

PARISH NEWS

FOR THE BENEFICE OF:
CHILLATON, CORYTON,
DUNTERTON, LAMERTON, MARYSTOWE,
MILTON ABBOT AND
SYDENHAM DAMEREL.



South Tamar
Mission Community

FEBRUARY
& MARCH

PRICE: £1

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Milton Abbot Head Teacher: Debbie Buckingham 870273

Diary Dates

Event	February	March
Coffee Mornings		
Lamerton coffee mornings, Community Centre, 10.30 - 12pm	3, 17	2, 16, 23
Sydenham Damerel from 10.30am	3	2
Coffee and Company, Priest's Room, Lamerton 10 - 12pm	9, 23	8, 22
Church and other events		
Lent Course, Priests Room at St Peter's Lamerton, 7pm	20, 27	5, 12, 19, 26
A Night at the Races, Lamerton Village Hall, 7pm	23	
Walking with God; Walks between our Churches. Details pages 20/21. 10am	17, 24	2, 9, 16
Lamerton Point - to - Point; Kilworthy, Brentor. First race 1pm		17

**Magazine deadline for April/May 2024 edition is
end of day: ***Saturday 9th March 2024*****

Thank you for your timely submissions - they are gratefully appreciated.

Rev'd Phill Parker, The Rectory, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4DN.

Tel: 01566 783498 Email: curate@southtamar.church



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you have been able to find some rest from all the busyness of Christmas and are finding a peaceful rhythm for this new season.

Lent is a season of reconciliation, of preparation, and of discipline. In keeping with those themes, we have a Lent Course which looks to explore how we can be part of a thriving church in a multi-parish context.

The Thrive Course from CPAS has very good reviews and a proven track record on supporting new life and growth in churches, so we hope you will join us for the course, which will start on 20th February (see magazine advert for details).

To mark the start of Lent itself, we will be holding an Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion at St Peter's, Lamerton, at 10am.

As with previous years, this service will involve the imposition of ashes where, if you choose, you may come forward to receive the sign of the cross in the ashes created from the burning of last year's palm crosses. This is an outward sign of our inward repentance and a symbol of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

Easter just makes it into March in our calendar this year, so it is my pleasure to share this letter with you for both Lent and Easter.

In my Christmas addresses at Dunterton and Marystowe, I spoke of how the Nativity story of a birth in a stable is a charming one, but as a story alone it offers little sense of "why", that might explain why it is still being celebrated 2,000 years later by millions of people. Any decent writer will tell you that a complete story requires a beginning, a middle and an end, and truly Christmas is just the beginning, not a story in itself. Through Epiphany, we start to see the middle unfold as Jesus is baptised, receives the Holy Spirit and begins His earthly ministry, and we try to unpack His teachings and disciplines for ourselves through Lent. Holy Week, from Palm Sunday onwards, is the beginning of the end, as we journey with Jesus to the Cross on Good Friday. Then the cliffhanger, the suspense, of Easter Saturday; the world paused in disbelief that the Messiah should be dead... But finally, the truly wonderful ending to the greatest story ever told – on Easter Day the cry rings out of "Alleluia!" as we celebrate the risen Christ. I do hope that you will turn the pages with us, as we go through this season in our churches together, proclaiming the Good News once more.

***With every blessing,
Rev'd Phill***

PS – A heartfelt thanks from Morag and me for all the warm wishes, cards and gifts we have received from you all on the birth of our son, Jude. Thank you all for your kindness.



South Tamar Mission Community

There are several ways to keep up to date with events, or to get in touch with the Vicar and Churchwardens

Our website: <http://www.southtamar.church>

Our Facebook page: @southtamarmission

e-mail: vicar@southtamar.church

tel: 01822 870298

COFFEE & COMPANY



Come and join us for a coffee, some cake, and chit chat or a board game.

Every other Friday, 10am-12pm, at the Priest Room (Chapel) by St Peter's Church, Lamerton.

Everyone welcome!

After the success of the Warm Hub, several people wished to carry on meeting and wanted more people to come along too, so we have relaunched as Coffee & Company.

Coffee & Company will be on the alternate week to the village coffee morning that takes place on a Saturday every other week, but do check the church calendar regularly as it doesn't always follow an exact alternating pattern: www.southtamar.church/calendar/

We would love you to join us.

Mid-week Holy Communion



**Every Wednesday morning at 10 am
in the Priests room at Lamerton**

The service is a quiet, reflective said service of Holy Communion. The perfect opportunity to re-charge your spiritual batteries.



**With Tea, coffee and
cake afterwards.**

BIBLE READINGS (Year B)

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

DATE	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 4th February Creation Sunday (Green)	Proverbs 8.1, 8.22-31	Colossians 1.15 - 20	John 1.1 –14
Sunday 11th February The Sunday next before Lent (Green)	2 Kings 2.1 - 12	2 Corinthians 4.3 - 6	Mark 9.2 - 9
Sunday 18th February The First Sunday of Lent (Purple)	Genesis 9.8 - 17	1 Peter 3.18 - 22	Mark 1.9 - 15
Sunday 25th February The Second Sunday of Lent (Purple)	Genesis 17.1 - 7, 17. 15 - 16	Romans 4.13 - 25	Mark 8.31 - 38
Sunday 3rd March The Third Sunday of Lent (Purple)	Exodus 20.1 - 17	1 Corinthians 1.18 - 25	John 2.13 - 22

BIBLE READINGS (Year B)			
DATE	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday (Purple)	Exodus 2.1 - 10	2 Corinthians 1.3 - 7	Luke 2.33 - 35
Sunday 17th March The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Purple)	Jeremiah 31.31 - 34	Hebrews 5.5 - 10	John 12.20 - 33
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday (Red)	Isaiah 50.4 - 9a	Philippians 2.5 - 11	Mark 14.1 - end of 15
Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday (White)	Exodus 12.1 - 4 [5 - 10], 12. 11 - 14	1 Corinthians 11.23 - 26	John 13.1 - 17, 13.31b - 35
Saturday 30th March Easter Eve (White)	Job 14.1 - 14	1 Peter 4.1 - 8	Matthew 27.57 - end
Sunday 31st March Easter Day (White)	Acts 10.34 - 43	1 Corinthians 15.1 - 11	John 20.1 - 18

The readings conclude with ***'This is the Word of the Lord'***,
the response is ***'Thanks be to God'***.

