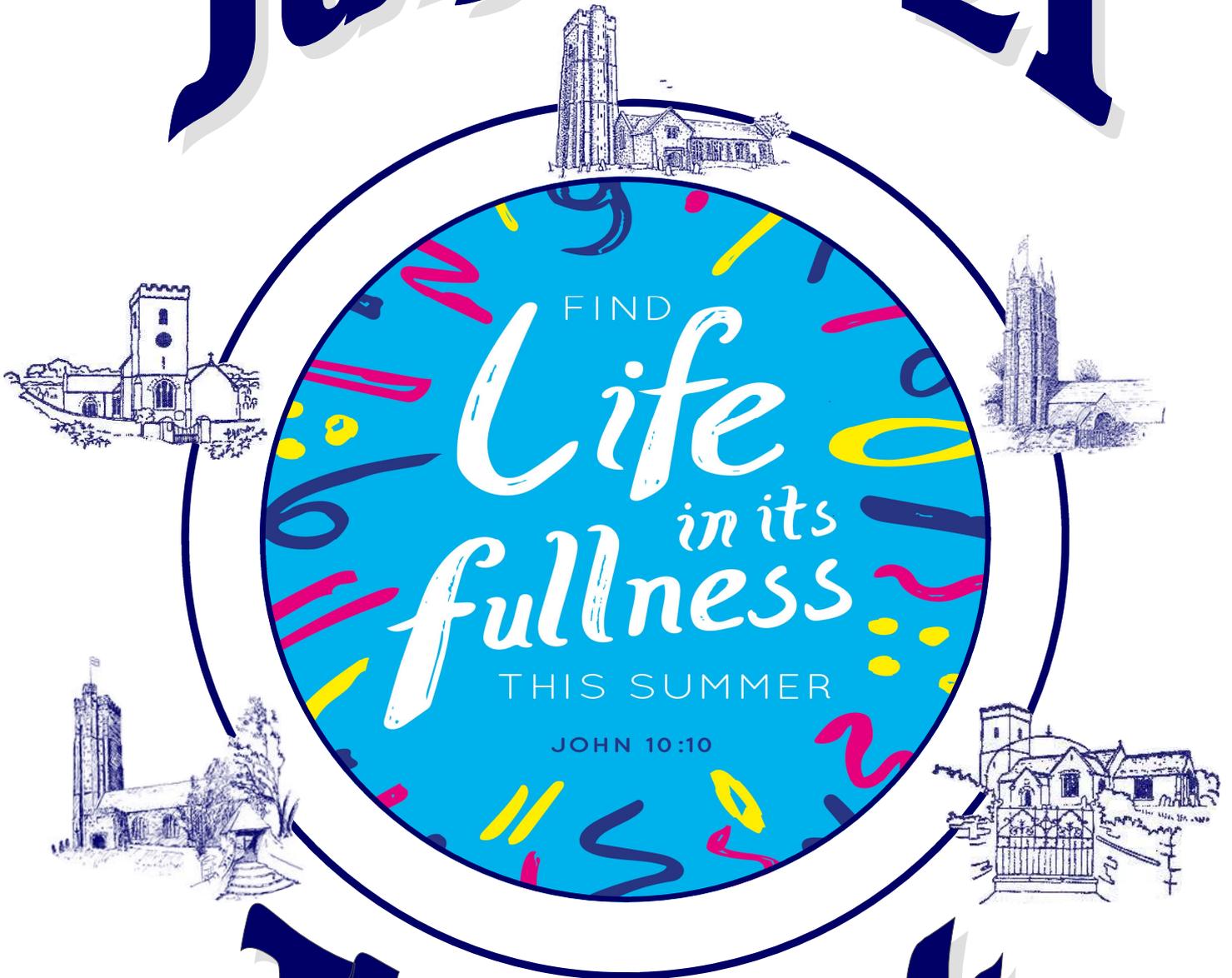


Volume 21  
Issue 7

70p

# July 2021



# The Rock

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

# Aune Valley Benefice Business



We hope you may still join us for the Benefice online Service, especially if you are unable to attend a service in your church

**A SUNDAY SERVICE ON YOUTUBE** led by Daniel  
[www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html)



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## Christian Aid

Thank you to all those who donated to Christian Aid this year in whatever way. The e-envelope raised £315 and there were further donations of £50 from people in the Benefice. This, added to the £1100 raised by envelopes delivered in Thurlestone Parish and £560 raised through Coffee Mornings in South Milton and Loddiswell plus £250 in Gift Aid, amounted to £2284. A truly magnificent amount. Thank you.

