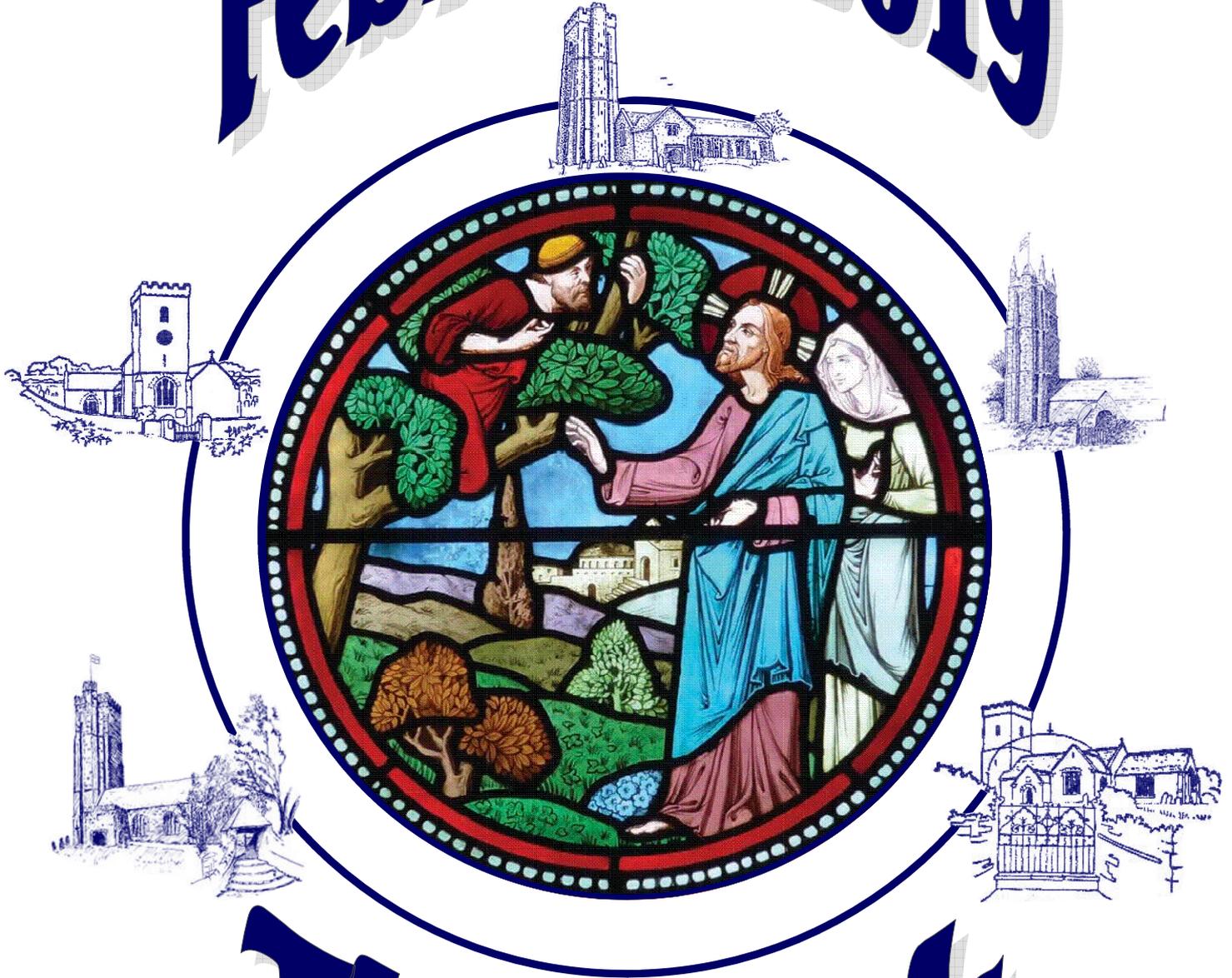


Volume 19  
Issue 2

# February 2019

70p



# The Rock

**The Church Magazine for the  
Aune Valley Benefice of  
Churchstow, Loddiswell, South Milton,  
Thurlestone with Buckland & Bantham & Woodleigh**

# Aune Valley Benefice Business

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*The Rock*

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**Cover picture:**  
*Stained glass in L'Eglise Saint-Pierre de Neuilly-sur-Seine showing Jesus calling Zacchaeus down from the sycamore tree (Luke 19.1-10) (see page 18)*

## Benefice Services

**Sunday February 10th** 4.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP) *W*

Everyone is also welcome to:

**Prayer & Praise:** 5.30 p.m. Sunday February 17th *Church Meeting Room TH*

**Morning Prayer:** 8.30 a.m. Mondays, Thursdays 8.15 a.m. Wednesdays *TH*  
except Feb. 18th - 22nd 8.30 a.m. Fridays *SM*

**Evening Prayer:** 6.30 p.m. Wednesdays *CH* 5.30 p.m. Fridays *Manor Lodge SM*

**Vespers** 7.00 p.m. Thursday February 14th *CH*

**Holy Communion:** 10.00 a.m. Wednesdays (BCP) *TH*

10.00 a.m. Thursday Feb. 7th (BCP) *White Horses Studio, Bantham*

*CH = Churchstow L = Loddiswell SM = South Milton TH = Thurlestone W = Woodleigh*

## Benefice Activities & Meetings

**TUESDAYS FEB. 5TH & 19TH** 7.00 p.m. Benefice Bible Study *1 Beechwood Park, L*

### Church Electoral Roll

This year, as occurs every six years, each parish is required to prepare a new electoral roll. The preparation starts at least two months before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and during the first 14 days whoever is conducting services at the church announces to the congregation that the new roll is being prepared.

During the period of preparation of the roll, members on the previous roll need to apply to be included - **inclusion is not automatic** - by filling out an application for enrolment form. New people can also apply during this period.

The preparation of the roll is completed by a fixed date between 15 and 28 days before the APCM.

### Prison Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Angel Tree, the Prison Fellowship project of purchasing, wrapping up and sending presents to the children of prisoners in Dartmoor and Channings Wood who are unable to send presents. We wrapped up 118 presents and sent them off to be opened by excited children for having received a present from their father. This helps in maintaining relationships between parent and child through the difficult time the father has whilst in prison.

Jonathan Veira's Songs of Freedom Tour is on **Saturday February 2nd** at 7.30 p.m. in Ivybridge Methodist Church. Tickets £10. *Rolf and Viv (560380/fk611@gmail.com)*

**The next edition of *The Rock* will be published on Sunday February 24th**

Copy deadline is **Sunday February 10th**

General items to the editor: Liz Webb. Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, TQ7 3AG, e-mail: mewebbsite@btinternet.com  
Parochial items to your Parish Magazine Contact (see Benefice Directory page 20)

It would be appreciated if copy could be e-mailed if possible.

