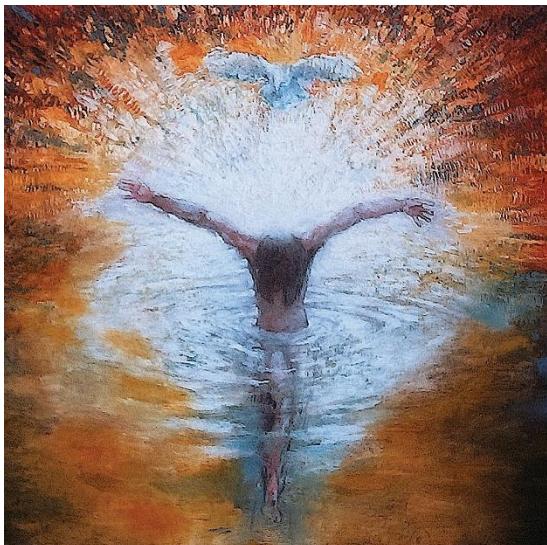


THE TORRIDGE TEAM LINK

***Bringing Together the Parishes
of the Torridge Team***



“This is my Son whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
(Matthew 3: 17)

January 2026

***Buckland Filleigh, Huish, Langtree, Merton, Newton St. Petrock,
Peters Marland, Petrockstowe, Shebbear, Sheepwash***
Website: torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

Collects for the Month

Jan 4th: Epiphany

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:

guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jan 11th: Epiphany 1

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord, and know ourselves as your beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Jan 18th: Epiphany 2

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jan 25th: Epiphany 3

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed; anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Saint of the Month

St. Rumon of Tavistock: January 5th



You may well have seen this school in Tavistock. Just before you come into the town from this side, it

is there on your right: St. Rumon's School. The only trace of St. Rumon left in Tavistock.

But centuries ago he was as well known as Francis Drake. Actually better, since Drake hadn't been born! In medieval times he drew the pilgrims to the abbey at Tavistock. They came to view the relics of St. Rumon.

Or Ruan as he is known in Cornwall. Quite possibly a monk from Glastonbury, he set up a community on The Lizard in the 6th century. In that area there are a collection of places with Ruan in their names.

From there he went to Brittany, where he died. Initially buried there, his relics were brought back to Cornwall.

Until the abbot of Tavistock wanted some relics to draw the pilgrims to his new abbey. Apparently Ruan's would do. So on 5th January, 981 they brought them to Tavistock. The abbey was jointly dedicated to the Virgin Mary and to Rumon.

Rumon – or Ruan – remains the patron of Tavistock today.

SERVICES IN JANUARY

	Jan 4th: Epiphany	Jan 11th: Epiphany 1
Buckland Filleigh		11.00am Morning Worship
Langtree	11.00am Chapel	11.00am Communion
Merton/ Huish		
Newton St. P	10.30am Chapel	9.30am Communion
Peters Marland	9.30am Communion	
Petrockstowe	11.00am Morning Worship 6.00pm Evening Worship	11.00am Moring Worship
Shebbear	11.00am Communion	10.30am Lake Chapel
Sheepwash	11.00am Methodist (in church/ hall)	2.45pm Baptist

	Jan 18 th : Epiphany 2	Jan 25 th : Epiphany 3
Buckland Filleigh		4.00pm Evening Worship
Langtree		11.00am Morning Worship
Merton/Huish	9.30am Communion (Merton)	9.30am Communion
Newton St. P	11.00am Morning Worship	10.30am Café Church
Peters Marland		
Petrockstowe	11.00am Sacrament	11.00am Morning Prayer
Shebbear	10.00am B'fast Church	10.30am Lake Chapel
Sheepwash	11.00am Communion	

Worship by Phone



Sunday at 4.00pm

Phone 0330-606-0403

You will be asked for an access code: 251417#

This year's Gospel

The Gospel according to Matthew



The story of Jesus doesn't begin with Jesus. God had been at work for a long time. Salvation, which is the main business of Jesus, is an old business. Jesus is the coming together in the final form of themes and energies and movements that had been set in motion before the foundation of the world.

SAINT MATTHEW

Matthew opens the New Testament by setting the local story of Jesus in its world context. He makes sure that as we read his account of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we see the connections with everything that has gone before. 'Fulfilled' is one of Mathew's characteristic verbs: such and such happened 'that it might be fulfilled.' Jesus is unique, but he is not odd.

Better yet, Matthew tells the story in such a way that not only is everything previous to us completed in Jesus; we are completed in Jesus. Every day we wake up in the middle of something that is already going on, that has been going on for a long time: genealogy and geology, history and culture, the cosmos – God. We are neither accidental nor incidental to the story. We get orientation, briefing, background, reassurance.

Matthew provides the comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all the parts of our lives – work, family, friends, memories, dreams – also completed in Jesus. Lacking such a context, we are in danger of seeing Jesus as a mere diversion from the concerns announced in the newspapers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Taken from 'The Message'

Eugene Peterson

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January

Each year we are invited to pray for our working and living together as Christian people. Through the centuries, it has been the curse of the church that we fall out with each other. At times it has been extreme with persecution and killings.

In the early days, there were fierce disputes between Christians with different understandings of the person of Jesus. Before long the church in the West fell out with that in the East focussed on Constantinople. The Reformation period of the 16th century and beyond was a terrible period of religious antagonism between Catholic and Protestant. We still its remains in Northern Ireland. And then the fragmentation of Protestantism into umpteen denominations, be they Methodist, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Assemblies of God, etc, etc. Two chapels not so far from here were within spitting distance of each other. 'I know,' said a neighbour, "because I have done it.'

