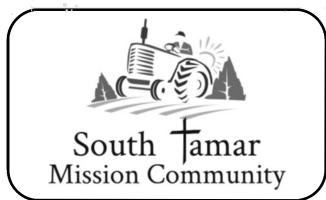


# PARISH NEWS

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



FEBRUARY &  
MARCH 2026

PRICE: £1

## RECTOR/VICAR: The Reverend Gillian (Gill) George

Tel: 07947 604160 / 01822 762029

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

### MINISTRY TEAM

Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	Richard Searight	07886 414226
Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate (PTO)	Revd Canon Tim Thompson	

### CHURCHWARDENS

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

### PCC SECRETARIES

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

### CHURCH TREASURERS

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

### UNITED BENEFICE APPOINTMENTS

<i>Benefice Safeguarding Lead</i>	Julie Hibbert	618221
<i>Vicar's Assigned Administrator</i>	Guy Talbot	860314

<b>MAGAZINE</b>	Amy Harrowell	860181
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>magazine@southtamar.church</b> (note updated email address)	
<b>Advertisements:</b> Mike Jefferies	Church Avenue House, Lamerton , PL19 8RN E-mail: mike.jefferies5@btinternet.com	614178

<b>CHURCH WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.southtamar.church">www.southtamar.church</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:vicar@southtamar.church">vicar@southtamar.church</a>
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### PARISH COUNCILS

	Chairman	Tel.	Email
<i>Milton Abbot group parish:</i>	Mark Ambrose Clerk Shane Honey	870603	<a href="mailto:clerk@magpc.co.uk">clerk@magpc.co.uk</a>
<i>Lamerton:</i>	Ann Cole Clerk Caroline Oxenham	481415	<a href="mailto:clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@lamertonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

<i>Lamerton C of E</i>	Head Teacher: Melody Sterry	613561
<i>Milton Abbot</i>	Head Teacher: Charlotte Jones	870273

## Diary Dates

Event	February 2026	March 2026
<b>Coffee Mornings</b>		
Coffee and Company, Priest's Room, Lamerton 10 - 12pm	6, 20	6, 20, 27
Sydenham Damerel from 10.30am	7	7
Lamerton coffee mornings, Community Centre, 10.30 - 12pm	14, 28	14, 28
<b>Church and other events</b>		

**Weekly email newsletter**

Rev. Gill also sends out a weekly email newsletter with updated information about what's going on around the parishes.

Please do contact her if you are missing out and would like to receive it.

**Magazine deadline for the next edition is  
end of day: Saturday 14th March 2026**

*Thank you for your timely submissions - they are gratefully appreciated.*  
*(note new editor address: [magazine@southtamar.church](mailto:magazine@southtamar.church))*



# From the Vicarage . . .

## Six months on...

I've been here over six months now, and we've seen Christmas together (in fact Dave and I both agreed our first Christmas with you was the best for several years). As we prepare Annual Reports and get ready for Easter I must say it feels as if the last six months have flown by. I have had people occasionally check that I'm happy and planning to stay (!), and for every one person asking, you can bet there are a few more silently wondering. So, just to reassure you all, I am thoroughly enjoying being your Priest-in-Charge ('Vicar' to some, 'Rector' to others!) and we feel very much at home here. I'm not planning on going anywhere so rest assured.

Stability is something which goes hand in hand with change. It is hard to change and grow when we don't have a firm foundation. This is now well-known in terms of children who are unable to properly learn and develop unless they feel safe and secure and have their emotional needs met. That, of course, includes their spiritual needs, and this year we will be building on our children's work across the benefice—particularly by strengthening our links with Milton Abbot school, and also by ensuring we have multiple all-age and accessible services going on each month. I am trialling Breakfast Church at Marystowe in February (marking St Valentine) and March (marking Mothering Sunday), as well as an all-age Mothering Sunday service at Lamerton. This year Palm Sunday falls on a 5th Sunday, so I will be holding a short spoken 8.30am Communion Service in Milton Abbot Church, and then we will join together for an all age Palm Sunday service.

This Lent we'll be joining with many others in following "Draw Near: Life-Giving Habits for Lent" - a suite of resources available in many formats for individuals, groups and all ages. Once again, we'll be holding a Lent Course after the Wednesday Midweek Communions, and an evening course with a meal. There will be booklets available for daily meditations, and the resources are also available on an app for those who find that useful.

