

THE BRIXHAM MISSION COMMUNITY

We are Growing in 2026



Messy Church, Brixham

Happy New Year

Moving Forward Together

Issue 29

January 2026

Brixham Mission Community***Services January 2026***

2026	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Sunday	The Feast of Epiphany	The Baptism of Christ	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany
January	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
All Saints' Brixham	09:30 Eucharist with SPCM	09:30 Eucharist	09:30 Worship for All	09:30 Eucharist
St Mary's Brixham	08:45 No service	08:45 Eucharist	08:45 No service	08:45 Eucharist
	11:00 Eucharist	11:00 Sunday Worship	11:00 Eucharist with SPCM	11:00 Morning worship
SMVC Churston	10.00 Morning Worship	10:00 Eucharist with SPCM	10:00 Eucharist	10:00 Family Worship
STCK Kingswear	10:30 Morning Worship	10:30 Eucharist	10:30 Morning worship	10:30 Eucharist with SPCM
CGSG Galmpton	08:45 Eucharist	08:45 Morning worship	08:45 Morning worship	08:45 Eucharist with SPCM
Mid-week				
All Saints' Brixham 10.00	6 th Eucharist	13 th Eucharist	20 th Eucharist	27 th Communion by ext.
St Mary's Brixham 10.30	7 th Eucharist	14 th Eucharist	21 st Eucharist	28 th Eucharist

Brixham Mission Community Churches welcome you!

Welcome to 'Moving Forward Together

To all our readers, wishing you a very happy New Year



I feel humbled as I put together the reports from all our churches. The hard work of so many has been so successful in reaching out and touching our wider community. Churches have been full, and those who have joined the celebrations have been of all ages, at a full range of festive events.

In our magazine, Rev'd Philippa looks forward to a positive New Year. We also hear about LLM Elisabeth's New Year resolution, and LLM Hilary tells us more about the work of the Anna Chaplaincy. There are updates about Ukraine, and the Ukraine Christmas cards that have accompanied the St Mary's Brixham's travelling crib.

A new single, raising funds for the Fishermen's Mission, was launched at our Mission Community joint service, on the day of the patron saint of fishermen, St Andrew. This single can now be found on Youtube.

There is lots of positive fundraising news: more hard work from the Christian Aid volunteers, and successful Christmas events across all churches.

There are the regular reports from around the Brixham Mission Community, and the magazine closes with a January-themed poem from Stephen.

Thank you again for reading our magazine.

Debbie Perret



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
FEBRUARY MOVING
FORWARD TOGETHER:**

I am grateful if you could send **by 25 January** to **Debbie Perret, BMC Administrator**, at

debbie.brixhammc@gmail.com

Picture: All Saints', Brixham: Lyte Fingers craft group. 'Embarking on our 13th year of crafting together'. Proud to announce net takings of £1000 in 2025, for church funds.



Picture: St Mary's, Brixham, Christmas flowers

Rector's Report

Happy New Year!

At the beginning of a new year we often devise a scheme for renewal. The list of potential life-changing new year resolutions - healthy eating; less booze; more exercise; be nice to everyone etc. - may well have limited success.

There is nothing wrong with a new year's resolution. Its limited success may be because we all tend to be rather hard on ourselves and quick to judge ourselves as failing if we don't reach the high standards we set ourselves.

What if this year we accept our own imperfections and turn in love and faith to our Creator God who made us? What if we try to notice where God is already at work in our environment, in our communities and amongst the ordinary,

everyday folk we encounter? Notice the divine hand in the beauty of the winter trees, the seascape and out in nature. Turn to God with a thankful heart. Notice God at work with those at sea in all conditions, the fishing community and RNLI, and pray for his protection. Notice God in random acts of kindness and pray to see God in others, that they might also see God in you.

God created you! God loves you just as you are. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and be not wise in your own sight (from Proverbs 3:5-6)

Rev'd. Philippa



Photo: In aid of the Fishermen's Mission, 'Lost and Found' is the latest single by Axford and Robinson. Shot in Brixham and can be found on Youtube.

