

Totnes Ministry Team

Newsletter

May 2024



A little flower that blooms in May. A lovely sunset at the end of a day. Someone helping a stranger along the way. That's heaven to me.
Sam Cooke, singer-songwriter

Sunday Services in our churches in May 2024

	May 5 Easter 6	May 12 Easter 7	May 19 Pentecost	May 26 Trinity
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 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 18.30 Sacred Space	10.00: Holy Communion
Ashprington	11.15: Holy Communion	11.15: Village Worship	11.15: Holy Communion	
Berry Pomeroy	11.15: Pet Service	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: Village Worship
Dartington		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 18.30: Evensong
Telephone		Midday	Midday	Midday
Zoom				10am St John's

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



There is a time for everything...

Rev Chris Harris

I was recently invited to meet Bishop Jackie for my end-of-curacy interview, during which I would find out whether I am deemed ready to be 'signed off' – that is, my on-the-job training has been successful and I am ready to be let loose on the public at large in my

own right! Jackie was happy to tell me that she was prepared to sign me off So I have now crossed a threshold; the sands of time are trickling through the neck of an hourglass and by the time they run out, Hannah and I will need to have found a permanent post.

We all face threshold moments in life, and they are not always of our choosing or at the times that we would prefer them to be. Even those that we instigate can be bittersweet, as stepping into something new almost always involves letting go of something else, and that thing might be precious to us. How, then, can we navigate change?

I think we need grace. Change is hard, especially so when it is compounded by grief, uncertainty, or longing. We can easily become bitter and hardened when letting go of something that has had its season. I think we need humility. It is tempting to feel that we are essential where we are, that things would fall apart without us, and so we stay on, but in so doing, we don't discover what God has in store for us when we lay something down at the end of its time. Space that we leave gives space for others to grow into, and our hands that are now empty, though they may feel bereft, are clear to receive something new. I think we need patience. What's next isn't always clear straight away, and once we've let go we can grasp for the comfort of something new to hold on to. Sometimes ground needs be left fallow for a while. Sometimes there are things to learn in a sabbatical – the times of sabbath.

I think we need to set our eyes on heaven. Our lives are like grass, like the flowers of the field, yet they have meaning and purpose. What God wants to do in and through us now is exciting, but it is also a signpost towards a coming reality of the Kingdom of Heaven renewing all creation. As we navigate change, I think most of all we need to see how our stories are swept up in that great story at the centre of creation.



And we're off!

These coming few weeks are crucial for the future of St Mary's, Totnes. Now is the time to pull together, dig deep and help secure the future of this much-loved place. We need your help.

St Mary's is a green oasis in the heart of Totnes. It is a place of deep spiritual significance. It has been a site of worship for hundreds of years. And St Mary's is so much more! It is a community hub, a busy venue for performance and events, a safe space, a heritage treasure. Thousands of people visit St Mary's every year.

In June a decision will be made about a major grant from the Heritage Fund. This would enable St Mary's to improve its facilities through sustainable heating, increased accessibility, a toilet, and comfortable seating. A proper serverty will help the Friends continue to offer their popular café. Success would also mean a full programme of community events and building deeper links with many people in the town and beyond.

St Mary's needs to show that all this is viable and that it matters. To do this, we need to raise funds locally, and as quickly as possible. The more money we can raise, or show we can raise, the greater our chances of a successful outcome. Every £100 we raise could generate £900 of grant funding. That's really significant! Our target is to raise £100,000. We have made a great start, and now need to secure £75,000.

Every amount helps! You can donate directly via the QR code here or by visiting www.stmarystotnes.org or telephone Fr Jim on 07775 356652

And – there are lots of other ways to get involved. There is a series of events and initiatives being organised and we would love to have volunteers to help with these and ongoing Uplift! activities.



