

Parish News

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

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

22 - 29 October 2016
with Canon Claire Tillotson & the Revd Andy Barton

For more information contact Revd Andy Barton
on 07977 400179 or email apbarton@me.com



A comprehensive one week pilgrimage
based in Jerusalem and Galilee



McCabe Pilgrimages

*Merry
Christmas*

**December +
January 2016
Price: 60p**

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

The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot PL19 0NZ;
Email: revandymiltonabbot@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Lamerton: Mike Jefferies 614178
Ian Minshull 810027

Milton Abbot: Rosie Culverhouse 870567
Sandra Dunbar 870218

Dunterton: Gerald Napier 870285
Arthur Vigars 870244

Sydenham Damerel: Ian Dingle, Portington Farm, Sydenham Damerel 870364

Marystowe: Barbara Dawe 860226
Deborah Asbridge 860378

Coryton: Sylvia Andrews 820402
Richard Searight 860148

PCC SECRETARIES

Lamerton: Barbara Meikle 617229

Sydenham Damerel: (Barbara Meikle) 617229

Milton Abbot + Dunterton: Liz Padmore 870642

Marystowe: Guy Talbot 860314

Coryton: Josie Whitfield 860189

CHURCH TREASURERS

Lamerton: Mike Jefferies Church Avenue House, Lamerton 614178

Sydenham Damerel: Ian Dingle Portington Farm, Sydenham Damerel 870364

Milton Abbot: Gerald Napier 870285

Dunterton: Gerald Napier Glebe House, Dunterton 870285

Marystowe: Guy Talbot 860314

Coryton: Peter Newman (01566)783202

UNITED BENEFICE APPOINTMENTS

Safeguarding Officer Julie Hibbert 618221

Prayer Group Co-ordinator: Vacancy

Vicar's Assigned Administrator: Guy Talbot 860314

Health and Safety Officer: ***This is now the responsibility of each Parish.
Each PCC needs to appoint a.s.a.p***

MAGAZINE:

Editor: Julie Hibbert Penticton, Chollacott Lane, Tavistock 618221
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VILLAGE WEB SITES: www.MiltonAbbot.2day.ws, www.Lamerton.2day.ws, www.Coryton.2day.ws
www.Dunterton.2day.ws, www.Sydenhamdamerel.2day.ws
Contact Richard Searight 860148 or E-mail: info@2day.ws
www.Chillaton.net, Contact Howard Asbridge 860378

PARISH COUNCILS

	Chairman	Tel.	Clerk	Tel.
Lamerton:	Mike Jefferies	614178	Ann Cole	810213
Milton Abbot group parish:	Peter Hough		Emma James	07742557982
Sydenham Damerel:	Tracy Windemer	870568		
	Denise Head	870450		

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Lamerton C of E	Head Teacher: Melody Nicholls	Tel. 613561
Milton Abbot	Head Teacher: Chris Luxford	Tel. 870273

Diary Dates

December 2015

- 4 LAMERTON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BINGO, Lamerton Community Centre, 7.15pm
- 5 MILTON ABBOT CHRISTMAS CRAFTY COFFEE, Milton Abbot church, 10.00 - 1.00pm
- 5 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 5 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 8 LAMERTON BINGO, Lamerton Community Centre, 8.00pm
- 12 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 19 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 19 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 22 LAMERTON BINGO, Lamerton Community Centre, 8.00pm

January 2016

- 2 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 2 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 5 LAMERTON BINGO, Lamerton Community Centre, 8.00pm
- 9 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 16 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 16 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00
- 19 LAMERTON BINGO, Lamerton Community Centre, 8.00pm
- 19 PCC MEETING, Lamerton, 7.30pm, Priest's Room
- 19 MAGAZINE DEADLINE for February edition
- 23 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 30 MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING, Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00
- 30 LAMERTON COFFEE MORNING, Lamerton Community Centre, 10.30 - 12.00

Don't forget - Trip to the Holy Land

Revd Andy Barton will be leading a week long pilgrimage to the Holy Land over the half-term of **22nd - 29th October 2016**.

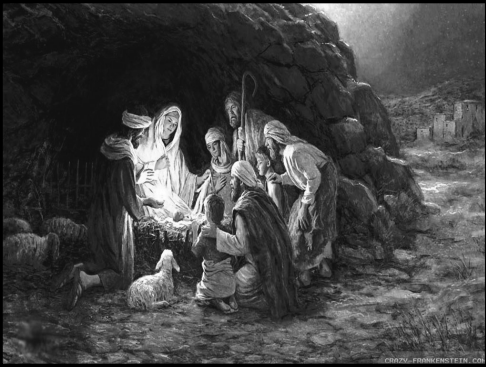
For more information please contact Andy on 07977 400179 or apbarton@me.com

*December and January church services are on the back cover;
Bible Readings are on page 8 + 9.
For services in the Lifton Benefice, see page 21*

A Journey through the Bible with Tiglath.