On a different note, but still on the theme of inclusion, I continue to receive questions and concerns regarding the Church of England's slow progress towards full and equal provision for same-sex couples. I am encouraged by something a friend of mine wrote recently: "The yeast is still in the dough. The house of bishops may have paused the legislative process indefinitely, but no one is firing priests in civil partnerships or excommunicating affirming members. ... the yeast of the kingdom is still mixed into the dough at every level, and given the right temperature and enough time, will eventually rise ... The more we continue to follow Jesus, make disciples, serve our communities, the more we create ideal rising conditions as people see the good fruit of what the Spirit is doing. ... Culture change takes time. But it will come"

In the meantime there is good news in that the Diocese of Exeter has been awarded £10m to support mission and the expectation is that we here in Devon continue in mission and change and growth. Change isn't always easy, but it is necessary to avoid the state of 'managed decline' which low numbers have led many churches to. Over the coming months we will explore what 'mission' looks like for each parish, and after that we'll look at how the jigsaw fits together.

Change is at the crux of our faith. Literally. As we head towards Easter we are challenged by the ultimate change and transformation - the cross and resurrection of Jesus. As we follow Christ we, too, cannot expect to do so without being changed individually and corporately. Sometimes I hear it said "We've done it this way for x years, why do we have to change?" Christ's call to ongoing transformation is a key part of our answer.

*Changed from glory in to glory, till in heaven we take our place.  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

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*

## BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2026 (Year A)

DATE	1st READING	PSALM (if used)	2nd READING	GOSPEL
<b>Sunday 1st Feb</b> Candlemas (Gold/White)	Malachi 3.1-5	24.7-end	Hebrews 2.14-end	Luke 2.22-40
<b>Sunday 8th Feb</b> 2nd before Lent (Green)	Genesis 1.1—2.3	136. 1-9, 23-26	Romans 8.18-25	Matthew 6.25-34
<b>Sunday 15th Feb</b> Next before Lent (Green)	Exodus 24.12-end	2	2 Peter 1.16-end	Matthew 17.1-9
<b>Wednesday 18th Feb</b> Ash Wednesday (Purple)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
<b>Sunday 22nd Feb</b> Lent 1 (Purple)	Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7	32	Romans 5.12-19	Matthew 4.1-11

## BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH 2026 (Year A)

DATE	1st READING	PSALM (if used)	2nd READING	GOSPEL
<b>Sunday 1st March</b>  Lent 2 (Purple)	Genesis 12.1-4a	121	Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	John 3.1-17
<b>Sunday 8th March</b>  Lent 3 (Purple)	Exodus 17.1-7	95	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
<b>Sunday 15th March</b>  Mothering Sunday / Lent 4 (Purple)	Special readings for all age services. Please liaise with Rev Gill.			
<b>Sunday 22nd March</b>  Lent 5 / Passion Sunday (Purple)	Ezekiel 37.1-14	130	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
<b>Sunday 29th March</b>  Palrm Sunday (Red)	Readings are in a different pattern on Palm Sunday, so please liaise with GG for readers for the main United Benefice Palm Sunday service.			
<b>Thursday 2nd April</b>  Maundy Thursday (White for HC, Red for non Euch.)	Exodus 12.1—14	116.1, 9-end	1 Cor. 11.23-26	John 13.1-17, 31b-35

# Ringers' New Year Roundup

The Lamerton bellringers have had an eventful pass few months, we attended the Deanery festival at Tavistock Parish Church at the end of October, then we held our annual competition on the last Saturday in November when eight teams competed, the A section was won by Bow and the B section by North Tawton B team. Rev Gill kindly presented the cups and certificates and showed her appreciation of bellringing, she made a short address which was much enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

We have rung at all the services at Lamerton and those at Milton Abbot including the Christmas ones. On the Saturday after New Year we enjoyed a short trip when we were joined by a few other ringers and rang the 6 bells at Bickleigh, Cornwood and Meavy where we had a very pleasant meal afterwards.



We have just taken delivery of our new bell ropes so any poor ringing for the next few weeks will be excused by reference to the springiness of the new ropes – you know what they say about bad workers!

The photo [left] shows David Spray on New Years Eve with a surprise birthday cake to celebrate his “significant” birthday.

Our AGM is coming up at the end of January which will set the calendar for the rest of 2026, we look forward to ringing for whatever events come along during the course of the year.

*William Dawe*

*and the  
Winner is..* **Lucky Lamerton Lottery!**

**The winning numbers are:**

**December 2025 - 9**

**January 2026 - 74**



**Congratulations to our winners**

**All proceeds go towards St Peters Church, Lamerton.**



## **PCC MEETING !**

Combined Sydenham Damerel & Lamerton PCM.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 7:30pm,

In the Priests Room at St Peter's Lamerton.

All Parishioners welcome to come along & hear what we are up to.