## Sunday Services

We are now able to worship in our churches again. Currently face coverings must be worn by all (unless for medical reasons) and social distancing observed. The Government is still working with the Church of England on how and when the restrictions on singing in church will be lifted.

## The Benefice Online

**The Sunday Service on YouTube** led by Daniel continues with readings and intercessions recorded by Benefice members and recorded hymns for you to join in with. This enables those still unable to come to church to have the chance of "attending" a Benefice Sunday Service. It is reaching up to 70 households from across the Benefice and beyond each week. Link on [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html)

**Virtual Prayer Meeting** by Zoom - **Wednesday 8:30 - 9:30am** please contact Mike Hodges on [mike2.hodges@btinternet.com](mailto:mike2.hodges@btinternet.com) for the link

**Virtual Service of Meditation** by Zoom - **Tuesday July 13th at 5.00 p.m.** please contact Nell Stamp on [nellstamp@btinternet.com](mailto:nellstamp@btinternet.com) for the link

## Other On-Line Sunday Services

**Exeter Diocese: A Sunday Service** on <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/Sunday-services-to-watch-online>. There is also a **10 minute weekly online reflection each Sunday** on <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>, featuring one of the senior clergy in the Diocese, which will follow the Lectionary Bible readings for that Sunday.

**National Church of England:** There is a weekly online Sunday Service on <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

**BBC Radio Devon:** Sunday Service at 8.00 a.m. and then at: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc\\_radio\\_devon](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_devon).

**Free Phone Line** The Daily Hope phone line is still available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** includes daily hymns, reflections and prayers as well as a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service at the end of a telephone line.

Copy deadline for the June edition of The Rock is **Monday July 12th**

General items to the editor: Liz Webb. Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, TQ7 3AG, e-mail: [mewebbsite@btinternet.com](mailto: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: *Vacancy*; Thurlestone: Liz Webb (560090);

South Milton: Cherry Bell (560526); 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](mailto: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)

# Letter from the Rectory

## A Hidden Scandal

During this past 16 months our nation, along with the rest of the world, has battled against Covid-19. Resources have been provided to protect the people most vulnerable to this virus and we have all played our part. Lockdowns have come and people have stayed at home. The least vulnerable (younger people with no underlying health conditions) have played their part. Younger people have been called to sacrifice the most (job insecurity, income loss, managing children home from school) whilst gaining the least. Although some younger people have been badly affected by the virus, and sadly some have died from it, the statistics are clear. Covid-19 affects people over the age over 70 far more than it affects people under the age of 45.

Younger people have played their part in order to protect parents and grandparents have done this, in most places, without question. The vaccine is now being rolled out to all over 18s and young people are, again, stepping up. They are being vaccinated for their own protection, but also for the protection of the older members of society.

It is right and proper that these things have taken place. It is right and proper that the resources have been made available to combat Covid-19. But there is another health epidemic that has not enjoyed the same free-flow of cash. An epidemic that blights our nation and disproportionately affects not older people but younger people today. I speak of the crisis of mental health in our nation. If we want to look at the causes of death in the under-45s, we should not look to Covid, but instead to suicide. Suicide remains the biggest cause of death for men under the age of 45 in our nation today. And suicide is just the tip of the iceberg. The demand for mental health care and provision is at an all time high. Many people simply cannot access the care and support that they need.

The finger of blame is not pointed at individual mental health practitioners. They are working hard with extremely limited resources. Instead the finger of blame is pointed firmly in the direction of the Government. Mental health remains the poor relation in terms of health provision. A broken leg is easily diagnosed, a broken mind is much harder to explore. The scandalous state of affairs is reflected by the suffering endured by individuals and families up and down the country who simply have nowhere to turn. Who, when they are at their most vulnerable, turn for support only to be furnished with page after page of forms that need filling in. Imagine turning up with that broken leg only to be asked to fill in a ten page document so that somebody can assess your needs. People in mental health crisis need to see a person not a piece of paper.

And here we reach the heart of my words today. The sacrifices that younger people have been asked to make during this past 16 months have added significantly to the mental health challenges that they face. This is the "Hidden Scandal". People who have been asked to give up much so as to protect others, but now are not given the resources that they need to navigate their own (mental) health needs.

God gives life so that it might be lived to the full. He gives us the strengths and abilities to support and nurture one another. He gives capacity for the strong to protect the vulnerable, knowing that when their strength wanes, others may provide for them. The hidden scandal of mental health provision is not only a failure of our humanity, it is a failure of our calling to respond to God's gift of life. Now is the time for the Government to support those who suffer in silence and it is the time for the Church to speak out on behalf of the vulnerable whose plight has been forgotten.

