

THE TORRIDGE TEAM LINK

*Bringing Together the Parishes
of the Torridge Team*



*You are the salt of the earth.
You are the light of the world.
(Matthew 5:13,14)*

February 2026

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

Collects for the Month

Feb 1st: Candlemas

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

Feb 8th: 2nd before Lent

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Feb 15th: Sunday before Lent

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Feb 18th: Ash Wednesday

Holy God, our lives lie open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Feb 22nd: Lent 1

Heavenly Father your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert; help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saint of the Month

1st Feb: St. Seirol



Seirol and Cybi meeting.

With Catherine off to Wales, a Welsh saints seemed in order. Seirol (and Cybi) are saints of Anglesey.

Seirol was a son of a king. His cell at Penmon is said

to have been rebuilt by his brothers, as they didn't think his humble residence was good enough. St Seirol's Well lies in a small chamber nearby. St Seirol's Well lies in a small chamber nearby. Adjacent is the church and ruins of a monastery also dating back to Seirol's day.

According to legend, Seirol and Cybi were good friends, and would meet weekly. Cybi would walk from Holyhead, facing the rising sun in the morning and setting sun in the evening. Cybi was known as *Cybi Felyn* (*Cybi the Tanned*), as he was tanned as a result. Seirol, travelling in the opposite direction, from Penmon, would have his back to the sun. Thus, he was known as *Seirol Wyn* (*Seirol the Fair*).

In his old age, Seirol retired to Ynys Lannog, subsequently became known as Ynys Seirol, but today known as Puffin Island.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

	Feb 1st: Candlemas	Feb 8th: 2nd before Lent
Buckland Filleigh		11.00am Morning Worship
Langtree		11.00am Communion
Merton/ Huish		9.30am Communion
Newton St. P		
Peters Marland		
Petrockstowe	11.00am Comunion 6.00pm Evening Worship	11.00am Morning Worship
Shebbear		11.00am @ B Filleigh
Sheepwash		2.45pm Baptist
	Feb 15th: 1st before Lent	Feb 22nd: Lent 1
Buckland Filleigh		4.00pm Evening Worship
Langtree	11.00am Chapel	11.00am Morning Worship
Merton/Huish	9.30am Communion (Merton)	9.30am Communion
Newton St. P	11.00am Morning Worship	10.30am Café Church
Peters Marland		
Petrockstowe	11.00am Sacrament	11.00am Morning Prayer
Shebbear	10.00am B'fast Church	10.30am Lake Chapel
Sheepwash	11.00am Communion	
West Heanton:	Sun 1st February Wed 11th February	3.00pm Sunday Worship 11.00am Communion

Worship by Phone



Sunday at 4.00pm

Phone 0330-606-0403

You will be asked for an access code: 251417#

Farewell from Catherine

It is always hard leaving somewhere. There are all sorts of threads which need unwinding and unknotting, all sorts of roots needing pulling up. And even more so in a place where I have felt so welcomed, supported and loved!



Curacy is known to be challenging on so many levels. It's a sad fact that around $\frac{1}{4}$ of curacies break down. And many more are just 'endured'. For me, it has been a challenge, but I still hold with what I keep saying to people: the right place, at the right time. I couldn't have asked for anything better for my curacy, being amongst all of you lovely people!

Could I have done it without being encouraged to make mistakes, to experiment and sometimes fail, to have a go at all the things that were new? No.

Could I have done it without the faithful witness of those I have had the privilege of worshipping with and walking alongside? No.

Could I have done it without the loving kindness and selfless giving which I have found in people here? No.

I had a reflect on the 'highlights' of my time here and, to be honest, it is hard to choose from amongst all of the lovely moments. But if you pushed me, I'd say the Merton Nativity surrounded by the Tree Festival, hiding tiny sheep round Petrockstowe, developing a new Celtic Communion service for Newton St. Petrock and the summer Holiday Clubs at Shebbear.

I recall the joy of standing at the altar presiding at communion for the first time. I recall the tears of sorrow and empathy at funerals, and the tears of joy at weddings. I recall the tiny hands at baptisms and the wizened hands of West Heanton residents receiving communion. I recall the staff meetings over dinner then by the fireside sharing ideas for what next. I recall those times when others have led prayers and I've been sat with tears of silent prayer running down my cheeks. And I recall the solid support of both Martin and Julie as I have gotten used to the idea of being ordained.

So many memories which I will carry with me as I head off to Anglesey in a couple of weeks...

And so I pray for you all as I journey onwards- for our churches, our communities, our schools and all of the people. I pray that you continue to walk gently and faithfully with each other as you reflect together on what next. And I pray that you continue to be the faithful witness to God in this place - truly showing the heart of God in the heart of the community.

Many blessings and much love, Catherine.



Blessed to bless.

The Sermon on the Mount: *Living the life of God.*

Lent 2026

This Lent, go deeper into the life of God found in Jesus.

Here is Matthew's manual for a disciple of Christ.

The Sermon on the Mount is what it looks like to be a Christian.

Will you follow further this Lent?

The Gospel of Matthew is our gospel for this year. At its heart is The Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), Jesus' guidance to those who have chosen to follow him.

