

PARISH NEWS

FOR THE BENEFICE OF:
CHILLATON, CORYTON,
DUNTERTON, LAMERTON, MARYSTOWE,
MILTON ABBOT AND
SYDENHAM DAMEREL.



DECEMBER 2025 &
JANUARY 2026

PRICE: £1



South Tamar
Mission Community

RECTOR/VICAR: The Reverend Gillian (Gill) George

Tel: 07947 604160 / 01822 762029

Email: revgillgeorge@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM

Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

Richard Searight

07886 414226

Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate (PTO)

Rev'd Canon Tim Thompson

CHURCHWARDENS

Lamerton:	Mike Jefferies	614178
	Ian Minshull	810027
Milton Abbot:	Liz Padmore	870642
Marystowe:	Joy McSmythurs	860630
Coryton:	Giles Vicat	860254
	Josie Whitfield	07989 666427
Sydenham Damerel Chapel Warden	Mike Forster	870752
Chair of Friends of Dunterton Church	John Spensley	07711 995735

PCC SECRETARIES

Lamerton:	Barbara Meikle	617229
Sydenham Damerel:	(Barbara Meikle)	617229
Milton Abbot + Dunterton:	Liz Padmore	870642
Marystowe:	Guy Talbot	860314
Coryton:	Josie Whitfield	07989 666427
Dunterton:	Christine Youds	07545 132365

CHURCH TREASURERS

Lamerton:	Mike Jefferies	Church Avenue House, Lamerton	614178
Sydenham Damerel:	Paul Giles		07702 304143
Milton Abbot:	Pat Lovell	2 Fern Meadow, Tavistock	618452
Dunterton:	John Spensley		07711 995735
Marystowe:	Guy Talbot		860314
Coryton:	Niel O'Neill		860263

UNITED BENEFICE APPOINTMENTS

Benefice Safeguarding Lead	Julie Hibbert	618221
Vicar's Assigned Administrator	Guy Talbot	860314

MAGAZINE

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CHURCH WEBSITE

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PARISH COUNCILS

	Chairman	Tel.	Email
Milton Abbot group parish:	Mark Ambrose	870603	
	Clerk Shane Honey		clerk@magpc.co.uk
Lamerton:	Ann Cole		
	Clerk Caroline Oxenham	481415	
	clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.gov.uk		

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Lamerton C of E	Head Teacher: Melody Sterry	613561
Milton Abbot	Head Teacher: Charlotte Jones	870273

Diary Dates

Event	December 2025	January 2026
Coffee Mornings		
Coffee and Company, Priest's Room, Lamerton 10 - 12pm	3, 17, 31	14, 28
Sydenham Damerel from 10.30am	4	1
Lamerton coffee mornings, Community Centre, 10.30 - 12pm	11, 25	8, 22
Church and other events		

**Magazine deadline for February/March 2026
edition is**

end of day: Saturday 17th January 2026

Thank you for your timely submissions - they are gratefully appreciated.



From the Vicarage . . .

As we come to the close of another year, we once again find ourselves on the familiar and beautiful road of Advent. It is a season that gently invites us to pause, to breathe, and to notice the longing in our hearts for God's renewing presence. I've planned this year's Advent Group around the traditional themes of the Advent Candles—**Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. This will offer space for conversation, prayer, and fellowship, reminding us that God's light grows steadily among us as we prepare to welcome Christ once more. Even in a world full of uncertainty, Advent gently teaches us that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

For many, **Christmas** is a season of warmth, welcome, and celebration—of gathering with family and friends, exchanging gifts, and remembering the child born in Bethlehem. Yet Christmas is also a time that can sharpen the edges of loneliness or grief. Memories can become heavy; pressures and expectations can feel overwhelming; some may find the season difficult for reasons known only to them. As a church family, we hold all these experiences tenderly. No one should feel alone at Christmas. Our **Pastoral Care Team**—who share more about their ministry later in this magazine—continue to offer support, prayer, companionship, and practical help. We can all encourage someone else who may need a word of comfort or a friendly presence.

I warmly encourage you to join us for **Holy Communion on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**. There is something profoundly beautiful about receiving Communion at Christmas, surrounded by candlelight and the familiar words of the liturgy: a reminder that God comes close. As the Christmas season draws to an end, we then turn our attention to the great feast of **Epiphany on 4th January**, celebrating the visit of the Magi. Moving out of Bethlehem, Epiphany reminds us that the good news of Christ is for all people, in every place, and that God's light draws us—like the wise men.

The following Sunday, **11th January**, brings the **Baptism of Christ**, which is also **Plough Sunday**. Later in the month, is the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. As we pray for reconciliation, shared mission, and

deeper fellowship throughout the global Church we also pray for that continued unity among our six church communities. As we look ahead to 2026, let's do so with gratitude and with hope for how God will continue to shape us as one body in Christ.

As January unfolds, don't be surprised to feel God's renewed call on your life. The diocese is offering a range of short courses early in the year—excellent opportunities to deepen faith, explore new topics, reflect prayerfully, or connect with others from across the wider church. Listen out for those gentle nudges of the Holy Spirit urging you into the fullness of what God has made you for. I am certainly looking forward to my first Christmas with you, and beginning a new year together.

*Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.*

With love in Christ,

Gill

The Reverend Gillian George

Priest in Charge of the Parishes of Milton Abbot, Dunterton, Lamerton, Sydenham Damerel, Marystowe and Coryton, known as the South Tamar Mission Community

Our next PCC meetings

Coryton—6pm Monday 19th January 2026

The Manor House, Coryton, EX20 4PG

Milton Abbot & Dunterton—7pm Tuesday 27th January 2026

The Reading Room, Milton Abbot Village Hall, PL19 0PP

Lamerton & Sydenham Damerel—7pm Tuesday 3rd February 2026

The Priest Room, Church Avenue, Lamerton PL19 8RN

Marystowe—7pm Thursday 5th February 2026

The Cottage, Chillaton, PL16 0HS

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2025 (Year A)

DATE	1st READING	PSALM (if used)	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 7th Dec Advent 2 (Purple)	Isaiah 11.1-10	72 vss. 1-7, 18, 19.	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12
Sunday 14th Dec Advent 3 (Purple)	Isaiah 35.1-10	146 vss. 4-10 <i>or the Magnificat</i>	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11
Sunday 21st Dec Advent 4 (Purple)	Isaiah 7.10-16	80 vss. 1-8	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-end
Wednesday 24th Dec Christmas Eve (Purple) (For midnight change to Gold or White)	Isaiah 52.7-10	98	Hebrews 1.1-4	John 1.1-14
Thursday 25th Dec Christmas Day (Gold or White)	Isaiah 52.7-10	98	Hebrews 1.1-4	John 1.1-14
Sunday 28th Dec Christmas 1 (White)	Isaiah 63.7-9	148	Hebrews 2.10-end	Matthew 2.13-end

BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY 2026 (Year A)

DATE	1st READING	PSALM (if used)	2nd READING	GOSPEL
Sunday 4th Jan Epiphany (Gold or White)	Isaiah 60.1-6	72 vss. 10-15	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12
Sunday 11th Jan* Baptism of Christ (Gold)	Isaiah 42.1-9	29	Acts 10.34-43	Matthew 3.13-end
Sunday 18th Jan Epiphany 2 (White)	Isaiah 49.1-7	40 vss.1-12	1 Cor. 1.1-9	John 1.29-42
Sunday 25th Jan Epiphany 3 (White)	Jeremiah 1.4-10	67	Galatians 1.11-16a	Matthew 19.27-end
Sunday 1st Feb Candlemas (Gold or White)	Malachi 3.1-5	24 vss. 7-end	Hebrews 2.14-end	Luke 2.22-40

*Plough Service Readings (use instead of the 11th Jan readings)	Genesis 1.9-13	37 vss.22-38	1 Cor. 9.6-14	Matthew 6.25-end
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Advent & Christmas Services 2025

Fri 28th Nov 6pm Advent Carols at Theale, PL19 0LH

Wed 3rd Dec 2pm Milton Abbot School Carols in Church

Sun 7th Dec 2.30pm Advent Carol Service at Dunterton Church
4pm Christingle Service at Lamerton Church

Wed 10th Dec 2pm Lamerton School Nativity in Church (Class 1)

Sat 13th Dec 5.30pm Marystowe Panto, Crafts & BBQ

Sun 14th Dec 4pm Christingle Service at Milton Abbot Church

Tue 16th Dec 2pm Lamerton School Carols in Church (Class 2)

Wed 17th Dec 2pm Carol Singing & Handbell Ringing at Venn HS
3pm Carol Singing & Handbell Ringing at Camplehayne

Sat 20th Dec 4pm Christingle Service at Coryton Church

Sun 21st Dec 6.30pm Carol Service at Lamerton Church
6.30pm Carol Service at Sydenham Damerel Church

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service at Milton Abbot

6pm Carols Round the Tree followed by
6.30pm Christmas Communion at Marystowe.

11.30pm Midnight Mass at Lamerton Church

Christmas Day 9am Christmas Communion at Dunterton Church,
followed by breakfast

10.30am Christmas Communion at Sydenham Damerel

11.15am Christmas Communion at Coryton Church

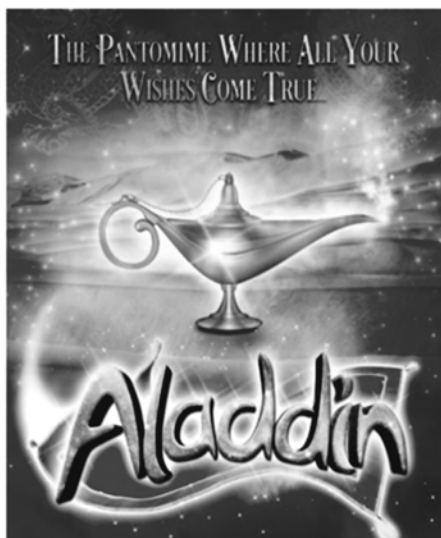
The Chillaton Players Present

Aladdin

A Christmas Extravaganza

Saturday December 13 From 5:30 PM

St Mary's Church Marystowe



The evening will start with Christmas carols to get us in the mood.

£5 for adults, children can come in free

Proceeds are shared between the children's society, the church and Virgin Arms

Afterwards you are invited to the Chillaton Village Christmas Craft Fair and winter Barbeque.

Advanced Tickets Sales Contact James.Hitchcock55@Gmail.Com or call 07718 494266



St. Andrew's, Coryton

Bell Tower Update

The re-roofing and re-pointing of the Bell Tower is now complete. We hope this work keeps our beautiful church safe for future generations to enjoy. Well done Niel, plus Monlam Kando and Tim Fuge.



The turret roof (shown here), which had previously been replaced with a concrete covering, was completely restored in lead.

Remembrance Sunday



People from Coryton and Marystowe came to St Andrew's for the annual Service of Remembrance. The rain held off long enough so that we could gather outside around the War Grave for the Act of Remembrance. Afterwards Coryton coffee, real coffee and Jane's Poppy Biscuits were served. There was an opportunity to browse through the various displays covering the War in the Far East, (featuring the Kingfisher), the Burma Campaign, the 1942 diary of an NCO in the Western Desert and the story of the Poppy. £270 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

Upcoming Services at St Andrew's

In December, we will have a service of Holy Communion at 11.15am on Sunday 7th December. On Saturday 20th December at 4pm there will be a combined Carol and Christingle Service. Then on Christmas morning, at 11.15am there will be a service of Holy Communion. In January, the new schedule of services during the winter months will begin with Morning Prayer at 11.15am on Sunday 11th January and Holy Communion at 4pm on Sunday 25th January.

Best wishes from Coryton for a Happy Christmas and wonderful 2026!

Josie Whitfield

All Saint's Church, Dunterton



Photo credit to Philip Stanbury who was able to capture this “sign of the covenant” just before our patronal service to All Saints

at the church on 2nd November led by Revd Gill George and Richard Searight.

