

# ***THE TORRIDGE TEAM LINK***

***Bringing Together the Parishes  
of the Torridge Team***



***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled  
and do not be afraid.  
(John 14: 27-28)***

***April 2026***

***Buckland Filleigh, Huish, Langtree, Merton, Newton St. Petrock,  
Peters Marland, Petrockstowe, Shebbear, Sheepwash  
Website: [torridgeteamchurches.org.uk](http://torridgeteamchurches.org.uk)***

## **Collects for the Month**

### ***Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>: Good Friday***

*Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus, we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### ***Apr 5<sup>th</sup>: Easter Day***

*God of glory, by the raising of your Son, you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope, for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

### ***Apr 12<sup>th</sup>: Easter 2***

*Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.*

### ***Apr 19<sup>th</sup>: Easter 3***

*Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope; strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.*

### ***Apr 26<sup>th</sup>: Easter 4***

*Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.*

## **Saint of the Month**

### ***April 7<sup>th</sup>: Guron of Bodmin***



*Guron's well  
outside the  
church at  
Bodmin.*

Guron was probably educated at Llantwit Major in south Wales, sometime in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. That was a centre of Christian training at the time founded by Illytd, and produced many who influenced the church in these islands over the years. Guron was one of those.

Like many he seems to have travelled to Ireland and Brittany, and then returned to the south west. He established himself at Bodmin and the well to the west of the parish church retains his name.

But Guron didn't stay there. For after his famous meeting with Petrock, he handed the place over to him, and left a day's journey. It is a great picture of generosity and honouring another. Reputedly he ended up on the south Cornish coast, establishing himself afresh in what is now known as Gorran, near Mevagissey. Gorran lies inland, Gorran Haven is on the coast. Gorran's hermitage is supposed to have been in what is now the grounds of the old Vicarage, Polgorran.

If you are passing on the A30, stop off in Bodmin and visit Guron's well.



# *Holy Week in the Jorridge Team*

## **Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March: Palm Sunday**

11.00am Palm Sunday Special (Newton St. Petrock)  
*with shared lunch to follow*

6.30pm 'The Chosen', Episode 4 (Shebbear Church Room)

## **Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7.00pm 'The Chosen', Episode 5 (Shebbear Church Room)

## **Tues 31<sup>st</sup> March**

7.00pm 'The Chosen', Episode 6 (Shebbear Church Room)

## **Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April**

7.00pm 'The Chosen', Episode 7 (Shebbear Church Room)

## **Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Maundy Thursday**

5.00pm Passover Meal, to include 'The Chosen', Episode 8  
(Sheepwash Village Hall) shared food.

## **Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Good Friday**

10.00am Process of the Cross (Sheepwash)

12noon Lifting up the Cross (Shebbear Square)

2.00pm Worship at the Cross (Merton)

5.00pm Worship at the Cross (Newton St. Petrock)

6.00pm Worship at the Cross (Petrockstowe)

## **Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Eve**

8.00pm Easter Vigil and Communion (Merton)

## **Sun 5<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Day**

6.30am Sunrise Service and Communion (Peters Marland)

9.30am Easter Communion (Buckland Filleigh)

Easter Communion (Huish)

10.30am Easter Worship (Chapel)

11.00am Easter Communion (Petrockstowe)

Easter Communion (Shebbear)

Easter Worship (Sheepwash)

4.00pm Family Communion (Langtree)



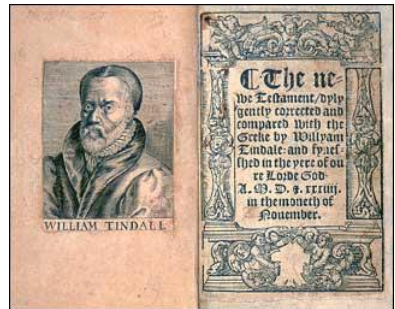
# Setting Free the Word

*Under the sun', 'eat, drink and be merry', 'signs of the times', 'the salt of the earth', 'let there be light', 'my brother's keeper', 'fall flat on his face'.*

All phrases, common today, first used in William Tyndale's translation of the Bible into modern English.

In 1526 - 500 years ago – Tyndale first published his translation of the New Testament. (The whole Bible followed later.) It was a bold move - a challenge to King Henry VIII and the Church. For the first time, Tyndale was giving all people, 'from princes to ploughboys', the chance to experience first-hand the word of God. It was revolutionary!

With the new invention of printing, lots of copies could be produced. They were tiny – measuring only inches. They were smuggled into England. But the Church reacted. Led by the Bishop of London, the copies were systematically bought up and burnt – many at St. Paul's Cathedral. Only three survived. Ironically one is at St. Paul's Cathedral today.



