to make up numbers in the team who, having lost their captain Jane Doidge earlier this year, seem to need an extra pair of arms now and then.

One of the times was last Saturday when I was privileged to be asked to ring for the funeral of local resident Anthony Donne KC. And I do mean 'privileged' - I didn't know this gentleman personally (although I may have waved to him occasionally since we both walked our dogs on Whitchurch Down) but by the end of the quite long service I felt I had been allowed a glimpse into an amazing life. A High Court judge and family man, his character in the many aspects of his life were brought vividly to life by the eulogies given by fellow judges, his sons and daughters and his widow. I was left with the impression of a kindly and intelligent man who lived his life as well as any life could be lived, and was highly respected and very much loved.

I often do feel privileged to have been introduced to the fascinating art of ringing church bells. We are invited to take part in the most intimate parts of human life - birth, marriage and death - and it behoves us to do the very best we can for each occasion. It does not matter whether we are the most advanced of ringers or the humble beginner. As long as we do our

best and can produce a musical sound, without too many clashes, we are adding something to each celebration. It is, indeed, a privilege.

Christmas is one of the two most important celebrations (the other being Easter, of course) of the church. So when you hear the bells ring out this season, take a moment to enjoy the sound, and think of the ringers up there in the tower, removed from all that is going on outside, yet very much a part of it.

Happy Christmas!

Donna Baker

A Poem for December

Wachet Auf

By Ann Lewin, from Watching for the Kingfisher

Advent.
Season when Dual citizenship
Holds us in Awkward tension.
The world, intent on
Spending Christmas,
eats and drinks its way to
oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds Insistent warning:
Repent, Be ready,
Keep awake, He comes.
Like some great fugue
the themes entwine:
the Christmas carols,
demanding our attention
In shops and pubs,
bore their insistent way
through noise of traffic;
underneath, almost unheard,
the steady solemn theme of
Advent.

With growing complexity,
clashing, blending,
rivals for our attention,

themes mingle and separate,
pulling us with increasing urgency,
until in final resolution,
the end attained,
harmony rests in aweful stillness,
and the child is born.
He comes, both Child and Judge,
And will he find us Watching?

Church Keys

Following some recent church break-ins and thefts we need to update our key security. This is necessary to ensure our insurance policy isn't compromised or invalidated.

There are a lot of people who currently hold keys who no longer have roles which require them. We are proposing to change a number of locks and re-issue keys which will need signing for. We can then limit the number of keys in circulation and have an up-to-date record.
We would like to ask that if you currently have a key which you no longer need to return it to one of the churchwardens or deputies (Catherine Stoate, Pam Hunter, Cathy Sherlock, Hilary Johnson, Alison Boulter).

If you have a role which requires you to have church keys, please contact one of the following and new keys will be issued:

Catherine Stoate - catherinestoate@gmail.com

Pam Hunter - hntpam3@aol.com

Cathy Sherlock - cathy_sherlock@hotmail.com

Alison Boulter - alibgreystones@aol.com

Hilary Johnson

Please ensure you have signed the register on receipt of keys.

Arrangements can always be made to let you in if you only need occasional access.

Ask John - Define Grace

Enquirer: Hi John. Another question for you. Wot's Grace?

John: Wow! That must be the most profound question to date that you have asked.

Enquirer: Well, me missus and me were talking about it after church last week. I remembered that the prayer called Grace was always said at the end of a service, and me missus said the prayer Grace was something said before meals. I joked an' said that she was graceful or full of it. Grace I meant. But that didn't go down very well. If you see wot I mean. She said I was being sarky, so 'cos we was arguing about which one it was we thought it best to go to arbitration, an' ask you.

John: Hmm, I could say that a Sacrament is an outward sign of an inward movement of Grace, but I don't suppose that helps much.

Enquirer: You guessed right there, mate.

John: The bible speaks of 5 types of grace. There is saving grace, sanctifying grace, strengthening grace, sharing grace, and serving grace.

Enquirer: Err, Come again!

John: No, I guess that doesn't help much either. God's grace is usually defined as 'undeserved favour'. It cannot be earned. It is something that is freely given by God.

Enquirer: I still don't understand. Clear as mud.

