

Totnes Ministry Team Newsletter September 2024



**“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness
and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from
which you were cut and to the quarry from
which you were hewn;”**

Isaiah Chapter 51, verse 1

Sunday Services in our churches in September 2024

	Sept 1 Trinity 14	Sept 8 Trinity 15	Sept 15 Trinity 16	Sept 22 Trinity 17	Sept 29 Trinity 18
St Mary's Totnes	8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Morning Praise 18.30: Choral Evensong	8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Sung Eucharist 5pm: Vespers 7.30pm: Taize	8.00: Morning Praise 11.15: Sung Eucharist 5pm: Vespers	8.00: Holy Communion 11.15: Sung Eucharist 5pm: Vespers	8.00: Holy Communion 10.30: Team Service
St. John's Bridgetown	10.00: Holy Communion	10.00: Morning Praise	10.00: Holy Communion 18.30: Sacred Space	10.00: Holy Communion	10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Ashprington	11.15: Holy Communion	11.15: Village Worship	11.15: Holy Communion		10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Berry Pomeroy	11.15: Morning Praise	11.15: Holy Communion	11.15: Holy Communion	11.15: Holy Communion	10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Brooking			9.15: Holy Communion		10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Cornworthy		9.15: Village Worship	9.15: Holy Communion	9.15: Holy Communion	10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Dartington	10.30: Morning Prayer	10.30: Celtic Holy Communion	18.00: Choral Evensong	10.30: Morning Praise	10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Marldon	10.00: Holy Communion	10.00: Village Worship	10.00: Holy Communion	15.00: Songs of Praise	10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes
Stoke Gabriel	8.15: Holy Communion 11.00: Holy Communion	8.15: Holy Communion 11.00: Holy Communion	8.15: Holy Communion 11.00: Choral Mattins	8.15: Holy Communion 11.00: Holy Communion	8.15: Holy Communion 10.30: Team at St Mary's, Totnes 6.30: Evensong
Telephone		Midday	Midday	Midday	
Zoom				10am From St John's	

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



Monthly Reflection: We Shall be Changed!
Tony Gregg, Licensed Lay Minister

Joy of joys! After so much hard work and a great deal of effort, we learn that St. Mary's, Totnes has successfully been awarded a substantial Heritage Lottery Grant, which will help to make this glorious building a place "fit for purpose." Huge congratulations to all those involved. We understand the plan is to close the building after Christmas for at least 6 months whilst work goes on, so no services or events will be possible in the building. This is going to mean very big changes- not the least that worship will have to be in other churches in our Totnes team.

Change! This can be very worrying, indeed, even threatening for some people. In his book "Finding stability in Times of Change" Richard Frost explores this in a very readable way, using the story of Jesus and the storm at sea as a reference point. (I can heartily recommend the book by the way.) For me, this was doubly emphasised by an article I read very recently by Richard Rohr. He says this: "The inner process of change and growth is fundamental to everything, even our bodies." We see this in nature itself where changes occur in the seasons, in plant life, in human growth itself. This is the way that life perpetuates itself in ever-new forms: through various changes that can sometimes feel like death. And, of course, this pattern can be scary, though is the very essence of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Religions tend to idealise and protect the status quo or the supposedly wonderful past. So often this is only to protect power and privilege. Richard Rohr says, "We often worship old things as substitutes for eternal things." It is so easy to think of things as they were "back then"- you know- in the good old days of old- when God was really God, and everybody was happy and pure. Did they really ever exist!! Surely, this leaves the present moment empty and hopeless- not to speak of the future.

I believe that God goes on creating things from the inside out, so they are forever developing, growing, and changing. Our whole history is one of evolution and can be one of transformation. Equally I believe that we have been given a God-sent opportunity at St. Mary's for regrowth and transformation. Think of this as a fallow period from which can come forth new shoots and blossoming. I remember when Coventry Cathedral was re-consecrated it was likened to a phoenix rising from the ashes. My prayer is that St. Mary's may do the same.

**Parish Meeting: Saturday September 14th
10.00 -12.00 at St John's, Bridgetown**

An open meeting to explore and discuss the coming few months for the Parish of Totnes with Bridgetown.

