

# The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

The Rector, Fr Ian Eglin and the Churchwardens and PCC of St Mary the Virgin Denbury welcome you to our ancient and very beautiful Parish Church. The Church is open during the day and you are invited to visit and enjoy the peaceful beauty it offers. Below is a timetable of services and events for the month. St Mary's is known for its friendliness and should you decide to join us for any of our services or social functions, you will be made very welcome. *Although we hold special services for families on the first and third Sunday of each month, babies and children are most welcome at all our services.*

Refreshments are served after every Sunday Mass.

We use a loop system for those who use an aid to help them hear; wheelchair access is provided and a wheelchair is available if required.

St Mary's is a part of The United Benefice of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury and Woodland within the Newton Abbot and Ipplepen Deanery.

**Rector:** Father Ian Eglin.

**Honorary Assistant Priest:** Canon Tom New.

**Lay Reader:** Mrs. Tessa Amies.

**Churchwardens:** Mrs. Sue Day  
Mr. Steve Bassett

*Please be aware that the Church is very old and has an uneven split level floor and the Churchyard has many hidden obstacles.*

## Times of services in March

Compline and Stations of the Cross will be said @ 4.pm on alternate Fridays throughout Lent

**Sunday 1st** ----- Mass @ 9.15 am

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** ----- Mass @ 9.15 am.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** ----- Passion Sunday Mass @ 9.15am.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** ----- Mass @ 9.15 am.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** ----- Palm Sunday - Procession followed by Mass @ 9.15am

## Holy Week

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** ----- Maundy Thursday - Mass @ 9.15 am.  
Vigil 9.00pm - midnight

**Good Friday**----- Children's Time between 2.00pm and 2.30pm. The children then go off to pick flowers to decorate the Easter Garden while the adults have a more serious service; on their return @ 3.00pm, the garden is built and decorated followed by hot cross buns.

**Holy Saturday**----- The first Mass of Easter @ 7.30pm - A bonfire is lit in the churchyard and the flame carried into the darkened church.

**Easter Day** ----- Mass @ 9.15am followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children in the churchyard. That great Easter hymn 'Thine Be The Glory, Risen Conquering Son' is sung and we greet each other with the words 'Christ is risen alleluia' and the response 'He is risen indeed alleluia'!

## Happy Easter

## The Monday Tea Pot

Will be open in the church cottage every Monday afternoon between 3pm and 4.30 - come along, meet/bring your friends and neighbours, have a cup of tea or two and enjoy the company.

## Teen Time

The cottage will be open on alternative Friday evenings for all aged 13 and above - the next meeting will @ 7.30pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

If you have any ideas for activities/leisure time - bring them along - refreshments available

## The Lent Discussion Group

Will meet on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent @ St Andrews Church Hall Ipplepen @ 7.30pm

The theme of this year's course is:

'Listening to God's World'

Open to all - please join us if you can

## Factory Row and Project 58

Throughout Lent we continue to collect blankets, sleeping bags and duvets that will be passed onto Factory Row and Project 58 in Torquay. Both are centres where homeless people can get a meal, advice and medical care; and sometimes, if they are lucky, a bed for a night or perhaps longer. Unfortunately, due to lack of room, they are often turned away with only a blanket to ward off the cold night.

If you have any old blankets or would like to make a gift of one to these charities please contact Steve Bassett on 01803 812537. Both are Christian run and I can collect if necessary.

Thank You.

## Light The Tower!

If you would like to light up the church tower in celebration of a special event or perhaps an anniversary please contact Tessa either in Church or on 01803 813993

## Zambian School Project

In Partnership with our village school we are about to embark on an exciting new outreach scheme based on linking up with and supporting a school [St Catherine's] in Zambia. Early efforts to fund raise and improve links have begun with fundraising already having raised a staggering £1000 - enough to build and equip an entire classroom.

With the guidance of local Doctors Nick and Sally Roberts and their children Izzy and Ed whom earlier this year visited and worked out there, and the driving force of our tireless head teacher Tracey Hart we look forward to continuing our strengthening tie with our own village school and St Catherine's.

**Intercessions:** During this time of preparation in Lent and then Easter we pray for religious throughout the world, praying for tolerance, patience and understanding between the great religions.

**1<sup>st</sup> Week.** We pray for all who live in the Benefice and especially to the people of St John the Baptist church Woodland as they join us for what we hope will be a long and successful partnership.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week.** The homeless; especially the work of Factory Row and Project 58 in Torquay.

**3<sup>rd</sup> week.** All those who serve in our armed forces; especially those in areas of the world ravaged by war.

**4<sup>th</sup> week.** Areas of the world where famine, drought and disaster have struck.

**5<sup>th</sup> Week.** Our own home, families and communities.

## Just a thought:

Do not weep because it's over now, but laugh because it happened.

If you have any thought/s you would like me to add to this column please e-mail them to me at [steve"at"bassett3494.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:steve) and title your e-mail Just a Thought.

