

Totnes Ministry Team Newsletter

February 2024



**Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you.**

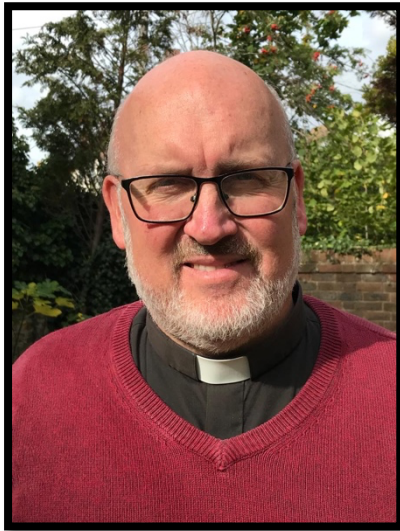
1 Peter Chapter 5, verse 7

Sunday Services in our churches in February 2024

| | February 4 Candlemass | February 11 | February 18 Lent 1 | February 25 Lent 2 |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| St Mary's Totnes | 8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Morning Praise 18.30: Choral Evensong | 8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Sung Eucharist 17.00: Vespers 19.30: Taize | 8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Sung Eucharist 17.00: Vespers | 8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Sung Eucharist 17.00: Vespers |
| St. John's Bridgetown | 10.00: Holy Communion | 10.00: Morning Praise | 10.00: Holy Communion | 10.00: Holy Communion |
| Ashprington | 11.15: Holy Communion | 11.15: Village Worship | 11.15: Holy Communion | |
| Berry Pomeroy | 11.15: Morning Praise | 11.15: Holy Communion | 11.15: Holy Communion | 11.15: Holy Communion |
| Brooking | | | 9.15: Holy Communion | |
| Cornworthy | | 9.15: Village Worship | 9.15: Holy Communion | 9.15: Holy Communion |
| Dartington | 10.30: Candlemass service | 10.30: Celtic Holy Communion | | 10.30: Morning Praise |
| Marldon | 10.00: Holy Communion | 10.00: Village Worship | 10.00: Holy Communion | 10.00: Holy Communion |
| Stoke Gabriel | 8.15: Eucharist 11.00: Holy Communion | 8.15 Eucharist 11.00: Holy Communion | 8.15: Eucharist 11.00: Choral Mattins | 8.15: Eucharist 11.00: Holy Communion 16.00: Evensong |
| Telephone | | | Midday | Midday |
| Zoom | | | | 10am St John's |

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

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.



Reflection – Rev Chris Martin (Stoke Gabriel)

My wife tells me that I am prone to occasional flashes of romance. I have written a poem or two to her, or surprised her with some flowers from time to time. Sometimes, I even give her a kiss without her asking! When it comes to Valentine cards, in our 31 years of marriage, I don't think I've missed a year...but please don't quote me in her hearing!

We don't usually go out for dinner on Valentine's Day but in any case, this year I won't be able to wine and dine my lovely wife because Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. So I will be marking her forehead in ash instead!

Seriously though, the coincidence of the dates this year is a really helpful reminder to us that although Lent is a solemn period of self-reflection, a time of honest 'facing up' to those parts of ourselves that we don't often let others see and a time for curbing the many appetites that, when unchecked, can bring self-destruction, Lent is also a period for remembering that we are deeply loved, warts and all. The pre-cursor to Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness was the voice from heaven at his baptism, 'You are my son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased' and the temptations he faced in the desert were the subtle whispers designed to undermine his confidence and trust in his identity as a beloved child of God.

So, as we face into this season and the wild beasts that roam within each of us, let's do it remembering that we are deeply loved and known, not just for who we are becoming, but for who we already are.



The Great Bake Off Take Off!



We're all set for the **Bake off Take off**, 3-5.pm, Saturday 10th February, in St John's Bridgetown. It's a joint enterprise with St Mary's, and will give publicity to our two church fundraising projects.

Another aim is **fun-raising**. This is an event for all comers, not just the two congregations. We are inviting participants to make either a gingerbread church tower, or a sponge cake with an icing sugar illustration of a sailing boat; or both. Susan (my spouse) and I have been practicing - on the principle of not asking people to do things you can't do yourself. Pictures of our efforts are attached - and surely you can do better than that! (The organisers are not eligible to compete for prizes.)

If you want to benefit from our experience you only have to email. I can tell you about materials, edible adhesives and construction techniques. There's a separate competition for under tens, who can make cupcakes, decorated in any way they like. Cakes will be available for consumption or purchase (but not both, as the old maxim advises). Birgit, whose German Bakery stall in the market is much loved, will judge the entries.

