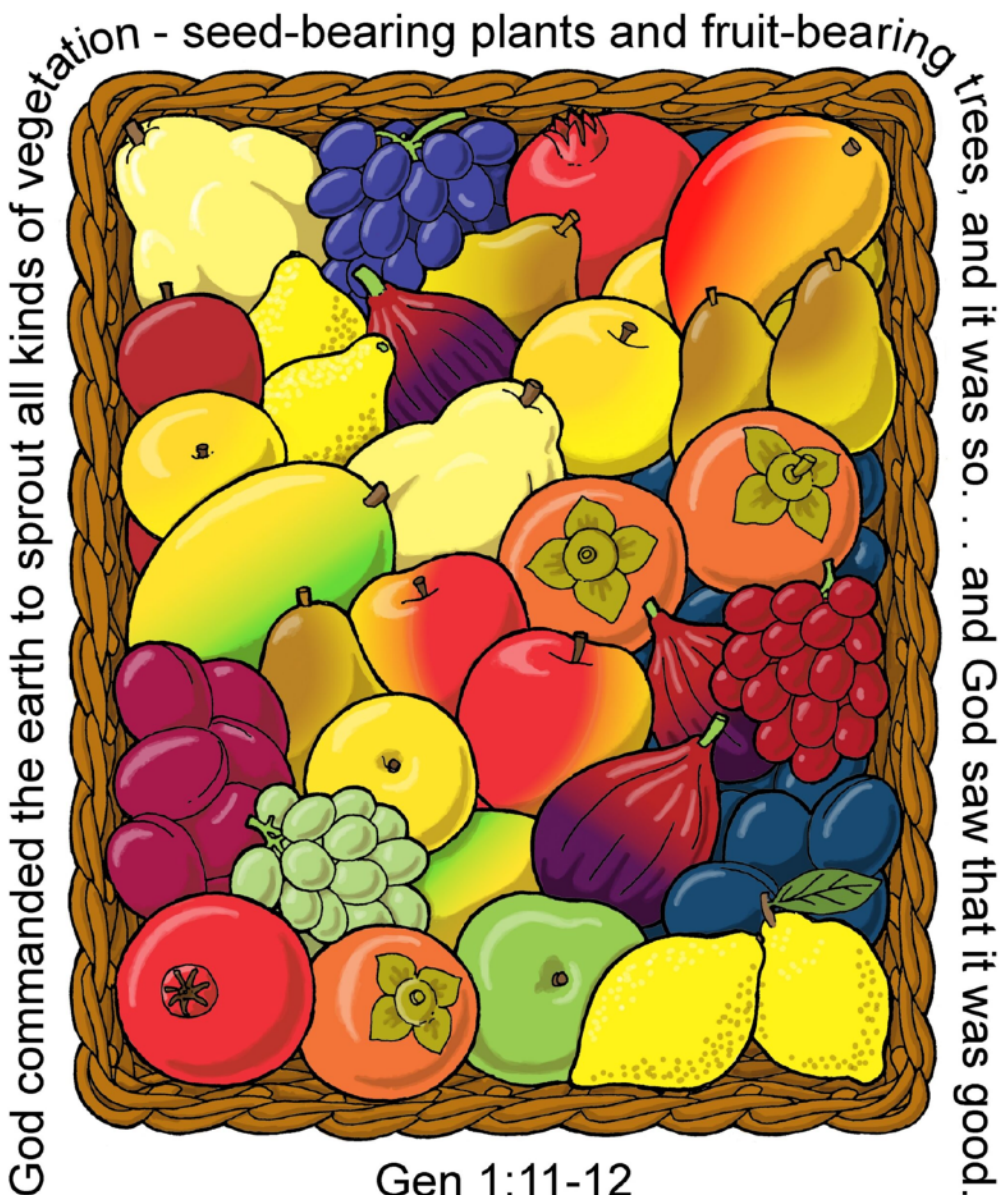


Church Magazine

News from the Shirwell Mission Community

October 2026



Shirwell Mission Community

www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk

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NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Articles for inclusion in next month's magazine to be sent to Terry no later than **Thursday 22 October** please.





Ramblings

The Broken Bench.

