



PARISH NEWS

FOR THE BENEFICE OF:
CHILLATON, CORYTON,
DUNTERTON, LAMERTON, MARYSTOWE,
MILTON ABBOT AND
SYDENHAM DAMEREL.



South Tamar
Mission Community

DECEMBER '23
& JANUARY
2024



PRICE: £1

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Diary Dates

Event	December 2023	January 2024
Coffee Mornings		
Lamerton coffee mornings, Community Centre, 10.30 - 12pm	2, 9, 16	6, 20
Sydenham Damerel from 10.30am	2	6
Coffee and Company, Priest's Room, Lamerton 10 - 12pm	4, 18	12, 26
Church and other events		
Advent Carols at Theale	1	
Tavistock AFC Tractor Run & Carol Service, 7pm	8	
Marystowe Christmas Extravaganza, 7pm	16	
Mount Kelly Christmas Concert at Tavistock Methodist Church, 7:30pm	16	
Milton Abbot Christmas Celebration , 4pm	23	
Marystowe, Carols around the Christmas Tree	24	
Lamerton & Sydenham Damerel PCC Meeting, Priests Room, 7pm ; Lamerton		30

**Magazine deadline for December/January 2024 edition is
end of day: Saturday 13th January 2024**

Thank you for your timely submissions - they are gratefully appreciated.

The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0NZ.

Tel: 01822 870298; **Email:** vicar@southtamar.church



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is fast approaching, and I am just as excited about it now as I was when I was young, so I don't want to hear any nonsense about Christmas just being for children!

Of course, I love the religious side of things as well, I would be a very odd Vicar if I didn't, but I also love the build-up.

To me, the writing of cards, the panic Christmas present buying, the decorations, and the Christmas treats on standby in case anyone visits, are all part of the fun.

We are truly fortunate here in the South Tamar Mission Community in that we do our best to 'get together' at Christmas. The Schools, the Churches and the various community activities all help us to have a sense of belonging. In the week or two leading up to Christmas, we shall all have the opportunity to come together, to sing carols and to share in that feeling of warmth and wonder, joy, and hope, which only Christmas time brings.

For me it is especially wonderful when I wander back to the Vicarage after the Midnight mass.

I will open a present and perhaps drink a small 'Tot' to toast the Christ Child. I will also think of all those wonderful Christmas celebrations I have enjoyed over the years with family and friends, many now in heaven, and I shall thank God for them all.

Once again, we will be holding a service called "The Longest Night" on Friday 22nd December. The service itself is quite simple, a mixture of carols and readings to tell the Christmas story; prayers which acknowledge pain and emptiness, which can often accompany us at Christmas time. It offers a time of reflection, which gently speaks of light in darkness, with times of silence, not rushing to fill every moment with word or song.

We will also stay seated throughout the whole service.

This is a service for anyone and everyone who wants to pause and reflect at Christmas.

So, whatever you believe about Jesus, and I believe he is God made man, there is no doubt that what he said and taught has had a profound effect upon humankind. If the peace and love which he preached would permeate the hearts of all of us, the world would be even more wonderful than it already is. I hope that you will all have a wonderful celebration.

With every Blessing at Christmas,
Fr. Andy Atkins



South Tamar Mission Community

There are several ways to keep up to date with events, or to get in touch with the Vicar and Churchwardens

Our website: <http://www.southtamar.church>

Our Facebook page: @southtamarmission

e-mail: vicar@southtamar.church

tel: 01822 870298

COFFEE & COMPANY



Come and join us for a coffee, some cake, and chit chat or a board game.

Every other Friday, 10am-12pm, at the Priest Room (Chapel) by St Peter's Church, Lamerton.

Everyone welcome!

After the success of the Warm Hub, several people wished to carry on meeting and wanted more people to come along too, so we have relaunched as Coffee & Company.

Coffee & Company will be on the alternate week to the village coffee morning that takes place on a Saturday every other week, but do check the church calendar regularly as it doesn't always follow an exact alternating pattern: www.southtamar.church/calendar/

We would love you to join us.

Mid-week Holy Communion



**Every Wednesday morning at 10 am
in the Priests room at Lamerton**

The service is a quiet, reflective said service of Holy Communion. The perfect opportunity to re-charge your spiritual batteries.



**With Tea, coffee and
cake afterwards.**

BIBLE READINGS (Year A)

Please use the readings published in the Parish Magazine and your own bibles.

DATE	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 3rd December 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Isaiah 64.1 - 9	I Corinthians 1.3 - 9	Mark 13.24 -37
Sunday 10th December 3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Isaiah 40.1 - 11	2 Peter 3.8 - 15a	Mark 1.1 - 8
Sunday 17th December 4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Isaiah 61.1 - 4, 8 - 11	I Thessalonians 5.16 - 24	John 1.6 - 8, 19 - 28
Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve, readings until 11pm (Purple)	2 Samuel 7.1 - 11, 16	Romans 16.25 - 27	Luke 1.26 - 38
Monday 25th December Christmas Day (White)	Isaiah 9.2 - 7	Titus 2.11 - 14	Luke 2.1 - 14 [15 - 20]

BIBLE READINGS (Year A)			
DATE	1st READING	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 31st December (white)	Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3	Galatians 4.4 - 7	Luke 2.15 - 21
Sunday 7th January The Epiphany (White)	Ecclesiasticus 38. 25 - end	I Corinthians 9.6 - 14	Matthew 6.25 - end
Sunday 14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany (White)	I Samuel 3.1 - 10 [11 - 20]	Revelation 5.1 - 10	John 1.43 - end
Sunday 21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany (White)	Genesis 14.17 - 20	Revelation 19.6 - 10	John 2.1 - 11
Sunday 28th January The presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) (White)	Malachi 3.1 - 5	Hebrews 2.14 - 18	Luke 2.22 - 40

The readings are ended with ***‘This is the Word of the Lord’***
 (used during services of HC or, during other services
‘Here ends the lesson (or 1st reading or 2nd reading)’).

