

Parish News

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



South Tamar
Mission Community

**February &
March 2021**

Price: £1

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Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I had hoped and prayed that the start of 2021 would be much better than the end of 2020. Sadly, it looks as if we will have to wait a little longer for any substantive relief from the Co-vid19 Pandemic. Hope is on the horizon though with three vaccines now available to us. Some of you I know have already received the vaccine and more will follow I'm sure. I'm also sure that you would all join me in thanking God for the dedication, self-sacrifice and bravery shown by all those who work in healthcare, within our wonderful NHS.

I had hoped, rather naively, that the Co-vid19 restrictions might even have been over by Christmas but they are still with us! Even more so now, with the difficult decision taken to close our churches to public worship. So, we continue worshipping God the best we can, by engaging with our live-streamed services or worshipping at home.

Mindful of the challenging circumstances in which many of us found ourselves over Christmas, I hope that you were able to take part in the online services over Christmas. From our Christingle service to our Nine Lessons and Carols, many people tuned in and joined in. I also had the pleasure of recording and editing the Lamerton school nativity service. Over 350 families have tuned in to watch the Christmas story.

At my time of writing, we do not currently know if we will be able to invite our community to join us in person in Church for our Easter services. Nevertheless, we will be raising our online presence, with several services broadcast through the internet, via the Church website, and hope that you and your loved ones will be able to share in some of these moments with us, from the comfort and safety of your own homes.

My hope and prayer is that you will all continue to keep safe, keep well, stay connected and stay firm in your faith.

With Every Blessing,
Fr. Andy

The time between the Old and New Testaments



Before I start detailing the time between the Testaments a summary of the events leading up to it:-

831 BC with the death of King Solomon the United Kingdom of Israel divides into 2 kingdoms Israel in the north with its capital of Samaria and Judah comprising the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin in the south with its capital of Jerusalem

783 BC The last king of Israel killed with the nation ceasing to exist as taken over by the Assyrians being assimilated into their empire

605 BC onwards the Jews (the people of Judah) are taken into exile by the Babylonians

587 BC Jerusalem captured and the temple destroyed.

539 BC The Babylonian empire defeated by the Persians who extended their empire into Egypt and all of what we know now as Turkey

538 BC the decree of Cyrus of Persia allowed the exiles in Babylon to return to Jerusalem

537 BC The return of the exiles over a period of 11 years with the temple being rebuilt

The time between the testaments starts with the closure chronically in the biblical accounts in the book of Nehemiah of about 420 BC: so, what happened during the 400 hundred years or so until the opening of the New Testament?

334 BC with the rise of Alexander of Macedonia the expansion of the Persian Empire into Greece was thwarted and Alexander went on to conquer the ancient world as far as India

323 BC Alexander died at the early age of 25 following which his empire was divided between 4 of his generals with Ptolemy controlling Egypt and Seleucid the eastern empire; culturally the empire-to become known as the Hellenist world -continued as a unity

198 BC the area encompassed by the former united kingdom of Israel until then ruled by Ptolemy fell under Seleucid control marking a period of persecution of the Jews , desecration of the temple and outlawing their religion

166 BC The Jews however under Judas Maccabeus revolted and until the coming of the Romans re-established their independence under the Judas dynasty known as the Hasmoneans. Details of this revolt and time are recorded in the Apocrypha (**in the books 1 & 2 Maccabees)

63 BC The Roman general Pompey took over and the land was then to become known as Palestine – and puppet kings were appointed by Rome one of whom Herod the Great brought us to the New Testament period.

7 BC would seem to the closure of the time between the testaments periods with an angel proclaiming in the temple to the elderly priest Zechariah that he was to become the father to John the Baptist –see Luke 1: 5-25 - a year before 6 BC see hereunder

6 BC the birth of Christ; this date was established as the likely year as on the transition from BC to AD meaning Anno Domini –the year of the Lord - as it was found later to have “lost” some years

4 BC Herod the Great died and it is interesting to note that on his death the Holy Family were able to return from Egypt to establish their home at Nazareth in Galilee- see Matthew 2: 10-23

The Old Testament of 37 books is known as the Hebrew scriptures, but there is another version of an additional 9 books and also additions to the books of Esther and Daniel known as the Septuagint LXX as translated from Hebrew by 70 Egyptian scholars. These additions are known as deuterocanonical or the Apocrypha**. Roman Catholic Christians accept these books as an integral part of the Old Testament being included in Catholic bibles e.g., the Jerusalem Bible notwithstanding that the word deuterocanonical appears to give them a secondary position, although though occasionally passages appear in the Common Lectionary used daily at morning and evening prayer at St. Eustachius. “Protestant” bibles do not have these books nor additions to Esther and Daniel in their bibles although fuller versions of the New Revised Standard Bible do include them between the Old and New Testament.

