

Parish News

**For the Benefice of
Chillaton, Coryton,
Dunterton, Lamerton,
Marystowe,
Milton Abbot and
Sydenham Damerel**



*“Sleep King Jesus:
Your diamond crown
High in the sky
Where the stars look down.
Let your reign
Of love begin,
That all the world
May enter in.”*

*Charles Causley; from Mary's Song, The Gift of a
Lamb*

**December 2017 +
January 2018**
Price: £1



South Tamar
Mission Community

RECTOR: **Rev Andrew Atkins** **01822 870298**
 The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot PL19 0NZ;
 Email: revandymiltonabbot@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Lamerton: Mike Jefferies 614178
 Ian Minshull 810027

Milton Abbot: Liz Padmore 870642
 Sandra Dunbar 870218

Dunterton: Arthur Vigers 870244

Sydenham Damerel: **Verger** Ian Dingle, 870364

Marystowe: Barbara Dawe (01566)784797
 Deborah Asbridge 860378

Coryton: Sylvia Andrews 820805

PCC SECRETARIES

Lamerton: Barbara Meikle 617229

Sydenham Damerel: (Barbara Meikle) 617229

Milton Abbot + Dunterton: Angie Rodwell 870636

Marystowe: Guy Talbot 860314

Coryton: Josie Whitfield 860189

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Sydenham Damerel: Ian Dingle Portington Farm, Sydenham Damerel 870364

Milton Abbot: Pat Lovell 2 Fern Meadow, Tavistock 618452

Dunterton: Gerald Napier Glebe House, Dunterton 870285

Marystowe: Guy Talbot 860314

Coryton: Peter Newman (01566)783202

UNITED BENEFICE APPOINTMENTS

Safeguarding Officer Julie Hibbert 618221

Safeguarding Representatives Deborah Asbridge 860378
 Josie Whitfield 860189

Vicar's Assigned Administrator Guy Talbot 860314

MAGAZINE

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CHURCH WEB SITE www.southtamar.church Email vicar@southtamar.church

PARISH COUNCILS

	Chairman	Tel.	Clerk	Tel.
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Milton Abbot group parish:	Peter Hough		Emma James	07742557982
Sydenham Damerel:	Tracy Windemer	870568		
	Chris Harris		clerk@sydenham-damerel.org.uk	

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Lamerton C of E Head Teacher: Melody Nicholls Tel. 613561

Milton Abbot Head Teacher: Chris Luxford Tel. 870273

Diary Dates

December 2017

- 1 CAROLS AT COLLACOMBE BARTON, 7.00pm
- 2 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 2 LAMERTON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR, Lamerton village hall, 11 - 2.30pm
- 7 TAIZE SERVICE, Dunterton, 7.00pm
- 9 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 9 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 11 MILTON ABBOT BINGO, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 12 LAMERTON BINGO, Lamerton Community Centre, 8.00pm
- 15 TEA PARTY FOR IRIS, Marystowe, 2.00pm
- 16 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 19 MESSY CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, St Peter's Lamerton, 11.00am
- 23 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00??
- 30 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00??

January 2018

- 6 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 6 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 9 MILTON ABBOT BINGO, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 16 MAGAZINE DEADLINE for Feb/March edition**
- 20 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 20 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 27 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00

Please Note:

Bingo dates for Lamerton have yet to be decided for January 2018.

The next magazine deadline is

Tuesday 16 January 2018

Please contact editor before or on this date with your submissions, thank you.

***December and January church services are on the back cover;
Bible Readings are on page 8 and 9***

The Old Testament



The Old Testament, known to the Jews as the Hebrew Scriptures, comprises 39 books of the Christian bible. These books are the holy writings (or scriptures) of the Jewish people and were initially written in Hebrew or Aramaic, and are divided basically into 4 sections:

- 1) The first five books of the Law (the Hebrew Torah, also known from the Greek as the Pentateuch) from Genesis to Deuteronomy
- 2) The History books from Joshua to Esther
- 3) The Wisdom books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Psalms and the Song of Solomon
- 4) Seventeen books of the Prophets from Isaiah to Malachi.

1) Excluding Genesis, these record the actual laws or rules for living, which God gave to ancient Israel. Although the 5 books are very different, they tell of one story of God at work, not just in creation, but in calling of individuals and nations to obey him, thus bringing blessing to the whole world.

2) These books span about 800 years of Jewish history from roughly 1200-400 BC. They are an account of what happened from the time the Israelites conquered and settled their land of Canaan to the times of the judges and the kings where the nation was divided into 2 kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah to the south. They describe the conquest of Israel by the Assyrians and the fall of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Jerusalem temple and subsequent exile of the Jews to Babylon.

3) Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are specifically known as the Wisdom books. King Solomon, with his reputation for wisdom, is considered to be the author of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Job deals with the problem of physical and emotional suffering. The Psalms are a mixture of 150 prayers, hymns and poems many of which are attributed to King David. The Song of Songs is a collection of six songs on the theme of love between a young man and his bride.

4) These books are named after the prophet whose words they contain, with the exception of Lamentations. Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel are known as major prophets and the other named books as the minor prophets.

In the next parish news and subsequent editions I will be commentating specifically on a book, starting of course, with Genesis. I hope that you will find my comments helpful and instructive .

Ian Silcox

TACT Tavistock Area
Christians Together
"Realising God's provision through working together"

**Tavistock Area Christians
Together**

TACT – Who we are and what we are here for?

All who receive Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Saviour and Lord are born of God into His body. TACT is a collaboration of Christians working together in the Tavistock Area to serve Jesus Christ.

All Christians are part of TACT in the sense that we are God's family and we have the opportunity to walk in love and the unity of the Spirit. TACT does not have a membership, as all who belong to Christ belong to TACT which is the local representation of Christ's body.

We are Christians together not churches together. That means that our unity is relational, not doctrinally based. We are united in Christ, we do not have to agree doctrinally to be accepted. We respect others' deeply held traditions, convictions and actions even when they conflict with ours. TACT neither endorses nor rejects the position of other Christians or churches, each congregation serves the Lord according to their beliefs.

