

The Net

February 2026

There is no greatness without
simplicity, goodness, and truth.

Leo Tolstoy



Exmouth Harbour

The Mission Community of Littleham, Holy Trinity, Exmouth & Lymstone

Exmouth Coastal Churches



Introducing ChurchSuite - our new church admin software

As our community continues to grow, we want to ensure that staying connected and involved is as simple and secure as possible. We are delighted to announce that we are moving our church administration to **ChurchSuite**, a software platform designed specifically to help churches flourish.

Lymstone have been testing the system over the past few months, and we are now ready to add the Littleham and Holy Trinity congregations to the platform.

Why are we using ChurchSuite?

Through a personalized portal called **My ChurchSuite**, you will have a "window" into the life of our church. By using the mobile app or a web browser, you will be able to:

Stay Updated: Easily view our church calendar and sign up for upcoming events.

Manage Your Details: Keep your contact information up to date so we never miss a connection.

Rotas & Groups: View your serving schedules and stay in touch with your small groups.

Church Directory: Opt-in to a secure digital directory to help you put faces to names.

Your Privacy and Security

We understand that your personal data is a matter of vital trust. ChurchSuite is built with **industry-leading security** and is fully GDPR compliant, giving stronger protection than our existing mix of manual and computer systems.

Importantly, **you are in total control**. You decide exactly how much of your information is visible to other church members. Whether you want to share your full contact details or remain completely private in the directory, the choice is always yours. Our admin team is committed to maintaining the highest standards of data protection.

If you would like to read the full details of our privacy and data protection policy, these will be available at the back of church, or from the church office.

What Happens Next?

You will receive an **invitation email** from us. This email will contain a unique link to set up your My ChurchSuite account. You can then access the platform in two ways:

Via the Web: Log in through our church website.

Via the App: Download the **ChurchSuite app** from the iOS App Store or Google Play Store for the best experience on the go.

If we don't yet hold an email address for you, you will be able to let the church office know your email details so they can issue an invite. If you prefer not to use email at all, then your details will be stored on the ChurchSuite system, but any communication would be done manually (by hand or by post).

We believe this tool will help us spend less time on administration and more time on what matters most: our relationships with God and one another.

If you have any questions or need a hand getting set up, the team will be happy to help you, or please don't hesitate to speak to the church office.

Tim Biggs Church Tech

MISSION COMMUNITY INFORMATION

CHURCH SERVICES

<p style="text-align: center;">HOLY TRINITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Every Sunday 10.00am Sung Eucharist</p> <p>Except for Sunday 8 February when there is a Family Communion Service at 10 am. Followed by fellowship in the Hall.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">St. MARGARET & St. ANDREW LITTLEHAM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For Open to God see Link for details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 1 Feb -Candlemas 10.00 am Awake</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 8 February - 2 before Lent 10.00 am Sung Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 15 February - Sunday before Lent 10.00 am - Awake</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 18 February (Ash Wednesday) Joint Service 7.00 pm at Holy Trinity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 22 February - Lent 1 10.00 am Sung Eucharist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LYMPSTONE PARISH CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 1 Feb -Candlemas 9.30 am Journey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 8 February - 2 before Lent 8am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Sung Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 15 February - Sunday before Lent 8.00 am Holy Communion 9.30 am Journey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 18 February (Ash Wednesday) Joint Service 7.00 pm at Holy Trinity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 22 February - Lent 1 8.00 am. Morning Prayer 9.30 am - Sung Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MID WEEK SERVICES at 11.30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 February - Holy Trinity BCP 11 February - Holy Trinity CW 18 February - Lymptone CW 25 February - Holy Trinity BCP</p>
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CLERGY — READERS — STAFF

	Clergy				<i>Day Off</i>
The Revd Steven Jones	Team Rector	263681	Office	01395 266442	Friday
The Revd Benedict Cambridge	Team Vicar	263681	hours	07535480077	Thurs
The Revd Shaun Tipton	Assistant Curate	263681			
The Revd Heidi Budden	Aaaistant Curate	263681			Friday

A NEW HOME FOR FLAGS & COPY DATES

Sadly, at the moment we are unable to fly any flags at Holy Trinity

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NET

is Friday 14 February

It will be published on Sunday 1 March
Articles and pictures to Tony Mortimer
e - mail: neteditors@gmail.com

Readers and Clergy who also play an active role in the Mission Community

Readers: Demelza Henderson, Di West
Clergy: The Ven. Canon Dr Trevor Jones, Reverends. Ian Blyde, Jim Gosling, Peter Nickols Rawle, Canon John Philpott, & Canon Ian Pusey

all of whom can be contacted via the Mission Community Office



The Rector Writes on 'The Ship is Turning'

In October 2025 the Diocese of Exeter submitted a detailed bid for significant grant funding to what is known as the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (a committee of the Church Commissioners in London). The SMMIB is the grant making body of the Church Commissioners, and the grants that they offer to dioceses are only obtainable where a diocese can show that the money will be used to invest in seeing more people becoming worshippers in local Anglican congregations.

The money is not for supporting the lives of current congregations, or for social justice work, or community welfare projects. Key to these grants being made is that the SMMIB want to see dioceses fulfil the mission plans that they put forward in their bids. A central plank in SMMIB thinking is that local parishes need to work with unchurched families and children, and they need to do so right now. There is a real sense of urgency implicit in the messaging of the national Church.

This focus on families is not that the senior members of our congregations do not matter, because they really do, but that it is recognised that without engaging adults with children right now, we will not have, in five years' time, the financial and volunteer support base necessary to keep our churches operational. It is nationally recognised that within five years most of our current churchwardens and treasurers will have stepped down due to age.

Additionally, when people come to faith in Christ, it can take a few years before they are willing to serve in roles in their local church or to contribute to the financial needs of their parish. By engaging with twenty, thirty, and forty somethings now, we have a good chance of the Lord providing us with new churchwardens, treasurers, parish safeguarding representatives and volunteers in the years to come.

Earlier this month we learned that the SMMIB had awarded our diocese £10 million over 3 years, with a further £10 million over the following three years, if we demonstrate that we have achieved what we planned to do in the first three years. The SMMIB has also granted us an additional £4 million to help

us with the budget deficit we have carried as a diocese because of COVID-19.

So, what does this mean for us in Exmouth and Lympstone? Firstly, it signals that across the diocese every oar is now pulling toward family ministry and youth ministry. While we will always maintain our core Common Worship services, every church now will be expected to have a well-thought-out missional plan for engaging with children and families. Family services will now be moving from being something a 'little alternative' that we offer for those with children, to an equal central plank of our worshipping lives.