John: It can be thought of as a caution when we really deserve to be fined or imprisoned. It is forgiveness, support, tolerance, and a ticking off all rolled into one. It is the action of a loving Father for his children when they need to be disciplined but He lets them off on good behaviour. It is the carrot and stick; the crook and flail; as a single action.

Enquirer: Er right. I think I get y'r drift. Ta. Something for me and the missus to think more on anyhow.

John: It is that special help that the Holy Spirit gives to inspire and guide us in difficult situations. It is light for our minds and divine power for our hearts…….

Enquirer: Or right, or right. I'm with'e. I think. Don't overload me brain box. I'll be back. Don't worry.

John: I haven't really explained it well. Let me start again.

Enquirer: No! No more!!!!!

And with that Enquirer rushes away.

John

(Feedback or more questions would be appreciated)

DECEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Friday 1st – Saturday 9th

As we gather to 'Come and Pray' this week on the Diocesan Day of Prayer, we thank you that you hear our prayers. May we bring all of our concerns before you in prayer: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' *(Philippians 4:6)*

1. For the Buckland Monachorum Mission Community, its clergy Andy Bowden, Andrew Farmer, LLMs Angela Smith, Paul Nixon, Mark Smith, Philip Tuckett, and for all who live and worship in Buckland Monachorum.

2. As we 'Come and Pray' together today at Exeter Cathedral, may we grow in unity, becoming more aware of our dependence on you, and desiring your will to be done. May those attending who don't know you have open hearts to seek you in prayer.

3. On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we pray for all people with any form of disability. We pray that the church would be a place of accessibility and inclusion. Lord, help us grow in understanding and compassion.

4. For the Central Exeter Mission Community, its priest Sheila Swarbrick, and for all who live and worship in Central Exeter.

5. On International Volunteers Day, we thank God for all volunteers in churches across Devon. We pray that we would all be inspired to serve others: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." *(1 Peter 4:10)*

6. On St Nicholas Day, we remember your servant Nicholas whose legacy is one of generosity. Lord, help us to give freely, just as we have freely received, and help us to be mindful of those in need that we might love others as you have loved us, Jesus.

7. For the Chudleigh Mission Community, its priest Alex Sharp, LLMs Yasmin Mann, Helen Harding, Sheila Fletcher, and for all who live and worship in Trusham, Chudleigh Knighton, and Chudleigh.

8. For the Coast & Combe Mission Community, its clergy Mark Ruoff, John Roles, Susan Oldham, Fran Allison, Ann Lewis, Tandy Ruoff, LLMs Theresa Powell, Sally-Ann Molligoda, Dave Richards, and for all who live and worship inWoolacombe, Lee, Mortehoe, Ilfracombe, Combe Martin, Bittadon, and Berrynarbor.

9. On International Anti-Corruption Day, we pray for all nations where people are hungry, sick, homeless or defenceless because of corruption. We thank you that you are a just God and we pray for leaders who would recognise the evil of corruption and seek justice for all people.

Sunday 10th – Saturday 16th

We pray for our churches during Advent, for their events and services. Lord, may your church be a place of support, provision and hope this Christmas. We also pray for all those attending a church service or event for the first time this Christmas, may they not only feel welcome, but encounter you and know your love for them.

10. On International Human Rights Day, we pray for all those around the world whose human rights are ignored or violated. Help us build a society built on the knowledge that every person is made in God's image.

11. For the Coast and Country Mission Community, its priest Matthew Gorton, LLMs Peter Barker, Jenny Harris, Lyn Robinson, Frank Robinson and for all who live and worship in Strete, Stoke Fleming, East Allington, and Blackawton.