We work together in areas where we can and express to the community the varied expressions of Christ which each congregation holds, in order to bring redemption and restoration into every area of the communities in our area.

The leaders of the churches or congregations represented in TACT are spiritual elders into the town and area.

Each church represented is invited to make a subscription to TACT to promote its work.

For more information please contact TACT using the email: tact.info@ymail.com

Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team

invite you to a

Service of celebration and thanksgiving

for their

50th Anniversary

on

Thursday 25 January 2018, 7.00pm

at

St Eustachius church in Tavistock

Refreshments afterwards

The service will be hosted by the Very Revd Christopher Hardwick and be a celebration of the story of the Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, from its origins to the present day.

If you would like to attend this special service please email:

dsrt-tavistock.org.uk or write to The Rescue Centre, Abbey Rise, Tavistock PL19 9BS **by 30 November**, as space is limited.

The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon. PL19 0NZ
Tel: 01822 870298; Email revandymiltonabbot@gmail.com



My Dear Friends

Christmas is fast approaching, and I am just as excited about it as I was when I was young, so I don't want to hear any nonsense about it being just for children! Of course, I love the religious side of things, I would be a very odd Vicar if I didn't, but I also love the build-up. To me the writing of cards, the panic Christmas present buying, the decorations and the Christmas treats on standby in case anyone visits, are all part of the fun.

We are fortunate here in the *South Tamar Mission Community* that we do our best to 'get together' at Christmas. The Schools, the Churches and the various community activities help us to have a sense of belonging. In the week or two leading up to Christmas we shall all have the opportunity to come together to sing carols and to share in that feeling of warmth and wonder, which only Christmas time brings.

For me it is especially wonderful when I wander back to the Vicarage after the Midnight mass. I will open a present and perhaps drink a small 'Tot' to toast the Christ Child. I will also think of all those wonderful Christmas celebrations I have enjoyed over the years with family and friends (many now in heaven) and I shall thank God.

My memory goes back to the mid seventies when I can recall Father Christmas leaving me a Lego spaceship. I still have that same spaceship, and then on Boxing Day up the road to Nan and Grandad's where all the extended family of cousins, aunts and uncles met. What times we had! So, enjoy Christmas and don't be sad that the ones you have loved may no longer be with you, but rejoice at the times you had and share that joy with those with us now. Let the joy and magic you experienced continue to brighten the lives of this younger generation.

Whatever you believe about Jesus, and I believe he is God made man, there is no doubt that what he said and taught has had a profound effect upon humankind. If the peace and love which he preached would permeate the hearts of all of us, the world would be even more wonderful than it already is. I hope that you will all have a wonderful celebration.



No love that in a family dwells
 No carolling in frosty air,
 Nor all the steeple shaking bells
 Can with this single truth compare
 That God was man in Palestine
 And lives today in bread and wine. (*John Betjeman*)

With every Blessing at Christmas,
Rev'd Andy Atkins

Churchyard Regulations

The churchyards within the South Tamar Mission Community are maintained to be a place of peace, reflection and remembrance. To help us in this task we respectfully request:



- ◇ No artificial flowers or ornaments
- ◇ Fresh cut flowers to be placed in a receptacle for flowers on the stone base of the headstone. (Or they may be placed in a removable container (not glass) and sunk completely into the ground close to the headstone.) Flowers must be removed when they have withered, including those after burial.
- ◇ No planting of any kind, including bulbs, shrubs, plants and trees
- ◇ No containers or troughs with plants or flowers
- ◇ If there is no headstone, one removable, non glass container can be sunk into the ground adjacent to the memorial cross and used for cut flowers, as above.
- ◇ Remembrance Day poppies and Christmas wreaths must be removed before two months have elapsed.

Any vase, flowers, containers or wreaths and any other adornments not complying with the above rules may be removed by, or with the authority of, the Parish Priest.

Yours in Christ
Rev'd Andrew Atkins



BIBLE READINGS (Year B)

Please use the readings published in the Parish Magazine and your own bibles.

DATE	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 3rd December <i>1st Sunday of Advent (Purple)</i>	Isaiah 64.1 - 9	1 Corinthians 1.3 - 9	Mark 13.24 - 37
Sunday 10th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)</i>	Isaiah 40.1 - 11	2 Peter 3.8 - 15a	Mark 1.1 - 8
Sunday 17th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)</i>	Isaiah 61.1 - 4, 8 - 11	1 Thessalonians 5.16 - 24	John 1.6 - 8, 19 - 28
Sunday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve (Purple)</i>	Psalm 85	Zechariah 2	Revelation 1.1 - 8
Monday 25th December <i>Christmas Day (White)</i>	Isaiah 52.7 - 10	Hebrews 1.1 - 4 (5 - 12)	John 1.1 - 14

The readings are ended with ***'This is the Word of the Lord'*** (used during services of HC) or, during other services ***'Here ends the lesson (or 1st reading or 2nd reading)'***.
The response is ***'Thanks be to God'***.

BIBLE READINGS (Year A) continued

DATE	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 31st December <i>1st Sunday of Christmas (White)</i>	Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3	Galatians 4.4 - 7	Luke 2.15 - 21
Sunday 7th January <i>Baptism of Christ (White)</i>	Genesis 1.1 - 5	Acts 19.1 - 7	Mark 1.4 - 11
Sunday 14th January <i>Epiphany 2 (White)</i>	1 Samuel 3.1 - 10 (11 - 20)	Revelation 5.1 - 10	John 1.43 - 51
Sunday 21st January <i>Epiphany 3 (White)</i>	Genesis 14.17 - 20	Revelation 19.6 - 10	John 2.1 - 11
Sunday 28th January <i>Candlemas (White)</i>	Malachi 3.1 - 5	Hebrews 2.14 - 18	Luke 2.22 - 40

LAMERTON PCC

The next PCC meeting will be held in the priest's Room, Lamerton
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th January 2018

All parishioners are welcome to attend



A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Many years ago, a woman named Sarah Hale wrote one of the best-known and best-loved children's poems ever written. Most of you probably know that poem. It is "Mary Had a Little Lamb." It goes like this:

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go.