*Daniel Harty*

An urgent request to all churches for donations to the

**kingsbridgefoodbank**



to enable it to purchase sufficient supplies of essential food, drink & personal hygiene items, by BACS if possible:- Sort code: 77-09-24, Account : Kingsbridge Area Foodbank, Account No.: 17928860 or cheque to Steve Arblaster, 2 Bearscombe Cottage, Bearscombe, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2DW

<https://www.kingsbridgefoodbank.org.uk/>

# Thurlestone Telegraph



## Sunday Services at All Saints, Thurlestone

<b>JULY 4TH</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)
<b>JULY 11TH</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>JULY 18TH</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)
<b>JULY 25TH</b>	<b>James the Apostle</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>AUGUST 1ST</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)

Services at 8.00 a.m. on Sundays, at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesdays and monthly service at Bantham still not possible

The church is now open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

Please see the Church Notice Boards & [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services) for variations and more information

**Christian Aid:** An enormous thank you to all those who distributed the Christian Aid envelopes and to all those who returned them with their donations. An amazing £1100 was raised through the envelopes which increased to £1300 with Gift Aid. The e-envelope and other donations from the Benefice gave the amazing total of £1724.

**Church Fête:** Due to the uncertainty of the lifting of restrictions on July 19th it has been decided that unfortunately it is not possible for the church Fête to go ahead on July 24th. This is usually our main fund raiser and to cancel it for the second year running is a terrific blow. However the Annual Draw (see below) will still take place and it is even more vital this year to sell as many tickets as possible. They are available at Thurlestone and Bantham Shops. If you can help by selling tickets, please contact Peter Hirst on 560544. The draw will still take place on July 24th but unfortunately behind closed doors but on Zoom so that you can still watch the draw. Please contact me for the link nearer the time.

Peter Hirst and Christine Dunne had already put in a tremendous amount of work towards the fête and it must be tremendously disappointing for them that it was all in vain. We are extremely grateful to them for all their hard work and to all those who had volunteered to run stalls and sideshows.

**Coffee-Time:** If restrictions have been lifted, we are hoping that Coffee-Time can re-start in the Autumn. This is really important for the "regulars" especially those who could not access Zoom. However we will not be able to do so unless there is someone to run it each week! Could YOU offer to help once a month/occasionally.....?

*Liz*

**Auction of the Christmas Cake:** As the fête is cancelled. Wendy's Christmas cake will now be "auctioned". It weighs 4 lb 14 1/2oz (including wrapping). There is a reserve price on the cake related to the cost of its top of the range ingredients and two brandy feeds! This must be exceeded by the winning bid. Please send your bid to Wendy via her email [wendy\\_gornall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wendy_gornall@yahoo.co.uk) (NB underscore between wendy and gornall) before the end of the day July 24th or leave a message plus contact details on 01548 560333.

*Peter Gornall*

## Grand Summer Draw Tickets £1 each

**Draw to take place behind closed doors on Saturday July 24th at 4.00 p.m. by Zoom**

Tickets available from **Peter Hirst (560544), Thurlestone & Bantham Shops**

**Star Prize: 2 NIGHTS DINNER, B & B FOR 2 : THURLESTONE or MULLION COVE HOTEL**

**Other Prizes: Round of Golf for 4: THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB ~ Sunday Lunch for 2: VILLAGE INN**

**3 Course Sunday Lunch for 4: SALCOMBE HARBOUR HOTEL ~ Sunday Lunch for 2: COTTAGE HOTEL**

**Afternoon tea for 4: SOUTH SANDS HOTEL ~ 2022 Beach Car Park Season Ticket: BANTHAM ESTATE**

**Cream Tea for 4: AVON MILL GARDEN CENTRE ~ Afternoon Tea for 2 BURGH ISLAND HOTEL**

**Real Leather Large Holdall: HERRING SHOES ~ Food Hamper: TESCO & MORRISON**

**Bottle of Rose Sainte Marie Salcombe Gin: SALCOMBE DISTILLING CO.**

**Real Leather Shoulder Bag: HERRING SHOES**

**We thank all our SPONSORS for their generosity in supplying this year's prizes**

**We also thank the Friends of Thurlestone Church, who have kindly met the costs of the repair to the Church Tower Roof.**

**Proceeds of the Draw in aid of the Repairs of the Meeting Room Parapet Walls and General Church Repairs**

# South Milton Grapevine



## Sunday Services at All Saints, South Milton

<b>JULY 4TH</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)
<b>JULY 11TH</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Morning Worship for All Ages
<b>JULY 18TH</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)
<b>JULY 25TH</b>	<b>James the Apostle</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Sunday Morning Together
<b>AUGUST 1ST</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (CW)

The church is now open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

At last the days are becoming a little more like the summer days of old, with one or two exceptions, like yesterday June 21st. It was the longest day and one of the wettest for a while. However the gardens benefited from a good soak, "himself" is really on the ball for most things - all things actually.