**South Tamar  
Mission Community**

## **Safeguarding**

**DIOCESE  
OF EXETER**  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
IN DEVON



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

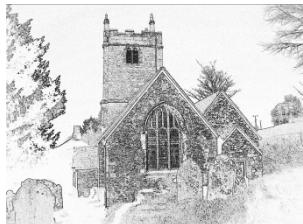
**Sydenham Damerel:** Janet Giles on JLGiles89@yahoo.co.uk

**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.**



## St. Andrew's, Coryton

### Memories of Christmas at St Andrew's

It seems a long time ago, but the recent Christmas celebrations were very successful. Having the combined Carol and Christingle service at an earlier time meant there were lots of little ones getting gloriously sticky fingers assembling their Christingles. The children were also very helpful lighting the candles. On Christmas morning Rev'd Gill led a well-attended service of Holy Communion. With many thanks to Rev'd Gill and all who helped make Christmas at St Andrew's special.

### Winter services rota

During February and March the winter schedule of services will continue with Morning Prayer at 11.15am on the second Sunday (8th in both February and March) and Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday at 4pm (22nd in both February and March).

### World Day of Prayer

The first Friday in March each year is designated as the World Day of Prayer which dates back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world.

Each year, Christian women from a different country put together the service which is then celebrated in churches in many parts of the world. This year, it is the turn of the Christian women of Nigeria, with the day's theme being 'I will give you rest: Come'.



For many years, both Coryton and Marystowe parishes have been part of a group of local churches taking turns hosting this service. This year the service will be held in St Nicholas Church, Broadwoodwidger on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm with refreshments afterwards.

In 2027 it will be Coryton's turn to host the service which will have as its theme 'United in Prayer for Justice and Peace'. For more information see <https://worlddayofprayer.net>.

**Josie Whitfield**

# All Saints' Church, Dunterton



*Above: Dunterton in the Snow by J Venning*

## Christmas 2025

We were delighted last year to be able to hold an Advent Carol service in the church for the first time in memory. This was in addition to our usual Christmas Day service with both events being well attended. Hopefully the Carol service can become an annual event. Thanks to all the volunteers involved in the church preparation, Rev'd Gill and Richard for the beautiful services and to everyone who attended and made these truly wonderful occasions.

*Right: Christmas tree in the church by B. Coles*



## All Saint's Church Dunterton in 2026

We now have a break in services until April.

However, there will be some activities going on in the background as we had our Quinquennial Review in November and have a few remedial improvements to undertake. The good news is that overall the church was found to be in good order so this should not be too onerous. If anyone does have some time to help us, please do drop us an email at: [dunterton-friends@gmail.com](mailto:dunterton-friends@gmail.com). In the

meantime, we wish all our family, friends and neighbours a very Happy & Healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you later in the year.

*Christine Youds*



## St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel

Christmas is a time that brings people together and this is exactly what happens in Sydenham Damerel.

The festivities started at The Hub (the telephone box) for the switching on of the village Christmas tree, as kindly donated by Brian North. We had two celebs to switch on the tree this year – John and Val our newest residents. The Sydenham Blowers led us all in a selection of jolly carols.

St. Mary's looked resplendent for Christmas. It was decorated with donated greenery, candles and oranges studded with cloves giving it a beautiful timeless feel. This was the perfect backdrop for the monthly coffee morning and of course the highly competitive Christmas quiz! John was a masterful quizmaster using AI animations and leading us in a festive singsong. It was a great evening although the Village Idiots did win AGAIN!

Saint Mary's was packed again for a lovely Carol Service. We enjoyed mince pies, mulled wine and narrowly avoided setting fire to each other as we held our candles!

There was also a beautiful church service on Christmas Day led by Rev Dave, the Vicar's husband.

After the festivities it was lovely to slip into the first days of a shiny new year. The weather did turn and we were very grateful to Simon Miller for not only dispersing bags of rock salt around the parish, but also replaced those that had 'disappeared'.

With a mild nod to Burns there will be a community concert on the 23rd of January in Mary Tavy Coronation Hall, featuring Jack of All Trades and our own Sydenham Blowers. Tickets are only £8 and include a pastry!

Contact [phurdwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:phurdwell@hotmail.co.uk) (07841 887616).

If you miss any of the wonderful times we have had, please look at our wonderful community YouTube channel @sydenham-damerel web , where you can relive the Fun!

As always, we are in awe of people's generosity with their time, skills and donations. Just this year we are thrilled to see that we have raised almost £3,500!

St Mary's has donated, from this, £450 to charities: The Royal British Legion, Devon Air Ambulance and Shekinah.

