

# Parish News

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



South Tamar  
Mission Community

**December 2021  
& January 2022  
Price: £1**

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

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

## **CHURCHWARDENS**

**Lamerton:** Mike Jefferies 614178  
Ian Minshull 810027

**Milton Abbot:** Liz Padmore 870642  
David Denton 870431

**Dunterton:** Arthur Vigars 870244

**Sydenham Damerel:** Margaret Hurdwell 870545

**Marystowe:** Barbara Dawe (01566)784797

**Coryton:** Giles Vacat 860254

## **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:** c/o Margaret Hurdwell 870545

**Milton Abbot:** Pat Lovell 2 Fern Meadow, Tavistock 618452

**Dunterton:** Gerald Napier Glebe House, Dunterton 870285

**Marystowe:** Guy Talbot 860314

**Coryton:** Niel O'Neill 860263

## **UNITED BENEFICE APPOINTMENTS**

**Benefice Safeguarding Representative** Julie Hibbert 618221

**Vicar's Assigned Administrator** Guy Talbot 860314

## **MAGAZINE**

**Editor:** Tim Culverhouse Lower Barton, Lamerton, Tavistock 616799  
PL19 8RR

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**CHURCH WEB SITE** 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	
	Clerk Shane Honey		clerk@magpc.co.uk
<b>Lamerton:</b>	Roger Geake	860224	
	Clerk TBC		clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.gov.uk
<b>Sydenham Damerel:</b>	John Hearn	870505	john.hearn@sydenham-damerel.org.uk
	Clerk Peter van Delft	01566 783023	clerk@sydenham-damerel.org.uk

## **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**Lamerton C of E** Head Teacher: Melody Sterry Tel. 613561

**Milton Abbot** Head Teacher: Chris Luxford Tel. 870273

# Questions in Faith

## Can we really prove that God exists - rationally?

Initially I thought this would be a 'Paygrade' issue. Proving a reality beyond our own reality sounds way too much. Personally, I don't do the shock and awe thing - that God *must* exist because the universe is so mind numbingly enormous. More at my level is the fact that God has been both *seen* and *experienced* by saints for millennia. Surely, we need their evidence for the case for God to become convincing. Let us apply Wesley's Quadrilateral – *Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience!*



*Scripture* records numerous miraculous events like a virgin birth, a resurrection – in short, an existence outside our existence. In fact, to be a prophet within the Judaic traditions they *had* to demonstrate 'signs' of operating beyond our physical reality. For instance, all four Gospels record that our Lord could heal the sick, raise the dead, feed thousands of people - twice! These events were of course witnessed by many

*Tradition* – Currently are 2.3 billion Christians seeking and finding God. The Bible continues the world's bestselling book and has been for two millennia!

*Reason* – If you asked an educated person whether they believed in 'black holes' they would think you strange – or simply ignorant. We can't see black holes because visible light can never escape from them - yet we 'believe' in them because there is so much evidence for them. Stephen Hawkins did the maths and astronomers have verified it using the evidence black holes have on the space around them. The evidence for the existence of God can be found in both 'signs' (miracles) and in the effect of divinely inspired teaching on our lives and the lives of saints.

*Experience* – God is a personal force that we experience. Any practitioner of religion will tell you that the real, life changing evidence for God is a combination both of 'His signs' and their personal experience of God. These generate faith. Individually we have to believe the rationale of the Bible if we are to get close enough to the divine experience which proves the existence of God. A foot soldier's paygrade is enough to be a part of a winning army. They don't need the knowledge or experience of the general's paygrade. However together they both win the divine battle and both become part of the evidence for God.

*If you would like to know more do come to our 'Advent Big Picture' services where we cover the Who, What, Where, When and Why of the Christmas story*

**Richard Seawright**

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



My Dear Friends,

Firstly, can I thank everyone who sent their good wishes and prayers during my time spent with Covid. I am feeling much better and looking forward to planning Christmas, which is now fast approaching. I am just as excited about it as I was when I was young, so I don't want to hear any nonsense about it being just for children! Of course, I love the religious side of things, I would be a very odd Vicar if I didn't, but I also love the build-up. To me the writing of cards, the panic Christmas present buying, the decorations and the Christmas treats on standby in case anyone visits, are all part of the fun.

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

For me it is especially wonderful when I wander back to the Vicarage after the Midnight mass. I will open a present and perhaps drink a small 'Tot' to toast the Christ Child. I will also think of all those wonderful Christmas celebrations I have enjoyed over the years with family and friends (many now in heaven) and I shall thank God. I hope that you will all enjoy Christmas and won't be sad that the ones you have loved may no longer be with you, but rejoice at the times you had and share that joy with those with us now. Let the joy and magic you experienced continue to brighten the lives of this younger generation.