All members of the churches are welcome. This will be an opportunity to talk about the changes that will happen when St Mary's is closed for the restoration project. At the time of writing, this is anticipated to be from January 1st 2025 for a period of between 4 to 6 months.

This will mean that we need to agree a pattern of services and ensure that all our regular congregations are included and can continue to grow.

Please do attend if you can. It would be useful to have an idea of numbers, so if possible please let the Team know by emailing ttmcomms@gmail.com

If you are unable to attend, it is important that your voice is still heard. There will be opportunities to do that.

Please make every effort to attend. This is a chance to work together and agree the changes that we need to make in early 2025. Thank you.



Coming soon!!!

St John's Christmas Fair will be bigger and better than ever this year.

We already have 30+ stalls booked and Father Christmas is on standby.

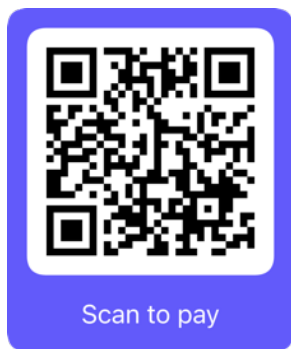
Could you help? We need volunteers to help set up the day before, plus on the day. We need raffle and tombola prizes and we need cakes and baked goods to sell. The café will be open, so helpers there are always needed.

Please contact Diana via ttmcomms@gmail.com or on 07773551030 if you would like to be a little elf!



Update!

As you have read in the monthly reflection, the Heritage Lottery Fund have agreed the grant funding for the Uplift! project at St. Mary's. We also need to thank our friends at the Devon Historic Churches Trust and the trustees of the Benefact Trust who have also stumped up the cash in recent weeks. This, plus the locally organised raffle, individual donations, the Friends, fundraising events and just good old community generosity means that we are now getting closer to our target but we are not there yet. We are still several thousands of pounds short of the overall amount that we need.



Fundraising continues. Grant applications are being prepared and sent in (showered in prayers), individuals are still generously donating and we are planning more exciting events. **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

St. Mary's Summer Raffle

Congratulations to all our winners and HUGE THANKS to our wonderful local businesses and supporters who donated all the prizes.

The prizes were donated by

Valeport	Annie's	Nature's Way	Bond Joiners	Waterside Bistro
Steam Packet Inn	Hairy Barista		Drift Records	Continental Crumbs
Christopher McCabe	Butchers		Hygeia	Devon Flower Art
Harrisons Garage	Totnes Wine Company	Darnells		Specsavers

A full list of winners is available from ttmcomms@gmail.com

Thanks to Peter Hilken who masterminded it all
and everyone who bought and sold tickets

**Berry Pomeroy Church
Summer Bible Reading**

The readings will take place on
Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm.

Sept 1st. John - chapters 1 – 10
Sept 8th John - chapters 11 – end

*Come and join us. Tea and coffee
will be freely available. Come and
go as you please.*

More information from
John Hawkins
01803 864328
07974 670713
jhawkins@tiscali.co.uk



Churches Together in Totnes
Unity Concert
Saturday 14th September
7.00pm
St Mary's Church
Free Entry
Refreshments - donations to
St Mary's Uplift Project
Children's Choir Choral
Spoken Word Community Choir
Contemporary worship band
Quaker Silence



**FREE CPR
& Defibrillator
Training** 
Thursday 26 September
Stepping Stones Totnes CiC
St. John's Church, Bridgetown
Join us to learn CPR & how
to use a defibrillator
10:30-12 Noon
Come along and learn how you can help to
save a life with the Devon Air Ambulance Crew
No need to book - Open to all!

Bible Study Group

St Mark's Gospel

An informal meander through
St Mark's Gospel

7.30 – 9pm

St John's Church, Bridgetown

Restarts on September 13th

ALL WELCOME

Often followed by a swift libation
at
The Albert Inn

Our wonderful Licensed Lay Ministers were all 'renewed' this July.

Thank you for all that you do



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

19th September:

Maqam Modes, Drums and Drones

An evening of Middle eastern music and song – with Samar Zeki and Majid Hedayat and Baklava – Russell Harris and Julia Thomas

Full details –

www.stmarysandstjohnstotnes.org/unity-in-diversity

heritage festival TOTNES

Saturday 28 September
Delve into the hidden history of Totnes with FREE family activities, special openings, talks, and exhibitions.