Secondly, a key part of the course change for our churches is centred around missional leadership. In the past you will have encountered vicars in the diocese who were deeply motivated by using new and creative ways of engaging non-Christian people with an exploration of the amazing story of Jesus Christ. You will also have met some vicars who just like being a cleric and serving and worshipping in the way that they are used to, and do not feel called to do anything new or novel, bold, or brave.

The clear future is that all priests in the Diocese of Exeter will now be expected to be missionally creative, bold, and brave. The grant that we have received highlights how much our Church is regaining its true missional heart and is going, once again, to the highways and byways of our communities, to find those who are presently far from God. I feel that change must really please the Lord. Certainly, these next three years will be exciting as we see how God will use £10 million across Devon to help rebuild our congregations.

Steve Jones Rector

BISHOP MIKE'S TAKE ON THE NEWS

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, said

"This is a fantastic springboard for new and creative mission and ministry across the diocese and a real vote of confidence in our plans from the national Church.

"My prayer is that this resourcing might lead many to know the love of God in Christ for them and to grow as followers of Jesus, joyfully witnessing and serving in His name."



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

The Church of England doesn't always receive very encouraging reports from the media. Maybe some of you, like me, do receive a regular email from the CofE, under the heading 'A Christian Presence in Every Community' – I feel we would do well on occasions to remember that fact and its implications. We are perhaps only too aware of the negative publicity which surrounds the church, usually saying numbers are dwindling and safeguarding issues are not being properly addressed. These negatives are true in some areas but it does not give the whole picture. There are many signs of encouragement, green shoots of new beginnings are appearing, not least amongst a younger generation growing increasingly dissatisfied with the direction in which society is moving, and seeking for something more lasting and secure. What follows is from the latest email from the C of E. The first statistic is quite amazing, as indeed are the others.

It's incredible to look back and see how many people have engaged with the Church online in 2025. Here's our top five highlights from the year in numbers:

AChurchNearYou.com has been viewed **229,182,641 times** by the public this year, with 3 May being the busiest day on the site. Dedicated editors have uploaded **108,220 services and events** to their sites, keeping people informed about what's on at their local church – a role that is so vital as we see visits to the site increase year on year.

You've spent **58,927 hours** watching our weekly online Sunday service on **YouTube**. Every week, the service reaches thousands across many countries and this year so far, **25 dioceses and 41 different parishes and teams** have been involved in making the service happen.

This spring, we celebrated 1,700 years since the development of the original Nicene Creed with a journey of reflections and special social media content – and one video quickly became your **highlight of the year**. Everyday Faith Editor, Alexandra, recorded the Nicene Creed in Old English, and her video has since had more than **634,000 views** across our social media channels.

The **Everyday Faith app** was downloaded **36,140 times** and accessed from **184 countries and territories**. With an average of **7,828 weekly users**, the app's busiest day was Ash Wednesday, when **7,048 people** kicked off Lent with our

Living Hope reflections.

On the **Daily Prayer app**, we shared more than **230 hours of worship** – and there were more than **2.3 million downloads** of Morning and Evening Prayer. You helped us reach the incredible milestone of **3.5 million listeners** since the app's launch in 2021. This year also saw the release of the very first Daily Prayer album, **The Gift of This New Day**.

You may have also spotted that 2025 was the year that the Church of England joined WhatsApp! For those who don't use social media, or just want regular, uplifting stories sent to your phone without scrolling, **follow us today**.

Thank you for being the Church, online and in every community.

In my own praying and reading during this Advent, hope has been a constantly recurrent theme, which I have noticed in areas of church and public life. I feel God may be trying to tell us something.....

This nativity scene, made entirely from bananas, was created using AI [so I understand but would not have a clue as to how] by the Rt Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, otherwise known as the Bishop of Exeter.



I hope that you, and those with whom you shared it, had a peaceful, joyous and Christ-centred Christmas, and may you look ahead to the New Year with confidence and hope in our living God.

Ian Pusey

4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

As 24th February approaches, the statistics are grim for the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Massive displacement: 6.9 million refugees have fled Ukraine, with a further 3.7 million internally displaced.

Significant casualties: Russia has hit one million casualties in all, including 250,000 soldiers killed. Ukraine has had about 53,000 casualties, including about 15,000 deaths.

Immense destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure, medical facilities and educational facilities.

Impact: Russia now occupies about 20% of Ukraine, including Crimea. Worldwide, a weakened global economy, threatened food security, and documented war crimes, including chemical weapons used by Russia.

Expense: Billions of dollars have been given in aid to Ukraine. (About \$175bn from the US, and \$197bn from EU since 2022.)

The future is unclear, but here are some memorable quotes of two leading Ukrainians:

At the start of the war, when offered evacuation from Kyiv by the U.S. government, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy famously stated, **"I need ammunition, not a ride"**.

The following day, on 25th February he emphasised Ukraine's determination, stating: **"We will be defending our country, because our weapon is truth, and our truth is that this is our land, our country, our children, and we will defend all of this"**.

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), **Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk** focuses on themes of resilience, freedom, and hope. **"Ukraine is wounded, but it is not defeated! Ukraine is exhausted, but it is standing and will remain standing! Believe me, no one thinks of giving up."**

A recurring theme in Zelenskyy's speeches is that **"Life will win over death, and the light will win over darkness"**.



...and yet the Church Mice still put it about that they were poor

CAN YOU GET ACROSS THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN TIME?

Have you ever had to hurry to make it to safely across the street because the pedestrian crossing light is about to turn red again?

If so, you are not alone. A recent study has found that pedestrian crossing timings are simply too brief for many elderly people and especially those with mobility problems.

The length of time given at crossing points usually assumes a walking speed of 1.2m per second. But the study found that the average speed of adults aged over 65 is only 0.77m per second.

So more than half of older people need to increase their normal walking speed by about 50 per cent, just to reach the other curb safely.

One of the researchers said: "This isn't just a safety issue – it's potentially a barrier to independence, physical activity, and social connection, all of which often decline in later life."

Another said: "Allowing enough time to cross the road can boost confidence, support independence, and help them remain engaged in their communities, all key to a better quality of life."

The study was published in the journal *Age and Ageing*.

A RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING HELPS YOUR HEALTH IN LATER LIFE

Elderly people who had a religious upbringing have been found to be physically healthier, according to a recent study.

Scientists believe that one reason may be that they did not use drugs, cigarettes or alcohol when they were young. The data found that such people are reporting fewer difficulties with daily activities such as dressing or washing.

The study looked at older people across Europe, and the results were published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*.

Many children in Europe who grew up after the Second World War had families who attended church on a regular basis, and who had Christian moral beliefs and values. For many children, this provided a sense of meaning in life, and a sense of belonging. They felt more 'connected', and hence more mentally and physically stable.



ECO CHURCH UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2026

Our Mission Community has been part of Eco Church for over three years, earning one gold and two silver awards.