Christmas will be here soon -- the day we celebrate the birthday of Jesus. The Bible tells us about an angel who appeared to Mary and told her that she would have a child and that she would name him Jesus. Sometimes, Jesus is called "The Lamb of God," and since Jesus' mother was named Mary, here is a new poem called "Mary Had a Little Lamb." It may never be as popular as the original poem, but it might help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Mary had a little Lamb,
He was born on Christmas day.
She laid him in a manger bed
To sleep upon the hay.

Angels filled the night-time sky
And they began to sing.
Shepherds heard them all proclaim
The birthday of a King.

Wise men saw a blazing star
Up in the sky that night.
They followed it until they found
The King of love and light.

Mary had a little Lamb,
But He wasn't hers, you know,
He was the very Son of God,
The One who loves us so.



The Father of this little Lamb
Loved the world so much
That He sent his only Son to earth
So we could feel His touch.

He came to give us joy and peace
And take away our sin.
So when He knocks on your heart's door,
Be sure to let Him in.

Why do I love this precious Lamb?
What can the reason be?
The answer is quite plain to see,
It's because He first loved me!

Dear Lord, thank you for sending your precious Lamb to take away our sin. Help us to remember as we celebrate His birthday, that He was the greatest gift of all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



A Visit from an Angel

Decode the message by finding each substitute letter.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
e	b	a	g	w	u	p	k	f	x	z	s	y	h	o	r	l	d	j	c	t	m	q	v	n	i

UNA CYDAQ LCZR UO NAP, "RO YOU BA CIPCZR,
VCPM, MOF NCXA IOFYR ICXOP EZUN DOR. MOF
EZQQ BA EZUN TNZQR CYR DZXA BZPUN UO C
LOY, CYR MOF CPA UO DZXA NZV UNA YCVA SALFL.
NA EZQQ BA DPACU CYR EZQQ BA TCQQR UNA
LOY OI UNA VOLU NZDN." - QFHA 1:30-32

St. Peter's Lamerton



Autumn is well and truly with us and Christmas is now in sight and harvests are safely gathered in.

Our Harvest Service was again very well supported. The Food Bank in Tavistock were very pleased with the many boxes of food and toiletries which we took to them on behalf of St. Peter's and Lamerton School. We were also very pleased to have our Lamerton Hand Bell ringers with us. Thank you Val and team.

The Grand Lamerton Quiz was a huge success due to the hard work of Margaret, Dave and Jenny. It was great fun in spite of our team coming second to bottom!! Over £300 was given to the Reredos Fund. Many thanks.

We had a spectacular firework display thanks to Shane and Ali. Our firework evening is the result of the school, the church and the hall working together - a real community effort. The £30 each of us received is nothing compared to the value of us all working together.

Our Christmas celebrations begin with our **Carols at Collacombe Barton on Friday 1st December at 7.00pm**. You will have your first mince pies of the season, kindly made by Carol C, with mulled wine. The entrance to the venue is off the road from Carr's garage to Gulworthy. We will have a sign on the road side. Please give Angela a call on 810 027 if you are coming as we have limited space. There is no charge for tickets but there will be a collection for the repair of the Reredos in St Peter's.

Next comes our **Christingle Service at 4.00pm on Sunday 10th December** - do join us. Our church **Carol Service is at 6.30pm on Sunday 17th December**. We are glad that the Lamerton Hand Bell Ringers will be with us again.

And finally we would like to see you at our **Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve starting at 11.30pm**.

Your Church Wardens and PCC Committee wish you a very Happy Christmas and look forward to your support in the coming year.

Mid-week Holy Communion



Every Wednesday morning at
10.00am
in the Priest's Room, Lamerton



with tea, coffee and
cake afterwards.



Everyone is welcome

St Andrews Church Coryton Prayer Request Book



Do you know anyone who is ill, suffering from bereavement, unhappy or could do with loving support?

Coryton church now has a book for anyone wishing to request prayers to be included in Intercessions. The book will be in place from Monday 18 September, located at the rear of the church, beside the Christian books which are available for people to borrow.

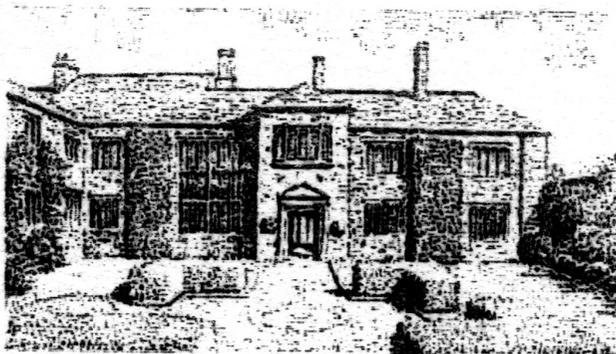
Lamerton Quiz Night - thanks.....

A big thank you to Margaret, Dave and Jenny for organising such an entertaining quiz. Some of the questions were deceptively simple, but fiendishly difficult to answer!

We all had a great evening and £342.50 was raised for St Peter's Church, Lamerton

Advent Carols

at



Collacombe Barton

by kind permission of
Mr. and Mrs Forrest

with mince pies and mulled wine

Friday 1st December 7.00pm

Tickets from Angela on
01 822 810 027

Collection for the repair of the
Reredos in St. Peter's Church

The new Pastoral Care Team within our Benefice.

A group of volunteers within the Benefice has undertaken some extensive training in pastoral care, which was delivered by our own Revd Andy. Those volunteers were inaugurated in their pastoral care role at a service in Milton Abbot on 8 October.

Pastoral care is something which Andy takes to heart. The team has been assembled to offer any member of any of the parishes (you don't have to be a church goer!) some time and company, especially if they are sick, lonely, need a bit of respite from care of a loved one - or just tired of the modern day rat-race. If you would like prayers or Holy Communion, we can offer that too.

We will listen, not bombard you with any questions or offer advice and just be there for you. We can visit you at your home, or call you on the 'phone - whichever works best for you.