It was a beautiful bench, the very best they could buy. With much love they placed it in memory of their father at his favourite spot along the coast. Within a month someone had sprayed a horrible slogan on it. They were deeply upset. A few weeks later they were absolutely outraged to find it had been badly damaged. The culprit was eventually found deliberately damaging graves in a nearby cemetery. When asked why, the fifteen-year-old he said that he was bored and angry with everyone – his school, his teachers, and above all his parents because he claimed nobody ever listened to him.

The news has been full of angry youths like this chap, all apparently for little clear reason. But not all anger is wrong. At its best anger can be a kind of force driving us on to all to do many great things

It was anger brought an end to apartheid in South Africa. Anger eventually ended the slave trade. Anger led to numerous reforms to working conditions. Anger led to women having equal rights. Anger against cruelty led on to kindness to animals, and so it goes on. This is anger used at its best as God intended.

God also gets angry. Jesus did not lose His temper when He drove out the money changers from the temple. He was very angry when He saw how the very House of God, the holiest place on earth was being misused. God is angry (as we are) over terrorism and wars, over the abuse of the innocent, over the misuse of drugs and all that goes with it. over cruelty and exploitation of all sorts. There is a hell as well as a heaven.

God wants to work in us to create the best world we can. This means that sometimes we may get very angry, and in His hands good will come out of it.

Quite rightly everyone was angry with the boy in our story. Fortunately, he had a very wise school counsellor. Through his help the lad eventually found a cause where he really could use some of his anger – against cruelty to animals. He spent all his summer and then much of his life afterwards caring for neglected cats and dogs. As he did so, he became a changed person.

Anger can be destructive, but rightly handled and used by God it is a force for great good,

Chris Tull

October Monthly Reflection

Sometimes during different seasons of the year, I go foraging. Autumn is, of course, a particularly good time for foraging with rich pickings of crab apples and rowan berries, which make a delicious savoury jelly, elder berries for a variety of uses and of course blackberries for yummy bramble jelly or scrumptious puddings. This year, however, the blackberries have been much earlier than usual and probably due to lack of water not so tasty. In the spring I occasionally gather new nettle tips to make vinaigrette, then wild garlic for pesto and sometimes in the summer dandelion leaves for salad, not forgetting elder flowers for cordial. I haven't yet become confident enough for fungi foraging. When foraging for these things I can't help but remember the lines; "all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all His love." It is the refrain from the traditional eighteenth-century harvest hymn, *We plough the field and scatter*, which, no doubt, will be sung in our churches many times over the season.

We have been in the season of Creation-tide and this year there has been a very special focus on "Hope for all Creation." Plenty of hope is needed if we are to really care for creation, to halt damage that has already been done and to have regard for the good gifts from God that we see all around us. "God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruits; you shall have them for food.'" Genesis 1:29 God commands us to have care of them, for them to continue to be fruitful and provide us with food. We have seen the effects of climate change this harvest, many crops are less fruitful, yields are down and many in the farming communities are struggling, others are looking at ways to develop different more sustainable crops. We hold them all in our prayers and thank God for their hard work.

Returning to the refrain of *plough the fields and scatter*, "O thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love." We can, in our worries about climate change, forget that we must be thankful to God for all that we have. As I go about my foraging, my prayer is of thanks for what I am foraging but also a prayer of thanks for the love we receive from God through his Son Jesus Christ. That gives me hope for creation.

Canon Cate Edmonds Canon Steward, Exeter Cathedral

Bishop of Exeter's New Chaplain Finds Joy in Enabling Others' Ministry

The Bishop of Exeter's new Chaplain is to be Rev'd Edward Day, it has been announced.

Edward is currently assistant curate at Wells Cathedral in Somerset.

The Bishop's Chaplain is an assistant, advisor and liturgical helper to a diocesan bishop at major services and in their pastoral and administrative duties.



Edward grew up in Bristol before moving to Canterbury to study politics at university.

He has also completed a Masters' degree in Canon Law.

The Bishop's Chaplain assists the bishop at major services and carries out important administrative work on the bishop's behalf

Before training for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon, he worked in local government on a range of regeneration, housing, and strategic asset development projects.

During the coronavirus pandemic he was redeployed to help establish a food distribution centre supporting communities across North Somerset.