Looking Forward:

We need to involve more people, both within our Christian Community and outside. We need your prayers and guidance on how to proceed. For a start, Sue and Roger have joined the Creation Care Leaders course (a joint venture by the Exeter and Truro dioceses). Amongst other learning points, this will give us more theological insight into this topic which we can share with you. The first talk focussed on the five Eco Church categories with interesting ideas from other churches.

- Eco Services for schools.
- Pilgrimages in our area.
- Space for prayer and reflection.
- Community involvement in new initiatives.
- Growing local flowers for events.
- Arts and Crafts.
- Discovery trails in churchyards.
Swap shop for items to be reused.

If you have any ideas/thoughts, please let us know.

You can contact us at ecomoseley@yahoo.com

We were reminded of things we should all already be doing.

- Include creation care in our prayers.
- Reduce our carbon footprint at home.
- Support wildlife in our gardens.
- Walk, share lifts, or use public transport.
- Buy local food and reduce waste.
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Be involved in the community (Exmouth is recognised for its Eco efforts) Share what our church is doing, share what you are doing, invite others to events, and help spread the message of caring for God's creation.

RECENT EVENTS

It was good to see recycled Christmas Decorations in our churches, some had been reused for many years, and others handmade from waste materials.

The Eco Christmas Cards raised money for the Youth Taizé trip as well as reducing waste.

The Churchyard Volunteers meet regularly at Littleham Churchyard.

The U3a Caring for the Planet group, organised by Sue, regularly discusses Climate and the Environment information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next ECO CHURCH COFFEE MORNING is on THURSDAY 12th February. Refreshments from 10am. We have a talk by Carolyn Dare, on FOOD. She has sent us this introduction.

Food waste is one of the biggest environmental challenges we face, with the UK alone throwing away around ten million tonnes of food each year—most of it from our own homes. This waste doesn't just cost households money; it also wastes the energy, water, and resources used to produce, transport, and store that food.

In our discussion we will explore how we can reduce our environmental impact by planning meals, storing food properly, and making better use of leftovers,

Carolyn is a leader of Community Action Groups Devon. It will be an interesting talk and discussion. Bring your food questions and ideas and of course your friends. We look forward to learning more, and working together. Everyone's involvement matters – please contact us with your ideas.

Sue and Roger Moseley

MISSION COMMUNITY OFFICIALS & CONTACT DETAILS

Mission Community Administrator Karen Hoole

Mission Community Office, Holy Trinity Church, Rolle Road, Exmouth EX8 2AB Tel: 01395 263681

Churchwardens

Holy Trinity	Mike Goom	07973 642105	Paul Stock	
Deputy	Sue Carrahar	222631		
Littleham	Stephen Thomas	07713 517688	Debbie Frost	223026
Lympstone	John & Ann John Billington	263681		

Hon Treasurers	Holy Trinity & Littleham	Clive House 263681	Lympstone	Michael Totterdell
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As many of us at Holy Trinity and elsewhere are already aware, our beloved Muriel Hiney went to be with the Lord on the evening of Saturday 24th January. She died in Portsmouth with both her sons at her side.

Thomas [Fr. Thomas Hiney] has been in touch and has invited me to share the following: ‘That night was the most extraordinary few hours of grace and prayer and love. I am quite overwhelmed by missing her, of course, and the source of love she was for us, but also by the pluck and childlike way she went about the last days. Suffice to say that, as hard as it was for her and for us, it was in more ways a very moving and beautiful few hours. Robin and I will never forget it. Amazing. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.’

Robin, who has accompanied his mother to services many times, has also written. He says, ‘Mum loved the Holy Trinity community so very much. She had such a strong faith and it is a great comfort to know that she is with the Lord.’

Those of us who have been here a while will remember Muriel’s late husband, the Rev’d Tom Hiney, with great affection and may recall his funeral on 3rd February 2020. The service to honour Muriel is on Monday 16th February in Holy Trinity, the time is yet to be confirmed. I hope many will come to give thanks for this very gracious, kind and prayerful lady who has done so much up front in church and behind the scenes in the community in the many years she has lived here.

Ian Pusey



Hospiscare’s much-loved Men’s Walk returns on **Saturday 7 March 2026** at **Double Locks, Exeter**. Join more than a thousand like-minded walkers for a day of purpose, connection and great company.

Take on the 7-mile route, celebrate your achievement with a **well-earned pint and a delicious pasty**, and help make a real difference for local people living with terminal illness across **Exeter, central and east Devon**.

With **five consecutive sell-outs**, this iconic event fills fast — don’t miss your chance to be part of it.

It was 175 years ago, on 1st Feb 1851 that novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53. Best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*.

125 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1901 that the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

80 years ago, on 11th Feb 1946, that the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version was published in 1611.

Also 80 years ago, on 14th Feb 1946 that the Bank of England was nationalised.

Also 80 years ago, on 19th Feb 1946 that mathematician and cryptanalyst Alan Turing presented a detailed paper for the national Physical Laboratory that gave the first reasonably complete design of a stored-programme computer.

70 years ago, on 11th Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

65 years ago, on 9th Feb 1961 that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1976 that John Curry won Britain’s first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating.

Also 50 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1976 that artist the L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.

40 years ago, on 12th Feb 1986 that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on 1st Feb 1996 that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Also 30 years ago, on 15th Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

25 years ago, on 12th Feb 2001 that the Human Genome Project announced the publication of the first complete working draft of the human genome.

Also 25 years ago, on 19th Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.

20 years ago, on 18th Feb 2006 that the Rolling Stones played the world’s largest free rock concert on Copaca-

THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY BRINGS THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL OF
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE,
TRADITIONALLY KNOWN AS CANDLEMAS.

Mary the mother of Christ is also celebrated at this point of the year. The feast of Candlemas tells the story of Mary and Joseph taking the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to dedicate him to God. In our gospel reading today we hear how they come to the Temple to offer a sacrifice in thanksgiving for their child.

The offering that Luke describes - a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons - identifies Mary and Joseph among the poor of the land. But they bring with them a far greater gift: the child who is destined to bring light to the nations.

As they enter the Temple, Mary and Joseph are approached by the wise and aged Simeon, who praises God for the child who will bring light to the whole world. Having seen the promised holy child, Simeon places himself into God's hands knowing that the end of his life is near.

As Simeon holds the Christ child in his arms, he also places himself into God's hands as he says:

God you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation.

This is a bitter-sweet moment, because from this point Simeon knows at the end of his life may not be far off, moving from one season to the next. These are the words of the song we know as the Nunc Dimittis, said or sung at the end of each day in churches throughout the world.

Simeon also speaks forbidding words to Mary: there will be opposition to her son, and suffering and sorrow which will pierce Mary's heart like a sword. Today, for Mary, motherhood is a source of joy and pride but, as Luke will go on to tell in his story, this will not always be so.