Finally, we bade farewell to Tony Furse, a real local character who died in December. Tony was born, worked and lived his whole life in Sydenham Damerel. Our thoughts are with his family. *[Edit: Since the publication deadline Ann Furse, Tony's wife and a regular worshipper at St Mary's has died, and her funeral is on 11th February at 3.30pm—Rev Gill]*

Keep safe and well and wishing you a very happy and peaceful new year.

**Gail Cullen**



## St. Peter's Lamerton

We welcome the school children back for a new term, after the Christmas holidays . We enjoyed several joint services in December , including the Class 1 nativity play , which was a joy to watch .

The children performed so well and remembered all the words of their songs , singing beautifully to a packed church . Class 2 also performed to a full church for their traditional carol service around the story of the Holy Family travelling to Bethlehem .

Interspersed with the school events the village enjoyed the service of carols and lessons , supported by the Lamerton Handbell ringers and of course Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve .

The residents of Venn and Camplehaye were delighted to have carols with the Lamerton Handbells and also to receive their Christmas cards from the school children

So now we commence a new term that brings fresh hope and new challenges .

The after school club “Bright lights “ continues twice a term and the Open the Book team perform a short Bible story to the children every other Thursday lunchtime .

If anyone would like to help at either of these events , please do contact Barbara Meikle and / or Carole McQuarrie Watson

This term sees Mothering Sunday , Lent and the preparation for Holy Week and Easter . Please look out for services and Easter events .

## St. Mary's Church, Marystowe

We're enjoying hosting the Books and Brew at 10.30 on the last Tuesday of every month. Our Church Tower Book Nook with its books for sale continues to raise money for the church.



Our thanks go to Joy McSmythurs who has stood down as Church-warden—Joy, thank you for all you have done. Joy has been 'nabbed' by Revd Gill to support her in broadening the range of children and families' work we have across the benefice, and to develop some 'prayer spaces' for children in churches, much like Joy has done in schools.

In the meantime we are thankful to Barbara Dawe and Margaret Dunn who continue to cover in an "Assistant" Churchwarden role—keeping things organised. Barbara is also continuing her role as Sacristan for the foreseeable future.

We have been holding our Communion Service (1st Sunday of the month) at 10.30am where possible, as Rev Gill has had positive feedback from people saying that is helpful and more accessible.

**Hot off the press:** In February and March Rev Gill is trialling "Breakfast Church" in the 9.30 Morning Praise slot.

The theme for February will be St Valentine, and the theme for March is Mothering Sunday. Come along especially if you enjoy crumpets—suitable for young and old. There will be a craft activity, bible story, music and prayer—and breakfast!



# St. Constantine's Church, Milton Abbot

We were delighted to welcome the children and staff from Milton Abbot School, together with family members, into church on 3rd December for their Carol Service, and they joined us again on 14th December for our Christingle and Carol Service. The children had made their Christingles in school with Revd Gill the week before and the church looked beautiful as they stood round it with their lit Christingles and the lights off.



We once again had a well-filled church on Christmas Eve for our Crib Service and we were treated to mulled wine and mince pies. Those who were aware that the donkey had suffered an injury to his ear will, I'm sure, be glad to know that following a visit from the "vet" he has been partially patched up – a more complete session of plastic surgery will be required after Candlemas!

In addition to these two services we also had a service of Holy Communion on the Sunday before Christmas and another on the Sunday after Christmas – all in all, a very busy month!

Pat's stall was on the road again – we were at Yelverton over the first weekend of December where we were delighted to be served coffee by Mark and Angela Smith, who you may remember led a number of our services as Lay Ministers before Covid struck. Mark and Angela have both now retired as LLMs as they have their daughter and her family living with them.

## MILTON ABBOT CHURCH **COUNTRY MARKET**

Food Garden Crafts

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

10.30AM - 3.00PM

Enquiries: [matreasurer@southtamar.church](mailto:matreasurer@southtamar.church)



And talking of Pat's stall, you will have another chance to buy at Lamerton's Coffee Morning on 14th March – just in time for Mothering Sunday and in good time for Easter!

Plans are also afoot for our Country Market in May – more details in the next issue of Parish News! Keep the date in your Diary—Saturday 16th May 10.30-3pm

**Liz Padmore**



## A CHILD'S FOOTSTEPS TO FAITH

### The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

After Jesus was baptized, he went out into the desert to pray. He stayed there a long time and got very hungry. He had not eaten anything because He was trying to listen to God and do what he said.

