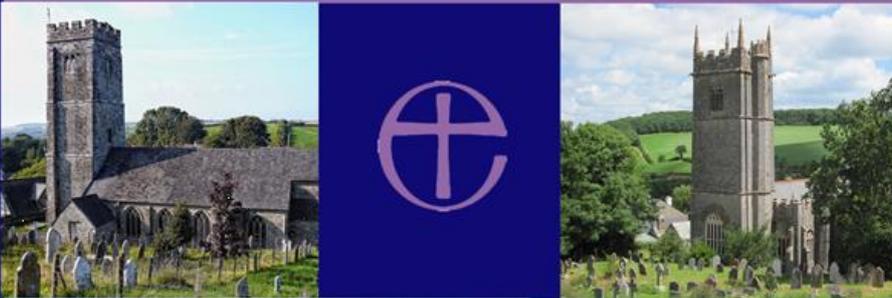




Totnes Ministry Team
Newsletter
July 2021



Monthly Reflection: Sea Sunday – Rev'd Gill Still

The first global view of our planet is found in the bible. *On the third day of creation, God said "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together into one place and let dry land appear": and it was so. And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering together of the waters called the seas: and God saw that it was good.*

Purifying, mesmerizing and transformative, the sea has long been celebrated for its beauty and mysterious power. The expounders of ancient myths identified that infinite, living expanse as the source of life and maternal womb of the world. It has toiled ceaselessly as the untiring sculptor of the dry world. The sea represents life and death. In popular imagination it is what separates us from that other shore, but a breath away, where loved ones long not seen await our arrival when life ebbs away.

In addition to finding a source of food, people have been drawn by the sea's mesmerising sight and sound. *I must go down to the seas again*, says John Masefield in *Sea Fever, to the lonely sea and sky....* . There's something primal in that endless rhythm that calls us and holds us spellbound. Its energy speaks to us on a level where we don't often venture, distracted as we are by our culture's superficial, materialistic ideals. The sea can bring us back to that state of grace where we feel awed by the beauty of life and are humbled, grateful to be part of it.

Many people today depend on the sea for their food and livelihood, just as humans have done for millennia. Even though the ocean separates the continents, it also serves as a highway to unite people and today around 90% of the world's goods are transported by sea.

For many years the 2nd Sunday of July has been kept as Sea Sunday, with a special focus and prayers for all who sail the seas. The Mission to Seafarers was founded by, among others, the Revd John Ashley who began visiting ships at anchor in the Bristol Channel in 1835. It was the *isolation* of sailors that moved the young Anglican priest to give up a secure living to devote his life to helping those who served at sea and it is said that he personally visited over 14,000 ships in his long ministry and got to know the difficult, dangerous and lonely lives of seafarers. Since those early days the Mission to Seafarers (MSF) has grown to be a worldwide organisation active in 50 countries and in more

than 500 ports, seeking to help and support seafarers by responding to their physical, social and spiritual needs.



Seafaring is a hidden world. It is generally invisible to mainstream society, especially to those who do not live in coastal areas. With long, anti-social hours and the risk of piracy, shipwreck or other accidents, the life of the professional seafarer is far from easy and still fraught with danger. Seafarers find themselves far away from home, with limited access to the internet and separated from their families for months, to help keep our global economy afloat. The past year has brought additional hardship with seafarers unable to leave their ships, MSF Chaplains

limited to gangway visits and further support limited as MSF, along with other charities, has suffered a drastic reduction in income.

On Sunday 11th July may we remember these key workers and the work of MSF in our prayers. *O hear us when we cry to thee, for those in peril on the sea.*

With my love and prayers



The Community Team at Water Aid have written to thank us for the donation of £293.00. An extract from the letter includes the following:

‘Your congregation’s gift will transform the lives of children – who used to spend most of the day fetching water for her family and washing their clothes in a river far away from home. With support of congregations like yours, WaterAid has brought clean water, decent sanitation and hygiene education to (their) community.’

Thank you everyone!

