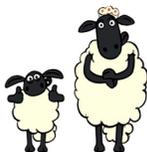


# Parish News

For the Benefice of  
**Chillaton, Coryton,  
Dunterton, Lamerton,  
Marystowe,  
Milton Abbot and  
Sydenham Damerel**



## Advent Carols at Theale



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



*Friday 25th November at 6.00pm*



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



South Tamar  
Mission Community

**December &  
January 2023**  
**Price: £1**

**RECTOR:** **Rev Andrew Atkins** **01822 870298**

The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot PL19 0NZ;  
Email: vicar@southtamar.church

### CHURCHWARDENS

<b>Lamerton:</b>	Mike Jefferies Ian Minshull	614178 810027
<b>Milton Abbot:</b>	Liz Padmore	870642
<b>Dunterton:</b>	Arthur Vigars	870244
<b>Sydenham Damerel:</b>	Margaret Hurdwell	870545
<b>Marystowe:</b>	Barbara Dawe	(01566)784797
<b>Coryton:</b>	Giles Vicat	860254

### PCC SECRETARIES

<b>Lamerton:</b>	Barbara Meikle	617229
<b>Sydenham Damerel:</b>	(Barbara Meikle)	617229
<b>Milton Abbot + Dunterton:</b>	Liz Padmore	870642
<b>Marystowe:</b>	Guy Talbot	860314
<b>Coryton:</b>	Josie Whitfield	860189

### CHURCH TREASURERS

<b>Lamerton:</b>	Mike Jefferies	Church Avenue House, Lamerton	614178
<b>Sydenham Damerel:</b>	c/o Margaret Hurdwell		870545
<b>Milton Abbot:</b>	Pat Lovell	2 Fern Meadow, Tavistock	618452
<b>Dunterton:</b>	John Spensely		07711 995735
<b>Marystowe:</b>	Guy Talbot		860314
<b>Coryton:</b>	Niel O'Neill		860263

### UNITED BENEFICE APPOINTMENTS

<b>Benefice Safeguarding Representative</b>	Julie Hibbert	618221
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<b>Vicar's Assigned Administrator</b>	Guy Talbot	860314
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### MAGAZINE

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**CHURCH WEB SITE** [www.southtamar.church](http://www.southtamar.church) Email: vicar@southtamar.church

### PARISH COUNCILS

	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Milton Abbot group parish:</b>	Mark Ambrose	870603	
<b>Lamerton:</b>	Clerk Shane Honey Ann Cole		clerk@magpc.co.uk
<b>Sydenham Damerel:</b>	Clerk Caroline Oxenham Howard Payne Clerk Peter van Delft	481415 870865 01566 783023	clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.gov.uk howard.payne@sydenham-damerel.org.uk clerk@sydenham-damerel.org.uk

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

<b>Lamerton C of E</b>	Head Teacher: Melody Sterry	Tel. 613561
<b>Milton Abbot</b>	Head Teacher: Debbie Buckingham	Tel. 870273



## Things we know for certain about Christmas

We know for certain that our Lord died at around 3pm on April 3, AD 33. However, we have no such certainty for the date of His birth. This would not be unusual for parents of Joseph and Mary's station not to record the date of His birth. Many theologians derive possible dates from the beginning of His teaching as recorded in Luke 3:1-2. However, the words 'nativity' or 'Christmas' are never mentioned in the Bible. In fact, Christmas was not celebrated until the 3rd Century in Rome.

We do know for certain that Mary was a virgin and that she was visited by the Angel Gabriel. (Luke 1:26–38) We also know that Our Lord was born in Bethlehem. It is unlikely that there was either an inn or inn-keeper. His birth place was more likely a 1st Century Airbnb. Families let out rooms – especially during festivals. The Holy Family almost certainly would have stayed in a larger ground floor room where there would have been a manger for animals brought in during cold winter nights. There is no doubt that shepherds came and celebrated His birth as there are so many first-hand witness accounts. (Luke 2:8-20) Equally we know that they were miraculously informed of His birth by angels. However, we have no references to sheep in the Gospels.

The wise men arrived after the birth of Christ. We don't know when or how many there were. However, we do know that their three gifts were prophetic - gold for a king, frankincense for divinity and myrrh as a symbol of death.

We also know for certain that miraculous dreams played a key role in the protection of the Christ child. Joseph was warned in a dream to protect Mary as she was to give birth to our Saviour (Matthew 1:18-21). Equally the wise men were warned in a dream not to tell Herod of the location of the Christ Child (Matthew 2:13). Lastly Joseph was warned in a dream to emigrate to Egypt to avoid Herod's massacre of the first-born sons in Bethlehem. After Herod had died Joseph was again informed in a dream that it was safe to return (Matthew 2:19-23) Perhaps the only strange thing about the commemoration of our Lord's birth, crucifixion and resurrection is that Easter should not be celebrated on 5th April – every year!

*Richard Searight*

*The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon. PL19 0NZ  
Tel: 01822 870298; Email vicar@southtamar.church*



Dear friends,

This past Sunday was Remembrance Sunday, one of the warmest on record I believe. The normal patterns of weather through the seasons that we experienced in years gone by doesn't seem to apply any more. I have been thinking about the Church calendar. The Church seasons take us through the year and encourage to engage with different topics and different aspects of God's character and our relationship with him.

We spend almost all of December in the season of Advent. A time of preparation and reflection, as we look forward to Christmas; and think about what we ought to be doing to be ready to meet God's Son, both now and when he returns. The Christmas season itself is a time of celebration as we thank God for the gift of his Son and the fact that God chose to walk among us.