He said: "Throughout my ministry so far, I have found great joy in helping to enable the ministry of others. I see the role of a bishop's chaplain as, in large part, one of enabling: helping to free the Bishop to exercise fully the ministry to which God has called him.

"With my background in ecclesiastical law, together with my experience of safeguarding and administration, I was particularly attracted to a role in which I can bring together these aspects of my ministry. I have come to see administration as an important part of my own vocation: work which, when done well, can create the space in which other people and ministries are able to flourish."

Edward will be moving to Devon to begin his new role at the start of November.

He succeeds Rev'd Jo Stobart who is leaving to become the new Archdeacon of Wells.

Portfolio of Qualities

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, said "I am delighted at Edward's appointment as Bishop's Chaplain.

"The breadth of the Chaplain's role requires abilities and understanding across a wide range of areas and Edward comes to us with just such a portfolio of qualities.

"Edward has a rich grounding in theology, pastoral care and liturgy as well as having particular experience and skills in relation to ecclesiastical law and safeguarding.

"I am very much looking forward to welcoming Edward and his fiancée Natalie to join the diocese and the Bishop's team."

The Very Rev'd Toby Wright, Dean of Wells, added: "I am certain that the deep spirituality and wisdom, alongside an impressive set of skills, knowledge and efficiency, that Edward has brought to Wells will prove a great asset for Bishop Mike and the Diocese of Exeter.

"The prayers, blessings and good wishes of the whole of the Wells Cathedral community will be with Edward and Natalie, as they are called to this exciting new venture."

"For me, serving with joy comes in part from remaining attentive to the signs of God's love that surround us." Rev'd Edward Day

Edward said he was looking forward to getting to know Devon: "I am excited to meet people across the Diocese and hear their stories. I am also fairly confident that there will be some excellent walks, and hopefully good pub stops, to be found along the way."

Commenting on the Diocese of Exeter's vision to Grow in Prayer, Make New Disciples and Serve the People of Devon with Joy, he said "I have been fortunate to discover some of the spiritual disciplines that particularly nourish and sustain my faith.

"For me, these include silent contemplation, Ignatian spirituality, and Choral Evensong.

“At the same time, one of the things I cherish most about the Church of England is its breadth. I try therefore to remain open and curious to discover new ways to pray, new things to learn, and new experiences from which to grow.

“For me, serving with joy comes in part from remaining attentive to the signs of God’s love that surround us.”

Mission Community Telephone Prayers

From 14 October onwards we shall be starting telephone prayers at 6pm instead of 6.30 to allow for some meetings which occur on Wednesdays.

These prayer times are for anyone in our Mission Community. This is a time when we can join together in prayer for those close to home or further afield, either aloud or in silent prayer, but we may feel that when two or three meet together, we can join our prayers and thanks too. Anyone can join in, the phone number is available from Chris and Rosemary.

Church Magazine

After being involved in producing this magazine for about 40 years, I have decided it’s time to hang up my quill and pass the reins to someone else. I feel that it’s better if it is produced by someone who has a greater connection with the Mission Community than I now have.

I therefore intend that the December edition will be my last. Subscriptions for printed copies run from January - December, so that seems to be the appropriate time to change.

When I started the magazine was just for Bratton Fleming, but it wasn’t long before Challacombe and Stoke Rivers were added. In those days it really was ‘copy and paste’ with articles being typed on separate pieces of paper, and illustration cut from specially produced books. Computers have certainly made things easier, and a lot less messy!

More recently the magazine has grown to include all the churches in the Mission Community, together with the monthly rota/welcome notice, which can be found in every church porch.

I’d be quite happy to provide initial help to whoever takes over, if required.

Terry

Bratton Fleming



with

Stoke Rivers News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/bratton-fleming

www.shirwellmissioncommunity.orh.uk/churches/stoke-rivers

How things have changed since last month, the Autumn Equinox has passed and suddenly the days are getting shorter!! For some, this is a favourite time of year whilst others don't welcome the darker evenings. However, there are 2 or 3 Harvest Festivals within the Mission Community if you've missed out.

You will receive a warm welcome at Stoke Rivers Harvest on 11 Oct at 6pm. when Revd. Ann Lewis will be leading the service. You will need to come hungry if you are to fully appreciate the Harvest Tea served in the Village Hall afterwards.