Brixham Mission Community News

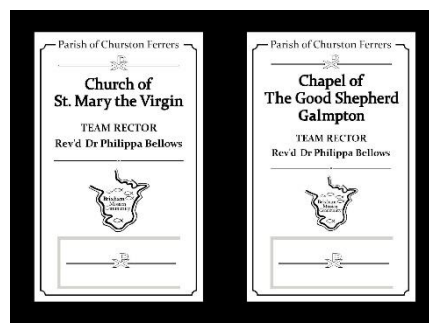
Throughout 2025 the parishes of Brixham, Lower Brixham, Churston and Kingswear have been working to establish better ways of moving forward together as a united Mission Community. Each parish has its own individual character and its own plans for maintaining and developing our four churches and Galmpton's Chapel of the Good Shepherd, so we are emphasising unity rather than uniformity.

At the beginning of December 2025 the Bishops' Council ratified our plans to establish a Partial Transfer Joint Council which had been voted for by the parochial church councils (PCCs) and parishioners. The new council will be known as Brixham Mission Community Council and will come into effect once members have been elected from each parish during January.

This is a positive initiative for the Mission Community. It will enable us to build stronger connections with the wider community and will help reduce the workload on PCCs.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported this plan and helped to make it happen.

Rev'd Philippa



Picture: St Mary the Virgin, Churston, and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Galmpton, new signs

**Brixham Mission Community parishes of All Saints' Lower
Brixham, St Mary's Brixham and St Mary the Virgin,
Churston**

As many of you know, we are looking for churchwardens to be elected at the APCMs in April/May 2026. The advertisement below is the result of a well-instructed AI experiment from one of our highly respected PCC secretaries.

Please read with care and an open heart. If you feel you may be called to the role of churchwarden in any of these three parishes, please have a chat with Rev'd Philippa or a current churchwarden.

Rev'd Philippa

Seeking a New Volunteer Churchwarden

Our church community is searching for new Volunteer Churchwardens, and we warmly invite anyone who feels called to serve to prayerfully consider this role. The position is central to the smooth running of our church life, offering a meaningful way to support our congregation and contribute to the ministry we share.

We are looking for someone who brings patience, a willing heart and a steady presence. Basic computer literacy and a little familiarity with how a church is organised would be helpful, as the role involves communication, record-keeping, and assisting with the practical needs of church services and events.

Most importantly, the right candidate will have time to give—time to listen, to help, and to be part of the ongoing rhythm of church life. No previous experience is necessary, and full training and support will be provided. If you have

ever wondered how you might get more involved, this could be a wonderful opportunity.

If you feel you could serve in this way—or if you would simply like to know more—please speak to the Rector or contact the BMC Administrator. We would love to hear from you.

Together, with God's help, we continue to grow our community in care, commitment, and faith.



Picture: St Mary's, Brixham, Mummy and Me.

Could this be you? No previous experience necessary!



Photo : Christmas flowers, St Mary's, Brixham

1st January is the traditional day to make New Year Resolutions. I don't usually bother as I know that they won't last a week, let alone a month. But this year I have jumped the gun somewhat, I made a resolution at the end of November '25, and I am now 15 days in and no sign of any wavering. I write a diary each night and prayers are added at the end so I have a record.

There is some background to my resolution: for months I have been getting furiously angry when the activities of Trump and Putin (and other leaders) are discussed; there is so little that I can do to change things it is infuriating. My youngest son, who lives in the USA, tries to avoid listening to **any news** as he finds it so traumatising. As if they were 'Teflon' coated, any criticism slides away like water off a duck's back. Trump is aggrieved that he wasn't given the Nobel Peace Prize!! So, following a recent radio discussion, I decided to award the "**Lakey Prize for causing Anger**". This year the winner is Mr Trump, and the Runner-Up prize goes to Mr Putin.

But I was puzzled about what the prize might be, and how I could be calmer? Then I remembered that, if I want to sort out my feelings about another person or situation, it takes prayer for it to be effective. So, in an effort to stop getting so angry about how powerful

leaders behave, and in the hope that it might improve things in some way (prayer is never wasted by God), I decided that the prize would be prayer each day for a year (and probably longer).

I have pledged myself to pray specifically for Trump and Putin (and others as needed), that they will work for the good of **all people** rather than, as it seems, for their personal advancement. I will also pray that I don't get so angry and aggressive myself.