River Walk, Sunday 19th October – We had hoped for better weather this year, but the day started with heavy rain and so it continued until mid-afternoon. However, there were still more than 80 intrepid walkers, and their canine friends, who enjoyed the 5 mile walk through the Tamar Valley and along the river back to the church – not forgetting to enjoy excellent refreshments in shelter at Hardstone Farm. We were also pleased that so many people took the time to pop into the church at the end of their walk to meet Gill and Richard and learn a little bit about its history. As always, we would like to thank the very many people in our community, whether organisers or participants, whose kindness and generosity enable this event to go ahead and be such a success.

This year, with the help of giftaid, we have raised £1,250 which will be used fully in ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the church.

December Services – We are delighted to announce that this year we will be holding an Advent Carol Service at Dunterton on Sunday 7th December at 14.30pm.

This is a first for us so please do come along and support us.

Then on Christmas Day we will be having Communion at 09.00 (note the slightly earlier time) with a light breakfast provided.

We look forward to seeing you then.

In Loving Memory of Rosemary “Sylvia” Viggars – We were very sad to have to say a final goodbye to Sylvia this week. Faithful in service and steadfast in friendship, Sylvia will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by family, friends and neighbours alike.

SERVICES AT DUNTERTON CHURCH – DATE & TIME

Sunday 7th December	14:30pm - Advent Carol Service
Thursday 25th December	9:00am - Christmas Service (light breakfast included)

Derek Youds

St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel



The Harvest Festival always heralds the start of Autumn and St Mary's was a sight to behold, with beautiful arrangements and artistic arrangements of pumpkins and local seasonal produce. There was also a generous response to the collection of items for the Tavistock Food Bank.

Just a quick update on the St Mary's Heating and Seating Campaign – an amazing £11,500 has been raised!!

Considering our target is £15,000 this is a truly remarkable community achievement. This has allowed us to order the final 20 chairs.

The next stage is to fundraise for our most challenging project yet – installing a toilet and servery.

Unfortunately, despite arduous efforts, recent grant applications have been turned down. We do not need help in identifying grants but what we do need is: assistance with the grant application process; political support from various layers of councils; and, as always, donations and fundraising to match any successful grant funding. Please contact Peter phurdwell@hotmail.co.uk if you have any specialist skills, knowledge or energy to give to this next, exciting project.

I know we would all like to thank the Devon Fire and Rescue service who spent the best part of an October Sunday dealing with a severe barn fire in the village. Thankfully no one was hurt. The only casualty was an errant chicken who crossed the path of a dog at the wrong time!

The annual Barn Dance was another fun night out.

Thanks to Giselle and Jim for the use of Tuell Farm. The barn is a wonderful, convivial space and your donation of the very tasty Tuell Farm Cider only added to the conviviality! An amazing £435 was raised. A heartfelt thanks to everybody involved.

The Parish Meeting was held on the 6th November. A positive development was announced: a defibrillator is to be purchased for Townlake. Deborah and Robert have kindly offered the side of their garage for its placement and to arrange and pay for the power supply.

As the village book club demonstrates, there are a lot of avid readers in the village. We have an ongoing, honest book sale; well worth visiting if you are passing the church. There really is something for everyone: an eclectic mix of fact and fiction.

Most are priced at £1 but there are some slightly more individually priced at around £3. To help you browse from the comfort of your fireside, the full list can be found on the Community website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/sd-community-web/bookshop>.

If you click on the title you will be taken to a review of the book on Amazon – don't say we don't spoil you! As ever all the proceeds go to the Heating and Seating fund.

Speaking of the book club, this month's book is *The List of Suspicious Things* by Jennie Godfrey. For those who fancy a classic we also threw *Silas Marner* into the mix.

As ever it was important to us to commemorate Armistice Day. A suitably sombre and thoughtful service was held at St Mary's and a wreath was laid on the war grave of RAF Flight Sergeant Richards, killed in 1944 aged just 21. We will remember them.

As Christmas approaches, we are looking forward to the Christmas Craft Fair on November 15th. John's eagerly awaited Christmas Quiz will be on the 6th December – it is so over subscribed that teams will have to draw lots for a place! The Village Idiots have announced that they are unable to take part this year, so the field is wide open!

It is always such a pleasure to write up the recent happenings in our tiny village. We seem to be the perfect Dibley-esque hamlet! It's interesting to reflect on how, before Covid, we were practically a village of strangers. During a time of need it was so lovely to feel a caring community develop with people genuinely invested in their neighbours' well-being. Five years on, in such a tumultuous world, I know we all feel very grateful for those bonds.

However you spend the festive season, we hope it is a peaceful time for all.

Gail Cullen

St. Peter's Lamerton



It was lovely to see so many at our Harvest Festival Service.

People stayed for our Bring and Share Supper chatting long after the service, which shows that eating together is a very important way to bring people together.

Our Remembrance Service was well attended in spite of the dreadful weather. Fortunately we managed to process up to the cemetery between downpours.

Timing of the bells was again spot on - ringing while we walked to the cemetery then silence while we were there and again ringing while we walked to the church. Our ringers rang with the bells muffled.

On the Tuesday, it was decided that the school should just go to the church for a short service as the weather was again very wet and windy.

We said a "Good Bye" to a long time supporter of the church and a very active member of the WI, Pam Paine who recently passed away. Pam will be missed by many of us. She will be at peace now and will not have to worry about her eye sight and falling down. Mike did a splendid eulogy and told us many things of her very active and varied life.

We hope you will join us for our many services over the Advent and Christmas period. The first will be Carols and Readings at Theale on the 28th November (if the magazine gets out in time!) at 6.00pm. Do join us for your first taste of Christmas with carols, mulled wine and Carole C's delicious mince pies.

Then there is our Christingle Service at 4pm on Sunday 7th December then our Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm and as always our Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on December 24th. We look forward to seeing you over this Christmas time.

Your Church Wardens, Mike and Ian, wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a bright New Year.

St. Mary's Church, Marystowe



Our open church continues to be popular, as does the "Bell Tower Book Nook", which continues to raise funds for the Church. We offer an extra welcome when the coffee pot is on for **Brew & Browse** 10-11.30am on the last Tuesday of every month.