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

*No love that in a family dwells  
 No carolling in frosty air,  
 Nor all the steeple shaking bells  
 Can with this single truth compare  
 That God was man in Palestine  
 And lives today in bread and wine. (John Betjeman)*

With Every Blessing  
 Fr. Andy



## 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



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/southtamarmission)

e-mail: [vicar@southtamar.church](mailto:vicar@southtamar.church)

tel: 01822 870298

## BIBLE READINGS (Year B)

***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 5th Dec. <i>2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple)</i>	Baruch 5: 1 - 9	Philippians 1: 3 - 11	Luke 3: 1 - 6
Sunday 12th Dec. <i>3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)</i>	Zephaniah 3: 14 - end	Philippians 4: 4 - 7	Luke 3: 7 - 18
Sunday 19th Dec. <i>4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)</i>	Micah 5: 2 - 5a	Hebrews 10: 5 - 10	Luke 1: 39 - 45 (46 - 55)
Friday 24th Dec. <i>Christmas Eve</i>	2 Samuel 7: 1 - 5, 8 - 11 & 16	Acts 13: 16 - 26	Luke 1: 67 - 79
Sat 25th Dec. <i>Christmas Day (White))</i>	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10	Hebrews 1: 1 - 4 (5 - 12)	John 1: 1 - 14
Sunday 26th Dec. <i>First Sunday of Christmas (White)</i>	1 Samuel 2: 18 - 20 & 26	Colossians 3: 12 - 17	Luke 2: 41 - 52

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'***.

<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 2nd Jan. <i>The Epiphany (White)</i>	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6	Ephesians 3: 1 - 12	Matthew 2: 1 - 12
Sunday 9th Jan. <i>The Baptism of Christ (White)</i>	Isaiah 43: 1 - 7	Acts 8: 14 - 17	Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 & 22
Sunday 16th Jan. <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany (White)</i>	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5	1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11	John 2: 1 - 11
Sunday 23rd Jan. <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany (White)</i>	Nehemiah 8: 1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10	1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 31a	Luke 4: 14 - 21
Sunday 30th Jan. <i>Candlemas (White)</i>	Malachi 3: 1 - 5	Hebrews 2: 14 - 18	Luke 2: 22 - 40

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

CW – Common Worship (Modern)

### **The Pastoral Care Team within our Benefice**

At this particularly challenging time, the pastoral care team is there for you - to offer time, company and a listening ear in times of loneliness, bereavement or health problems. We can also offer prayer.

If you would like to see a pastoral care visitor or discuss this in more detail please contact

Rev Andy Atkins: 01822 870298  
email: [vicar@southtamar.church](mailto:vicar@southtamar.church)

## St. Mary's Church, Marystowe

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November saw our Act of Remembrance with Coryton. It was a very moving and reflective service, and thanks go to Richard Searight for conducting the service and for an excellent sermon. John Dawe was sadly missed as the standard bearer, a role he has fulfilled for 58 years; all our love and prayers go to him and Barbara.



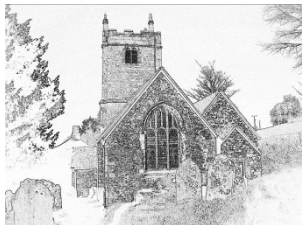
It is lovely to have the Church back in full use, as we now turn from the reflection of Remembrance to getting prepared for our Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. There will be craft and gift stalls, the launch of our Christmas Hamper Draw and Oliver Twist Zoom evening, and, of course, the chance for a coffee and chat with friends. The books and jigsaws will also be available to browse.

After the 20<sup>th</sup> we will be checking the book lists and jigsaw catalogue to update the website. Do please let us know if we can help with any ideas for presents, we can arrange wrapping and postage if you are unable to get to us. An alternative to choosing a book would be to give a token for the Pot Luck Readers, a random book a month for a year.

Finally, we hope you are keeping the 11<sup>th</sup> of December clear in your diaries. From 6.30pm and on Zoom it is our Christmas Evening. This year we are performing a reading of Oliver Twist with songs from the musical by the Lifton Singers. The Zoom invitation is free, however we are raising funds for the Church and The Children's Society, so do please consider buying a lucky programme (£1) as this will give you the words to sing along with us; every programme has a unique number and on the night we will be drawing the lucky number to win a Christmas Cake.