Much of our time during the Advent season is inevitably spent preparing for the Christmas season. Thinking about presents and decorations, food, and drink. Planning celebrations and gatherings with family and friends. Working out ways to see those close to us, sometimes in a very short space of time. So, the big question for us this year, as in every other year, is how do we engage with the real meaning and purpose of Advent and Christmas?

Perhaps we could try to spend some time each day during the season of Advent reading our Bible. Perhaps we could spend some time each day during Advent in prayer. Perhaps we could try to think of those around us for whom Christmas will be a difficult time, those who are unwell, lonely, frightened, bereaved. This year we will be holding a new service called "The Longest Night" on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. The service itself is very simple, a mixture of carols and readings to tell the Christmas story; prayers which acknowledge pain and emptiness alongside the Christian hope; a 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. Please do also keep your eyes open for our new services of "Wholeness and Healing" which will start in the New Year.

Canon Tim Thompson has kindly written about this further on in the magazine.

But behind all our plans, we need to think about who Jesus is and why he came to be one of us. Jesus was, and is, not only God's son, but God – God with us, Emmanuel. God chose to come here and be born as one of us. To identify with us, to walk with us, share with us, experience what we experience and, ultimately to die for us and reconcile us to God. How should we respond? Not an easy question to answer, but perhaps one to think about as we travel through Advent and approach Christmas.

I would like to finish by thanking Tim Culverhouse who has kindly edited our magazine for these past few years. I have given Tim a little gift on your behalf to thank him for all his great work.

Yours in Christ and a Merry Christmas,  
**Fr. Andy**



**For a full list of  
services over the  
Advent and  
Christmas season**

**Go to page 8**

## 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	1 <sup>ST</sup> READING	2 <sup>ND</sup> READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 4th December  2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Isaiah 11. 1 - 10	Romans 15. 4 - 13	Matthew 3. 1 - 12
Sunday 11th December  3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Isaiah 35. 1 - 10	James 5. 7 - 10	Matthew 11. 2 - 11
Sunday 18th December  4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Isaiah 7. 10 - 16	Romans 1. 1 - 7	Matthew 1. 18 - 25
Saturday 24th December  Christmas Eve, readings until 6pm (Purple)	2 Samuel 7. 1 - 5, 8 - 11, 16	Acts 13. 16 - 26	Luke 1. 67 - 79
Sunday 25th December  Christmas Day (White)	Isaiah 52. 7 - 10	Hebrews 1. 1 - 4 (5 - 12)	John 1. 1 - 14
Sunday 1st January  Jesus' naming and circumcision (White)	Numbers 6. 22 - 27	Galatians 4. 4 - 7	Luke 2. 15 - 21

**BCP – Book of Common Prayer**

**CW – Common Worship (Modern)**

<b>BIBLE READINGS (Year A)</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> READING</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> READING</b>	<b>GOSPEL</b>
Sunday 8th January  The Epiphany (White)	Isaiah 60. 1 - 6	Ephesians 3. 1 - 12	Matthew 2. 1 - 12
Sunday 15th January  2nd Sunday of Epiphany (White)	Isaiah 49. 1 - 7	1 Corinthians 1. 1 - 9	John 1. 29 - 42
Sunday 22nd January  3rd Sunday of Epiphany (White)	Isaiah 9. 1-4	1 Corinthians 1. 10 - 18	Matthew 4. 12 - 23
Sunday 29th January  The presentation (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'***.



South Tamar  
Mission Community

## 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](mailto:vicar@southtamar.church)

tel: 01822 870298

## Celebrate with us the Joy of Christmas

**Service schedule for you to cut out and keep**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Place</i></b>	<b><i>The service</i></b>
Fri 25th November	6.00pm	Theale, Lamerton	Advent carols
Sun 4th December	9.30am	Marystowe	Holy Communion
	11.15am	Dunterton	Advent Service
	4.00pm	Lamerton	Christingle
Sun 11th December	4.30pm	Milton Abbot	Evening prayer
	5.00pm	Sydenham Damerel	Carol Service
	6.30pm	Coryton	Carol Service
Sun 18th December	4.00pm	Marystowe	Crib and Carol Service
	6.30pm	Lamerton	Carol Service
Weds 21st December	6.30pm	Milton Abbot	The Longest Night Service
Sat 24th December	4.00pm	Milton Abbot	Crib and Carol Service
	5.00pm	Marystowe	Carols round the Tree
	6.30pm	Marystowe	Christmas Communion
	11.30pm	Lamerton	Midnight Mass
Sun 25th December	9.30am	Dunterton	Service of the Word
	9.30am	Sydenham Damerel	Holy Communion
	11.30am	Coryton	Holy Communion



## All Saint's Church, Dunterton



We were once again blessed with the most perfect weather for the annual River Walk at Dunterton. This year we counted 369 walkers raising over £2,000 for the church from donations, teas, cakes and a BBQ. This support really does make a big difference to the ongoing maintenance and improvements to the church. Putting on this event has been a real team effort from the local community. Without the continued massive support from all the different landowners and their farm, forest, and river managers we would not be able to see and enjoy this special part of West Devon.

With so many of the churches in England having been closed and still many more under threat All Saints Dunterton has recently also been faced with a real risk of closure to services. Now however, with all the positive support and a newly formed team to look after the many administrative duties we all hope the church will remain open for services going forward. We will know more about this next year.

Our Remembrance Day service was very well attended with 30 in congregation and in keeping with tradition the service collection has been donated to the Royal British Legion. A big thank you again to everyone for joining the services, arranging floral displays, and tidying up and cleaning – this has been very much appreciated. As winter approaches and we get closer to the end of 2022, the services for Advent and Christmas Day are next. Let us hope that we can continue with services at Dunterton in 2023.