But the money used to buy up the books went to print a new edition. The Word of God kept on coming. Can we see God's hand in this, spreading his Word to the people?

## Setting Free the Word .....in the Torridge Team.

In May, we will celebrate this event, not by burning the Bible, but by reading it. Between Ascension Day (May 14<sup>th</sup>) and Pentecost (May 24<sup>th</sup>), we will read the whole New Testament around the villages. In total it takes about 20 hours. In our churches, at coffee mornings, in the schools, in our homes, the good news of Jesus will be read in our own language.

Will you help set free the Word in our time?

Will you take part in this readathon?

Will you read a section of the New Testament aloud in a 15 minute slots?

**Please, be in touch – book your slots:** Sarah Huxtable (07765-497711); Kat Timms (07971-260966); Martin Warren (01409-281424).

# On the Way Together

*The heart of God at the heart of our communities.*



Over recent months, the Team Council has been reviewing the way we work across the Torridge Team. Much has changed since the Team was established over 30 years ago:

- Clergy numbers have changed; most recently, Catherine has gone.
  - We work more closely with other denominations
    - Some have found it hard to fill PCC posts
  - We have a joint Anglican/ Methodist church in our midst.

The Team Council agreed to recommend a way forward that better supports each other where we are, in our service of loving God and loving our neighbours.

To this end, two areas were highlighted. What this will look like, we don't know yet, but these are the aims:

## **1. Releasing worship**

- a) that each community aims to have a weekly act of worship, (be it in one building, ecumenically or with a neighbouring church).
- b) to enable all members of the congregation to give in worship as appropriate (eg reading, leading intercessions, floral decoration, coffee, etc, etc)
- c) to nurture those leading worship.

## **2. Releasing mission**

- a) That churches are released to be outward looking and mission focussed in their communities.
- b) That that which can be done better together is done together.

This sense of direction needs to be talked about, prayed about and decided on in our parishes. Please do so, and feed back your thoughts and reflections. Thank you.

# EVENTS.....EVENTS

## ***Times of Prayer***

### Weekly

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

Fri 10.30am Petrockstowe Chapel

### Monthly

Sat 14<sup>th</sup>, 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

## ***Meetings***

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Peters Marland

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Langtree

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.30pm Newton St. P.

Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.30pm Shebbear  
7.00pm P'stowe Ch Council

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 12noon P'stowe AGM  
7.00pm Buckland Filleigh

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Merton

## **Clinton School**

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Governors m'ting

## ***Torrington Church***

### **Coldplay by Candlelight**

*Lumos Live production*

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May,

7pm or 9pm

Tickets from £20

## ***Coffee Mornings***

Mondays 9.15am Tea and Tots  
(Petrockstowe Chapel)

Wed 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am  
(Shebbear Ch Room)

Thur 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am  
(Peters Marland Hall)

## **Setting Free the Word**

***Celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the New Testament in modern  
English.***

May 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Reading through the New Testament  
in 10 days. Sign up for a stint.

*Schools, coffee mornings, at home,  
times of worship.*

## **Appledore**

### **Christian Music Festival**

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May Concert with Dave  
Bilbrough

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Roger Jones' musical  
*Further details to come.*

## **Dates for 2026**

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Apr Easter Day

Th 14<sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day

14<sup>th</sup> May

-23<sup>rd</sup> May Setting Free the Word

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Jun Visit by Bishop Mike

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul Stowford Camp  
(at Merton)

## For your Prayers

- Pray for Merton, and particularly for the Thursday gathering at the Hall.
- Pray for our living out of the resurrection life of Jesus.
- As we come to Annual Meeting season, pray for our wardens and other PCC officers.
- Hold before God the peoples of the troubled Middle East. May they find hope even in the midst of all the turmoil.
- Do remember before God those who we support in Guatemala, especially Ruby.

## Readings for the month

*On occasions, other readings may be chosen.*

### **Apr 5<sup>th</sup>: Easter Day** (white)

Colossians 3: 1-4

Matthew 28: 1-10

### **Apr 12<sup>th</sup>: Easter 2** (white)

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

John 20: 19-31

### **Apr 19<sup>th</sup>: Easter 3** (white)

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Luke 24: 13-35

### **Apr 26<sup>th</sup>: Easter 4** (white)

Acts 2: 42-47

John 10: 1-10

### **May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Easter 5** (white)

Acts 7: 55-60

John 14: 1-14

## **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: Sarah Huxtable (07765-497711)

Methodist minsters: 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)