**Annual subscription £7** contact: Woodleigh: Josie Hainsworth (550285); Thurlestone: Jo Parkin (561215)

South Milton: Elizabeth Ewings (560484); Loddiswell: Susan Freeman (550437); Churchstow: Sally Cridland (856940)

**Annual postal subscription, £17.50**, contact Liz Webb (560090). (Cheques made payable to Thurlestone PCC)

***The Rock* is also available on cassette for the visually impaired** - contact Jan Turner (560354)

**Advertising: £48 for 12 months** for '9cm x 8cm' or '18cm x 4cm' box. A single month advertisement may also be possible for one off events at **£8** for '18cm x 4cm'. Contact Elizabeth Webb (560090/mewebbsite@btinternet.com).

The current issue of *The Rock* may be found at [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church)

**Advance Notice:**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY BENEFICE SERVICE**  
**MARCH 6TH**

**10.00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Thurlestone**

During services there will be the opportunity to receive a sign of the cross in ash – marking the beginning of our penitential season of Lent



## Letter from the Rectory

### A February Before Lent – The Feast of Candlemas

It's not often that the month of February exists entirely outside of the season of Lent. But this year, with a late Easter, Lent doesn't begin until March 6th. This gives us a February before Lent, a Lent free February! This also gives us a rare opportunity to focus on an often forgotten celebration in the Church's life: the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, often known as "Candlemas". Candlemas takes place on February 2nd, but is often transferred to the nearest Sunday. This year we celebrate it on Sunday February 3rd.

Candlemas is one of the oldest festivals of the Church, having being celebrated as far back as the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. The theme of light runs through this celebration as people are reminded that Jesus is the Light of the World. It marks the end of the Christmas season. Indeed in many churches the nativity scene stays up until after this feast.

The Gospel reading of the day is Luke 2:22-40. This tells of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, some 33 days after his birth. The passage of scripture contains the well-known *Nunc dimittis* (the Song of Simeon) which is sung at the traditional service of Evensong. In it Simeon tells how his eyes have seen the salvation of God in the infant Jesus. However it is the later words of Simeon that are the most fascinating (verses 34 and 35):

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Here we see the presence not only of birth but also of death. Not only of incarnation but also of crucifixion. There is much joy in the words of Simeon but much warning too. Jesus will be, for his Mother, both a source of joy and a source of sorrow. She will watch him grow, teach, lead and inspire – but she will also see him die an agonising death on the cross.

The Feast of Candlemas looks backwards toward the birth of Christ and forwards towards his death and resurrection. It reminds us of the inseparable connection between life and death and of the presence of the whole in the manifestation of the particular. It reminds us that, even in the midst of the greatest joy there may be the seeds of the greatest sadness, but also that even in the midst of the greatest sadness there may be the seeds of the greatest joy. This child is destined for the falling and rising of many, and a sword will pierce our own souls too as we journey from the crib to the cross this 2019.

David Hasteley

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# Thurlestone Telegraph



## Sunday Services at All Saints, Thurlestone unless indicated otherwise

<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b>		<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) BCP: February 3rd, 17th; CW: February 10th, 24th	
<b>FEBRUARY 3RD</b>	<b>Presentation of Christ</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)	<i>(Fairtrade Stall)</i>
<b>FEBRUARY 10TH</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Morning Worship	
		<b>4.30 p.m.</b> Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh	
<b>FEBRUARY 17TH</b>	<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)	
		<b>5.30 p.m.</b> Prayer and Praise in the Church Meeting Room	
<b>FEBRUARY 24TH</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Matins (BCP)	
<b>MARCH 3RD</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)	<i>(Fairtrade Stall)</i>

## Weekday Services at Thurlestone unless indicated otherwise

<b>THURSDAY MARCH 7TH</b>		<b>8.50 a.m.</b> School Collective Worship in church - all welcome
		<b>10.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (BCP) at Bantham
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>		<b>10.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (BCP)
<b>EVERY MON., WED. &amp; THURS.</b>		<b>8.30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayer (said) ( <b>8.15 a.m.</b> on Weds)
except February 18th - 21st		

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

### From the Registers

**Funeral:** **January 21st** John David Podmore Stuart aged 83

**Easter Lunch:** The Easter Lunch will be on **Sunday April 28th** in the Meeting Room after the service. Please make a note in your diary now and there will be a list to sign later.

## Activities

Everyone is welcome

Church Meeting Room Telephone: 561246

Contact:

<b>THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 14TH &amp; 28TH</b>	<b>5.00 p.m.</b> Thurlestone Singing Group	<i>8 Mead Drive</i>	<i>560509</i>
<b>FRIDAYS FEBRUARY 8TH &amp; 22ND</b>	<b>12.30 p.m.</b> Lunch Club (pre-booking essential)	<i>M. Room</i>	<i>560655</i>
<b>FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15TH</b>	<b>12.30 - 1.30 p.m.</b> Homemade Soups - all welcome	<i>M. Room</i>	<i>560466</i>
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Coffee-Time	<i>M. Room</i>	<i>562013</i>
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Working Party	<i>Churchyard</i>	<i>560152</i>

<p><i>Films for</i> <b>All</b> <b>TUESDAYS</b> <b>2.30 p.m.</b> <b>Church</b> <b>Meeting Room</b></p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 5TH</b></p> <p><b>The Post</b> <i>Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Sarah Poulson</i></p>	 <p><b>MARCH 5TH</b></p> <p><b>The Guernsey Literary &amp; Potato Peel Pie Society</b> <i>Lily James, Michiel Huisman, Glen Powell, Jessica Brown Findlay</i></p>	<p><b>MARCH 26TH</b></p> <p><b>Finding Your Feet</b> <i>Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley</i></p>
<p><i>Leaflets with information about the films from Church, Meeting Room &amp; Thurlestone Shop</i> Donations to Church Funds ~ More information Liz Webb 560090</p>			

<p><b>2019 CALENDAR</b> of the Thurlestons Buckland &amp; Bantham Area</p>	<p><b>2019 CALENDAR</b> featuring the winning photos of the Thurlestons, Buckland &amp; Bantham area in the recent competition, <b>NOW ONLY £5</b> from Church &amp; Meeting Room, Thurlestons &amp; Bantham Shops or by post e-mail <a href="mailto:thurlallsaints@btinternet.com">thurlallsaints@btinternet.com</a> or ring 01548 560090 <i>Sold in aid of Thurlestons Church Funds</i> <b>Entry Forms for next year's competition at sale points.</b></p>	<p>Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for <b>Homemade Soup</b> followed by Tea/Coffee &amp; Cake <b>FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15TH</b> <b>12.30-1.30 P.M.</b> <b>ONLY £4</b> <i>in aid of Church Funds</i></p>
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**New Church Electoral Roll**

The church Electoral Roll is the parish church's register of electors and is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the elections for the parochial church council and the parish's representatives on the deanery synod. Any person entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

To be on the electoral roll a person needs to have been baptised, be at least 16 years old and either: 1) Living in the parish and a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England; 2) Not resident in the parish but is a member of the Church of England (or a Church with which the Church of England is in communion) and has regularly attended worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment; 3) A member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and they are prepared to declare themselves a member of the Church of England, having regularly attended worship during the six months prior to enrolment.

