

Plympton Team Ministry
The Parishes of Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice

Sunday 25th October 2026, The Last Sunday after Trinity

Our Gospel reading this week is the famous passage in Matthew where Jesus is being asked what the most important commandment is. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind”, He says, and then adds a key commandment of His own – “Love your neighbour as you love yourselves”.

The two commandments seem to go together for a reason. As we learn to love God with all of ourselves, we are naturally drawn into the love of our neighbour. It is an ongoing journey, to recognise the image of God in the other and to cherish that image.

We will soon be approaching the Advent season, as we prepare to remember again the incarnation of Love, born amongst us as a vulnerable child. It is a story that challenges our expectations of what God looks like and how God chooses to work in the world. Again and again, God invites us to see things differently, to look beyond what is familiar and comfortable, and to discover something of God's love in unexpected places.

Perhaps this is part of our calling as a church, too. As we continue to grow in our love of God and one another, we must remain open to the ways in which God might be inviting us to grow and change. Our new priest in charge, Mark, will bring their own gifts, perspectives and ways of worshipping and serving God. Some things may feel familiar; others may be different from what we have known. We can meet those differences with curiosity and generosity, trusting that there is always more for us to discover about God and the many ways in which we can respond to God's love.

Loving God and loving our neighbour are not destinations we arrive at, but a journey we make together. As we look towards Advent and all that lies ahead for our churches, may we be ready to keep learning, keep listening and keep making room for one another. Above all, may we remember that we belong to God and to one another, and that it is in love that we find our way forward.

Rev. Lizzi

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Church Diary

Sunday 25th October

8.00 am Holy Communion St Mary's church
9.30 am Parish Eucharist St Mary's church
11.00 am Parish Eucharist St Maurice church

Tuesday 27th October

6.30 pm Bible study St Mary's church hall

Wednesday 28th October

10.00 am Eucharist St Maurice church

Thursday 29th October

7.00 pm Meditation group St Maurice church hall

Sunday 1st November – All Saints' Day

11.00 am Team Eucharist St Maurice church

Notices

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS – don't forget to put your clocks BACK by 1 hour at 2.00 am on Saturday night/Sunday morning

Rev Lizzi will be on leave from 24th to 31st October; for urgent matters, please contact one of the churchwardens.

Chancel repair work in St Mary's church will continue until November. Please take care when in the church and churchyard, and follow all site safety notices.

The next combined services will be on Sunday 1st November at 11.00 am in St Maurice church, then Sunday 8th November at 9.00 am (note time) in St Mary's church.

Help needed On Saturday 24th October from 10 am we are planning a good clean and tidy of St Maurice Church in readiness for Advent. If you are able to come along and help in any way we would be really grateful. Cleaning supplies will be provided, as will refreshments to keep our energy levels up!

Quiet Spaces Friday 30th October 10.30 am, Roborough Methodist Church *note new date

Table Top sale – Saturday 7th November, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. St Mary's church hall

Christmas Hamper – if you can donate something for St Mary's Christmas hamper, please add your name against an item on the list in St Mary's porch. Donations can be left in the box in church, or the parish office, by 16th November. Thank you.

St Mary's Christmas Fair – Saturday 21st November, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. Stalls, refreshments, and prize draw. All welcome.

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Light the Way - On **Thursday 26 November at 4pm**, the Minster Church of St Andrew will host Light The Way Plymouth, a city-wide service during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Violence against women and girls is a growing concern, and as churches, we have a responsibility to stand against injustice, support those affected and help build safer communities.

This service is an opportunity for Plymouth to come together to remember women lost to femicide, stand alongside those impacted by gender-based violence, and shine a light on the need for change. Rev Lizzi will be speaking at this service.

Thank you to everyone who helped in St Mary's churchyard at the beginning of the month. If you can help on a regular basis, please contact the office.

Sunday readings are available in church. Please ask a sidesperson for a copy.

Bible Study alternate Tuesdays at 6.30 pm in St Mary's church hall.

Knit and Natter Thursdays 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm St Maurice church hall

Meditation group Thursdays at 7.00 pm in St Maurice church hall

Rosary Group meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 6.15pm. Please ask in St Maurice church for details and venue.