TOTNES CASTLE OPEN DAY – A day of family fun at this English Heritage castle in the centre of the town, including have-a-go archery and lawn games, making shields, and **FREE** entry for anyone with a TQ9 postcode (proof of identity required). 10am–4pm

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BRIDGETOWN – Open afternoon, including family-friendly historic churchyard trail and exhibition on the history of St John's. 1pm–4pm **FREE**

SECRET ST MARY'S WALK – Discover things about St Mary's Church, Totnes High Street, that you never knew existed – 12.30pm–1.30pm. Meet outside the church's main entrance **FREE**

EXPLORE THE 16th CENTURY TOWN MILL - TOTNES TRUST – Explore the 16th Century Town Mill, and see some of its original internal workings. 10am–4pm **FREE** Coronation Road (opposite Seven Stars bus stop)

TOTNES IMAGE BANK – Open Doors at the Old Town Mill (location as above), including special D-Day exhibition, kids' activity to complete for a badge, "Spirit of Totnes" film showings (10.30am, 11.30am and 12.30pm), and Times Gone By QR code family town trail. Time 10am–2pm **FREE**

TOTNES CINEMA – Totnes Image Bank special screening: *This Place Called Cobham* (reminiscences as evacuees in Totnes 1942–46) and Transition Town Totnes' *What the Past Can Teach us About the Future* (local residents' memories of Totnes life) **FREE** (donations welcome) High Street (near the Market Square) 4pm

HERITAGE AT THE MANSION – Various activities, music, and exhibitions, including *Across The Sea* (see listing below) in the newly restored Mansion Schoolroom. The Mansion, Fore Street 11am–2pm **FREE**

ACROSS THE SEA – "DEVONIAN WHO HELPED BUILD AMERICA", an exhibition by the Totnes Archivists with the Totnes Heritage Trust showcasing the history of the intrepid Devon pioneers who went to America. The Mansion (location as above) 10am–4pm **FREE**

TOTNES GUILDHALL – Visit the Mayor. Chat about the history of the Guildhall and some of its artefacts. Sit at Oliver Cromwell's table. Peep into the old prison cells. 1pm–4pm **FREE** (donations welcome) Rampart's Walk (behind St Mary's Church)

TOTNES MUSEUM – Museum open and special exhibition of the unique pictures held by Totnes Archives showcasing the exceptional plaster ceilings of Totnes. Fore Street, 10.30am–4pm. **FREE** (donations welcome)

TOTNES FASHION AND COSTUME MUSEUM – Summer Exhibition *Fabulous* AND a chance to see "the finest plaster ceiling in Totnes" up close. Bogan House (opposite the Market Square), **FREE** (donations welcome) 11am–4pm

visit **TOTNES.co.uk**



Apple Pie Fair

The annual Apple Pie Fair is at Marldon on Saturday September 7th

The Marldon Apple Pie Fair has been going since 1888 in memory of local farmer, George Hill, who would use his windfall apples to bake an enormous apple pie for the village. Nowadays, locals and visitors alike join in the celebrations. Events throughout the afternoon include local arts, crafts and food stands, falconry displays, games and even a novelty dog show!





Paris 2024 -A positive and hopeful tonic!

I wonder how many other people found themselves, like me, hooked to the television watching sports which I barely understood, and which became compulsive viewing! Was it the iconic and glamorous images of Paris and Marseille, nationalistic pride, nostalgic memories of the London 2012 Olympics or the sports themselves? Maybe a bit of all of these, but for me it was all about the individual stories of the teams and competitors, the smiles and the tears, and the amazing skills, endurance and the best of human values displayed.

There couldn't have been more contrast to the ghastly events in Southport on July 29th, and the hateful race rioting that followed. Or to what is happening in Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, and all the other places in the world and closer to home which trouble us deeply at the moment. Was it just escapism to enjoy and indulge ourselves so fully in the Olympic bubble, or wrong to count medals and celebrate victories over others?