With the four hundredth anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower last year we can reflect and through historical writings have knowledge of the considerable changes that have taken place these past 400 years, However, generally the Jews were unaware of the fortunes of their nation during the four hundred years or so since the Old Testament, but were waiting for a Messiah, an anointed one i.e. Christ, to bring their nation back again to the freedom and national identity they experienced under King Solomon. It was unsurprisingly therefore that they flocked to hear John the Baptist hoping as some did at last that he was the promised Messiah – Luke 3:15. John, as we know, was only the messenger, the forerunner, so I plan to start in next time’s magazine a series of articles on the good news of the coming of that Messiah, the anointed one i.e., Jesus Christ and subsequent events in the New Testament

Ian Silcox

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 7th February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	Proverbs 8:1, 22 - 31	Colossians 1: 15 - 20	John 1: 1 - 14
Sunday 14th February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	2 Kings 2: 1 - 12	2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6	Mark 9: 2 - 9
Wednesday 17th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Joel 2: 1 - 2, 12 - 17	2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10	Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21
Sunday 21st February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	Genesis 9: 8 - 17	1 Peter 3: 18 - 22	Mark 1: 9 - 15
Sunday 28th February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	Genesis 17: 1 - 7, 15 - 16	Romans 4: 13 - 25	Mark 8: 31 - 38
Sunday 7th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	Exodus 20: 1 - 17	1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25	John 2: 13 - 22

BIBLE READINGS (Year B) continued

DATE	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 14th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Exodus 2: 1 - 10	2 Corinthians 1: 3 - 7	Luke 2: 33 - 35
Sunday 21st March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	Jeremiah 31:31 - 34	Hebrews 5: 5 - 10	Psalm 119: 9 - 16
Sunday 28th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a	Philippians 2: 5 - 11	Mark 15: 1 - 39 [40 - end]
Thursday 1st April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12: 1 - 4 [5 - 10] 11 - 14	1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26	John 13: 1 - 17, 31b - 35
Friday 2nd April <i>Good Friday</i>	Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12	Hebrews 10: 16 - 25	John 18: 1 - 19: 42
Saturday 3rd April <i>Easter Eve</i>	Job 14: 1 - 14	1 Peter 4: 1 - 8	Matthew 27: 57 - end
Sunday 4th April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Isaiah 25: 6 - 9	Acts 10: 34 - 43	John 20: 1 - 18

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

CW – Common Worship (Modern)

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'**.

St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

Happy New Year, let us hope that 2021 is a considerable improvement on 2020 although it seems to have got off to a rather poor start as our house arrest must continue until the numbers vaccinated increase significantly. There has been an interesting role reversal in Sydenham Damerel with our newly vaccinated octogenarians (and indeed one nonagenarian) offering to collect the shopping for us unvaccinated youngsters! But we are the lucky ones, no problem in finding beautiful local exercise spots and even the supermarket delivery drivers seem able find our houses on their Satnavs now.

We also look forward with considerable excitement to the installation of ultrafast broadband later this year taking our digital connectivity from the worst 5% in the country to the top 20% who will be able to enjoy reliable upload and download speeds up to a gigabyte. For those of us less technically minded this should see the end to that annoying little rotating arrow when we are watching Netflix and for those working from home or running businesses (and we know there are lots of you) it will deliver an incredible improvement in performance and reliability.

Although the weather was not great, we managed to time our outdoor socially distanced carol service at our Telephone Box Stage on 23 December for a brief weather interlude where the wind dropped slightly below hurricane force and the rain, sleet and snow eased just a little. Despite the less than perfect weather (who's idea was it to organise Christmas in midwinter?) we were delighted with the turnout of around 30 villagers plus a heroic brass quintet who soldiered on through seven carols plus the Snow Waltz with wonderful singing from the gathered crowd including some valiant attempts at the odd descant. You are indeed a hardy bunch.

Candlemas is, amongst other things, the Feast of Purification of the Virgin Mary and our church is named for St. Mary the Virgin. We decided that recognising this unusual time we shall revert to the custom of the Middle Ages (when they had their own pandemics) and leave the Christmas lights shining from the top of St. Mary's tower until Candlemas on 2 February 2021. We hope that the tower of our little church will shine a little comforting light on us all during this winter lockdown and hopefully the brightness of medical science and the vaccine will take over in February.

Stay strong, stay home, save lives.

Peter (churchwarden's glamorous assistant)

St. Mary's Church, Marystowe



It has not been the brightest start to the year has it! Marystowe are still operating the delivery only bookshop and jigsaw library, so if you want something to while away the hours of lockdown you will find our catalogues on the Marystowe page of the South Tamar website, or call Joy (01822 860630).