St Maurice Minors Fridays in term time, 10.00 am St Maurice church hall

Wasp nests – there are wasp nests in St Mary's churchyard. Please take extra care in this area.

St Mary's church – restricted access - Areas of the church have been cordoned off for safety reasons. Please only sit in the marked areas, and avoid the restricted sections.

Candle ends are being collected to be used to assist war-affected people in Ukraine. There is a box in each church for your donations. Thank you

Loop System - St Mary's church is fitted with a loop for those who wear hearing aids; please sit in the centre aisles and adjust your hearing aid as required.

Wills and Legacies - Please speak to Rev Lizzi or one of the churchwardens about leaving a gift to the church in your will.

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Prayer Requests

Those who are sick and those who have asked for the prayers of the church:

Ann, Lisa, Emma, Frank, Jan, Ray, Brian, Haydn, Kate, Phil, Geoff, Judy, Eric, Gill, Fred, Rose, Paul, Luke, Jenny, Jill, Christina, David, Margaret, Betty, Angela, Dave, Jean, Paul, Noelyn, Linda

The recently departed

Those whose anniversary of death falls in the week commencing 25th October

Sunday 25th John Isaacs, Clarence Ley, John (Jack) Jago, Richard (Bill) Hurn, Blanche Crews, Frederick Hill, Patricia Cragg

Monday 26th William Emmett, Robert Vinecombe, Edward Willcox, David Parry, Violet Pearce, Laura Cosh, Orlando Bowden, Sister Clare, Edith Burrige, Charles Beaven, Constance Taylor, Phyllis McDuff

Tuesday 27th Lena Sanders, Thomas Baker, Mary Smith, Nellie Crossing

Wednesday 28th Mary Chipman, Jean Cooper, Beryl Dulling, Brian Grant, Diane Beresford, John Nosworthy (Pr), Elsie Butland, Mary Dodd, Mary Sheppard, Arthur Maxwell, Annie Toms

Thursday 29th Leonard Triscott, Daisy People, Edgar Tugwell, Charles Taverner, Sister Veronica SC, Mabel March, Phoebe Wood

Friday 30th Graham Coombes, Lewis Stone, Georgina Hopper, Elizabeth Paul

Saturday 31st George Austin, David Facey, Barry Richards, Norman Knipe, Vera Blomley

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Links and Information



Email: info@plympton.foodbank.org.uk

Tel: 07922 808086

Open: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Market Road, PL7 1QW

Donations can also be left in St Maurice church porch

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in recent weeks. We are starting to collect any Christmas items in preparation for Christmas parcels. Any items that mean Christmas to you! This week's most urgent needs are tinned miscellaneous vegetables, small jars of coffee, deodorant, shampoo, shaving foam, and razors.

Thank you for all your help

The latest Prayer Diary can be found at: [Prayer Diary - Diocese of Exeter](#)

Live streaming [Click here](#) to access a service of Sung Eucharist from Exeter Cathedral at 10.00 am every Sunday

Easy Fundraising St Mary's and St Maurice churches are registered with Easy Fundraising which donates at no extra cost to you when shopping online. Please [click here](#) and select your good cause.

St Mary's Church
Christmas Fair
Saturday 21st November
11.00 am to 2.00 pm
Donations for the stalls are needed, including:
Gifts
Raffle prizes
Hamper donations (list in porch)
Good quality books and jigsaws
Christmas decorations
Preserves
Items for the drinks tombola
Cakes (on the day)
Please leave your donations in the box in church or at the church office and please support the church at this important fundraising event

St Mary's Church, Plympton
Charity number: 1128769
Christmas Fair
Saturday 21st November
11.00 am to 2.00 pm
Stalls Gifts Tombola
Cards Cakes
Prize Draw Preserves
Refreshments & Light Lunches
St Mary's Church Hall, Market Road
PL7 1QW

LIGHT THE WAY

Part of Plymouth's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

'Breaking the Generational Cycle'

Together, in this service, we will hear powerful stories, remember women lost to femicide, and reflect on the work happening across our city.

A time to remember. A call to action.