The pastoral care team also offer support and Holy Communion Services within our two care homes: Venn and Camplehaye.



If you, or anyone you know, would like to see a pastoral care visitor, please call

***Rev Andy Atkins on 01822 870298
email: revandymiltonabbot@gmail.com***

The Pastoral Care team

A big 'thank you'.....

To everyone who helped and attended our Coffee Morning at Frogwell Cottage.

We raised an amazing £960 for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign, so thank you all.

Rosalind and Robert Wiggins



About BTRC:

BTRC fundraises through events and donations in order to raise awareness of the need for a significant increase in brain tumour research funding. We also fund projects involving research scientists and clinicians to improve brain tumour treatments and work towards finding a cure.

Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of children and people under 40. In terms of the numbers of life years lost, it is the most fatal of all cancers. In spite of this, research into brain tumours has been underfunded for decades.

Marystowe Church

For our Harvest Festival, on Sunday, 15th October, the church was filled with beautiful floral displays, some including fruit and vegetables. We enjoyed our Songs of Praise service led by Rev. Andy Atkins and afterwards, coffee and homemade cakes were served.

We would like to thank Iris Griffiths for playing the organ, all those who took part in the service, the ladies who decorated the church and baked cakes and everyone for their generous harvest gifts, including a large donation from Ambrosia. All the dried, tinned and fresh produce, bedding and clothing along with £76.05 from the collection were delivered to The Shekinah Mission in Plymouth.

A Christmas coffee morning with craft stalls was held on Saturday, 18th November, in the Games Room at Forda Farm, Chillaton. We would especially like to thank Bob and Rosie Laverty for hosting this event at their home and all those who helped and supported us in raising money for our Church Funds.

**Please join us at St
Mary the Virgin
Marystowe Church**

**Sunday, 17th December at
4.00pm
for a Crib and Carol
Service**



Suitable for all ages and followed by refreshments. Children may like to come dressed as angels, kings, shepherds or animals. We will also have some costumes for the children to wear on the day.

**and on Christmas Eve,
Sunday, 24th December at 6.30pm
for a Christmas Communion Service**

Everyone is welcome

P.S Don't forget the special tea party for Iris on Friday 15 December. See notice on page 20

ST CONSTANTINE, MILTON ABBOT

At the time of writing we are busy preparing for our Christmas Crafts Day on Saturday 25th November which we are hoping will raise a good amount of money for our funds. Sales of raffle tickets have been going very well.

At our Holy Communion service on Sunday 8th October Andy commissioned the Pastoral Care Team which will support Andy in his work in the Benefice.

On Saturday 28th October Milton Abbot hosted the Deanery Bellringers' Festival. The day ended with a short service in church followed by tea in the Village Hall which was catered for by the ladies (and a couple of gents!) of the parish. The proceeds of the raffle and tea amounted to £378 which is a welcome addition to the funds needed for the repairs to our bells.

Andy has very kindly once again offered to run a

Horse Racing Night

for us in the New Year. Date to be confirmed but watch this space! Following the success of last year's event we hope lots of you will be able to come and try to wrest the trophy from Milton Abbot's grasp! Look out for more details in the next issue of Parish News.



Christmas Day at Dunterton

Why not pop the turkey in the oven then come and join us
at

9.30am Christmas Day

for a Christmas Communion according to the Book of
Common Prayer, with carols?

Glebe House field will be open for parking.

Tamar River Walk

Thank you, all who participated and helped with the River Walk in aid of Dunterton Church on 15 October. You raised over **£1400** (net), a wonderful record. There'll be gift aid to claim in due course on much of that. It was a great day and all of us involved in Dunterton church are very grateful.

A Story on the Theme of Courage

Fear is soft and smooth

Marina was extremely afraid of the dark. When the lights went out, everything and every shadow appeared to her as the most terrible of monsters. Her parents explained to her, every day and with great patience, that these things were not monsters. Marina understood her parents, but she could not stop feeling an awful fear whenever it was dark.



One day her Aunt Valerie came to visit. Valerie was an incredible woman. She was famous for her courage, and for having gone on many journeys of adventure, some of which had been made into books and movies. Marina wanted to conquer her fear of the dark, so she asked her Aunt how she became so brave, and whether she had ever been frightened.

"A great many times, Marina," answered her Aunt, "I remember when I was small and I was terribly afraid of the dark. I couldn't stay in the dark for even a moment".

Marina became very excited. How was it possible that someone so courageous could have been afraid of the dark?

"I'll tell you a secret, Marina. It was some blind children who taught me how to be brave. They can't see, so if they had never discovered the secret of how not to be afraid of the dark, they would have been forever frightened".

"It's true!" said Marina, intrigued, "Can you tell me that secret?"

"Of course! The secret is to change your eyes. Since blind children can't see, their hands are their eyes. All you have to do to conquer your fear is what they do. Shut the eyes of your face and open the eyes of your hands. Let's make a deal: tonight, when you go to bed and put out the light, if anything makes you afraid, close your eyes, carefully get out of bed, and try to see what it is that's making you scared. But do it using your hands as eyes... and tomorrow tell me how you're getting on with the fear".

Marina accepted, but she was rather worried. She knew she would need to be brave to close her eyes and go and touch whatever it was that was frightening her, but she was willing to try. When her parents took her to bed, she herself put out the light. After a little while, she felt afraid of one of the shadows in the bedroom. Following the advice of Aunt Valerie, she closed the eyes of her face and opened the eyes of her hands. And, summoning up all her courage, she went over to touch that mysterious shadow...



The next morning Marina came running into the kitchen, a big smile on her face, and a song on her lips. "The monster is so soft and smooth!..." she cried, "It's my teddy bear!"

Foundation Course in Christian Ministry: South West Ministry Training Centre

Three people (Richard Searight, Mike and Annie Jefferies) from the South Tamar Mission Community are undertaking the 1 year Foundation Course based in Plymouth and Exeter. The course consists of 7 full day Study Days and the aims are to :

- to deepen your Christian discipleship
- to explore and help form your gifts for ministry
- to help you discern God's call for any future work within your Parish / Benefice / Mission Community.
- and to deepen your knowledge and understanding of The Bible, Theology, Spirituality and Pastoral Care.
- to grow in prayer.