Every six years each parish is required to prepare a new electoral roll and this year is one of those years. In Thurlestons the preparation of the new electoral roll begins on **Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>** and this will be announced to the congregation on that Sunday and the next. During the period of preparation of the roll, members on the previous roll need to apply to be included - **inclusion is not automatic** - by filling out an application for enrolment form. We will endeavour to ensure that everyone on the old electoral roll knows that a new one is being prepared, either by letter or email. New people can also apply during this period. The preparation of the new roll will be completed on **Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Application forms will be available at the back of church, e-mailed where possible to those on the current roll or available to download from the church section of the Parish website: [www.thurlestonsparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestonsparish.co.uk). The Electoral Roll Privacy Notice may also be viewed here

Once the roll is completed a copy will be put up near the main door of the church by April 15th. Prior to the APCM corrections may be made to the entries on the roll, for example how a name is spelt or amending the details of an address. However no names can be added or removed until after the APCM.

*Liz Webb (Electoral Roll Officer)*

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# South Milton Grapevine



**Sunday Services** at All Saints, South Milton unless indicated otherwise

<b>FEBRUARY 3RD</b>	<b>Presentation of Christ</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)
<b>FEBRUARY 10TH</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Morning Worship for All Ages <b>4.30 p.m.</b> Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh
<b>FEBRUARY 17TH</b>	<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Family Communion (CW)
<b>FEBRUARY 24TH</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Sunday Morning Together
<b>MARCH 3RD</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)

**Weekday Services** at South Milton unless indicated otherwise

<b>THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7TH</b>	<b>8.50 a.m.</b> School Collective Worship - TH Church (all welcome)
<b>EVERY FRIDAY</b>	<b>8.30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayer except February 22nd <b>5.30 p.m.</b> Evening Prayer (said) at Manor Lodge

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

## Activities & Events

<b>MONDAY FEBRUARY 4TH</b>	<b>12.30 p.m.</b> Soup and Puds in aid of charity	<i>Village Hall</i>
<b>THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14TH</b>	<b>2.30 p.m.</b> Thursday Club: More wonderful photos! Jan & Tim Burr	<i>Village Hall</i>
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Coffee Break - Cuppa and a chat for everyone	<i>Village Hall</i>
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>7.30 p.m.</b> Bell-ringing Practice	<i>Church</i>

## News from South Milton

The God of the new convent provides not just enough, but an excess, as our vicar, Daniel, illustrated through the story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

Speaking on the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, Daniel told how Jesus, by providing more than enough, reveals the divine nature of love and was able to show the disciples what sort of love they should be showing one another. "There is nothing about the love of God that can be contained. It is excessive and super abundant," Daniel told us.

Michael Walker, our treasurer, has announced that he is stepping down from the role after 13 years of service. We are all very grateful for the work he has put in over the years to ensure the financial side of church life runs smoothly. If you would like to take on the role, please email me at [peterrixon4@gmail.com](mailto:peterrixon4@gmail.com).

Thanks go, too, to Bob Breese who has successfully organised the instalment of the new wooden gate leading into the churchyard. It's a pleasure to open Bob!

I'm going to move the bookshelf in church to make it more prominent because there are some right rollicking reads to be found among the dust jackets. Bettina is reading *The Heavenly Man* by Brother Yun – on loan to the library from Pam Latimer – which, as the back cover states, reads like a story straight out of the Book of Acts. It tells of a man determined to spread the Christian message to fellow Chinese inside China. He faces persecution but also experiences the miraculous in his mission, which finally sees him escape the country to be reunited with his family.

*Peter Rixon*

On May 11th there will be a Tea time event to raise funds for Christian Aid, where we will be able to enjoy a real English tea - sandwiches and cake (no jam and cream scones). This is to complement the superb English Breakfast of 2018. So do come along and support our Christian Aid effort. There will still be some house to house collections, more details later on. Kate Ladd is facilitating this event as last year, and if that is the way Kate works tea-time will be fabulous.

## THURSDAY CLUB

Informal and friendly afternoons

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14TH 2.30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL**

**More wonderful photos!** *Jan & Tim Burr*

**ALL WELCOME** £2.50 including tea



See village website for more information - come along and give us a try!

We are, at last getting our act together to give our church a **spring clean**. We haven't done this for some time so on a "Fine" April 1st we make a start and run on into 2nd if we need to. As much help as possible will be needed even for an hour or so. Come armed with dusters, brushes, and a goodly dollop of elbow grease. Coffee and biscuits will on tap for regular refreshments. We would start at 9.00am when the church will be opened for the day.

The PCC has decided that we should look carefully at purchasing new hymn books so as to avoid using different ones, sheets of hymns etc. To this end the one on display in the church will be very similar to an up-dated version of the same one. It is a much improved version and contains all the traditional hymns and most of the new ones which we sing on occasions and for which we have to have extra books or sheets. Have a look at it and pass on your comments to Peter Rixon CW or any PCC member.

Sadly there are two bereavements to record this month. David Hansen, Betty's eldest son died peacefully in hospital on Monday January 21st. He had been very ill for some time and our prayers and sympathy are with Betty and the rest of David's family and friends at their loss. Just today I had news that Ben Horn's son Jim has died after a short illness. He lived in East Sussex with his wife Dawn. They have 2 grown up daughters. He developed a brain tumour in September and was nursed at home until his death. For those of us who knew him, and some may well remember:- he came to the Village Hall to open the garden at the front which was laid out in memory of his father Ben. He lived his young life at number 3 (I think) Middle Park. He became a teacher and ended his career as a head teacher. Then the land side emerged and he set up a small holding with some cattle and sheep and was never happier.

Good to know that Jonny McKillop is back home and has 24 hour care with a live in carer. He is always happy to have a visitor Clare assures me. Maybe ring first to see if he is free!

Spring is really on its way now that the snowdrops are flowering in the Cemetery. These were rescued from the churchyard when the new wall was erected and they have continued to multiply year on year, There are even some daffs coming into bud on the church path. Have you noticed how tidy the churchyard is now? SHDC have developed the use of different grass trimmers and the way they cut is much better and far more effective. Thanks to whoever cut the space of grass outside the top gate, we will see that it is kept tidy for next year.