February and March church services are on the back cover.

Join our LENT COURSE for 2024



Do you long for our churches to grow and thrive?

The Thrive Course is especially aimed at churches in multi-parish contexts, to help them all develop with their own distinct characters, while getting the best from being part of a wider mission community. The course will look at:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Prayer | 2) The Stories of our Churches |
| 3) Developing Leaders | 4) Growing Disciples |
| 5) Sharing Faith | 6) Vision for the Future |

If you want to join us in seeking new ways to thrive, come to the course each Tuesday at 7pm, between 20th February and 26th March, in the Priest Room at St Peter's Church, Lamerton.

Any questions, please contact Rev'd Phill Parker - email: curate@southtamar.church - tel: 01566 783498

All Saint's Church, Dunterton

Christmas Day Service – We were delighted to sign off 2023 with Holy Communion on the morning of Christmas Day, our first Holy Communion since Easter 2022.

A congregation of 38 enjoyed the celebration of Christ's birth, ably led by Rev. Philip, and the opportunity to catch up with friends both before and after the service.



Many thanks to many for the support given before and during the service in preparing the communion, especially laying up the altar and side table.

Words such as 'corporal, purificator, pall and lavabo' were a new experience!

A huge thank you for all the contributions to the cleaning and decoration of the church which looked beautiful.



All Saint's Church Dunterton in 2024

Readers will remember that the future of our church was uncertain at the end of 2022.

We have been delighted at how the community has worked together over the last 12 months to reinvigorate the church and its activities. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us during this time.

Whilst we await formal confirmation, we believe that we have successfully evidenced the need for the church to remain open and have agreed the below dates for 2024 services.

We will be continuing our programme of community events as well – further details will be available in the April/May magazine.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to join our Friends of Dunterton Church group, or have any suggestions as to what they would like to see from the church in the future, please do drop us an email at: duntertonfriends@gmail.com

SERVICES AT DUNTERTON CHURCH – DATE & TIME	
Sunday 7th April	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 5th May	11am
Sunday 21st July	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 6th October	11am
Sunday 3rd November	11am
Wednesday 25th December	11am Holy Communion

Derek Youds



St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

It seems odd to be talking about Christmas in the Easter edition!

We did have a happy Christmas in Sydenham Damerel. A Christmas tree was put up in the centre of the village, Twinkling in all

weathers, while a life-sized Father Christmas took up residence in the telephone box!

A familiar and much-loved sight is the Christmas lights draped around the church tower, which cheer us all up until they come down at Candlemas in February.

Twelve lovely volunteers helped dress the church with greenery and a little sparkle and St Mary's looked magnificent.

The decorations were a fabulous backdrop for the Christmas Quiz, the first of our festive events, that provided an evening of mirth, merriment and music and raised a magnificent £346 to be split evenly between St Mary's and the Devon Air Ambulance.

A huge thanks to everyone who helped make this such a successful evening.

This was followed by the monthly Coffee morning for the festive One Hundred Club Draw (numbers still available to buy...!).

We then had a wonderful Carol Service.

St Mary's was absolutely packed, the bells called the village into church and there was the most beautiful four-day old baby there too - so fitting.

Rousing carols were sung; there were beautiful poems and readings; and mince pies and mulled wine were served as everyone chatted at the end.

A lovely way to welcome Christmas to our little Sydenham Damerel community.

We also raised a much appreciated £145 for the Shekinah homeless charity.

But hasn't the weather been foul? Such a grey, wet Christmas period was followed by storms and quite a lot of damage. Luckily, before the weather truly kicked in, the roof of the belltower in St Marys was repaired by some hardy workmen, trudging up and down the spiral staircase with buckets of sand and cement. The lead flashing is in place and it was all checked for leaks.

Unfortunately, a huge tree came down blocking the road in the village taking down the telephone line and causing a broadband outage around Townlake and Horsebridge for some considerable time.

However, this has all been fixed and no-one was hurt. Once the weather relented another wonderful team of volunteers dramatically improved the entrance to the North entrance of the church making access so much easier.

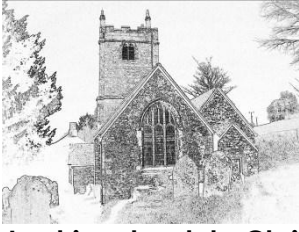
Thank you all.

A development plan is being prepared for St Mary's to help utilise St Mary's as a comfortable, flexible, community space and all parishioners are being consulted.

We will keep everyone updated as to our progress as we need to apply for Faculty permission.

We will be having a Communion Service in St Mary's on Easter Sunday and look forward to welcoming as many people as possible.





St. Andrew's, Coryton

Looking back to Christmas

It feels strange to be talking about Christmas when Lent will soon start and Easter is covered in this issue of the Parish News; this new year is already flying by! But, back to Christmas which was celebrated at St Andrew's with a well-attended service of lessons and carols followed by a service on Christmas morning with a large congregation including lots of children many of whom came forward to help light the candles on the Advent Wreath. Richard Searight LLM, who led the service, was truly inspired in how he handled the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath - a bit reminiscent of the feeding of the five thousand! Every child in the queue went back to their seat happy to have participated, except perhaps one little girl who did not seem to want to give up the pink candle she had been clutching. Many thanks to all who helped decorate the church and set up the wonderful tree.

The Bells of St Andrew's

rang out over the Lyd valley on a beautiful January morning as a group of 17 bell ringers from Monmouthshire rang our church bells for a full half hour as part of their tour of Devon churches. The PCC is grateful for the visitors' donation to church funds.