You can also treat yourself to our Nibble Bags to enjoy during the performance (details to order on the Webpage shortly), and don't forget to buy a raffle ticket for our Hamper Draw – we have five beautiful hampers: Christmas, Gardeners Delight, Pamper Hamper, Chocoholic Cheer, and a "Himper" (Hamper for Him!). In addition there will be a Just Giving page available. Full details will be on our Marystowe webpage shortly but if you have any queries or want to purchase raffle tickets, programme, or order nibble bags do call me (Joy) 01822 860630.

**Joy McSmythurs**



## St. Andrew's, Coryton

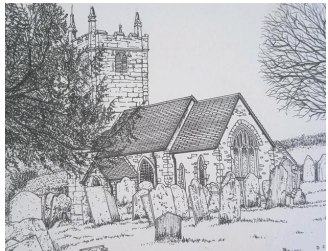
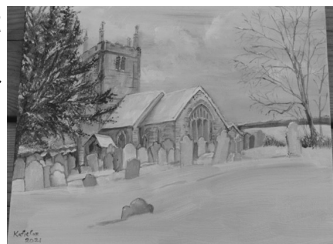
Many thanks to Ryan Kingdom for his help in cleaning up the debris created during the churchyard boundary clean-up. Ryan did this as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He is shown here tending his massive bonfire. Well done Ryan!



Sunday October 10 saw Harvest Festival being celebrated in a beautifully decorated St Andrew's, with great hymns and refreshments afterwards.

Coryton joined Marystowe for Remembrance Sunday. The well-attended service, taken by Richard Searight, heard names of the fallen of both parishes read out. We are now looking forward to our Carol Service at 6.30pm on Saturday 11th December and Holy Communion on Christmas morning at 11.30am.

As part of the fundraising for the Milton Abbot bell project, some lovely Christmas cards have been produced. They feature a coloured winter scene based on the picture of St Andrew's church done for the 'A Peal of Recipes' cookbook.



The cards (right) cost £5 for a box of 10; copies of the print of the church (left) cost £15. Both can be purchased at:

[www.milton-abbot-church-pcc.sumup.link](http://www.milton-abbot-church-pcc.sumup.link)

Profit from the sale of both will be split between Coryton and Milton Abbot.

**Josie Whitfield**

## St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

Sadly, since the last magazine entry, one of our dearly loved parishioners, Reg Barns, has passed away. Reg was over ninety and moved down from London to Sydenham Damerel many years ago with his wife, Eleanor. They loved living here and were very much part of our community. Reg's beloved Eleanor died some years ago but Reg, always active, cheerful and on-the-ball continued to join in with village life. He will be missed by our whole community. A 'Remembering Reg' service was held in St. Mary's where, notwithstanding the pandemic, over 40 villagers joined together. Close to £400 was raised for the Derriford Hospital's Chestnut Appeal for prostate cancer; something we know Reg would have approved of.



This year on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month, St. Mary's held its own Armistice Day commemoration by the commonwealth war grave of Sgt. John Richards a pilot in the RAF who lived at Horsebridge and died in a crash in Shropshire in 1944 aged just 21. A RBL poppy wreath was laid on his grave, the Last Post sounded, and fitting music was played by Sydenham Damerel's own brass band. A moving and appropriate ceremony for one of our local heroes.

We look forward with optimism to 2022 when we hope that our world will open up even more and our hard-working dedicated scientists will have achieved even greater success in the battle against Covid 19.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

***Margaret Hurdwell***

## St. Constantine's Church, Milton Abbot

It is good to have Andy back with us again after his recent illness; we all hope that his recovery will continue apace.

Remembrance Sunday was marked with our usual service starting at Milton Abbot's War Memorial with the laying of the wreath and the two minutes' silence and continuing in the church.

We hope you will be able to join us on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm** when we will be holding a special Carol Service; the collection from this will go towards the Bell Fund.

We will be holding our usual **Christmas Eve Crib and Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm** and hope that many of you will be able to attend.

Pat has continued to make lovely crafts which you can browse and buy from our on-line shop. The first batch of items made for us by members of the Tavy Turners & Carvers Club from the oak of the old bell frame proved to be very popular and at the time of writing have nearly sold out; we are hoping to receive some more items very shortly, so please do look out for these in the on-line shop.

Our cookbook, A PEAL OF RECIPES, has just come out and is available through the shop or direct from Pat Lovell or myself. It is very competitively priced at £5 and would make a lovely gift for your culinary-minded family members and friends. It is also available through the shop as a gift pack with either an apron or a wooden spoon and fun figure! We also have Christmas cards available.

Sarah has once again very kindly agreed to run a Christmas draw for us, which will have some lovely prizes including a beautiful quilt made by Pat and a meal for two at Hotel Endsleigh, so please do keep a look out for how to buy tickets.