The response is ***‘Thanks be to God’***.

December and January church services are on the back cover.

Goodbye from Revered Ghislaine

The time has come for me to say goodbye to you all because my curacy will finish on the 12th November 2023.

My last service will be at St Constantine's Church, Milton Abbott with Reverend Phil.

I want to wish everyone a great big thank you for being so kind, thoughtful and welcoming to me during my stay in your lovely benefice.

I have really enjoyed my last six months of curacy and I have learnt such a lot about rural ministry.

Amongst my many experiences have been learning how to ring the bells at St Peter's, Lamerton; planning a Scarecrow Festival; getting familiar with the subtly different ways that each church does its services; attending the service for the new Archdeacon of Plymouth and meeting all of you, as we have come together to worship our loving God.

I will shortly be moving house up to Northeast Devon.

At this time, I have no idea which church I will be assigned to.

I hope that it will be one that is as friendly and supportive as all the churches in this benefice.

I want to thank Father's Andy, Tim and Phil, plus Richard for their support and advice.

I wish them well in their ministries, especially Phil who will be starting out as an incumbent in his own right in the not too distant future.

Best wishes and blessings.



Reverend Ghislaine

All Saint's Church, Dunterton

Service of Celebration

Our service on 1st October was particularly special as the community gathered together to give thanks to Arthur Vigars, Church Warden for many years, and Gerald Napier, former Treasurer.

We were delighted to present them with a bench engraved with their names. This will shortly be safely secured in the church graveyard where visitors can sit in comfort and enjoy the glorious view. We were even joined by BBC Spotlight and our service featured on the evening news!



River Walk, 22nd October

We were delighted that our annual community River Walk was blessed with (mostly) dry weather this year! More than 440 adults, plus their children and 4-legged friends, turned out to enjoy the 5 mile circular walk down to and along the Tamar.

The refreshments at the end of the climb back up from the river were also most welcome and it was great to see so many people taking the opportunity to catch up with friends and family over a cuppa!



As always, we are very aware of how lucky we are to have the support of all of the local land owners, farmers, stock owners, etc and the support of our volunteers who work hard to make this event a success. Many thanks to them all.

The photo (left), was taken the morning of

the walk from the hillside.

Our last service of the year will be Christmas Communion at 09.30 on Christmas Day. We do look forward to seeing as many of you as possible! A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SERVICES AT DUNTERTON CHURCH – DATE & TIME

December 25th at 9.30 a.m.

Christmas Communion



St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

As the chill of winter creeps into Sydenham Damerel we are all keeping busy.

The Friends of Saint Mary's met in October to discuss the upkeep and general support for Saint Mary's. The windows are positively gleaming after a thorough clean, and a generous volunteer has offered to oil the parquet floor. We are still waiting on the repairs to the bell tower to be completed. This is of concern now that the weather is worsening.

We also discussed keeping the church open for anyone at any time and it was felt this would be a really positive and welcoming change to our current policy.

We are very proud of the original tithe map in Saint Mary's but it needs some conservation work and we agreed it needs to be protected. We will look at getting some expert advice.



We celebrated the Harvest Festival with a positive and happy Songs of Praise service. There was a generous collection of non-perishable food and toiletries for the Tavistock Foodbank which was hugely appreciated. As usual our volunteers decorated the church beautifully.

Fundraising is going particularly well now; the fantastic Sydenham Damerel Blowers, with the harpist Fionnula Kirby, gave a concert in Saint Peter's Lamerton. They raised a magnificent £800 for St Peter's and Saint Mary's. There was an amazing atmosphere, and the audience had a great evening.



We danced the night away at a barn dance in the wonderful setting of Chapel Barn in Tuell Farm – wine, live music and laughter – the perfect evening which we hope to repeat next year!

Our quietly moving Remembrance Day Service was held by the War Grave of Flight Sergeant Richards in Saint Mary's Churchyard. The two-minute silence was broken by the muffled tenor bell of St Mary's. We then had a welcome warming coffee in the church, at our rescheduled coffee morning, where we drew the winners of the 100 Club.

December will be a busy month with three events being held in the Church:

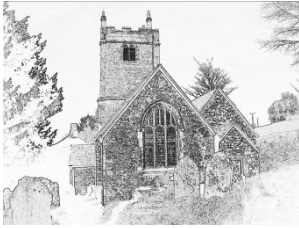
The Christmas Quiz on Saturday 2nd December at 7pm

Coffee at Saint Mary's and 100 Club Draw on Saturday 2nd December at 10.30 am

Carol Service on Sunday the 17th December at 6pm

Christmas Day Service at 9.30.

Wherever and however, you spend Christmas, we wish you a happy and peaceful time.



St. Andrew's, Coryton

A very successful Harvest Festival

Coryton celebrated its annual Harvest Festival in St Andrew's on Sunday 8th October. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service, as our new



hospitality area in the church came into its own. With many thanks to those who decorated the church and provided the refreshments and to Rev'd Andy for leading the service.

Remembrance Sunday

This year it was Coryton's turn to welcome Marystowe for our annual joined Service of Remembrance. The congregation gathered around the war grave of Private 2568569 M.F.W.Weight, aged 29, of the Devonshire Regiment, Airborne, who died on 13th August 1944. A wreath was laid on his grave before the service continued in the church. Coryton Coffee was served afterwards to warm everyone up.