Suddenly, the devil came along and said to Jesus, "There is no reason for you to be hungry. If you are the Son of God, you could take one of these stones and turn it into bread." Jesus was hungry, it must have been tempting, but he did not listen to the devil. He knew that the devil was trying to get Him to do something wrong. Instead, Jesus answered the devil with Scripture. He said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city up to the highest part of the temple. "If you are the Son of God, jump off of here and God will send his angels to save you." Jesus knew that it was wrong to test God, so he answered the devil saying, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the world below. "All of this can be yours. I will give it to you if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus answered, "Go away from me Satan! It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"



Three times the devil tempted Jesus and tried to get him to sin. Did He? NO! Jesus did the right thing each time. He remembered what the Scriptures said and it helped him to resist the devil's temptation.

We all face temptations, don't we? What are examples of some of the temptations you face? Here are a few ways that we may be tempted followed by a Bible verse that will help us resist that temptation.

Spreading gossip about another student in your class. (You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. Exodus 20:16)

Disobeying your parents. (Honour your father and mother. Exodus 20:12)

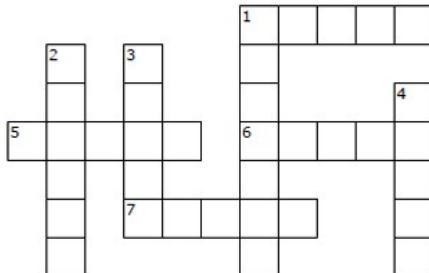
Remember, when Jesus was tempted, he turned to Scripture to help him resist Satan. You and I should do the same thing.

Father, we are thankful for your Holy Word. Help us to read our Bible daily and hide its words in our heart so that we might be able to resist temptations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)



### ACROSS

1. The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
5. A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
6. A small rock
7. The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God

### DOWN

1. To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
2. To feel a need or desire for food
3. A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
4. To try to get someone to do wrong

hungry  
stone

bread  
tempt

worship  
angel

devil  
world

## A Story on the Theme of Forgiveness

### Building Bridges

Once upon a time, there were two brothers. Their father had a large farm and when he became too old to work, he called his sons to him. "I am too old to work anymore," he said. "I will divide my farm in half and give each of you one half. I know that you will always work together and will be good friends."

When the brothers first started farming on their adjoining farms, they were the best of friends and would share everything together. Then, one day there was an argument between the two brothers and they stopped speaking to one another. For many years, not a word was spoken between them.

One day, one of the brothers was at his house when a carpenter came to his door and said, "I would like to do some work. Do you have any work that I can do?" The brother thought for a moment and then replied, "I would like you to build a fence on my property. Build it down near the stream that separates my farm from my brother's. I don't want to see my brother anymore and I would like you to build a high fence there please. I'm going into town and I'll be back this evening."



When he came back that evening, he was shocked to see that the carpenter had not followed his instructions. Instead of building a high fence there, he had built a bridge over the stream. The man walked down to take a look at the bridge, and as he did, his brother walked toward him from the other side. His brother said, "After all the terrible things I've done to you over the years, I can't believe that you would build a bridge and welcome me back." He reached out to his brother and gave him a big hug.

The brother then walked back up to his farmhouse to talk to the carpenter. "Can you stay?" he asked. "I have more work for you to do." The carpenter answered, "I'm sorry but I can't stay. I have to go, for I have many other bridges to build."

# POINT-TO-POINT

## HORSE RACING

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

Kilworthy, Brentor, Nr Tavistock

*First Race  
1.00pm*



**Bar. Bookmakers. Refreshments  
Large Screen For Better Viewing  
Trade Stands Welcome  
Together with Sponsorship**

**Entry £15 pp  
Children u16 Free**

**Parking For Blue Badge Holders.  
Dogs Welcome On Leads**

**★ 1 FREE ENTRY TO EXETER RACES ON 7 April WITH  
EVERY RACECARD BOUGHT at Kilworthy Racing ★  
Contact Mrs M Lewis 07975 536930  
mariaracing@outlook.com**

## NATURE NOTES BY BLUEBELL



*From breath to breath  
from dusk to dusk...  
let there be rainbows  
when the days are short of light  
let there be wind  
when our boats are turned for home.*  
From 'Let There Be'; by Jane Clarke 2015



The rainbow, God's promise, symbol of hope; comes with the return of the light and the promise of spring. February and March are months of hope, 'waiting, planning, and planting, watching the spears of bulbs poke through the dark mould. When the temperature rises, the air is full of birdsong, wood-lark, thrush and great tit sing. Red-breast sings, and the wren' as the birds begin to mate and nest. Everyone waits for the first call of the returning chiff chaff, usually in mid March. Bluebell has seen lambs in the fields at Chillaton already on 19th January, and heard the birds begin to sing in the morning.