***Liz Padmore***

### **BACK AT LAST... MILTON ABBOT CHRISTMAS BINGO**

Monday 13th December, eyes down 7:45pm. Milton Abbot Village Hall

Meat vouchers plus Christmas Goodies.

## St. Peter's Church, Lamerton



There have been several community events to report on this month, and in particular it is good to see the coffee mornings returning! From the first three coffee mornings, £177 has been raised.

The Harvest Festival service on the 3rd October raised £206 and the Church added a further £100 , which resulted in a total of £306 being sent to the Shekinah Mission in Plymouth. What a joy to also be able to hold a 'bring and share' supper too.

On the 15th October , Annie and Mike Jefferies ran a somewhat quirky quiz night, based on their holiday adventures in Italy and France. Thank you to all who generously donated and attended, with £325 raised to support Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Thank you to Rev. Canon Tim Thompson who led the British Legion Service of Remembrance on Sunday 14th November, it was well attended and lovely to be able to welcome some newcomers to the village. Our grateful thanks too, to Peter Hurdwell who so skillfully plays The Last Post and Reveille on his bugle. Also to Val Hill for her beautiful organ playing and to Sue Dawe and the wonderful team of bellringers. The poppy arrangements in the Church added to this special service.

The School held their Remembrance service on Thursday 11th November, when the children paraded to the War Memorial in the village cemetery and planted a poppy on a cross for each of the Lamerton servicemen killed in the two Great Wars. At both of these services Tony Ellery carried the British Legion Standard and Gerald Cramp read the Epitaphs; the children played their parts in the service with great respect, including standing perfectly still for the 2 minute silence.

As always, thanks are extended to the many people who help to clean our Church, take on the flower arranging duties, look after the internal maintenance of the church and most importantly keep our churchyard looking so tidy and well cared for. A special mention must go to Ian Minshull for his hard work in looking after the building and grounds

As we now approach Advent and the Christmas season, we warmly look forward to welcoming you to any of the following services, Christingle on the 12th December at 4pm, the School Carol Service, the Village Carol Service and of course Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.

**Annie Jefferies**

## **Lucky Lamerton Lottery**

**A BIG THANK YOU**

**to all participants for your generosity and support**



Winning number for September 2021 = 78

Winning number for October 2021 = 5

Winning number for November 2021 = 99

### **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. Some flags are flown for specific events, Saints days or occasions but in particular the Union Flag is flown on the following days in the coming months along with some 'fun' flag days

**7th December**

**9th January**

**20th January**

**26th January**

**International Civil Aviation Day**

**Duchess of Cambridge's Birthday**

**Countess of Wessex's Birthday**

**Australia Day**

Thanks to one eagle-eyed reader who spotted that last month we had printed Prince Charles' birthday as the 20th of November when it is the 14th (November). The Bunting Tosser and Editor have had a conflag and each decided that it was the other ones fault.

If you do spot a flag and want more information about it and why it was flying then feel free to email [parishnewsmag@gmail.com](mailto:parishnewsmag@gmail.com) and it will be passed on to the Chief Bunting Tosser

**LAMERTON PCC** - The next meeting of Lamerton PCC will take place on 26 January 2022 in the Priest's room at Lamerton at 7pm

### **LAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL - CLERK VACANCY**

Lamerton Parish Council has a vacancy for a part time Clerk. Salary in accordance with NALC/SLCC rates for 5.25 hours per week. Closing date for applications is 1 December 2021. For further details please email: [clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.co.uk)

## New Anna Chaplains Commissioned

Sunday 7th November marked the culmination of a pilot project to roll out the work of Anna Chaplaincy in the Archdeaconry of Plymouth. Six Anna Chaplains and two Anna Friends were commissioned during a service at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Southway in Plymouth, led by the Archdeacon, the Ven. Nick Shutt. Two of the new Anna Chaplains are Annie Jefferies from Lamerton and Josie Whitfield from Coryton.

Anna Chaplains are named after the widow, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel; both are good role models of faithful older people. Anna Chaplaincy is an ecumenical, community-based, chaplaincy promoting the spiritual welfare of older people. Anna Chaplaincy is a person-centred and non-judgemental ministry for people of strong, little or no faith at all. The chaplaincy is intended to complement and run alongside, rather than replicating or replacing, ministry already being done by churches as well as services to the elderly provided by community or secular organisations.

The names of those being commissioned were read out and together they declared that they believed that God was calling them to this service. They pledged, with the support and prayers of the congregation, to prayerfully perform their work and to develop the gifts given to them by God as they share in Christ's mission and ministry.