At this point in our journey we are going to pause, while we think more about the Book of Job. We will continue with that part of our journey in February. Meanwhile we will consider the Christmas story.

Throughout my long life I have believed in the great stories of the Bible, especially those of the New Testament. What great stories they are! The virgin birth, the crucifixion, the resurrection, the ascension into heaven and many more. Some may think me naive but in my experience God works in mysterious ways to show us his ways. So it is with the Christmas story.



For many years certain Jews had been expecting God to interfere in the life of their country because it was occupied by The Romans. It was probably expected that God would send quantities of troops to do the job. Of course, none of this happened and God surprised us once again. What we got was a pregnant woman, on the point of giving birth, searching with her husband for somewhere to rest in the small town of Bethlehem. It was hopeless, as the town was full of

voters. Hopeless, until a kindly farmer offered them the use of a barn. There amongst the hay, straw and cattle our Saviour Christ the Lord was born. The only people who knew of the event were some shepherds who had been tending their flock – and came in with a strange tale that they had seen angels, who had informed them of the birth of the Saviour. It is a lovely story, and when you add the coming of the Wise Men it is a complete one.

Jesus and his earthly family were Jews, the Wise Men were not. Thus from the very beginning God has sent Jesus with his message of love to the whole world. I enjoy Christmas, with presents, decorations etc, but without that baby born in a stable it would be meaningless. Let us give Christ the one present he requires from us, namely the dedication of our lives to His service as long as we live.

Enjoy your Christmas and give thanks to God for that baby born in a stable.



The Rural Pulpit
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born king!

God bless you all

Geoff Willetts

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians



This letter was probably written in late A.D.55, less than a year after Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It is the most personal and impassioned letter of all of Paul's letters, showing that his relationship with the church community there had been subject to severe strain - see in particular 2: 4

" I write to you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you, but to let you know the depth of my love for you "

This letter concerns his planned third visit and the issues that concern him, such as the challenge to his personal authority as an apostle. Paul felt he needed to defend his integrity and that of the gospel message.

The main theme running through this letter is Paul's suffering: of pain and emotional distress, and spiritual and physical weakness. Yet despite this, Paul is able through his ministry, to show the power of God by talking about his sufferings (11 : 23-33).

He is aware that his weakness makes him unimpressive to many of the Corinthian Christians, but Paul is convinced that his situation displays the power and grace of God. He treats his sufferings as an opportunity for the compassion of God in the way that he is able to identify with the death of suffering of Jesus. His comparison with the ministry of Moses (3:7 &13) brings out the contrast between the old and new covenants i.e. promises, with believers being members of the new covenant

"He (God) has made us competent as ministers of the new covenant not of the letter, but of the Spirit... (3:6)

Also Paul proclaims that all believers are part of a new creation (5:17) and constitute the temple of God (6:16). In his condemnation of false apostles he compares them to Satan who

'masquerades as an angel of light' (11:13-14)

Ian Silcox



Camplehaye Carol Service

Service of Carols and Readings

Thursday 10th December, 2.30 pm

Camplehaye Residential Home, Lamerton

Visitors most welcome

*The Vicarage, The Parade, Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon. PL19 0NZ
Tel: 01822 870298; Email revandymiltonabbot@gmail.com*



Dear Friends,

I wonder what Christmas means to you? Take a minute to stop and think about what makes Christmas special for you. Is it the food? The people you always spend it with? The rituals? The music? Setting aside the religious for a moment (although you can be sure I'll get to that by the end of the page), many of my Christmas memories concern food. My Mum has a folder of recipes from my childhood that makes an appearance each year. My family and I share an understanding that vast quantities of grapefruit are required in at least one dish on the Christmas table: my Northern-born wife appears to tolerate this, while, in return, we agree to provide mint sauce and Yorkshire pudding alongside our usual fare. The celebration of Christmas dinner carries with it the burden of fulfilling and reliving childhood memories (not all memories are good – I'd quite like to forget the year I chewed on a 20p piece hidden within my Christmas pudding).



If you ask most children what they are most excited about in the run-up to Christmas, they will probably tell you that it is their presents. Christmas presents are meant as a symbol of the greatest gift of all – the gift of Jesus, given to save the world. The idea of Christmas as a gift to make the world better has got me thinking.