Snowdrops are visited by adventurous honey bees on mild days. 'They fly under the arching flowers of snowdrops and flip over backwards to tuck their heads inside to reach the pollen. Pressing it into pollen baskets on their hind legs, they carry the bright orange beads back to the hive. Inside the colony, the snowdrop pollen will make 'bee bread' a mix of pollen and nectar or honey for the new larvae'.

Candlemas is the Feast of Purification and the day of Mary's presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It comes on 2nd February, 'forty days from Christmas, at the midpoint between the shortest day (21st Dec) and the spring equinox (20th March, the arrival of Spring, when day and night are nearly equal)....February can mix all weathers in a single day. It is a month of slowly rising sap'.

'The scent of foxes begins now to be very rank...and the females intimate their wants to the males by three or four little sharp yelpings or barkings frequently repeated. He learned this from a former neighbour who kept a tame bitch fox which every spring about candlemass began her amorous serenade as soon as it grew dark, continuing all through February and March.' Bluebell hears the strange eerie screech of the vixen at dusk in the evening fields and woods nearby.

Ivy flowers are a great source of autumn nectar, and the berries are a life-saver for birds long after other berries and haws are over. 'When they finally ripen and blacken in the spring they're full of fat. The dry pith of ivy berries contains nearly as many calories as Mars bars - gram for gram', according to the RSPB.

Raindrops sparkle silver on a gorse bush as the flowers shine gold. It's always kissing time when the gorse is in flower. (It's always in flower!)

Quotations from: A Year with Gilbert White The First Great Nature Writer; by Jenny Uglow; Faber & Faber 2025



# Lamerton Handbell Ringers



Following the Handbell Festival in October, the Team set about practising Xmas Music.

The first event was “The Advent Carols in the Barn” on 28th November at ‘Theale’ Well attended as always playing 4 carols - O come, O Come Emanuel, In the Bleak Mid Winter, See Amid the Winter’s Snow and Mary’s Boy Child.

From then on leading up to Xmas it was all systems go with a visit to Abbotsfield Nursing Home to ring carols especially for a resident Gill Pascoe, a previous member of the team, who had just turned 80.



This was followed by taking part in The Xmas Services held at Venn and Camplehaye Care Homes.

On 7th December Will and Sue Dawe, Bill Blowey and Geoff Hill rang “The Queen’s Peal” with rise and lower on 8 Handbells at The Devon Church Bellringers Ringers Carol

Service held at Buckfast Abbey. A simply perfect performance greatly enjoyed by the packed congregation present!!!!

Back to business again with the final practice for The Carol Service held in Lamerton Church on 21st December. This time playing on the full set of 4 octave handbells in 2 sessions with familiar Xmas Music between the lessons and carols sung by the congregation - a well attended, beautiful service!!!

Xmas would not be complete without a visit to Tavistock Conservative Club.

This year we took Carol Sheets and were so pleased that everyone joined in to make it so enjoyable. They are always generous in allowing a collection to be taken for our Charity for the year.

A grand total of £346 has been sent to T.A.S.S. - such a worthy cause that supports a lot of people in the Tavistock and surrounding areas. The Team now takes a well earned break resuming practices again in late February time.





## GARDEN NOTES BY DOUG

Welcome to the gardening New Year.

Things are starting to move again and they will accelerate while you're not looking. Get out there and get ahead!

This is a good time to think about Dahlias. They are certainly back in fashion and there are a lot of catalogues on and off-line offering many different varieties, some which look like the Gladiators on the TV. Big, bold, spiky, red. There is also a collection by Patrick Grant—the judge on the Great British sewing Bee. This, of course, involves shape and colour and size.

Exotic, but you can make your own collection. You can plant them in beds or tubs.

If in a bed you might want to nip out at night with a torch and gather any slugs; they love the new, green shoots.

Most of mine are in tubs; slightly more difficult for the slugs to get at, but not foolproof.



It is also a good time to be sowing seeds and I will certainly sow some Kale and Carrots.

Kale seems to do well in the greenhouse and outside in a bed. Quite a few varieties to choose from - cheap and easy.

Carrots I sow in a big pot of peat-free compost and don't fret about them.

Being in a pot means they are not at ground level and so they are less likely to get hit by carrot fly and, in any case, a pot is easy to fleece over.

Usually they come to life and survive very well. I like the colourful mix, dark purple, orange, red. Yum.



Of course, there's no end of things you could sow; so off you go .....

Happy gardening!

## LAMERTON WI

**Tuesday 3rd February 2:00pm**

Anna Chaplaincy

Competition: Brooch of an Animal, Bird or Insect.

Raffle & Tea

**Tuesday 3rd March 2.00pm**

Scotland & The Shetland Isles; Update of Nepal

Competition: Necklace.