A letter of support from the BRF Anna Chaplaincy Team was presented and then refreshments were served and the newly commissioned Chaplains and Friends had an opportunity to get to know each other better.



One of the joys of the day was finally seeing each other face to face. Due to the various lockdowns, the pilot project meetings had been conducted on ZOOM

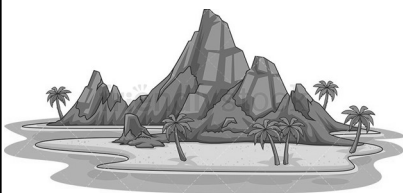
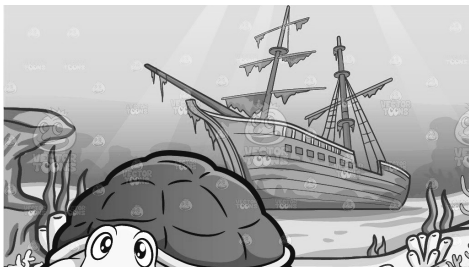
as had the online training so a number of remarks along the lines of 'you're a lot taller than you appeared on ZOOM' were overheard.

The newly commissioned Chaplains and Friends are now back in their various corners of the Archdeaconry, hard at work. A number of others are in various stages of training and the plan is for another commissioning service to be held in the Spring, this time in Exeter with Bishop Robert officiating.

## A Story on the Theme of Courage

### The Brave Little Tortoise and the Monster

Once upon a time, there was a tortoise on a ship, and the ship sank. Some time later the tortoise made it to a desert land surrounded by water on all sides except for one. The landward side led up to a big, steep, craggy mountain. To avoid starving to death, the tortoise decided to climb to the top of the mountain, hoping that he would be able to cross to the other side.



When he got to the snow-covered summit he was freezing cold, and then a blizzard started. He just managed to make out a small pathway leading down the other side of the mountain. But the path was guarded by a big monster that wouldn't stop shouting, "Uuh uuh uuh!"

Such a sight and sound almost killed the tortoise with fright, and all he wanted to do was hide his head inside his shell. But, looking around him, he saw that many other animals were lying frozen to death, and with looks of horror on their faces. So the tortoise didn't go into his shell.

He summoned up all his courage to move down the path towards the monster. The closer the tortoise got, the more the monster changed its shape. Then, when he was almost upon it, the tortoise realised that what he had thought was a monster, was only a great pile of rocks, which formed a shape just like a monster. As for the "Uuh uuh uuh", the tortoise realised this was just the sound of the wind blowing through a small cave.

The tortoise carried on, and eventually descended into a beautiful valley, filled with woods, and plenty of food. The tortoise lived very happily here, and became known everywhere as the Brave Little Tortoise.





## A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

### Mary visits Elizabeth

The last Sunday before Christmas - the fourth Sunday of Advent. There are a lot of things to look forward to at Christmas — besides opening presents of course. One very special thing is family get-togethers. It is often the only time during the year when we get to see some of our aunts, uncles, and cousins. One of the very best things about Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus with family.

The Gospel reading on the fourth Sunday of Advent tells what happened after God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby and that she would name him Jesus. It is hard to imagine how Mary, a teenager engaged to marry a young carpenter, must have felt to hear news like that. After she recovered from the shock, the Bible tells us that Mary hurried to the home of a relative, Elizabeth, to tell her the news. Elizabeth was also expecting a baby and the Bible tells us that when she heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and said to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed." That is amazing! Before Mary even said a word about having a child, Elizabeth knew it and she knew that the child was going to be a very special child! "Why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord would visit me?" Elizabeth said. "You are a blessed woman because you have believed that the Lord would do what he said."



So, at the very beginning of the Christmas story was an event that was shared with family and it is a time that has meaning for us as families today. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, it is certainly appropriate that we celebrate it with our families just as Mary did with Elizabeth.

Heavenly Father, we are thankful for this time of joyful celebration of our Saviour's birth. We pray that we will honour his birthday as a time of celebration with our families. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



## Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

O Y T R Z R P O C B R M X J Z  
 N W C G A Z E C H A R I A H Q  
 M I H R A B G B D B W S M R B  
 I Y I E Q O D I H Y F U M T Y  
 D S L E T H O U S E L I J T I  
 O H D T C T L M H O C W H O W  
 P U H I E N F T E A J F R G Y  
 R G E N T E E H H U T K O L D  
 F Z P G M B D Z B M Z D I E F  
 R L Y F A N M O T H E R H A H  
 K C X Z A L N H T S J V O P N  
 D F I F E Z O P S S W J E E F  
 G L I A M H F E C T O W N D T  
 E N L Z M G L E N C E K Q G Y  
 M E Z M H B Z Q Y O L A Y R U