In his poem *Mother and Child*, Charles Causley reflects on the image of Mary bearing the bright light of the Christ-child into the darkness of the world he comes to enlighten.

Mother and Child (American Primitive)

Holding in clear hands
The world's true light
She lifts its perfect flame
Against the night.

About its pulse of fire
Earth and seas run,
Season and moon and star,
The unruly sun.

Upon the hill a scuffed
Thinness of snow,
First of green thorn, a stream
Stopped in its flow.

She keeps within her hand
The careful day
Now the slow wound of night
Has bled away:

Vivid upon her tongue
Unspoken prayers
That she may not outlive
The life she bears.

~ Charles Causley

As we reflect on that encounter in the Temple, we are invited to be present with God as Simeon was, to be present in each moment, and to be open to letting events unfold our lives.

TOOT 'N TELL

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "It was a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theater seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock'n'roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "but I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that."



*But the flashing neon
sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to
Hell' cannot stay on the
church roof.*

CELEBRATIONS

BISHOP SARAH BECOMES ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE has today become the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, at her Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral. She is the first woman to hold the office in its 1,400-year history.

The Confirmation of Election is a legal ceremony, set within a church service, at which Bishop Sarah, the Archbishop-Elect, legally became the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SOME OF THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT HOLY TRINITY



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



For Keith Moore his was a big round 80 which merited wine and cake,, Tony and Hilary Mercer more ordinary numbers to celebrate.

INTRODUCING CARL STEELE, THE NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Carl Steele is a long-time friend of mine and we studied together in law school at the University of Exeter. Carl is a solicitor and has a very sharp mind. He wishes to donate a day a week to help me and our churches to function well. Carl will be helping me with some major projects that have been difficult to move forward due to a lack of available time. Carl will normally work Thursdays and will be based at Holy Trinity Church. To say that Carl's offer of help is an answer to prayer is a serious understatement! I have asked Carl to introduce himself to you, and he does that below.

If you see Carl about, please stop and make him feel welcome among us.

Steve Jones
Rector

Hello Everyone,



My name is Carl, and I'm delighted to join the team, 1 day a week as a volunteer, to assist Steve with various administrative and operational management issues.

By way of background, I'm 54 years old, married to Sarah (my rock), with two children, Evie (23 years old and now living in Bristol) and Libby (18 years old). Sarah, Libby and I live in a small village called Cheriton

Fitzpaine, in Mid Devon, where we have lived very happily for the past 20 years.

I've been practicing as a qualified solicitor since 1997, specialising in IP law, handling both contentious and non-contentious matters. I started my career in London, spending 10 years working for Taylor Wessing. In 2004, my wife, Evie, and I moved to Devon. For 20 years I worked for Ashfords LLP in Exeter, being a partner in the firm for 17 of those 20 years. In late 2024 I decided to resign as a Partner and leave the firm, wishing to only work part time as a solicitor. I now work three days a week for Haseltine Lake Kempner LLP in Bristol. On Thursdays, I will be working for and with Steve at Holy Trinity Church. I also teach swimming to pre-school and early-stage school children at Crediton Leisure Centre on Sunday mornings. It's both the most challenging and fun 2 hours of my week!

In my spare time, I am the Chair of the Trustees of Cheriton Fitzpaine's Parish Hall. I am also a keen sportsman (both participating and watching). I attend the gym regularly, swim, run, cycle, play golf and surf (both badly). I love being active and enjoying the great outdoors

I first met Steve in 1990, when we were both studying law as undergraduates at Exeter University, and from which we both graduated in 1993. We have remained friends ever since, although we lost touch for a few years, until late 2024, when by chance my wife and I attended a

concert at Holy Trinity Church, and we discovered Steve was the rector. We soon rekindled our friendship, and in early 2024 I started volunteering once a month to assist Steve with a few tasks on his 'administrative things-to-do' list – which never seems to end!

I am very excited about my new role at The Mission Community of Littleham, Exmouth & Lypmstone and I

A SAD YET JOYFUL OCCASION



After being in existence for many years Holy Trinity's Mothers' Union held its final meeting, in the Coffee Bar, on Thursday 18th December 2025 when, after holding the post for eight years, Brenda Lowes retired as Coordinator.

A most informative talk, was given by Santa Claus (The Revd. Ian Blyde), fully attired in his Christmas Outfit, the ladies thoroughly enjoyed a most enjoyable summary of the Christmas Story, not only the birth of Baby Jesus, but, how Christmas customs came into being, throughout the world, after his birth.

Of course the meeting ended with Teas, homemade cake and a little chat!

MENS BREAKFAST



The next Breakfast will be on Saturday 14th February 2026. Details as usual: The Toby Carvery, Lypmstone, at 8.15am for 8.30 start. Cost £10.50 payable in cash on arrival. Our Speaker will be Keith Moore: his talk is entitled 'A White Boy in Africa'. PLEASE do book and not just turn up! And another 'please' - Collect your coffee/tea mug from the tray in our room, not from anywhere else. This is to confirm our numbers.

Bob Soutter: 01395 273400, or rjsoutter@aol.com.

*Robert J Soutter FCIB
12 Westlands,*

NICE SERMON VICAR !



Who Can Fix the World?

The close of each year offers a vital moment for reflection—on our world, our nation, and our own community of Exmouth. The start of the New Year arrives with its promise of fresh beginnings and invites us to pause and ask: Where are we as a human race? What is

working? What is failing? What must we learn? How can 2026 be different?

The end of 2025 revealed several troubling truths about our world. First, humanity's tolerance for suffering has grown disturbingly high. The devastation in Israel and Gaza, and the immense loss of innocent life, has been met with a muted global response. Every human life matters - "every single one" -yet our collective conscience appears dulled. This desensitisation raises serious concerns for how other vulnerable people groups in the world will be treated in the year ahead.

Second, the ongoing war in Ukraine continues without resolution. After three years since invasion, and a spiralling loss of life, and after many global attempts at intervention, no leader has been able to halt Russia's aggression. This threat to world peace sits close to home. No one seems to have any answer.

Third, instead of being filled with peace and goodwill, our society has become increasingly divided. People on the street seem to avoid conversation, even eye contact. Meanwhile, successive British governments seem unable to address the nation's financial, social, and cultural crises. And despite rapid scientific and technological progress, life on Earth does not seem to be improving.

Against this bleak backdrop, the message of the Nativity speaks with renewed power. Over two thousand years ago, in Bethlehem, God entered the world as a human child—Jesus Christ. The Book of Hebrews reminds us that for centuries God spoke through the prophets, and yet humanity did not listen. So, God sent His Son to bear the cost of human sin and to show us how to live in harmony with God and one another. The One who hung on the Cross is the same divine One through whom the world was made.