New Services Rota

For the next few months, services on both the second and fourth Sundays of the month will be Evensong at 6.30pm as evening services appear to be more popular than those held in the morning. This will be reviewed regularly and any thoughts on this new rota will be most welcome.



Easter Services are advertised elsewhere in the Parish News.

St. Mary's Church, Marystowe



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Snowdrops are beginning to show in the Churchyard at Marystowe, and we had a lovely Plough Sunday for our first 2024 service.

We will be pruning the apple trees

in the Churchyard during January so there are signs of life and hope up at the top of the hill.

Before we move on from 2023 we do want to say a massive thank-you to everyone who supported us last year, and in particular for our Christmas evening on 16th December.

We raised over £1,100 through the raffle, sales of programmes, Christmas Cards, donations, and adoption of the bears.

The bears represented real life stories of children who have been helped by The Children's Society over 140 years. All bears now have homes and the donations alone towards the bears raised £400. As with previous years, we support The Children's Society at Christmas, and the proceeds are shared; we are very pleased that this year over half of the proceeds will be passed to this wonderful Charity.



There is a separate article providing a Critic's view of the evening in the magazine, but can we thank: -

Lifton Singers and Leslie Mazur-Park

Lewtrenchard WI

Carol Martin

Barbara Dawe

Trudi Bates

Morag Parker

Reverend

Guy Talbot

Andy Atkins

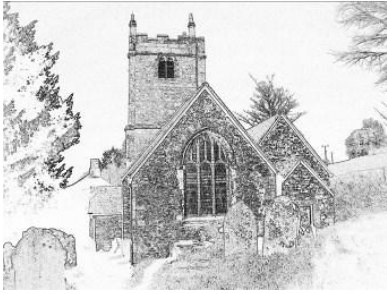
Mike Jeffries

Annie Jefferies

Magaret Dunn

Colin Dunn

And everyone who came along, bought raffle tickets or donated to a bear.



St. Constantine's Church, **Milton Abbot**

As you may be aware, we have taken the decision to move our services during January and February into the Priest's Room at Lamerton, where we will be warm and cosy.

Hopefully it will not be too long before we are able to welcome you back into a warm church in Milton Abbot but, in the meantime, if you have any queries or would like a lift to Lamerton for our services please do give me a ring (01822 870642).

The format of the services and times will remain unchanged.

Our Bells & Strings Evening on 25th November raised £300 towards the cost of the new heating system.

Our thanks go to the Lamerton Handbell Ringers and Barry's Shed Ukulele Band, who have us a varied and very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Thanks also to Coryton for the loan of their space heaters.

Our next fundraiser will be an Evening at the Races, to be held jointly with Lamerton in the Lamerton Community Centre on Friday 23rd February – see elsewhere in this issue for how to book.

This is always a fun and popular evening, so don't leave it too late to book!

Liz Padmore



St. Peter's Church, Lamerton

It was extremely rewarding to see all our Christmas services so well attended. Over fifty brave souls came to our Advent Carols at Theale all warmly attired to sit in a draughty barn which was well decorated thanks to Richard, Norman, and

Robert.

Lamerton Hand Bell Ringers joined us to play several carols- many thanks to Val for organising them. The evening finished with mulled wine and Carol's delicious mince pies.

The school Christmas play was once again a



very riotous affair with a frolicking cow/bullock played by Ruben. Having witnessed a rehearsal, I am amazed how Chris and Sue control such a lively bunch of children and put on such an enjoyable play - a real credit to the school.



The church was packed with parents and grandparents who thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Many thanks to Andy for the Longest Night Service at Milton Abbot - a

beautiful and moving service.

Our Carol Service again gave us the opportunity to get together for a chat afterwards fortified by mince pies and cider!

At our first service of the New Year, we celebrated Plough Sunday.

It comes at a time when we are starting to think of planting our crops and producing food for the coming year and celebrates the hard work our farmers put in to feed us. Phill gave us a very thought-provoking sermon and blessed a set of plough shares which were round the font.



Please remember and put in your diary our future events:-

Horse Racing 23rd Feb
and a Salsa Evening 26th April.
Both at Lamerton Village Hall.



we listen* **Safeguarding News**

We're here
to help!

Call for all of those PCC Members Open the Book volunteers and Pastoral Care visitors, who do not have a DBS check in place already, to contact their Safeguarding Rep to arrange this. Checks must be renewed every 3 years.

Contact your safeguarding rep to arrange this.

Lamerton: Julie Hibbert; 01822 618221;
julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com

Sydenham Damerel: Janet Giles; JLGiles89@yahoo.co.uk

Milton Abbot/Dunterton: Susan Champion;
Susanchampion41@gmail.com

Coryton: Jane Vicat; 01822 860254; janevicat@gmail.com

Marystowe: Anita Townsend; 01822 860123;
Mongoosemoondaisy12@gmail.com

If you are concerned for the immediate safety of someone, dial 999

Training news

You can always access safeguarding training online at:
<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>.

Lucky Lamerton Lottery!

The winning numbers are:

December 2023 – 44

January 2024 – 27



*and the
Winner is..*

Congratulations to our winners

And a big thank you for purchasing lottery tickets for 2023/24.

All proceeds go towards St Peters Church, Lamerton.



A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

Spring Cleaning

Spring is such a wonderful time of the year. The temperature begins to warm and the world begins to take on a fresh new look. The trees start to put on leaves, the grass begins to turn green, and the flowers start to bloom. Everything is beautiful! There are other things that tell us that spring is here too. For one thing, many people have started their spring cleaning.

Spring is a good time to give your house a good going over and clean everything up and get rid of a lot of junk that you don't need.

This is a story about a time when Jesus did some spring cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus travelled to Jerusalem. When he arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple. He couldn't believe his eyes. There in the temple area he saw people who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves for the people to use as sacrifices in the temple. There were tables set up for money changers so that people could change their money to pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a carnival than a house of worship.