The first Christmas was celebrated in unsuitable accommodation by a non-traditional family. They were joined by uninvited guests and were forced to flee for their lives as refugees shortly afterwards. You can imagine that any assistance they were offered would have made their lives significantly better. Here's a challenge: what would it mean to you to give the gift of Christmas? Whatever it was that you thought of earlier when you were reading this article, can you figure out how to share it with someone else? Here are some ideas to start you off.

It is so tempting to huddle down in our cozy family groups for Christmas, when we could give the gift of friendship to one of our neighbours who is alone. Is there someone you know who would usually be alone for Christmas: could you invite them into your family and include them?

There are always charity appeals at Christmas, particularly for those who are without a home of their own. Charities like the Salvation Army or Crisis at Christmas strive to make a difference to the quality of life for those who are homeless, even if only for one or two nights. Can you give the gift of warmth and food? Our local food bank will probably value some Christmas-themed donations in addition to your usual donations.

Is there a different way you could give presents? Either by finding a charity who pass them on to families who will struggle, or by giving one of those gifts that benefits someone in a developing country.

Wishing you every blessing for a peaceful advent, a joyful Christmas and a new year full of hope.

With love from the Vicarage,

Sarah, Joab, May and Andy

Please come along to **St Mary the Virgin
Marystowe Church**



Sunday, 20th December
at 4.00pm for a

Christingle Service with Carols

Suitable for all ages and followed by refreshments. Children may like to come dressed as angels, kings, shepherds or animals.

Thursday, 24th December
at 6.30pm for

'Midnight Mass'

a service with Holy Communion



Baptism of baby May Atkins

St Peter's Lamerton

Rev Andy and his wife Sarah would like to thank everyone for their very kind cards, messages and gifts which were given to them on the birth and Baptism of their new daughter May. Also, Joab is really enjoying being a new big brother and has taken to his new duties admirably.



Thank you all, with every Blessing from the Vicarage,

Andy, Sarah, Joab and May.

BIBLE READINGS (Year B)

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

DATE	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	GOSPEL
29th November Advent Sunday (Purple)	Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16	1 Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13	Luke 21: 25 - 36
6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Malachi 3: 1 - 4	Philippians 1: 3 - 11	Luke 3: 1 - 6
13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20	Philippians 4: 4 - 7	Luke 3: 7 - 18
20th December 4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Micah 5: 2 - 5a	Hebrews 10: 5 - 10	Luke 1: 39 - 45 (46 - 55)
24th December Christmas Eve (White)	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10	Hebrews 1: 1 - 4, (5 - 12)	John 1: 1 - 14
25th December Christmas Day (White)	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10	Hebrews 1: 1 - 4, (5 - 12)	John 1: 1 - 14

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'*.

BIBLE READINGS (Year B) cont.

DATE	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	GOSPEL
27th December 1st Sunday of Christmas (White)	1 Samuel 2: 18 - 20, 26	Colossians 3: 12 - 17	Luke 2: 41 - 52
3rd January Epiphany (White)	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6	Ephesians 3: 1 - 12	Matthew 2: 1 - 12
10th January Baptism of Christ (White)	Isaiah 43: 1 - 7	Acts 8: 14 - 17	Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21, 22
17th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany (White)	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5	1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11	John 2: 1 - 11
24th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany (White)	Nehemiah 8: 1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10	1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 31a	Luke 4: 14 - 21
31st January Candlemas (White)	Malachi 3: 1 - 5	Hebrews 2: 14 - 18	Luke 2: 22 - 40
7th February Sunday before Lent (Green)	Exodus 34: 29 - 35	2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2	Luke 9: 28 - 36 (37 - 43a)





A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH



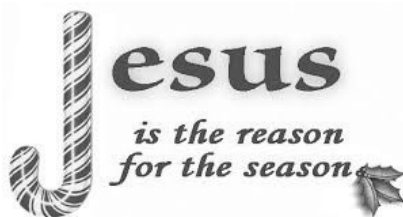
THE CANDY CANE

The candy cane is a long-time Christmas tradition. Everywhere we look we see them. They are used as decorations on Christmas trees and, of course, they are one of the most popular of all Christmas treats. I have heard several stories about the history and meaning of the candy cane. I don't know if they are true, but I do think that the candy cane can teach us a few things about the true meaning of Christmas.