For me it was the opposite. I know that sport doesn't stop wars. But no one who watched could deny the spirit of international cooperation and friendship, the hugs and shaking of hands after the individual competitive 'battles' were over. The non-partisan cheers from the crowds for the competitors who were refugees and couldn't compete under their own flag, like the boxer Cindy Ngama who won the first ever medal for the IOC Refugee team; or for the sole competitors from smaller African and other nations who carried their flags so proudly.

But most of all it was the individual stories that touched me, stories of aspiration, impossible dreams, determination, resilience, teamwork and dedication. Stories of sacrifices made, dealing with injuries and setbacks, mental health struggles and the support of others.

And it wasn't all about winning. For most the pride of being 'an Olympian' and the journey to get there and being there was enough. As St Paul said, it is about 'running the race' that matters. Hopefully others like me will have found inspiration from these remarkable Olympians in these challenging times, and generations have since the modern Olympics was founded in 1894 – or in Ancient Greece over to thousand years ago!

Juliet Hancock - Aug 2024

Live painting with Art Auction – do not miss this!

On Saturday September 21st at 7pm a rather special event will be taking place at St Mary's church, Totnes. Doors open at 6.30pm.



The celebrated English Impressionist artist, Sherree Valentine-Daines, will perform a live portraiture of local legend, Graham Walker, in all his finery and recognisable style. Sherree will produce a unique painting before our very eyes, explaining the process and giving us a rare insight into her creative process. The painting will be auctioned off at the end of the night along with other artworks from local artists, including some highly collectable works.



All of this will be done under the capable hammer of TV auctioneer Martin Roberts. Other pieces for sale include an original Picasso lino cut printed poster' (courtesy of Fred Mulder).

The evening will include refreshments, live music, mingling with the stars and of course a really unusual live performance of a masterpiece in the making. All proceeds will go to the Uplift! appeal. Tickets are priced at £10 and £5 (less than a coffee and a sandwich!)

Booking and more details available from <https://tm.churchsuite.com/events/xdspxmzq>



Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort,
At easy answers, half-truths,
And superficial relationships
So that you may live
Deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression,
And exploitation of people,
So that you may work for
Justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,
To shed for those who suffer pain,
Rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand
To comfort them and
To turn their pain to joy

May God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in this world,
So that you can do
What others claim
Cannot be done.



Just Peace Webinar – Monday September 16th at 7.30pm

Have you ever had a question about peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory you've been too nervous to ask? Got a tricky question someone has asked in church?

Register for an online event organised by Christian Aid and put your questions to the panel. Go to www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/just-peace-campaign and click on LEARN to register and pose a question.



My garden at Oaklands is on the site of the Drover's camp where the women and children slept in a wooden shelter on sacks of straw. They had a fire pit and foraged on the wild strawberries which still grow in my hedgerows. The herbage adapted to the seasonal grazing by the sheep which were brought down every autumn off Dartmoor to be sold in the market by the Lamb in Totnes or overwintered in

milder pastures in the South Hams. Cattle grazed over the lane in the larger field of Droridge Farm until they were moved on. This happened every year for centuries until the hardier Belted Galloways were introduced after the Great War.

In spring snowdrops pierce through the hedges followed by abundant primroses then bluebells and wild daffodils, then cowslips and foxgloves. The meadow flowers adapted to the grazing, short stemmed creeping buttercups, daisies, self heal, speedwells, milkmaids in damp spots then later the taller meadow buttercups and a profusion of various hawkweeds as the flocks left. Birds come and feast on the seeds in autumn. When I sit in my summer house, I can hear the voices of the children who played in this meadow years ago, spiritual presence lives on.

Joy Hanson, Oaklands Droridge



And it's goodbye from me!

Well, not really, but as I am starting my ministry training this month, I have had to stop being the editor of this newsletter. I have to say, it's a wonderful thing to do, and I have really enjoyed it.

It does mean that we need a new editor. Could that be you? Or perhaps part of a small team? The newsletter takes about one day a month, and requires quite simple IT skills (word processing, emails etc). I am happy to talk it through if you're interested.

There will still be a thinned down news sheet in the coming months, but we know this magazine reaches hundreds of people – so please, if you are interested, do get in touch! ttmcomm@gmail.com or via Fr.Jim.

Please keep me in your prayers. Diana x



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October Newsletter Deadline: September 20th

ttmcomms@gmail.com

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