So praise God that we work so much more closely today. There is much to give thanks for. But it can't be taken for granted. Hence the annual prayer for Christian unity. If we are to be anything, we are rooted together in person of Jesus Christ.

Join, as you can,

- to give thanks for the unity we do share,
- to seek God's continued purpose for us together, and
- to pray for our mission to our communities.



Mon 19th

10.00am Huish
11.00am Buckland Filleigh

Fri 23rd

10.30am Petrockstowe
12noon Langtree
2.00pm Newton St. Petrock

Wed 21st

12noon Shebbear (following coffee)

Sat 24th

10.00am Sheepwash (Coffee and
prayer)

Thurs 22nd

11.00am Peters Marland (Coffee
and prayer)
3.00pm Merton (Tea and prayer)

Praying for Venezuela.

Firstly, where is Venezuela? It is not a country most of us know much about at all. Venezuela is in South America at the very top, facing on to the Caribbean.



Why is it in the news? Most immediately, because the extraordinary raid by the US to capture its president. Maduro was re-elected in 2024, in what is widely regarded as a rigged election. Under his presidency, the economy has collapsed, corruption is rife, repression is considerable and the drug trade is thriving.

This has all resulted in a significant migrant exodus from the country, many ending up in the US.

And then there is the oil. The country has the biggest reserves in the world.

What about the Church there? Over 90% of the country claim to be Christian, most Catholic. For many of those, that is a traditional family faith. It goes back to the Spanish conquest in the 16th century. But Evangelical/ Protestant churches are growing significantly as in many parts of Latin America.

The regime has often labelled the Catholic Church as 'evil'; but unless they co-operate with the government, evangelicals are just as much likely to be oppressed. There is a small evangelical group which works with the government, and hence has access to grants, social aid, etc. The key is support of the government.

Oppression has been very real: long delays in church registration, prison, discrimination, etc. Violence has been less in recent years, but is still very much there with the criminal gangs. Society is dominated by fear.

What has been the reaction? Many Christians have welcomed the overthrow of the President. They have been praying for his removal for years. Proverbs 11: 10 describes their feeling: '*when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.*' But it is a hard road ahead. Maybe the Church can be a healing agent in a deeply wounded nation. Pray for the country in the weeks ahead, especially.

EVENTS.....EVENTS

Times of Prayer

Weekly

Fri 9am Morning Prayer online
Ask Martin for the Zoom link
Fri 10.30am Petrockstowe Chapel

Monthly

Sat 10th, 9.30am Sheepwash
Church

Meetings

Mon 19th 7.30pm Shebbear PCC
Wed 21st 7.00pm Clinton School
Governors
Th 22nd 2.00pm Merton PCC
7.00pm Petrockstowe
Church Council
Mon 26th 7.30pm Langtree PCC
Wed 28th 2.30pm Newton PCC

Coffee Mornings

Mondays 9.15am Tea and Tots
(Petrockstowe Chapel)
Wed 7th, 21st 10.30am
(Shebbear Ch Room)
Thurs 15th 11.00am
(Peters Marland Hall)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jan 18th – 25th

*Look out for details of prayer
around the churches.*

Farewell Service

*Sending Catherine off with God's
blessing*

Sun 1st February
11.00am
Petrockstowe Chapel
Shared lunch to follow

Dates for 2026

Wed 11th Feb Visit by Bishop
Moira
Wed 18th Feb Ash Wednesday
Wed 25th Feb 3.00pm Deanery
Synod
Th 5th Mar 7.00pm Team
Council
Sun 5th Apr Easter Day
Sun 21st Jun Visit by Bishop
Mike

For your Prayers

- Pray for Buckland Filleigh. Give thanks for the church and the relationship with Buckland House.
- Pray for Jewish people everywhere: for their safety and peace.
- In this new year, ask God about his longings for you and for our churches for the months ahead.
- Hold Catherine in prayer as she prepares to move on from here.
- As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, pray for those who have been baptised here, especially those recently – and for those preparing for baptism.
- January sees the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan 18th -25th). Give thanks for our working together across the churches here, and pray for God's continued leading.

Readings for the month

On occasions, other readings may be chosen.

Jan 4th: Epiphany (white)

Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

Jan 11th: Epiphany 1 (white)

Acts 10: 34-43
Matthew 3: 13-17

Jan 18th: Epiphany 2 (white)

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

Jan 25th: Epiphany 3 (white)

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23

Feb 1st: Candlemas (white)

Malachi 3: 1-5
Luke 2: 22-40

Local Church Staff:

Clergy: Revd Martin Warren, The Rectory, Shebbear (01409-281424); Revd Julie Cartwright (01409-281554); Revd Catherine Duff (07717-209484)

Lay Ministers: Jon Berry (07807-0581881)

Safeguarding Officers: Carol Wakeling (07817-742880), Sarah Huxtable (07765-497711)

Methodist ministers: Frank Watson (Torridge Circuit) 07446 157329; Revd Chris Jackson (West Devon Circuit) 01837-52302.

Baptist Contacts: Pat Hindmarch (Newton St. Petrock) 01409 261758 ; Martin Goord (Sheepwash) 01837-810136

Prayer Hub: Penny Warren (01409-281424)