Christmas

Where has the year gone? It feels like it hasn't been very long since last year's decorations came down. This year, Christmas at Coryton will be celebrated during a Carol Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 17th December followed by refreshments.

Then on Christmas morning at 11.15am there will be a Celebration of Christmas service. All are most welcome.

Josie Whitfield

St. Mary's Church, Marystowe



It may be early – but Marystowe is in full Christmas preparation. In this magazine you will find adverts for our **Christmas Fair (25 November 10am to noon)** and our **Christmas Evening (16th December 7pm)**.



It is always lovely to hear the Church full of laughter and judging by the fun we are having rehearsing for our Christmas evening this is set to only get louder!

This year we have decided to leave the safety of Zoom to “perform” live!

The usual gathering of self-promoting show-offs have been “rehearsing” (gossiping and giggling) under the ever patient guidance of our Director (“more like crowd control”) Morag Parker.

The final performance is no reflection on the quality of the help given by Morag, but judging by progress so far Guy is still failing to be a grown up, and Annie Jefferies is being even sillier than usual.

We are doing this to raise funds for Marystowe Church and The Children's Society.

Please take a moment to find out about the real life stories of children rescued by The Children's Society, by reading their stories on Marystowe page of southtamar.church.



From Joy and Amy

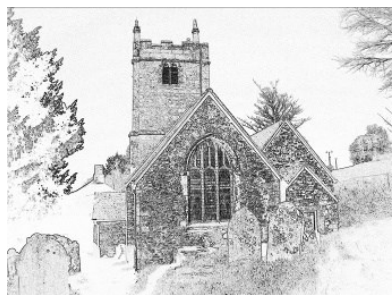
A Thank You to everyone who has come forward to volunteer for help with cleaning, reading at services, making coffee after services, flowers, and churchyard maintenance.

We do try and see people to thank them in person, but if we have missed anyone, we are sorry and please accept our gratitude.

We are still in need of helpers. Amy is preparing the rotas for next year, so do please consider if you are able to offer some time for holy dusting and hoovering, mowing and strimming or brewing coffee.



Joy McSmythurs & Amy Harrowell



St. Constantine's Church, **Milton Abbot**

Our Coffee, Crafts & Chat morning in October was well attended and raised a little over £400; many thanks to everyone who supported us on that day.

Pat took her stall to Buckland Abbey's Winter Fair; while it was hard work it raised a magnificent £1200.

Thank you to those who came to support us at the Abbey, and particularly to Andy and Phill who both did a lot of the heavy lifting and shifting for us and Phill for giving us so much of his time to help.

Pat's stall has a further three outings scheduled before Christmas, at: **Marystowe on 25th November,**
Lifton on 2nd December and
Lamerton on 9th December,

so even if you were unable to see us at Buckland Abbey you will still have a chance to buy some Christmas presents!

Apart from Pat's stall, our next fundraiser will be our **Bells & Strings Evening on 25th November** in Milton Abbot Church. The cost will be £5 to include coffee/teas and mince pies; please bring your own wine or beer if you wish. Extra heating will be provided!

We will once again have a **Longest Night Service on Friday 22nd December.**

This beautiful and reflective service was well-received last year and we hope many of you will join us again this year.

Liz Padmore



St. Peter's Church, Lamerton

Once again St. Peter's was very beautifully dressed by our flower ladies for our Harvest Service.

Ghislaine and Sue added to it with a Scarecrow display. Loads of scarecrows and banners of them scattered throughout the church made by the school children and residents of the care homes were a great

fun sight. Many thanks to all who joined with this effort.

The Sydenham Blowers concert was very well attended and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

They gave us an eclectic mix of music and were accompanied by Fionnuala Kirby with her Celtic Harp - an excellent evening. We raised over £700 which was divided between the two churches. I'm sure we will have more of these concerts in the future.



Many thanks to everyone who supplied the interval refreshments and the food for the Bring and Share supper for the Harvest Service.

We hope that many of you will join us for Advent Carols at Theale on Friday 1st December at **6.00 pm**. **Please note the time as we got it wrong in last months magazine!!**

Future events for your diary - Horse Racing 23rd Feb and a Salsa Evening 26th April. Both at Lamerton Village Hall.

Sadly we have lost a long time resident of Lamerton and a good friend. We send our condolences to Bill's family - and remember them in our prayers.

Your Church Wardens wish you a Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year



we listen*

Safeguarding NewsWe're here
to help!

Call for all Open the Book volunteers and Pastoral Care visitors, who do not have a DBS check in place already, to contact their Safeguarding Rep urgently please.

Training news

You can always access safeguarding training online at:
<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Please note that all PCC/Trustee members, pastoral care workers and Open the Book helpers require a DBS check every 3 years.

Contact your safeguarding rep to arrange this.

Lamerton: Julie Hibbert; 01822 618221;
julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com

Sydenham Damerel: Janet Giles; JLGiles89@yahoo.co.uk

Milton Abbot/Dunterton: Susan Champion;
Susanchampion41@gmail.com

Coryton: Jane Vicat; 01822 860254; janevicat@gmail.com

Marystowe: Anita Townsend; 01822 860123;
Mongoosemoondaisy12@gmail.com

If you are concerned for the immediate safety of someone, dial 999

Lucky Lamerton Lottery!

The winning numbers are:

October 2023 – 42

November 2023 – 85

*and the
Winner is..*



Congratulations to our winners

And a big thank you for purchasing lottery tickets for 2023/24.