First of all, if you look at the candy cane like this  it looks like the letter J. Jesus starts with the letter J, so that should remind us of Jesus and help us to remember that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

If you look at the candy cane like this  it looks like a shepherd's crook. The shepherd used his crook to keep the sheep from wandering away from the flock and getting lost or eaten by a wild animal. The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd." The candy cane should remind us that Jesus is our shepherd and he will keep us from wandering away and getting lost or hurt.

The candy cane is mostly white. White is a symbol of purity. That should remind us that Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God and that because he came to be the sacrifice for our sin, we can become as white as snow.



As you know, the candy cane has red stripes. The Bible tells us that before he was crucified, Jesus was beaten with a whip which made blood-red stripes across his back. The Bible says that we are healed by those stripes.


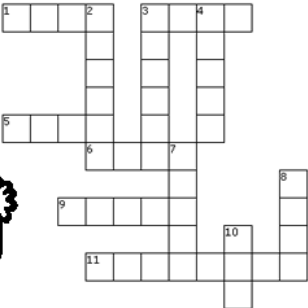
The stripes on the candy cane should remind us that Jesus suffered and died, so that we can have everlasting life.

To many people, the candy cane is a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time or just a piece of candy to be eaten and enjoyed. This year, every time you see a candy cane, perhaps it will remind you of the true meaning of Christmas.

Lord, we thank you that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who keeps us from harm. We thank you that because of his suffering and death on the cross, we have life everlasting. Help us to remember that we find the true meaning of Christmas in him.

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)

ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love

Merry
Christmas




St. Peter's Lamerton



The rain kept away for our Remembrance Service – well nearly - we were only a little damp The service was very well attended as usual and very ably conducted by Mark and Angela. The collection of £290 was given to Lamerton Branch of the British Legion. The following Tuesday all of the children from the school processed to the cemetery for their own service led by Andy. Crosses for all the people named on the memorial were planted by the children.

The Tractor Day and Country Fair was again extremely successful and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to all who helped to make this possible. We were able to give cheques of £800 to each of our four charities including St. Peter's.

We are delighted by the number of visitors to the church who have been to see the mural. We have both Christmas cards and plain cards for sale. Please call Angela on 810 027 if you would like to purchase some.

We have a full programme of services leading up to Christmas and we do hope you will be able to join us.

Lamerton church wardens and the PCC would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



Advent service at Dunterton Church

All are welcome to a special Advent service
on

Sunday 6 December, Matins 10.00am.

Mince pies and mulled refreshment to follow.



Activities and services for December at St Peter's Church, Lamerton

Dear Families,

As we head towards Christmas and that special time of the year again, here are some dates for your diaries.

Friday December 4th at 3.30pm : Come to the Messy Church Christmas Party. Games with prizes, crafts, food, carols and a special fancy dress prize for the best outfit for girls and best outfit for boys. The fancy dress can be anything on a Christmas theme.

Please remember that children from each family need to be accompanied by an adult

Sunday 13th December at 4pm: Christingle

The children will have made the Christingle oranges in school and we will light the candles on them at the service.

Thursday 18th December at 9am:

The end of term School Carol Service .

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm:

Lamerton Village Carol Service with the Lamerton Handbell Ringers.

Thursday 24th December at 11.30pm.

Christmas Midnight Mass

Also, we look forward to the **School Nativity Plays** on **Friday 11th December, at 2pm and 6pm**

*The Rev. Andy Atkins, Annie Jefferies, Margaret Green and Kathy Fairchild,
wish everyone a
very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Lamerton Women's Institute

Meetings are at Lamerton Sports and Community Centre, 2.00pm

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 8 Dec | Christmas lunch, 12.30pm, The Coach House, Ottery |
| 5 Jan | Resolutions and film |
| 2 Feb | 'Storybook Dads', with Graham Osborne |

New members are very welcome

**WE HAVE LIFT OFF!
NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH**



New Church Web Site

The Churches of Milton Abbot,
Dunterton, Lamerton,
Sydenham Damerel,
Marystowe and Coryton, now
have a brand new web site.

Details of Christmas Services and Events can be found on the web site.

The address of the web site is:

<http://www.southtamar.church>

Please do have a look and let us know what you think!

Christmas Charity Raffle for

1 in 4 chance of winning!



Please support this Christmas Raffle and enjoy a great opportunity to win some fantastic prizes whilst raising money to help tackle world poverty by supporting Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO).

Tickets cost **£5** each. No limit to how many individuals can buy. Prizes will be drawn on **18th December 2015**. Email teddysairight@gmail.com or phone **01822 860148** with your **contact details and 1st & 2nd choice prize preferences**. **Only 50 tickets are available**, so claim your tickets without delay!