And of course, bring your wallet or you won't be able to fully participate the auction later!

A Harvest Festival with a difference will be held at Blackmoor Gate Livestock Rooms on 18 Oct. at 5.30pm Bishop Moira, Revd. Katie &

Andy Jerrard will be taking part and will be pleased to see you there.

Looking back;

Rosie & Adam's Farewell Service at Bratton on 6 Sept. was very special. People from around the Mission Community taking part and the presentation of the engraved Dartington Crystal Vase showed the love and respect of the people, along with cards and letters. The Bring and Share lunch was a real feast and a time of building friendships.

Please accept from the Church at Bratton Fleming our sincere thanks to all of you who helped and contributed in any way, during the service, to the farewell gifts and lunch.

We hope to see some of you again at Bishops Nympton on 29 Sept. at 7pm for the Welcome Service for Rosie & Adam. May God bless and care for them, and their family, in their new surroundings.

Looking forward:

The Vision Evening when Parishioners from the eight parishes in the Shirwell Community can meet to try and establish the gifts /talents people would like the next Rector to have. This will take place on 19 October (venue tbc). In the meantime, we can chat with the neighbours and people we meet to hear their opinions and expectations, which can then be brought to the meeting.

There is a Confirmation Service at Shirwell on Tuesday 20 October at 7 pm which is open to anyone, whatever age, so please give it a mention in your churches and parishes. Details available from Revd. Katie.

Open the Book has been into school twice this term.

Bible Explorers restarts the Autumn term on Monday 28th. Sept. 6.30 pm

at Karslake House. During the first 2 sessions Dorothy will be giving a presentation on what archaeology has discovered re. Bible history. Then we will be doing an 8-week study on 'The Story of Jacob.' If you would like to come, you are very welcome. If you want more details, contact Marion: 07484 610285

As part of the Ilfracombe & Barnstaple Methodist Circuit re-organisation 3 part-time jobs have become available.

The office will be at Christ Church, Braunton.

Property Officer – 15 hours per week

Circuit Administrator – 15 hours per week

Operations manager – 20 hours per week

These are paid posts and the closing date is 2 October. If you would like further details email:

riddjones2019@gmail.com



Challacombe News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/challacombe

The Family Fun Day at the beginning of September was a very happy occasion. The weather was kind to us and there was a good crowd to enjoy the Family Dog Show, the Skittles Competition, the displays in the tent and the stalls and competitions which went on all day, and of course meeting old friends and enjoying company. We are so grateful to everyone who helped in all sorts of ways from putting up and taking down the tent to helping on stalls and producing things for sale and to show. We are especially grateful to the Kingdon and the Bale families for the use of the field.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival which will be held this coming Sunday (September 27) with the supper and auction afterwards. I am sure the church will look as beautiful as usual. Thank you very much to all who contribute in any way.

Thank you too to all who cut the churchyard and tidied and cleared the path so that all was neat and tidy in time for the funeral of Paul Edwards in September. We offer Jean and Beckie our thoughts and prayers. We also offer Jill Jones our condolences after the death of Mike.

On October 19 there will be a Vision meeting at 7pm (venue tbc), chaired by the Archdeacon, to discuss what sort of person we should like to have as a new rector. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested.

On October 14 there will be a new Bible Explorers Evening at 7.30 at the Old Smithy. There will be an introductory film and an opportunity to talk about this as well as tea or coffee afterwards. There is a separate notice about this in the magazine. This is a chance for anyone interested in seeing how this best-selling book has changed lives in the past and is still doing so today. All are welcome.

We appreciate all the work that goes into running our village shop and post office (we are very fortunate still to have it). The opening hours for the shop are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30 until 5.30pm, Wednesday and Saturday 8.30 until 2pm and closed on Sunday, Monday and Bank Holidays. The post office times are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 until 4.30pm, Wednesday 9 until 12.30pm and Saturday 9 until 12 noon. It is closed on Sundays, Mondays and Bank Holidays.

Loxhore News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/loxhore

Our Harvest Festival Service was held on Sunday 20th September. It was led by Rev'd Katie and we welcomed our friends from the Methodist Chapel. The windows were decorated with flowers, vegetables, fruit and other food items. As in previous years all the produce will be given to North Devon Against Domestic Abuse.