The Study Days follow a similar pattern and are intended to take the students to a level equivalent of the first stage of a degree. Each Study Day involves a mixture of lectures and informal discussions on the core areas described in the aims, set within the context of worship at the beginning and end of the day. There are 26 people in the Group so there are good opportunities for socialising and informal discussion.

Each student is assigned a tutor who are members of the course teaching staff and each study day has a time allocated for tutor group work. This may include discussions on recommended reading material

A key element of the course is on reflection and to assist this the students are encouraged to keep a Journal for the year, documenting what has been learnt and experienced during the study days.

Similarly students are expected to join a local discussion group in their Benefice / Mission Community / Deanery. These groups may be using a particular course e.g. Pilgrim or Alpha, be a Bible Study group, or be exploring a locally chosen topic. These group sessions should take place no less than monthly. In the Autumn Term, the students are participating members of the Group , in the Lent term the students should each have an opportunity to lead the Group.

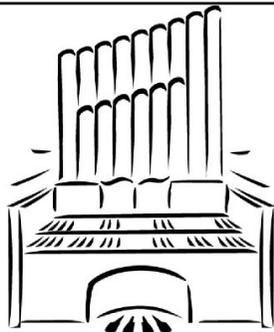
Students are encouraged to keep their Vicar involved with the developments of the course and the local congregations and PCC's of how the course is progressing , so that they can also offer support to their 3 students, which will be much appreciated.

Annie Jefferies

Thank you Iris!

After over 65 years of loyal and devoted service, Iris Griffiths will shortly be retiring as Church Organist for Marystowe church.

Iris's final service as Organist will be at the 6:30pm service on Sunday 24th December at Marystowe church.



To mark this momentous occasion

**on Friday 15th December,
2pm in the School room
at Marystowe church,**

we will be having an afternoon **Tea Party** to celebrate.

All are invited so please do come along.

Do let us know if you are coming, please telephone:
Barbara: 01566 784797 or Deborah: 01822 860378



Lamerton Primary School Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December 2017

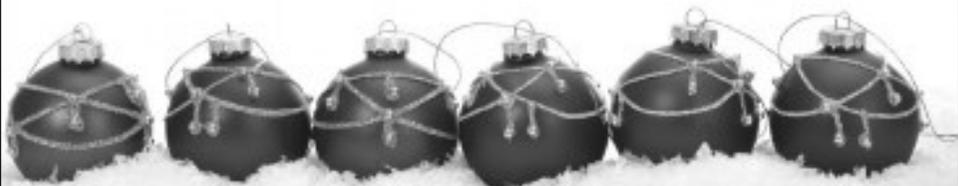
11am—2:30pm

Lamerton Community Centre

Refreshments available

Stalls include: Craft, Homemade Produce, Raffle ... and many more.

Come and see Santa in his Grotto between 12 and 1:30pm!



44th ANNUAL HANDBELL FESTIVAL Saturday 14th October, 2017

*Merry
Christmas*

This year's festival took place in The Lamerton Sports & Community Centre with teams coming from far and wide. It was a lovely evening weatherwise with, as always, every inch of the hall occupied. Once again this year there were a lot of youngsters taking part, so encouraging to see, with teams from Inwardleigh, Horrabridge and Lamerton taking part – all showing such eagerness, energy and enthusiasm. There was a high standard of ringing throughout, giving the judges a difficult task, openly admitting that there was little to separate teams in all sections. The winners of the Trophies were as follows: -

The Mr & Mrs P Dawe Cup – Best Tune Ringing – Pillaton Handbell Ringers
The William Manning Memorial Shield – Best Peal Ringing – Pillaton Handbell Ringers

The Hamlet Trophy – best 4 in Hand Performance - All the Fours from Okehampton

The Firkins Shield – best Junior Performance – Inwardleigh Juniors

The D Roy Bould Cup – most improved team – Inwardleigh Juniors

Other teams taking part were from St Dominick, 2 Junior Teams from Horrabridge Primary School, Mellis Bells from Okehampton, The Clangers from Plympton St Maurice, Inwardleigh Seniors and Lamerton Senior and Junior Teams. The Phoenix Ringers from Chudleigh, last year's winners of The Dawe Cup, concluded the Festival with a superb display of 4 special pieces whilst the judges were deliberating.

The Judges were Fergus Stracey, Ringing Master at St Andrews Church, Plymouth and Shirley Culverhouse. We were so grateful to Shirley for standing in at the last minute for Jo Hugo who usually works with Fergus. Jo has been very unwell and sadly was unable to come.

The awards and trophies were presented by Revd Andy Atkins who also presented "Handbell Ringers of Great Britain Crescendo Certificates" to the Lamerton Junior Ringers. "mp" certificates to Emilia Bevan and Daisy Andrews and "ff" Certificates – Highest Standard to Emily Hill and Jenny Green. It was agreed this year that the Charity we will support will be The Primrose Appeal at Derriford Hospital – The profit from the Festival totalling £220 will be added to the Xmas takings and forwarded to the Charity.

Forthcoming events for the Lamerton teams include providing the entertainment at The Whitchurch W.I.

Xmas Party on Monday 4th Dec taking part in Lamerton Church Carol Service, visiting the residents of Camplehaye and Venn House Retirement Homes on Friday 22nd December followed by the usual visits to Tavistock Conservative Club and The Tavy Club on Xmas Eve. – A busy time ahead!!!!





at St Peter's Church, Lamerton

Crafts · Games · Stories · Drink

A Meal · Fun · Family Time

This is a free event but donations are welcome

Tuesday 19th December

11:am

Christmas Party!

for all the family!

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Contact Rev. Andy on: 01822 870298



Thursday 7th December 7:00pm
Dunterton Church

Please do come and join us for our first Taizé service at Dunterton Church. The service will start at 7pm and will last for around 45 minutes.