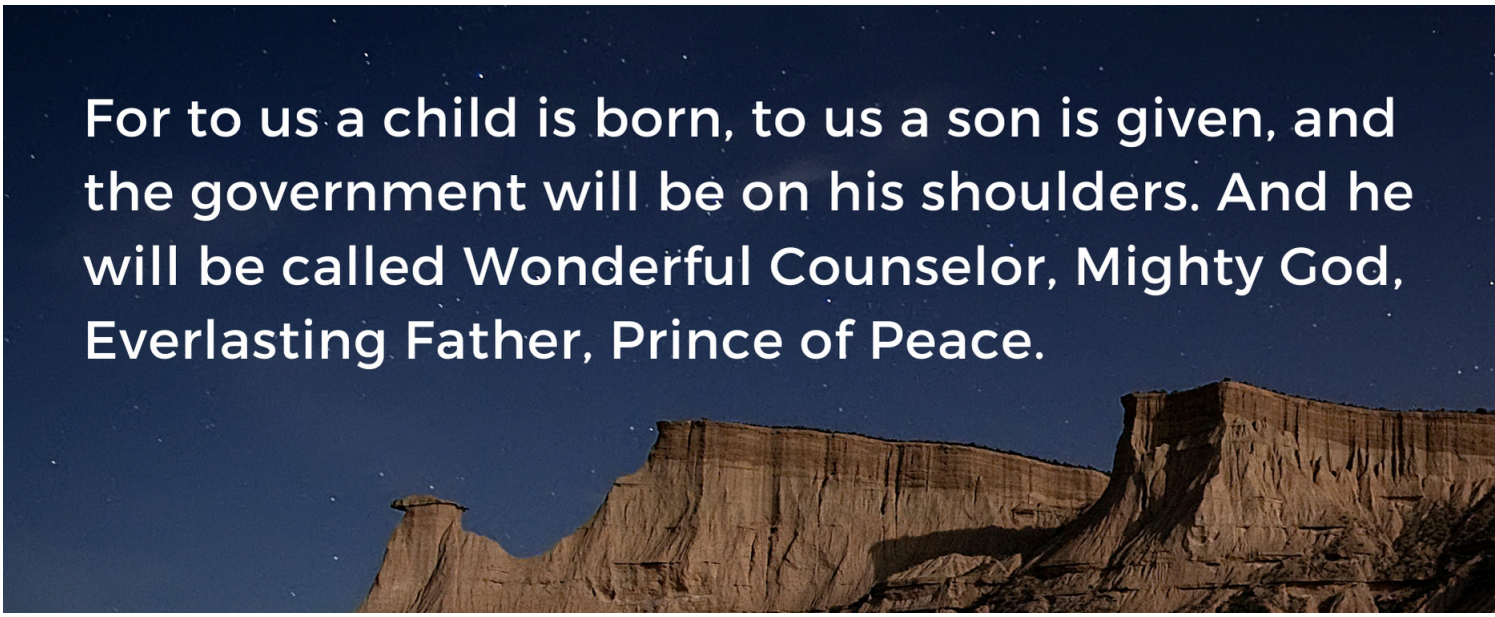
12. In our link with Bayeux-Lisieux, we pray for the Cathedral at Bayeux, and its welcome to all visitors particularly during the Christmas season. We also pray for parishes, their clergy and people in the area of Bayeux.

13. For the Crediton Mission Community, its clergy Matthew Tregenza, Lewis Eden, Janet May, Sandra Collier, LLMs Carol Price, Jack Shelley, Antonia Tregenza, and for all who live and worship in Shobrooke, Sandford with Upton Hellions, and Crediton.

14. For the Cullompton Mission Community, its clergy Edward Hobbs, Marilyn Sanders, and for all who live and worship in Cullompton.

15. In our link with Cyprus and the Gulf, we pray for the Cathedral of St Paul, Nicosia and the Dean of the Cathedral, Jeremy Crocker.

16. For the Culm Valley Mission Community, LLMs Katharyn Mumby, Chris Russell, and for all who live and worship in Willand, Uffculme, and Kentisbeare.



Sunday 17th – Saturday 23rd

As schools break up for the Christmas holidays, we pray for staff and students, that this would be a time of rest and restoration. We also pray for families severely impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, we pray for your provision and your peace this winter.

17. In our link with Melanesia, we pray for the Brothers and Sisters of the four Anglican Religious orders in Melanesia as they go out on their Christmas missions across the Pacific. We pray for calm seas and open hearts and minds to receive the Good News of the birth of Christ.

18. On International Migrants Day, we give thanks for organisations supporting those who have left their homes and come to our shores. Give us compassion and care to our global nieghbours.

19. For the Dart and Avon Mission Community, its clergy Gina Radford, Laura McAdam, LLMs Jenny Holton, David Harwood, and for all who live and worship in Staverton with Landscove, South Brent, Rattery, Littlehempston, Dean Prior, and Buckfastleigh.

20. On International Human Solidarity Day, we celebrate our diversity and pray for unity amongst all God's children across the globe. We pray that divisions would fall away and that all people would be united in Jesus Christ.