*Thank you and Happy Christmas to all.*

*John Spensley*

### POLE POSITION

It may not have escaped your attention that the flag at the top of St. Peter's Church in Lamerton changes rather regularly. Our Chief Bunting Tosser informs me that he is awaiting news of which flags to fly, now that we have a new King - Charles 111. No doubt there will be more news in the next edition of the Parish News.

**Ed.**



## St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

Wow, what a year! 2022 started well for us in Sydenham Damerel. We had a reasonably mild winter and much of the community made the best of the weather by walking the lanes and watching for signs of spring.

Those of us who celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a quiz and a chilli supper will not forget our narrow defeat by our mother church St Peter's at Lamerton. Grrrr! this must be rectified (and we shall have that opportunity at John Hearn's next inquisitorial extravaganza on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022). We all had a great time supplemented by a warm feeling of community and friendship.

We had book groups, united benefice services, Storm Eunice, Covid, Red Nose Day, bell ringing and curry dinners, and this was in just the first three months of 2022!

Later had two a wonderful joint birthday and platinum Jubilee band concerts by our very own Sydenham Damerel Blowers at the Royal. The Blowers also went on tour to perform magnificently in the bandstand in Tavistock.

Sadly, we also had several funerals of dear friends and of course the passing of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. We also commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War.

After several years of intense campaigning and hard work by a dedicated team ultrafast fibre broadband finally arrived so we could all say farewell to that annoying little revolving arrow on the screen when trying to watch back episodes of Peaky Blinders on catch up.

Our coffee mornings were very well supported, our intrepid teams of litter pickers fought the good fight against the litter louts, and we had all the usual love stories, disputes, socialising, and holidays that form part of everyday village life.

We never forget how lucky we all are to live in this beautiful corner of Devon, but we also find the time to remember and support those who do not have the same privileges as us. The seemingly endless kindness of our parishioners, even in these harder times, has enabled generous financial donations to Shekinah and the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Here is to 2023. May we continue to enjoy life and to help those less fortunate than us.



**Margaret Hurdwell**



## St. Andrew's, Coryton

St Andrew's had a very successful Harvest Festival in October. The church was beautifully decorated and there was plenty of food and drink for the bring-and-share supper afterwards.



We are now looking forward to this year's Christmas celebrations with our Carol Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 11th December and Holy Communion at 11.30am on Christmas morning.

## St Andrew's, Jerusalem

I have just returned from a visit to the Holy Land, part of a group of 57 pilgrims led by recently retired Bishop Nick of Plymouth and the Archdeacon of Plymouth, the Ven. Nick Shutt. It was a truly memorable trip, following in the footsteps of Jesus but at the same time learning much about other aspects of life in Israel and Palestine both 2000 years ago and more recently. We went from ruins dating from the Roman occupation to Old Testament sites, to areas associated with Jesus' life and ministry, his final week in Jerusalem and his resurrection and ending with the Holocaust Museum. We even had a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee where the skipper raised a Union Jack in our honour and we all sang the National Anthem.



Along the way, we had open-air services of Holy Communion, we sang hymns in various churches we visited, and in the evening after returning to our hotel, we had time for communal reflection and a service of Compline. All of us made new friends and in some cases met people to whom we already had a connection of which we were not aware.

On the final day in Jerusalem, our guide spoke about St Andrew's church in Jerusalem. This Church, also known as the Scots Memorial Church, was built as a memorial to the Scottish soldiers who were killed fighting the Turkish Army during the Sinai and Palestine campaign of World War I, bringing to an end Ottoman rule over Palestine.

For those who would like to know more about the trip, see information about an event on Friday 20th January elsewhere in this magazine.

**Josie Whitfield**

## St. Mary's Church, Marystowe

We had a very moving and reflective Service of Remembrance for Marystowe, Chillaton and Coryton combined. We missed John Dawe and Iris Griffiths who both played a large part in the services in many past years. The congregation was a combination of new faces and old friends. We do hope the new faces become new friends.



Thanks go to everyone who took part in the service making it bridge the old and the new. Our love and prayers are with Amy Harrowell who was confirmed in October. She is a regular worshipper at Marystowe and also involved in our social events, perhaps you will remember her as the blood-stained Nancy in last year's Oliver!

***We are now in full flow getting prepared for our Christmas celebrations at Marystowe/Chillaton***

**Saturday 26 November 10am** – midday Christmas Coffee Morning with Stalls. Please do join us in the Church, we have a number of craft stalls, the books, delicious cakes and the launch of our Christmas Hamper Draw. Chris Gallie is preparing 5 beautiful hampers:

Traditional Christmas Hamper, Chocoholics Cheer, Gardener's Delight, Pamper Hamper, Himper (hamper for him)

Please contact Barbara, Joy or any member of the PCC for tickets, which are £1 each. The Draw will take place during our Christmas Zoom evening.

**Christmas Zoom Evening 10 December 6.30 pm – A Christmas Carol**

We are offering the usual Savoury and Sweet Nibble Bags which will be delivered locally on the 10th December so you can be comfortable and catered for as you watch familiar faces being surprisingly (or not) silly and funny in order to raise money for the Church and The Children's Society. Again the Lifton Singers are kindly providing some sing-a-long moments and the words will be in lucky number programmes (to win a Christmas Cake).

**Christmas Eve Carols Around the Tree – Marystowe Schoolroom 5 – 6pm**

Before our usual Christmas Eve Service we will be singing Carols and enjoying Mulled Wine and Mince Pies; this will be the second of our "Pop-Up" evenings for Marystowe and Chillaton using the Schoolroom as the location. We are hopeful of a monthly village 'get together' in what we are now calling The Virgin Arms!