Services in our churches this month

	June 27 <i>Trinity 4</i>	July 4 <i>Trinity 5</i>	July 11 <i>Trinity 6</i>	July 18 <i>Trinity 7</i>	July 25 <i>Trinity 8</i>
St Mary's Totnes	8.00 HC 11.15 HC 17.00 Vespers	8.00 MP 11.15 MP 17.00 Vespers	8.00 HC 11.15 HC 17.00 Vespers	8.00 MP 11.15 HC 17.00 Vespers	8.00 HC 11.15 HC 17.00 Vespers
St.John's Bridgetown	10.00 HC	10.00 HC	10.00 MP	10.00 HC	10.00 MP
Ashprington	9.15 Joint at Cornworthy	11.15 HC	11.15 VW 16.30 Animal Service	11.15 Joint at Ashprington	9.15 Joint at Cornworthy
Berry Pomeroy	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP	11.15 MP
Brooking		9.15 HC		9.15 HC	
Cornworthy	9.15 Joint at Cornworthy	9.15 HC	9.15 VW	11.15 Joint at Ashprington	9.15 Joint at Cornworthy
Dartington	10.30 Celtic HC		10.30 MP		10.30 Celtic HC
Marldon	10.00 VW	10.00 VW	10.00 HC	10.00 Celtic HC	10.00 VW
Stoke Gabriel	8.15 HC 11.15 HC	8.15 HC 11.15 HC	8.15 HC 11.15 HC	8.15 HC 11.15 HC	8.15 HC 11.15 HC
Telephone	12 midday	12 midday	12 midday	12 midday	12 midday
Home Worship Zoom	10.00 am	10.00 am	10.00 am	10.00 am 18.30 (Zoom) Sacred Space	10.00 am

HC = Holy Communion, MP = Morning Praise, VW = Village Worship

For Wild Church please contact Sam Wernham on livingspirit3@gmail.com

All Creatures Great and Small - Thanksgiving and Blessing Service

A warm welcome to us all (with or without our two or four-legged friends) to St David's churchyard in Ashprington on **Sunday 11th July at 4.30 pm**

/ Welcome to Chris the Curate!

Chris Harris is looking forward to serving his curacy in the Totnes Team Ministry. He and his wife, Hannah will move to the Dartington Vicarage at the end of June and Chris will be licensed as a lay worker on July 1st, 2021 at 2pm in the Lady Chapel, Exeter Cathedral before his ordination as a Deacon in Exeter Cathedral in September. He has recently completed his studies with St. Mellitus SW and Hannah has been completing her studies in Applied Theology and Youthwork. Chris likes the outdoors, music and collecting classic novels from charity shops; Hannah likes the outdoors and painting. They've lived in Exeter in recent years, where Chris was an ordinand with Unlimited Church, Exeter. They're looking forward to moving deeper into Devon and settling into the Totnes area.

A very warm welcome to Chris and Hannah from us all

Growing and Serving through Lay Ministry – The Telephone Service and Zoom

Our wonderful Ministry team do a wonderful job of supporting all our diverse parishes, including our 'Worship from Home' ministry on zoom and the telephone.

As the summer approaches they, like many of us, are looking forward to recharging their batteries and spending time relaxing in the sun (hopefully).

The 'lay led' services are really becoming established in our churches, and there are opportunities to expand Lay Ministry further by leading or supporting the weekly telephone service and home worship on zoom.

Fr Jim would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in occasionally taking these roles as part of their own growth and spiritual journey. Support and guidance will be given. Please talk to him if you are interested on 07775356652 or by email on fr.jim@totnesrectory.co.uk

'For I know the plans I have for you'

Churchwardens: Good and Faithful Servants

A letter of thanks from Martin Harvey, recently retired churchwarden

‘Thank you so much for collecting, arranging and delivering the very kind and generous gifts of wine, the beautiful bouquet of lovely flowers for Maggi as well as the thank you card which you have so carefully and nicely put together all the kind thoughts and comments of the congregation. We are, regulations permitting, going away for a couple of days next month to North Devon and would very much like to use the money to pay for the break, which by chance is also Maggi’s birthday.

I am speechless as to what to say to everyone’s generosity and very kind words. I have been honoured to be elected so many times as Warden and, if I may say so, really enjoyed being Churchwarden. Serving God, the Church, the congregation(s) and the amazing and marvellous church buildings which represent such an important part of the town of Totnes, to the very best of my ability and greatly appreciate the huge levels of support which everyone has provided to me in exercising those duties. It must be said that without that prayerful & practical support it would have been an impossible and thankless task. Further to this I wish to say thanks to everyone for the wonderful prayer support which I received whilst in hospital in December and during the recovery and for the subsequent prayer and support for Maggi who I am delighted to report has recently finished her treatment and is now in good shape and form, we pray that it will continue in the future. Thank you all and everyone.

In Memoriam: A tribute to Mary Dunster, St Barnabas, Brooking

‘We remember with love and appreciation Mary Dunster – long supporter of this church – deputy church warden, friend to many.

We pray for David, Elizabeth and Peter and all family and friends. She was a ‘listening ear’ for many in the farming community.’