Our PCC met in October and two main things came out of that. James Hitchcock, our groundsman, agreed to organise the pantomime on behalf of the church this year whilst we were a woman down. As a one-off, the Christmas Extravaganza this year will incorporate Carol Singing with the children from Lew Trenchard Primary School, the Panto (Aladdin), the Craft Fair and the Virgin Arms Barbecue. It begins at 5pm on Saturday 14th December, so come and support the church panto!

Secondly, the PCC is working hard to ensure ALL members have completed the mandatory safeguarding training. It is available online and each session lasts just over 1 hour, but can be saved part way through if a solid hour is hard to find. Revd Gill has kept the Diocese updated and arranged for David Cross from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to come out and do a face-to-face session in February, which will be open to all the parishes and held at a convenient and warm venue.

Looking ahead

By the time you read this, the Summer Fair planning group will have met again. We are a mixed group of churchgoers and residents building on the good work of previous years as we look forward to good links between church and community in 2026.

Sunday 14th Dec at 9.30—Morning Praise for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Rev Gill)

Saturday 20th Dec at 4pm—Christingle (with the children from Lew Trenchard School) for Marystowe and Coryton is at Coryton this year.

Christmas Eve at 6pm—Carols round the Tree, followed by Christmas Holy Communion, led by Rev Gill.

Epiphany Sunday 4th January at 10.30am we're hosting the Benefice Holy Communion for this festival (please note the later time).

St. Constantine's Church, Milton Abbot



We were saddened to hear of the death of Sylvia Vigars in October. Sylvia was always a staunch supporter of Dunterton Church and she served for many years as our PCC Secretary. Her funeral service at Milton Abbot on 6th November was attended by over 70 people; our condolences and love go to Sue and Melanie and their families.

Children from Milton Abbot Primary School produced some wonderful pictures and written work to mark Remembrance which were laid out in the church for us all to see, together with various splendid decorations around the building which have been much admired. Rev Gill has been going into RE lessons this term, and in the Spring Term we look forward to working together on a longer church and churchyard project, combining geography, maths, history, SMSC and other parts of the curriculum. We also have an embryonic "Open The Book" due to start next term—do let Rev Gill know well in advance if you would like to be on that team, as the necessary clearance can take time. We are very grateful for all the school are doing with us—Thank You!

Our Christmas Fair was held in the church on Saturday 15th November with the church full of stalls selling a variety of goodies – I hope you all managed to do a little bit of Christmas shopping! We were also musically entertained by the Sydenham Blowers – many thanks to all the musicians and to everyone else who helped.

Pat has once again been sewing and has made some lovely items which will make great Christmas gifts; if you didn't get a chance to buy from her at the Fair, her stall will be making an appearance at Milton Abbot School's Fair on 3rd December and also at Yelverton Fair on 6th December.

We have a full programme of services for you through December, starting with **Milton Abbot Primary School Carol Service** on 3rd December at 2pm
Carols & Christingle on Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm (with the school)
Holy Communion on Sunday 21st December at 11.00am,
the **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm, and a
United Benefice Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 28th Dec at 11.00am.

Into January, we'll be mainly back in the Priest Room in Lamerton while we work to replace our heating system—that is apart from looking forward to hosting the **wintery wedding of Selena and Charlie** in church on Saturday 24th January!

We are most grateful to our friends in Lamerton for letting us to make use of their facilities, which will allow us to hold our services in the warm! Please contact me if you would like a lift or directions – all are, as ever, most welcome.

Liz Padmore

Pastoral Care News for the South Tamar Mission Community

Since the arrival of Rev Gill, the Pastoral Care Team (linked to the local churches) is becoming much more focused on the wider needs of our parishioners and those people who can no longer physically get to church for whatever reason . Already spiritual support is regularly offered at Venn House and Camplehaye Residential Homes, increasingly we are finding that illness and age related mobility are preventing people living in their own homes, from being able to attend church services.

If you, or a member of your family would like to attend church but cannot get there, do let us know and it may be possible for us to provide a solution (giving a lift etc).

Alternatively we have a small team of people, male and female, who would be happy to come and visit you at your home. This would involve a member of the pastoral care team coming to your home, initially for a chat whilst we get to know each other, and then providing for you whatever you may feel you need. it could be a chance to read the Bible together, listen to favourite passages, say a prayer together, listen to or sing a favourite hymn and even receive Holy Communion at home if you should so wish. Of course you may feel that you don't wish for any of those things but simply a chance to have a cup of tea together and a chat about life in general!

Anyone who comes to visit you will always have been approved by Rev Gill, and will be one of our trained pastoral care team members. All pastoral care team members have successfully completed their safeguarding training and have their DBS certificates. Two of our team are Anna Chaplains who have been trained and commissioned to do this support work by our Bishop.

To find out more, please contact either me, Annie, on annie.jefferies@btinternet.com, tel. 07800 721770, or Rev Gill.

Thanks Annie! If anyone is interested from the other angle, the Diocese happens to be offering a short GROW course in March for people undertaking (or considering undertaking) pastoral care in their churches or communities.

This course covers the basics of why and how we care, the practicalities of this work, operating in a team and looking after yourself. I know that many of our pastoral team have done the more detailed Anna Chaplaincy or Anna Friends course—this is probably from a slightly different angle but might be useful for some.

*Dates are: **Monday evenings online on 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March from 7.30-9pm.***

Let me know if you're interested.—Rev Gill



c/o Caradon
Milton Abbot, Tavistock
Devon, PL19 0PB

Charity Number 267714

MILTON ABBOT VILLAGE HALL



Up coming event Auction and Pasty Evening

Milton Abbot Village Hall are proud to announce their first On-line auction. Kindly supported by local businesses and organisations who have donated generously with many limited-edition items, the auction will open for bidding on Wednesday 4th February 2026 and close with a Pasty and Auction evening in the hall, on Friday 6th February where everyone will have a chance to place their final bids.

Ideal for that unique Valentines Day gift.

We have some very exciting items going under the hammer! Further information nearer the time will be posted on our website and social media.