Jesus came as light in darkness, calling people to repent of cruelty, violence, selfishness, deceit, and self-worship. Isaiah foretold a future world of healing and peace, but only if humanity obeys God. The Prophet Micah 6:8 summarises God's desire for us:

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God."

This is not how the world has lived in 2025. Millions of people have acted unjustly, been merciless, and have ignored God. St John's Prologue proclaims that all who receive Jesus and trust Him become children of God, renewed by the Holy Spirit and empowered to live with justice, mercy, and humility. Surrendering to God makes transformation possible—personally and globally. The world can and will change as people surrender to God's love and direction.

Jesus declared, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been granted to Me." Therefore, the hope of the world does not lie in governments, treaties, or policies, but in Jesus Christ. Imagine if nations chose to trust and obey God—how quickly the world would be healed. Even one faithful nation could transform the world, just as God intended with Israel.

What if renewal began with the United Kingdom? With Exmouth? With us? With you? As we enter 2026, who else other than God can we trust to heal our fragile world? Who else has shown the ability to bring light into darkness. No one else. Can I encourage you to surrender to God's love, and trust and obey Him, and be part of the coming transformation and healing of our world.

Sermon – Awake - Hello Stranger

Normally at this time of year, we would be celebrating Epiphany, so you may wonder why I chose this theme. It arose from a conversation I had after the Hot Dog Carol Service here at Littleham before Christmas. It was a lovely event, with mulled apple juice, hot dogs, and mince pies, and it was well attended. Part of the service took place in the churchyard and part inside the church.

While we were outside, I was introduced to two people by members of the congregation. I didn't have much chance to speak to them, as I was serving drinks. The following day, I asked one of those members whether they were his son and partner. He replied, "No, they were newcomers to church." What surprised me was that those newcomers felt only those two people had spoken to them.

I was genuinely surprised, because I have found Littleham to be such a friendly and welcoming church. My wife Tracey and I know this from experience. When we first arrived about two and a half years ago, nobody knew who we were or why we were here, yet we were made to feel warmly welcomed—and that has remained true ever since.

At the same time, Tracey and I have visited other churches where the service was wonderful, but no one spoke to us. Usually this isn't because people are unkind. Often it's due to large congregations, established friendship groups, or people being distracted after the service. Still, it made me reflect that even caring communities can miss people. Good intentions don't always translate into lived experience.

Our three readings today, from different parts of Scripture, share a common theme. In Leviticus, we are told not to mistreat the foreigner but to love them as ourselves. In Hebrews, we are encouraged to show hospitality to strangers, remembering that some have entertained angels without knowing it. And in Matthew 25, Jesus speaks of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and—crucially for today—welcoming the stranger.

Together, these passages remind us that every person is loved by God and worthy of dignity, respect, and care. This is not abstract theology; it is meant to be lived out in the everyday life of the Church.

Let me be clear: this talk is not about immigration policy or party politics. Whatever our personal views, Scripture consistently calls us towards compassion, hospitality, and understanding.

So what does this mean for us at Littleham? It means being attentive - watching out for those who are new, whether on a Sunday or at special events. Strangers may be people visiting for the first time, or people who have been here for a little while but whom we've never spoken to.

I know that approaching someone new isn't easy for everyone. Some people find it genuinely difficult, and that's okay. We all serve God in different ways. A welcome can be offered through serving refreshments with a smile, helping at events, cleaning the church, or supporting in quieter ways—and all of these ministries matter.

It's also fine to ask someone else to help, or to welcome someone together. And of course, wisdom is needed—not everyone wants to chat.

As I draw this to a close, let me say this: if Littleham Church were a football team, you would be challenging for the league title. But staying there takes intention. So here's the gentle challenge: can each of us, in our own way, play a part in offering a genuine Littleham Church welcome?



Begin Well

Starting blocks for family life



for now as only one of our babies has arrived at the time of writing. The hope is that they will stay in touch with each other, continue to connect with us and hopefully start to connect with the church soon too. At least one couple were very interested in starting to attend.

Photos showing the dads nappy changing race and one dad experiencing the weight carried around by a heavily pregnant lady (*I moved the picture up because I thought all of us macho men should really see what we put our wives through . Tony Mortimer Editor*)



Begin well began well! We ran our new to Exmouth, free antenatal classes from November 5th until December 10th last year for the first time with 5 lovely couples who we got to know really well. The course is good fun and interactive as you can see from the pictures and very much about the importance of community and overall health as a new parent as well as the obvious focus on labour and caring for a new baby. The lounge space at Littleham worked perfectly and the freshly baked cakes provided every week were so appreciated, especially by the dads to be. Thank you so much to the team who provided these!

Thank you also to Juliet and Sarah who both ran sessions and to tech support/welcoming from Tim B and our coffee ladies Ros and Anthea. We had a great deal of help from Rosie from Christchurch who as a current midwife at the RD&E gave considerable insight into the experience of having a baby there. Gift bags for all the parents were sewn beautifully by the wonderful craft café ladies at Open Door and we included some useful items in these, including invitations to our Christmas services and information about baptisms in our mission community. As well as the connection with Open Door and Christchurch, we were able to invite from Jodie from Bosom buddies to our feeding week and Steve our rector visited the last session on behalf of the clergy.

The parents gave us some great feedback about how much they had enjoyed the course, and I think that I speak for the whole team in saying that it was a very great blessing to us to run it. We are keeping in touch with all of them

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Albert Schweitzer

The Cutting Edge

A great man who was strong enough to think of himself as the spiritual leader of mankind and to bend history to his purpose is hanging upon it still. That is his victory and his reign. 'The Quest for the Historical Jesus' by A. Schweitzer

The name Schweitzer means Swiss. Albert Schweitzer's parents moved from Switzerland to Alsace-Lorraine, a buffer state between France and Germany since Roman times, when outposts were built to guard against the Vandals. After the Thirty Years' War of 1618 - 48, a religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants across Europe, the land was often the spoils of war; it became part of Germany after the Prussian victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 and was a province of the 2nd Reich from 1871 to 1918. Following the First World War Armistice in 1919, the Allies at Versailles ceded the territory back to France.

Albert was born in the German city of Kaiserburg (*Caesar's Mountain*) on 14th January 1875. Independently minded from an early age, he spoke French and German fluently. His mother was the daughter of a pastor, and his father, Louis, was the local pastor of a Lutheran church, although the town was mainly Catholic. His school reports displeased his mother, and she wept over them. Both sides of the family were musicians, particularly organists. Albert would watch his father practising on the church organ and learned to compose harmonies to songs and hymns. It was a matter of shame that he could not learn from books. By nine, he could reach the organ pedals and soon deputised for the local organist. He began to read the Bible and put into practice the command 'thou shalt not kill' when he refused to catapult birds with his friends. One day, he was saved by the bells ringing in his father's church, which caused the birds to fly away.

