



Sunday 22nd March 2026

5th Sunday of Lent

**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**

IN CHURCH

Sunday 22nd March

9.30am	Holy Communion	Holy Cross
10am	Holy Communion	Axmouth
10am	Holy Communion	Chardstock
10am	Morning Worship	Uplyme
10.30am	Holy Communion	The Minster
11am	Holy Communion	All Saints
11am	Morning Worship	Membury

Monday 23rd March

8.30am	Morning Prayer	The Minster
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Tuesday 24th March

10am	Holy Communion	The Minster
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ON-LINE

Grab a coffee and join in!

Morning Prayer every Monday and Friday on zoom at 8.30am

With the exception of Bank Holidays and Rev Nicky’s annual leave

Everyone is welcome and invited to join us. Just log in to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88612973911?pwd=OFIjWDVIR2VTN3Qyem5qUEdTdmNoZz09>

or Meeting ID: **886 1297 3911**

Passcode: **061396**

Sunday 22nd March Bible readings in the Minster:

1st reading

Ezekial 37. 1-14 Page 618 OT

2nd reading

Romans 8. 6-11. Page 131 NT



Please pray for:

Maggie Gordon, Val Warner, Paul Avis, Jennifer Palmer, Sue Taylor, Karen Wilkes
and all those in need of our prayers.



Please pray for the Family and Friends of the Departed:

Melissa Marsh, Jo Saunders
and all whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion	Holy Cross
10am	Morning Worship	Axmouth
10am	Holy Communion	Chardstock
10am	Morning Worship	Combpyne
10am	Morning Worship	Uplyme
10.30am	Holy Communion	The Minster
11am	Morning Worship	All Saints
11am	Holy Communion	Membury
6pm	Songs of Praise	Uplyme



Easter Saturday!
4th April, 10am – 3pm
Minster Church & Green

Easter Crafts & Refreshments in the Church

The Easter Bunny on the Green 1pm – 2pm

Bring your Easter Bonnet! Parade at 2pm!

Raffle & Prizes!

Working with Rural East Devon Police | NOURISH Axminster

And in partnership with Axminster Chamber of Commerce

The Egg-ceptional Community Easter Egg Hunt!
Brighten Axminster on Saturday 4th April!

All Welcome!



**Community Walk
Followed by Lunch**

Saturday 21st March



Meet at church 10.30am

Or come for lunch at 12.00

Next walk Saturday 18th April

For more information :
Contact Sue Wells 07912 272102

Stories of God in the seasons, the scriptures, and the life of our communities.

As Easter approaches, the first real signs of spring are appearing all around us. Magnolia buds are beginning to open into soft pink and white flowers. Primroses brighten the grass before the first cut of the year, daffodils nod in churchyards and along the lanes and blackthorn is beginning to whiten the hedgerows. Lambs are appearing in the fields and birds seem to sing their song a little earlier each morning. After the long quiet of winter the whole landscape seems to be waking again — a gentle reminder that new life often appears where we least expect it. For many in our communities this winter has brought more than its share of rain and flooding. Fields have been waterlogged, rivers swollen and gardens slow to recover.

Yet even after such weather the signs of new life begin to appear again.

The Bible captures this sense of renewal beautifully in the Song of Songs:

*“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.*

*The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come...”*

(Song of Songs 2:10–12)

These words could almost have been written for the fields and hedgerows around us at this time of year. Spring has always carried with it a deep sense of hope.

C. S. Lewis once imagined a land trapped in a long winter in ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’. The rivers are frozen, the forests silent and the land seems locked in cold and darkness. But, when the great lion Aslan begins to return something begins to change. The ice starts to melt, water begins to run beneath the snow and the first signs of spring appear. The characters suddenly realise what is happening: winter is losing its grip. Lewis was giving us a picture of the hope at the heart of Easter — that the long winter of the world does not have the last word.

In the Easter story itself, that same hope appears quietly in a garden at dawn. One of the most beautiful moments of Easter morning takes place in a garden. Mary Magdalene, grieving and confused, encounters the risen Jesus but at first does not recognise him. She thinks he is the gardener. A child once remarked that Easter must be the happiest day of the year for gardeners — because on that first Easter morning even Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was one of them. And perhaps, in a way, she was not entirely wrong, because Easter is the beginning of God’s new creation.

Later that same day, two disciples walk the road to Emmaus, weighed down with disappointment and loss. As they walk, a stranger joins them and begins to talk with them. Only later do they realise that it is Jesus himself walking beside them. Perhaps that is how hope often appears — quietly and unexpectedly, along the ordinary roads of life. And perhaps, like those first disciples on the road to Emmaus, we may discover that the risen Christ has been walking beside us all along.

Why not visit your local church or churchyard this Easter, or come along to a service or community event? You may discover a season of hope — and perhaps a new story that speaks into your life.

You would be very welcome.

With every blessing for the season ahead,

Rev’d Leisa Potter



UPLYME CHURCH FESTIVAL CHOIR

All singers are invited to join Festival Choir to participate in **Uplyme Church's Songs of Praise** evening service on **Palm Sunday at 6.00 pm.**

We sing in 4 parts but we give you help to learn your part! Please ring **Adrian on 01297 442902** if you'd like to learn more about getting involved this time or in the future.

AXMINSTER AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS

SPRING CONCERT

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026, 7:30PM



Vivaldi: Gloria

J S Bach: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

C P E Bach: Magnificat

Peter Parshall Music Director
Judy Martin Conductor
& Orchestra

TICKETS £16 & £14 from
Archway Bookshop and on line at
www.axminsterchoral.co.uk

THE MINSTER CHURCH,
AXMINSTER

Registered Charity No. 900458



Mary

Come with us
on our

Palm Sunday Procession

through Axmouth village.

We will meet at **9.30** on Sunday **March 29th**
at the bottom of **Stepps Lane**,
and walk with the donkeys to
Church Green,
then into the church
for a drink and a hot cross bun.



Jane

If you wish, you can stay with us
for a time of worship .

Join us if you can!

Please note: Rev Leisa will be unavailable Monday 23rd to Friday 27th March inc

The funeral of the late Jo Saunders will take place on Tuesday 24th March at 12noon in Axmouth church

TEAM RECTOR:

REV LEISA POTTER

revleisa@btinternet.com

01297 816783 07766 702076

Day off: Wednesday



**Axe
Valley
Mission
Community**

TEAM VICAR

REV NICKY DAVIES

daviesnicky@live.co.uk

07931 413629

Day off: Thursday

AVMC TEAM OFFICE: axevalleymc@hotmail.co.uk 01297 441986 www.achurchnearyou.com