<https://saveourhall.co.uk/>

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, SYDENHAM DAMEREL **ONE HUNDRED CLUB**

**Drawn at 10:30am, Saturday 1st November 2025,
in the Church at our monthly coffee morning.**

Tickets available from:

john.r.hearn19@gmail.com



Congratulations to Novembers winner:

1st prize ~ Tony Williams

2nd Prize ~ Clare Williams

3rd Prize ~ Karen & Steve Andrews

Join the fun – you have to be in it to win it!



A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

Seeking the Saviour (Matthew 2:1-12)

If we were planning to go visit someone in another town, we might first ask someone who knew how to get there to give us directions. They might give us some general directions and suggest the best roads to take. Another thing we might do is look at a map or use our Satnav to show us exactly how to get where we want to go.

After Jesus was born, some wise men, also called Magi, saw a star in the sky which they believed announced the birth of a king. They travelled to Jerusalem and began to ask, "Where is the new-born king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

Herod heard about the Magi and their search for a king and he was deeply disturbed. So Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men and said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

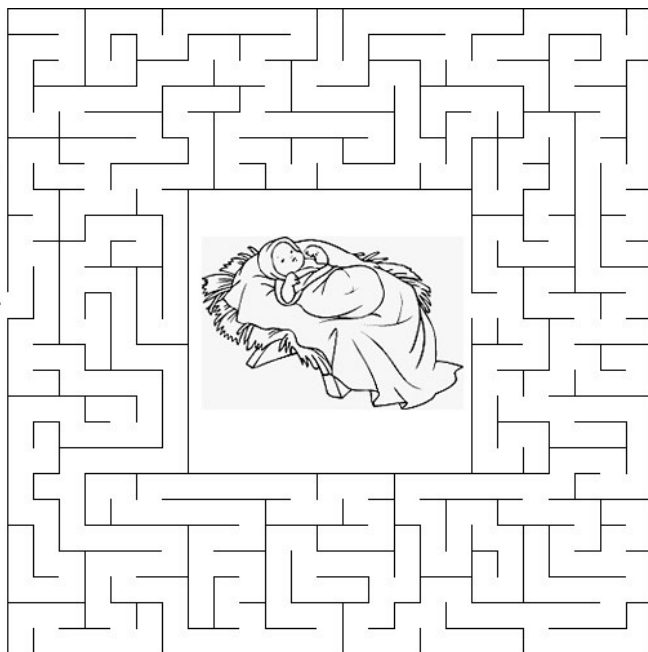
As you know, the wise men did not have a map to guide them to Bethlehem, but they had something even better — they had a star to guide them. So the wise men followed information that the priests had given to Herod and the star that God had given to guide them and it led them right to Jesus. When they found him, they gave him gifts and bowed down and worshiped him. (Matthew 2:1-12)



Wise men, women, boys, and girls are still searching for Jesus. There are people who want to help -- people like vicars and teachers. The Bible is the map and star that will lead to Jesus. All of us can read it every day to make sure we are headed in the right direction to find Jesus!

Dear Jesus, we seek you today because we want to worship you and crown you as our King. Thank You for the Bible that leads us to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

The Wise Men Maze



Wise Men Search for Jesus

Can you help the Wise Men find the way to the baby Jesus?

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."
Matthew 2:2

A Story on the Theme of Courage

From Weakness to Strength

A 10-year-old boy decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident.

The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," (Teacher in Japanese) the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?" "This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied.

Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training. Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his



opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. "No," the sensei insisted, "Let him

continue." Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament.

He was the champion. On the way home, the boy and the sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind.

"Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defence for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength.

Moral: Sometimes we feel that we have certain weaknesses and we blame God, the circumstances or ourselves but we never know if our weaknesses can become our strengths one day. Each of us is special and important, so never think you have any weakness, never think of pride or pain, just live your life to its fullest and extract the best out of it!



Terry Neild
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Lamerton Hall
Green Hill
Lamerton

chair@lamerton-hall.co.uk

Dear Residents of Lamerton

Lamerton Hall: A Call for Volunteers!

As you all know, Lamerton Hall is a vital community hub, hosting diverse events that enrich our village life. Its continued success relies on dedicated volunteers. We urgently need more helping hands to maintain and enhance our services.

We are seeking volunteers to **join the Board of Trustees**. This is a direct opportunity to shape the Hall's future. No prior experience is necessary; just a willingness to contribute time and ideas. The Board meets quarterly, overseeing finances, bookings, and planning.

Beyond the Board, you can assist with:

Event Support: We always need assistance with setting up, running, and clearing up after events. This could involve anything from serving refreshments to helping arrange seating or managing entry.

Hall Maintenance: If you have practical skills or simply a willingness to help, we welcome volunteers to assist with general maintenance tasks, minor repairs, cleaning, and gardening to keep the Hall and its grounds looking their best.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people and contribute to our community. Your contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

If you are interested in joining the Board or helping with events/maintenance, please contact me, Terry Neild, chair@lamerton-hall.co.uk or Katie Ayland, secretary@lamerton-hall.co.uk. Alternatively, come down to one of our bi-weekly coffee mornings and speak to one of the trustees who will be in attendance. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for considering this appeal. Together, we can ensure Lamerton Hall remains a thriving heart of our village.

Warm regards,

Terry Neild,

Chairperson, Board of Trustees,

Lamerton Hall

NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL

'Let choirs make frosty nights sing,
let them tell stories of shepherds

caring for sheep, a stable, a donkey,
a star in the east, while you remember

the road to the church in the woods,
the battened door, timber trusses,'

from "Sing" (The River) by Jane Clarke 2015

Bluebell has seen a huge flock (known collectively as
'a deceit') of lapwings on Gibbet Hill near Brentor.
They are moving in towards the coast in the West from bad
weather in Eastern Europe.

There must have been nearly a thousand of them, swirling
about showing their pale, white breasts and underwings against the dark sky when they
turned.



They gather in these huge numbers in winter, though there are
many fewer than there used to be.

The 'deceit' collective comes from the Lapwing parents' tactics
when protecting their shallow ground nests and young. When
danger approaches they fly near, feigning injury or pretending
to defend a false nest site at a safe distance away from the real
one, to lure the predator away.