Taize worship is a service consisting of Bible readings, prayer, meditative singing and periods of silence. To learn more about Taizé and to listen to some of the music please visit <http://www.southtamar.church/taize/>

Parking will be signposted to a field opposite the church.
 Please do bring a torch with you.

If you have any questions please do call
 Rev'd Andy on: 01822 870298

About Taizé

The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The 100-strong community of Roman Catholic and Protestant monks is drawn from 30 countries across the world.

It was founded in 1940 by Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche (known as 'Brother Roger'). Today Taizé is one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Each year tens of thousands of young pilgrims flock to the small village of Taizé in central France to share in the community's way of life. Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience. Young people from every corner of the globe are encouraged to live out the Christian gospel in a spirit of joy, simplicity and reconciliation.

Ecumenism (a movement promoting Christian unity among Churches) is the key to Taizé's appeal, making it a magnet for people of many different cultures and traditions.

***'Laudate omnes gentes
 laudate Dominum'***

(Praise the Lord, all peoples)

Nature Notes by Bluebell – December 2017 – January 2018



*“Art thou the bird whom man loves best,
The pious bird with the scarlet breast,
Our little English robin?” William Wordsworth*

The robin in our gardens is the national bird and often seen now as the season grows colder. It has become a symbol of Christmas for a multitude of reasons. One is the red breast which reminded Victorians of the cheerful red-jacketed postman who brought the Christmas mail; another is his apparent friendliness to people. The continental robin is shy in comparison, a woodland bird still. The English garden has provided a safe and rich habitat to tempt robins to closer friendship with us.

A robin has also, through this apparent friendship, been seen as a spirit Guide, sometimes, to humanity. A wonderful robin in “The Secret Garden “ by Frances Hodgson Burnett, shows the children the way to the lost garden, like a paradise garden, and is their guide to growing health and happiness.

“Gard’ner Robin,” (William Cowper), sitting on the spade handle, echoes the story of Adam and Eve, and Robin Hood, the woodlander, but there is also a darker element to his mythic association:

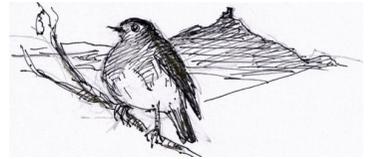
“Who killed Cock Robin?”

“I,” said the sparrow,

“With my bow and arrow,

I killed Cock Robin.”

*All the birds of the air fell a-sighing and a-sobbing
When they heard of the death of poor Cock Robin.*



Tommy Thumb’s Pretty Song Book (c 1744)

One explanation of this old rhyme, with its distinctive cadences, is that Robin represents the death of the Celtic Sun god, Lugh, each winter. The Red Sun “coch rhi ben” is anglicised as cock robin. And the sparrow represents Bran, the god of winter, who kills the summer sun each year. There is also a nod to the old belief that souls became birds after death. *“A Robin Redbreast in a Cage Puts all Heaven in a Rage.” William Blake; Auguries of Innocence.*

But Bluebell sees the little robin at her door as part of God’s lovely world that we should care for and especially so at Christmas, as we look for the birth of the vulnerable baby Jesus.



“I come in the little things,

Saith the lord:

Yea, on the glancing wings

Of eager birds, the softly pattering feet

Of furred and gentle beasts, I come to meet

*Your hard and wayward heart. In brown, bright eyes
That peek from out the brake I stand confest.”*

From “Immanence” by Evelyn Underhill

***Bluebell wishes every blessing of Christmas and New Year
to all her readers.***

GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG



Well, all seems quiet out there except for some rustling as the birds toss over leaves looking for morsels. We've had some frost and plenty of wind. The dahlias have finished but the chrysanthemums are still offering up the odd bloom for the vase. The tomato plants have long gone but some of the green fruits are still turning red on the staging in the greenhouse. If you think now is the time to sit back in front of a warm fire with a glass of wine and a clutch of gardening catalogues, just remember: we should be busy out there. Weeds and grass still seem to grow. Borders need cutting back (although it's good to leave some for the wild life), leaves need collecting and bagging for leaf mould, gutters need clearing, greenhouse glass needs cleaning, Acers (and others) need pruning.

Doug's decided to move some roses and plant some replacements. Three have not thrived in their current spot although a fourth has done really well. So, three are moving to other places in the garden and three bare root ones of the successful type have been ordered. It's a good time too for moving border perennials around. It is also a good time to do those landscaping jobs – the stones, bricks, chippings, paving, drainage jobs which just never seem worth it in the summer but you know it'd be good to have done.

One big success has been my scented pelargonium which has lovely bright vibrant mauve flowers flushed with dark centres. Regularly deadheaded, it has flowered profusely all spring/summer/autumn having survived last winter with little protection. In fact, it's ignored the recent frosts and is still continuing to flower – see photo taken today – mid November. (*Dear Ed, Pity we don't have colour in the magazine!*) I've got cuttings under protection, so we'll see what happens to the parent over winter - perhaps in the unheated greenhouse. A similar stunningly vibrant plant at this time of year is the Tibouchina with its rich violet-purple flowers. You might have seen it at Cotehele alongside the barn.

Time for making joyous Christmas wreaths for the door. Doug likes the one on the cover of a supermarket brochure made mostly of Brussel Sprouts. It looks lovely. Presumably, you chuck it in a pan of boiling water as the turkey is resting. Very good.



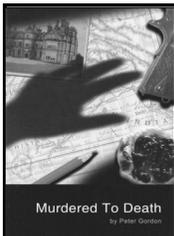
Oh, well, off for an eye test. Might get some weeding glasses to go with the reading glasses. Apparently they spot the weeds for you!

*Copthorne" with its large
scented flowers*

and

*Brussel Sprouts -
a favourite with children*





Murdered to Death Brilliant!



After a gap during 2016 the local stars of stage, screen and village hall, the Milton Abbot Players (aka MAPS) returned with one of their best ever shows *Murdered to Death* written by Peter Gordon. Although written in 2003 it was a spoof of Agatha Christie's *Miss Marples* set in a manor house in the 1930s.

Where this was so successful was that the funniest lines were distributed to almost all the cast. Everyone was funny and the laughs increased every minute right to the very end.