He showed no aptitude for learning until the age of fourteen. It was only in his musical improvisations that Albert felt he had creative talent. He particularly loved the reason, order, and religious instinct in the music of J.S. Bach, as well as the wild romanticism of Wagner. He could not abide dogma, insisting that people should be capable of thinking for themselves. Some thought this was insolence, but it indicated intelligence. His ability to play the organ was helped by taking lessons with Charles-Marie Widor, an organist who composed the Toccata from his Organ Symphony No. 5; a favourite number played at weddings.



Charles-Marie Widor

Albert became an undergraduate at Strasbourg University while performing his National Service. He would take a Greek New Testament on army manoeuvres and decided that some statements in the Bible could not be true. For instance, forty days of rain could not cover a high mountain, though an eternity may. His beliefs rested on the power of reason to explain every side of human and spiritual experience. Besides recognising Wagner as a great composer, he explored the then-unfashionable music of J. S. Bach and how to play it on the organ, which he found meditative as well as an act of worship. Schweitzer, who was to become an authority on his music said

of it: *'Bach's Sonatas address Jesus intimately, confidently, as a friend and master. They speak of a whole life interwoven with Jesus.'* He believed that Jesus was not just an idealistic visionary but someone who looked into himself to discover a person's true nature.

In 1898, Schweitzer entered the Sorbonne in Paris to study the work of the 18th-century philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804), who lived at a time when reason began to supersede superstition. Schweitzer sought a working knowledge of all the major philosophers, ancient and modern. For him, philosophy and theology were different approaches to the same truth: the reign of Jesus. He believed the moral sense was inborn and from God, and need not be the result of teaching and experience. He also understood the exercise of duty as sacrificial. Winning his first degree in Aug. 1899, he continued to study philosophy, for which it was necessary to give up preaching, much as it meant to him. He applied to be a deacon to preach, but not to take services. His religious studies were concluded by narrowly passing the exam to become a curate and minister of a Lutheran church. When concentrating on achieving a Licentiate in Theology, his course of study would bring him into conflict with academics and clergy of all persuasions. On the death of the church organist, Schweitzer took over, which secured him a supplementary income.

In May 1901, the Principal of Strasbourg University died, Schweitzer, at 26 years of age, and while the Principal's affairs were settled, temporarily took over. The position was still vacant two years later, and Schweitzer was the obvious choice. He wrote the sketch of a life of Jesus, entitled 'The Mystery of the Kingdom of God.' Schweitzer believed that the judgments of the early church were not binding. For him, it was not so much the life of Jesus that was significant but the promise of the perfect life to come. Only after the disciples had died were the stories about Jesus collected. Schweitzer regarded immortality and the afterlife as not proven.



Devoting his life to the Christian faith, Schweitzer believed that truthfulness in all things was in the spirit of Jesus, which lived on in the Church. Schweitzer's account of the life of the historical Jesus, published in 1906, was translated into English in 1910 under the title 'The Quest for the Historical Jesus'. He established the authenticity of many Bible passages. The sayings of Jesus, he wrote, were in their final form dictated by the needs of the early Church, which waited for the 2nd coming of the Messiah. There was no need to accept the doctrines of the early Church or any other Church. We should, he believed, use our instincts to develop our Christian faith in our vastly different era of history. Renunciation was a part of self-transcendence; losing one's life was to find it, and a rebirth. Schweitzer's fresh approach to religion was controversial, and its discussion on the radio was banned until 1947. His organ playing, however, was said to be 'not merely a display of brilliant technique but an act of worship and a sacrament.' It reflected what he believed.

His academic sermons were more focused on action. He saw great truths appearing in action and labour. How powerful a statement is that? Besides Jesus and St Paul, Schweitzer was greatly influenced by Goethe.

John Hill

Albert Schweitzer

The Cutting Edge

'God is at the heart of reason as well as in the heart of love. The point at which those capacities meet is divine.' A. Schweitzer

His studies led him to consider social work for the poor or adopting and raising several neglected boys and orphans. His final choice was to conduct further education for school leavers. But he wished to devote his life to serving Jesus, not just to be a celebrated scholar.

One day, an article entitled 'The Needs of the Congo Mission' attracted his attention. It complained of the lack of workers in Gabon, a French colony in the northern province of Belgian Congo. Schweitzer was interested but felt that a partner would be necessary for such work. He described the meeting with his future wife, Helene Bresslau, the daughter of a distinguished historian, when he wrote: *'It is Jesus that brought us together, not in any wrong or mystical way, but as two labourers whom he met in the morning on the street and sent into the vineyard'*. Schweitzer was informed by Widor that there were no books on J.S. Bach at that time because he was misunderstood, considered dryly mathematical, and not a poetic composer. It prompted Schweitzer to write an essay on the J.S. Bach he saw as romantic, and chose as his title 'The Musical Poet'. His essay soon grew to book length, increasing over the years to several volumes. He also taught Greek and Hebrew and directed a course on the Old and New Testaments.

At the feast of Epiphany, on a day he devoted to missionary work, his sermon included a declaration of his intent to take it on. For Schweitzer, it had to be humanitarian, the giving to people in remote lands the benefits of civilisation. He believed that the only true civilisation was to live as a disciple of Jesus, to heal, to bless, and to impart the light of hope to the distressed. It would also be for him an act of reconciliation for the years of physical abuse and exploitation suffered by the natives of the Congo over many years of slavery by white Europeans.

Schweitzer decided he would be most useful to the natives as a doctor; besides, his fiancée was a trained nurse. To study medicine, it was necessary to resign as the Principal of his College. He remained a professor and continued as a minister. Besides his book publishing, he earned a living as a concert organist. He passed his medical exams on 11th Dec.1911, and after a specialist course in tropical medicine, he sailed for West Africa; but not before writing to Professor Bresslau with a request to marry his daughter, Helene, and to take her with him to Africa. He promised eight monthly breaks in the northern climate of Europe every two or three years.

Gabon was established as a French colony in 1892, so he would be a German alien. As the Paris Mission Society disagreed with his unorthodox religious views, Schweitzer promised not to preach, but the missionaries there soon persuaded him otherwise. Schweitzer was already a musicologist and performer. By 1913, he had become a doctor of philosophy, theology, and medicine. All this activity brought on a breakdown that lasted several months.

It was not understood why Schweitzer, laden with honours, should want to give up a prestigious career for an uncertain future in the jungles of equatorial Africa. In anticipation of his leisure time in there the Paris Bach Society, which Schweitzer had helped to found, gave him a specially constructed piano that simulated an organ, which was lined with zinc to protect it from insects. The land on which he was to build his hospital was 150

miles along the river Ogawe near a village called Lambarene, on a trade route from the coastal town of Cape Lopez; opened up in the 19th century for Catholic and Protestant missionaries.