We look forward to joining the Methodists for their Harvest Service on Sunday 27th September.



Shirwell News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/shirwell

Rosie's last service with our Mission Community at Bratton Fleming Church on September 6 was both sad and uplifting.

I'm sure we were all sad to see her leave but our prayers and best wishes are with her for the future. It was good to meet with friends from all the churches in the Mission Community for the service and the delicious lunch afterwards.

Katie will be leading us during the interregnum and there will be lay led services as well as some led by clergy from elsewhere.

The lay- led service this month was led by Linda and David when David spoke interestingly about forgiveness. Work is progressing with replastering the wall behind the altar.

The coffee morning and bring and buy stall in aid of Devon Historic Churches in the Church on Saturday September 5 was a big success raising £230.

October

Our Harvest Festival service will be at 6.30pm on October 4 followed by a bring and share supper. The choir will be singing. Everyone is very welcome to come to give thanks to God for our food and the harvest.

Services in Shirwell otherwise in October will be at 9.30am each Sunday.

Katie has asked us to spread this news about the Vision evening regarding the process of appointing a new member of clergy.

"Archdeacon Verena Breed will be hosting the Vision Evening at 7pm on October 19 (venue tbc). She will explain how the vacancy process works, give us an idea of the key dates and timescales involved. There will be an opportunity to discuss our priorities and start to think about the Role Description and Person Specification for the new Team Rector.

This is a meeting for all parishioners in the Mission Community. As it is the first step in recruitment it is important to have as many thoughts and opinions as possible, so please do make it a priority."

Please let Katie know if you need a lift arranged.

There will be a confirmation service at Shirwell Church on Tuesday October 20 at 7pm when Bishop Moira will lead the service.

The PCC meeting will be held at Sugwells on Thursday 22 October at 7pm.

This month's Shirwell soup lunch will be on Wed, October 21st at 12.45 for 13.00 hrs. Anyone from the Shirwell congregation or aged over

50 living in Shirwell is welcome. Please book your place, preferably by Friday 11th by phoning Sue on 01271 850447. Thankyou.

Looking ahead: dates for your diaries

Tearfund Coffee Morning:

There will be a coffee morning on Saturday November 14 at Shirwell Church from 10am until noon in aid of the work of Tearfund. Everyone is welcome!

Advent and Christmas Services:

Carol service: December 20th
Christmas Day family communion service at 9.30am



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'- attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"

Other News

You've got the wrong person!

By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

At church recently, we stood to sing Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire'. Except the organist was playing the tune which normally accompanies the Christmas carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. (No, not 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'ah't' - the other one).

I had never sung Wesley's hymn to this tune before, and it took a bit of believing that it was possible, a bit of getting used to. Some hymn tunes are what I call 'portmanteau tunes' - we can sing a number of hymns to the same tune, and we are usually quite happy about it. But we mess with carols at our peril! Most people know them, and they have become identified with very particular hymn tunes. Give us what we expect, please, organist!

We can all be a bit fixed like this. The Bible is full of examples of 'Who me? You've made a mistake there, God!'. Or it comes down to 'Here I am, Lord,

send him!' Perhaps the most well-known example is Jonah, who was so convinced that God had made a mistake in calling him to go and tell the citizens of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways, that he set off in entirely the opposite direction to Nineveh, and took a ship going west, until he was ambushed by God and ended up in the belly of the great fish. But once Jonah realised God was serious, and that God would be with him, he set off as God had asked him to.

Moses is another example. 'Me, tell Pharoah to let my people go? Me? You cannot be serious, Lord!' But again, once Moses was convinced that this .be a better way. When God calls, He does not leave us at that point; He will always resource us for the task, often in surprising ways.

'Who, me, Lord?' Yes, YOU!

Season of Creation

The Revd Paul Hardingham considers our earth.

In the church year the *Season of Creation* (September 1st - October 4th) is an opportunity for us to reflect on our responsibility to care for the planet. As the season draws to an end for this year, have you considered:

The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). Clearly, we have not done the best job! The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer. And 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally, 1.3°C to 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. This follows the historic peak in 2024, driven by ongoing fossil fuel emissions and high ocean surface temperatures.