Raffle and Tea

*All meetings held at Lamerton Village Hall*

*New members welcome*

Go to pages 25-27 for  
more from the WI



## Our Lenten Journey

Our theme stems from the bible verse in James "Draw near to God and God will draw near to you".

We're also following the suggestion of 40 Acts—and will be rolling that out for children and families at our

forthcoming services. There will also be all-age prayer stations in some of our churches.

Booklets for daily reflections are available, but if you have a smartphone, the Church of England app "Everyday Faith" has the same content, directly on your phone.

Our Lent course is also following the Draw Near theme of cultivating habits which bring us closer to God. The course will be running at **7pm on Tuesday evenings, beginning Tuesday 17th February.**

The Draw Near course will be led by Revd Gill, and Annie Jefferies has kindly offered to host with a light supper. Do let Rev Gill know if you would like to attend—so that we have some idea for catering.

# Flag Days

## Union Flag Dates ~ February & March 2026

- 9th March, Commonwealth Day



## Other Flag Dates ~ February & March 2026

- 8th February, New Zealand Day
- 1st March, St David's Day
- 5th March, St Piran's Day
- 10th March, Duke of Edinburgh's Birthday
- 17th March, St Patrick's Day

*Rob Wiggins*



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# Put date in your Diary

Lamerton Summer Fair

and Duck Race 

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026



Incorporating  
**the WI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



WI Garden Produce

and Craft Show

**Classes and Exhibits on next pages  
to begin making choices**

Entry details will be in June/July Parish Magazine

## Lamerton WI Garden Produce and Craft Show

### Theme: A Country Estate - Classes and Exhibits to help you plan

#### **Cookery Classes - being Judged by a Professional**

1. Victoria Sponge
2. Fruit Tart 8" 20cm
3. Afternoon tea on a plate (scone, sandwich etc)

#### **Men - Being Judged by a Professional**

4. 3 Short Bread
5. Bottle of Wine
6. Bottle of Beer

#### **Jam and chutney - Being judged by a Professional**

7. Jar of Marmalade
8. Jar of Jam
9. Jar of Chutney

#### **Floral Classes**

10. Table Decoration ( maximum size 30 cm wide any height )
11. 3 Mixed Roses in own vase
12. Small Posy
13. Flowering Houseplant – pot not exceeding 15cm

#### **Fruit and Vegetables**

14. 3 Different Fruits from the garden
15. 3 Different Vegetables from the garden

#### **Photographs 7" x 5" / 18cm x 13cm**

16. Entrance gates to Country Estate
17. A Country Estate building
18. Grounds to a Country Estate

#### **Arts and Crafts**

19. Hand made Invitation to a Grand Country Ball
20. Painting of a Parterre
21. A Sampler - embroidery
22. A Sampler - cross stitch
23. A Woolly Hat – knitted or crochet

Literature

24.. Write a one verse Limerick about a Country Estate

25. Write a Two sentences story starting with:

As I opened the creaking gates.....

Or

26. What is that before me ?

Children 7 years and under

27. Book mark|

28. Photo of an animal on a Country Estate

29. Animal Vegetable max 20cm

30. Bunch of Flowers in a tumbler

31. Invitation to a party at a Country Estate largest size A4 folded in half

32. Painting of a Country Estate House

33. 3 sentence story - Title: A surprise visit to a Country Estate

Children cooking - - 7years and under Judged by a professional

34. 3 Decorated rich tea or digestive biscuits (can be bought ready to decorate)

35. Decorated butterfly cakes (can be bought sponge cakes ready to decorate)

Children 8 years and plus

36. Book Mark

37. Photo of an animal on a Country Estate

38. Animal Vegetable max 20cm

39. Bunch of Flowers in a tumbler

40. An Invitation to a party at a Country Estate largest size A4 folded in half

41. Painting of a Country Estate House

42. 3 sentence story Title: A surprise visit to a Country Estate

Children cooking - 8 years and plus Judged by a professional

43. 3 Decorated rich tea or digestive biscuits (can be bought ready to decorate)

44. 3 Decorated butterfly cakes ( can be bought sponge cakes ready to decorate)

45. Class 1 and 2 Lamerton School

Lamerton School Class 1 and 2 have been set a competition. All pictures will be exhibited around the Hall. WI Members will be the judges

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

**Drawn at 10:30am, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026,  
in the Church at our monthly coffee morning.**

**Tickets available from:**

**[john.r.hearn19@gmail.com](mailto:john.r.hearn19@gmail.com)**



**Congratulations to January's winners:**

**1<sup>st</sup> prize ~ Karen & Steve Andrews**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize ~ Sheryl Burroughs**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize ~ Deborah Horseford**