Finally, this is the last Christmas that Deborah Asbridge is organising the decoration for the Church as she is standing down. If you regularly provide decorations for our Church then please look out for a note from Joy so the 2023 flower rota can be prepared. If you would like to become a regular decorator of the Church then please do let us know.

A big Thank You to Deborah for her organisation of the decoration of our Church and also for her imagination in arranging special displays – the beautiful flower festival in 2020 and also the stunning displays for the late Queen's Jubilee this year,



**Joy McSmythurs**

## St. Constantine's Church, Milton Abbot

I am pleased to report that the last nut and bolt on our new bell frame have now been painted over, so our Bell Restoration Project is officially finished! Several visiting bands of ringers have rung the bells lately and have all commented on how much easier the bells are to ring than they were before. The Lamerton ringers have also rung for a couple of our services for which we are most grateful. Michael Blatchford has now started up regular practice nights on Wednesday evenings – if you would like to learn please contact Michael, or just turn up.

Our Coffee & Crafts Morning on 15<sup>th</sup> October was very successful and raised £400. We also took a stall at the Friendship Group's Fair on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, and Pat and I will be venturing forth again with the stall to Bridestowe and to Marystowe, and also to Lamerton's Christmas Coffee Morning on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Meanwhile, the online shop is very much up and running with new items for you to buy.

Sarah Atkins has very kindly agreed to run another virtual Christmas Draw for us, so watch out for details of this in early December. Prizes include another of Pat's beautiful quilts as well as a hamper full of Christmas goodies. There may be a mystery prize as well! You can look and shop online too

<https://milton-abbot-church-pcc.sumupstore.com/>

We will be holding a

**Longest Night Service on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm**

(please see Andy's note about this elsewhere in this issue), as well as our usual **Crib & Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm** which is always popular with our families – we look forward to seeing you at either or both of these services.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Liz Padmore**



**Deborah  
Asbridge's  
floral  
arrangements**



## St. Peter's Church, Lamerton



I'm sure that everyone who attended the marvellous evening of the Lamerton Stakes will agree that it was most enjoyable and entertaining event. Hopefully we can have a repeat in the future. St Peter's benefited by £526. Well done everyone especially Chief Steward Andy, runner Joab and the whole of the Jockey Club!!

Andy lead the school Remembrance Service on Friday the 11th with the children having their service at the memorial in the cemetery.

Thanks to Hillary for the work she does with the children in decorating the school fence - it looks great.

Thank you Tim for leading us in our Remembrance Service and to Val for her masterful touch on the organ and to Peter - again perfect with his bugle. Thanks to Sue for leading her team of ringers with a muffled peal. I must say that she does seem to have a very capable and eager team behind her at present - a treat to hear you ringing.

We have lots of services at Lamerton leading up to Christmas and we look forward to having many of you joining us.

With the death of John, the imminent departure of Ian and Margaret retiring as Chapel Warden in the New Year, I would like to say a big thank you to them all for the sterling work they have done over many years for our daughter church at Sydenham Damerel. Without their dedication and hard work the church would have closed many years ago. We wish you well in your new home Ian and I'm sure Margaret will be around helping for years to come.

Your Church Wardens - Mike and I - wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas

*Ian Minshull*

### **Lamerton PCC meeting**

Tuesday 24th January, 7.00pm, Priest's Room, Lamerton

*All parishioners are welcome to attend*

## Safeguarding News

### Face to Face Safeguarding Training

***Tuesday 10th January 2023, 2.00pm  
at Lamerton Community Hall***

We are fortunate in having a Diocese trainer who will deliver basic and foundation safeguarding training to **all of our parishes** within the Milton Abbot benefice. Everyone sitting on PCCs and anyone who helps out with children's and vulnerable adult activities really should refresh their training every three years. This is a wonderful opportunity, especially for those who don't use the internet (but also fine if you do). At least we can ask questions and discuss any issues!

Please let me (Julie) or your safeguarding lead know if you plan to attend. Refreshments provided

#### **Lamerton + Sydenham Damerel**

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

#### **Milton Abbot + Dunterton**

Susan Champion; Susanchampion41@gmail.com

#### **Coryton**

Jane Vicat; 01822 860254; janevicat@gmail.com

#### **Marystowe**

Anita Townsend; 01822 860123

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

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

### **LAMERTON WI**

Tuesday 6th December 2:00pm - Christmas Party

Tuesday 3rd January 2:00pm - Resolutions

All meetings held at Lamerton Village Hall  
New members welcome

## **AMY'S CONFIRMATION**

As some of you know, I was confirmed into the Church on Monday 17th October 2022. But what does that actually mean? We thought it would be nice if I gave you an overview of the experience, so here goes!

Confirmation is a special church service where a person/s reaffirms the promises that were made on their behalf when they were baptised. e.g. if you were baptised as a baby or young child, promises to God were made by Godparents, Parents or Guardians on your behalf. Confirmation is a special service where you make these promises for yourself. Baptism is a pre-requisite for confirmation (if you aren't baptised don't worry! It doesn't mean you can't be Confirmed; I recommend speaking to your Reverend to find out more first).

Confirmation is a wonderful occasion; the service is run by your local Bishop (in my case the very newly (10 days in!) appointed Bishop of Plymouth) and is tailored specifically to Confirmations. There are hymns and readings and a lot of the Parish Reverends themselves will be in attendance to guide and support you (and the bishop!) through the service. It's not something that you do on your own; there will be other people at the service also making the promises for themselves too.

You would have a couple of pre-confirmation classes with your local Reverend where you talk through Confirmation in detail and learn more about the Creeds and the 39 articles of faith (which are really interesting and themselves, through understanding, help bring you closer to God too). But don't worry; you don't have to memorise anything or speak publicly to the congregation!