The Schweitzers left for Africa from Bordeaux on 23rd March 1913, but not with unalloyed joy by Helene, who anticipated a rough voyage across the Bay of Biscay.



The Schweitzers reached Dakar on the W. African coast. It was there that Schweitzer witnessed his first instance of cruelty to animals. Lambarene means 'Let us try' and is close to the equator, where a mission station had been established

in 1876 by an American doctor. Movement by night was more favourable than in the daytime, when one might sleep. White doctors had already won the natives' trust. On arrival, Schweitzer had in the open air to attend to patients, equipped only with what he had in his luggage. He found the population decimated by alcohol and disease, and the strongest abducted for slavery. He was in one of the most primitive, undeveloped areas of the whole continent, where slavery still existed unofficially.

His land was surrounded by dense forest in what travellers considered the worst climate in the world. Although he had promised to wear a helmet, his thick head of hair protected him from sunstroke. Managing to avoid malaria at this time, it was necessary to treat all European diseases, apart from cancer and appendicitis, which often involved surgery. It took two weeks for his medical provisions to arrive. While Helene got to work sterilizing instruments, preparing patients for surgery with anesthetic, and washing bandages and linen, an empty building once used for chickens was adapted as a clinic. A former patient named Joseph Azowani assisted and interpreted for Schweitzer.



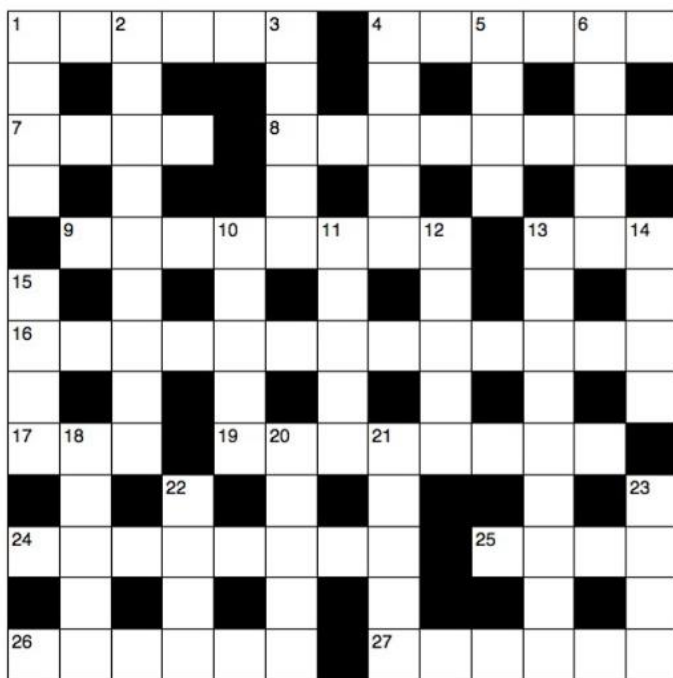
Schweitzer treated patients and built his hospital. Nothing was done without him. In the first nine months, the Schweitzers treated around 2000 patients whom they decided should pay at least a small remuneration. He did not believe book learning was the best way to help the Africans, but rather, to begin with the practical skills of industry and agriculture. They already benefited from the many fruit trees planted by the missionaries.

Equality was all very well, but Schweitzer insisted on being treated as an elder brother to the natives. Authority was necessary with such responsibilities over life and death. He measured men by their moral standards, which he shared with the Africans. Indeed, Schweitzer found a more spiritual affinity with the Ogawe African than with the industrial European. After fifteen months of unremitting work, Schweitzer was exhausted, despite the music he enjoyed on his piano in the evening. He planned a break in the spring of 1914.

John Hill

Parts 3 and 4 will be in the March edition of the Net

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Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times

- before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 260 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

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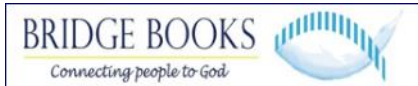
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- Get together in your group/place of work to support FORCE by hosting a foodie fundraiser. Everyone brings in an item and donates to eat.
- Host a coffee morning at your home, inviting friends and family along – why not hold a raffle too, a great option to boost fundraising!
- It doesn't have to be a morning get-together. You can support us all through the day, fitting in with your busy schedule and eating when it works best

It is support like this which helps us spread the incredible work that FORCE does all around Devon! Please get in touch with our fundraising team if you would like to host a Great Devon Breakfast and you can read more information and get some good ideas about what other supporters have done by visiting <https://forcecancercharity.co.uk/greatdevonbreakfast/>

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For just **£20 to register** and a simple fundraising ask of **£90**, you can take on this iconic challenge while making a real difference. Every step you run helps FORCE provide vital support, comfort, and care to local people facing cancer.

In 2025, our incredible runners raised an outstanding £200,000 for FORCE

- **£200,000** could fund FORCE's Oncology Support Specialist Service for **eight months**, giving cancer patients and their families access to expert counselling, compassionate care, and emotional support during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.
 - **£100,000** could cover a full year of our support and education groups, including our pioneering Moving Forward and Living with Non-Curable Cancer programmes, as well as Mindfulness, Relaxation, and Anxiety Management sessions, all invaluable for cancer patients and their families.
- Half Marathon and 10K
 - Sunday 24th May 2026
 - Exeter Arena
 - Registration is £20 with a £90 minimum fundraising

target

- 13.1 miles or 10km
- Road
- FORCE support around the course on race day
- Pacemakers
- Entertainment on the route
- Finisher's medal

How Team FORCE will support you in your run:

- Pre-race guidance and post-run support from injury experts Motion
- Training support from local running coach Hannah at City Runs
- FORCE running vest – free when you set up your JustGiving page
- Access to Strava & WhatsApp groups to keep up the motivation and connect with other Team FORCE runners
- Fundraising competition to win a free 10K run place in April organised by City Runs
- Event pack with information about the day and fundraising tips
- Opportunity to visit the FORCE Centre to hear more about the work of the charity and get fundraising support
- Thank you event for top 20 fundraisers

May/June – **The Nello Bike Ride 2026** – The Nello, which is celebrating its 27th year. The Nello offers 60-mile route or a 100-mile routes and will take place on Sunday 28th June 2026. We can promise you'll have an amazing day at this brilliant event!

Discipline: Road Cycling
 Distances: 60 miles | 100 miles
 Event date: Sunday 28th June 2026
 Location start / finish point: Topsham Rugby Club
 Entry limit: 1,500
 Age limit: 14 years (18 unaccompanied)

Key points to note:

- Everyone is welcome on this ride.
 - The event is not a sportive and it is not chip timed. It is a fun, social ride that many riders do year after year.
 - It would be a great event for a club trip with beautiful countryside, great food stations and lots of accommodation options available.
- Any sort of bike is permitted.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Any support for this half of the year would be incredible.

