

*St John the Evangelist Churchdown and Innsworth
Newsletter 24th May 2026*



Sunday 24th May Pentecost	8.30am and 10am Holy Communion
Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday	8.30am and 10am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th June

Please note on Sunday 14th June there will be **no 8.30am service**.

We will have **one service at 11am**.

This will be followed by **Jacqui's Party**, at **12.30pm in the large hall**.

If you are planning to join us for the party, please register for your free ticket.

Tickets are available from David and Mary Connell, or from the church office.

Everyone is welcome! 😊



COMMUNITY SUMMER LUNCHES

**LIGHT LUNCH + CAKES
TEA + COFFEE**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL 12.30-2PM

AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING THURSDAYS

APRIL 9 + 23

MAY 14 + 28

JUNE 11 + 25

JULY 9 + 23

AUG 13 + 27

SEP 10 + 24

ALL FREE, EVERYONE WELCOME

NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST COME ALONG



HOSTED BY ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CHURCHDOWN AND INNSWORTH

SUPPORTED BY CHURCHDOWN
PARISH COUNCIL



Bereavement Support

Group Coffee Time:

This is for anyone who has been bereaved and would like to join us for coffee and a chat. The next meeting will be held on **26th May from 10am - 11.30am**. This coffee time is available for anyone who has been bereaved, at any time, and would like some company over a 'cuppa'. For further information, please contact Jenny Wilkes via the Church Office. Tel. 01452 855553.



Newsletters:

Please submit any items for the next newsletter by **Wednesday 27th May**, to the office email:

office@stjohnschurchdown.org.uk If for any reason, you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please notify us at the same email address. Thank you

Prayer for This Week:

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Guide us with Your Spirit,
Fill our hearts with Your love,
And lead us to live according to Your will.
Amen.



Please continue to take very good care of yourselves and do keep in touch. With love, prayers, and blessings. Jacqui

A member of Churches Together
in Churchdown and Innsworth



Article taken from Church Times.

Surgery on ship done to avert 'suffocating death'

A WOMAN in need of complex medical treatment travelled three days by canoe, ferry, and car for life-saving surgery on board a hospital ship run by the Christian charity Mercy Ships, writes Rebecca Paveley.

Theogette, 50 (below), from a remote part of northern Madagascar, had lived with a slow-growing benign tumour in her jaw for ten years, which was gradually preventing her from eating and threatening her breathing. The mother-of-three had been abandoned by her husband and was shunned by her community, as the tumour, which began after a tooth removal, grew along her jawline.

Theogette said: "People said I was sick and contagious. They influenced my husband and he left me."



LUCY PETERS

She continued to try to work on a farm to earn money to provide for her children, although she was often in pain, and suffered stigma and isolation.

She was put in touch with Mercy Ships through her nephew Ronaldo, who is a medical student, and travelled hundreds of miles to the ship, the *Africa Mercy*, to be assessed by surgeons. When she arrived, she was undernourished and underweight, owing to the difficulty that the tumour had caused her in eating.

Without complex surgery, she would face a "slow, suffocating death", doctors warned.

Leo Cheng, a surgeon from Royal London Hospitals, performed Theogette's surgery on the ship. Mr Cheng said: "Theogette's tumour not only affected her appearance, but her function of speech, communication, chewing, swallowing, and breathing. If it were not for Mercy Ships, she could have died by slow suffocation." After the surgery, a clinical supervisor at Mercy Ships, Ali Herbert, said: "There was this incredible moment when Theogette looked in the mirror and put her hand up to her face. Then she realised the tumour wasn't there any more and her hand could move much closer to her face again."

In Madagascar, only 20 per cent of the population has access to surgery. The vast majority of people cannot afford such treatment.

Mercy Ships has been sending hospital ships on missions to Madagascar since 1996. The ships offer surgery and treatment for head and neck conditions, paediatric patients, plastic surgery, and ophthalmology. Doctors from Mercy Ships also work with the government to offer training and mentoring to surgeons in the country.