It's a very special occasion and friends, family and your local church community can of course attend the service and will likely pray for and support you too. It takes place either at your local church, a cathedral or in another church within your Parish.

At a certain point in the service, the Bishop will lay their hands on your head and there will be special prayers; this is the truly magical moment where you are filled with Gods love and blessings. Afterwards is a time to relax in elation and pride with your nearest and dearest.

For me, it was a such a special evening and will be a treasured memory that I hold dear forever. The support and love was overwhelming and the atmosphere and general feeling was so uplifting, wonderful and magical.

I implore you, if you're thinking about it, do explore it as I did. You will know, and God will show you, when the time is right for you to take that step.

For anyone thinking about it; I wish you good luck and enjoy your faith journey.

***God bless.***



## LAMERTON HANDBELL RINGERS HANDBELL FESTIVAL 8TH OCTOBER 2022

At last the Lamerton Handbell Ringers were able to hold their Annual Handbell Festival in Lamerton Sports & Community Centre following a 2 year break because of the pandemic. We were surprised to find that a lot of teams had regrouped and welcomed the opportunity to come and meet up again. In fact the event was well attended with representation in the audience from several teams not taking part too. We were so pleased to have Revd Andy, Curate Phill and his wife Morag with us too. Actual teams taking part were The Phoenix Ringers and Westminster Bells from Chudleigh, Pillaton Ringers, Black Torrington Ringers, Inwardleigh Ringers, Tor Bells from Okehampton, Clapper Chaos from Poole, Dorset and Lamerton Ringers.

The evening started with The Lamerton Team ringing 'Men of Harlech'. This was followed by a moment to reflect and remember Jo Hugo who had sadly passed away in Feb. 2020. Jo first co-judged the Festival with Fergus Strachey in 2002 and apart from a couple of years had always been with us - such happy memories for us all.

As in past years there was a strong competitive element with a lot of superb Tune and Peal Ringing giving the judges quite a challenge. Allen Benstead from Marlborough had been a regular member of the audience for a number of years and has his own handbell team. He stepped in this year to co-judge with Fergus Stracey, a handbell ringer and tower Captain at St Andrews Church in Plymouth.



Winners of the Trophies were-

Mr & Mrs W P Dawe Cup - Tune Ringing. - Clapper Chaos  
The William Manning Memorial Shield - Peal Ringing — Pillaton  
Hamlet Trophy - 4-in-Hand Ringing - Tor Bells

The Roy Bould Cup most improved team - Black Torrington

The awards were presented by Clare Stagg from Plymouth. Each year The Lamerton Ringers support a local Charity and this year they have donated the profit from the Festival totalling £250 to The Primrose Foundation, Breast Care Unit, Derriford Hospital particularly in memory of Jo but also for several others of us at the Festival who in the past few years have needed surgery/treatment in this wonderful Unit.

It is a pleasure for us as a Team to be back to normal Monday night practices focussing now on Christmas work including entertaining the residents at Camplehaye and Venn House and Lamerton Church Carol Service in particular.

**Val Hill**



## A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

### Herod the Grinch

Most of you have read the story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" or perhaps you have seen the movie. You may remember how everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas. Everyone, that is, except the Grinch. The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas trees, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.



What a terrible thing to do! Why did the Grinch hate Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves. But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but here is a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal Christmas. In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. "We have seen his star in the sky and want to worship him" they said. When Herod heard about this, he told the men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship him too. The truth is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's

plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

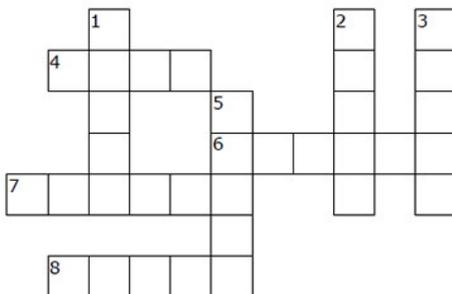
And so, we see that since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.

Dear Father, we thank you for the joy that Jesus brings. Help us to share that joy with everyone we meet. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

## Escape from Egypt

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 2:13-23



### ACROSS

4. To cause someone to die
6. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
7. A female parent
8. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown

### DOWN

1. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark
2. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
3. A heavenly servant of God
5. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus

CHILD  
ESCAPE

KILL  
DREAM

NIGHT  
HEROD

MOTHER  
ANGEL

## A Church's response to Wholeness and Healing

The notion of “wholeness and healing” has been in the general public's mind for sometime and has its high profile adherents like Meghan and Harry Sussex. More often it is associated with mental well-being and often, to the older generation, seems to be an excuse for not getting on with life. So what is the Church's take on it all?

From the point of view of scripture humans are complex beings where the physical, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of a persons' life come together. The Gospels use the term “healing” to describe both the physical and the broader salvation that Jesus brings. In the New Testament the notion of sickness is associated with powerless and vulnerability in the face of sin and death. Here the Christian receives God's grace which can be expressed as an experience of healing and strength to bear weakness. Healing isn't just about the physical aspects of life but has a much deeper meaning in how we relate to our circumstances and to God. In this way acts of healing in the Gospels are related to the restoration of the individual to a place of worth within the social order. The phrase “By His wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2;24) makes a powerful link between the pain we feel and the pain of Jesus in his own suffering on the Cross. God's image in us, tarnished and marred, is reconciled and restored by Christ and brought back to God.

Thus healing, reconciliation and restoration are integral to the Good News of Jesus Christ; and for this reason prayer for individuals, focused through the laying on of hands and /or anointing with oil have a central role to play in the Church's ministry. Both can be seen as a proclamation of the Good News and the presence of the Spirit in the life of the Church.