<https://forcecancercharity.co.uk>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Su 1 Hygge Home Church Holy Trinity 4 – 5.30 pm
M 2 Prayer Meeting HT Coffee Bar 9 am
Rainbows HT Hall 5.30 – 7 pm
Next Gen. Youth Holy Trinity 6 – 7.30 pm
T 3 0-5s HT Hall 10 – 11.30 am
Good Afternoon Choir HT Hall 12.30 – 2.30 pm
Kingdom Club Lypstone 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Brownies HT Hall 5.30 – 7.15 pm
W 4 Wednesday Prayers Littleham 9 am
Quiet Prayer Lypstone 11.30 am
Open PCC Meeting Holy Trinity 6.30 pm
Th 5 Community Prayer Meeting Lypstone 4 – 5 pm
F 6 Beacon School Holy Trinity 9 – 9.30 am
Tick Tock Lypstone 9 – 11 am
0 – 5’s HT Hall 10 – 11.30 am
Lypstone School Lypstone 1.15 pm
- M 9 Prayer Meeting HT Coffee Bar 9 am
Rainbows HT Hall 5.30 – 7 pm
Football 4 All Littleham 6 – 7 pm
T 10 0-5s HT Hall 10 – 11.30 am
Good Afternoon Choir HT Hall 12.30 – 2.30 pm
Kingdom Club Lypstone 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Brownies HT Hall 5.30 – 7.15 pm
W 11 Wednesday Prayers Littleham 9 am
School - Ash Wednesday Lypstone 9.15 am
Quiet Prayer Lypstone 11.30 am
Th 12 Community Prayer Meeting Lypstone 4 – 5 pm
F 13 Beacon School Holy Trinity 9 – 9.30 am
Tick Tock Lypstone 9 – 11 am
0 – 5’s HT Hall 10 – 11.30 am
Lypstone School Lypstone 1.15 pm
Sa 14 Men’s Breakfast Toby Inn 8.30 am
Marriage Preparation HT Hall 10 am – 2 pm
- Su 15 Baptism Lypstone 12.30 pm
M 16 **SCHOOL HALF TERM**
Prayer Meeting HT Coffee Bar 9 am
T 17 Good Afternoon Choir Rehearsal & Concert
HT Hall 12.30-9 pm
W 18 Wednesday Prayers Littleham 9 am
Quiet Prayer Lypstone 11.30 am
Ash Wednesday Service Holy Trinity 7 pm
Th 19 Community Prayer Meeting Lypstone 4 – 5 pm
Sa 21 Naming of new Lifeboat RNLI Station 2 pm
M 23 **BACK TO SCHOOL**
Prayer Meeting HT Coffee Bar 9 am
Rainbows HT Hall 5.30 – 7 pm
Football 4 All Littleham 6 – 7 pm
T 24 0-5s HT Hall 10 – 11.30 am
Good Afternoon Choir HT Hall 12.30 – 2.30 pm
Greater Chapter Meeting HT Coffee Bar 2 pm
Kingdom Club Lypstone 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Brownies HT Hall 5.30 – 7.15 pm
W 25 Wednesday Prayers Littleham 9 am
Quiet Prayer Lypstone 11.30 am
Th 26 Community Prayer Meeting Lypstone 4 – 5 pm
F 27 Beacon School Holy Trinity 9 – 9.30 am
Tick Tock Lypstone 9 – 11 am
0 – 5’s HT Hall 10 – 11.30 am
Lypstone School Lypstone 1.15 pm
Choir Rehearsal Holy Trinity 6.15 pm
Sa 28 Village Concert Lypstone (timings tbc)

TO HELP YOU PRAY IN FEBRUARY

- Su 14th **Sunday of Epiphany**
Brigid, Abbess of Kildare c.525
M 2 **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
The recently bereaved
T 3 Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, 865
Our PCCs
W 4 Gilbert of Sempringham, 1189
Visitors to Exmouth
Th 5 CMS
F 6 The Martyrs of Japan
King Charles III, Leader of Faith
Sa 7 RNLI
- Su 8 **2nd Sunday before Lent**
Prayers on our Prayer Boards
M 9 The Wave Church, Littleham
T 10 Abbess of Plombanola c.543
The Ministry Team
W 11 Ukraine
Th 12 Pastoral Links
F 13 Care Homes in Exmouth
Sa 14 Cyril and Methodius,
missionaries, 869, 885
MAF
- Su 15 **Sunday next before Lent**
Churchwardens
M 16 Exmouth Community College
T 17 Janani Luwum,
Archbishop of Uganda, 1977
0-5’s
W 18 Doctors and Dentists
Th 19 Health visitors
F 20 Devon Air Ambulance
Sa 21 Victims in Sudan
- Su 22 **First Sunday of Lent**
CMJ
M 23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna c.155
Exmouth Guides and Brownies
T 24 Our Bishops
W 25 The Church in Devon and Cornwall
Th 26 Hospice, South West
F 27 George Herbert, Priest, 1633
Church Schools
Sa 28 Open Door, Exmouth, Littleham Hub



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...



New for 2026 Holy Trinity Knitting Circle

Jane Goom & Ann Bellamy are setting up a Knitting Circle (and crochet) at Holy Trinity Church. We will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, as part of 'Thursday Group' 10.30 am - 1.00 pm, and every Tuesday morning 10 am - 12.00 noon in the coffee bar.

Please come and join us.
We have some interesting projects.

For more information, please contact Jane, Ann or Karen in the office
Tel: 01395 263681



Thursday Group

(incorporating the Memory Café)

An invitation to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month between 10.30 am - 1 pm

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL
2 ROLLE ROAD. EX8 2AB**

We welcome anyone who is on their own, who may be feeling sad or lonely or may have memory loss.

Do come and join us for fun, conversation, hot drinks, homemade cake, board games, knitting, painting and other craft activities
Something for Everyone!

Tel: 01395 263 681



ECOCHURCH COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday 12th February
10.00am-12.00pm**

Stop the Waste:

Save Food,

Save the Planet

**A talk by Carolyn Dare
from CAG**

**St Margaret & St Andrews
Church, Littleham**



Lympstone Parish Church



*Jesus'
Seven
Last
Words
from the cross*

A Quiet Morning for Lent

Wednesday 4th March 10am – 1pm

Led by Demelza Henderson, this morning of quiet prayer and reflection will be focused on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. The morning will include worship, meditative readings and music, with plenty of time for your own silent prayers and/or creative prayer activities.

Everyone Welcome

Do drop in for all, or just part, of the morning!

Refreshments will be available throughout

No charge – but donations towards expenses are welcomed

**Contact Demelza for more details Tel: (01395) 272243
Email: quietdaysindevon@gmail.com Postcode: EX8 5JU**