21. For the Dartmouth & Dittisham Mission Community, its priest Andrew Langley, LLM David Woods, and for all who live and worship in Dittisham and Dartmouth St Clement (Townstal).

22. In our link with Thika, we pray for The Cathedral Archdeaconry, their Archdeacon Joyce Kabuba, and all of the clergy and people who live and worship in the Archdeaconry.

23. For the Dawlish Coast Mission Community, its priest Patrick Parks and for the arrival of their new Team Rector Linda Cronin, LLMs Will Halse, Margaret Noel, and for all who live and worship in Starcross, Dawlish with Holcombe, and Cofton.

Sunday 24th – Sunday 31st

We pray for all those who will be alone this Christmas, all those who do not have anywhere to lay their head, and all those for whom Christmas is a difficult time. We pray that they would know they are not alone, that you are their refuge, a very present help in times of trouble, and that you love them.

24. On Christmas Eve, we remember the great love and humility you displayed in coming down to earth in the form of a baby, to make your dwelling among us: 'They will call him Immanuel which means "God with us"' *(Matthew 1:23)*

25. On Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ who has rescued and redeemed us. O come let us adore him, for he alone is worthy! We give thanks for our friends and families, and we pray for rest and reconciliation, comfort and joy.

26. On St Stephen's Day we remember the first martyr, who before his death gazed steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and who prayed for the forgiveness of those who killed him *(Acts 7:54-59)*. Lord, please strengthen us in our suffering, teach us to love our enemies, and help us to faithfully bear witness to your name.

27. On the Feast Day of St John the Evangelist, we give thanks for his Gospel, written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and by believing have life in his name *(John 20:31)*. We pray that through his writings we would deeply know this truth and share it with others, that they may believe as well.

28. For the Devonport Mission Community, its clergy Tim Buckley, Sue Nicholas, Ruth Sayers, LLMs Lynda Buckley, John Wright, and for all who live and worship in Devonport.

29. For the Dunkeswell Mission Community, its clergy Nigel Candelent, Jane Penn, and for all who live and worship in Upottery, Sheldon, Plymtree, Luppitt, Dunkeswell, and Broadhembury.

30. For the East Clyst Churches Mission Community, its clergy Marc Kerslake, Jon Holder, Gudrun Thomas, Rich Brooks, Rachel Dunn, LLMs Sandra Parker, Ian Spicer, Robert Brierley, Jude Carter, Mary Franklin, and for all who live and worship in Whimple, Talaton, Sowton, Rockbeare, Clyst St Lawrence, Clyst Hydon, Clyst Honiton, and Broadclyst.

31. On New Year's Eve, we remember all that has taken place this year, and amidst the trials and difficulties, we give thanks for every blessing, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him. May we enter the New Year holding fast to the hope we have in Jesus.

Lord, help us remember why we celebrate at Christmas, because a child was born, your son Jesus, whom you sent into the world to redeem it. Advent is a season of waiting, just as your people awaited the Prince of Peace, help us to pray earnestly, as we await the day when He will come again. 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

Invitation

To Christmas Lunch

For Members of the Bereavement group

On Thursday December 21st

Twelve for twelve thirty

In

The Parish Rooms RSVP Revd Sue 860177

Gulworthy News for December

By the time this is printed, we will have had the madness that is commercial Black Friday. Love it or hate it, it does now seem to be ingrained as the secular run-up to Christmas.

For the church, the words "Black Friday" might well be interpreted as Good Friday and the black day of Jesus's crucifixion but on Sunday 3rd December we start our preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth with the season of Advent and the hope and joy that comes at Christmas.

I have probably said it before and I shall probably find myself saying it again, but I love Advent. I love the anticipation of the joy that it heralds and the chance to prepare for all that Christmas means to the Church. I love preparing our home to welcome family who come to stay. I even love planning what food to give them. It is a chance to cuddle my adult children and small grandchildren until they squeak and to show my love in every way I know.

This Christmas and every Christmas, there will be people all around the UK and throughout the world who will not be able to do any of these things, either because they are not free to express their faith in safety; they have little money to spare for a celebration or they have no one with whom they can share a time that may seem to be aimed at families. With the Senior Citizens lunch, St Paul's and Gulworthy Parish Hall try to gather those in the parish that are over 70 and offer an opportunity for a chat, the sharing of a meal and a good singsong.