Please remember Mary and her family in your prayers

Better Connected! The CDS Mobile Booster Voucher Scheme

‘Connecting Devon and Somerset’ is pleased to announce the roll out of its new mobile booster scheme, aimed at small businesses and households who currently have poor indoor mobile coverage. The scheme allows businesses and households to apply for an £800 voucher which can be used to acquire a mobile signal booster from a registered scheme supplier. The booster will in turn help to improve indoor mobile coverage for the premises in question.

Businesses and residents will need to fill in the below form, self-certifying that they cannot receive an indoor mobile signal. Upon application, a voucher code will be emailed to the applicant which can be used with one of the registered scheme suppliers/installers. It is down to the applicant to research which of the suppliers can install in their area/which one is best to go with for their needs. Getting in touch with the supplier directly to redeem the voucher and have the equipment installed at the premises.

The application form can be found

here: <https://connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/mobile-voucher-application-form/>

The list of registered suppliers is here: <https://connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/list-of-suppliers-for-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme/>

Together is stronger - Transition Streets

Concerned about climate change? Why not work together to do what we can about the Climate Emergency, one street at a time **Transition Streets** is a tried-and-tested, award-winning behaviour-change project to cut energy use, reduce carbon emissions, save money and strengthen your neighbourhood. This site tells you all you need to know to start up your own Transition Streets group: <https://www.transitionstreets.org.uk/>

Transition Streets aims to create a framework that inspires resilient communities, so as to address climate change, foster wellbeing and support one another. This is through self-organisation and building social cohesion, allowing groups to develop the skills and awareness required for working together as a community on climate change within a safe, supportive environment. The programme works with groups of neighbours to make connections with people, planet and place so as to transition from a place of crisis to one of opportunity. Totnes, where it all began is relaunching the scheme – do see if you and your neighbours would like to join

'Desert Island Discs' – Rev'd. Preb. Deborah Parsons



Can you share with us a strong memory of childhood?

I can remember the delight of being given a pocket torch for Christmas. Mine was a red one; my twin's was a blue one. We used to read secretly under the bedclothes! My father was a great storyteller and my parents instilled in us a love of reading. Dad used to delight us with bedtime stories about a fictitious dog called: Pickles!

What do you love most about being in the Totnes Ministry Team?

I love the people and the diversity of the team, the openness to spirituality and the sheer beauty of the place. It's such a privilege to minister here and I'm humbled by the opportunities I have to meet people at liminal moments in their lives and to offer a word of hope and light and life.

If there was one thing you could change that would improve your daily life, what would that be?

I would employ a PA to deal with all my administration so that I have more face-to-face time with people and I would move my family to Devon so that I could see them more regularly and have the delight of casual conversations over a cup of tea. Modern technology is a wonderful way of keeping connected but it's not the same as the organic conversations that arise spontaneously in daily life.... and I do miss the cuddles!

Which three people (living or dead) would you invite to supper?

I'd love to invite Gandhi, Jesus and Dame Judi Dench. Can you imagine the lively conversation?...but only if my husband, David, plays Martha and is busy in the kitchen, (no change for him!) whilst I sit, like Mary, enraptured at Jesus's feet and immerse myself in the conversation.

What piece of music, book and 'luxury' would you take with you (and yes, you do have the Bible!)?

For my piece of music, I would choose Widor's *Toccata* because it is such an exuberant and joyful piece and reminds me of my wedding day and end of terms when I was teaching!

Choosing just one book is an impossible task for a former English teacher. I can't imagine being stranded on a desert island without a novel to read but I'm

going to choose T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* because the poetry is so rich and multi-layered that it never ceases to delight me when I unearth new treasures. It would certainly give me plenty to ponder and meditate upon.

And for my "Luxury" - It would have to be my baritone ukelele, so I could sing and dance to my heart's content.

On Holy Ground!

The parish allotment has is producing first fruits with this impressive crop of strawberries. Huge thanks to John and Zaida Bullock who have really started things off magnificently, and to all those involved in moving the shed.



Gooseberries are almost ready and a bumper crop of blackcurrants is on the way ... not to mention peas, beans, spuds, courgettes, leeks, caulis, sweetcorn and other goodies.

If you'd like to get involved in any way – watering, weeding, jam-making or various other joys, then please do. It can be as often as you like. The Allotment Association merely ask that you join them at the very reasonable cost of £5 for a year. Contact Diana Walters on 07773551030 or diana.walters2@gmail.com for any further information – and start saving your jars.

Supporting St Mary's at the Elizabethan Market

The Heritage Trust has got a stall in the Tuesday Elizabethan Markets. Local historian Dr Todd Gray will be doing the official opening on Tuesday July 6.