Life at church is continuing as the year rolls by. Now into the green of Trinity and with a slight relaxation of rules re our lifestyle, we are on track towards summer. This last Sunday we retired outside at the end of the service to sing two hymns. Daniel had his 'gizmo' which played out the hymns and we sang along. The sun shone and the birds joined in, it was a little magical moment amid the rather dour times we are experiencing.

The Fête has now officially been cancelled. However we are running a Grand Raffle, tickets are distributed among the congregation and other helpers. Please try to sell/buy as many as possible. The three main prizes are £50, £25 and £10 and there will be others to win as the time goes by. Ticket stubs to be returned to me by July 28th. Winners will be notified and prizes given out.

The summer holidays will soon be here, exams over and a sigh of relief will be heard within many families. We hope that the results will be enjoyed by all our youngsters that are involved.

The church bank is looking particularly impressive at the moment. The ox-eye daisies are superb along with many other wild flowers. How wise we are becoming in enjoying God's handiwork.

I'm afraid that Cream Teas are not going to happen this year, it is all too sensitive to operate. Apologies and we hope for better times next year.

After a period of not being very well, Johnny McKillop died peacefully in his sleep on June 2nd. He is already missed by us all and we await a date for his funeral in the near future.

For those who are not too well we wish them a speedy recovery and to any who are acting as carers, we wish them well and hope that they would ask any of us for help if it was needed.

Look out for the Draw tickets and spend as you would have done at the Fête.

Yours with luv,  
Jan Turner

Coffee mornings run by Pam Latimer, Lindy Anderton and Bettina Rixon raised £558.55 for Christian Aid. Bettina said of her coffee morning : "Apart from the successful fundraising, we had a lovely time together round the pond in the sunshine, after what seemed like a long time of not being able to socialise. I for one appreciated the company of everyone present so much more!"

*Bettina*

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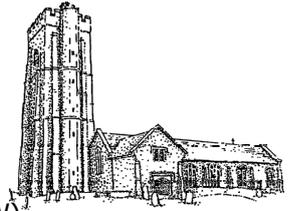
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# Churchstow Chimes



**Sunday Services** at St Mary the Virgin, Churchstow

<b>JULY 4TH</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>JULY 11TH</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Parish Communion (CW)
<b>JULY 18TH</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>JULY 25TH</b>	<b>James the Apostle</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Parish Communion (BCP)
<b>AUGUST 1ST</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b> Morning Worship

The church is now open from 9.00 a.m. until 5.30 p.m.

See page 2 for information of online services

## From the Registers:

### Memorial Service:

June 7th

Vera Nicholson aged 83 RIP

### Wedding;

June 19th

Timothy Colebrook and Crystal Stean.

We wish Tim and Crystal every happiness.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the recent APCM, the following Church officers were re-elected: John Woodley and Tristan Bertie as Churchwardens, John Woodley as Church Treasurer and George Seager Berry as Church Hall Treasurer, Penny Fenton and Gilly Bertie as Deanery Synod Representatives.

## Coffee Break

Unfortunately the Coffee Break scheduled for July 1st has had to be cancelled, hopefully the one on August 5th can go ahead depending on the lifting of current restrictions.

## Church Fête and Annual Gift Day

Unfortunately the Church Fête has been cancelled again this year, although the Fête Raffle will be drawn on what would have been Fête day, Saturday August 21st in the Church Hall, and the prizes delivered around the Parish. The Annual Gift Day will also be held on Saturday August 21st. It is hoped that the combined events will raise some much needed funds for the upkeep and running of our ancient Parish Church. Fifteen months of no fundraising has had a serious effect on Church Finances!

JRW

# Services at Loddiswell

**Services** at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell

<b>JULY 4TH</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>JULY 11TH</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Family Communion (CW)
<b>JULY 18TH</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Morning Worship
<b>JULY 25TH</b>	<b>James the Apostle</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>AUGUST 1ST</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b> Morning Worship

The church is now open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services



## Woodleigh

Currently St Mary the Virgin, Woodleigh is not open for services or private prayer



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# Diocesan News



## Living Out Forgiveness

The late Brother Roger of Baize taught us that the job of any Christian is to take that part of the Gospel they understand and to live it out. Different people will focus on different aspects of Christ's life and teaching. For me, a key quality has to be forgiveness. As Jesus tells us: "If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." And how many times? "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus recognises that forgiving is something we have to opt into, but he yearns for us to choose to forgive, since this is an attribute of God himself. That we learn from the wonderful parable of the Prodigal Son - in which the father, his heart full of forgiveness, longs for his wayward son's return. Forgiveness defines our creator, and is a quality Christians are encouraged to make our own.