Sunday 17th December at 2.30pm, we have our 2nd outdoor Gulworthy Nativity with a cast from around the Parish and Brentor. This year we will be in and around the buildings of Gulworthy School and St Paul's Church so the weather will not stop us! Please, please join us! It will be a fun event and an opportunity to hear the Christmas story told afresh. There will be carols and music courtesy of members of the Stannary band and the more the merrier!

St Paul's has entered the 21st century with the installation of a "tap and go" machine for donations. We hope that it will make it simpler for people to support the work of our parish church as we look towards raising funds for our toilet and servery.

At a time when we see so much anger, war and suffering going on throughout the world, let us spread the knowledge of God in whatever small way we can and if we see the lost and the lonely in our community and beyond, let us open our arms with the love that came to earth at Christmas.

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

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a joyous start to 2024

Diary

Christmas Tree Festival at St Eustachius from 1st December

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

Sunday 17th December. 2.30pm Nativity Play. In and around Gulworthy School and St Paul's

Sunday 24th December. Christingle Service 3.30pm

Christmas Day. 10.30am

Christmas Tree Festival 2023

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

December 2023 (events are in the Parish Centre unless otherwise stated)		
Fri 1	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Mon 4	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
Tues 5	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
	2.30 - 4.30 pm	**Advent Promise Group 2 (The Promise of Transformation)**
Fri 8	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
	6.30 pm	**Parish Meal**
Mon 11	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
	2.30 - 4.30 pm	**Prayer and Stillness Group**
Tues 12	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
	2.30 - 4.30 pm	**Advent Promise Group 3 (The Promise of Salvation)**
Wed 13	**2-4 pm**	**Handicraft Group**
Fri 15	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Mon 18	**10 am - 2 pm**	**Warm Welcome**
Tues 19	**9.30 - 11 am**	**Little Deers Baby and Toddler Group**
Wed 20	**6.30 pm**	**Christmas Fim Night and Supper**
Thur 21	**12 noon**	**Bereavement Group Christmas Lunch**
Fri 22	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**
Mon 25		**Christmas Parish Lunch**
Fri 29	**10 am - 12 noon**	**Friendly Fridays (St E. Church)**

Feedback on the Autumn Raffle Prize Draw

The Autumn Raffle Prize Draw was promoted over 6 weeks and drawn on 3rd November at the Coffee Morning and Fayre in Church. The total raised by the Raffle is £1290.

Thank you to all the Church members for their help selling tickets. Circa 50 people took tickets to sell outside the congregation, to family, to neighbours, workmates and other meeting groups. Thank you to the willing team who sold the tickets at the superstore Coop and Lidl. Thank you to Rev. Sue Tucker for officiating the draw.

A Big Thank you to the Tavistock Businesses, who cheerfully donated the lovely quality prizes which made the promotion very attractive. They are the following:- Morris Bros, W C Parsons, The Bedford Hotel, The Horn of Plenty, Church Lane, Howells Butchers, Mole Valley, Holland and Barrett, Flapjackery, The Wharf Cinema, The Brook Street Flower Shop, the donors of the Bag of Gold and Church members who did the Family Hamper. And to Coop and Lidl for in-store sales opportunity.

The prizes were mainly won by Tavistock people with 2 being collected from out of town. It was wonderful to be able to meet Tavistock residents and visitors out and about and find a great warmth and affection towards St Eustachius Church and appreciation for our historic building in the heart of the town. This was not just another fundraiser; This is "OUTREACH", when our Church members could talk about our community, services and wider programmes. We invited them in:- starting with the Friendly Friday Coffee Morning….

Pat Warne
Licenced Lottery Promoter for TPC.