Keep safe and warm during these cold months ahead.  
Jan Turner

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*Judith Bentley*

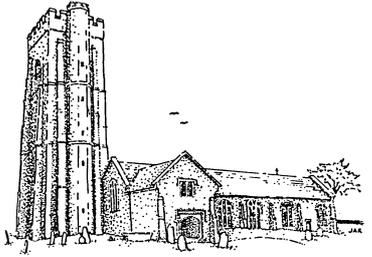
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# Churchstow Chimes



## Sunday Services at St Mary the Virgin, Churchstow unless indicated otherwise

<b>FEBRUARY 3RD</b>	<b>Presentation of Christ</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>FEBRUARY 10TH</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Parish Communion (CW) <b>4.30 p.m.</b> Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh
<b>FEBRUARY 17TH</b>	<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>FEBRUARY 24TH</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Parish Communion (BCP)
<b>MARCH 3RD</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Morning Worship

## Weekday Services at Churchstow unless indicated otherwise

<b>THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14TH</b>	<b>7.00 p.m.</b> Vespers
<b>EVERY WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>6.30 p.m.</b> Evening Prayer (said)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

## Christmas Whist Drive

At the recent Christmas Prize Whist Drive the whist players were thanked for their continued support throughout the year, meeting on a Saturday evening to play whist and raise money for the upkeep of the Church Hall. Many thanks to those who gave prizes and provided the delicious refreshments and to Daphne and George for their help during the evening.

If you have ever wondered what whist is like, call in to the Church Hall on a Saturday evening and check it out! They are a friendly lot and enjoy a bit of fun and banter. For more information call John on 01548 857916.

## Activities & Events in the Church Hall



### Gentle Restorative Yoga

with Elise Yuill

## WEDNESDAYS

### 5.30 - 7.00 P.M.

Open to All ~ No previous yoga experience necessary  
For more details and booking, please contact Elise prior to attending on 07862286704 or [elise@tobeinspired.co.uk](mailto:elise@tobeinspired.co.uk)





## Whist Drive

### EVERY SATURDAY

### 7.30 P.M.

*Proceeds in aid of the Church Hall*

## Coffee Morning

### THURSDAY

### FEBRUARY 7TH

### 10.30 A.M. - NOON

*Proceeds in aid of the Church Hall*



**Advance Notice:  
Lent Lunches**

**THURSDAYS IN LENT (starting March 7th)**

**12.00 Noon - 2.00 p.m.**

**LONGVIEW, 12 GLEBELAND, CHURCHSTOW**

**Choice of Homemade Soup & Roll, followed by Homemade Cake, Tea/ coffee**

*£4.50 in aid of Church Funds All welcome Contact Phyllis on 01548 858836*



**Christmas Lights**

How does Mike do it? Every year we say to ourselves that Mike Langman's display of Christmas lights cannot be improved upon, and every year he manages to do the impossible! from the "switching on" on December 1st until January 6th his bungalow and garden were festooned with festive lights and illuminated figures, and people of all ages flocked to Churchstow to marvel at the sights and sounds that lay before them. Arrive in their droves they did, from near and far, all placing their donations to the Children's Hospice South West into the collection tin. Mike is delighted to announce that the figure raised this year was £5,358. Thank you Mike for brightening up Christmas for all of us.

**Quiz and Pie Evening**

The Church Hall was all abuzz on Saturday January 18th with the sound of happy chatter, fun and banter as each team of four competed for the prestigious honour of being the top team of the evening, as we pitted our wits against quizmaster Jeff Buckley. The questions were, in equal parts, educational, inspiring, infuriating and, in some cases, down right baffling! the answers were enlightening, amusing and always, of course, on the tip of my tongue! We took a break part way through to feed the brain with a selection of home made pies, then back to the "serious" business and more questions, answers and plenty of laughter! Many thanks to all who took part, to those who baked the pies, served the food and drinks, and did the washing up! A special thanks to our quizmaster, Jeff, and to Trisha for organising the evening. Congratulations to our winning team *Haven't a Clue*, whose members were Roger, Lorraine, Eve and Lindy.

**Dates for Your Diary**

**Plant Sale** Saturday 4th May

**Church Fete** Saturday 17th August

JRW



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# Services at Loddiswell



**Services** at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell unless indicated otherwise

- FEBRUARY 3RD** Presentation of Christ 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
- FEBRUARY 10TH** 4th Sunday before Lent 9.30 a.m. Family Communion (CW)  
4.30 p.m. Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh
- FEBRUARY 17TH** 3rd Sunday before Lent 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
- FEBRUARY 24TH** 2nd Sunday before Lent 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- MARCH 3RD** Sunday next before Lent 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

*For more precise information please contact Susan Freeman (550437)*

We are proud that Loddiswell Primary School came top out of 390 schools in Devon in the recent SATS review.

# Services at Woodleigh



**Services** at St Mary the Virgin, Woodleigh unless indicated otherwise

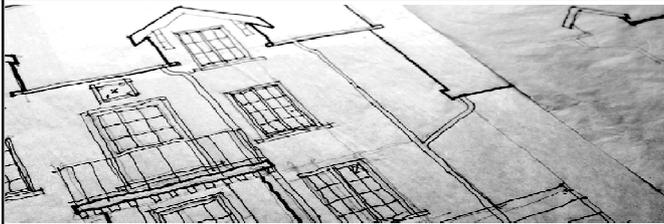
- FEBRUARY 3RD** Presentation of Christ No Service at Woodleigh
- FEBRUARY 10TH** 4th Sunday before Lent 4.30 p.m. Benefice Evensong (BCP)
- FEBRUARY 17TH** 3rd Sunday before Lent No Service at Woodleigh
- FEBRUARY 24TH** 2nd Sunday before Lent 4.30 p.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- MARCH 3RD** Sunday next before Lent No Service at Woodleigh

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

*For more precise information please ring Josie Hainsworth, Churchwarden, on 550285*

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# Benefice **LEN** Courses

Long overshadowed by the celebrations of Easter Sunday, Lent is being rediscovered as a sacred time of reflection and renewal in its own right and a time of preparation for the joyous seasonal finale.

Lent gives you 40 daily opportunities to get deeper into the personal and eternal significance of Jesus' life and ministry. A focused course of study through the days of Lent allows you the time alone with the God that Jesus found essential to prepare for his earthly ministry.

Spending time apart from the world in a time of close communion with God is essential for Christians and Christian communities who earnestly seek to know their purpose and calling in the world today.