All proceeds go towards St Peters Church, Lamerton.



A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

The Shepherds and Angels

The Story in the Bible

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Luke 2:8-20)

The History behind the Shepherds and Angels in the Christmas Story

At that time, sheep farmers were seen as low or little value by other people. The sheep that they bred would have probably been used as sacrifice animals in the temple in nearby Jerusalem. They were quietly getting on with their own business when suddenly an angel appeared to them. It's not surprising that they were afraid!



This is only the second time in the whole Bible that a group of angels rather than one angel had appeared to people, so this proved that they had a very important message to give to them. We don't know the names of the angels or how many there were of them, but in the Bible it says that there are millions of angels - so it would have been an amazing experience! The angels' words to them told them of Jesus and his amazing birth and how they could recognise him in a very crowded town.

Being curious as to what the angels meant, they went down into Bethlehem, maybe leaving a shepherd or two behind to keep guard on the sheep. The shepherds probably found Joseph, Mary and Jesus with the help of local women, running errands in the busy town, which had heard of the birth of a baby in a stable or shelter. When they had found Mary and Joseph and told them what had happened to them, the Bible says that 'The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.' The people they told probably weren't just the people they saw on the way back to hills, but friends and relatives in Bethlehem and Jerusalem and the people they met in the temple when they took their sheep to be sold.

The Birth of Jesus



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You will find the baby
lying in a _____.

Luke 2:12

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1 2 3 4 5 6

A Story on the Theme of Courage

Fear is soft and smooth

Marina was extremely afraid of the dark. When the lights went out, everything and every shadow appeared to her as the most terrible of monsters. Her parents explained to her, every day and with great patience, that these things were not monsters. Marina understood her parents, but she could not stop feeling an awful fear whenever it was dark.



One day her Aunt Valerie came to visit. Valerie was an incredible woman. She was famous for her courage, and for having gone on many journeys of adventure, some of which had been made into books and movies. Marina wanted to conquer her fear of the dark, so she asked her Aunt how she became so brave, and whether she had ever been frightened.

"A great many times, Marina," answered her Aunt, "I remember when I was small and I was terribly afraid of the dark. I couldn't stay in the dark for even a moment".

Marina became very excited. How was it possible that someone so courageous could have been afraid of the dark?

"I'll tell you a secret, Marina. It was some blind children who taught me how to be brave. They can't see, so if they had never discovered the secret of how not to be afraid of the dark, they would have been forever frightened".

"It's true!" said Marina, intrigued, "Can you tell me that secret?"

"Of course! The secret is to change your eyes. Since blind children can't see, their hands are their eyes. All you have to do to conquer your fear is what they do. Shut the eyes of your face and open the eyes of your hands. Let's make a deal: tonight, when you go to bed and put out the light, if anything makes you afraid, close your eyes, carefully get out of bed, and try to see what it is that's making you scared. But do it using your hands as eyes... and tomorrow tell me how you're getting on with the fear".

Marina accepted, but she was rather worried. She knew she would need to be brave to close her eyes and go and touch whatever it was that was frightening her, but she was willing to try. When her parents took her to bed, she herself put out the light. After a little while, she felt afraid of one of the shadows in the bedroom. Following the advice of Aunt Valerie, she closed the eyes of her face and opened the eyes of her hands. And, summoning up all her courage, she went over to touch that mysterious shadow...



The next morning Marina came running into the kitchen, a big smile on her face, and a song on her lips. "The monster is so soft and smooth!..." she cried, "It's my teddy bear!"

St Mary the Virgin

Marystowe Church

CHRISTMAS

**Coffee Morning
with Stalls**

Saturday, 25th November

10am – 12noon

No Admission Charge - Everyone is Welcome!

Please come along and enjoy

a cup of coffee or tea with cake, mince pie or biscuits

and maybe start your Christmas shopping!

Books

Christmas Wreaths

Fridge Magnets

Gifts

Honey

Jigsaws

Jams & Preserves

Handicrafts

Hamper Raffle

Cakes

Greetings Cards

Raising money for Marystowe Church Funds



Celebrate with us the Joy of Christmas

Service schedule for you to cut out and keep.

Date	Time	Location	Service
Sunday 3rd December	9:30am	Marystowe	Holy Communion
	4pm	Lamerton	Christingle
Thursday 7th December	2pm	Lamerton	Lamerton School Carol Service
Friday 8th December	3pm	Milton Abbot	Milton Abbott School Carol Ser- vice
	7pm	Tavistock Football Club	Tavistock Football Club Carol Service
Sunday 10th December	10am	Milton Abbot	Holy Communion
	10:30am	Sydenham Damerel	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Coryton	BCP Evensong
Wednesday 13th December	2pm	Venn House	Carols with Bells at Venn House
	3pm	Camplehaye	Carols with Bells at Camplehaye
Thursday 14th December	2pm	Lamerton	Class I Nativity
Sunday 17th December	6pm	Sydenham Damerel	Carol Service
	6:30pm	Lamerton	Carol Service
	6:30pm	Coryton	Carol Service
Friday 22nd December	6:30pm	Milton Abbot	The Longest Night Service
Saturday 23rd December	4pm	Milton Abbot	Christmas Celebration
Sunday 24th December	5:30pm	Marystowe	Carols round the Tree followed by Christmas Service
	11:30pm	Lamerton	Midnight Mass
Monday 25th December	9:30am	Sydenham Damerel	Holy Communion
	9:30am	Dunterton	Christmas Communion
	11:15am	Coryton	Christmas Service

Remembrance Day



At 11am on 11 November 2023, 15 people put down their tools and gathered around a war grave in Marystowe's churchyard for two minutes of silence.