Prizes to be won: (1) Quality 'Keune' cosmetic products. Courtesy of Formerly Vaughans, (2) Free oil/acrylic painting class with Yana Trevail, (3) Glenmorangie 10 Year Old Malt Whiskey (70cl) (Worth £35!). Courtesy of 2day Microportals. (4/5) £10 food and Drink voucher At The Original Pasty House, (6) Six bottles of Thatcher's cider, (7) Fish and Chips voucher for two at TJ's & LJ's, (8) £25 voucher to spend at Shields DIY and Fuel, (9) Cream Tea for two at Café Liaison, (10) Beautiful pink floral ladies scarf, Courtesy of Image, (11) A delicious homemade cake, (12) Half a day's cleaning/ gardening labour to be carried out in Jan, Courtesy of me, Teddy Searight!

The poster features a decorative border of handprints and buttons. The central text is 'Messy Christmas' in a large, bubbly font, set against a grey splatter background. Below this, the location 'at St Peter's Church, Lamerton' is written. A dashed box contains the event details: 'Fancy Dress!! • Pass the Parcel', 'Crafts • Games • Stories • Drink', and 'A Meal • Fun • Family Time'. Further down, it states 'This is a free event but donations are welcome', followed by the date and time: 'Friday 4th December 3:30pm - 5:30pm for all the family'. A note specifies 'Children must be accompanied by an adult' and provides the 'next date: Fri 5th February'. At the bottom, contact information is given: 'Contact Rev. Andy on: 01822 870298'.

Messy Christmas

at St Peter's Church, Lamerton

Fancy Dress!! • Pass the Parcel
Crafts • Games • Stories • Drink
A Meal • Fun • Family Time

This is a free event but donations are welcome

Friday 4th December
3:30pm - 5:30pm
for all the family

Children must be accompanied by an adult
next date: Fri 5th February

Contact Rev. Andy on: 01822 870298

PCC Meeting - Lamerton

Tuesday 19th January 2016

7.30pm in the Priest's Room

All parishioners are welcome to attend



Nature Notes by Bluebell - December 2015

Warm in the wintry air
 You lie,
 The ox and donkey
 Standing by.
 With summer eyes
 They seem to say:
 Welcome, Jesus,
 On Christmas Day!

Sleep, King Jesus:
 Your diamond crown
 High in the sky
 Where the stars look down.
 Let your reign
 Of love begin,
 That all the world
 May enter in

from: Mary's Song: The Gift of a Lamb by Charles Causley

Sadly, sweet Bluebell died in my arms in October. She was ten and a half. She was only ill for a day, but so ill it was clear she was slipping away, and there was nothing the vet could do. She had a very high temperature, something terrible inside, and her little paws were going cold. It is a lovely thing to have had her, and known her, she was such a good companion, so sweet, if a bit of a cake thief. The two Springers, Lily and Ziggy, have agreed to keep observing the country under her by-line as a memorial.

The first thing they rushed to examine was a strange, bucket-sized object washed up on the shore at Widemouth Bay near Bude, one rough and windy winter day: it was the remains of a float cemented over with a mass of strange, hoof-shaped shells, made of five fused, translucent blueish white plates with ruby lips and black markings, curling and waving gently on retractable pinkish-brown snakeskin stalks about as long as a finger. Every so often the shell would open slightly and a brown, sea-weedy tongue would protrude!

The story of these animals is as strange as their appearance. They are called Goose- Barnacles, and the 'head' or shell does resemble a Barnacle goose. Barnacle geese breed in Arctic Russia, Svalbard, and Greenland, and winter in Ireland and Northern Britain. Before it was understood that birds migrate, it was thought that barnacle geese developed from this barnacle crustacean. The tale of the goose "neither flesh, nor born of flesh" but born of a seashell, allowed they could be eaten on days when eating meat was forbidden by the Church.



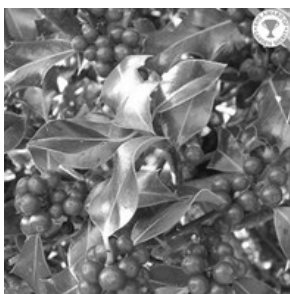
Goose barnacles, "percebes" in Spain and Portugal, are prized world-wide as a gastronomic delight. Said to be 'the best of the sea in a mouthful' they taste of lobster, crab, shrimp and oyster. 'Songs are sung to the glory of the 'percebes' and the courage of the 'percebeiros' who risk a rocky death in the sea to bring their catch to the plates of gastronomic pilgrims.' *Charlie Skelton, The Guardian, 8.10.12.*



