

Totnes Ministry Team Newsletter

March 2024



‘Whoever would save his life must first lose it, and whoever loses her life for my sake will find it. What profit does she show who gains the whole world and yet destroys herself in the process?’

Luke 9: 24-25

Sunday Services in our churches in March 2024

	March 3 Lent 3	March 10 Mothering Sunday	March 17 Passion	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 31 Easter Sunday
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	8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Sung Eucharist
St. John's Bridgetown	10.00: Holy Communion	10.00: Mothering Sunday	10.00: Holy Communion	10.00: Blessing of Palms – procession to TSM for service	10.00: Holy Communion
Ashprington	11.15: Holy Communion	11.15: Village Worship	11.15: Holy Communion		11.15: Holy Communion
Berry Pomeroy	11.15: Morning Praise	11.15: Holy Communion	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	9.15: Holy Communion
Dartington		10.30: Mothering Sunday		10.30: Morning Praise	10.30: Holy Communion
Marldon	10.00: Holy Communion	10.00: Village Worship	10.00: Holy Communion	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	6.45: Sunrise Service 8.15: Eucharist 11.00: Holy Communion
Telephone			Midday	Midday	
Zoom				10am St John's	

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



Reflection – Something to Celebrate!

Rev Jane Frost (Marldon)

I don't know about you but I've been thirsty for the Spring to arrive this year.

Daily dog walking around local lanes near the village where I live has allowed me to catch repeated, promising glimpses of those small seasonal shifts:

unfurling January snowdrops; pussy willow about to burst out of brown casing; budding February daffodils and primroses. By the time this article is printed, nature will no doubt be in full March throttle and the lengthening daylight will be even more evident. At this time of year, whatever our circumstances, it can feel good to be alive! That's something to celebrate.

Perhaps like me, you also have cause to celebrate that we live in such a communities as we do. In Marldon, the village shops and local primary school breathe life into our daily rhythms. The Village Hall, managed by volunteers, is a hub for village groups; the Pre-school who are rightly thrilled by their 'Good' Ofsted report; the weekly Toddler gathering which the church has 'birthed'. The Community Choir and annual Panto group also find a home there. The Welsh in our midst will no doubt be celebrating St David's day at the beginning of this month. This year, that particular date in the Church's calendar also falls part way through Lent – a season of Paradox. Its Ash Wednesday threshold struck an austere note back in February. Given Lent's 40 days are also identified with the period Jesus spent in the wilderness before his short, earthly ministry began, for some, it will still be a time of self-denial and soul-searching: an opportunity to have a spiritual spring clean. Not very celebratory in flavour then, given, historically, people would have eaten up the last of the rich foods like eggs on Shrove Tuesday?

But looking at it another way, though, here is a period, in a season of burgeoning natural growth, to discover our own metaphorical growth points; to exercise our freedom to be who and what we are intended to be.

The season of Lent in the church calendar prepares us for the events of Holy Week when we remember again how Jesus was put to death, like a criminal, in an apparently terrible fall from grace with the authorities, only to be raised from the dead on Easter Day so that all might have life in and through him: a life which has the potential to release the seeds of self-transformation, hope, human flourishing - something to celebrate, indeed.

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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Prayer, Study, Work

Saturday, 16th March
 10am–1pm at The Vicarage,
 Week, Dartington.

Drawing upon the Benedictine rhythms of prayer, study, and work, this quiet morning will give time for all three, including saying Morning Prayer together, silent reflection upon Scripture, studying that Scripture together, and engaging ourselves in something practical. There will be a choice of the work activity depending on ability (and possibly the weather!). We will end with a simple lunch.

Contact Revd. Chris if you are interested in
 coming: chris@totnesrectory.co.uk or
 07503151835.

Compline

A weekly service of Compline will be said
 at 9pm on Wednesday 28th, Feb 6th,
 March 13th & March 19th

For zoom link please contact
 Rev'd Chris Harris
chris@totnesrectory.co.uk



Glimpsing the Divine

Over the centuries poets have experienced the wonders and mystery of creation, of the Great Unknown. 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, Feb 27, March 5,
 12, and 19, at 15 Baltic Way, TQ9 5WY
 Peter and Susan Hilken,
 tel 01803 62614.

peter.hilken@ntlworld.com

Come and celebrate
Mothering Sunday
March 10th



St John's Church
10 - 10.45 a.m.

All age family service, with children's drama,
posies, coffee and cake!