This was not a formal ceremony. It was a group of volunteers working to clear the Churchyard. During the morning, revealed out of the ivy and undergrowth, we found the grave of Lieutenant George Edward Cleather Collinson and his wife.



Early in 1915 Lieutenant Collinson went to the front with the Cameron Highlanders, from there he went to Egypt and trained and joined the Royal Flying Corps. He returned home and joined 77 Squadron, RFC Turnhouse, Edinburgh, Lothian. He was killed in a flying accident on 13th April 1917.

**ITS NOT SO MUCH "IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY" – BUT RATHER IF YOU GO
INTO THE CHURCH TODAY ...YOU'RE SURE OF A GREAT SURPRISE**

Marystowe Church is delighted to be supporting The Children's Society again at Christmas 2023. This year we have chosen to highlight their work through real life records of children they have helped for over 140 years. So please...

**WELCOME THE "AM-BEAR-SSADORS" FOR THE CHILDRENS
SOCIETY NOW IN RESIDENCE AT MARYSTOWE CHURCH**

In the Church there are 13 cuddly characters that represent real stories of children rescued by The Childrens Society. We hope they will have a home for Christmas. They will go to the highest donation made in their name. Their new homes will be announced at our Christmas evening on 16th December.



Their stories are all available in the Church and will be put on the Marystowe page of the South Tamar Mission Community website www.southtamar.church These are very moving accounts of children who have suffered mental, physical, and sexual abuse; of children who have been abandoned, suffered through drug addiction, or have had their lives seriously impacted by becoming carers, moving home, or being bullied.

To make a donation please contact Joy McSmythurs (01822 860630) or Amy Harrowell (01822 860181)

**PLEASE NOTE THE CUDDLY CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN DONATED TO US AND WE CANNOT
THEREFORE BE CONFIDENT THEY ARE SUITABLE AS TOYS.**

Combined Sydenham Damerel & Lamerton PCC.
Tuesday 30th January, 7pm, Priests Room,
At St Peter's Lamerton.
All Parishioners welcome.

The Priest's Room, Lamerton is an ideal venue for small meetings (20 people max)
It has full tea/coffee making and washing up facilities, tables and chairs, heating and a toilet nearby.

 **Taizé** Sydenham Damerel Church

Please do come and join us for our Taizé services at Sydenham
Damerei Church.

The service will start at 7:00 pm and will last for around 45 minutes.

Taizé worship is a service consisting of Bible readings, prayer, meditative singing and periods of silence. To learn more about Taizé and to listen to some of the music please visit:

<http://www.southtamar.church/taize/>

Future Dates: (no service in December)

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

MOUNT KELLY CHORAL SOCIETY



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH. 7.30 p.m.

TAVISTOCK METHODIST CHURCH

Chapel Street, Tavistock PL19 8DX

A programme of Christmas music, favourite carols and readings including extracts from Handel's Messiah and Mendelssohn's Elijah.

Soloists:

Bianca Phillips – Soprano

Andrew Farris – Baritone

Organist Mary Mazur-Park

Director - Dan Robson

Tickets £14. Under 18s. Free.

Tickets from Bookstop, Tavistock or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/mount-kelly-choral-society

www.mountkellychoralsociety.com

For a perfect Christmas please ask yourself the important questions...

What matters?



Laughter with friends...

- so come to our evening of music and light-hearted entertainment with mulled wine, mince pies, draws and bears....

When?



Always, but for Christmas...

- go to Marystowe Church 16th December at 7pm...

Why?



To feel good about ourselves

- so help us raise funds for

**The
Children's
Society**

and Marystowe Church...

How?



**Come along on the 16th
December**

- tickets are £5 each and include a glass of mulled wine, mince pie or sausage roll and a lucky number programme. Additional snacks are available to order.

PLEASE CALL JOY (01822 860630) OR AMY (01822 860181) TO GET YOUR TICKETS – A WORD OF CAUTION – SPACE IS LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY TO HAVE THE ANSWERS TO THESE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS



Tavistock AFC



Christmas Tractor Run and Entertainment

Tractors Leave Langford Park

7.00pm Friday 8th December



On Stage

Horrabridge Junior Hand Bell Ringers



Mount Kelly Prep School Choir

When tractors return there will be a Carol Service led by
Rev Andy Atkins



BBQ & Drinks - hot and cold - available

Parking at Secondary School car park

Wrap up warm to enjoy this outdoor evening event

Free admission but donations for
Tavistock AFC appreciated



*You are welcome to join us for
the start of our Christmas celebrations
with
Carols and Readings
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine*

Friday 1st December at 6.00pm

*Please contact Angela on 810027 if you are coming,
car share where possible and wear warm clothing.*



Important Message!



I'm sure most of you will have heard of 'GDPR' or the General Data Protection Regulations. So that we, as a Mission Community, are compliant with these regulations we request your permission to keep in touch.

Let's Keep in Touch

The South Tamar Mission Community has a great database so we can email everyone who has registered, with details of services and up and coming events. If you have not completed the on line consent form then please do go to www.southtamar.church and under the Privacy Notice tab you will find the on line consent form and please do fill it in.

And now the boring bit – if you are on the database then we apologise in advance but – due to Data Protection Regulation we will, over the next few months, be contacting you to confirm you are happy to remain on the database.
If you have any queries or questions please contact Joy McSmythurs (01822 860630)



Lamerton 50th Handbell Festival

14th October 2023



It does not seem that long ago when we held the 1st Festival in St Peter's Church, Lamerton back in September, 1973!