## **Lent Courses: what are they?**

- Structured, Bible based study guides for the 40 days before Easter Sunday.
- Designed for personal, family, small group and whole church participation.
- Focused primarily on the events of Jesus' death and resurrection, their place in God's great unfolding plan and their meaning for the you and the world today.

## **Lent Courses: why should I want one?**

- To better understand what the Bible says about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- To share the wilderness experience of Jesus and make the most of your personal time with your Father-God.
- To help deepen your relationship with God, reflect on his purpose and direction for your life and find the strength and faith to follow.

Although Lent does not start until March 6th, information about the Benefice Lent Courses need to be publicised in advance. There will be courses in Thurlestone, South Milton and Loddiswell and Lenten Services of Meditation at West Alvington.

## **Thurlestone**

## **York Courses: On the Third Day**

The resurrection is the Big Story that turned a little Jewish protest movement into a world-transforming religion. And yet by Easter Monday we've almost forgotten about it and are planning our summer holidays. How can we re-capture the explosive power of the resurrection that ricocheted around the world? How can we live in the glow of resurrection and be an Easter people? How can 'there and then' become 'here and now'?

### **Mondays 7.30 p.m.**

**Leader:** Peter Gornall (560333)

**Venue:** *To be decided*

### **Loddiswell**

*Course to be decided*

### **Tuesdays 7.00 p.m.**

**Leader:** Pam Latimer (559038)

**Venue:** 1 Beechwood Park, Loddiswell

### **South Milton**

*Course to be decided*

### **Thursdays 7.30 p.m.**

**Leader:** Daniel Hartley (562727)

**Venue:** *To be decided*

## **West Alvington**

## **Lenten Services of Meditation**

### **Wednesdays 5.00 p.m.**

**Leader:** Nell Stamp (853649)

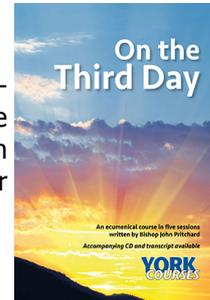
**Venue:** West Alvington Church

It is hoped that the information above will enable you to keep your diary free for the course you decide to attend. There will be sign up lists in each church nearer the time and more information in the March Rock.

Alternatively you might also like to consider a Lent book or study course for personal use. These can take up little more than one or two pages of reading. With a little time added on for prayer and reflection it should be easy to add a Lent study course to the beginning or end of your day, or as the focus of a little quality peace and quiet when you need it most.

Information about new Lent Books for this year may be found on pages 16-17.

There will also be Lent Lunches in Churchstow on Thursdays and Loddiswell.



**DIOCESE  
OF EXETER**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
IN DEVON

# Diocesan News



## Children can teach adults a thing or two about faith

Sunday by Sunday, a small (but usually willing!) army of volunteers give their time to looking after and teaching the children and young people in our churches. Some run crèches in the back of the church, others lead children out from the service to special activities in the hall, often bringing them back in at the end to show the rest of the congregation a variety of artistic creations.

Through the week, youth leaders will be working with teenagers and afterschool clubs, teams run Messy Church with craft activities and games, and Open the Book flourishes across the Diocese. And that is not to mention the holiday clubs and youth camps held in the summer, or organisations like South West Youth Ministries and CATALYST with their involvement in schools across the county.

There is rarely a church that doesn't want to "bring in the young people", but much of this work is largely unseen - though hopefully it is prayed for and given a budget by the PCC. As is often said, young people are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today.

In fact, for Jesus, children can teach adults a thing or two about faith. When the disciples try to protect Jesus from parents eager for him to touch their babies (Luke 18:15-17), his response is to say, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Luke sets the story alongside that of the rich young ruler whose wealth and responsibilities so entangle him that he is unable to respond to the call, "Come, follow me". As we thank God for those who look after our children and young people, we too are not to lose the eagerness, curiosity and trust that Jesus commends.

*The Rt Rev'd Nick McKinnel, Bishop of Plymouth*

## Spotlight on Bishop Martin Shaw

The former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Right Reverend Martin Shaw, gives us a glimpse into his spiritual life and what he needs to sustain it.

**Was your Christian faith kindled from birth by church-going parents or was it more of a Damascus road experience?** My childhood church-going was about the words 'no' and 'don't'. At 14, I came across Anglo-Catholicism: where priest and people were inspiring, with earthy jokes.

**When did you first feel called to ordination?** Two Franciscan priests, in my late teens, were invigorating preachers, lived simply and loved deeply. I wanted to be like them. I still do!

**Who or what sustains you?** Elspeth, my wife, whom I love deeply and who gives love and strength to me; Spiritual Direction, along with the writings of the great mystics and poets; the practice of prayer, listening, watching and loving; skilled musicians.

**When or where do you feel at your most spiritual?** In the early morning, and, also, among the 'carceri' above Assisi, the cell where Francis prayed. Mostly my praying is inner dryness, with the occasional 'rumour' of God in the love I 'catch on the breeze'.

**Who inspires you?** Richard Holloway: I was his curate in Edinburgh. He faces with courage the difficulties with belief in a world of uncertainty.





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Simone Weil: The disturbing French mystic who wrote a book that goes with me everywhere: 'Waiting on God'.

St Francis of Assisi: His simple prayer: 'Deus meus et Omnia'. [My God, My All]

**What do you think is the most important aspect of being an ordained minister?** The practice of the priesthood of Christ: carrying the suffering of others. Presiding at the Eucharist, priest and people offer to Divine Love that which is being carried.

**Are there areas in the Church of England that need to be changed or adapted in the great work of growing the Kingdom in the 21st century?** Some liturgy has little wonder and imagination; often lacking in the treasures of art and literature.

I'm concerned about propositional projects in the delicacy of intercultural discourse. The task isn't to take Christ out to 'grow the Kingdom', but to realise that he's already out there waiting for us to join him.

Safety and security now have pride of place, but they mustn't dilute the risk and costliness of the Christ-like life.

**What do you do to relax?** The Movies. Reading daily. Walking the South West Coastal Path. Listening intently to music. Hearing good jokes, particularly Billy Connolly.

**What book are you currently reading?** 'Redeeming Time' on T.S.Eliot's 'The Four Quartets' by Kenneth Paul Kramer, the essential life of contemplative prayer intensified by the poetry.

### Diocese appoints BBC journalist as Director of Communications

The Diocese of Exeter has appointed an accomplished broadcast journalist as its new Director of Communications and Engagement.

Chloe Axford has spent the past decade working as a reporter and producer at BBC South West. She also spent two years working in creative arts, drama and video ministry at the Church of the Ascension in south London before moving to Devon in 2007.

Chloe said: "I am honoured to be appointed to this role, and I am really looking forward to starting the job.

"I am passionate about telling the stories that need to be told in a way that is creative and newsworthy, whether it is sharing the amazing work already being done by the Diocese and churches in Devon or illustrating Bishop Robert's vision for churches to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.

