

THE TORRIDGE TEAM LINK

*Bringing Together the Parishes
of the Torridge Team*



*Seek first the kingdom (of God) and his
righteousness and all these things will be given to
you as well.
(Matthew 6:33)*

March 2026

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

Collects for the Month

Mar 1st: Lent 2

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mar 8th Lent 3

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mar 15th: Mothering Sunday

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful, watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mar 22nd: Lent 5

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world; lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mar 29th: Lent 6 (Palm Sunday)

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Saint of the Month

March 2nd: St Chad of Lichfield

Jon and Tina Berry having recently been in Lichfield, and remembering Dennis Beresford as coming from there, it is good to remember Chad.



Chad's shrine

Chad was one of four Saxon brothers trained at Aidan's Lindisfarne monastery in its very early days. After his brother Cedd died, he became abbot at Lastingham, but soon was made bishop, and particularly the first bishop of Mercia, covering the central English kingdom. He was based at Lichfield in the heart of Mercia, building cells there and establishing a monastery at Barton in Lincolnshire. He had learnt the humility of Lindisfarne, and would rarely travel by horse, preferring to walk. Thunder and strong wind would send him into the church to pray: 'God sends it,' he said, 'to excite peoples to fear him, to humble their pride and make them aware that they will be judged.' He died of the plague in 672, but as he did, he saw Cedd coming with many angels from heaven to greet him. Today there is a new shrine in Lichfield Cathedral, established on the 1350th anniversary of his death, to remember Chad and his foundational work in the Midlands.

SERVICES IN MARCH

Mar 1st: Lent 2

Buckland Filleigh	
Langtree	11.00am Chapel
Merton/ Huish	
Newton St. P	11.00am Morning Worship
Peters Marland	9.30am Communion
Petrockstowe	11.00am Morning Worship 6.00pm Healing Worship
Shebbear	11.00am Communion
Sheepwash	11.00am Methodist

Mar 8th: Lent 3

	11.00am Morning Worship
	11.00am Communion
	9.30am Communion
	11.00am Morning Worship
	11.00am @ B Filleigh
	2.45pm Baptist

Mar 15th: Lent 4

Buckland Filleigh	
Langtree	11.00am Chapel
Merton/Huish	9.30am Communion (Merton)
Newton St. P	10.30am Chapel
Peters Marland	
Petrockstowe	11.00am Morning Worship
Shebbear	10.00am B'fast Church
Sheepwash	11.00am Communion

Mar 22nd: Lent 5

	6.00pm Evening Worship
	11.00am Morning Worship
	9.30am Communion (Huish)
	10.30am Café Church
	11.00am Communion
	10.30am Lake Chapel

March 29th: Lent 6 (Palm Sunday)

11.00am Palm Sunday Team Special (Newton St. Petrock)

West Heanton: Sun 1st March

3.00pm Sunday Worship

Wed 11th March

11.00am Communion

Worship by Phone



Sunday at 4.00pm

Phone 0330-606-0403

You will be asked for an access code: 251417#

Checking out the Archbishop

Penny Warren got the opportunity to be at the Confirmation of Election of Sarah Mullally as the new Archbishop.



Totally unexpectedly, I got an invitation to the service at St Paul's Cathedral where Bishop Sarah Mullally was made Archbishop of Canterbury. It was because of some work I have done centrally with the C of E. The service is called the Confirmation of Election. I thought, like most people, that all that happened at the service at Canterbury cathedral, later on in March.

My seat was just 8 rows back and right under the dome of the cathedral. I found myself sitting with two friends, a Benedictine nun and a Franciscan monk. Mother Ann said that she had been warned "to be prepared to be bemused"! We were! The chancel was set out like a court room. The Dean of St Pauls, in his welcome, said that there "were enough wigs here to rival the Old Bailey".

Before the formal start of the service the Canterbury cross was brought in. There was silence as it was laid with solemnity on the altar table. I felt the aloneness of the role in that moment. What would Sarah Mullally have to carry alone in her new role? Is this how we should be? Should anyone be at the top as a target for today's media and cynicism? I saw what cynicism had done to her predecessor and I don't relish seeing that again.

But there was so much joy and colour! There was a real sense of celebration amongst everyone there, summed up when the Bishop of Dover announced. "We have a mama!" There was a cheer throughout the cathedral.

Poignant after the legal bits, came the Charge to the Archbishop delivered by children and young people, a prison chaplain, a priest to the Traveller community and many others reminding Archbishop Sarah that her role is primarily to reflect Jesus to those she meets and to live prayerfully. The Archbishop of York's words were beautiful. You can read them here:

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/latest-news/confirmation-election-charge>

The new Archbishop has already had a bumpy ride. Do pray for her.

Whatever we think of the huge structure that is the Church of England, leaders within it want to live faithfully to God's call and bring Christ to our nation.



EGGS FOR EASTER

Share the Easter story – with an Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions. So,

buy a 2026 edition Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

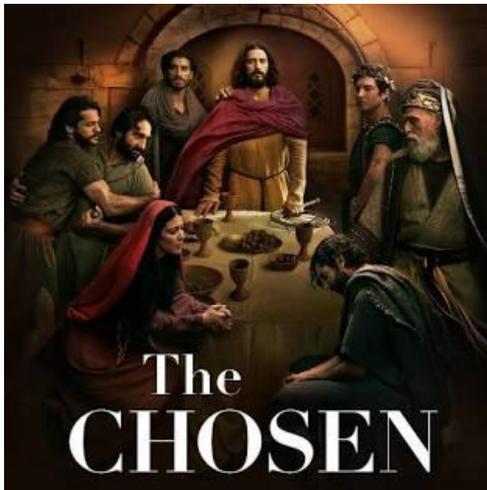
About the Real Easter Egg

The Original and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition. The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs and the mug includes the activity poster and 3 milk chocolate eggs.