Though it's never easy. Getting ourselves to a position where we are able to forgive can be a very costly business. Though not getting to that position can be equally costly. Mahatma Gandhi got it right: if we all live by 'an eye for an eye' the whole world will be blind. Forgiveness brings new life not just to the one who is forgiven, let off, set free; it has precisely the same effect on the one doing the forgiving. Letting go of a grievance can bring hope, release, new life. As the great 6th century monk St Maximus the Confessor reminds us: "If you are offended by anything, whether intended or unintended, you do not know the way of peace."

Forgiveness, then: a great thing for Christian to practise. After all, it's about us and our freedom, it's about our relationship with God, and it's about the transformation of the world around us. Forgiveness may never be easy, but is always worthwhile.

*The Very Revd Jonathan Greener. Dean of Exeter*

## Archbishop Justin Welby to Open New Melanesia Pilgrimage Route in Devon



The Archbishop of Canterbury is to visit Devon in September to open a new pilgrimage route in honour of John Coleridge Patteson, the first Bishop of Melanesia. The 12-mile Patteson's Way is a joint initiative between the Melanesian Mission UK (MMUK) of which Archbishop Justin Welby is President, local school children and the Diocese of Exeter. During his visit on 18 September, Archbishop Justin will do part of the walk with local families before preaching at a special service at Exeter Cathedral.

*The Archbishop of Canterbury with members of Melanesia's four Anglican Religious Orders at Lambeth Palace*

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*Martyn Norsworthy*

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This year marks 150 years since Patteson, who grew up in Feniton in East Devon, was killed for his faith in 1871, after travelling from Devon to Melanesia as a Christian missionary in 1855. The Diocese of Exeter is linked with the Anglican Province of Melanesia, which covers the South Pacific nations of the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Today Christians in the islands revere Patteson as a martyr and many regard his family home and churches in Devon as places of pilgrimage.



John Patteson

The Right Reverend Mark Rylands, an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Exeter and Chair of MMUK, said "The Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Devon is a wonderful tribute to the witness and ministry of a great missionary. 150 years ago, Patteson's endeavours helped to birth a Melanesian Church that is numerically and spiritually vibrant today. Now, they are ready, willing and able to help us in the UK to renew our Christian faith and tread more lightly upon the earth."

The new circular pilgrimage route begins and ends at St Andrew's Church in Feniton. It also includes St James and St Anne, Alington, where Patteson was first a priest, St Mary's, Ottery St Mary, which has a Melanesian Chapel, and Patteson's Cross, a memorial sited where Patteson left Devon by stagecoach on his journey to Melanesia.

Katie Drew, MMUK's Executive Officer, said "The legacy of Patteson lives on, not only in Melanesia, but in Devon. So many of his values and concerns speak to us today – hidden slavery, black lives matter and care of the environment. We hope this new pilgrimage route will enable people to reflect on Patteson's life, mission and courage, and bring a little bit of Melanesia to walkers in the beautiful East Devon Countryside."

The Reverend David Carrington, vicar of St Andrew's, Feniton, said "I am sure Bishop Patteson could not have imagined what would grow from his missionary work. He simply followed his calling and sowed in faith and love." MMUK, which is based in Devon, also works to highlight the effects of climate change in Melanesia, where some islands are already succumbing to rising sea levels. Mark Rylands said the Melanesia link was an opportunity for Christians in the UK to make a difference in the fight against climate change "We, in MMUK, do all we can to help the people of Melanesia with disaster relief funding, resourcing vital research and facing the impact of global warming. We are a family 10,000 miles apart – brothers and sisters in Christ supporting one another."



Feniton Primary School pupils,  
Rev'd David Carrington and Rt Rev'd Mark Rylands

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**St Boniface Awards Service shares Stories of Generosity and Joy**

The Company of St Boniface welcomed 16 new companions on Saturday June 19th recognising work from transforming a school to quadrupling the reach of a foodbank.