Together, we will light the way.



Thursday 26th November



4pm



Minster Church of St. Andrews, Plymouth



**TRANSFORMING
PLYMOUTH
TOGETHER** 

Book your
FREE place



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Contacts

Team Vicar

Revd Lizzi Green (rest day – Monday)

☎ 01752 348525

Team Office

Sarah Duckworth (administrator)

☎ 01752 348525

✉ plymptonteamministry@gmail.com

Office hours – Tuesday to Thursday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Items for the weekly notices should be emailed to the Team Office by 10.00 am on
Wednesday

Websites

St Mary's Church Plympton

🌐 [Plympton St Mary Church - A Church Near You](#)

Plympton St Maurice Parish Church

🌐 [Plympton St Maurice Church - A Church Near You](#)

**The PCCs of Plympton St Mary and Plympton St Maurice (Plympton Team Ministry)
are not responsible for the content of external websites.**

Safeguarding Officer

St Maurice parish ptmsafeguarding@gmail.com

St Mary's parish ptmsafeguarding2@gmail.com

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News from the Diocese

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Bishop of Exeter Speaks of ‘Siren Call’ of AI

The Bishop of Exeter has spoken about the ‘siren call’ of AI in his recent Presidential Address to the Exeter Diocesan Synod.

The Rt. Rev’d Dr Mike Harrison drew comparisons between the lure of artificial intelligence and the sirens of Greek mythology depicted in the recent film version of The Odyssey, based on Homer’s epic poem.

Bishop Mike joined fellow bishops doing a deep dive into AI at the recent meeting of the College of Bishops

Bishop Mike said “Odysseus has to sail past the island inhabited by the sirens, whose beautiful music had so enraptured many sailors before him that they jumped overboard in pursuit of the source of this intoxicating sound, ending up prisoners and eventually dying. It is in some ways a metaphor for addiction, and indeed a warning about the idolatry of desire.”

He spoke about the recent meeting of the Church of England’s College of Bishops, which did a deep dive into different aspects of AI: “We were discussing AI and how its alluring, siren calls of efficiency, speed and ease masked deeper more problematic questions of control by elites, manipulation of truth and apocalyptic possibilities,” he commented.

The bishop also said that while he concluded that AI represents ‘pattern recognition on a significant scale’ rather than ‘thinking beings’, there were important pastoral considerations such as people using AI to recreate conversation with a deceased person, utilising AI for spiritual discernment or confession to an AI conversation partner.

Far-reaching consequences

Bishop Mike said “The positives of AI are far-reaching; it can save time on summarising and drafting documents, provide quick answers to 1001 questions, provide specialised support for healthcare clinicians, the legal profession, scientists etc. But some of the negatives are far-reaching too. The potential loss of jobs, the environmental impact of huge data centres, plagiarism and with it a growing inability of learning to think as we allow AI to do it for us, the concentration of power and wealth in a very small elite controlling the AI industry, lack of access for the poor and thus increased socioeconomic inequalities.”

He reflected that there was no “putting the AI genie back in the tech lamp” and said “One thing is for sure, the Church needs to be appraised of the pros and cons of AI and be aware that what we offer in face-to-face human relationships, building and serving local

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community, centred on the person and way of Jesus Christ is a completely distinct and timely gift in an era such as this.

“If we regard AI as music, how is it that instead of being utilised by the sirens in ways which entrap, imprison and corrode humanity, a more beautiful song is played which serves, equips and enables?”

The Diocese of Exeter is working to produce some simple AI principles and guidance to help navigate the new world of AI from a practical, ethical and theological viewpoint. The aim is to publish these by Christmas.

Read the [AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry](#) which have been published by the AI Christian Partnership.

[Read the Bishop of Exeter’s speech in full.](#)

Devon’s New Licensed Lay Ministers Look Forward to Being Good News

Five new Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) have been licensed to serve in parishes across Devon during a service of welcome and celebration at Exeter Cathedral.

Barbara Hemsley, Stacey James, Pete Simmons, Nicola Thorne and Sally Watson were supported by friends, family and members of their church communities as they took vows and were given their signature blue scarves, which are worn by LLMs when they lead worship.