Where to buy

The 2026 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets but the full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or call 01925-877004.

More details: contact Julie Cartwright.



*Sunday evenings
from March 8th*

Series 5

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

*Each episode is about 1hr.
Langtree Parish Hall.*

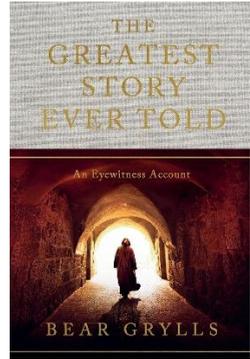
Book Review

The Greatest Story ever told:

an eyewitness account

by Bear Grylls

Bear Grylls – former SAS man, mountaineer, adventurer, until recently Chief Scout, and dedicated follower of Jesus (the latter may come as a surprise to some).



He has been in recent times ‘feeling in his spirit’ (his words) that ‘religion has long since wiped out the real story of Jesus’ life, and he needed to do something about it. Result: ‘The Greatest Story ever told’ as through the eyes of Jesus’ mother and 5 of his disciples. The book brings to life Jesus’ life and times on earth, in a similar (yet very different) way to the film series ‘The Chosen’. (If you are not familiar with ‘The Chosen’ – you can find it online – you are really missing out!) In book form, it allows you to envisage his life through the eyes of some of his followers in a more personal way than the Scriptures do.

Bear has drawn on three different translations of the Bible – NIV, The Message and English Revised Version for Jesus’ words. He said in an interview, he understood that “he must not change a word, not a dot or a comma, of what Jesus said” (wagging his finger as he said that). Also, like ‘The Chosen’ writers, he has consulted theologians, and been helped and advised by them.

This is a truly worthwhile read in the run up to Easter. Having read it twice on the trot, I highly recommend it.

Christine Wright.

There are copies of the book available free for any that would like one. Please be in touch. Great Lenten reading in preparation for celebrating Easter.

EVENTS.....EVENTS

Times of Prayer

Weekly

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

Fri 10.30am Petrockstowe Chapel

Monthly

Sat 14th, 9.30am Sheepwash Church

Fellowship Groups

Mon afternoon: Merton

Tues afternoon: Sheepwash

Tues evening: Petrockstowe

Wed afternoon: Newton St. Petrock

Thurs evening: Langtree

Fri evening: Shebbear

Bingo evening

Sat 28th March,
7.30pm

Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe

Entrance on the door: £1

Books of 10 games: £8

Come, Dine with us

Sat 28th March

Max and Mike's Street Food

£23 per person

Book by 21st March (07496-873822)

Meetings

Thurs 5th 2.30pm Newton Churches
7.00pm Team Council

Wed 11th 2.30pm Sheepwash AGM

Sun 22nd 12noon Petrockstowe AGM

Coffee Mornings

Mondays 9.15am Tea and Tots
(Petrockstowe Chapel)

Wed 4th, 18th 10.30am
(Shebbear Ch Room)

Thur 19th 11.00am
(Peters Marland Hall)

The Chosen

Series 5: Last Supper
events from Palm Sunday
to Maundy Thursday
screening Sundays, 6pm
from Sun 8th March
Langtree Parish Hall
Each episode about 1hr.

Lee Abbey Local Churches Evening

Sun 8th March
5.45pm for 6.30pm worship
at Lee Abbey, Lynton

Dates for 2026

Thur 5th Mar 7.00pm Team
Council

Sun 5th Apr Easter Day

Th 14th May Ascension Day

Sun 21st Jun Visit by Bishop
Mike

Fri 3rd Jul Stowford Camp (at
Merton)

For your Prayers

- Pray for Langtree. With baptisms this month, please pray for the ongoing contact with families and the use of the service at the end of the month.
- Continue to pray for our use of this Lent: especially for the Sermon on the Mount series, and the showings of 'The Chosen'.
- Mothering Sunday is coming up. Pray for families, and also for those for whom it is a time of painful memory.
- Give thanks for our life together across the churches. Pray God's blessing on our coming together on Palm Sunday.
- Ukraine has passed another anniversary of the start of the war there. Pray for ways forward for that land. 'Lord, have mercy.'

Readings for the month

On occasions, other readings may be chosen.

Mar 1st: Lent 2 (purple)

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Matthew 5: 17-20

Mar 8th: Lent 3 (purple)

Acts 2: 40-47

Matthew 6: 19-24

Mar 15th: Lent 4 (purple)

Exodus 16: 1-15, 17-18

Matthew 6: 25-33

Mar 22nd: Lent 5 (purple)

Galatians 5: 19-25

Mathew 7: 15-27

Mar 29th: Lent 6 (purple)

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 21: 1-11

Apr 5th: Easter Day (white)

Colossians 3: 1-4

Matthew 28: 1-10

Local Church Staff:

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

Lay Minister: Jon Berry (07807-051881)

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

Methodist ministers: Frank Watson (Torrige 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)