Now much of this might seem a little esoteric and it is important to remember that the Church's role in healing doesn't preclude the skills of doctors and those professionals involved in healing. It is not an alternative but works along side them. Likewise we need to remember that prayers for physical healing have a mental and

spiritual component which may show itself in ways which differ to what was originally intended. Christ meets our needs in ways we don't always realise at the time. Often the healing power of prayer only becomes apparent long after the initial event.



Largely through ignorance and lack of understanding the modern Church has lost this central role of healing in its ministry. Most churches don't have healing services and when they do they are often not part of the mainstream service provision but limited to an occasional evening service once a month or provision for individuals when asked. Healing as part of the Church's ministry is worth much more than this. It is central to the worshipping community's sense of well-being and is a central plank in our relationship with God and each other.

***Rev'd Canon Tim Thompson***

### **Ringers' Roundup**



As 2022 draws to a close the Lamerton bellringers can reflect on a productive year. We have consolidated the number of ringers we are able to draw on to ring for services and special occasions, our newest recruits have made rapid progress, we have been able to support other towers in the Benefice, and above all we have felt privileged to have been able to take part in the momentous national events of early autumn, namely, mourning the loss of our late queen and marking the accession of His Majesty King Charles III.

Some of our members recently attended the annual Deanery Festival which this year was held at Peter Tavy, the bells of several other churches in the deanery were also available for ringing.

At the time of writing we are intending to hold our annual competition at Lamerton on Nov 26<sup>th</sup> if enough teams are willing to enter to make it viable. Unfortunately, as with some other activities, the difficulties of the last two years have reduced the number of active bellringers at quite a lot of churches, a situation which needs to be addressed, and quite quickly too - we have a coronation to prepare for! - something to look forward to during the dark days of winter.

As ever, new recruits are always welcome, please call Tavistock 6122020 if you are interested.

***William Dawe***

## NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL



**“God bless the birds of winter  
That hop across the snow  
And peck the fallen seeds and fruits  
Of summer long ago.”** *Lois Rock*



The little bird which is dearest to many is the Robin Redbreast whose sweet song rings out from his or her perch on a low branch in the winter air.

There is usually an answering song from a rival robin as they sort out their territories. Males and females both hold territories and can be very aggressive, though their song sounds so sweet and almost melancholy. There are usually three or four slightly varying verses to a robin’s song and like many birds there is a slight regional variation or accent. The robin has been associated with Christmas because of its cheerful red breast which has linked it with Postmen bringing greetings and presents at Christmas in their red vans, wearing a red jacket. Also there is a tale of it impaling its breast and bleeding on the thorns of his crown as it flew up to try to relieve Jesus of the painful crown he wore on the Cross.

On Dartmoor in winter there is a special stillness and fresh cold loveliness. Sun and cloud shadows and a fresh cold wind race over brown bracken, green grass, creamy pale old grass, glittering rushing streams and grey stones.

A little stonechat rises from the gorse with a cry like two pebbles knocked together.

Fields of Solar panels have been an unpopular sight to some, but they have been proved in Australia to help flocks of sheep who graze around them not only “to safely graze”, but to thrive. Sheep can shelter from sun and rain in the shade under the panels. The grass is nourished by condensation from the panels, and the sheep feeding and resting there grow stronger with thicker wool.

Migrating birds may be sliced in pieces by giant wind turbines, but the Norwegians have already found that painting one of the rotor blades black has cut avian fatalities by 70%. (*Times May 31 2022*)

### **A Christmas and New Year Prayer:**

Teach me, O God, to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk in fellowship with you. (based on Micah 6:8).

*Bluebell wishes all our readers a joyful, loving Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## Craft Nights

Informal crafting group enabling members to share ideas, expertise, materials and have fun.

Bring along your own creative project to work on.  
All abilities and crafts welcome.

**\*\*NEW!! 1st session 24th October 2022\*\***

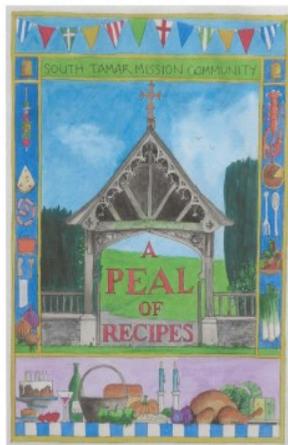
Lamerton Village Hall  
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Just turn up or contact Jen on 07766003985.



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## WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD OR VULNERABLE ADULT?



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](mailto:safeguarding@southtamar.church)

Or contact: **Rev Andy Atkins: 01822 870298;**

Email: [vicar@southtamar.church](mailto: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](mailto:charles.pitman@exeter.anglican.org)



pray



grow



serve with joy





## Marystowe Books and Jigsaw Puzzles

The Bookshop/Puzzle collection in the Bell Tower at Marystowe Church is now well established with a steady turnover of books; most weeks we have new donations and the ins and outs are running at around 100 per month.

This success is, unfortunately, the reason we have stopped updating our catalogue on the website. The intention is to have a New Year's Resolution to publish quarterly, and in addition hope this resolution lasts longer than previous attempts at reducing morning chocolate consumption and using stairs instead of lifts!

But until then please do remember that the church at Marystowe is always open, so you can browse the books at anytime. We request a minimum donation of 50p for paperback books and £1 for hardback books and jigsaws.

Our Pot Luck Read group continues to grow, as a reminder, this is an annual subscription of £10 for a random book a month. The fun is in trying new authors and also the pleasure of rediscovering some old favourites.

Please contact Barbara (01566 784797) or Joy (01822 860630) if you would be interested in more information about our books and puzzles.