GREETING  
 ZECHARIAH  
 MOTHER

LEAPED  
 MARY  
 CHILD

JOY  
 ELIZABETH  
 HOUSE

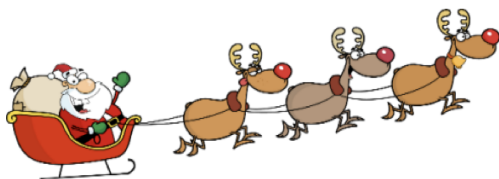
TOWN  
 BABY  
 BLESSED

# Coffee @ St. Mary's Sydenham Damerel



**First Saturday of every month  
10:30 onwards  
All welcome**

## Carols in the Village



## Sydenham Damerel

**Friday 17 December 5.30 pm**

**Mulled Wine & Mince Pies**

**All welcome**

**Featuring Sydenham Damerel's own Brass Band – Angels – A king, and so much more....  
Come and join this popular annual event bring lanterns, torches, Christmas jumpers, etc.**

## NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL



*“Hark! Hark! The lark at heaven’s gate sings,”:  
Cymbeline 11 iii; W Shakespeare*

There are some large flocks of winter thrushes, (fieldfares and redwing), of starlings, and sanderling about, on the moors and farmland this winter, and Bluebell has disturbed a single lark which rose from the grass and hesitantly sang. Larks here in winter are few now, but there used to be hundreds and hundreds of thousands. They would turn the sky dark for several days as they flew in in huge flocks, called exaltations or bevys, day and night, calling and singing, from Europe in the Autumn.

Skylarks were caught with nets or mirrors for meat (females), and to be caged singing birds (males) in huge quantities in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in England. In the 1890’s as many as 40,000 skylarks were sold in the London meat markets per day! Horrible! “Over a million British larks went to the Dieppe Market in 1867-8, and a similar amount to Les Halles, Paris.” William Henry Hudson was one of the reformers who founded the SPB, which became the RSPB, in 1891 to save the little skylarks.

But worse was to come, and numbers have plummeted in England by 24% between 1995 and 2013. They are farmland specialists and are vulnerable to changes in farming practice such as additional cuts of silage which are now commonplace. Larks nest on the ground, in furrows or just a hoof print depression. They like stubble crops and ground cover.

The RSPB, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, and DEFRA suggest adapting areas such as introducing buffer strips and Skylark plots.

The song of the skylark has been such an inspiration to musicians and poets. ‘The Lark Ascending’, by Ralph Vaughan Williams, inspired by George Meredith’s poem, is one of our most popular, best loved pieces of music: “*A song of light...to reach the shining tops of day,*”.

John Clare wrote of the “*Sweet minstrel of the farm and plough...*”  
“*For God loves little larks as well As man or beast.*”  
“*To a Lark Singing in Winter.*”

Bluebell wishes all her readers a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

## GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG



Well, in Doug's patch the fungi are mushrooming! Lots of 'em. I guess it's the warm wet weather we've had or, perhaps they've decided to pop their heads up and have a look around at what the 'overground folk' are up to? Global warming? Apparently there are some 15,000 species of fungi to be found in the UK. Doug saw 3 the other day (see photograph below), but couldn't name all of these let alone the remaining 14,997! Some are poisonous - and look it. Others are - but look like they want to go home with you and be 'mushrooms on toast'. Of course, we only think of them when we see them, but they are there all year quietly getting on with their work, a vast network of underground connections reaching out in all directions looking for something to nibble or talk with. We don't give them enough respect.

If you have dahlias, you will have decided by now whether to lift them. I've lifted some and the tubers are resting in the greenhouse. Others I'm leaving in the ground and I'm confident they'll survive and thrive. I was surprised recently to hear that you can eat them! They're like potatoes - the tubers! Dahlia chips anyone?

I've said it before, but now is a great time to buy roses, bare root roses, not those in pots. Bare root ones are asleep and if you plant them now (or soon) they'll be with you for years. Easy!

If you've got fruit trees, shrubs or bushes out there, now is time to prune - although some fruits are better done in summer because of viruses; for example, plums which are prone to silver leaf disease. Ah, I shouldn't have done mine last winter!

Cut bits of greenery and put in a vase - you'll be surprised how good a few boring bits from out there can look when they're brought inside! Go on, just cut some - holly, ivy, anything in leaf, or seed heads on stems. Make it a mix. Pop in a vase. Lovely.

Relax and prepare for the new gardening year. Enjoy thinking of what is to come! Good luck!