"I am excited about working alongside the rest of the diocesan team to help Devon's churches to be as engaging, life-transforming and relevant as possible to the communities they serve."

The Rt Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, said: "We are very pleased that Chloe will be coming to work with us. There is so much good news, and so many opportunities to share it through traditional and digital media, but also through social media which gives us a different, perhaps more direct relationship with people.

"I am sure Chloe's knowledge, experience and clear enthusiasm will be of great benefit to the Diocese."

Chloe has led all age and creative worship at a number of churches in Devon. She has worked as the producer for adult and youth venues at Spring Harvest and has been the Prayer House Coordinator. Chloe also contributes worship resources to [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org).

Chloe lives in a south Devon market town with her husband, their two children, and a cat called Crumble.

She will start her new role in mid-February 2019.



*The magazine, in its various formats, can be found by clicking the following link*

<http://www.exeter.anglican.org/magazine>



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# Acts of Charity

## Desktops for Peace

When we think about the Holy Land today, the images of conflict and war are often at the forefront of our minds. Of course this land has always had divisions and there are many examples of this in the Bible. However, in the background there are many peace initiatives which encourage Christians, Muslims and Jews to co-exist together as many have done throughout the ages.



In November, my husband and I went through the West Bank to visit an inspiring school which is in the village of Ibillim near Nazareth in the region of Galilee. My own connection with Israel-Palestine has been a long standing one as my late mother was a nurse for a number of years in Nablus, Gaza and Hebron working in hospitals supported by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem.



Mar Elias Education Institute was founded by Elias Chacour who as a Palestinian boy experienced conflict when the Israeli War of Independence saw the destruction of his village in Northern Galilee. He was passionate about trying to forge relations between the different factions and later was ordained as a priest in the Melkite Catholic Church. Thirty five years ago he founded the school which today offers education for Kindergarden, Middle and Senior grades. Not only is there an emphasis on peace studies, for example, each day the lessons begin with a reflection on reconciliation, but also the staff and students are from Christian, Muslim and Jewish backgrounds. During our seven day stay at the school, we observed a lesson which focused on how anger as an emotion can be easy to show yet in order

to work for peace, we must reflect on how it is often masking other emotions such as fear, despair, confusion etc. all of which can fester when there is no communication between the various factions.

Locally the charity *Desktops for Peace* (contact@desktopsforpeace.com) is a group of people who support this school and it was through meeting some of its members at my local church, that I came to visit Ibillim. Mar Elias also has a pilgrim guest house which is on the 4th floor of a school building with a spectacular roof terrace looking out towards the sea at Haifa and the hills of this Galilean region. If anyone is considering visiting the Holy Land the welcome here is warm and the food bountiful, it is also on the Jesus Trail, which is a hiking route from Nazareth to Lake Tiberius.



The overarching message is that there is hope of reconciliation and many places where Christians, Muslims and Jews are actively working to create a more peaceful existence despite the troubles.

In the words of Archbishop Elias Chacour, "we are not condemned to live together, we are rather privileged to live together, to accept each other and to become a sign of hope for our local people, for the Middle East and for all those thousands who visit the Holy Land".

Annie Cuffe-Fuller

*Desktops for Peace* is the charity supported by Thurlestone's Coffee-Time during February

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# February Special

## February 2nd      **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**      **A Feast by Any Other Name**

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple is unusual in having four alternative titles. Each title emphasises something different.

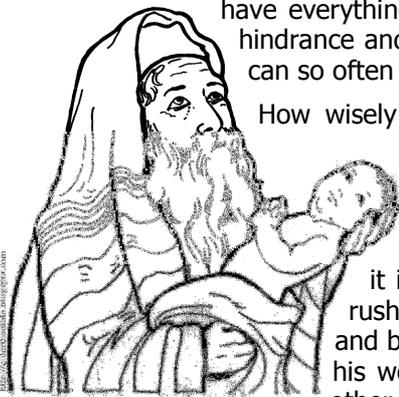
### 1 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Jesus is presented by his earthly parents at the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth. (See Luke 2.21-40.) This was a requirement 'according to the law of Moses'. Mary and Joseph's fulfilment of this can remind us that doing our duty and being faithful to what tradition requires of us is an important aspect of the Christian faith and life. This sense of obligation is captured well in *Common Worship* which says, "It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places ...".

Christianity is not simply a matter of choosing what we like, or what suits us. There are essential requirements for us to fulfil towards God.

### 2 The Meeting of the Lord

This connects with the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the infant Christ child. Their story reminds us of the importance of faithfulness and of being prepared to patiently wait. We live in an age where we can seemingly have everything we want almost immediately. Being prepared to wait is seen as an irritating hindrance and Anna and Simeon's demeanour can serve as a useful corrective to a view that can so often be about us as individuals, focusing on ourselves.



How wisely did the priest and poet R. S. Thomas conclude his poem *Kneeling* with the words, "The meaning is in the waiting". Often it is in times of waiting that we can develop and grow in our appreciation of God, his creation, one another and ourselves.

This title also reminds us that God cannot be ordered to meet us when we think it is convenient. He has, to put it simply, his own sense of timing, he will not be rushed. He is not at our beck and call. Rather we are to be like Anna and Simeon and believe that he will come to us. We are to be open and alert to recognise him and his work in our world and in our lives, which can so often be through encountering other people. This includes people of other faiths. We are reminded of this in the story of Jesus' encounter with the Roman Centurion who wanted his servant healed. And when he is challenged by the Canaanite woman whose daughter was unwell.

### 3 Candlemas

Tradition maintains that this title connects it with the Roman custom of lighting candles, recalling the lights in the Temple at Jerusalem. There is provision in *Common Worship* for a Candlemas Procession, during which people go to the font or the door of the church. The carrying of lit candles reminds us of John's gospel where Jesus says that he is the light of the world and that whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. The end of the procession includes a responsory that reminds us that we are to bear Christ's light as we say *Let us shine with the light of your love*.

### 4 The Purification of the Virgin

This had its origin in the Jewish practice of attending the Temple in Jerusalem to thank God and pray for both the health of the child and for the purification of the mother. It was believed that after forty days both would be out of any potential harm's way. This title reminds us of the theme of dependency and of how Jesus was dependent on his mother. Across the gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles we see how Mary responded to Jesus in a range of ways, which could be summarised as embodying responsiveness and faithfulness. Like Mary we are surely to reflect on what it means for us to be faithful to Christ and to respond to him.

Each of the titles for this feast, as well as the reading from Luke and the characters found in it, can speak to us of how we might respond to Christ in our own lives.