(Replace "at" with @ )

Thank You

## The Cross of Flowers

In recent years it has been our tradition at St Mary's, in the course of the communion service on Easter morning, to decorate a simple wooden cross with spring flowers. The cross, about one metre high, is covered with wire netting and stands as a stark reminder of the pain and suffering endured by Jesus at his crucifixion. During the service, the congregation is invited to bring up a single flower and attach it through the wire transforming it into a beautiful reminder that the cross did not win and that Jesus defeated death and was reborn on that first Easter morning. In the past it was then placed on the altar where it remained for the rest of the day. Last year however it was attached to the lych gate outside the church where it could be seen, and a great many people admired and commented on it. This year, with the permission and support of the parish council it will be on display on the cistern for a period of one week; during that week a team of volunteers will ensure a fresh supply of flowers each day and we would like to invite anyone who would like to add their own flower to do so. If you see a flower that has faded, please replace it and, while doing so, perhaps take time to reflect on the cross and its message to us.

## Using the Bible

When in sorrow, *read* John 14  
When men fail you, *read* Psalm 27  
When you have sinned, *read* Psalm 51  
When you worry, *read* Matthew 6. 19-34  
When you are in danger, *read* Psalm 91  
When you are depressed, *read* Psalm 34  
When God seems far away, *read* Psalm 139  
When you are discouraged, *read* Isaiah 40  
When doubts come upon you, *try* John 7. 17  
When you are lonely or fearful, *read* Psalm 23  
When you forget your blessings, *read* Psalm 103  
When your faith needs stirring, *read* Hebrews 11  
When you feel down and out, *read* Romans 8. 31-39  
When you want courage for your task, *read* Joshua 1  
When the world seems bigger than God, *read* Psalm 90  
When you want rest and peace, *read* Matthew 11. 25-30  
When you want Christian assurance, *read* Romans 8. 1-30  
When you leave home, *read* Psalm 121  
When you grow bitter or critical, *read* 1 Corinthians 13  
When your prayers grow selfish, *read* Psalm 67  
When you think of investments, *read* Mark 10. 17-31  
If you want to be fruitful, *read* John 15  
For St Paul's secret of happiness, *read* Colossians 3. 12-17  
For Paul's idea of Christianity, *read* 2 Corinthians 5. 15-19  
For Paul's rules for daily life, *read* Romans 12  
For a great invitation and opportunity, *read* Isaiah 55  
For Jesus' idea of a Christian, *read* Matthew 5  
For James' idea of religion, *read* James 1. 19-27  
For Jesus' idea of prayer, *read* Luke 11. 1-13  
For a picture of worship, *read* Isaiah 58. 1-12  
For the prophet's idea of religion, *read* Isaiah 1. 10-18

Why not follow Psalm 119 and hide some of these in your memory?

## An Appeal

Like most Churches today, St Mary's struggles to pay its way. Our outgoings of £1400 per month (approx) far out-weigh our [regular collection during Sunday Service] income of £750 per month (approx) and as such we are constantly striving to raise funds. Those of us who are Church members rightfully play our part, something reflected in both financial and practical ways and we are indeed lucky in as much as we have a nucleus of young families and young people who together represent valued and important members.

However, despite all the good things happening at St Mary's it is not difficult to envisage a day when we are no longer financially able to support ourselves and partial if not total closure is an inevitable spectre looming on the not so distant horizon.

Can you imagine the village without the Church? No more Sunday morning services, no more weddings, no more baptisms, no more funerals, no more bells marking the days of celebration and sadness, no more flower festivals and carol services, no more Harvest Festivals and Suppers or School Nativity or Easter plays. .... Something in excess of a thousand years of history and tradition will end.

Please help us to keep St Mary's open and active, and at the very centre of our village life along with the School, Post Office and Pub.

If you are able or prepared to make a regular donation towards the upkeep of our lovely village Church please contact Steve Bassett on 01803 812537 for further details. Even the smallest amount regularly given will make a considerable difference.

Thank You.

## Flibberts and Skriddicks (Devonian - Bits and Pieces)

I was asked by a neighbour recently why the bells sounded more mellow than usual when we were ringing mid-week; the answer is that we were in fact ringing a muffled peal, partly in celebration of the life and partly to mark the passing of a Denbury person. Denbury has a long tradition of ringing a muffled peal on the day of a funeral. Regardless of whether a person is a church person or even whether the funeral has been held in the church, if you are a Denbury resident you will get a muffled peal rung for you on the evening of the day of your funeral. A leather strap is fitted to the clappers of the top 4 bells which when rung give the normal clear

crisp sound on one side [in celebration and thanksgiving for the life of the person] and a soft gentle sound [tinged with sadness for their passing] on the other side. The tenor bell is left 'open' to sound normally, its great voice echoing its famous inscription - "I to the Church the living call and to the grave do summon all".

**Bell Ringing:** Practice is on Thursday evenings @ 7.30. Old and new hands welcome as are visiting teams. For further information please ring 01803 812537.