

At the time of year when many of us travel to the great Elsewhere – assuming, that is, that Sunday afternoon on July 8th wasn't the extent of summer – we could do well to contemplate mission and outreach. In a recent sermon, it was pointed out rather forcibly that the Church is NOT a club for Christians and, unlike most institutions, exists more for the benefit of “non members”. As the same sermon pointed out, without this central mission, there is precious little point to the proceedings! Which is not to say we should all start tub thumping on corners. In any case, like the word “diet” making me think of food, it's inclined to back fire! Outreach is just a fancy way of saying reach out, after all – to friends and family, to the wider community.

The Monday T Pot is rather a good example of this. It's a Church initiative, sure, but is there to provide a meeting point for villagers of all ages and needs. Strictly NO prayers (or collection plate!). Retired folk meet there regularly, but it can be used by Mums & Dads on their way to or from the school pick up, youngsters off the school bus and so on. We've even had itinerant rambles stopping off for a cuppa! Similarly, we had lots of people from the wider community come to our Open Gardens event. This was a fundraiser for Church maintenance and people's support raised over £300! A huge thank you to those who opened their beautiful gardens, those who provided refreshments – and to everyone who ate them!

The Mission Community Messy Church takes a break this month (aforementioned holidays) but the Family Service on 5th August is happening. The theme (can you guess?!) will be the Olympics... These simplified, themed services are now well established throughout the parishes, reaching out to provide a good all-age initiation to worship. Another date for your diary is the Woodland Fête, on Sunday 19th August from 2pm at Gurrington House. I would like to claim the moral high ground of purely promoting the wider Mission Community here, but it wouldn't be quite true. They do cream teas to die for...!

Services in August: NB Weekly: Thurs Mass 9.15am; Fri Evening Service 4pm

Sunday 5th : 9.15am **FAMILY SERVICE** Mass. The Olympics

Sunday 12th : 9.15am Parish Mass

Sunday 19th : 9.15am Parish Mass

Sunday 26th : 9.15am Parish Mass

NB. Denbury's Patronal Festival will be held on Sunday 16th September this year.