Despite everything there was wonder and fun around Marystowe at Christmas. We had a very well attended Christmas Eve service; Deborah, Barbara and Joy decorated the Church beautifully. Earlier in the month we had the Marystowe Christmas Evening, and we were thrilled with the input from across the Benefice (and wider). Many thanks are given to Barbara Dawe and Vicky Taylor for our Christmas nibble boxes. As our Zoom evening began, the fun from the audience and readers was contagious. All the readers were magnificent and no apology is given for repeating the cast list again:

Narrator: Anita Townsend
 Scrooge's Nephew: Jonathan Hyde
 Scrooge: Colin Dunn
 Bob Crachit: Guy Talbot
 Charitable Gentleman: Andy Atkins
 Ghost of Jacob Marley: Julie Hibbert
 Ghost of Christmas Past: Annie Jefferies
 Scrooge's Sister and Tiny Tim: Myla Jones
 Fezziwig: Andy McSmythurs
 Young Woman: Rebekah Hyde
 Ghost of Christmas Present: Mike Jefferies
 Mrs Crachit: Margaret Dunn
 Businessman 1: Nick Faulkner
 Businessman 2 and Young Boy: Giorgi Faulkner
 Charwoman: Carol Nobes
 Old Joe: Joy McSmythurs

Here are the facts and figures: -

- Over 70 computers joined, with families watching together we had over **100** in the audience
- Over **75** people bought tickets for our hamper raffle
- Over **35** groups donated to our Just Giving page
- In total we raised a **wonderful £1,450**

We just want to say....."A Big Thank You"

Joy McSmythurs

A Story on the Theme of Forgiveness

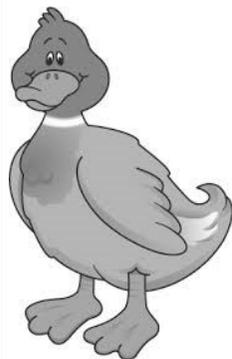
Little Boy with a Slingshot

Once upon a time Sammy and his sister Marie visited their grandparents at their farm. Sammy picked up a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for lunch. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck.



Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly which hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was shocked and grieved. In a panic, he hid the dead duck in a pile of wood. Marie had seen it all from the window but she said nothing. After the lunch the next day Grandma said, "Marie, let's wash the dishes." Marie said, "But Grandma, Sammy told me he wanted to help in the kitchen."

Then she whispered to Sammy, "Remember the duck?" Sammy got nervous knowing his sister knew about the duck and if he didn't obey, she might tell his grandparents about it. So without saying anything, he did the dishes.



Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing but Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Marie to help make supper." Marie just smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Sammy told me he wanted to help."

She whispered again to Sammy, "Remember the duck?" So Marie went fishing and Sammy stayed to help. After several days of Marie taking advantage of Sammy, he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck.

Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug and said, "Sweetheart, I know. I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Marie take advantage of you."

Moral: Always confess your mistakes. It will take away a load of guilt from your heart which will boost your conscience and no one will take advantage of your secret mistakes! Accept your mistake, apologize and seek forgiveness politely.



A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

Playing for Keeps

In a game of marbles, a ring is drawn in the ground. Each player puts the same number of marbles into the ring. The players then take turns shooting a marble, trying to knock the other marbles out of the ring. When a shooter knocks a marble out of the ring, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. If his shooting marble stays inside the ring, he is allowed to keep shooting. If not, the next shooter takes his turn. When all the marbles have been knocked out of the ring, they are counted and the one with the most marbles wins.

Before the game begins, one player sometimes asks the other players, "Are we playing for fun, or are we playing for keeps?" If you just play for fun, when the game is over, the winner returns all the marbles won during the game. But if play was for keeps, the winner keeps all the marbles he had won.