## FARMING LIFE, BY HAYSEED

### *Out Standing In His Field*

#### *"Spring Forward and Fall Back"*



There's another old saying that sums up the spring and autumn seasons. You lose an hour in the spring and gain one in the autumn. But it does not work like that and by late afternoon now it's usually dark. By 4:30pm I'm certainly not convinced I've gained an hour of daylight, still perhaps I'll find it again come summer time.

Thank goodness for the electricity in the covered yards. Returning cows to their warm winter housing brings a whole host of things to think through. Firstly, it must be clean, cattle housed in a clean barn will reduce bacteria levels, prevention is better than cure and it is important that beds are kept clean and dry to encourage healthy winter housing periods. The family have all been hard at work pressure washing and disinfecting ready for the suckler cows and calves to come in however, at the time of writing we're not quite there yet and with the price of straw this year 'tis no bad thing!

The maize crop has been harvested and winter corn tilled and coming up nicely. There have been a few problems this autumn with 'leather jackets' and other insects eating the new shoots of corn as they appear. Also birds, mainly rooks, pitching into the grass fields, particularly older leys, digging up the turfs to find leather jackets etc - all making a real mess! It all depends on the season and this autumn has been particularly warm and moist for insects to thrive however, I suspect the chain harrows and roller will be well used next spring as a result.

The rams have been in with their 'ladies' for some time working away, hopefully bringing a good crop of lambs from early December onwards. Hayseed has been feeding silage for a while now, the quality and quantity is pretty good this year, lets hope there will be enough to carry through until next April/May when the cows return to pasture

By the time this 'ditty' is printed winter will be almost upon us once more and the constant everyday routines will be in full swing - fingers crossed for a trouble free time. With best wishes for Christmas and the new year.

'Til next time

**Hayseed**

## MILTON ABBOT BELL RESTORATION PROJECT



The new Benefice Cookbook is out now! Only £5 with all profits going to the Bell Restoration Project. Available from Carr's Garage, our online shop: <https://milton-abbot-church> or from Pat Lovell (TEL: 01822 618452).

We thank all the other churches for their participation and support with this project and to David and Anthea Cox and Sally O'Neill, Dartprint and all the contributors for making this such a lovely book. You will not be disappointed.



New Christmas Cards  
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Remaining stock  
from last year  
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clear



These lovely drawings were especially commissioned for insertion into the cookbook. We now have a limited quantity of each one for sale with half the proceeds going to the bell project and the other half to the relevant church. Milton and Lamerton's are £16 as they had to be slightly larger to fit the frame and the others are £15 all available from the online shop or contacting Pat.

To donate online via: <https://justgiving.com/campaign/mabells> or via  
Reverend Andy Atkins or Pat Lovell. We thank you for all your support.

### **LAMERTON WI**

December 14th 2:00pm - Christmas meeting

January 4th 2:00pm - Resolutions

All meetings held at Lamerton Village Hall  
New members welcome

### **LAMERTON COFFEE MORNINGS**

The coffee mornings at Lamerton Parish Hall are back!

Join us on:

December 4th - coffee morning and the Christmas Hamper Draw

December 11th - last coffee morning before Christmas  
10:30am to noon

Do come along, meet friends and catch up.

### **LAMERTON SPEED WATCH**

The team have been operating for just about twelve months. Some of you may have noticed us with our Police Radar Gun and yellow hi-vis vests checking on vehicles passing through the village.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 to the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, we have held 94 sessions and recorded 507 vehicles exceeding the speed limit, with the maximum of 56mph (+86%) in the 30mph limit. 402 letters have been sent out and of persistent offenders, 34 have been sent a second letter and 8 have been sent a third letter and amongst that number 14 had no Tax, MOT or registered as SORN.

So far we think it has been a worthwhile activity but two of our original team have now moved away and we would love to have new members to join us. If you are interested, please contact me:

[frogwellcottage@btinternet.com](mailto:frogwellcottage@btinternet.com)

Rob Wiggins.

# Sydenham Damerel's Brass Band

Sydenham Damerel now has its own brass band. There are nine keen members and they have played at several village events including the carols (in the middle of a minor hurricane!) by the telephone box last year, the hugely successful village market in St. Mary's and the moving Armistice Day commemoration in the churchyard on 11 November this year.



The band is led by Bill Leith a former army musician from Norris Green near Callington and draws its members from the local area including two from Sydenham Damerel itself. The band practices in St. Mary's every Monday morning and plays a wide range of popular music from classics to swing and folk to pop. They even have a great arrangement of 'Fairy Tale of New York' and a piece called the Cuckoo. New players are always very welcome.