Jesus did not like what he saw. He was so angry that he made a whip from some rope and he drove the cattle and sheep and those who were selling them from the temple. He went to the tables of the money changers and turned them over, scattering coins all



over the temple floor. To the ones who were selling the doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market." Yes, Jesus certainly did some spring cleaning in the temple that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we should also think about some other cleaning that needs to be done. We are in a season called Lent. At first, the word Lent meant 'the season of spring'. But it has now become much more than that. It is a time to look inside ourselves and see if there is anything in us that needs to be changed. Are there some areas of our lives where Jesus needs to do some 'spring cleaning'?

Dear Jesus, during this time when we think of 'spring cleaning', we ask you to forgive us when we do wrong and to make us clean. Amen.

Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N
 H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V
 A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S
 N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C
 G T T T L U I E C G K L S G A
 E E S E E Q N D T T A E N X T
 R C O M J D O V E S L I S B T
 S R B P S B B G U B L E P R E
 H D G L G Z N R A L E E I X R
 J L R E Y I E T E Z E I W E E
 P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D
 E E W T V J N M S E H K I W V
 W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z
 N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S
 K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS

A Story on the Theme of Forgiveness

The Story of the Grumpy Bear

Once upon a time, there was a grumpy bear who lived in a cave in the mountains. He was always angry and never liked to play with the other animals in the forest. He would often snap at anyone who came near him, and they all feared him.



The grumpy bear was always angry because he felt like he didn't get enough attention from his friends in the forest. He thought they didn't appreciate him and would often lash out at them with angry growls and snarls. His grumpiness made him isolated and he spent most of his time alone, with no one to talk to.

One day, a group of friendly animals decided to approach the grumpy bear to try and befriend him. They knew he was unhappy and wanted to help. The bear, however, chased them away, growling angrily.

The next day, the same group of animals came back to the grumpy bear's cave, bringing him some sweet berries to eat. The bear was surprised but still angry. He snatched the berries from their paws and warned them to stay away.

Despite the bear's rude behaviour, the animals didn't give up. They continued to bring him gifts every day, hoping to show him kindness and love. Eventually, the bear started to soften up and realized that he had been wrong. He had been so angry and miserable that he had pushed everyone away.

One day, the bear apologized to the animals and asked for their forgiveness. The animals, who had been hurt by the bear's behaviour, forgave him and welcomed him into their community.

The grumpy bear learned that forgiveness can bring peace and happiness. He realized that holding grudges and being angry all the time only made him miserable and lonely. By forgiving the animals who had wronged him, he was able to let go of his anger and move on.

He also learned that it takes courage to admit when you're wrong and ask for forgiveness. And most importantly, he discovered that true friends will always forgive you and stand by your side, no matter what.

From that day on, the grumpy bear was never grumpy again. He played with the other animals, laughed, and had fun. He realized that forgiveness is a powerful thing, and it can bring happiness and love into your life.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MARYSTOWE



UPDATE ON SERVICES UP TO EASTER

Marystowe Church has, generally, two services a month. The first Sunday of the month is Holy Communion, and the third Sunday is Morning Praise.

We began 2024 with Plough Sunday, our regular Holy Communion service also included prayers and blessing of the tractor to acknowledge the Church agricultural calendar. We have looked at our pattern of services and nearly all coincide with a date that we wish to recognise through prayer focus, preaching, hymns, church decoration and even in some cases refreshment. The underlying basis of the services will continue unchanged with the additional reflection for the coming weeks of:

4th February Holy Communion Creation

Sunday 18th February Morning Praise - Love - inspired by St Valentine

3rd March Holy Communion World Wildlife Day

17th March Morning Praise St Patrick's Day

Our Easter Sunday service will be retimed to be able to witness early morning sunrise over Dartmoor, from the orchard to the East of the Church. Please watch out for information on how to order your



South Tamar Mission Community Walking With God

20



Lent is not just about giving up chocolate

...take time to reflect on life.

You are very welcome to join a series of walks between our Churches and help to create a Devon Pilgrim Way through our beautiful Benefice.

17th February ~

Marystowe
to
Coryton



24th February ~

Coryton
to
Lamerton



2nd March ~

Lamerton
to
Sydenham Damerel



9th March ~

Sydenham Damerel
to
Milton Abbot



16th March ~

Milton Abbot
to
Marystowe



We are very sorry but, due to the main road, we are unable to include Dunterton, but they do have their own beautiful walk later in the year.

We will be walking on Saturday mornings starting at 10am through Lent.

Every walk will be on public roads and paths. Each walk is one way, so we can arrange 'doubling' of cars unless anyone is happy to walk both ways.

All pictures have lovely blue sky – but we have one spare Saturday in Lent in case the weather defeats even the most intrepid of us.

We will be chatting, enjoying the wonderful countryside, admiring the dogs walking with us, and also allowing each other space to relish the peace and time to reflect.



It's good to journey with others and share stories and community, but also spend some time walking in silence.

When we're quiet and contemplative, we see things, we hear things, we're present to life in a different kind of way.

To be a pilgrim is to be a wanderer on an unbroken journey with a purpose, to a holy site or to somewhere of significance to us personally.

We are all pilgrims, seeking to nurture our souls - an unbroken journey to the source of all life, it's good to undertake such a journey.

Please do contact us if you would like to join in – or just turn up...

But if we know you are coming we will have enough biscuits !

Harry (the Spaniel) McSmythurs c/o – joy.mcsmythurs@btinternet.com
01822 860630

Harry (the Lab) Jefferies c/o - annie.jefferies@btinternet.com
01822 614178



Puzzle Page



WHO AM I?

I led Israelites out of Egypt and went up Mount Sinai alone. I came back down with 10 commandments written on two tablets of stone.

Who am I?