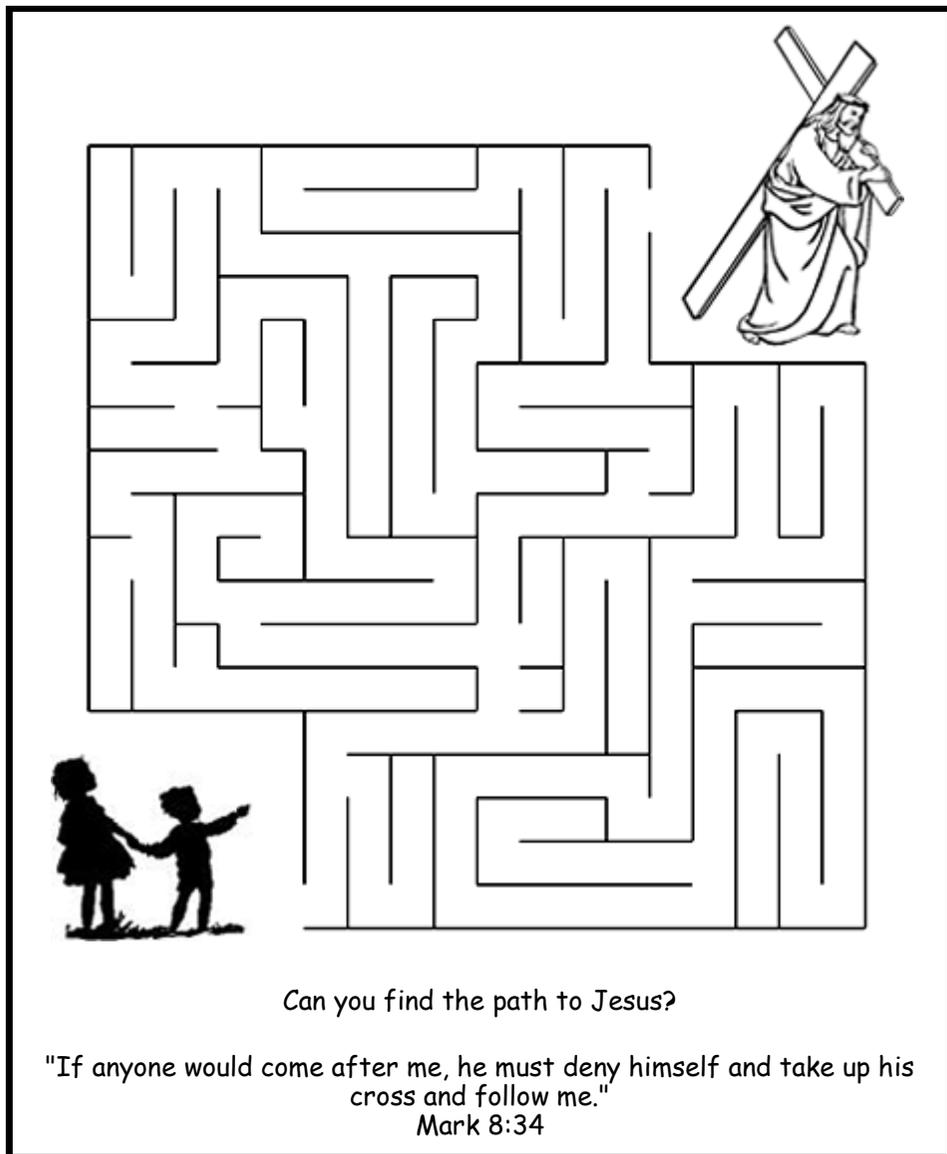


Some people live their life as if it were a game of marbles. They spend their whole life trying to be the one with the most marbles. They think that the one with the biggest house, the fanciest car, and the most money in the bank is the winner. They think they are playing "for keeps," but when they come to the end of their life, do you know how many of their marbles they get to take with them? None of them! They spend their whole life trying to win all of the marbles, but in the end, they are left with nothing!

Jesus said that if we want to be real winners we must be willing to give up everything and follow him. When we follow Jesus, we may not have a lot of the things that some people think are important. We may not live in a big house or drive a fancy car, but we will have something that is much better than that, we will have treasures laid up for us in heaven. When we get to heaven, there will be a mansion waiting for us to move in. Best of all, we will have everlasting life with Jesus. You see, when we give our lives to Jesus, HE "plays for keeps."

Some people will give anything to get more marbles, but Jesus asked "What good will it do them if they gain the whole world, but lose their soul?"

Dear Father, help us to realize that the only life that lasts is a life lived for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Can you find the path to Jesus?

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 8:34



South Tamar
Mission Community

Do you need help during this difficult time?

If you are feeling lonely or worried about your work and home situation there are people who can help locally.

- Our **pastoral care** team can speak to you over the 'phone to provide comfort and support. If you would like a call, contact Rev'd Andy on 870298
- www.tavistock.foodbank.org.uk is open on Fridays at the United Reform Church, Tavistock. You will need a referral to obtain a food voucher. Call 0808 2082 138 to find out about this -
- or call **Citizens Advice** advice line for confidential help on foodbank referrals and any other matters e.g. debt, employment, housing, benefits, relationship issues, which may be worrying you 03444 111 444
- **Financial worries?** Visit Citizens Advice, 'Entitled to' or 'Turn2us' websites for an anonymous benefits check. You may also be eligible to apply for a grant to cover essential costs during the pandemic.
- For child and vulnerable adult **safeguarding** or domestic abuse issues you can contact any of the benefice safeguarders:

Milton Abbot + Dunterton	David Denton	870431
Marystowe	Anita Townsend,	860123
Coryton	Bruce Markham-David	
Lamerton +Sydenham Damerel	Julie Hibbert	618221

Rev'd Andy is also available to listen to your concerns: 870298

The benefice safeguarding policy is on the website www.southtamar.church and more information can be found on the diocese website <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/>

Lent Course 2021

“The Joy of the Gospel”

17 February marks the beginning of Lent. This year we thought it would be nice to have an ecumenical flavour to the Lent Course and so we are going to follow Pope Francis as he reflects on mission and evangelism in everyday life. The course will be led by Canon Tim Thompson

This six-part course for parishes and Lent groups is based on Pope Francis' much acclaimed recent reflections on mission published as *Evangelii Gaudium* ('The Joy of the Gospel'). Widely recognised as offering wisdom and vision for all Christians in a culture that is often hostile to the church, *Evangelii Gaudium* provides a positive and realistic approach to sharing faith in the modern world. In this course we are introduced to key themes and challenged to consider the application of these themes in our own context and lives.

The course comprises six sessions:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Joy and the Gospel | 2. Going Forth |
| 3. Saying Yes and Saying No | 4. Proclaiming the Gospel |
| 5. Making the Kingdom Present in Our World | 6. Being Filled with the Spirit |

Due to Co-vid19 restrictions, the course will have to take place on Zoom, on Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm. The dates will be: 24th February, 3rd 10th 17th & 24th March and the 31st March.