There is a sudden glow in the woods, where sunlight lies on
golden beech leaves, the last on a young tree, reflected in a
puddle on the track.

A clump of gold bracken catches the light.

The leaves usually fall from the canopy before those on young trees and low branches.

Trees withdraw the valuable chemicals and
minerals in green leaves back into the branches, then seal off the
leaf by a process called 'abscission'.

This process severs the leaf's attachment to the tree, which is why
leaves fall in autumn, when days grow shorter. (How to Read a
Tree by Tristan Gooley; 2023).

The Tawny Owls (as seen on the front cover) call at dusk, and also
before dawn.

Bluebell has seen a little Devil's coach-horse. It bravely threatened
her by raising its tail like a scorpion and opening its jaws. Bluebell
caught the little black beetle and took it into the dark garden to
scuttle away and hide under wet fallen leaves.

Bluebell wishes a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to all her readers.



Lamerton Handbell Ringers

Lamerton Handbell Ringers held their 52nd Annual Handbell Festival in Lamerton Parish Hall on 11th October with 9 Teams taking part. An event always very well supported with some excellent performances. The competitive element of the evening was hotly contested with The Smith Family from Cheriton Bishop winning The Mr & Mrs P Dawe Cup for best tune ringing.

The William Manning Memorial Shield for best Peal Ringing went to The Pillaton Ringers; The Hamlet Trophy for best 4 in hand ringing went to "The Beauty & The Beast (Alias Fiona and Robert Willis) with Horrabridge Primary School winning The Firkins Junior Shield and Roy Bould Cup for showing most progress. Clapper Chaos from Poole, Dorset, as last year's winners, finished off the evening playing 3 pieces including 'Pirates of the Caribbean' and they joined forces at the end with The Smith Family playing "The Circle of Life" from The Lion King - simply fantastic!!

The judges were Fergus Stracey and Allen Benstead.

Awards were presented by Geoff Hill - he had no idea he was going to do that!!

The Team support a Charity each year. So the £200 profit from the Festival, together with the £100 generous donation received from The Plymouth Soroptimists, has been donated to T.A.S.S. (Tavistock Area Support Services).

The Team are now practising regularly for events leading up to Xmas starting with taking part at Theale on Friday 28th November with 'Carols in the Barn'.

The Team gave a concert after The Plymouth Soroptimists Lunch at The Two Brides Hotel in September and were kindly presented with a cheque from Ann Keelan for TASS.



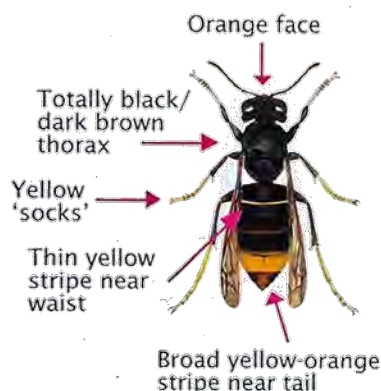
Be Alert for Asian hornets!

Asian or yellow-legged hornets (scientific name *Vespa velutina*) were accidentally introduced into France in around 2004. Now they have spread through much of Western Europe. They are serious predators of honey bees, and also attack bumblebees, solitary bees and other insects.

They defend their nests aggressively and will attack anyone who gets too close: **never approach a nest**. Since 2016, there have been sightings of the Asian hornet in the UK, and a few nests have been found.

Asian hornet

actual size



Asian hornets are generally smaller (25-30 mm head to tail) than our native hornet, the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*), which is 30-35 mm head to tail (but can seem much bigger!). They are easy to distinguish because Asian hornets are mostly dark brown/black, with yellow 'socks' and an orange-yellow band near the tail. Native hornets look like very large wasps, with brown legs and bright yellow and black/brown markings. Native hornets fly both night and day, while Asian hornets fly only during the day.

**If you see this insect
PLEASE REPORT IT!**



Asian hornet
REPORT



Native hornet
do not report

The best way to report the Asian hornet is by using the app: '**Asian Hornet Watch**', or you can send photos and location details to:
alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk

For identification help and advice in your area, go to www.bbka.org.uk (British Beekeepers' Association), hover over **Asian Hornet** and choose **Asian Hornet Action Team** map from the dropdown menu. Click on a pin on the map for local contact details.



GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG

Well, the water butts floweth over!
Bonfire Night gone and Christmas is a-coming.
Then we can settle down with Spring; get ready to welcome the daffodils.

I had the last of the tomatoes in the greenhouse in early November. There is still some kale, some chard and a few lettuce in there. Mustn't grumble. But, one thing to grumble about is Honey Fungus.

We had a Cedar tree which in recent years has been a little surrounded by the fruits, or mushrooms, of Honey Fungus. It lost its bright green colour, got rather dull, then very soon after, was dead. Honey Fungus may not have been fully responsible; it may have just stepped in and taken advantage of the poor condition. Honey fungus is very difficult, or impossible, to manage. There is no chemical treatment and even if you think there are very few mushrooms, there could be - or will be - a lot of activity under ground which you can't see and also under the bark around the base of a tree.



The RHS has a lot of information on its website. This photograph is from that site and shows the characteristics of the mushrooms.

Lots of fungi are to be admired and celebrated. Most are harmless and beneficial to the garden and us humans too.

Clearing up and getting ready for next year is a job that we should all be pursuing. I have had more success with dahlias in pots than in the beds due to the slugs.

I have now got to dry store those tubers and repot them in the spring in some fresh potting compost - then hope the slugs don't find them. I also need to restore some of the beds in the 'so called' kitchen garden area. The wood boards have rotted and the soil needs a good digging over and some compost and nutrients adding.

Putting out some battery operated LED string lights is a good idea. Then you can see there is still a garden out there when it has gone dark so early.

Rhododendron buds are already here. Spring is coming. Hang on and enjoy thinking how your garden will delight you.





Sex Please, we're Sixty: The Review!



The Milton Abbot Players annual farce!

If you have never heard of the playwrights, Susan and the late Michael Parker, where have you been?