(see answer at bottom of page)

The Beatitudes

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)



S T H I R S T G V H M Q B U S
 T O D O Y R G P R E E O A F L
 K T T Q O M Y L B Z J A U M K
 X D A O M H U N G E R W V R Z
 P L P N F U R W Y I D T X E N
 E U E J M E R C Y A I M E M N
 G B R W S P U L E R I S E N B
 N C H E P B W D E I E D D U K
 K H E E I T K H V G Q E R N I
 T Q A R R Y N O F Y S E Y C N
 E N R Y I I H H N S V N K W G
 M A T S T J P L E S E C N A D
 E U R P F I L L E D D I X N O
 E Z F T H S B P X R I P L Q M
 K Z H U H U C J L H O H C M R

KINGDOM	MERCY	EARTH	FILLED	MOURN
HUNGER	HEART	SPIRIT	BLESSED	INHERIT
THIRST	MEEK	PURE	POOR	HEAVEN

Marking the Agricultural Year



One of the things that particularly marks out the South Tamar Mission Community as special, is the landscape in which our churches sit.

We are a collection of distinctly rural parishes, so this year we are doing more to celebrate the traditional agricultural year in the Church of England calendar.

It was great to mark Plough Sunday at Marystowe and Lamerton on 7th January, but we didn't have many farmers there to share the blessings with.

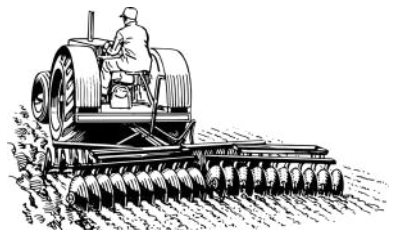
If your friends and neighbours are involved with the life of the countryside around us, do please invite them to join us at these services, as we would love to bless them through these festivals:

Creation Sunday – 4 th February 2024 – giving thanks for the breadth and wonders of creation as we see the early signs of spring emerging, and thinking about creation care.

Rogationtide – 5-8 th May 2024 – praying for the growth of the freshly sown seeds, and thinking about communities, fellowship and good relations between neighbours.

Lammastide – 1-4 th August 2024 – celebrating the first fruits of the harvest and asking for God's blessing over the harvest season.

Harvest Festivals – October 2024 – giving thanks for the harvest gathered in, and for those whose hands provided it.



Church Services over the Easter Period March 2024



Date	Time	Location	Service
Monday 25th March	6:30pm	St Peter's Lamerton	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 26th March	7pm	Sydenham Damerel	TAIZE
Wednesday 27th March	10am	St Peter's Lamerton	Holy Communion
Thursday 28th March	6:30pm	St Peter's Lamerton	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 29th March	11am	Leaving from Marystowe Church	Walk of Witness
Saturday 30th March	6:30pm	St Constantine & St Aegidius, Milton Abbot	Easter Eve
Sunday 31st March Easter Day	6:30am	Marystowe	Sunrise Service
	10:30am	Sydenham Damerel	Holy Communion/ Common Worship
	11am	St Peter's Lamerton	Holy Communion/ Common Worship
	11:15am	Coryton	Holy Communion/ Common Worship



Could you offer an hour or two a month to bring the Bible to life in our local schools?

Our 'Open the Book' teams are looking for new storytellers to help us share stories from the Bible with children in Lamerton and Lewtrenchard primary schools, and we have the potential to be sharing in another school in the mission community soon too, so we would really appreciate some new team members.

It is a lot of fun and the response from the children when they know the teams are coming in is always one of excitement. Volunteers typically do two afternoons a month, but once a month or every other month still helps us to have enough storytellers for the schools. There is training either in person or online, and the resources are provided.

If you are interested, please contact Rev'd Phill Parker to discuss safer recruitment details: 01566 783498 or curate@southtamar.church

A Book is for Life...

The bell tower bookshop at Marystowe is stocked from donations. Sometimes we know who has donated books, other times we have a reasonable idea, or sometimes they appear like magic.

In order to keep the books in good condition and easy to browse we do have to be selective. However no book is ever thrown away. We pass on books that are in poor condition to the local charity shops who can either sell, or benefit from sending the books for recycling. We also check the books to see if there are any that can be sold through eBay - and this can be surprising.

Since 2019 we have raised over £1,250 from selling books on eBay. Here are our top 10 results:



Sold for just under £20

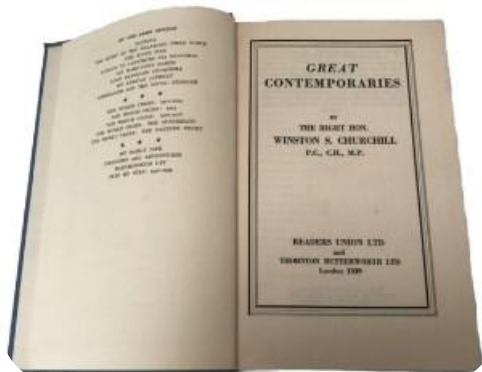
A lovely old illustrated book with its original dustcover. I had thought to put £1 in the honesty jar and take this one as a stocking filler present - but I checked and realised the value was too much for a stocking filler.



A coffee table book donated to us by an interior designer who was clearing out her office. There was only one offer - but a great price anyway.

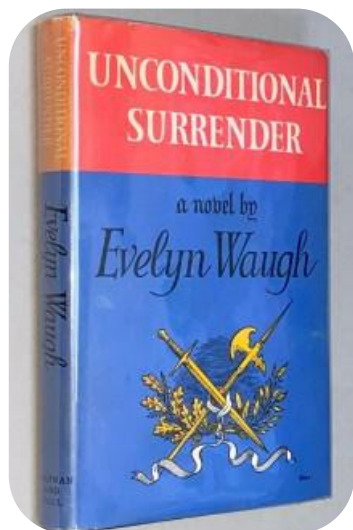


Sold for over £20 but just under £30



Although there are quite a few versions of this book available, our copy had some rarity value.

We were given a box of children's books and by sorting through we grouped them by series and nine of the Ladybird books sold for just over £25.



I love books, getting the bell tower sorted and now working on it with other bookworms is a delight.

However, there are not many thrills. Except for when you go through a bag of books left in the Church and find worn and battered but a **FIRST EDITION!**

Being donated a set of books is great, it is true that the sum of the parts is less than the whole...

