

THE TORRIDGE TEAM LINK

Bringing Together the Parishes of the Torridge Team



Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and your soul and your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbour as yourself.’ (*Matthew 22: 37-39*)

October 2026

***Buckland Filleigh, Huish, Langtree, Merton, Newton St. Petrock,
Peters Marland, Petrockstowe, Shebbear, Sheepwash
Website: torridgeteamchurches.org.uk***

Collects for the Month

October 4th: Trinity 18

*God, our judge and our saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth and
to trust in your love, that we may live
each day with confidence in the
salvation which is given through
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

October 11th: Trinity 19

*Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love
never ceases and whose mercies
never come to an end: grant us the
grace to trust you and to receive the
gifts of your love, new every
morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

October 18th: Trinity 20

*God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives, that we may see
your goodness in the land of the
living, and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness of
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

October 25th: Last after Trinity

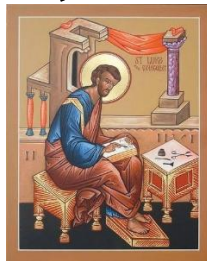
*Merciful God, teach us to be faithful
in change and uncertainty, that
trusting in your word and obeying
your will, we may enter the unfailing
joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Harvest

*Creator God, you made the goodness
of the lands, the riches of the seas
and the rhythm of the season; as we
thank you for the harvest, may we
cherish and respect this planet and
its peoples, through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who died and rose again that
all creation might be renewed.*

Saint of the Month

18th Oct: Luke



Having mentioned Matthew last month, we stay with Gospel writers, and come to Luke.

We know very little about Luke, except that he was medically trained. (Hence the tools of the trade on the table.) Paul has him as a physician. And, of course, he didn't just write the Gospel, but Acts also. Indeed his writings account for more of the New Testament than anyone else. He was probably a Jew, and probably came from Antioch in today's southern Turkey. He became attached to Paul - suddenly the account in Acts becomes 'we' - and tradition suggests he stayed with Paul through to his martyrdom in Rome.

He is supposed to have known Mary too, and so the extensive nativity story in his Gospel. It is suggested that he 'wrote' the first icon of Mary. He shows himself to have a real interest in people, especially the poor and women.

Following Paul's death, Luke is believed to have fled Rome, eventually ending up as Bishop of Thebes in Greece. He himself died for his beliefs there in AD90, apparently being flayed alive and then crucified on an olive tree. Isn't that ironic, as olive oil is so often used in healing.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Oct 4th: Trinity 18

**Buckland Filleigh
Huish**

Langtree

Merton

Newton St. P

Peters Marland

Petrockstowe

Shebbear

Sheepwash

11.00am Chapel

11.00am Harvest

11.30am Harvest

11.00am Harvest

11.00am Harvest

9.30am Prayers

Oct 11th: Trinity 19

11.00am Harvest

11.00am Harvest

9.30am Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

11.00am @ B Filleigh

2.45pm Baptist

Oct 19th: Trinity 20

Buckland Filleigh

Langtree

Merton/Huish

11.00am Chapel

11.00am Harvest (Merton)

11.00am Morning Worship

11.00am Morning Worship

10.00am B'fast Church

11.00am Harvest

Oct 25th: Last after Trin'y

11.00am Morning Prayer

11.00am (SAT) Cel of Light

9.30am Communion

(Huish)

11.00am Morning Worship

11.00am Communion

10.30am Lake Chapel

10.30am (SAT) FROGS

West Heanton: Sun 4th October
Wed 21st October

3.00pm Sunday Worship
11.00am Communion

Worship by Phone



Sunday at 4.00pm
Phone 0330-606-0403

You will be asked for an access code: 251417#

Harvest across the Team

Buckland Filleigh

Sun 11th Oct 11.00am Harvest Service

Langtree

Fri 9th Oct 2.30pm School Harvest (Parish Hall)

Sun 11th Oct 11.00am Harvest Service

Lunch to follow at Parish Hall (book 01805-601254)

Merton

Sun 18th Oct 11.00am Harvest Service

Lunch to follow in Village Hall (book 01805-603271)

Tues 20th Oct 2.00pm School Harvest (in school)

Newton St. Petrock

Sun 4th Oct 11.00am Harvest Service

Lunch to follow at Community Hall.

Peter Marland

Sun 4th Oct 11.30am Harvest Service

Shared lunch to follow at Moore-Stevens Hall

Petrockstowe

Sun 4th Oct 11.00am Harvest Service

Lunch to follow at the Chapel

Shebbear

Thurs 1st Oct 9.15am Under 5s Harvest (Church)

Sun 4th Oct 11.00am Harvest Service

Lunch to follow in Church Room (contact 01409-281838)





Alpha series

Just what is the Christian faith about?

Who is Jesus?

*Where can I ask all those awkward
questions?*

How can I refresh my understanding?