Copies of “The Joy of the Gospel” Lent Book are available. A bulk order (over 6) brings the price down to £6.67 per copy. If you want a further flavour of the book and what we are hoping to study go to <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9780715147313/the-joy-of-the-gospel>

Please let Fr, Andy know if you would like to join this group and he will send you the Zoom link.

Foundations in Christian Ministry

Are you...

- Wishing to develop your gifts for ministry in the local Church?
- Wanting to deepen your discipleship?
- Hoping to discern your Christian vocation?

The FiCM - What is it?

- 1-year part-time course
- Teaching on the Bible, Spirituality, Theology and Pastoral Care
- 7 Saturday study days

When?

- Sept 2020 - June 2021
- Applications by Easter



More information...

Rev David Carrington, Director of Lay Training, SWMTC

davecarrington@swmtc.org.uk Tel: 01404 850905

or search our website: www.exeter.anglican.org

What students have said...

'Each study day was totally inspirational'

'Teaching was excellent'

'Tutors hugely encouraging and inspiring'

'Encouraged me to become involved in planning and worship'

'Affirmed my calling'



South West Ministry Training Course

adventurous faith | missional hope | grounded love

“Who did he say he was?”

When Fr Andy was licensed as the new Rural Dean we were all pleased for him, it was a sign of recognition by the Diocese for all his hard work and the faith and confidence that the Bishop has in him. It also meant that his workload was going to increase exponentially, not least when other parishes in the deanery move into interregnum. As a retired priest, new to the parishes, I hope that I might be of assistance, and so Andy thought it might be a good idea if I introduced myself.

Babs and I moved down to Devon in May of last year - not the most auspicious of times. Babs is a “Devon maid, made in Devon” and had spent most of our fifty years of married life willing us to return to her home. So Tavistock is somewhere we know quite well. Once here we quite quickly found the South Tamar Mission Community, your web site is amazing. Babs and I have always preferred rural ministry to urban and suburban churches, so driving the odd mile out of Tavistock isn't a problem. I was ordained in 1988 and spent all my ministry working in Lincoln diocese. During that time I have worked in rural parishes, spent time as a local ministry officer in the south of the diocese and finally worked to create a team ministry in Lincoln itself. While there I was asked to be an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral. I also had two spells as a rural dean, one in rural ministry and one urban in Lincoln.

In 2008 Babs retired from teaching and a year later I retired. For eighteen years we had owned a house in France and the plan was to spend half our time in the UK and half in France. It worked quite well but grandchildren and the looming Brexit suggested we moved back to the UK full time, although I still miss taking services in Biarritz. While in the UK I helped out in our village churches, as a friend of mine once said, “once a priest always a priest - you never have the option to retire”

So here we are, that's who he is, but I need time to learn who you are. We have met people in the parishes and all have been very welcoming but it is a mammoth task to learn who everybody is. Please help Babs and I by making yourself known but please also remember it will take time for names to sink in!

Every blessing,
Canon Tim Thompson

**Email:**

matreasurer@southtamar.church

Telephone:

01822 618452

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miltonabbotchurch>

<https://www.southtamar.church/>

I would like to personally thank everyone who supported the Milton Abbot Church Christmas Fair, and for buying my crafts which have kept me going during these incredibly challenging times and helped to keep the church afloat at the same time. Also huge thanks to Sarah Atkins for all her help in advertising and distributing things. It's has also been lovely to have received such great feedback from everyone on their purchases.

I will be carrying on sewing and have been thinking of some new items for the coming year. All proceeds to Milton Abbot Church.

If you are looking for something for Easter or a Birthday present etc. please contact me and see if I can make something suitable.

In our current situation any items bought would need to be posted to you this time at a small cost of £3.50.

As I make things I will put them on the South Tamar Mission and Milton Abbot Church Facebook pages and hopefully in due course on the South Tamar Mission Website as we did recently.

Wishing us all a much brighter and healthier New Year.

Thanks Again.

Pat Lovell

LAMERTON HANDBELL RINGERS

To help combat loneliness at Christmas, a lady called Mary Beggs-Reid from Harrogate asked us all to join in and ring a bell to celebrate the coming of Christmas 2020 and spare a thought for those spending Christmas alone last year.

Sadly we were unable to ring our handbells in concert last year nor were any church bells rung due to COVID and lockdown restrictions.

So at 6pm on the 24th December Geoff and Valerie Hill rang 240 changes of Grandsire Doubles on 6 Handbells to celebrate the event. Something a bit different, but we did fly the flag!

Milton Abbot Road Safety

Imagine, if you will, it's pouring with rain, you have to get your little ones to school for 9am. If it's not raining, you have low winter sun which you know is dazzling the drivers of vehicles who hurtle past you and your children within inches of you. Add to this possibly dirty windscreens and you have a problem.

I was moved by the resilience of the parents from Milton Abbot who have to make this trip twice a day from the village to the village school. There is no other option but to walk the very narrow pavement along this main road. In parts just 80cm wide. Most parents also have pre school aged toddlers and a push chair.