4 teams got together from Lamerton, Whitchurch, Stoke Damerel and Lifton with the collection going to the Church.

For the following 20 years the Festival was held in the Church and in 1993 it moved to the Old Parish Hall on the main road.

Since 2007 it has been held at the New Lamerton Parish Hall.

A lot has happened over the years, catering for larger lay outs of bells etc; introducing a competitive element, with trophies being presented and raising money for Lamerton Church and specific charities each year.

The evening started with The Lamerton Team cutting a special cake made by Ann Barkwill to mark the occasion and also to celebrate the fact that the team was started by Geoff Hill, 60 years ago back in 1963.

In the audience were Peter Crockford and Graham Manning, who were ringing with Geoff back in those very early years!!!!



This year's Festival was particularly well supported with 10 teams taking part - what an evening of ringing it was!!!!

Taking part were The Phoenix Ringers from Chudleigh, Tor Bells from Okehampton, Black Torrington, Pillaton, St. Dominick, The Smith Family from Cheriton Bishop, The Clangers from Plympton St Maurice, Horrabridge Primary School & Clapper Chaos from Poole in Dorset and The Lamerton Ringers.

The Mr & Mrs P Dawe Cup for the best Tune Ringing went to The Phoenix Ringers who rung "Moonlight Sonata" - lovely performance.

The William Manning Memorial Shield for the best Peal went to The Lamerton Ringers who rang "The Queens Peal" on 8 Handbells with the rise and lower of the bells - "perfect" !!

Tor Bells won The Hamlet Trophy for the best "4 in hand" ringing. The highlight had to be The Horrabridge Primary School Team under the leadership of Jude Turner - 10 lovely children who rang with such enthusiasm winning The Firkins Shield in the Junior Section and The Roy Bould Cup for showing the most progress.

The Festival concluded with a spell bounding performance of 3 tunes arranged by their leader from Clapper Chaos, last year's winners of the Dawe Cup, multi tasking with 3 bells in each hand!!!!

William Dawe and Graham Manning presented the awards; in fact William's Mum and Dad had presented their Cup back in 1975 and Graham made a Shield in memory of his Dad which was first awarded in 1991.

The judges were Fergus Stracey from Plymouth and Allen Benstead from Marlborough.

£100 has been donated to the Team's chosen charity this year - The Roland Macdonald House Charity.

**Note for your diary - next year's Festival will be on:
Saturday 12th October, 2024.**

A Night at the Races

'The Lamerton Stakes'

A Horse racing evening in aid of Milton Abbot & Lamerton Churches



Friday 23rd February 7:00pm

Lamerton Village Hall

Cost: £5, includes entry, pasty and tea/coffee.

Please bring your own drinks too if you wish

A stake in a horse will cost £1 per race.

Booking is essential! For tickets, please contact Andy on 01822 870298 or email vicar@southtamar.church

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, SYDENHAM DAMEREL **ONE HUNDRED CLUB**

Draw at 10:30am, Saturday 11th November
In the Church at our monthly coffee morning

Tickets available from:

john.r.hearn19@gmail.com



Congratulations to November's winners:

1st prize Sandra Buttery

2nd Prize Rawdon Crozier

3rd Prize Mr & Mrs J Bourne

Join the fun – you have to be in it to win it!

POLE POSITION

There are no official Union Flag days for December, January or February.

But for fun, the chief Bunting Tosser informs me that here are some notable dates to fly flags for instead:

December ~

- o 1st Portugal Independence Day
- o 24th International Civil Aviation Day

January ~

- o 9th Princess of Wales's Birthday
- o 20th Duchess of Edinburgh Birthday
- o 25th Burns Night
- o 26th Australia Day

Additionally, if anybody would like a tour of the Church

Tower Lamerton, I would be happy to take them around & up!



‘The Longest Night Service’

‘A gentle, contemplative service of remembrance, comfort and hope’

Friday 22nd December

6:30 pm

Milton Abbot Parish Church

Christmas can be a tough time for those who have experienced any form of loss or bereavement. For many of us, and for many reasons, Christmas can be a difficult time of year.

In this service, on the longest night, we take time to acknowledge the pain and loss that we all carry while seeking peace and comfort for our souls.

Everyone is welcome to the service.

‘The light shines on in the darkness’





Tower Talk

The Lamerton Bellringers have achieved their aims for 2023.



We have rung for all the services and festivals and several of those in other towers in the Benefice.

We have rung for four weddings and a funeral (not the film version) and the coronation, which now seems a very long time ago!

All but two of our learners are now ringing rounds on their own, but we are sorry to be losing Ghislaine whose company we have enjoyed very much.

We wish her well in her new role within the church.



In October we attended the Deanery Ringing Festival at Meavy Parish Church, which was a very friendly, well attended event with a splendid tea.

It has been suggested that it might be held at Lamerton in October 2024 in which case all the Benefice bells would be likely to have some visiting teams of ringers!



In the more immediate future we have the Christmas services and, hopefully, an evening get-together to look forward to.

Something to take our minds off the dark days of December.

William Dawe

Lucky Lamerton Lottery!

The winning numbers are:

October 2023 – 42

November 2023 – 85



*and the
Winner is..*

Congratulations to our winners

And a big thank you for purchasing lottery tickets for 2023/24.

All proceeds go towards St Peters Church, Lamerton.

RECRUITMENT OF ANNA CHAPLAINS AND ANNA FRIENDS....

..... across our local Communities.



Anna Chaplains offer spiritual support to older people, wherever they may live, in their own homes , in care settings or for people living in sheltered accommodation.