**It's Back.....**

The Marystowe Church Dickens's Christmas Evening by Zoom

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**6.30 pm**

### *A Christmas Carol*

Watch a reading by some of the usual suspects who have press ganged new "volunteers" ...with sing-a-long songs from the Lifton Singers.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83356244042?pwd=c3VLS2JvdXNaWjUwU1U4Qm9YajU0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 833 5624 4042

Passcode: 982039

Please call Joy (01822 860630) or email [joy.mcsmythurs@btinternet.com](mailto:joy.mcsmythurs@btinternet.com) to be sent an electronic link (much easier than typing all the address), also call to find out how to make the most of the evening with Christmas nibble boxes delivered to your door, Tickets for the Hamper Draw, and a lucky programme to be able to sing-a-long.

Proceeds for Marystowe Church  
and

**The Children's  
Society**

## BREAKING NEWS: MARKED FALL IN 'LADIES WHO LUNCH' ON A THURSDAY

And the reason is that, across the South Tamar Mission Community, the ladies are all dressed up and out and about – but not in the expected finery. Oh No – you will find us all gathering dressed as Shepherds, Angels, Fisherman, Roman Centurions, Serving Girls and even lions....



Yes we are back with **Open the Book** full throttle...and loving the return to school rather than the months of Zoom stories.

And it is not just the ladies – we have some matinee idols looking very Peter O'Toole in Lawrence of Arabia...OK so I exaggerate, but I am hoping that a level of hero worship may encourage some more volunteers!

Open the Book is a national Charity with **over 11,000 volunteer storytellers sharing Bible Stories with over 2,000 Primary Schools**. It provides a programme to follow which begins with a chronological series of stories from Creation through to Ascension. Thereafter the stories are grouped together around themes giving the opportunity for more insight and discussion whilst still providing the simpler story telling pleasure to the younger children.

We visit Lamerton, Lewtrenchard and Lifton Schools, coincidentally always on a Thursday lunchtime, to tell a story fortnightly or monthly as part of the Schools' collective worship. We always try to include children in the performance wherever possible, and there is great delight for us at the excitement from the children and the mass requests to join in as we enter the playground.

If you are interested in helping with Open the Book please contact Anita Townsend 01822 860123, Barbara Meikle 01822 617229 or Joy McSmynthurs 01822 860 630



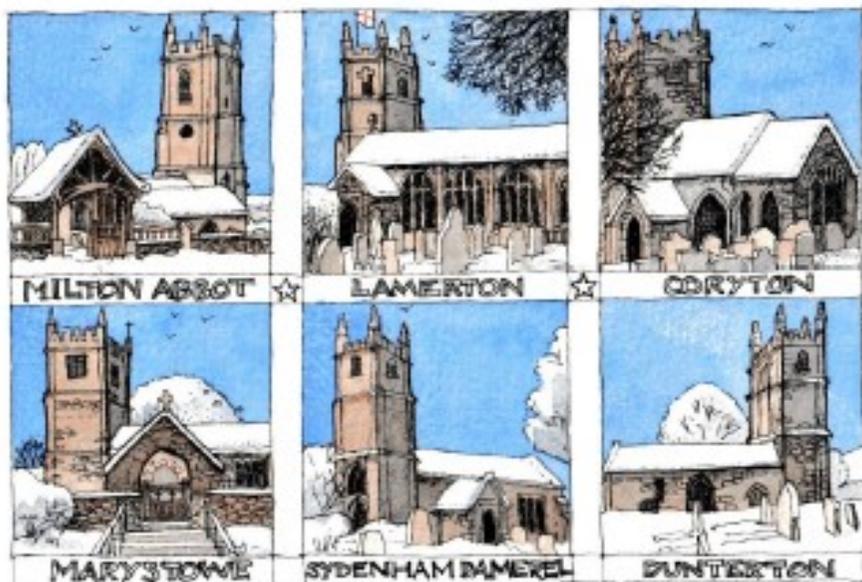
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## GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG November 2022

Mid November and Doug's waiting patiently for a frost, surprised how much is still in flower. The wisteria, still in leaf, battered by wind and rain, has been ripped from the wall. But it'll be fine - it's very flexible. Once the leaves are gone it will be tied back and pruned. Some of the roses could also do with a prune just to reduce their windage and prevent the roots being disturbed.

Mistletoe equals Christmas. As Christians, lovers are expected to kiss under it. Kissing under mistletoe was popular amongst servants in Victorian times and, apparently, a man could kiss any woman standing under mistletoe and bad luck would befall any woman who refused. You might not get away with that now? Careful where you stand my lovely.

Although you've probably got plenty of things to do, now is a good time to think about what you're going to grow next year. If you're looking for something very easy think about nasturtiums. If they're in a bed they will often seed themselves and you can pop the flowers in a salad. Another thing would be kale. This is very easy to grow almost all year round and is very nutritious, fresher and tastier than the supermarket. It does need some protection from the cabbage white and its caterpillars though; but they're not around all year.

You could always grow some flowers from seed to dry for this time next year. Helichrysums (say). Very easy to grow, then hang the flowers upside down by the stems to dry, maybe in the shed. If you need a bit of inspiration, go and see the garland at Cotehele over Christmas. Mind you, it is 60 ft and full of dried flowers.



*My Nasturtium in  
flower in  
November*

*and lots of dried  
flowers in  
December.*





## **Trip to Israel, Judea and Palestine on 4th - 11th November**

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**Come and see more photographs combined with an (easy) quiz on Friday 20th January at 7pm in Lamerton Village Hall.**

**Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles ! No entry fee but a LARGE donation jar and raffle for St Peter's Church, Lamerton**

**For tickets please contact Annie and Mike Jefferies**



**01822 614178**



## Old Actors never die.....they simply lose the plot.

As we approach Christmas, the run-up consists of (working backwards) Carol services, Christingles, Advent, Stir up Sunday and the Christmas puddings, but before we even get there, it all starts with MAPS (Milton Abbot Players) and their mid November pre-Christmas farce or play. This year there was a rather more recent farce by Lynn Brittney, the first one they have done by Lynn, published and set in this century.