Hymn for the Month: 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

One of the most beautiful of all the hymns that herald the approach of Christmas is 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'. Its words are rich with meaning, expressing unforgettably our longing for the coming of Jesus, and our rejoicing at his birth.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free

Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

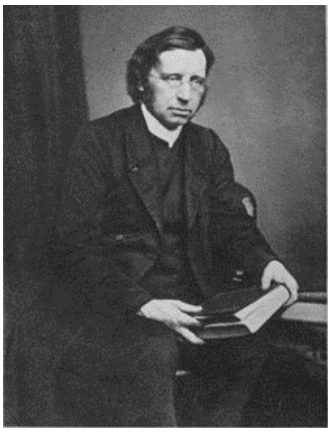
O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

In its Latin form—*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*—this is among the most ancient Christian hymns, going back to about the eighth century. It began as a series of seven Antiphons (short passages of Scripture) that were chanted in monasteries at the evening service of Vespers on the days before Christmas Eve, from 17 to 23 December. These Antiphons were known as 'the Great O's' because each began with a drawn out 'O' expressing longing for the Saviour. Sometime in the twelfth century five of the original seven Antiphons were arranged to form the verses of a single hymn, starting with 'O Emmanuel', then 'O Rod of Jesse', 'O Morning Star', 'O Key of David', 'O Mighty Lord'.

Each of the Antiphons is based on texts from the Old Testament, as interpreted through the New Testament. The central idea is that in waiting for the birth of Jesus, we are like the Israelites in mournful exile in Babylon, waiting for the promised Emmanuel who will come to 'ransom' them (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22–3). The 'Rod (or Stem) of Jesse' signifies Jesus's descent from the patriarchs of Israel (Isaiah 11:1; Matthew 1:6); the 'Morning Star' (or Dayspring) is in messianic prophecies in Zechariah (quoted in Luke 1: 78); the 'Key of David' is spoken of in Isaiah 22:22 (and see Revelation 3:7); and the 'Mighty Lord' is the one who gave the commandments to Moses on Sinai (Exodus 19–20). Through the complex biblical texture of

these references, the hymn expresses the belief of Christians through the ages that in the birth of Jesus Christ the prophesies of the Old Testament are fulfilled.



The Latin text of the five-verse hymn was first published in Germany in 1710, and again in 1841. Then, in 1851, the 1841 text was translated by John Mason Neale into English, and this (with some further revision and adaptation) became the hymn we sing today.

Neale (1818–1866) was the most important Anglican translator and writer of hymns of the nineteenth century, producing over 400, of which about 100 were translations. An ordained priest, he started out as an Evangelical, but later became a leading Anglo-Catholic. When forced to give up active priesthood due to ill-health, he turned to writing, producing numerous books and volumes of hymns, and to works of charity—he founded the Society of St Margaret, an Anglican order of Sisters who cared for the poor and sick, orphans, and former prostitutes. Neale made a major contribution to the famous Anglican hymn book, *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, and a revised version of his translation of 'O come, O come Emmanuel' was included in the first edition published in 1861.

The tune to which we sing 'O come, O come Emmanuel' is 'Veni Immanuel'. This extraordinarily evocative and affecting tune was adapted from a fifteenth-century French melody by Neale's friend and musical collaborator, Thomas Helmore (1811–90), an Anglican priest who worked to revive the use of Gregorian chant in Church of England worship.

To my ear, Helmore's musical arrangement catches something of the ancient origins of the hymn: it is not difficult to imagine it sung by monks processing into a church holding flickering candles. There are many performances on YouTube, but the one I like best is by Salisbury Cathedral Choir at a 2010 Advent Service recorded in the Cathedral—the complete hymn, majestically sung.

Bob Owens

A Poem for Later in December

Twelfth Night

By Ann Lewin, from Watching for the Kingfisher

It looks much as it did before,
Now that the cards and decorations
Have come down.
The furniture of life is back in place,
The old routine takes over.
But are we the same?
Is there no echo of the angels' song
Lifting our spirits, no stillness
In our hearts, remind us that
We were there, just for a moment,
At that birth,
Catching a glimpse of glory?
Let's not put that away,
Tangled with tinsel, for another time.
Let's ponder in our hearts, like Mary,
And let the Child grow in us
Through the year.

Concerts in 2023 and 2024

All concerts are in St Eustachius'

2023

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

Thur 14th Mar at 7.30: Plymouth Police Choir Concert
Sat 23rd Mar at 7.30: South West Chamber Choir
Sat 13th Apr at 7.30 pm: Ridgeway Chorale Choir
Sat 20th Apr at 7.30: Mount Kelly Choral Society Spring Concert
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 23rd Nov at 7.00 pm: The Little Opera Co. Candlelit Christmas Concert
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**

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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**