GARDEN NOTES BY 'DIGGER'

I like the month of December. It contains much which interests me, both as a Christian and as a gardener. The story of the birth of our Lord is so incredible that I feel it must be true. I obtain much enjoyment from the Christmas readings and carols. December also gives a first indication that spring is on its way. We know that after 21st (the winter solstice) the evenings will gradually become lighter. If we have dry days in this month there is always plenty to do. A few examples: overhanging trees to be cut back, paths to be edged; plants secured against high winds; gutters cleared in case of heavy snow. I nearly always fail to protect my outside tap, which becomes frozen. In the greenhouse I have to make sure that the heater is switched on to keep the structure warm on frosty nights. Incidentally, I am delighted by some young cacti appearing in their seed boxes. Earlier I mentioned that we could still enjoy gardening during December. This is true even if we cannot get outside. Just think what beautiful house plants can be grown from a date stone, orange and lemon pips. Small pots of geranium and sweet pea seeds can be started to grow on warm (not hot!) window ledges.

Years ago, when we lived in Cornwall I was given part of a root of the beautiful pampas grass that line the canal in Tavistock Meadows. They did very well and I always looked forward to great plumes of these yellowy-white grasses springing up far into the air. At the end of their season I enjoyed setting the plants on fire to get rid of the bugs and to prepare the plant for its new growth.



December and January give us time to have a look at next year's seed and plant catalogues to see what new varieties are on offer. It is also a time to brush up our skills as gardeners. I am very fond of holly, finding the contrast between the rich, red berries and the green leaves most appealing. I have never studied varieties of holly in detail. Recently I discovered one that is useful for growing up walls. I might have used it years ago – it is *Ilex aquifolium* 'J. C. van Tol' and is almost spineless.

I have always found January to be a very cold month and as I am 91 years old I really do feel the cold. The result is that I do very little gardening outside during the first month of the year – restricting my activities to pottering about in the warmth of the greenhouse.



ADVANCE NOTICE - GARDENERS!

A plant sale is being held at Lamerton Village Hall, on 21 May 2016, in support of Cancer Research. We would be grateful if you could take some cutting or make some divisions of plants that you think we could sell at the sale. Every plant sold is contributing to the battle against cancer. We will arrange a pick up nearer the time. For more information please contact Kate Crozier 01822 870297

MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall had a busy time during October with the drama group rehearsals for their forthcoming production taking place on three nights each week. There was also the concert arranged by Villages in Action and the Halloween Disco organised by the Community Group. All this was in addition to our regular events - coffee mornings, drop-in sessions, table tennis evenings, folk club, art group and history society - all making great use of the excellent facilities available in the Hall.

November and December promise to be equally busy in the run up to Christmas but there is still plenty of time available to book the Hall for your special Christmas event. For details of the events already booked and of the facilities available why not visit our website at www.miltonabbotvillagehall.2day.uk.

Macmillan Cancer Care will have been very pleased to receive a cheque for £200 from the coffee morning held at the Hall on 3rd October. Many thanks to all who gave their time, support and cooking skills to this worthy charity.



*CHRISTMAS CRAFTY
COFFEE MORNING*

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
10.00am – 1.00pm
MILTON ABBOT CHURCH

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A CHRISTMAS INVITATION

Tim and Sheila Deacon extend a welcome to all to join them for seasonal refreshments in Lifton Church on Friday 11th. December from 2.00 – 4.00pm

To show their appreciation for so much support and friendship throughout the year

We hope to greet all our new friends ...

Come when you can – leave when you must!





'See how they run'

The Christmas season was almost upon us, as we (my wife and I) anticipated the "Glorious 12th!" No, not August for the grouse shooting, but Thursday 12th November when we were off to see the Milton Abbot Players (MAPS for short) and their production of "See How They Run".

Apart from knowing that it was originally written during the war in 1943, it was one of the most popular farces, with numerous productions, west-end runs and a film, I still had never seen it.

It has been performed once before by MAPS, back in 1961 with Jean Vigars as Miss Skillon and Michael Taylor as the Reverend Toop. 54 years ago! (It must have been his father!) With 5 people dressed as vicars there was plenty of scope for confusion - which is exactly what we all love!

This was the best play for years, with the best actors (and of course actresses). It was right up there with "Lord Arthur Saville's Crime" and "Trivial Pursuits".