For road safety week the school children made posters and signs to display to passing drivers. The Headmaster said he was surprised at how many of the children's pictures depicted lorries. He confirmed what some parents were saying in that some children arrived at school upset and very afraid of the lorries.

In an attempt to alert drivers who drive too fast and too close to our children and parents we set up a walking bus. Children and parents who walk to school have been supplied with high visibility tops to wear. The children had lolly pop signs which they held up all the way to school each day, again in an attempt to ask speeding drivers to take more care.

I am pleased to say that by the end of road safety week most drivers were slowing down for the children, moving out away from the pavement and generally being very considerate. Some even gave a smile and wave which was lovely. This made a huge difference with happy children and parents arriving at school.

It is hoped that we can continue the school walking bus and when COVID allows we hope more members of our community will tag along for a morning walk. It would be great if all the community who walk could wear our high visibility tops, this will help walkers to be seen, help to promote our road safety and support our children and parents. Anyone who would like a hi vis top please make contact via the Milton Abbot Road Safety Website:- <https://miltonabbotspeedsafety.org/> or Telephone Sonia on: 07929 796 693

A small donation to the Go Fund me found on the website of £5 will help to purchase more high visibility tops for everyone.

Thank you
Milton Abbot Community Road Safety Organisation

GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG



The days are getting longer and the buds are forming, the daffodils are poking through, the snow drops are out and the hellebores too. Spring is coming. Get out there and get ahead. Or, if you're lazy, leaf through the catalogues, or garden magazines, and order some seeds, then get out and get prepared.



When it comes to tomatoes, Doug's a big fan of 'Alicante' and 'Montello'. The latter is a bush type which will grow outdoors in a tub in a sunny spot with almost no care other than watering and feeding. You could grow it in a hanging basket in the greenhouse (and I might try that this year). If it's in a tub it will need some staking to support the fruits and it would be good to wedge it somehow so it doesn't get blown over. If you buy Alicante, a conventional cordon greenhouse type, you'll get 100 or more seeds in the packet. Buy Montello and you'll probably get 5 or 6. That's because it's an F1; specially bred. It won't come true if you keep the seed from the fruits this year and sow the next. Both these tomatoes taste so much better than the supermarket ones (which don't really taste of anything at all!).

Now the bad news! Floral Foam used for years by many to support and provide water to flowers - think WI Shows and floristry - has been found to be a potent source of micro plastics and phenol in the environment. The green foam has now been banned from RHS Flower Shows, although the manufacturers are contesting the research which led to this. The foam is made from phenol formaldehyde and was invented back in 1954 (according to the RHS magazine). Suggested alternatives include scrunched-up chicken wire in a container. The stems are held in place by the wire and the container filled with water. Now where has all that green foam gone since 1954?

On a brighter note; go on, go out and grow something, anything. And, don't forget to feed the birds. They love to eat.

NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL



*I never want the Christmas rose
To come before its time;
The seasons each as God bestows
Are simple and sublime.
I love to see the snowstorm hing;
'Tis but the winter garb of spring.*

(The winter's Spring – John Clare)

Winter snow is gone now in mid-January, though it may return. Mist covers the fair, round, green grass hills, and wet black leaves in wet black winter mud, but snowdrops are appearing! Beautiful snowdrops, each year new and fresh, symbols of hope and light out of darkness. Snowdrops spread so easily, gracefully, along a path, or streambank, visible at evening, glimmering white to light the way to an old dwelling place, or privy. They are easy to propagate, just one or two dropped in a hole, chipped, will become hundreds within a few short years.



Clare calls winter snow "*White Easter of the year in bud, that makes the winter spring. The frost and snow his posies bring, Nature's white spirits of the spring.*" Bluebell sees snowdrops as the spirits of spring!

And in the leafless trees, light and birds are tangled in the bare twigs. St. Valentine's day and the birds' mating season is coming! (see the front cover of this magazine).

Bluebell sees a little brown bank vole, desperate, disturbed by Lily downstream in the watercress bed, mole hunting. The little vole swims wildly up the tiny grassy stream, uphill, against the current... away from danger ...she can't do it....at last she does! She paddles fast across the deep pool under the hedge where the current is not so strong, and scrambles into a hole in the bank between green mossy stones hung with wall pennywort and dry beech leaves. Safe at last, this time. Bank voles, along with mice, are the main prey species of many birds and animals, such as stoats and cats, and the tawny owls in Bluebell's wood. They have a reddish brown coat, and shorter tails and smaller, rounder ears than mice, and plumper faces.





FARMING LIFE, BY HAYSEED

“Half your corn and half your hay should still be in place by Candlemas Day”. That old saying goes back over 200 years and is as important today as it was then. I mentioned it before but the 1st of February is looked upon as half way through the winter period. Livestock have still got to be fed and it is a long way off yet before farmers will have any grass to turn them out to.