The Bishop of Exeter, The Right Reverend Robert Atwell began the ceremony with addressing the array of actions and accomplishments to be celebrated that evening. Bishop Robert said "It's been a devastating year for us all. I don't think there is a family or a household in this land that hasn't been affected by the virus. We all have stories to tell. But the stories we are telling today with these 16 new companions are stories of hope, stories of extraordinary resilience. Stories of generosity and joy and sacrificial service to neighbours, people in need, families in distress, schools trying to make a difference, caring for our environment. In all these ways the stories that we will be hearing today in this service give testimony to the abundance of grace and hope and love that we see in the face of Jesus Christ."



Aileen Badcock, 89, became the sole remaining member of the congregation at St Swithun's church in Littleham, North Devon, in the 1950s when the vicar "locked the building and left", leaving the church in a badly delapidated state. She led a community fundraising effort and by the 1960s the church was thriving once more. She has been a churchwarden and Sunday school leader there for over 30 years. She is still fundraising for the community, most recently by selling tea-towels in her front garden during lockdown, raising money for a new toilet for the church. The Rev'd Marisa Cockfield, who nominated her, said "Aileen is greatly loved by her community. She inspires us to love each other and to work for God, I cannot think of a more worthy recipient."

The Bishop of Crediton, The Right Reverend Jackie Searle, preached on the courage of St Boniface and how the medal in his name, honoured the courage of those receiving it that day. "We have here before us today people who have summoned up their courage. People who have used their voices and their powers and their influence to make a difference. And who like St Boniface have kept going in the face of tests and difficulties. And these past 16 months have had so many challenges. And you inspire us. In the company of St Boniface, you are people who have chosen to be brave and to act."

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# The Bible Matters

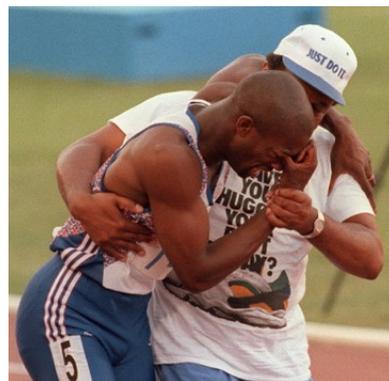
## Olympic Gold



This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith'* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

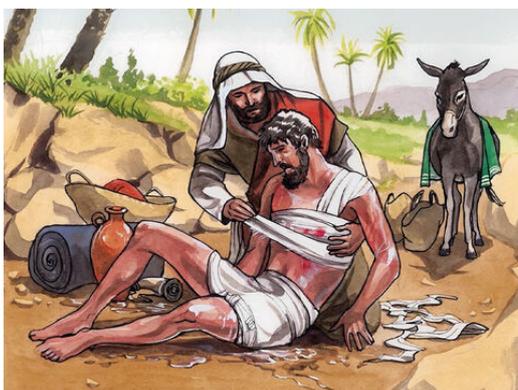
The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!



## The Good Samaritan

This familiar story (Luke 10:25-37) tells of a man who is mugged on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho and rescued by a Samaritan. Jesus tells it in response to a lawyer's question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" When Jesus calls for a life of total love towards God and neighbour, the lawyer comes back with the question: 'who is my neighbour?' (29).



The plight of the man and the indifference of the priest and Levite would have horrified Jesus' hearers. They assumed that the hero of the story would be a Jew! However, Jesus presents the Samaritan, a sworn enemy of the Jews, as a model of integrity and an example to follow: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?...Go and do likewise." (36,7). The challenge of the story is that often our neighbours can be our worst enemies, yet these are the very people we are called to love as ourselves.

Of course, we can all think of people to whom we are called to be a Samaritan in our lives: those we try to avoid and don't want to get alongside. If we are honest, we know that we don't have it in us to

love as Jesus says here. We all need somebody who will be our Good Samaritan, to rescue us and enable us to love others as ourselves. Jesus is that Good Samaritan for us.

"By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour." (Tim Keller).

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# God in the Sciences

## Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer... questions like, 'Why am I here?'"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."



Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos on [www.wondersofthelivingworld.org](http://www.wondersofthelivingworld.org)

*Dr Ruth M Bancewicz*

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# St James the Least of All

## On why the clergy should avoid computers

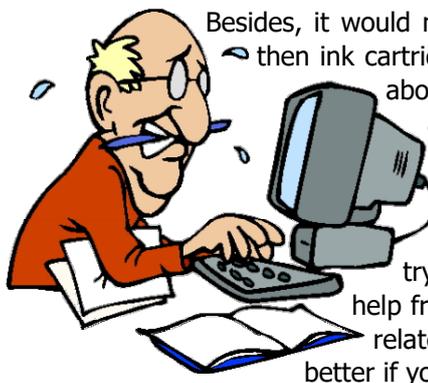
The Rectory  
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it a fundamental basic of daily life, but I do not, and I intend to keep things that way.