As well as the cake baking and eating there will be a foodie quiz for teams; also a sing along, with just two songs: one written specially for the occasion, and one from my children's song book (copies will be available for sale at £5, proceeds to the churches).



Adults pay £3, and all under eighteens come free. This is an event for bakers and for families, and we'd like to fill all 120 available places, so please encourage your friends and neighbours to come - with cakes if possible, but that's not essential. Tea, soft drinks and biscuits will be provided, free. To apply for entry tickets go to:

<https://ttmchurchsuite.com/events/v9amhiow>

Peter Hilken and The Bake Off Team

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024
FRIDAY 1 MARCH
 A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!
 I beg you, bear with
 one another in love

**A world wide ecumenical service
 prepared by the women of
 Palestine**

Friday 1st March 2024 7.00 pm
Followed by light refreshments

St John's Church
Bridgetown, Totnes, TQ9 5AD

All welcome

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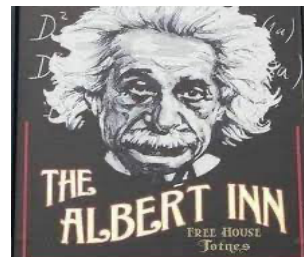
Sunday Lunch at the Pub??

Why not ...!

Join a happy band of pilgrims every
 second Sunday at The Albert for
 one of Giles' legendary Sunday
 roasts.

To book a place please contact
 Alyssa on 07875 838976

(You could even go to church
 before hand if you fancy it!)



Stepping Stones Food Bank is now at St John's, Bridgetown



WELCOME ONE AND ALL!

Stepping Stones
Food & Wellbeing

From 15 Jan 24 St John's Church, Bridgetown
 Serving people living in the TQ9 area

Food store
 Food bank and £2.50 Club combined
 Mon 12:30 - 7pm
 Tues & Thurs 10am - 3pm
 Fri 12:30 - 3pm

Warm Cafe
 Pay a donation for vegan soup & beverages
 Mon, Tues & Thurs 12 - 2pm

Create!
 Arts, crafting & jigsaw puzzling
 Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 1 - 3pm

[f@steppingstonetotnes](https://www.facebook.com/steppingstonetotnes)
contact@steppingstonetotnes.co.uk 07988639514



Lent Vigil for Climate Justice

by Green Christian Vice Chair, Barbara Echlin.

Green Christian is joining with Christian Aid, Tearfund, CAFOD, A Rocha, the Salvation Army, CCA and others in planning a prayerful and powerful climate action in Lent this year.

From Ash Wednesday, for ten days, a 24/7 Lent Vigil for Climate Justice will take place outside Parliament. The Vigil begins with a reflective Service at St John's Waterloo at 1pm on Wednesday 14 February. An Ashing ceremony will follow the Service outside in the church garden. From there we will make our way to Parliament where the 24/7 Lent Vigil for Climate Justice will begin at 3pm. At the Service we will be lamenting the failure to address the climate and environmental crisis. We will bear witness to the impacts of climate disruption on our global neighbours who have done the least to cause the crisis.

As we approach the resurrection transformation of Easter, in longing for the change we want to see, we will pray for transformation, even in the midst of injustice. Our prayers will be for bold climate action from the UK Government.

Wednesday 14 February is also St Valentine's Day: a day to show our love for this beautiful planet, our common home, which we share with all God's creatures. Around the world creation is crying out. Heatwaves, fires, droughts and floods are becoming more frequent, wrecking lives, land, and livelihoods. Meanwhile, the biggest polluters who have caused this crisis make vast profits from fossil fuels. As creation groans, the poorest, who have done the least to cause the problem, are paying the price. This is unjust. Locating our vigil outside Westminster is a political move. We want to bear witness to past failures to act on and to the impacts of the climate crisis, and pray for the UK Government to take bold climate action. We also want our prayers to move us into action to call on our politicians for climate justice. At the vigil, as we pray, we will call on the UK Government to:

- Make the UK's biggest polluters pay for climate action
- Deliver and build on the UK's international climate finance pledges and pay into the UN's Loss and Damage Fund
- Ban new UK-based fossil fuel projects

Please join us or pray for us!



Lean into Lent ...

"O lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen." Henri Nouwen

Wednesday February 14 is Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of Lent – the 40 Days and Nights that bring us to Holy Week, to the Cross and to Easter.

There are many ways to observe this season. You might want to try one of the Study Groups throughout our churches. If you'd like details of these, please contact one of the clergy or look at the details on the website.