Curious? Contact us – hello@stmarystotnes.org
Thank you



Christian Aid Week 2024 – 12-18

May

**Seven days, so many ways
to make a difference.**

The annual Christian Aid service and collection will be on **12th May at St John's Bridgetown** at 10am. There will also be street collections on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th May in Totnes town centre. We will also be joining with Christian Aid supporters across the UK in showing solidarity with our global neighbours by signing up for the new **70k in May** fundraising challenge.



For many, each day is a struggle for survival – many people head out on an empty stomach each morning to look for casual work to buy food for the evening. Most families don't have a water supply, so they'll walk to collect water from rivers or communal water points. And when people start up their small businesses, they often have to walk or cycle long distances to sell their produce.

On Sunday May 19th We are going to cover the distance **TOGETHER** in our sponsored family walk from Totnes plains to St David's Church, Ashprington for refreshments departing from the Plains at 1.30pm. Walk there and back or just one way with lifts back available.

Join Us! Walk with friends, family, friendly strangers for as long as you feel you can. Enjoy the glorious countryside. Bring a picnic. Raise funds for those who are in desperate need.

For more information see the poster in your church, pick up a sponsor form or contact **Becca Robinson** tel: 07445495059 e: robinsonrebecca153@gmail.com

Thank you.

For more details about the work of Christian Aid and this years campaign, see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

(Photo: Aline Nibogora outside her house in Burundi, with the bike she bought to help her grocery business. Credit: Christian Aid/Armstrong Too.)



In Person Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training.

Open to all volunteers.

Thursday June 20th 1.30 to 3.50 St John's
Bridgetown. Trainer, Rev'd Marisa Cockfield.
Contact Liz Waterson to book a place or find
out more.

07799694329, liz.waterson29@gmail.com

**The
Children's
Society**

Thank you Josie! Josie's Enduring Support for The Children's Society

For over four decades, Josie Rowe has been a steadfast advocate for The Children's Society. Founded 140 years ago, the charity remains committed to addressing the root causes of childhood adversity, advocating for children's rights, and providing direct support to those most in need.

Josie's dedication to the cause exemplifies the true spirit of community service and giving. Through her tireless efforts, she has helped to raise over £40,000 for the charity, serving as treasurer for the Totnes Committee and supporting fundraising efforts at St Mary's Church Totnes.

As Josie steps down from her role as a volunteer, The Children's Society wishes to express its deepest gratitude for her decades of service and dedication. While Josie may be retiring from her official duties, her legacy will endure, serving as a testament to the power of individuals to effect positive change in the world.

In honouring Josie, we celebrate her remarkable contributions to The Children's Society. As we look to the future, we are steadfast in our commitment to creating a society built for children, where hope is alive in every child. People like Josie are essential in ensuring that every child can thrive and reach their full potential. To support our work, please reach out to us for more information.

Zoe Morrison - Community Relationship Manager -South West

07756 269430

zoe.morrison@childrenssociety.org.uk



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

May 2: Plant Consciousness a holistic journey for our time - Peter Neumann and Annie Gardner

May 9: Fire – a state of matter. Live story telling at 7.30pm - Vergine Gulbenkian see - www.tickettailor.com/events/southdevonstorytellers/1211202

May 16: The Great Turning – Malcolm Stern

May 23: Jujutsu – the art of yielding – John Downs

(No meeting on May 30)

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

Thy Kingdom Come



Quiet Morning

10am-1pm

Thursday 16 May

St Mary's Church,
Berry Pomeroy

Led by Revd Jane Frost, Associate Priest &
Richard Frost, Licensed Lay Minister, Totnes Ministry Team

In the season between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this Quiet Morning will offer space and time for reflection.

There will be two short talks, times of silence and prayer.

All are welcome.

Booking required by email: richardnfrost@outlook.com or
tel: 01803 525171

A donation will be requested to cover costs.