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



### **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/](http://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**

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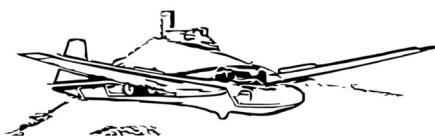
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## Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council

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[www.magpc.co.uk](http://www.magpc.co.uk)



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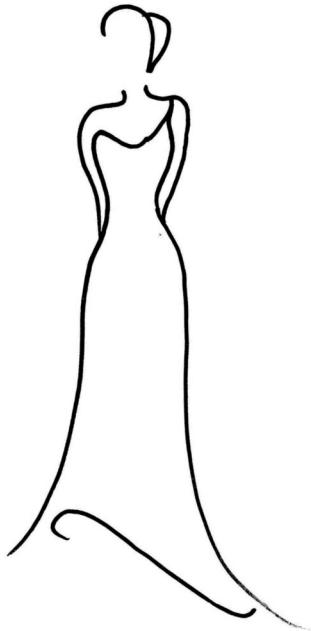


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### Lamerton Art Group

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](mailto:elainejprice@hotmail.co.uk)

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Church Services for February 2026		
<b>Sun 1st Feb</b> <b>Epiphany 4 / Candlemas (Gold/White)</b>	10.30am Communion Marystowe (TT)	6.30pm Evensong Lamerton (MJ)
<b>Wed 4th Feb</b>	10am Midweek Communion (TT)	
<b>Sun 8th Feb 2nd before Lent (Green)</b>	10.30am Communion Sydenham Damerel (TT)	4pm Sunday Praise Milton Abbot meet in The Priest Chapel (GG)
<b>Wed 11th Feb</b>	10am Midweek Communion (GG/RS)	
<b>Sun 15th Feb Next before Lent (Green)</b>	9.30am Breakfast Church Marystowe (G)	11.00am Communion Lamerton (GG)
<b>Wed 18th Feb ASH WEDNESDAY (Purple)</b>	10am Midweek Communion & Ashing Lamerton (GG & RS)	
<b>Sun 22nd Feb Lent 1 (Purple)</b>		11am Communion Milton Abbot in the Priest Room at Lamerton (GG/RS)
<b>Wed 25th Feb</b>	10am Midweek Service (RS)	4pm BCP Holy Communion Coryton (GG/RS)
		6.30pm Songs of Praise Sydenham Damerel (RS)

Church Services for March 2026				
<b>Sun 1st Mar</b> Lent 2(Purple)	10.30am Communion Marystowe (GG & RS)			6.30pm Evensong Lamerton (M))
<b>Wed 4th Mar</b>	10am Midweek Communion (TT)			
<b>Sun 8th Mar</b> Lent 3 (Purple)	10.30am Communion Sydenham Damerel (GG)	11.15am Matins Coryton (RS)	4pm Crumpet Church Milton Abbot (GG)	
<b>Wed 11th Mar</b>	10am Midweek Communion (GG)			
<b>Sun 15th Mar</b> Mothering Sunday (Purple)	9.30am Breakfast Church Marystowe (GG)	11.00am Mothering Sunday All Age Communion Lamerton (GG)		
<b>Wed 18th Mar</b>	10am Midweek Communion (TT)			
<b>Sun 22nd Mar</b> Passion Sunday (Red)		11am Communion Milton Abbot (TT)	4pm Holy Communion (BCP) Coryton (GG)	6.30pm Songs of Praise Sydenham Damerel (RS)
<b>Wed 25th Mar</b>	10am Midweek Communion (GG)			
<b>Sun 29th Mar</b> Palm Sunday (Red)	8.30am Communion Milton Abbot (GG)	11am Palm Sunday Lamerton (GG)		6.30pm Stations of the Cross Lamerton
<b>Mon 30th</b>				
<b>Tue 31st Mar</b>		2pm School Service in Lamerton Church (GG)	6.30pm Taizé Service Sydenham Damerel	

Church Services for April 2026 (to Easter)			
Wed 1st Apr	10am Midweek Communion (TT)		
Thu 2nd Apr		6.30pm "Maundy Thursday HC "Levantine Last Supper" Lamerton (GG)	
Fri 3rd Apr	11am Walk of Witness from Marystowe to Croyton (GG/RS)	12noon Children's service at Croyton (JW/GG)	
Sat 4th Apr			6.30pm Easter Eve Reflection Milton Abbot (GG)
Sun 5th Apr EASTER DAY (Gold/White)	9.30am Easter Communion Marystowe (GG)	11am Easter Praise Dunterton (RS)	11.15am Easter Communion Croyton (TT)