They have produced a string of very amusing, successful and entertaining plays which have toured in the States and internationally and Susan's publisher Concord Theatricals won a number of theatrical awards on both sides of the pond!

So enough of my drivel, on to the play!

The character around whom the play is centred is Bud Davis a leaching lothario who lives next door to a small B'n' B hotel and spends his time tracing and chasing his paramours from previous years and holidays. That well known "board treader" Mike Forster from Scotland uses his background to play the part brilliantly.

To the question "what does a Scotsman wear under his kilt" he reveals all, but it is not what you would expect!

Apart from the straight laced hotel owner Mrs Stancliffe impeccably played by Samantha Leach and Henry Mitchell played by Tony Isbell (who idolises her), all the other three guests are conquests of "Bud the Stud" in prior years.

When they realise that Bud wishes to "renew old acquaintances" they decide to work together.

The discovery that Henry is a pharmacist who believes he has found the female viagra pill makes Bud try and spike the girls drinks so he can [insert your imagination!].

However the three girls Victoria Ambrose (played by Sue Champion), Hilary Hudson (played by Norma Massey) and Charmaine Beauregard (played by Susan Forster) get together and feed the female Viagra pills to Bud and Henry.

They have a complete personality change as they appear to be going through the menopause!

The audience were in hysterics, every line was a laugh, the ladies got their own back. Bud the Stud is now Bud the Dud.

Will next year be another Parker play? Only one way to find out!

When I went the Lamerton Village Hall was packed, better book early.

Stage Door Johnnie (or Jenny?)



Advent Carols at Theale



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



Friday 28th November at 6.00pm



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



South Tamar
Mission Community

Safeguarding

Please report any safeguarding concerns to
your Parish Safeguarding Representative,
or to our Priest in Charge, Rev Gill George (07947 604160).



Lamerton: Julie Hibbert 01822 618221 or julie.hibbert3@btinternet.com

Sydenham Damerel: Janet Giles on JLGiles89@yahoo.co.uk

Milton Abbot/Dunterton: Derek Youds on dyouds@aol.com;

Coryton: Jane Vicat 01822 860254 or janevicat@gmail.com

Marystowe: Anita Townsend 01822 860123 or email
mongoosemoondaisy12@gmail.com

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

Cultivate



'Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you' – 2 Timothy 1:6

A new year. A new start. A new development. Perhaps it's time to Cultivate. Cultivate is the Diocese of Exeter's list of free opportunities for learning something new, or developing existing skills. There are plenty of courses on offer, of different types and interests, and some are in person at various venues, and lots are online. These are all courses which support us in growing the church wherever we are. If you don't feel able to participate, that doesn't stop you praying for someone who can—the church depends on it.

"We are all learners, and we never stop learning. We are learning about God, learning about different ministries, learning about ourselves and one another, developing skills such as listening, preaching, leadership, governance and so on. Whoever you are and whatever journey you are on, there is always more to learn. "

- Ian Bussell, Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry

Courses starting soon:

Running a children's experience event in church. Tues 27th Jan, 1 hour online at either 1.30pm or 8pm. *Although I've led these before I'm planning to do this course because it's useful to have fresh ideas. Do join me if you have an interest—Gill.*

Growing Ministry to Children & Families in your Churches and Communities.

Sat 7th March, one day event at Cullompton Community Centre.

This one day event will include the latest research, innovative ideas, workshops, and plenty of support, inspiration and fun! Speakers and workshops include Bishop James Grier, Begin Well, Kids Mater, Hygge Church, Brick Church, and Adventure Church and more! *This is a Mission Shed event—I can highly recommend!*

Environment is a tool for Mission. On Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm on zoom there's a session exploring the 'Eco Church' scheme, with a look at how each category can be used for mission. *Many years ago I heard A Rocha, the organisation who began the Eco Church scheme, speak about their plans for Eco Church. I can commend it because it's comprised of really sensible simple things. Do not confuse this with some of the slightly daft 'eco' schemes. Eco Church is really useful all round! In fact, Milton Abbot school will be doing some with us soon.*

And to end, here's one I'd be glad of some help with—getting our message out there. Lots of people do various parts of this, and it would be good to have that teamwork recognised and supported.

The Digital Ministry Grow Course is aimed at "anyone involved in church communications and tech or anyone who would like to be. Over five weeks we will look at the theology of Digital Ministry and cover practical skills for good communications and engagement in church services, on social media, through church websites and in print too. The course will be delivered by the Diocese of Exeter Communications and Engagement team with contributions from guest experts."

Unsurprisingly, this digital communications course is delivered online, on five Monday evenings from 7pm to 8.15pm, as follows:

2nd February
9th February
2nd March
9th March
16th March.

Who is it for? Anyone involved in church comms, social media, magazine editing, church website, promoting events, producing posters, or supporting people doing any of the above—including your vicar!

This is just a small taster of what's available to help grow your local church. The most effective thing we can be doing is praying, but it's good to put what we can in place from our end while we're doing that!

You can see more details of everything available on the sign-up sheet <https://bookwhen.com/exeterdiocese/e/ev-sric-20260202190000> or email mandm@exeter.anglican.org. They're very friendly!

- Rev Gill



Lamerton Art Group

We are looking for new members!

We are a small friendly group of artists who support and help one another. We have the occasional inspiration of a demonstration or talk by a professional artist.

We meet on Thursday mornings between 10am and 1pm at the Lamerton Community Centre.

Do come and join us.

Please contact: **Elaine Price, email: elainejprice@hotmail.co.uk**



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Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Vaughan Williams

O magnum mysterium - Lauridsen

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Free for U18s



The poster is designed to look like a hand-drawn notice on a grid background. It features a green dashed border. At the top left is a logo of three stylized figures under a house. At the top right is a green star. A blue speech bubble on the right says 'SAVE THE DATES!'. A green megaphone is on the right side. A lightbulb icon is on the left. A blue speech bubble on the left says 'WANT TO ADD AN EVENT... CONTACT US'. Dashed arrows point from the dates to the event descriptions. The events are listed with dates in large green and blue letters. The bottom of the poster has contact information in green letters.