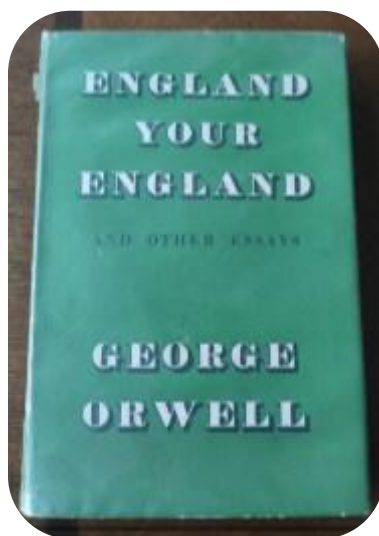


Sold for over £30 but less than £50



This collection of young person's fiction was unknown to me, because we had the set it was worth selling on eBay rather than passing to a Charity Shop.

Out of the same bag as Unconditional Surrender came this First Edition! The donor was anonymous so if they are reading this and recognising the books, we offer you our thanks.



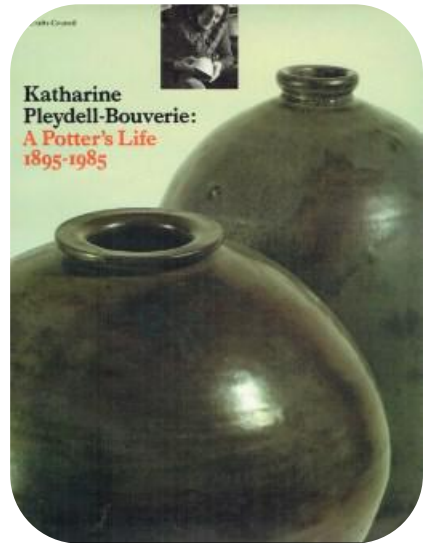


This was a beautiful leather-bound collection of poetry by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Sold for just under £100



This was one of the earliest eBay sales and the bidding was ferocious. The book had been with the Church for a while and, because of Lockdown, we began sorting out, and found this gem.



Please can we give a big thank you to everyone who donates books to Marystowe and reassure them that if they are not on the shelves when you pop in then they have either been sold already, passed to a Charity Shop, or perhaps produced a result for us on eBay.

A note of caution please – do not stop giving your books to us and image making enough money for a Caribbean Cruise through eBay – we have listed hundreds of items and only 1 in 4 sells, and the average price is just over £5.

Not every Frog is a Prince, not every book is a goldmine, but they all are loved anyway



Marystowe Books 2024

In Spring 2021 we moved our crates of books and puzzles into the Bell Tower at Marystowe. We have raised over £3,000 for the Church and hopefully given lots of pleasure to bookworms.

We do want to continue with the bookshop being so well used, and we have therefore embarked on a thorough review of the stock to make sure that there is a good turnover of titles, and it is easy to browse the shelves.

What's Changed? The books will be more clearly labelled with more space. We are going to be more disciplined in reviewing the stock to make sure new titles are clearly displayed; so, it is always worth a visit to be tempted for another book.

In addition, we are removing any books that look tired and damaged, this will give more space to ensure the stock remains in good condition. All surplus books are being donated to charity shops locally.

What's New? There will be a small table in the Bell Tower, changed regularly, to show recent arrivals and old favourites that we think deserve a good read.

We are also going to highlight some books that we have especially enjoyed reading and ask other readers to provide short reviews. We can then share the enthusiasm for great stories and authors. If you are donating (or returning) books to Marystowe that you have really enjoyed, please do think about letting us have a couple of sentences on the story or the author.

Can we still have Potluck reads?

Absolutely yes...if you are not a member then a quick reminder:

Every month you get a book selected for you from the bell tower. This will follow your broad preferences and, if you are local, be delivered to you. We do also choose books and send to people further afield, however a charge is made for postage. The cost is £10 for a year.

How much are the books? We ask for a minimum donation of 50p per paperback and £1 for hardbacks. There is an honestly jar in the bell tower.

Marystowe Arts Review

“The nativity play was a hoot”

“I cried with laughter”

“Everyone is raving about it”

The People have spoken and awarded:



This Critic is sad to report that, yet again, true taste and culture have been sacrificed for cheap laughs and fun.

Furthermore, it is with deep regret that it must be reported that the sad souls who attended the Marystowe evening on 16th December were equally to blame for lowering the tone.

The evening began with a telling of A Christmas Carol, which bore little resemblance to the classic Dickens story, but was at least shorter than the previous Zoom based renditions offered by the Cast.



Andrew McSmythurs as Bob Cratchit – at least he was only miming.

Mike Jefferies as Scrooge – if only enthusiasm were sufficient.

Annie Jefferies as The Ghost of Christmas Present – throwing sweets to the audience seemed a cheap way to get applause, and it says a lot about the evening that it worked.

Guy Talbot is shown in the top left – his narration was faultless, and showed great wisdom to avoid the ‘action’

Mike Jefferies – as above

Amy Harrowell as the Char woman – clearly under pressure to sink to the level of the other Marystowe Church warden

Reverend Andy as Old Joe – words fail



After this performance there was a brief respite from bad acting as the Lifton

Singers entertained with Christmas songs and carols; Lewtrenchard WI then gave a witty interpretation of Snow White before a well-earned interval, and this Critic certainly needed a rest.

The Lifton Singers then lulled everyone into a false sense of security with more music.

A pleasant pre-Christmas glow, helped by the delicious mince pies and sausage rolls provided by Carol and Barbara, and some more mulled wine, was beginning to settle this Critic.

But like all good things it must come to an end.

And Boy it came to an emergency stop!

Clearly believing they still had room to demonstrate their lack of talent, there was more “entertainment”.

The Marystowe Nativity sprung to life.

One can only wonder at how Guy Talbot was persuaded run around the Church in shorts, in December; presumably the engine revving noises gave him a sense of nostalgia as he now drives an electric car!

This critic understands that attempts are still being made to calm Cannon Tim who fell victim to the School Bully (Reverend Andy) demanding money as he had forgotten to bring his present of Gold as one of the Wise Men.