The scene is set in the Mount Home for Retired Theatricals which is more like a country house hotel than a home for the elderly. Three of the residents have been wives (Shona Dickinson, Claudine Sparks and Norma Massey) of Mr Edmund Sullivan (Richard Allen) and a new resident Walter Neville (Robin Clowes) a small part veteran of 212 films arrives to renew acquaintances with the ladies (No, not that way!)

The plot is that their mutual husband, who still funds them all, has apparently gone missing - while he is on the run from some Russian gangsters, and if the Russians get and kill him, his will has not been signed so they would get nothing!!!!

Well with a cast of eleven the highlights are Patrick Medd playing the Russian Mike Molinsky, brilliant, Sue Lambert playing Irina the sex-starved carer? Danny Stiller (played by Tony Isbell) the man trying to satisfy her????? Mike Forster (Dmitri) word perfect (he had nothing to say) and the moment of the night was Walter (Robin Clowes) hopping across the stage in his kilt as his pith-helmet slipped down over his eyes, then leaning back against the scenery to adjust his helmet so that he could see again – hilarious for all those that noticed it!

The night I went it was packed. Only four performances, so book early next year. All good clean(ish) fun!

**Stage Door Johnny**

⋮  
⋮



### Wanted!

Your Parish Magazine needs you to become the new Editor.

I am looking for someone to take-on the role and will give full training and support. Please contact me if you want further information. No pressure.....!

**Julie Hibbert**  
**01822 618221;**  
**Email [julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com](mailto:julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com)**

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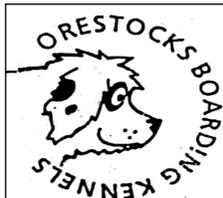
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## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY /MARCH 2023 ISSUE

Please note that the temporary editor for the next edition (and until further notice - hopefully short) will revert to Julie Hibbert.

Please send contributions to:  
Julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com or post to Pentiction, Chollacott Lane,  
Tavistock, PL19 9DD. The deadline is Tuesday January 17th  
and...

***no late contributions will be accepted!***

### NEW EDITOR SOUGHT

If you've ever fancied your hand at editing the parish magazine and would like to have a spell in charge of the production please drop an email to Julie or to parishnewsmag@gmail.com. Full training and guidance will be given.



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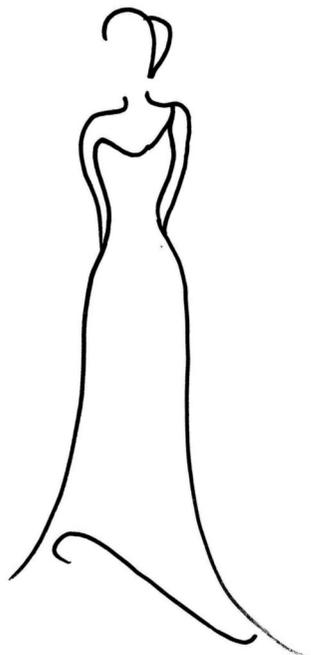
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# CHURCH SERVICES

## January 2023

Day	St Mary M. Sydenham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constan- tine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St Andrew's Coryton
<b>Sunday 1st Jan</b> <i>Naming of Jesus</i>	<b>11.15am, St Andrew's, Coryton United Benefice Service HC/CW</b>					
<b>Weds 4th Jan</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 8th Jan</b> <i>Epiphany</i>	<b>10.30am HC/CW</b>			<b>4.30pm Evening prayer</b>		<b>6.30pm Even- song BCP</b>
<b>Weds. 11th Jan</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 15th Jan</b> <i>2nd Sun. of Epiphany</i>		<b>11.00am HC/CW</b>			<b>9.30am Family service Morning praise</b>	
<b>Weds 18th Jan</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 22nd Jan</b> <i>3rd Sun. of Epiphany</i>	<b>6:30pm Songs of Praise</b>			<b>11:00am HC / CW</b>		<b>11:15am HC / CW</b>
<b>Weds 25th Jan</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 29th Jan</b> <i>the Presenta- tion</i>	<b>10.30am Sydenham Damerel United Benefice Service HC/CW</b>					

# CHURCH SERVICES

## December 2022

Day	St Mary M. Sydenham Damerel	St Peter's Lamerton	All Saints' Dunterton	St Constantine Milton Abbot	St Mary the Virgin Marystowe	St Andrew's Coryton
<b>Sunday 4th Dec</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>		4.00pm Christingle	11.15am Advent service		9:30am HC/CW	
<b>Tues 6th Dec</b>	9.30am Toddler Christingle, Lamerton village hall					
<b>Weds 7th Dec</b>	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
<b>Thurs 8th Dec</b>	2.00pm Lamerton School Carol Service, St Peter's Lamerton					
<b>Sunday 11th Dec</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	5.00pm Carol Service			4:30pm Evening Prayer		6:30pm Carol Service
<b>Weds 14th Dec</b>	10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Lamerton					
<b>Weds 14th Dec</b>	2pm Venn House Carols; 3pm Camplehaye Carols					
<b>Thurs 15th Dec</b>	2pm Milton Abbot School Carol Service and Fair					
<b>Fri 16th Dec</b>	9.00am Lamerton School Class 1 Nativity, St Peter's					
<b>Sunday 18th Dec</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>		6.30pm Carol Service			4.00pm Crib and Carol Service	



***For Christmas Services see page 8***