LAMERTON HALL Upcoming Events

30 AUG **CHESTNUT APPEAL INFORMATION MORNING - 10AM TO 12PM**
The Chestnut Appeal are attending our coffee morning to give advice and information about prostate, penile and testicular cancers, providing support and raising awareness for men's health issues

26 SEP **HARVEST AUCTION - 6.30PM**
Our annual Harvest Auction is packed with local goods, hearty treats, and fabulous opportunities! Come bid, mingle and enjoy an autumn evening bursting with community spirit and festive fun with a pasty and a pint.

25 OCT **AUTUMN QUIZ - 7PM**
Another chance to be crowned the winner of the Lamerton Hall Quiz nights or go home with a wooden spoon...come along and test your knowledge. BYO drinks and snacks.

29 NOV **CHRISTMAS FAIR - 10AM TO 1PM**
The annual Christmas Fair, this year run by FOLS is a lovely celebration of all things Christmas and food. Come along and enjoy the festivities.

13 DEC **CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAWER - 10AM TO 12PM**
Our Christmas Hamper Drawer will be taking place at our coffee morning with lots of lovely hampers for the winners.

13 DEC **CHRISTMAS QUIZ - 7PM**
Come along by yourself or with a team of six for a fun night of quizzing at the final quiz night of the year.

SAT **COFFEE MORNINGS - EVERY OTHER SATURDAY - 10AM**

TUES **BINGO - EVERY OTHER TUESDAY - 7PM**

**CONTACT US: 01822 618330
HALL@LAMERTON-HALL.CO.UK**

LAMERTON WI

Tuesday 2nd December 2:00pm

WI Christmas Party!

Competition: Key Ring

Raffle and Tea

Tuesday 6th January 2.00pm

Resolutions

Competition: Fridge Magnet

Raffle and Tea

All meetings held at Lamerton Village Hall

New members welcome

Put date in your Diary

Lamerton Summer Fair

and Duck Race 🦆🦆🦆🦆🦆

Saturday 18th July 2026

Incorporating

theWI

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WI Garden Produce

and Craft Show



Classes and Exhibits will be in the next Parish Magazine

*and the
Winner is..*

Lucky Lamerton Lottery!

The winning numbers are:

October 2025 – 4

November 2025 – 14

Congratulations to our winners

All proceeds go towards St Peters Church, Lamerton.



Coffee @ St. Mary's Sydenham Damerel

First Saturday of every month
10.30am onwards
All welcome.

COFFEE & COMPANY



Come and join us for a coffee, some cake, and
chit chat or a board game.

Every other Friday, 10am-12pm, at the Priest
Room (Chapel) by St Peter's Church,
Lamerton.

Everyone welcome!

After the success of the Warm Hub, several people wished
to carry on meeting and wanted more people to come
along too, so we have relaunched as Coffee & Company.

Coffee & Company will be on the alternate week to the
village coffee morning that takes place on a Saturday every
other week, but do check the church calendar regularly as it
doesn't always follow an exact alternating pattern:
www.southtamar.church/calendar/

We would love you to join us.

Mid-week Holy Communion



**Every Wednesday morning at 10 am
in the Priests room at Lamerton**

The service is a quiet,
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www.magpc.co.uk



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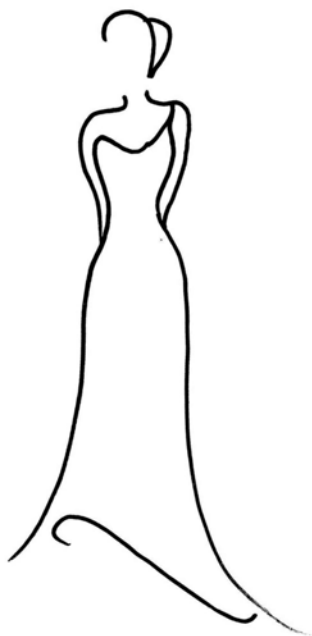


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Church Services for January 2026

Sun 4th Jan Epiphany	10.30am Holy Communion Marystowe					6.30pm BCP Evensong Lamerton
Sun 11th Jan Baptism of Christ / Plough Sunday		10.30am Holy Communion Sydenham Damerel	11.15am Morning Prayer Coryton		4pm Plough Sunday Praise A Shared Celebration in the Priest Room at Lamerton	
Sun 18th Jan Epiphany 2	9.30am Morning Praise Marystowe	11am Holy Communion Lamerton				
Sun 25th Jan Epiphany 3		11am Holy Communion A Milton Abbot Service held in the Priest Room, Lamerton		4pm Holy Communion Coryton	6.30pm Songs of Praise Sydenham Damerel	
Wednesdays	10am Midweek Communion in the Priest Room, Church Avenue, Lamerton PL19 8RN				Please scan QR code for info on all our events 	

Church Services for December 2025

Sun 7th Dec Advent 2	11.15am BCP Communion Coryton		2.30pm Advent Carol Service Dunterton	4pm Crib & Christingle Service Lamerton		
Sat 13 th Dec	5.30pm Carols, Panto, Crafts and BBQ at Marystowe					
Sun 14th Dec Advent 3	9.30am Morning Praise Marystowe	10.30am Holy Communion Sydenham Damerel		4pm Carols & Christingle Milton Abbot		
Saturday 20 th Dec				4pm Carols & Christingle Coryton		
Sun 21st Dec Advent 4		11am Holy Communion Milton Abbot		6.30pm Carol Service Sydenham Damerel	6.30pm Carol Service Lamerton	
Wed 24th Dec Christmas Eve			4pm Crib Service Milton Abbot	6pm Carols round the Tree & 6.30pm Communion Marystowe		11.30pm Midnight Mass Lamerton
Thu 25th Dec Christmas Day	9am Communion & Breakfast Dunterton	10.30am Holy Communion Sydenham Damerel	11.15am Holy Communion Coryton			
Sun 28th Dec Christmas 1	11am United Benefice Holy Communion Milton Abbot		6.30pm Songs of Praise Sydenham Damerel			
Please scan QR code for info on all our events 						
Wednesdays	10am Midweek Communion* in the Priest Room, Church Avenue, Lamerton PL19 8RN (*except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve)					