Valerie Taylor played Miss Skillon a parishioner whose interest seemed to be more in the young vicar than the flowers. The young vicar (Rev. Toop) was played by Patrick Medd, with such an air of innocence but whose eyes said more than his voice (excellent!). His wife was Elizabeth Field playing the actress as a real Sloane and the apple of her uncle's (the bishop) eye. All I can say is "Miss Skillon you do not stand a chance!". Then Tim Randell burst on to the scene playing the army chap who used to act with Mrs Toop. Tim as always can get more out of a part than anyone in the past 70 years since the play was written. He was excellent. Michael Taylor was the German POW and was as confused as anyone surrounded by a collection of British clergy. Liz Moir was superb as Ida, the cockney maid and it is great to know she has returned to MAPS after some years. Frank Woodcock was the Bishop with the air of superiority needed. Then Robin Clowes, playing the other vicar with his usual innocence and charm. Finally Alan Stone as the British Sergeant Towers trying to sort out which vicar was the real one and which one was the escaped German POW. He played with an accent that meant Ida may have more success with him.

The cast were brilliant. The director (Eileen Taylor) certainly got the right people in the right parts. It goes without saying that they all consumed a vast amount of alcohol and particularly Miss Skillon! She played the part of a drunk spinster so realistically. Once or twice I thought....perhaps I will leave it there!

A great play, a great cast, a great production.

But who was the most remembered, who was the star? No doubt it was Pepper the dog, with his cameo role, who barked perfectly and chased his master (Tim) across the stage.

I wonder what part he will play next year?

Book your seats early, I feel next year be a sell-out every night if it is anything like this year. On the way out, and since then, everyone has said the same "The best for years".



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 St. Mary, Kelly. St. John the Baptist, Stowford. St. George, Thrushelton
Holy Communion every Wednesday, 10.30am at St. Mary's, Lifton

DECEMBER 2015

	9.45am unless different	11.15am unless different
6th. Dec Advent 2 St. Nicholas	10.00am "Together at Ten" at BROADWOOD CHURCH Patronal Festival Communion Service	
	3.00pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at LIFTON CHURCH	
13th Advent 3	Lifton - Holy Communion Thrushelton - Holy Communion	Lewtrenchard - Holy Communion Kelly - Morning Prayer
20th Advent 4	Broadwood - Holy Communion 6.00pm - LIFTON Carol Service	Stowford - Holy Communion
24th Christmas Eve	4.00pm - Lifton Crib Service 6.00pm - Stowford Christingle Service 7.30pm - Kelly First Communion of Christmas 9.30pm - Broadwood First Communion of Christmas 11.30pm - Lewtrenchard Midnight Christmas Communion	
Christmas Day	9.45am - Thrushelton Carols & Communion 11.15am - Lifton Carols & Communion	
27th. Christmas 1	10.00am "Together at Ten" at LIFTON CHURCH Communion for the whole Benefice	

JANUARY 2016

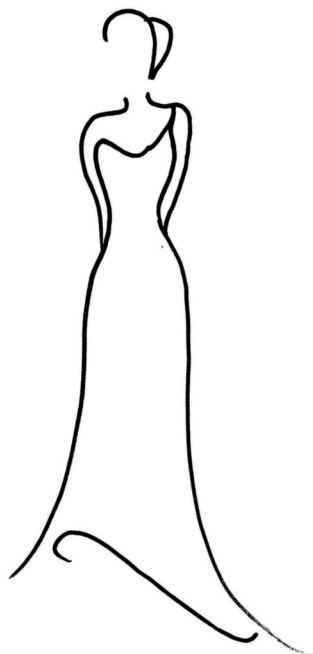
	9.45am unless stated different	11.15am unless stated different
3rd. Jan Epiphany (Christmas 2)	10.00am "Together at Ten" at STOWFORD CHURCH Communion for the whole Benefice	
	3.00pm EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE at THRUSHELTON	
10th Epiphany 1	Lifton - Holy Communion Thrushelton - Holy Communion	Lewtrenchard - Holy Communion Broadwood - Holy Communion
17th Epiphany 2	Lifton - Morning Prayer Kelly - Holy Communion	Stowford - Holy Communion
24th Epiphany 3	10.30am - Liftdown Methodist Chapel - Christian Unity Service 3.00 Lifton - PET SERVICE	Lewtrenchard - Holy Communion
31st Epiphany 4	10.00am "Together at Ten" at LIFTON CHURCH <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i>	