At the beginning Mildred (Valerie Taylor) the owner of a house/estate whose past was a little colourful and enjoyed the odd tippie (and then another one) was with her niece, Dorothy, (Elizabeth Field) who obviously tolerated her aunt on the basis that she appeared to be her only close relative! Then Bunting, the butler (Frank Woodcock), appeared who was endeavouring to work his way through the entire cellar before his employer realised it! He had many of the early funny lines and played the part of the old soak as if it came naturally! (Editors note – I am sure that is not true).

Then Colonel Craddock (Alan Stone) appeared along with his partner Margaret Craddock (Shona Dickinson). He was Mildred's old flame which Margaret did not appear to know at that time. Whether being together in real life helped in them playing the parts of a crochety old couple I do not know but they were so realistic! (Editors note – I am sure that is not true either!). Anyway Alan had many of the best lines in the first half and played the part so naturally. (Editors note – I am sure that is also not true!)

Then Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington (Claudine Sparks) and Pierre Marceau (Patrick Medd) arrived as the comen (and conladies?) who had sold some fake paintings to Mildred. Claudine is so marvellous at playing the lovable "tart" adored by all the men that.....(Editors note – censored!!!)

And then Mildred was shot and we have six suspects all with plausible motives. At this stage Miss Marples, sorry Miss Maples, appears (Susan Champion) and then the real police, Constable Thompkins (Michael Taylor) and Inspector Pratt (Robin Clowes) appear. Miss Marples (sorry Miss Maples) comes up with many solutions, all of which are wrong, while Pratt fails to come up with anything realistic. Robin has to call the the suspects by incorrect names, which is of course most amusing. The quick-fire conversations were brilliant, the audience were in hysterics even Miss Marples (sorry Miss Maples) was in hysterics.

It is not often that one can say "we laughed till we cried" but Thursday 9th November (the day I went) was brilliant!

This was meant to be the first of an Inspector Pratt trilogy although I believe there are already at least four including a prequel to the trilogy. Are the others as good? Who knows.

But Eileen (the director), Robin, Michael, Alan, Frank, Valerie, Elizabeth, Shona, Claudine, Patrick and Susan you were **Brilliant!!!**

Stage Door Johnnie

Christmas Services at a glance (not every service is listed here, See back page for all services).....

Place	Time	Date	Service
Dunterton	7.00pm	7 Dec	Taize
Lamerton	4.00pm	10 Dec	Christingle
Coryton	6.00pm	16 Dec	Carol service
Marystowe	4.00pm	17 Dec	Crib and Carol service
Sydenham Damerel	5.00pm	17 Dec	Carol service
Lamerton	6.30pm	17 Dec	Carol service
Milton Abbot	4.00pm	24 Dec	Crib and Carol service
Marystowe	6.30pm	24 Dec	HC
Lamerton	11.30pm	24 Dec	Midnight mass
Dunterton	9.30am	25 Dec	HC
Sydenham Damerel	10.00am	25 Dec	Matins
Coryton	11.30am	25 Dec	HC



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Contact:

- ◇ **Julie Hibbert**, Safeguarding Representative
01822 618221, safeguarding@southtamar.church
- ◇ **The Rev. Andy Atkins**, Vicar, Milton Abbot Benefice
01822 870298, vicar@southtamar.church

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999

Childline 0800 1111; NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Basil of the Bushveld - memories of life in S. Africa

Ann and I were farming in the North of Rhodesia, in a District called Umvukwes (means 'place to wake up'). One day we heard a small motorbike coming down the farm road through the African bush. Not knowing what to expect, we went out to behold the sight of Father Basil French, our rather large and elderly parish Vicar, doing his rounds on his Honda 70 mini motorbike. Basil's parish was sixty miles across and forty miles deep, and due to sanctions and petrol rationing, he used his Honda to get around. It was quite a sight to see Basil who was quite a large chap on his small motorbike in his full Vicar's cassocks. As usual on our remote farms visitors were always welcome, so it was onto the veranda and tea was served. Basil gave us all the Parish and village news, and forthcoming events.

That was only half the story. At the time there was a nasty terrorist civil war going on, so any of the dirt roads Basil used were subject to landmines and terrorist ambushes, but Basil it seemed had a charmed life. He eventually retired in his dotage to Wells Cathedral we think.

All of the farmers in his extensive Parish stayed on their farms throughout that war. We had a responsibility to our mainly African staff, and to grow food, and economy, for the nation, besides protecting our staff, and our neighbours, be they African or European. Basil had a great responsibility, as many of our farms and the African villages were attacked, usually by night with hit and run tactics, by Mr Mugabe's so called freedom fighters (freedom for whom), thus there were many deaths and casualties. Basil French did great work with the families of the bereaved, and all who were affected.

Christmas time, Basil used to organise Christmas carol services at particularly easy access farms, that we all looked forward to, having a community party after the service and all ending up staying the night, to avoid travel in the dark. The men folk who were all para-military trained, would take turns guarding the perimeter, so everybody, particularly the kids, could have a good time without worry. At one service and party, we were lucky to have an Army section of young "Troopies" to guard us, who were generously plied with home-made mince pies and trifle, plus the odd beer, when the CSM was not watching.

Basil worked his parish through all of this, doing weddings, christenings and other Parish work. Always with a smile. He was a much appreciated man and Vicar, and a vital part of the community.

Arthur Charles de Val

Our Church Web Site



Details of services, safeguarding and events can be found on the website:

<http://www.southtamar.church>

Advertising rates:

Advertising for 'one-off' local charities and events is free.

1/8 page: £18 per year, 1/4 page: £36 per year, 1/2 page: £72 per year

Full page: £144 per year



From the editor's desk ...