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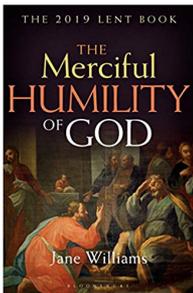
# Lent Book Reviews

**Reconciliation: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2019** Dr Muthurai Swamy, SPCK, £9.99

What is the role that ordinary people play in conflict and division – and reconciliation? This book will help you to begin a ministry bequeathed to us by Christ Himself.

It calls for stronger relationships among church members; building connections with different denominations, as well as maintaining open attitudes towards those of other religions and ideologies.

The 40 meditations consider impediments to reconciliation, risking the self, the benefits of humility, self-criticism, radical openness and peace with justice. *Reconciliation* is suitable for use at weekly gatherings or for everyday devotion during Lent.



**The Merciful Humility of God** – Jane Williams, Bloomsbury Continuum, £8.99

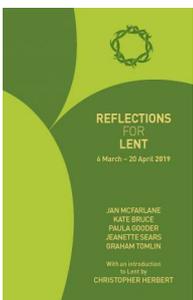
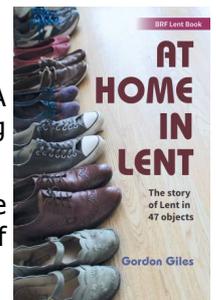
St Augustine's insight was that it is only the merciful humility of God that could penetrate our armoured pride. As we follow this book through Lent and through the biblical narrative, what begins to emerge is that God's merciful humility is the source of life.

The book covers: 'Humble Beginnings'; 'How to win friends and influence nobody'; 'Reigning from a tree' and 'Risen and ascended into humility'. Here is a guide for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of God's humility.

**At Home in Lent** – an exploration of Lent through 46 objects Gordon Giles, BRF, £8.99

Here is an original way of approaching Lent: inspired by Neil MacGregor's Radio 4 programme, 'A History of the World in 100 Objects', Gordon Giles spends each week in a different room gleaning spiritual lessons from everyday household objects.

As a result, you may discover that finding God in the normal pattern of life – even in the mundane – transforms how you approach each day. Running as a thread through it all are the seven R's of Lent: regret, repentance, resolution, recognition, reconciliation, renewal and resurrection.



**Reflections for Lent 2019** Jan McFarlane, Kate Bruce, Paula Gooder, CUP, £4.99

Reflections for Lent can enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Each day includes full lectionary details for Morning Prayer, a reflection on one of the Bible readings, and a Collect for the day.

It is suitable for individuals and groups seeking Lectionary-based reflections for use during Lent and Holy Week. There is also a simple form of morning and night prayer and a guide to keeping a good Lent.



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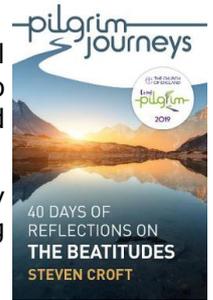
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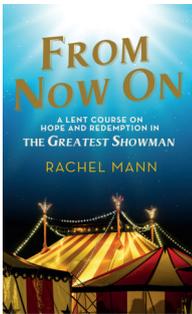
jason@sflgardens.co.uk

**Pilgrim Journeys – 40 days of reflections on the Beatitudes** Steven Croft, CUP, £4.99

Here you can explore the unexpected and often challenging vision Jesus sets out in this crucial part of His teachings. Each day provides a short reflection on a Bible reading, an invitation to pray and a suggestion of how you might respond to the Beatitudes' challenge to live as God intends, both as an individual and in community.



The booklets are helpful for anyone seeking to grow in the Christian faith. They are especially suitable for those preparing for baptism or confirmation – including those using the Pilgrim discipleship course.



**From Now On – a Lent Course on Hope & Redemption in The Greatest Showman**

Rachel Mann, DLT, £6.99

Here is a Lent Course based on the hugely popular film The Greatest Showman. The 2018 Golden Globe-nominated movie starring Hugh Jackman, about the founder and stars of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, is the basis for Lenten study of Christian themes of hope, redemption and new life.

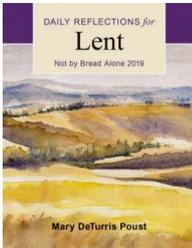
**Celtic Lent** David Cole, BRF, £8.99

Drawing on a rich heritage of Christian thought and reflection, Celtic Lent helps you practice and draw deeper into a spiritual understanding of Christ's death and resurrection. Each day offers a different well of wisdom of encouragement. They feature a theme that examines a part of Celtic Christianity, a contemplation, Biblical reading, and a prayer.



Drawing on the text of the Bible as well as some of the remarkable approaches to faith that is part of the Celtic tradition, this Lenten journey offers a distilled overview of what a life viewed through the Celtic tradition looks like.

With a range of sources, from letters to theological teaching to monastic guidelines, this Lent study guides you towards a deeper, more contemplative faith. A remarkable and encouraging way to approach the holy celebration of Easter.

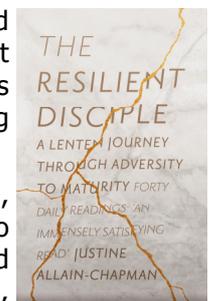


**Not by Bread Alone: Daily Reflections for Lent 2019** Mary Deturris Poust, Liturgical Press, £1.99

Prayerfully journey through lent with Mary Deturris Poust's fresh and meaningful reflections on the daily Holy Communion readings. In just minutes per day, the insightful meditations of Not by Bread alone can deepen your experience of this solemn season of prayer and penance and prepare you to participate more fully in the joy of the great Easter mystery.

**Resilient Disciple** - Justine Allain Chapman, SPCK

Alone on an 8-day retreat in the Egyptian desert, Justine Allain Chapman experienced first-hand the physical, spiritual and mental struggle many have endured before her. Our own desert experience may involve attending to challenges that come upon us suddenly – such as an illness or bereavement – or to difficult relationships or patterns of thinking that have long been draining us of life and joy.



A Lenten pilgrimage is testing. We have to search within ourselves for answers which lie hidden, to draw on each other's strengths, to reflect deeply and to trust that we will be enabled to integrate our many experiences. But there is a 'bright flame before us, a guiding star above'. And the God, who always calls us to love beyond ourselves, offers tender healing for our brokenness, longing that we may be consoled and renewed.

This vividly written book includes wide ranging prayers and scripture readings,

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# Parish



# Pump

## Zacchaeus

A chap named Zacchaeus was short  
Too short to see Jesus, so thought  
In order to see,  
He'd climb up a tree  
And in Jesus' sight he was caught.

'Zacchaeus! Come down from your tree!  
I'm coming to dinner, you see!'  
He went for His dinner  
To the home of a sinner!  
(A sinner like you and like me.)