FEBRUARY 2016

7th. Feb Sun before Lent	10.00am "Together at Ten" at KELLY CHURCH Communion for the whole Benefice	
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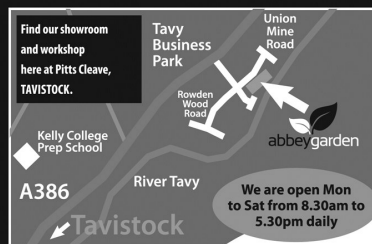
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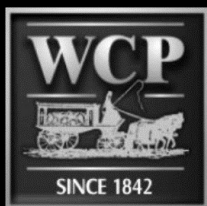
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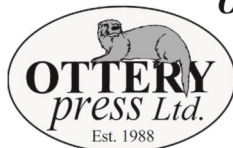
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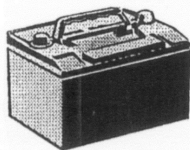
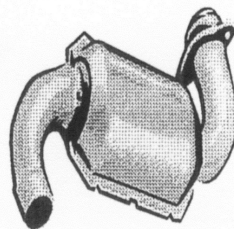
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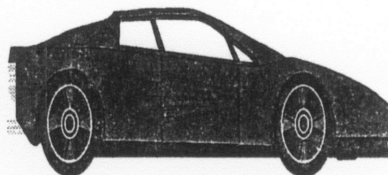
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Chillaton Square	10.33	Lamerton Blacksmith's	1.39
Launceston Westgate	11.05	Milton Abbot former P.O.	1.49
Milton Abbot former P.O.	11.31	Launceston Westgate	2.10
Lamerton Blacksmith's	11.35	Chillaton Square	2.41
Tavistock Hospital	11.41	Lamerton School	2.50
Tavistock Bedford Square	11.44	Tavistock Hospital	2.56
		Tavistock, Bedford Square	2.59

114 TAVISTOCK-MILTON ABBOT-LAUNCESTON-CHILLATON-TAVISTOCK THURSDAYS

Tavistock Bedford Square	10.15	Tavistock Bedford Square	1.30
Tavistock Hospital	10.18	Tavistock Hospital	1.32
Lamerton Blacksmith's	10.24	Lamerton School	1.39
Milton Abbot former P.O.	10.28	Chillaton Square	1.48
Launceston Westgate	10.50	Launceston Westgate	2.20
Chillaton Square	11.20	Milton Abbot former P.O.	2.38
Lamerton School	11.29	Lamerton Blacksmith's	2.49
Tavistock Hospital	11.37	Tavistock Hospital	2.53
Tavistock Bedford Square	11.40	Tavistock Bedford Square	2.55

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Lamerton Village	9.57	Lamerton Village	13.02
Tavistock Bus Station	10.10	Tavistock Bus Station	13.15

CHURCH SERVICES

January 2016

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
Sunday 3rd Jan Epiphany		11.00am HC CW	10.00am Matins		9.30am HC CW	
Sunday 10th Jan Baptism of Christ	9.00am HC CW			11.00am HC CW		11.15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th Jan (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)		6.30pm Even- song			9.30am Family Service	
Sunday 24th Jan (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)	9.00am Matins BCP	9.00am Family Service		11.00am HC CW		11.15am HC CW
Sunday 31st Jan Candlemas	United Benefice Service 11.15am Coryton Holy Communion, CW <i>All are most welcome</i>					
Sunday 7th Feb (Sunday before Lent)		11.00am HC CW			9.30am HC CW	



From the editor's desk ...

Deadline For the February issue is Tuesday 19th January 2016

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

1/8 page: £1.80 per issue - £18 per year 1/4 page: £3.60 per issue - £36 per year

3/8 page: £5.40 per issue - £54 per year 1/2 page: £7.20 per issue - £72 per year

Full page: £14.40 per issue - £144 per year

CHURCH SERVICES

December 2015

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
Sunday 6th Dec (2nd Sunday of Advent)		11.00am HC CW	10.00am Advent matins		9.30am HC CW	
Sunday 13th Dec (3rd Sunday of Advent)	9.00am HC CW	4.00pm Christ- ingle		11.00am HC CW		11.15am Morning prayer CW
Saturday 19th Dec						5.00pm Lessons and carols
Sunday 20th Dec (4th Sunday of Advent)	5.00pm Carol service	6.30pm Carol Service	10.00am HC BCP		4.00pm Christ- ingle	
Thursday 24th Dec Christmas Eve		11.30pm Midnight Mass		4.00pm Crib and carol service	6.30pm Midnight mass	
Friday 25th Dec Christmas Day	9.00am HC CW		10.00am HC BCP			11.15am HC CW
Sunday 27th Dec (1st Sunday of Christmas)	United Benefice Service 11.00am, Milton Abbot Holy Communion, CW <i>All are most welcome</i>					

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship (Modern)