Our hope is found in Jesus:

Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: *'all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'* (Colossians 1:16,17). God's plan is *'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new.

In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living can help the planet.

However difficult the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage it with faith and not fatalism!

What's the Big Idea? – an Introduction to the Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets are 'minor' not because they lack importance, but due to their length. The 12 prophets, Hosea through Malachi, make up the last books of the Old Testament, and were written from around 770 BC (Jonah) until 433 BC (Malachi).

The prophets fall into 3 time-periods: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah and Nahum = Assyrian period
Habakkuk and Zephaniah = Babylonian period
Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi = Post-exilic period.

Hosea and Amos spoke to Israel (Northern Kingdom), calling the people to acknowledge their sin and return to God. Joel and Micah addressed Judah (Southern Kingdom), including prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and the church. Habakkuk and Zephaniah spoke to Judah shortly before they were taken into exile into Babylon. Obadiah spoke God's judgment

against the Edomites, while Jonah and Nahum both spoke against Assyria and their capital city of Ninevah. Following the people's return from exile, Haggai exhorted the people not to neglect rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah encouraged them with the promise of the future glory of Zion and of its shepherd king, while Malachi reminded them that if he is rejected, God would judge His people.

The minor prophets remind us that God cared not just for the Jews, but also for the Edomites, Assyrians, Egyptians and all of His creation. For Christians today the challenge remains to take the message of God's grace to all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit: *'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.'* (Joel 2:28, 29)

31st October – All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an

evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

The Perfect Minister

When looking for a new minister, it may be helpful to bear the following in mind:

The Perfect Minister preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 am until midnight and is also the church handyman.

The Perfect Minister lives on a very small salary, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates £30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

The Perfect Minister has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humour that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be on hand when needed.

The Perfect Minister always has time for all our church meetings. And he is always busy evangelising the unchurched. He also spends hours preparing couples for their weddings, hours preparing parents for their baby's baptism, and hours visiting the bereaved. But his life is dedicated to solitude, prayer and meditation.

The Perfect Minister is always in the next town over! So, if you think that our minister does not measure up, it has been suggested that we simply send this notice to six other churches who would like to try a new minister. The idea is that we bundle up our minister and send him to the church at the top of our list. If everyone cooperates, in one week we will receive 1,643 new ministers. One of them should be perfect. Have faith in this plan. One church broke the chain and got its old minister back in less than three months.

Have you read the world's best seller?

Did you know that this book influences our world today?

Could it change your life?



Why not come along to Bible discovery evenings to find out more?

We're running 'The Bible Course' a video based course about the stories and characters who feature in the Bible and the authors who wrote about them. This is for complete beginners and for those who are more familiar with this book.

Venue: The Old Smithy, Challacombe, EX31 4TU

Dates: 14th & 28th October

Time 7.30 p.m.

Followed by tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat.

Everyone Welcome

The Word of God

(Heb 4:12, Isa 55:11, Jn 16:33)

Changes,
so many changes
in a world fragmenting and frightening,
where hatred and prejudice destroy
and shock even the unshockable.

Only the Word of God is constant;
living, active
and powerful in proclamation.
Still able to accomplish
everything God desires.

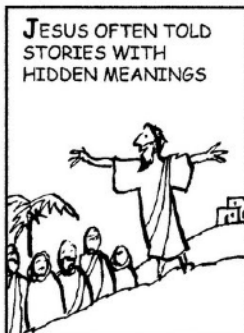
The Word of God;
everlasting lamp for our feet
and a light for our path
that darkness can never dim.

The Word of God;
unchanging, unchangeable,
revealing and revealed
in Jesus, who has overcome the world.
Take heart!

By Daphne Kitching.



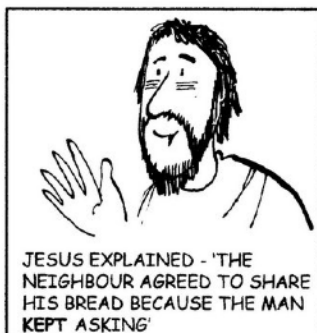
The Tale of The Friend at Midnight

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!



Light Parties – a happier alternative to Halloween

While many of us may buy Halloween-themed confectionary, pumpkins, decorations and even costumes this month, thousands of us have no intention of celebrating Halloween.