In chapter 4, Jesus has encountered the devil. There he has been tempted with the seductive ways of the world. It's not that bread and safety and power are inherently evil. Rather it's when they occupy the central place of our lives, then they turn us away from God and his blessing. It is tempting to make sure that we are provided for; it is tempting to dwell in the glow of popularity; it is tempting to use the power we have for own purposes. But Jesus says 'no' to these ways ruling his life. He turns rather to the ways of the Kingdom of heaven/God. And he invites those who follow him to do the same. It's the way of being blessed. It's the way of blessing those around us.

So this Lent, embrace yet more the way of blessing.

- Read the chapters 5-7 afresh. (Maybe a different translation. Try The Message, if you haven't before.)
- Reflect on the Sunday input. If you haven't got a service one week, join one elsewhere. Come to the Ash Wednesday service.
- Use the booklet to help you go further.
- Join a group to hear others' insights. If there isn't one at a convenient time, ask whether we could set one up for Lent.
- Find a friend and talk it through together.

This Lent:

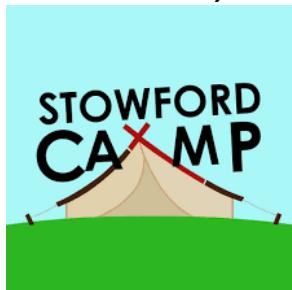
Be Blessed that we might bless

STOWFORD YOUTH CAMP

This year at Merton

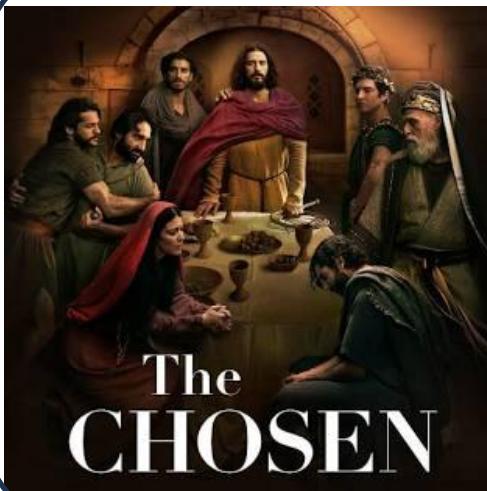
3rd – 5th July

Stowford Camp is an end full of fun activities, and worship made group. It's a chance to hang out with God and God can really look like.



action-packed week- inspirational teaching accessible to each age meet up with friends, explore what life with For ages 10-18.

Stowford Camp is an interdenominational event overseen by the West Devon Methodist Circuit and led by a group of local volunteers. We work together in Jesus' name and welcome people from any or no faith background.



*Sunday evenings
in March*

Series 5
The Chosen: Last Supper
*from Palm Sunday to
Maundy Thursday*

Each episode is about 1hr.

If you haven't seen any of The Chosen before, you have missed a treat.
Realistic, human, thought-provoking.

Not so much the story of Jesus, although that is there, as that of the chosen, those around Jesus and how the presence of Jesus might have impacted their lives. The Chosen takes us behind the stories of the Bible into the lives of those who met Jesus. Come and see.

EVENTS.....EVENTS

Times of Prayer

Weekly

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

Fri 10.30am Petrockstowe Chapel

Monthly

Sat 10th, 9.30am Sheepwash
Church

Fellowship groups

Tues afternoon in Sheepwash,
Tues evening in Petrockstowe,
Wed afternoon in Newton St.
Petrock

Thurs evening in Langtree
Fri evening in Shebbear.

Ash Wednesday: 18th February

12noon Prayers (Shebbear)
7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service
(Petrockstowe)

Meetings

Wed 4th 2.00pm Merton PCC
Sat 7th 2.00pm Team meeting
with Diocesan Rural Advisor
(Peters Marland)
Wed 11th 3.00pm Wardens' mtg
with Bp Moira
(Newton Community Hall)
Wed 25th 3.00pm Deanery Synod

Coffee Mornings

Mondays 9.15am Tea and Tots
(Petrockstowe Chapel)
Wed 4th, 18th 10.30am
(Shebbear Ch Room)
Thurs 19th 11.00am
(Peters Marland Hall)

Review of Team Structures, etc

How do we work together?
Sat 7th Feb
2.00pm

Peters Marland Hall.

*Input from all welcome, especially
PCC members*

*Meeting with Revd Rosie Austin,
Diocesan Rural Advisor.*

Dates for 2026

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

For your Prayers

- Pray for Huish. There are two baptisms at Huish this month. Pray for those being baptised and their families
- Pray for Catherine as she moves to Anglesey/ Ynys Môn and is she begins her ministry there on the 25th.
- As we enter into Lent, pray that we would more fully into the life that is blessed.
- Ask God about how you will use Lent this year.
- One of the temptations of Jesus is the misuse of power. Pray for the leaders of the nations in their exercise of the power given to them.

Readings for the month

On occasions, other readings may be chosen.

Feb 1st: Candlemas (white)

Malachi 3: 1-5

Luke 2: 22-40

Feb 8th: 2nd before Lent (green)

Ephesians 6: 10-18

Matthew 4: 1-11

Feb 15th: 1st before Lent (green)

Job 42: 1-6

Matthew 4: 12-25

Feb 18th: Ash Wednesday (purple)

Psalm 1

Matthew 5: 1-12

Feb 22nd: Lent 1 (purple)

Genesis 11: 31 – 12: 5

Matthew 5: 13-16

Mar 1st: Lent 2 (purple)

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Matthew 5: 17-20

Local Church Staff:

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

Lay Ministers: Jon Berry (07807-051881)

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

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

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

Prayer Hub: Penny Warren (01409-281424)