The bounds of good taste will prevail, and no further mention will be made of Annie Jefferies as the Angel of the Lord, nor of Amy Harrowell (Mary) and the donkey.

However, as they say, the people have spoken; the cheers, whistles, cries for more and standing ovation mean that it was a success, with over £1,100 raised for the Church and The Children’s Society.

There are already murmurings that this will be repeated next year, so this Critic strongly recommends as soon as tickets are released that you snap them up and form your own judgement.





*Latin American
Evening
A Taste of Cuba*

*Talk & Slideshow by Abel
Dance demonstration
&
Tuition*

**Friday 26th April
7.30pm**

**Lamerton sports and Community Centre
Light Refreshments - bring your own drinks**

**Tickets £10 in aid of St. Peter's Church
call Angela on 01 822 810 027**

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Find the Father!



Purely for a bit of fun, here is a little game to play.

I have called it '*Find the Father!*'

Loosely based on a popular book series (that has a tall character who wears a red and white striped hat), all you have to do is scrutinise the pages to see if you can find where Father Andy is hiding out in this issue!

No prizes; just for a giggle.

Answer in small font, upside down at the bottom of page 38.

Thanks for taking part, I hope you enjoy it and good luck!

Ed.



Lamerton Handbell Ringers



Following an extremely successful Festival in October, the team settled down to a lot of practice getting ready for their Xmas functions.

On 25th November the Team shared an event with The Ukulele Band in Milton Abbot Church helping to raise money for a new heating system.

1st December, on a bitterly cold night, the team played carols and

Xmas music for the Churches 'Advent Carols' held in the Barn at Theale.

A week later they joined forces with church members and Revd Andy leading Xmas Services at Venn and Camplehaye for the residents of these homes.

Lamerton Church carol Service followed the next Sunday with the team playing 2 favourite pieces of Xmas music - Mary's Boy Child and White Xmas.

A lovely well attended, relaxed occasion.

The last event leading up to Xmas was our usual visit to Tavistock Conservative Club on Xmas Eve. Once again we were made extremely welcome and supported well for our chosen charity for 2023. A total of £160 has now been sent to The Ronald Macdonald House Charity.

A date for your diary - the 2024 Handbell Festival will be held on Saturday 12 October.

Photos taken in Milton Abbot Church and Lamerton Church .



A Night at the Races

'The Lamerton Stakes'

A Horse racing evening in aid of Milton Abbot & Lamerton Churches



Friday 23rd February 7:00pm

Lamerton Village Hall

Cost: £5, includes entry, pasty and tea/coffee.
Please bring your own drinks too if you wish

A stake in a horse will cost £1 per race.

Booking is essential! For tickets, please contact Andy
on 01822 870298 or email vicar@southtamar.church

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, SYDENHAM DAMEREL
ONE HUNDRED CLUB

Drawn at 10:30am, Saturday 2nd December
 In the Church at our monthly coffee morning.

Tickets available from:

john.r.hearn19@gmail.com



Congratulations to December's winners:

1st prize ~ Mark Pratten

2nd Prize ~ Deborah Horsford

3rd Prize ~ Shiela Williams

Join the fun – you have to be in it to win it!

POLE POSITION

Please see below for the official Union Flag days for February & March:

February ~

- o 8th New Zealand Day



Commonwealth Flag

March ~

- o 1st St David's Day
- o 5th St Piran's Day
- o 10th Duke of Edinburgh's Birthday
- o 11th Commonwealth Day
- o 17th St Patrick's Day

Additionally, if anybody would like a tour of the Church Tower Lamerton, I would be happy to take them around & up!



GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG

The days are getting longer, buds are forming, and it could be warm-ish and sunny?

Hopefully, it's better than it was with all that wind, rain and cold. It's time to look forward to the gardening year! Time to get your seeds in a row.

Time to think what you want of your garden.

There are lots of jobs I should have tackled by now but the weather has interfered.

The wisteria needs pruning.

Two panes of glass in the greenhouse need replacing (thank you big gust of wind)!

The lavender still need the flower heads cutting back.

Finish pruning the gooseberries and the apples.

Those are only a few of my favourite things!

A few years ago I planted some Snowdrops under a tree. Snowdrops are lovely at this time of year and encourage the jealous daffodils into

flower. There were some snowdrops there already, but I wanted even more. I planted them 'in the green' as they say; not just bulbs but bulbs with leaves.

Alas, I think Cyril the Squirrel has had different ideas! He's young, has a few friends he loves to chase and play with.

He shouts loudly at the lady of the house if she goes to put the washing on

the line. He's obviously into horticulture because he's often to be seen digging in the grass or hopping across my beds. He's sure it's his garden, not mine. There could be a few other critters who have similar ideas too? Oh, well, we don't own our garden even it the deeds say we do.

We look after it - for other living things; including those wonderful flowers and vegetables.

Fashion, of course, is not just on the catwalk.

Some years ago houseplants were not that fashionable, now the RHS is strutting 'National Houseplant Appreciation Day!

Not only do houseplants brighten up a room, it's been proven that some houseplants are great for improving air quality and supporting health.

Expect to see an array of houseplants at our 2024 Flower Shows and get take-home ideas to elevate your indoor paradise.

You don't have to own a garden to be a gardener!

I wonder if Cyril has some of my plants in his nest? Enjoy your garden!



NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL



The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will poor robin do then?
Poor thing!

He'll sit in a barn,
To keep himself warm,
And hide his head under his wing.
Poor thing!

From: Songs for the Nursery 1805

In this weather it is hard to trust that spring will come with Easter too, at the end of March. Bluebell finds that an open fire and looking at pictures of spring flowers, in magazines and seed catalogues is a good way to cheer herself up in the dark days of winter. Hope springs from the sight of the first snowdrops, celandines, primroses and daffodils. The sun in winter casts long dark shadows from trees and hedgerows over the fields, even in the middle of the day.