This is despite the fact that our diocesan office now takes it for granted that all of us clergy have a computer. Indeed, the diocesan secretary and I have had several awkward phone calls upon this very subject. He can't believe that I really don't have one, and suspects that I am simply hiding my email address from him so that he cannot send me the daily diocesan briefings, weekly questionnaires, and constant notification of all sorts of meetings and training days. But I remain firm: I have survived in ministry for nearly 50 years without a computer, and I don't intend to change now. When he gets tetchy with me, I take the high moral ground and remind him that St Paul did not have a computer.



Besides, it would not end with just a computer. Next, I would be obliged to get a printer and then ink cartridges and then maybe some sort of virus would attack me. As I have no idea about any of this, I might have to allow someone into the vicarage to sort it out, and even worse, I might even have to *pay* them. My money can be far more usefully spent on good claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives either trying to get their machine to do something that it refuses to do, or else getting help from someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English, who assures you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

So I have decided that should I ever REALLY need to use a computer for something, I will visit our local primary school and get a six year-old to do the job for me, which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



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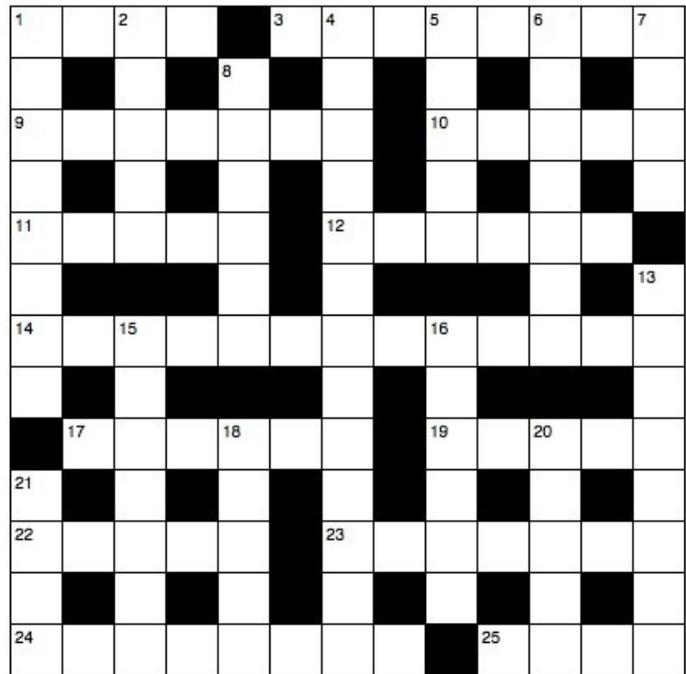
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**WORDWISE**

# Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8-12) (4)
- 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)



- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

**DOWN**

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day - ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

**Answers:**

**ACROSS:** 1. Dove, 3. Offender, 9. Alcohol, 10. Losses, 11. Horam, 12. Ophrah, 14. Archbishopric, 17. Samuel, 19. Dwarf, 22. Lacks, 23. Imagine, 24. Military, 25. Revd.  
**DOWN:** 1. Drachmas, 2. Vicar, 4. Fellow-soldier, 5. Eglah, 6. Despair, 7. Rust, 8. The mob, 13. Scofield, 15. Chancel, 16. Ordeal, 18. Upset, 20. Alike, 21. Elm.



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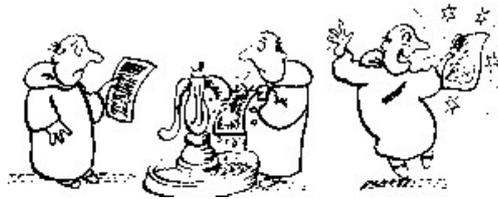
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# Parish



# Pump

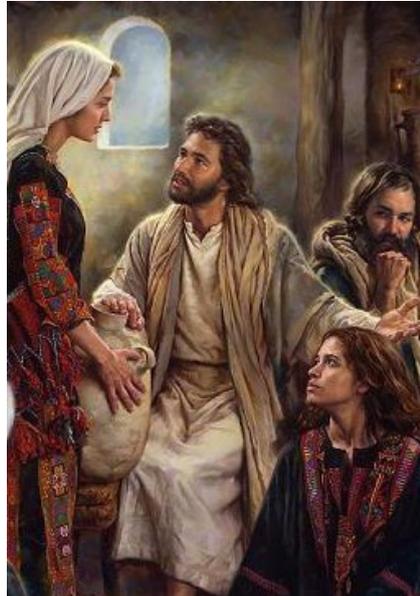
## Prioritising

Martha cooked  
 But Mary looked  
 And sat at the Masters feet,  
 It's a story of old  
 But we are told  
 It's where man and God can meet.