Zacchaeus, the worst of the worst,  
To such as him Jesus came first  
The sinner lamented  
And then he repented,  
And so he was no longer cursed

*Nigel Beeton!*



## The Church at Laodicea

*May we be faithful and guard against the same fate that befell the Laodicean Church.*

The Faithful True Witness sees into His church,  
He stands alone not wanted inside,  
Contented and useless, neither hot or cold,  
A complacent church more dead than alive.

'O Laodicea, can you not see?  
You say you are rich, but I know you are poor,  
Come buy from Me, I have all that you need'  
The Ruler of All still stands at the door.

Behold I stand at the door and knock,  
And long for My church to be vibrant and true,  
If you hear My voice and invite Me in  
Together again we can fellowship anew.

'He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' (Rev.3:22)

*Megan Carter*

## Revelation

*(Luke 2:22-35)*

Sometimes old people see things,  
sometimes they understand,  
their years and experience lending wisdom –  
sometimes.

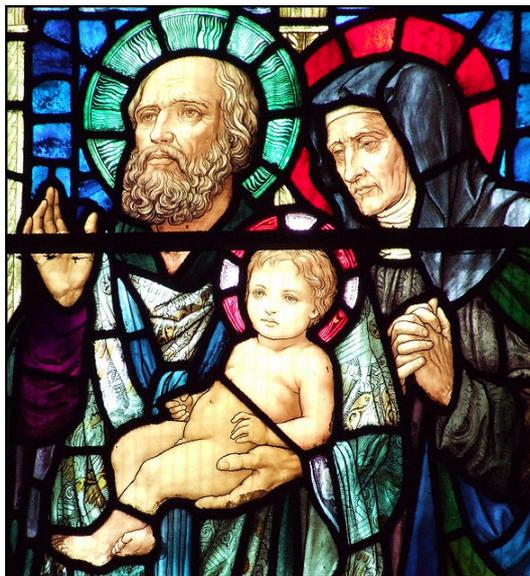
But that day in the Temple  
was beyond human sight and understanding,  
beyond human wisdom.

That day in the Temple,  
God moved.

And Simeon saw, with Holy Spirit sight,  
with revelation light,  
the realisation of God's promise.

Simeon held Jesus and knew his Saviour,  
The pain – and the peace.

*Daphne Kitching*



## Never be weary of doing good

You are never tired, O Lord, of doing us good; let us never be weary of doing You service.  
But as You have pleasure in the well-being of Your servants, let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord,  
and abound in Your work and in Your love and praise evermore.

*John Wesley*

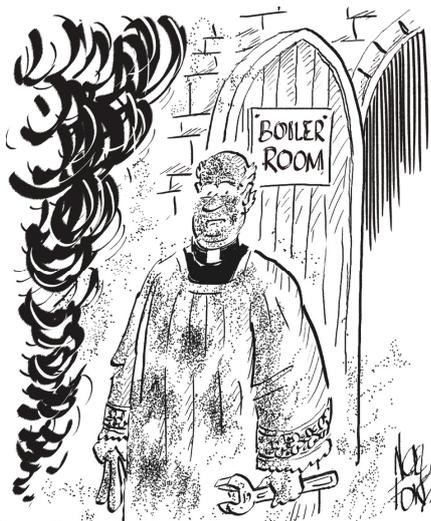
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**Good take**

A minister in a little church announced: 'Before we pass the collection plate, I would like to request that the person who stole the chickens from Brother Martin's hen house please refrain from giving any money to the Lord. The Lord doesn't want money from a thief!' The collection plate was passed around, and for the first time in months everybody gave.



*The church heating fund could only stretch to buying a copy of 'Boiler Repairs for Dummies'*

**Sin**

A young minister, serving his first church, noticed that one of his flock had been absent from services several Sundays in a row, so he decided to see her and ask the reason. The old woman shook her head and looked at him pityingly. "Son," she said, "you can't help me. You are not old enough to have sinned enough to have repented enough to be able to preach about it."

**Sky fright**

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. 'Can't you do something?' she demanded forcefully.

'I'm sorry ma'am,' said the reverend gently. 'I'm in sales, not management.'



**Heaven's reward**

A taxi driver and a minister from the same village died and went to heaven. St Peter met them at the gate. He gave a kindly smile to the minister, but threw his arms around the taxi driver, and several angels rushed out to carry the taxi driver in triumph through the pearly gates.

The minister was miffed. He wanted to know why his welcome was so much less, considering he had spent his life working for the Kingdom of Heaven. 'Indeed, you did,' said St Peter soothingly, 'and you did a good job. But sadly, you came nowhere near to what this taxi driver achieved for us up here in Heaven.'

'But - but - he has never preached even once,' protested the minister.

'True, but while over the years your ministry inspired about 30 people to pray with real fervour, this taxi driver inspired thousands. Anyone, in fact, who got into the back of his taxi for a drive.'

*"I'm updating the 'rota noticeboard' rota, rota ....do I see a hand...?"*

**Manner of speaking**

'Are your father and your mother in?' asked the vicar when the small boy opened the door.

'They was in,' said the youngster. 'But they is out.'

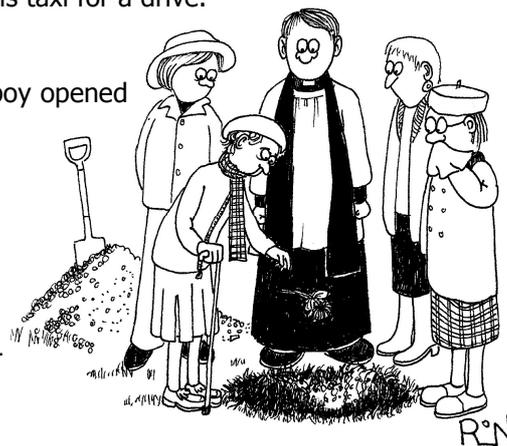
'They was in. They is out. Where's your grammar, young man?'

'She's gone upstairs, for a nap.'

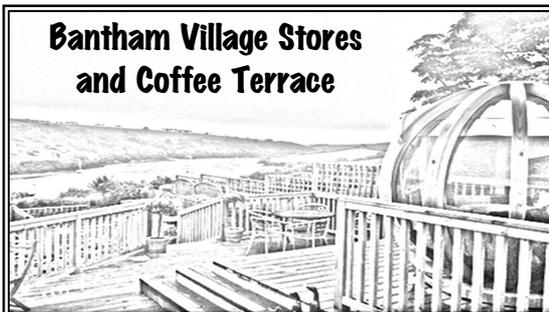
**Preach**

Having preached for half an hour, the old Scots minister paused for dramatic effect: 'And what shall I say more?'

A voice from the back called: 'Say Amen, and sit down.'



*That old tea urn had served the church well*



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