A sign! Hope! Renewal! At harvest time last autumn, a little roe buck that Bluebell had been watching, covertly, all summer, was killed, probably running away from the combine harvester, in its haste and fear unable to jump through the hedge and bank with barbed wire. Its separated bones are still scattered at the field edge, its little skull half buried in the mud.

A few days ago, coming quietly round the corner of the same field, Bluebell surprised a new roe deer, (they are somehow always unexpected), in the middle of the field. It raised its head to look at her, then "jumped away on spring-loaded legs, like antelopes on the African savannah. This strange habit is known as stotting, from a Scots term meaning 'walk with a bounce'." As it departs the white patch on its backside shines like a beacon in the dim light of this dull winter's afternoon. [*Wonderland*, p58; Brett Westwood & Stephen Moss]. Bluebell cannot help but find her heart lifted by the sight, as if it were a Resurrection symbol of new life after death.

At the edge of the same field Bluebell surprised a fine fox, black tip to his tail, white chest, red-gold fur shining in the winter sun. In Farnham, at Christmas, Bluebell saw foxes almost every night in the street or gardens. They scramble over six foot fences, and the wild mating call of the Vixen can be heard.

In the Twelve Days of Christmas Carol, Bluebell was charmed to learn that the 'four calling birds' was originally 'four Colley birds'. Colley is an archaic West Country term for the colour black. It derives from the word 'coaly' meaning 'coal-coloured', and is sometimes spelt 'collie', as in the black (and white) dog of the same name. So colly bird simply means the blackbird. Another old name for the blackbird is oussel or ouzel, "The woosell cocke, so black of hew, with orange-tawny bill" [*Midsummer Night's Dream*; *W Shakespeare, (The Twelve Birds of Christmas; Stephen Moss).*]

When Spring comes "The earth laughs in flowers" *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*



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..... across our local Communities.



Anna Chaplains offer spiritual support to older people, wherever they may live, in their own homes , in care settings or for people living in sheltered accommodation.

Another way of describing this work is akin to giving pastoral care support. Anna Chaplaincy has a training built in (paid for by Exeter Diocese) which covers all skills required to be a volunteer chaplain. This includes, listening skills, learning in more details about the ageing process and talking through issues such as dementia management.

Rev'd Andy our local incumbent is very positive about this model of giving spiritual support, and would happily have a conversation with anyone who is interested in working more closely with elderly people.

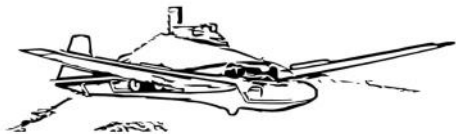
The number of hours that you commit is entirely dependent on your availability. Anna Chaplains usually commit to 1-2 days a month, although when you make visits is based on your own diary flexibility. Anna Friends who support the Chaplains doing very similar work, usually have less time available, and may find that 1/2 day a month is sufficient time to still be of value in offering spiritual.

support to local people.

Annie Jefferies

Devon Anna Chaplain co-ordinator.





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We meet on Thursday mornings between 10am and 1pm at the Lamerton Community Centre.

Do come and join us.

Please contact: **Elaine Price**, email: elainejprice@hotmail.co.uk

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1/2 page: £72 per year, Full page: £144 per year

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www.magpc.co.uk



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Your Benefice Safeguarding Representative is:

Julie Hibbert

Contact: **01822 618221**;

Email: safeguarding@southtamar.church

Or contact: **Rev Andy Atkins: 01822 870298**;

Email: vicar@southtamar.church

If you cannot reach your Benefice Safeguarding Representative, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Charlie Pitman, Safeguarding Adviser 01392 345909, Email: charles.pitman@exeter.anglican.org



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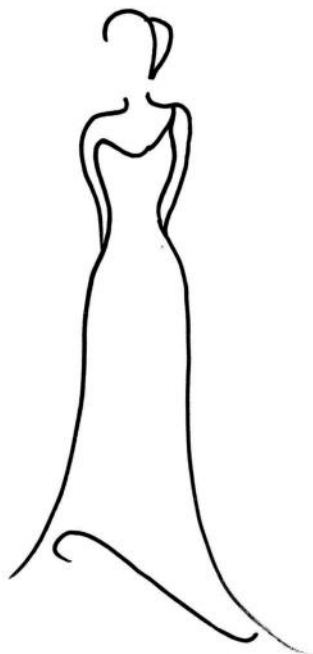


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CHURCH SERVICES

March 2024

DAY	St Mary M. Syden- ham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constan- tine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St Andrew's Coryton
Sunday 3rd March <i>The Third Sunday of Lent</i>		6:30pm BCP Evensong			9:30am HC/CW	
Weds 6th March	10am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 10th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10:30am HC/CW			10am Sunday Praise		6:30pm BCP Evensong
Weds 13th March	10am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 17th March <i>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>		11am HC/CW			9:30am Family Service, Morning Praise	
Weds 20th March	10am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	6:30pm Songs of Praise			11am HC/CW		6:30pm BCP Evensong
For Easter Services, please see page 24						

CHURCH SERVICES

February 2024

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 4th February <i>Creation Sunday</i>		6:30pm BCP Evensong			9:30am HC/CW	
Weds 7th February	10:00am WHOLENESS & HEALING - Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 11th February <i>The Sunday next before Lent</i>	10:30am HC/CW	10:00am Sunday Praise - Milton Abbot's service will be held in the Priest's Room at Lamerton				6:30pm BCP Evensong
Weds 14th February	10:00am Ash Wednesday Service - St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 18th February <i>The First Sunday of Lent</i>		11:00am HC/CW			9:30am Family Service, Morning Praise	
Weds 21st February	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 25th February <i>The Second Sunday of Lent</i>	6:30pm Songs of Praise	11:00am Holy Communion - Milton Abbot's service will be held in the Priest's Room at Lamerton				6:30pm BCP Evensong
Tues 27th February	7:00pm - TAIZE - Sydenham Damerel					
Weds 28th February	10:00am Holy Communion - St Peter's Lamerton					