**Deadline for the February 2018+ March 2018 issue is :
Tuesday 16th January 2018**

Chillaton Women's Institute

Meet every 3rd Wednesday at the School Room Marystowe Church at 2.00pm
Come and join us. Call Iris Griffiths 01822 860483 for information

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Lamerton Women's Institute

Meetings are at Lamerton Sports and Community Centre, 2.00pm

5 Dec Carol Service, Exeter
12 Dec Christmas Tea
2 Jan Resolutions etc

New members are very welcome

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The Exeter Diocese has arranged a further training course for C1 and C2 on

Friday 12 January - Exeter, Old Deanery

Wednesday 24 January – Plymouth St Mark Ford

Book on-line: <http://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-online-booking-form/> or 'phone the training team in Exeter: 01392 294964

The Foundation course, C0 is now available to all on-line.

Go to <http://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/> to access the course.

Contact Julie Hibbert 01822 618221 julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com for more information or help with booking your course.

Julie Hibbert, Safeguarding Officer



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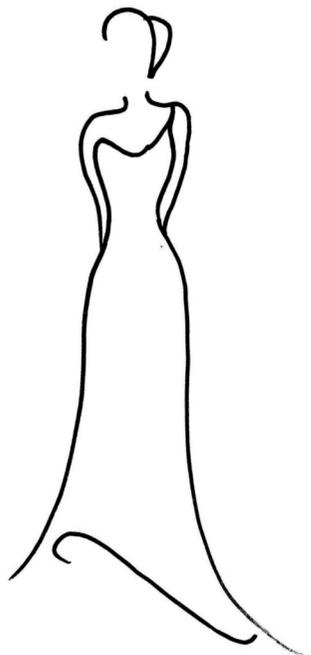
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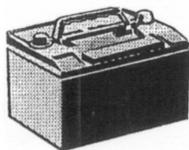
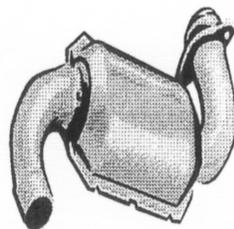
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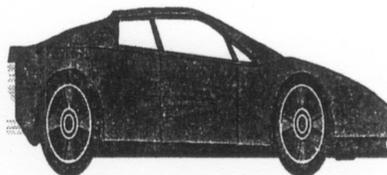
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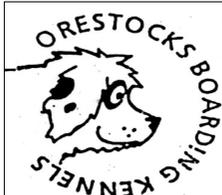
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117 TAVISTOCK - CHILLATON - LAUNCESTON - MILTON ABBOT - TAVISTOCK

EVERY TUESDAY

Tavistock Bedford Square	1015	Tavistock Bedford Square	1330
Lamerton School	1023	Tavistock Hospital	1332
Chillaton Square	1035	Lamerton Blacksmith's	1337
Launceston Westgate arr. dep.	1103 1105	Milton Abbot Edgcumbe Arms	1349
Milton Abbot Edgcumbe Arms	1125	Launceston Westgate arr. dep.	1409 1411
Lamerton Blacksmith's	1132	Chillaton Square	1439
Tavistock Hospital	1138	Lamerton School	1450
Tavistock Bedford Square	1140	Tavistock Hospital	1455
		Tavistock, Bedford Square	1457

114 TAVISTOCK-MILTON ABBOT-LAUNCESTON-CHILLATON-TAVISTOCK

EVERY THURSDAY

Tavistock Bedford Square	0945	Tavistock Bedford Square	13.30
Tavistock Hospital	0948	Tavistock Hospital	1332
Lamerton Blacksmith's	0954	Lamerton School	1339
Milton Abbot Edgcumbe Arms	1000	Chillaton Square	1348
Launceston Westgate arr. dep.	1020 1023	Launceston Westgate arr. dep.	1413 1415
Chillaton Square	1050	Milton Abbot Edgcumbe Arms	1432
Lamerton School	1101	Lamerton Blacksmith's	1438
Tavistock Hospital	1106	Tavistock Hospital	1444
Tavistock Bedford Square	1109	Tavistock Bedford Square	1446

OAKLEY'S COACHES - 121 TAVISTOCK - MILTON ABBOT - TAVISTOCK

FRIDAYS (except bank holidays)

Tavistock Bus Station	0935	Tavistock Bus Station	1240
Lamerton, Blacksmith's	0943	Lamerton, Village	1247
Milton Abbot Edgcumbe Arms	0950	Milton Abbot Edgcumbe Arms	1255
Lamerton Village	0957	Lamerton, Blacksmith's	1302
Tavistock Bus Station	1005	Tavistock Bus Station	1310

CHURCH SERVICES

December/January 2018

Day	St Mary M. Sydenham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constan- tine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St Andrew's Coryton
Sunday 31st Dec <i>1st Sun Christmas</i>	11.15am United Benefice Service at Coryton Holy Communion by extension					
Weds 3rd Jan	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 7th Jan <i>Baptism of Christ</i>		6.30pm Even- song			9.30am HC CW	
Weds 10th Jan	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton, refreshments afterwards					
Sunday 14th Jan <i>Epiphany 2</i>	9.00am HC CW			11.00am HC CW		11.15am Matins BCP
Weds 17th Jan	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 21st Jan <i>Epiphany 3</i>		11.00am HC CW			9.30am Family Service Morning Praise	
Weds 24th Jan	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 28th Jan <i>Candle- mas</i>	9.00am Matins BCP	9.30am Family Service		11.00am HC by ext CW		11.15am HC CW

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

CW – Common Worship (Modern)

CHURCH SERVICES

December 2017

Day	St Mary M. Sydenham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constantine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St Andrew's Coryton
Sunday 3rd Dec <i>1st Sun of Advent</i>		6.30pm Even-song			9.30am HC CW	
Weds 6th Dec	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 10th Dec <i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	9.00am HC CW	4.00pm Christingle		11.00am HC by ext CW		11.15am Matins BCP
Weds 13th Dec	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sat 16th Dec	6.00pm Coryton Carol Service					
Sunday 17th Dec <i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	5.00pm Carol Service	6.30pm Carol Service			4.00pm Crib & Carol Service	
Weds 20th Dec	10.00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 24th Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i>		11.30m Midnight Mass		4.00pm Crib & Carol Service	6.30pm Christmas HC	
Monday 25th Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.00am Matins BCP		9.30am HC BCP			11.30am HC CW