Glimpsing the Divine

Over the centuries poets have experienced the wonders and mystery of creation, of the Great Unknown. The best of them have put that experience into words, in forms and patterns we can return to again and again (as we do with favourite pieces of music). Such poems become part of our souls' much loved furniture.

In four one-hour sessions we will read a selection of such poems, and share our enjoyment of them. Perhaps, like C S Lewis, you will be surprised by joy.

Tuesdays 6 - 7 pm, February 27, March 5, 12, and 19, at 15 Baltic Way, TQ9 5WY
Peter and Susan Hilken, tel 01803 62614. peter.hilken@ntlworld.com

Lent Quiet Morning - Tues 20 Feb 10-11 at St John's, Bridgetown

All are welcome to join Revd Jane and Richard Frost in reflecting on the meaning of Lent. There will be two short talks and times for prayer and quiet reflection.

Please contact Richard if you would like to come. Tel: 01803 525171 or email richardnfrost@outlook.com

Compline

A weekly service of Compline will be said at 9pm each Wednesday of Lent. More details to follow in the weekly emails or ask clergy for details.

Richard Frost, one of our Licensed Lay Ministers, has produced some short videos for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, called ***Out of the Wilderness***. Exploring the themes of wanting, wandering and waiting and also restoration and renewal, there's one for each week plus two for Holy Week and Easter.

They are free to watch and more details are <https://workrestpray.com/lent/>



In Loving Memory of Nick Pigott, 1948 – 2024

‘Nick the Vic’ died suddenly in early January. We mourn his loss and remember him as a wonderful man who touched the lives of many people in Totnes and the surrounding area. Nick was vicar of St John’s, Bridgetown, and it is so fitting that he is now laid to rest there.

Please pray for Jenny, Sarah, Anna and all of Nick’s family and friends as they adjust to life without him.

Rest in Peace Nick, and Rise in Glory.



Unity in Diversity – 6-7pm St Mary’s, Totnes

February 1 : The Peacemaker – Phil Barber

February 8: Practices for Conflict Facilitation, Practices for Peace – Christopher Titmuss

February 22: Cultivating Peace – Richard Good

February 29: Bowing as Spiritual Practice – Laura Bridgeman

Full details – www.stmarysandstjohnstotnes.org/unity-in-diversity

Spuds are Back!

The Hot Potato Cafe is on the first Friday of each month ...

See you on Feb 2nd, 12-2pm at St John’s



Mindful Making

Thanks to funding from the Devon Communities Fund and ongoing collaboration with Stepping Stones ... Mindful Making is now on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on the mezzanine at St John’s. 10-12.

Get crafty!

Thinking about our welcome messages

(spotted in Reading and originally at Coventry Cathedral)



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, questioning, well-heeled or down at the heel. We welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

You're welcome here if you are just browsing, have just woken up or are just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a warm welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegans, junk food eaters. We welcome those in recovery and those still addicted. We welcome you if you are having problems, are down in the dumps or if today is the best day of your life.

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because Granny is visiting and wanted to look round.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids, or got lost and ended up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers doubters ... and especially YOU!

St Mary's Transforms

A major fundraising drive is now under way, to enable a reordering of the interior of the church to create a more flexible space, to provide a new carbon zero heating system and to make the building's heritage more accessible. We're making good progress and there is information in the church as well as newsletters if you want to be up to date.

For further details about the project and to donate online please go to <https://www.stmarysandstjohnstotnes.org/st-mary-s-projects>

If you would like to receive regular updates about what is happening at St Mary's, then why not join the Friends? Contact Tony Gregg on 01803 863111 or a.gregg29@btinternet.com

Christian Books Library

There is lot of reorganising going in at St John's Bridgetown to accommodate the Food Bank, and a bookcase of Christian books is now on the first-floor landing on the right.

Anyone is welcome to borrow the books. Please just record your name, date and what you have borrowed in the blue exercise book on the bookshelf if you do so. We'd also love suggestions of books to buy – which are the ones you go back to?

Risen Christ, you take us with our hearts just as they are.
Why think we must wait for our hearts to be changed before we go to you?
You transfigure them.
With our thorns, you light a fire.
The open wound in us is the place through
which your love comes streaming.
And within the very hurts themselves,
you bring to fruition a communion in you.
Your voice comes to rend our night,
and the gateways of praise open up within us.
Amen

(Prayer from the Taizé Community)





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March Newsletter Deadline: February 20th
ttncomms@gmail.com or Diana on 07773551030

If you would like to join our mailing list and receive regular news about our Ministry Team, please let us know by emailing ttncomms@gmail.com
 Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509069870119796/about>

How to contact the Ministry Team and Clergy

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Curate

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