Body and Soul Food

Tuesday Café, St Mary's Totnes
From March 5th, 10-12

Wednesday Community Café
St John's, 10-12

Stepping Stones Warm Cafe
St John's, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 12-2pm

Mindful Making, St John's
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10-12

Hot Potato Café, St John's
March 1st, 12-2pm



Berry Pomeroy Church - Quiz Evening

Everyone welcome!!
Players put into teams on arrival
Raffle

£5 per person
Please bring plate of finger food for shared
tea

Berry Pomeroy Village Hall
Saturday 16th March
4.30 pm - (Doors open 4.00 pm)
Car park at rear of Hall and School

Tickets from Nichola Boughton
01803 865635
nicholaboughton@yahoo.co.uk

Proceeds to Church upkeep



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

February 29: Bowing as Spiritual Practice – *Laura Bridgeman*

March 7: Relationships and the Unified Field – *Sue Milner*

March 14: Waging Peace - *Mary Lou Leavitt*

March 21: Songs of Sydney Carter, Readings from Gibran and Dance of Universal Peace -
Helen Raphael Sands, Mark Bedford and Jeff Cornish

March 28: Gethsemane and the Path of Non-Violence – *Fr Jim Barlow*

Sacred Space St John's Church, Bridgetown



The Circle of Protection
Sacred Space
Sunday, 17th March, 6.30pm

Palm Sunday in Totnes

Blessing of the Palms at 10am at St John's Bridgetown followed by procession to St Mary's (hopefully with Bob the Bus for any who may need it ..)

Adopt a grave and sow new life

Would you like to adopt a neglected kerbed grave in Bridgetown Churchyard and create a mini wildflower meadow in it? Carolyn Stilwell can provide the wildflower seeds and some yellow rattle seeds. The churchyard is open from dawn till dusk, and any nice day from now till April would be a good time to plant. It will probably be more successful in a sunny spot than a shady spot. You need to create a fine top layer of soil to sow the seeds, so any existing vegetation needs to be cleared. Yellow rattle is parasitic to grass, so will stop grass from growing, giving a mini wildflower meadow a much better chance of establishing. Scatter the seeds then rake the soil and walk back over the area so that the seeds contact the soil. From experience it only takes an hour or two to plant a small, kerbed grave.

Please could you let Carolyn know which grave they have picked so she can make sure nobody else picks the same one! This is an ongoing project. THANKS to seventeen people who have already adopted graves. cas273@yahoo.co.uk

Holy Week

St Mary's and St John's, Totnes

Monday March 25th Agape Supper at St Johns 6.30pm

Maundy Thursday 28th - Eucharist of Last Supper 7.30pm - 8.45pm at St. Mary's followed by watch till midnight

Good Friday 29th - Walk of witness in morning, starting from St. Johns at 10am

- St John's and St. Mary's open for prayer
- 1pm hour before cross at St. Marys
- 2pm Liturgy of the Passion at St. Mary's (with choir)
- 5pm Burial service of Good Friday St. Mary's
- 7.30pm Tenebrae (Good Friday evening service) at St. John's.

Easter Sunday early - Night vigil 12.30am GMT (clocks go forward at 2am to BST)

Dawn vigil and Easter Eucharist 5.30am

Easter Day services at 10.00 (St John's) and 11.15 (St Mary's)

St John the Baptist, Marldon

28th March Maundy Thursday said HC at 5pm with Watch to follow til 9pm.

29th March Good Friday Walk of Witness from Top Shops to Village Hall meet at 10 to walk to Village Hall for hot cross buns; Hour at the Cross 2-3pm.

31st March Easter Sunday – Family Communion at 10am with decorated egg/bonnet competitions & churchyard egg hunt.

St Mary and St Gabriel, Stoke Gabriel

Maundy Thursday 28th March, 7pm CW Eucharist

Good Friday 29th March

2:00pm The Last Hour – Passion Readings, Silence, Choir Pieces, and Hymns

Saturday 30th March - 2:30pm Children's Easter Craft afternoon in the Old School Room (This is NOT a 'service')

Easter Sunday 31st March - 6:45am Sunrise service on the quayside

Holy Communion at 11am

Please see details of all churches Easter Day Services on page 2

The Great Bake Off Take Off – in pictures



Some of the younger prize winners in the Bake Off Take Off in aid of St Mary's and St John's. Arianna Pichierri on behalf of the sisterhood and Jack Murrell with Martha and Anna (and Mum) looking on. Special thanks to Birgitte from Continental Crumbs for being our judge



Photos with kind permission of © Emma Stoner at www.emmastonerweddings.com

And one that came too late but was delicious too...



Amanda from Dartington Church ... in gingerbread and including a friendly local mouse!

Peter Hilken (aka Paul Hollywood), chief organiser, said

'Our churches are embarking on serious fund-raising, and the Bake Off has, I hope, given some publicity to these urgent repair and reordering projects, and reaching out into our community. With thanks to all concerned'

And didn't they all taste wonderful!



Latest News from St Mary's Reordering Project

Having got the faculty for most of our planned works we have now also been given the green light to proceed to a full application to the Lottery Heritage Fund. Despite several cost cutting measures due to escalating costs, we are still looking at a total project of £1.6 million, and are asking the LHF for

£960,000, so it is a big ask. There are no guarantees because there are lots of other organisations bidding for heritage funding, but the fact that we have got this far is a big tribute to all those who have worked on the project, past and present. The deadline for submission is Feb 29th and we'll know the outcome in June, so please pray that the bid will be received well. We will still need to secure another £275,000 of match funding, so will be going flat out on that in the meantime. For updates on the project you can visit the project website or facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarystotnes>

<https://www.stmarystotnes.org>

Swift Spotting!