Monday Evenings

Starting Mon 26th October, 7.00pm

Petrockstowe Chapel

(To be confirmed)

*Food,
friendship,
fun*



More info: Martin Warren
(01409-281424)

All Souls Remembrance

Petrockstowe Chapel

Sat 31st Oct, 2-4pm

‘When objects remember’

Café, crafts, personal space

*Objects, say a chair, carry so many
memories for us. As we hear their
voices, they can help us come to
terms with loss.*

Led by Kathryn Jimms

Sun 1st Nov, 6pm

All Souls Service

Remembering,

releasing,

renewing.

Speaker: Kathryn Jimms

The Real Advent Calendar



Only Fairtrade Advent calendar + 24 page activity book.

Great for parents, grandparents, godparents to share the Christmas story.

Fresh design for 2026. A line of the Christmas story for each day, and activities and fun challenges.

Fairtrade chocolate supporting mums and new babies in African villages

Place your order now with Tim and Julie Cartwright.

Exclusive price of £5 each. (Tel: 01409-281554)

Jorridge Team Structure

At the Team Council last month, the recommendation was made to move from individual PCCs across the Team to a Joint Council for the whole Team. This recommendation is now to go to PCCs for consideration. But this matters to us all, so all comments are welcome, please.

What would a Joint Council mean?

The Joint Council (much like the Team Council now) would take on the responsibilities of each PCC. So it would oversee the overall planning, service rota, personnel, safeguarding, finance and buildings, etc. It would set local bodies free to organise what needs to be done locally.

Would parishes cease to exist?

No. Each parish would still continue to exist as would its parish church. But the encouragement is there for each parish to consider whether it would make sense to join up with a neighbouring parish where areas of pastoral care overlap, eg where there is a school serving both parishes. Even then the church buildings would remain open.

Who would make up the Joint Council?

Each parish would still elect wardens, who, as now, would form the Joint Council. Parishes would still elect Deanery Synod members too, unless they had joined up with a neighbouring parish.

What about the parish's money?

The money that belongs to the parish would remain that way. We do though already have a joint Team fund. This would effectively be expanded. For instance the Common Fund to the Diocese would be paid jointly.

What happens to the PCC?

Effectively it ceases to exist. But there would still need to be a local group to plan things locally. This might be a group planning mission and worship, or simply a Friends group looking after the building, etc. It opens up all sorts of possibilities.

It is hoped to bring all comments back to a Team Council meeting at the end of November. We then will also look at what needs to happen when Martin goes. We think these recommendations will be attractive to a new Team Rector.

EVENTS.....EVENTS

Times of Prayer

Weekly

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

Fri 10.30am Petrockstowe Chapel

Monthly

Sat 3rd, 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

Thur 1st 2.30pm Newton Churches

Wed 14th 7.30pm Deanery Synod
(Little Torrington)

Wed 21st 2.30pm Sheepwash PCC

Thur 22nd 2.30pm Shebbear PCC
7.00pm Petrockstowe
Church Council

Thur 29th 2.30pm Newton PCC

All Souls' Service

*Remembering those we have loved;
knowing God's healing love.*

Sunday 1st November
6.00pm

Petrockstowe Chapel

*As you would like particular people
remembered, but you can't be there,
please let us know the names.*

Coffee Mornings

Shebbear

Wed 7th, 21st Oct, 10.30am
Church Room.

Peters Marland

Thurs 15th Oct, 10.30am
Moore-Stevens Hall

Table-top Sale

Sat 17th October
Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe

Alpha Series

*Exploring the essentials of the
Christian faith*

Monday evenings this autumn
Petrockstowe Chapel

Growing in Prayer

*Personal prayer, corporate prayer,
leading prayers in church.*

4 Thursdays in October online.

Starting Thurs 1st October
7.30pm – 9.00pm

Book via Exeter Diocese website.

Light Quest

Bringing God's light into a dark world

Fri 30th October.
Petrockstowe

Sat 31st October, 6.00pm
Shebbear

For your Prayers

- Pray for Shebbear. Pray particularly for those who have moved into the village recently.
- Pray for the events around Hallowe'en. May God's light shine in our midst.
- As we mark Harvest, may we be truly thankful for God's gifts of creation.
- As the diocese consults on how the Common Fund request to the parishes is constructed, pray for our ability to be give what is needed.
- Do hold in prayer those exploring the possibility of ordination. May they and those alongside them hear God's voice clearly.

Readings for the month

On occasions, other readings may be chosen.

October 4th: Trinity 18 (green)

Exodus 20: 1-4,7-9,12-20

Matthew 21: 33-46

October 11th: Trinity 19 (green)

Exodus 32: 1-14

Matthew 22: 1-14

October 18th: Trinity 20 (green)

Exodus 33: 12-33

Matthew 22: 15-22

October 25th: Last after Trinity (green)

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Matthew 22: 34-45

November 1st: All Saints (red)

1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13

Matthew 24: 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 Officer: Sarah Huxtable (07765-497711)

Methodist minsters: Frank Watson (Torridge 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)