The service was led by the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev’d Dr Mike Harrison. Earlier in the day he led a teaching morning for all LLMs in the diocese in which he set out his vision for their ministry. He said “I want LLMs to be such followers of Jesus in their public ministry, such beacons of light, such flavours of salt, such expansive influence of yeast, that they truly attract and motivate the followership of Jesus and enable God to be possible for people who for one reason or another may not think God is possible.”

He also thanked LLMs for their “faithfulness, courage and solidarity.”

Dr David Harewood, an LLM from Paignton, gave the sermon at the service, and said “We have gathered today not just to give thanks but to celebrate a calling. God has been at work in each person’s life. Through prayer, worship, study, encouragement, doubt and uncertainty, God calls each of us.”

The new LLMs trained at [Spiritus Theological College](#), based in Devon and Cornwall. Most of them had previously done the Foundations course – which is the first step theology course anyone who is interested in going deeper in discipleship in the Diocese of Exeter is invited to do.

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Nicola Thorne, who comes from a farming family in North Devon, said after the service “I’m feeling very emotional, very excited and very happy. I did the Foundations course and learned a lot on it and felt that God was calling me to do more.

“I’m a farmer’s wife, so I’m out in a nature a lot and feel that God is around me. I felt that I wanted to serve my community. I’m really looking forward to getting stuck into rural ministry – going to visit farmers that might not be coming to church, but I know that they are wanting some Christian input.”

Pete Simmons is based in Plymouth and works in sales for a skincare company. He commented “It’s been an amazing journey. Through Spiritus college I have been able to study hard and get all the training that I need. I’m looking forward to community and parish life – helping to share the Eucharist and the Gospel and be good news.”

The new lay ministers will work alongside their parish priests and other lay workers in their mission communities.

“Being given my blue scarf in the service by my vicar was amazing,” said Stacey James, who is based in the Exmouth area. “He’s seen me through training over the last year and I would not be here without him, so that was special.

“I’m looking forward to preaching and hopefully doing funeral ministry, but really I’m up for anything.”

It takes two years to train to be a Licensed Lay Minister. You can [find more information here.](#)

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November Monthly Reflection

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Our church year is drawing to a close; as one year is ending, we are looking forward to the beginning of a new. My heart rejoices as drizzle dampens my coat (but certainly not my spirits) and darkness falls in the early evening. In the midst of the darkness of this world, it is the light of Christ that wants to lead us and Christ's call beckons us to follow.

Christ calls us and he sends us – the first is inseparable from the second. According to Matthew's Gospel, the risen Christ's final (the 'great') commission makes this clear: "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Bishop Mike, in his latest Ad Clerum, reminds us that the new church year (Advent 2026 – November 2027) is the year of Missional DNA. He writes: "it means being caught up in the love of God for the world He sent his Son to bring home to Himself – whether as individuals or as churches - and that means being caught up in the life and work of Jesus in the power of His Spirit, 24/7."

We cannot separate our faith in Jesus Christ and our worship from our daily lives as followers of Christ. The world we live in is full of challenges, darkness seems to push out light, hopelessness and pain can test our beliefs. Our calling is to proclaim the Good News of Christ, to preach, to live and to bear witness to our Lord and Saviour.

Christ calls us and he sends us into the reality of this world.

My own personal faith and calling has been deeply influenced by the German pastor, and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who writes in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*: "if our Christianity has ceased to be serious about discipleship, if we have watered down the gospel into emotional uplift which makes no costly demands and which fails to distinguish between natural and Christian existence, then we cannot help regarding the cross as an ordinary everyday calamity, as one of the trials and tribulations of life. We have then forgotten that the cross means rejection and shame as well as suffering."

When we commit ourselves to Christ, we are not promised an easy life, a life without challenge and free of pain. We are, however, promised that Christ will be with us always, to the end of the age. The promise of the risen Christ is our light, our hope and brings a peace which this world cannot bring.

Christ calls us and he sends us. So, let us go out and shine as a light in the world by the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ - to the glory of God.

The Archdeacon of Barnstaple, the Venerable Verena Breed