With thanks to a grant from Totnes Town Council we have been able to install swift lures in both St Mary's and St John's churches. These special condos help the birds nest safely and use special 'lures' or 'callers' to assist navigation.

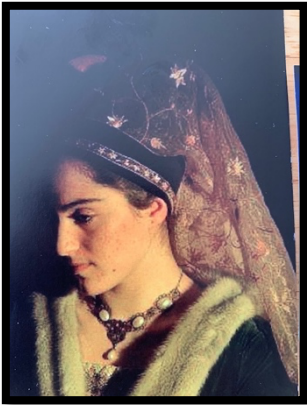
Church wardens John Holl and Julian Hall have been overseeing the project. Watch this space for upcoming news of a Competition for Spotting the first Swift in our new boxes.

Statement on Harberton Parish and the Totnes Benefice – Fr. Jim Barlow

The possibility that Harberton parish might join our team has been in the air for a while now and has reached the stage of formal consultation on the move (which requires what is known as a pastoral measure, details below). The reasons are set out in the measure, and I've given the relevant part below. We already have very good links with Harberton residents, and their centre of gravity is definitely more inclined towards Totnes and Dartington. I think this will strengthen the team, as we continue to explore the path of focal ministry. Given that we have one of the largest teams of ordained and licensed ministers in the Diocese, I do not foresee there being a capacity issue and Harberton are keen to align with our approach, including lay led services at least once a month. If the measure goes through, I look forward to welcoming them into the Team.

'The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme, following a formal request by Harberton parochial church council, for the transfer of its parish *from the benefice of Diptford with North Huish, Ermington, Halwell, Harberton, Harbertonford, Moreleigh and Ugborough to the benefice of Totnes with Bridgetown, Berry Pomeroy, Dartington, Marldon, Ashprington, Cornworthy and Stoke Gabriel in the diocese of Exeter where it shall continue distinct and for the consequential amendment of benefice names and patronage.* The Harberton PCC has requested a transfer of benefice principally for geographical reasons, in that the resident community in Harberton generally identifies with the adjacent town of Totnes as its local centre, looking to it for most practical purposes rather than to the communities to the south and west with which the ecclesiastical parish is currently linked. Moreover, during the past ten years the position of Harberton within the benefice centred on Diptford (the Three Rivers Mission Community) has become more marginal with the extension of the Three Rivers benefice in the Ivybridge direction and the resulting westward shift in its centre of gravity. It is considered that the mission and ministry of the church in Harberton would be best served if the parish were part of a mission community following more closely the natural lines of civic community life than is the case at present, and at the same time that increased capacity for the incumbent of Diptford etc. and a more cohesive shape for that benefice will facilitate the mission and service of the remaining parish churches in the Three Rivers Mission Community. A copy of the draft Scheme may be inspected at the parish churches in either benefice, with details of how representations can be made to the church Commissioners, if so desired.'

Anne of York 1439-1476, Duchess of Exeter, Lady of Dartington Hall



Who was she, this beautiful, pious lady who died so tragically in an upper bedchamber in Dartington Hall age only 36? Anne was the elder sister of King Edward IV. She was married aged 8 to Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter who owned Dartington Hall and huge estates, a very feisty man, seldom in residence here. She was divorced from him in 1472, their only daughter Anne Holland dying soon after. She had charge of his estates and household here.

Anne married Sir Thomas St Leger, Edward IV's Controller of the Royal Mint. Her second baby Anne St Leger was born on January 14, 1476. She was so weakened she gave her last breath a few days later. She was taken in her wood coffin bearing the York banner to Medieval St Mary's church behind the Hall and four candles were lit. When morning came staff lined up in silence around our courtyard to pay their respects as the horse drawn hearse carried her down the lower drive and along the River Dart path. Fr Thomas Wylle OSB, our priest from St Dogmael's Abbey followed on foot. The Prior of St Mary's Priory met them at St Peter's Quay, giving her his blessing. About ten days later she arrived by boat at Syon Abbey on the River Thames near Richmond Palace. Anne was patron of about 10 Devon nuns and priests there. She was taken to the great church and the Bridgettine community sang her Requiem Mass. On February 1 she was buried in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. She lies in the Rutland Chapel with her daughter Anne St Leger, Duchess of Rutland.

Joy Hanson, former gardener Syon Abbey Marley House

It's Newsletter time again ...

The magazine is growing and growing – with well over 200 copies now distributed every month (and usually all gone in the first ten days). We keep printing more, but that does mean more costs ...

We ask for an annual donation of just £10 which we are so grateful for. Please could you consider paying this, and maybe a small donation if you can manage it? Then others can also enjoy and contribute. Thank you!

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April Newsletter Deadline: March 20th

ttmcomms@gmail.com or Diana on 07773551030

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