For more details contact the Heritage Trust on totnesheritage@gmail.com or on 01803 840259

YOUNG CHRISTIAN CLIMATE NETWORK

UK RELAY G7 TO COP26



Exeter Events

Tues 29/6 6pm - Cathedral Green

- Welcome picnic - bring food & hope

Weds 30/6 5pm - Exeter Cathedral

- Service of welcome & blessing

Thurs 1/7 7.30pm - Mary Harris Chapel, University of Exeter

- Prayer service led by YCCN

Fri 2/7 7.30-9pm - Zoom talks/film/panel

- Hosted by YCCN & Uni Chaplaincy, from St Matt's Church - with Melanesian Mission, Prof Chris Southgate, Christian Climate Action, Toby Grier, Just Love

Sat 3/7 morning - Devon County Show

- Procession, Q&A, prayer

Visits to local schools

yccn.uk

For background on Climate Justice, Relay aims & national route etc!

exeter.anglican.org/events

For more details and online eventbrite link!

chris.keppie@exeter.anglican.org



JOIN THE WALK!

- Pilgrimage from Plymouth to Exeter via beautiful Dartmoor 24-29th June
- 10 miles / 4 hour day routes (as much or as little as you like!)
- All ages welcome!
- Email relay@yccn.uk to be connected to our lead walker to a) walk, or b) offer refreshments en route



New Service Announcement

*Food Bank will continue from the current location until **29th July** when it will transition, **with no break in service** and Totnes Connection Hub will continue to run the Food Bank From 1st August- Opening hours: Friday 1.30 – 3.30
Location for collection of food parcels: Freedom Centre, Burke Road (2 doors down from the original TCH)*

New Food Bank Service: Essentially, the main change in service will be our own assessment process for each food bank referral. So as to fully understand each client's specific needs and identity how we can best support them with the range of services we have on offer, and if and where to signpost them, we will be undertaking our own assessment process.

Totnes Connection Hub will continue with support services as detailed below. There are two ways to access the services:

- Fill in the online assessment form and a support worker will be in touch to arrange an appointment.
- **Attend the open surgery on FRIDAYS ONLY 10.30 – 3.00 to see a support worker to go through the assessment form with you.**

Food Support - Weekly food parcels during the transition period whilst working with the client to transition them out of needing food support.

Benefits Support - Form filling. Appeal preparation. Managing online account.

Housing Support - Devon Home Choice Account Management. Appeals process. Helping locate/source available houses.

Job Support - Help with CVs. Interview Techniques. Job applications. Confidence building.

Business Support - Help with funding for a new business, putting together a business plan and mentoring through the process if required.

Health & Wellbeing Support - We have secured funding so we can refer clients to the Wellness Hub for support to improve health and emotional wellbeing.

Many of our amazing volunteers will be moving across with us to this new service and we are excited to be focusing on delivering more specialist services.

Thank you to the generous people of Totnes who support what we do so that we can help those who need it most.

It's just another thought – from Rev'd Cliff Berdinner

Sometimes a mother may look at her little boy and say, 'Oh he's just like his Dad, you know'. Or a father may look at his little girl and say, 'She has her mother's lovely eyes'.. It's not surprising of course, because within our own self are bits of our parents, grandparents and even those before that. No wonder some people are interested in genealogy!

In the context of religion, I may have changed my beliefs a few times along the way and I am still thinking through a few things; but if I were asked if there is a little bit of God in each of us, I would say, 'Yes I do'. Although not everyone may desire God - like the young man who told me that he didn't want God in his life as He might send him to Africa and he didn't want to be a missionary. Another young man, and dear friend of mine, responded to what he felt was God's call, and did go to Africa to teach and care for God's people. He did much good there and helped build a tin church as a meeting place for the village.

Down the ages God has stirred many a soul to accomplish many things in many ways. Just think of Paul to whom God called to establish the church in the world beyond Jerusalem. Paul a Jew, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, a Pharisee and strictest keeper of the Law came to believe that he should invite other Jews to join him without the Law, except the law of love. It was an invitation extended also to multitudes of pagans (Gentiles) to become the new Church of the living Christ. It is almost unbelievable that the church today rests upon Paul's radical liberalism.

Well, my friends, we may never find ourselves labouring in the sticky heat of Africa, or having the vision and energy of Paul, but that does not mean that there is not a bit of God within us all. Many a soul will tell of the presence of the Divine Spirit in their life; but the Good News is that all of us, without exception, can make that wonderful discovery.

Next Deadline: July 20th – feedback, ideas and contributions always welcome

Contact ttmcomms@gmail.com or Diana Walters on 07773551030