Another way of describing this work is akin to giving pastoral care support. Anna Chaplaincy has a training built in (paid for by Exeter Diocese) which covers all skills required to be a volunteer chaplain. This includes, listening skills, learning in more details about the ageing process and talking through issues such as dementia management.

Rev'd Andy our local incumbent is very positive about this model of giving spiritual support, and would happily have a conversation with anyone who is interested in working more closely with elderly people.

The number of hours that you commit is entirely dependent on your availability.

Anna Chaplains usually commit to 1-2 days a month, although when you make visits is based on your own diary flexibility. Anna Friends who support the Chaplains doing very similar work, usually have less time available, and may find that 1/2 day a month is sufficient time to still be of value in offering spiritual.

support to local people.

Annie Jefferies

Devon Anna Chaplain co-ordinator.



**Coffee @ St. Mary's
Sydenham Damerel**
First Saturday of every month
10.30am onwards
All welcome

NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL



"My love, the nights are coming now in the afternoons,
So, maybe, stoke up the fire in the living room,
And light the long candles. Hold me close,
while the stars outside shiver and spell out their names -
bright as any love, anywhere, any time." *from: Winter Heart; by Jackie Kay*

After all the November rain and storms there is a day of quiet, of winter sunlight.
Gnats dance in the light between the trees. The woods are very still.

Bluebell hears a fox bark, a pheasant alarm - cock cock! And a noisy little stream
of running water.

It is mild, grey and quiet. There are no
returning winter thrushes, redwings, or
fieldfares yet.

The woodcock is waiting to come, perhaps
with the next full moon..

The tiny goldcrest is said to hitch a ride
on his back across the sea.

There has been no frost to speak of yet
and any red-russet gold beech leaves still
hang on the young trees. Brown leaves
hang longest on the oak trees.

Bright yellow gorse is still in flower.



A robin's sweet song trickles through the air.

Then there are two! Robins are usually solitary, but will sing and even fight in
midwinter to establish their breeding territory.

Males and females both do this, both sing, and both wear scarlet breast feathers.

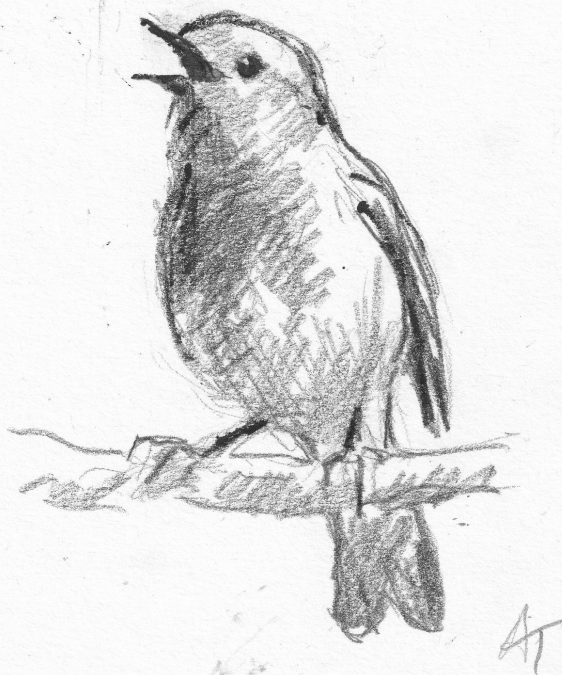
The fight may change into a courting chase round the garden as the robins pair up
and plight their troth around Christmas time. The robin has recently been
reclassified as of the flycatcher family rather than the thrush, along with the chat
and nightingale. (2023)

"Sweet robin sits in the bush,
singing so rarely." *from: The Heart of Midlothian; by Sir Walter Scott.*

The friendly robin does usually sing from fairly close to the ground, in contrast to
the thrush that seeks the highest tree-top branch from which to sing. A bird of
broadleaf woodland edges, its typical habit is to perch on a low branch or spade
handle, following the gardener, or originally wild boar or deer, and drop down to
pick up worms and grubs and insects from the earth they have disturbed.

Once a robin and three times a wren has had to be guided out of Bluebell's house
through a window recently.

Bluebell wishes all her readers all the Joys of Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



A Bit of Festive Fun!

Purely for fun (and yes, because I had a little space to fill), I am introducing a little game into the Magazine.

I have called it '*Find the Father!*'

Loosely based on a popular book series (that has a tall character who wears a red and white striped hat), all you have to do is scrutinise the pages to see if you can find where Father Phill is hiding out this issue!

No prizes this time, just for a giggle.

Answer in small font, upside down at the bottom of page 43.

Thanks for taking part, I hope you enjoy it and good luck!

Ed.



Milton Abbot Christmas Celebration

Saturday 23rd December

4pm till 6pm

in Milton Abbot Church



**£4 per adult - to include mulled wine,
mince pie and bingo tickets**

**£1 per child - to include hot
chocolate, sweets and bingo tickets**

**Not compulsory. Bring along a
secret Santa gift (under £5) if
you'd like to receive one back.**

**Bring your own nibbles and drinks, sing
Christmas songs and come together to
celebrate this festive season.**

Christmas outfit competition.

Adult and children prizes.

4 games of bingo with Christmas prizes!

Please contact Andy to reserve your tickets 01822 870298 vicar@southtamar.church



GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG

Well, the leaves are brown and the sky is a hazy shade of winter (as Simon & Garfunkel said). As I write this Storm Ciaran has faded and left many leaves in the trees whispering Louise.