## Parish News Deadlines

Issue covering the months of	Deadline for submissions	To advertise events taking place in
February and March 22	15 Jan. 2022	February 2022 onwards
April and May 22	15 March 2022	April 2022 onwards

***Due to the lead time on printing the magazine the deadline will be set at the 15th for forthcoming editions to enable it to reach you in good time.***

You are cordially invited to join us

December 11<sup>th</sup> 2021  
6.30 pm

A Christmas Evening

# *Oliver Twist*

Watch a reading by a motley collection of friends  
and their dogs...with songs from the Lifton Singers

Enjoy traditional Christmas nibbles  
Join in the Hamper Raffle  
Sing Along

Proceeds for Marystowe Church  
and

**The Children's  
Society**

For more details please see the Marystowe report in this magazine (Page 8)

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021**

At this special time of year for the Church please do join us for any  
or all of the following services:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
Friday 24th December	Milton Abbot	4:00pm Crib and Carol Service
Friday 24th December	Marystowe	6:30pm Christmas Communion
Friday 24th December	Lamerton	11:30pm Midnight Mass
Saturday 25th December	Coryton	11:30am Holy Communion
Sunday 26th December	Milton Abbot	11:00am United Benefice Service



Photograph of the illuminated cross on St. Peter's Church Lamerton  
taken by James Crockford



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

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Full page: £144 per year



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## EDITOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [parishnewsmag@gmail.com](mailto:parishnewsmag@gmail.com)

Tim Culverhouse, Lower Barton, Lamerton, Tavistock, PL19 8RR  
01822 616799

To enable me to include as much content as possible I would appreciate it if you could, when submitting adverts, content and event listings, send them through ideally in a word or editable format so that I can ensure the best fit within the magazine. If in doubt send them through in word and PDF.

In the main, events advertised in A6 landscape will be able to be placed on a half page. Adverts which are A5 portrait invariably either require a whole page or a quarter of a page which can be (for some) too small to read)...your assistance and contributions are, as always, much appreciated.



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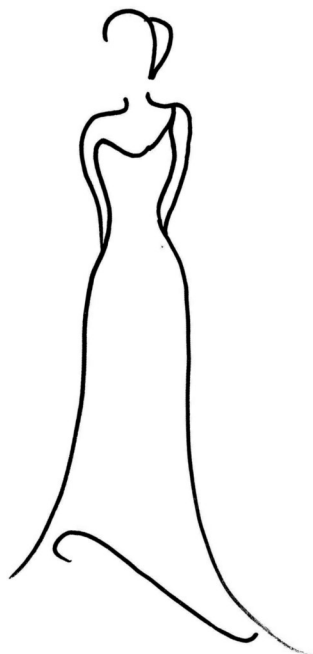
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# CHURCH SERVICES

## January 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 2nd Jan.</b> <i>The Epiphany</i>	<b>11:15am United Benefice Service - Holy Communion Coryton</b>					
<b>Weds. 5th Jan</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 9th Jan</b> <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	<b>10:30am HC/CW</b>			<b>6:30pm Songs of Praise</b>		<b>6:30pm BCP Evensong</b>
<b>Weds. 12th Jan.</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 16th Jan.</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>		<b>11:00am HC / CW</b>			<b>9:30am Family Service Morning Praise</b>	
<b>Weds. 19th Jan.</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 23rd Jan.</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	<b>6:30pm Songs of Praise</b>			<b>11:00am HC / CW</b>		<b>11:15am HC / CW</b>
<b>Weds. 26th Jan.</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 30th Jan.</b> <i>Candlemas</i>	<b>10:30am United Benefice Service - Holy Communion Sydenham Damerel</b>					

# CHURCH SERVICES

## December 2021

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>Weds. 1st Dec</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 5th Dec</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>		<b>6:30pm BCP Evensong</b>			<b>9:30am HC / CW</b>	
<b>Weds. 8th Dec.</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Saturday 11th Dec.</b>						<b>6:30pm Carol Service</b>
<b>Sunday 12th Dec.</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>		<b>4:00pm Christingle</b>		<b>6:30pm Carol Service</b>		
<b>Weds. 15th Dec.</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
<b>Sunday 19th Dec</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>5:00pm Carol Service</b>	<b>6:30pm Carol Service</b>			<b>4:00pm Crib &amp; Carol Service</b>	
<b>Weds. 22nd Dec.</b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion Priest's Room at St Peter's Lamerton</b>					
	<b>For Christmas Services (24th, 25th &amp; 26th December) See Page 26</b>					
<b>Weds. 29th Dec</b>	<b>No Service</b>					