Winter Feeding is a full time job but there are also other jobs that need doing on the farm. Most farms have machinery and this time of year is also a good time to service it. Although tractors are very advanced these days, its quite surprising what can be done - mind you all Hayseed can do is pump up the tyres! Farm Machinery also needs attention and the plough shears need changing and new tines need fixing to the cultivator. The corn drill also needs servicing before we want to use it for spring drilling. By the time you read this all the farm's grassland is in the process of being chain harrowed. This aerates the grass plant and lightly cultivates the soil structure. After that some of the fields will be spread with lime and good old FYM (I have also mentioned that before!). This will keep up the pH content of the grass plant and soil structure.

Farming goes on and remember, there is nothing quite like British!

'Til next time

Hayseed

POLE POSITION

It may not have escaped your attention that the flag at the top of St. Peter's Church in Lamerton changes rather regularly. Some flags are flown for specific events, Saints days or occasions but in particular the Union Flag is flown on the following days in the coming months

6th February	Her Majesty's Accession
8th March	Commonwealth Day
10th March	Earl of Wessex's birthday
<i>Other days</i>	
8th February	New Zealand Day
1st March	St. David's Day
5th March	St. Piran's Day
17th March	St. Patrick's Day

If you do spot a flag and want more information about it and why it was flying then feel free to email parishnewsmag@gmail.com and it will be passed on to the Chief Bunting Tosser (and mate at present)

Fun evenings with friends

Across the Benefice we want to be able to link up with each other socially, we are not fundraising, there are no entry fees and no raffles! The organiser of each evening may ask for voluntary donations to their chosen charities, which are entirely discretionary.

So...

Beat the lockdown blues and join in with two Fun Fridays in February:

12th February Annie Jefferies invites you to: A Valentine's Wine Tasting Evening

Annie will deliver a red, a white and a rose wine to you in advance of the evening and at 7pm on the 12th February Annie will host a Zoom tasting of the wines with a wine quiz.

In order to cover the cost of the wine there is a charge of £20 for the three bottles; there will also be half bottles available at a total of £10

Annie's Charity - Being so close to Valentine's Day - The British Heart Foundation

19th February Joy McSmythurs invites you to: A Pointless Evening

A Zoom version of the popular TV quiz show with prizes for knowing the obscure ... with other random prizes acknowledging the wooden spooners, the bizarre and hilarious....

The evening will start at 7pm on Zoom, there is no cost to join, although on the evening Joy would be very grateful for donations to Breast Cancer Now

For more information or to join in, please call
Annie 01822 614178 or Joy 01822 860630



John Taylor & Co

Milton Abbot Church Bell Frame Project Update

It is with excitement that we have at last made a great start to replacing the rotten bell frame in Milton's Church. Thanks to a legacy and fundraising we have paid just over £30,000 being the first third required to secure the quote for the work to be done by well-known bell restorers, Taylor's of Loughborough.

We now need to find the next £15,000 in order for Taylor's to come down to the village and bring down the bells. Hopefully, this will be later this year, and lockdown restrictions permitting there will be an opportunity to see the bells before they are taken away for restoration. We will also video the work as it progresses.

Because the wooden bell frame is in such a poor state and for safety reasons, the bells can now only be occasionally rung, so it is crucial we try and find the money to enable this work to be carried out.

Those that know me having grown up at Milton, knew my Father, Bob Lovell who was a very keen bell ringer as was most of his brothers who used to ring at nearby Bradstone as boys living at Bawcombe. So, I very much want to achieve this goal in memory of all those who have gone before us, and so the bells can be enjoyed for future generations to come.

As you can appreciate fundraising is not easy in our current situation and so is reliant on different ways of raising money. Two of the best ways to help us would be to consider making a donation to the church or to regularly give via our Parish Giving Scheme which is extremely easy to sign up to. If you are a taxpayer, we are able to claim gift aid on these donations and would give us an extra 25% on top of each donation.

Please come forward and help us. We are only a few trying to achieve this ambitious but essential project, and so if you could help financially we would truly thank you.

Pat Lovell

matreasurer@southtamar.church

Parish News Deadlines

Issue covering the months of	Deadline for submissions	To advertise events taking place in
April and May 2021	15 March 2021	April 2021 onwards

Due to the lead time on printing the magazine the deadline will be set at the 15th for forthcoming editions to enable it to reach you in good time.



Marystowe second-hand Books

With over 800 books we really think we can help with all your literary needs.

As always our catalogue of books is on the South Tamar Mission Community website, Facebook page and the Chillaton Website. If you would like a copy sent to you please contact us.

Unless otherwise noted in the catalogue all books are 50p, although, as we deliver the books, we are asking for a minimum donation of £1 for up to two books, or five for a minimum of £2. All proceeds go to the Church in Marystowe: volunteers carry out all deliveries, collection and sorting.

Please do call Joy if you would like to talk about the stock and have help with ideas for presents – but here are some thoughts:-

- *Autobiographies* – from Rio Ferdinand to the Military Wives
- *Cookery* – Vintage Mrs Beeton to up to date classics like Rick Stein
- *History* – Jambusters (the story of the WI and the war) to Imagined Corners (exploring the World's first Atlas)
- *Sport* – Anyone for tennis (the Telegraph book of Wimbledon) to 101 ways to win at Scrabble
- *Vintage* – Poetry collections and Classic novels to Peter Scott's beautifully illustrated book on birds

And don't forget to treat yourself – revisit Poldark? Get immersed in a Ruth Rendell? Or try a new author.