Instead, we will be attending Light Parties hosted by our local churches, and our children will enjoy a positive and upbeat alternative to traditional Halloween celebrations.

Scripture Union, the Christian charity that first pioneered Light Parties, reports that around 8,000 churches and youth organisations now request their Light Party Pack each year.

And churches of all the major denominations are in full and active support. The C of E often sets up localised search engines on its

website, specifically to help families track down local 'light and bright parties' in their dioceses.

Meanwhile, Methodist, Baptist, and Elim Pentecostal churches also offer Light Parties, to which all are welcome.

Just for the record, a Light Party is a family-friendly Christian event held on 31st October. Instead of featuring ghosts, ghouls and darkness, it celebrates the themes of light and hope in Jesus Christ. Children dress up in bright, colourful outfits, enjoy games such as glow-in-the-dark, eat party snacks and enjoy themselves without any element of fear or oppression. The organisers usually close with a simple, positive message of faith and light.



Rotas

Date:	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
BRATTON FLEMING					
Sidespeople	Maria	Barbara	Lynne		Maria
Flowers	Maria	Maria	Lynne	Lynne	Pam
Readers	Roy & Pam	Lynne & Barbara	Roy & Pam		Roger & Barbara
Intercessions	Lynne	Alissa	Linda		Steve

CHALLACOMBE

Sidespeople		Mary		Rosemary
Readers		Barbara & Rosemary		Janet & Daniel

SHIRWELL

Sidespeople	Hazel	Mark	Sue	Hazel
Readers	Shirley & Sue	Ros & Nadine	Averil & Mary Mc	Maurice & David F
Flowers	Mary Mc	Mary Mc	Kay	Kay
Coffee	June & Ann	Hazel	Charles & Julia	Jean & Nadine
Cleaning	Averil & Linda	Julia & Mary Mc	Linda & David	Sue & David

And Finally . . .

Sides

It was my wedding day, and no one was happier than my mother. But as she approached the church doors, an usher asked, "Which side are you on?"

"Oh, no," she said, dismayed. "Are they fighting already?"

October 2026

Services in the Shirwell Mission Community

Date	Place	Time	Service type	Readings Year A
October 4	Shirwell	6.30pm	Harvest Service followed by refreshments	Phil 3:4b-14
Trinity 18	Bratton Fleming	9.30am	Holy Communion	Matt 21:33-46
Green	Loxhore	11.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ps 80:9-17
October 11	Shirwell	9.30am	Songs of Praise	Phil 4:1-9
Trinity 19	Bratton Fleming	9.30am	Lay led Morning Worship	Matt 22:1-14
Green	Challacombe	11.15am	Holy Communion	Ps 23
	Stoke Rivers	6.00pm	Harvest Service followed by Harvest tea and auction in the village hall	
October 18	Shirwell	9.30am	Morning Worship	1 Thess 1:1-10
Trinity 20	Bratton Fleming	9.30am	Methodist Morning Worship	Matt 22:15-22
Green	Kentisbury	5.30pm	Harvest Service at Blackmoor Gate Livestock Auction Rooms	Ps 96:1-9
Monday 19th TBC NEW DATE 7.00pm Vision Evening with Archdeacon Verena Breed The Archdeacon will explain how the vacancy process works and give us an idea of the key dates and timescales involved. There will be an opportunity to discuss our priorities and start to think about the Role Description and Person Specification for the new Team Rector. This is a meeting for all parishioners in the Mission Community. As it is the first step in recruitment it's important to have as many thoughts and opinions shared as possible, so I gently encourage you to prioritise your attendance.				
October 25	Shirwell	9.30am	Holy Communion	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Trinity Last	Bratton Fleming	10.45 for 11.15am	Breakfast Church	Matt 22:34-46
Green	Arlington	1.00pm	Baptism	Ps 1
	Challacombe	6.00pm	Hymns and Puddings	

All services Common Worship unless indicated BCP. BCP is a more traditional liturgy, with language from 1662.

Harvest Readings:

Deuteronomy 8.7-18, Deuteronomy 28.1-14 or **2 Corinthians 9.6-15**

Luke 12.16-30 or Luke 17.11-19

Psalms 65