Thy Kingdom Come 24

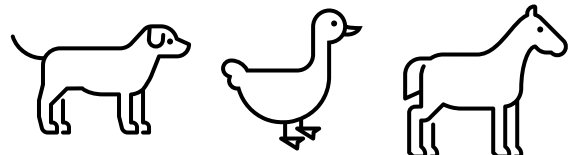
Torch Light Prayer Vigil
Market Square
Tuesday 14th May
8.30pm

Joining together to pray
for our town
Churches Together in Totnes

Pet Service – Celebrating God's Creation

Sunday May 5,
St Mary's, Berry Pomeroy 11.15am

Wings, paws and beaks all welcome
(and arms and legs!)





Doubting Thomas sees a kingfisher

I wanted to give him a gift, so as he sat
on the river's bank that day – his mind edging
out from himself to rest, gentle as a butterfly
on the lip of the world, lighting on the poplars silver
against the sky's blue, the young nettles
cunningly threaded into the turf around him,
thinking that he'd like to see a kingfisher, wondering
which river god to ask to give him one –
I caught his attention with a splash downstream, then opened
my hands and let her go. She flew,
bullet-shaped, long and low in front of him,
left to right as he sat, as though he were reading
the kingfisher's flight, as though she were
a message to him, which she was – spooling
her way upstream for three seconds
which in human terms is the length of the present
moment.

Afterwards he tried to justify
it to himself: he figured he'd already registered
it from the corner of his eye, had seen it into thought
and not the other way around.

But in that
September moment I gave him the gift of now
in the shape of a kingfisher, and he saw and believed.

by Katherine Venn

Contemplative Circle – one hour a month that will transform your life

Would you like to be part of a monthly circle on zoom or in person? Following established spiritual practice, circle is a safe compassionate space of self-discovery, discernment and spiritual growth.

Interested? Contact Diana on 07773551030 or ttmcomms@gmail.com



Love Your Burial Ground Week 8 – 16 June

St John's Bridgetown are having a talk by Dr Richard Fox, a moth and butterfly expert, on Friday June 14 at 7pm and setting up a moth trap after dark in the churchyard, if weather permits. All are welcome and it will be free.

There will also be a photo exhibition of photos taken in the churchyard by KEVICC's students last summer, and a poetry trail around the churchyard by St John's Primary school.

On Saturday June 15 there is a "Welcome to the Churchyard" day in Bridgetown churchyard 10am till 4pm. Drop in any time. At 10am Dr Fox will reveal whatever was found in the moth trap and there will be free spotter sheets for butterflies, flowers, trees, lichens and mini beasts, and a trail to find ten interesting graves. The day will be suitable for all ages. We would like to record people's findings that day, and to encourage visitors to perhaps get involved in an ongoing project of adopting kerbed edge graves and planting wildflower seeds in them to encourage insect life and biodiversity. Please come!



St Mary's are also planning an event in the Churchyard during Love your Burial Ground Week. A project is underway to involve some local schools in surveying the wildlife and the use of the Churchyard, with a view to producing a report to make suggestions about how to improve biodiversity. The Independent School have started their visits, and the Grove are also keen to be involved. KEVICCs may also become involved.

In Love your Burial Ground week we plan to hold a 'thank you' picnic for the young people who have been involved and parents/staff. Our curate Frances is coordinating a date for this, but in the meantime, if you are out and about and spot the schools in the churchyard, please do take time to say hello and thank them for their work on our behalf. The staff we have engaged with from the schools are very positive indeed about supporting this project and are keen to be involved in enhancing an important green space in the town centre.

Carolyn Stilwell and Alison Fisher

VoiceMale

A NEW SINGING GROUP FOR MEN

Do you....

....like to sing?

....fancy finding your singing voice, or improving the one you've got?

....want the opportunity to sing in a group?

VoiceMale could be what you are looking for - a chance for men to meet, explore their voices and sing for fun. No experience is required, just a willing spirit and an open mind. The choice of music will emerge and adapt to suit whatever the participants enjoy, and everyone can be involved with creative input.

Singing makes such a positive contribution to good health and emotional wellbeing, and a VoiceMale session will help you to breathe better, sing confidently, and feel great!