SAFETY NOTICE

Please note the books are kept in the Church (which is currently always locked) and, at present, are only handled by Joy and Andy McSmythurs and Barbara Dawe.

All books are quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours before being added to the stock.

Contact: Joy McSmythurs 01822 860630 or
joy.mcsmythurs@btinternet.com

A BIG THANK YOU FROM CAMPLEHAYE & VENN HOUSE

Both Homes were delighted with the Christmas gift bags that we gave to the residents at Christmas. I was very grateful to Barbara Meikle, Josie Whitfield, Margaret Green and Julie Hibbert who made the most beautiful hand held Crosses and Angels, they were made of wool or crocheted and were just lovely . All done with great care and love. One lady at Camplehaye apparently loved her cross so much that she took it to bed with her - perfect!

The coloured gift bags also included diabetic chocolates, a large print copy of The Lords Prayer, words to Away in a Manger, a prayer card and most importantly a letter for each resident, Christmas card and poem from the Children at Lamerton School. Kelly did a wonderful poem on Covid Times, thank you Kelly and to you all for your kindness.

I must also thank Josie Whitfield who put together 3 days worth of a small outdoor Christmas tableau for the residents at Venn, including a synopsis of the Nativity Story and carols for each day. The residents at Venn seemed to enjoy it immensely despite the fact that we had to stand in the rain! On the 3rd day Rev. Andy Atkins came along with his family to give the residents a Christmas Blessing, followed by Father Christmas and his able helper May Atkins, who handed over the gift bags to Angie, the Manager, through an open window.....

Thank you to everyone who joined in, Mary (Jenny Green), Joseph (Josie) and a King (Julie Hibbert), plus our few but gusty carol singers, Andy and Father Christmas (Mike).

Also to Barbara and Shona who delivered the gift bags to Camplehaye.

Now all we need to do is think how we might cheer up the residents and allow them to somehow engage with the Easter message! Any ideas, do please contact me .

Annie Jefferies
01822 614178

PS The gift bags were put together by one person masked and gloved. The bags then sat in a garage for 48 hours before being delivered. All carol singing was done outside (in the rain) and socially distanced!





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E-mail: mike.jefferies5@btinternet.com to discuss your advertising needs

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EDITOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

Email: parishnewsmag@gmail.com

Tim Culverhouse, Lower Barton, Lamerton, Tavistock, PL19 8RR
01822 616799

To enable me to include as much content as possible I would appreciate it if you could, when submitting adverts, content and event listings, send them through ideally in a word or editable format so that I can ensure the best fit within the magazine. If in doubt send them through in word and PDF.

In the main, events advertised in A6 landscape will be able to be placed on a half page. Adverts which are A5 portrait invariably either require a whole page or a quarter of a page which can be (for some) too small to read)...your assistance and contributions are, as always, much appreciated.

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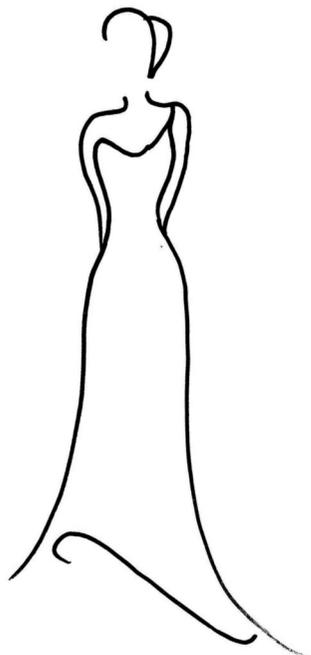
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CHURCH SERVICES - February 2021

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 7 Feb <i>2nd Sunday before Lent (Green)</i>	11am	Morning Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Sunday 14 Feb <i>Sunday next before Lent (Green)</i>	11am	Morning Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Wednesday 17 Feb <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	6pm	Ash Wednesday Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Sunday 21 Feb <i>1st Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	11am	Morning Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Sunday 28 Feb <i>2nd Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	11am	Morning Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/

The Pastoral Care Team within our Benefice

At this particularly challenging time, the pastoral care team is there for you - to offer time, company and a listening ear in times of loneliness, bereavement or health problems. We can also offer prayer.

If you would like to see a pastoral care visitor or discuss this in more detail please contact

Rev Andy Atkins: 01822 870298
email: vicar@southtamar.church

CHURCH SERVICES - March 2021

Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 7 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	11am	Morning Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Sunday 14 March <i>Mothering Sunday (Purple)</i>	11am	Mothering Sunday Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Sunday 21 March <i>5th Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	11am	Morning Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Sunday 28 March <i>Palm Sunday (Red)</i>	11am	Palm Sunday Service	www.southtamar.church/live-services/
Thursday 1 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	For Details of our Easter Services please go to: https://www.southtamar.church/our-services/		
Friday 2 April <i>Good Friday</i>			
Saturday 3 April <i>Easter Eve</i>			
Sunday 4 April <i>Easter Sunday</i>			