So much to do  
 But think it through  
 There's a place for you and me,  
 To spend time with the Lord  
 And be found in His word  
 It's where we are meant to be.

So find a place  
 To seek His face  
 Where the Lord Himself is found  
 With a God who cares  
 Hears all our prayers  
 The place where grace abounds.

*Megan Carter*



## The Difference

So often  
 I can't wear the right clothes,  
 Speak the right words,  
 Fit the right mould,  
 Be the shape people want me to be,  
 Expect me to be,  
 Demand that I am,  
 To conform.

But you Lord  
 Accept me,  
 Release me,  
 Make it possible to be me,  
 Perfectly free  
 In Your service,  
 Open for You  
 To transform.

*Daphne Kitching*

## The Ages of Life

### Old Age

On the outside: why so faded,  
 Colours chipped and hair awry?  
 Ageing's price has been exacted,  
 Hope extinguished, love gone by.

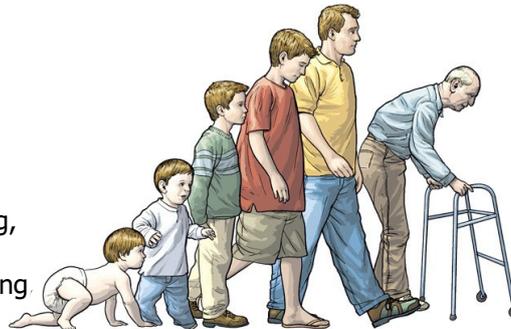
### Middle Age

Halfway there with lines appearing,  
 Self-help books are piling high.  
 Dreams still beckon; future yearning  
 Life has not yet passed me by.

### Moral

Cast off now your stubborn pride.  
 Liberate the child inside.  
 (See Matthew 18:3)

*John Barton*



### Adolescence

Teenage daring, risk unflinching;  
 Health and vigour promise more  
 Every passion lurks, so tempting  
 All sensations to the fore.

### Childhood

Child amazement, world untested;  
 Safely kept in others' care.  
 Now emerging, trusting, fearless  
 Stain-free soul to taste the air.



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**Saying Good-bye**

An inexperienced curate was sent to do a graveside burial for a homeless man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

When the curate looked into the open grave and even found the vault lid was already in place, he felt very guilty. The homeless man deserved something, even though it was late. And so, the curate delivered an impassioned burial service, sending the deceased into the great beyond in some style. The workmen looked on in silence, but as the curate returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen remark: 'I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen anything like that!'



*...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...*



*"Due to our failure to secure a holiday relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, Chopsticks."*

**A Verse to sing before we enter Church?**

*(to the tune of Angel voices ever singing)*

Hand gel choices ever bringing  
Clean hands left and right,  
And those hands forever ringing  
In the virus fight.  
Thousands every day can use it  
And they choose it  
'Cos it's right.

*Pat Holness*

**Upsy daisy**

After morning service, the new curate slipped and fell on the path. A few seconds later a small girl burst through the throng of the concerned congregation around him, grabbed his arm and began to pull. Embarrassed, he waved her away with a smile. Loudly, she protested: "I can do it, I can do it! I've helped my father up when he was far drunker than you are."

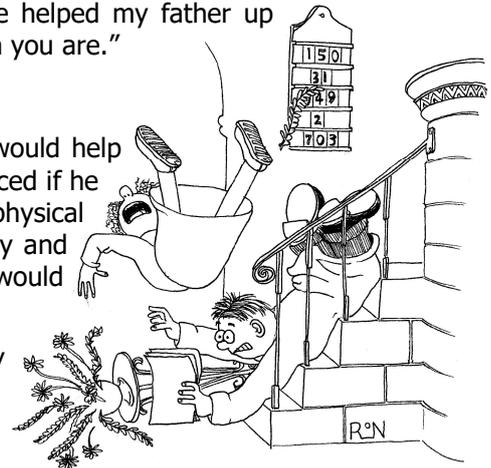
**Disperse them**

A young clergyman, who had just completed his training, thought it would help him to understand better the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offertory plate." He got the job.

**St Matthew**

Underneath a street sign 'St Matthew's Close', someone had pointed out: 'Well, I can't see him.'



*Sharing the Notices while keeping social distance was proving tricky.*

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