A pilot programme is running for three Sundays in June for just £5 a session :

Date and time: June 9, June 16, and June 23. 4.30-6.30pm

Location: The Jamming Station in Totnes

Contact: Peter Hunt – tel: 07891 208057 email: peterpiper55@outlook.com

VoiceMale will be facilitated by Peter Hunt, a local singer and vocal coach with an inclusive, engaging and encouraging style. His extensive work has included youth choirs, adult community groups, choral societies, Barbershop and Singing for Wellbeing. He currently conducts Exeter Choral Society.

ST MARY'S TOTNES

INVITES YOU TO

'COME & SING'

JOHN RUTTER'S

REQUIEM

All welcome to come & learn
then perform this great work
in an afternoon!

SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024

Registration from 1pm

Singing from 2pm

Performance 5.30pm

Singers £10, Audience £5

Register to sing and buy tickets at

<https://ttm.churchsuite.com/events/se57xy8p>



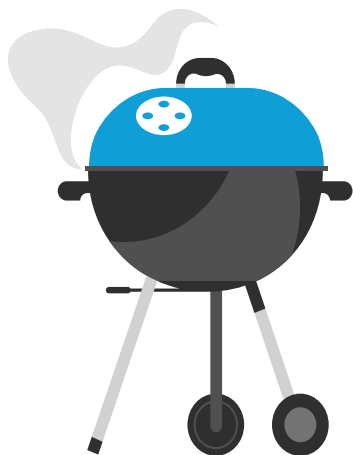
ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S CHURCHES, TOTNES

MID-SUMMER BARBEQUE

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024

5.00-8.00pm

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD, TOTNES



Sign up in St Mary's or St John's
Church or book via email

ttmcomms@gmail.com

- Burgers and sausages in baps £2 each (cash)
- Bring and share SALADS and DESSERTS
- Bring your own plates, cutlery and drinks – and something to sit on



St Dogmael's Abbey Cardiganshire, St Mary's Rattery and Dartington

In the 12th Century the owner of Dartington Hall, then a wooden castle was Sir Robert Fitzpaine from Normandy. He funded the rebuilding of St Dogmael's Abbey by the River Teifi in stone as he wished to 'Normanise' the Celtic people of Wales.

Between 1199 and the Reformation in 1536 Benedictine Brothers traveled by sea to Bideford then rode down what was to become the Mariner's way to serve as priests in St Mary's Rattery and at St Mary's Dartington Hall.

These days, St Dogmael's Abbey is ruined and cared for by CADW with a Visitors Centre run by with an excellent museum and cafe with a Tuesday market with folk singers. The Mill 'Y Felin' has been lovingly restored with the ancient wooden mill workings and is open for tours some days. Everyone I met in the village was very friendly and hospitable. The White Hart is a community inn with games for children and a helpful local historian.



St Dogmael's Abbey was destroyed in the iconoclasm but is part of our local heritage. In 1455, Fr John Thomas Hylle OSB made this journey to become priest in St Mary's Rattery, welcomed by our villagers. Some Saturdays he rode down the bridle paths to meet the Benedictine Brothers at St Mary's Priory Church Totnes for midday repast. Young Anna Hannaford lived by Penswell and was lady's maid to Elisabeth Gybbes at Venton Manor. Her brother John was one of the serving lads at Mass. The two young ladies were devout and leant the psalms in Latin with his help. When Elisabeth was 18 in spring 1468 she walked up through the bluebell woods with Anna to pray in the lady chapel. She heard the Madonna say 'Elisabeth your time is now ready, after Pentecost you and Anna will join your cousins to become a Bridgettine nun at Syon Abbey Isleworth'. She became fifth Great Abbess of Syon Abbey in 1487. Anna was a lay Sister and loved her work in the monastery garden. After Abbess Elisabeth died in 1518, she returned to end her days in her beloved village of Rattery.

Joy Hanson former monastic gardener at Syon Abbey .



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June Newsletter Deadline: May 20th

ttmcomms@gmail.com or Diana on 07773551030

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