It's a difficult time of year in the garden but when there is a bit of nice weather - even if it's cold - it can be very rewarding to get out and do a bit of tidying up.

Leaves, cutting back, pruning, mulching, turning that compost heap, cleaning the greenhouse, weeding, dividing; thinking about enhancing the beauty of your garden (forget about the lawn, except for clearing the leaves off).

Doug doesn't do lawns. He's given up. Just grass with whatever comes!



So much easier and less toxic than all those chemical lawn treatments.



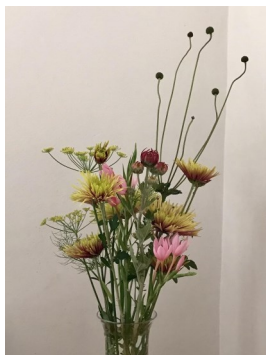
Nice things in a winter garden are plants which give some architectural structure and interest. One my favourites is Phlomis or Jerusalem sage. This is a spreading perennial which needs very little attention and produces tall flower shoots with nice yellow flowers in summer and gorgeous seedheads in autumn through to spring - if you leave them alone and the birds don't rip 'em to bits!

Another nice favourite is Japanese anemone. This is another spreading perennial with lovely flowers in summer and interesting seedheads in winter. These make an interesting addition to flower arrangements.



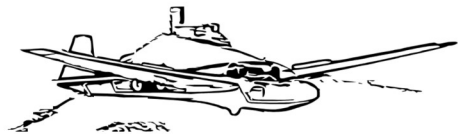
And next year you could grow some annual flowers to dry.

Helichrysum/paper daisy flowers, are an easy choice.



If you need inspiration, visit the National Trust Cotehele Garland over Christmas. 60ft long with thousands of dried flowers grown on site. Open 18th November to 7th January.

Happy Christmas and New Year!



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Lamerton Art Group

We are looking for new members!

We are a small friendly group of artists who support and help one another. We have the occasional inspiration of a demonstration or talk by a professional artist.

We meet on Thursday mornings between 10am and 1pm at the Lamerton Community Centre.

Do come and join us.

Please contact: **Elaine Price**, email: elainejprice@hotmail.co.uk

ADVERTISING!

Contact: Mike Jefferies on 01822 614178

E-mail: mike.jefferies5@btinternet.com
to discuss your advertising needs.

Advertising for 'one-off' local charities and events is free.

1/8 page: £18 per year, 1/4 page: £36 per year,
1/2 page: £72 per year, Full page: £144 per year

Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council

Please see our website for lots of information about Milton Abbot, Chillaton, Bradstone, Dunterton and the surrounding areas along with a list of the local parish councillors.

www.magpc.co.uk



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Please speak to your Benefice Safeguarding Representative if you have any concerns for the well-being of a child or adult, or about the behaviour of someone towards a child or adult.

Your Benefice Safeguarding Representative is:

Julie Hibbert

Contact: 01822 618221;

Email: safeguarding@southtamar.church

Or contact: Rev Andy Atkins: 01822 870298;

Email: vicar@southtamar.church

If you cannot reach your Benefice Safeguarding Representative, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Charlie Pitman, Safeguarding Adviser 01392 345909, Email: charles.pitman@exeter.anglican.org



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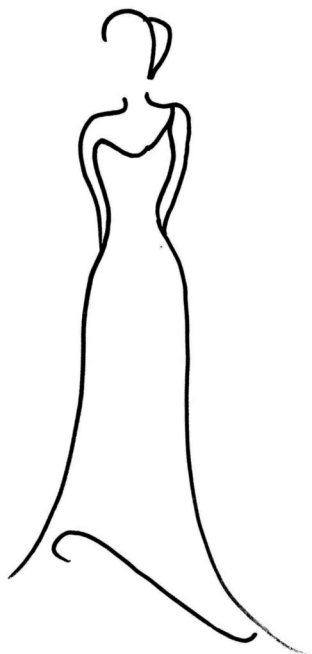


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CHURCH SERVICES

January 2024

DAY	St Mary M. Syden- ham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constan- tine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St Andrew's Coryton
Weds 3rd January	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 7th January <i>Plough Sunday</i>		6:30pm BCP Evensong			9:30am HC/CW	
Weds 10th January	10am WHOLENESS & HEALING—Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 14th January <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	10:30am HC/CW			10am Sunday Praise		
Weds 17th January	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 21st January <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>		11am HC/CW			9:30am Family Service, Morning Praise	
Tues 23rd January	7pm TAIZE at Sydenham Damerel					
Weds 24th January	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 28th January <i>Candlemas</i>	6:30pm Songs of Praise			11am HC/CW		6:30pm BCP Evensong
Weds 31st January	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					

CHURCH SERVICES

December 2023

DAY	St Mary M. Syden- ham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constan- tine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St An- drew's Coryton
Sunday 3rd December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>		4pm Christingle			9:30am HC/CW	
Weds 6th December	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Thurs 7th December	2pm Lamerton School Carol Service at St Peter's Lamerton					
Fri 8th December	3pm Milton Abbott School Carol Service St Constantine's Milton Abbott					
Friday 8th December	7pm Tavistock Football Club Carol Service					
Sunday 10th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	10:30am HC/CW			10:00am HC/CW		6:30pm BCP Evensong
Weds 13th December	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
Weds 13th December	2pm Carols with Bells at Venn House; 3pm Carols with Bells at Camplehay					
Thurs 14th December	2pm Class I Nativity—St Peter's Lamerton					
Sunday 17th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	6pm Carol Service	6:30pm Carol Service				6:30pm Carol Service
Weds 20th December	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					

For Christmas Services, please see page 20