My apologies that this is so self-centred, but I thought that the history might be helpful to someone. I must report that I am already much calmer and, so far, have not got angry. So if you don't know what sort of New Year resolution to make I would recommend that a prayer resolution might be good, and if you would like to contribute to my prize by joining me in prayer we might achieve something good together. Wishing you all a very happy year, with loads of love and prayers.

Elisabeth Lakey



Anna Chaplaincy and Friends in Brixham

In Brixham there is a small team of volunteers, part of the national Anna Chaplaincy and Friends organisation, which aims to give pastoral and spiritual care in later life. We serve the whole community in Brixham, trained by the Brixham Mission Community and supported by the Exeter

Diocese. We recognise that not everyone is religious, but we are all spiritual throughout our lives. We give the special gift of time to befriend and listen.

If you would like to have company at home, if you have something on your mind, or would simply appreciate a phone call, contacting the Anna Chaplains could be the start.

Additionally, we encourage people to meet during the year. This informal gathering gives a chance to chat, perhaps try a little craft, even some singing, whilst enjoying a cup of tea/coffee and some delicious homemade cake. We are always happy to organise transport to take you there. Our next get-together is just before Holy Week and Easter, on **Saturday 28th March at 3pm in St Mary's Church, Higher Brixham.**

If you would like to meet us or if you know someone who may appreciate a call, contact Hilary on 01803 852323.

Hilary Hyde

Support for Ukraine

PEACE

This is M's pasada on its second visit in a week to Kingswear as we share it around homes across the Mission Community.



One of our friends in the village is just back from driving a convoy of aid for Ukraine out to Poland. The Ukrainian Christmas card they gave the drivers has been loaned to us, so we pray for peace on earth now in Ukraine and Russia, as well as celebrating the spiritual eternal peace that Jesus' birth, death and resurrection brings to us whilst we await our Lord's return to judge our troubled world, and bring an end to the suffering of His people (even though we do not deserve it).

He died for every one of us, whether you currently believe it or not. It's never too late to ask Him if the Christmas miracle is true.

Jo Griffin

Hi folks, please see below.

There are really so many people to thank, both individually and collectively, that I am grateful if you circulate to your contacts, in the hope we reach everyone. It was a remarkable town effort! We know the vital medical supplies got through and will save hundreds of innocent lives, so thanks to everyone - the town can be very proud of itself!

BW John Brennan, Brixham Future CIC

Translation of a gratitude note from Sumy Clinical Hospital, Ukraine:

"We express our sincere gratitude and respect for the humanitarian aid provided in the form of medicines and medical supplies as part of your social welfare activities for the needs of our hospital.

Director Volodymyr HOROKH"



Thank you all for your generosity in supporting our Christmas coffee morning for refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

God bless, Mary xx

Hello Christian Aid Friends. We are delighted to report that we raised **£1040** at our recent coffee morning. I can also tell you that the hamper raffle was won by Margaret McCaffrey from All Saints. The second hamper was won by Jo Thompson from the Catholic Church and a further decorative Christmas tree was won by Mervyn from St Mary's ringing group.

Our next event will be the Quiz on Friday 6th February, so please make a note in your diary. The first Lent lunch will be on 25th February.

Marie





We believe in life before death

A warm and blessed New year to all our supporters. There were too many helpers to name at the Christmas coffee morning. I love to think of the Holy Spirit looking down on Brixham and seeing all the churches working together, such a witness to the community! "The Lord loves a happy giver".

Obed Buhendwa, Christian Aid's Senior Programme Officer, based in the Republic of the Congo, South Kivu Province, says: 'We are aware that, alone, we won't make enough progress. But, with the help of others, we can move forward and build a prosperous Congo where peace is a reality.' We pray that children whose young lives have been torn apart by conflict will one day know peace and comfort. Because when we give, act and pray together, we're united by hope. And with hope, a brighter future becomes possible.

Marie, Lindsay and Mary



St Mary's Brixham Outreach Christmas Party took place on Saturday 6th December which is also the Feast of St Nicholas of Myra. St Nicholas was the inspiration for the legendary Santa Claus. It is evident that

Santa's elves were redeployed from Lapland to St Mary's Hall to serve the party guests.

Rev'd Philippa

St Mary's, Brixham Advent & Christmas

The rafters rang out with a splendid mix of Advent and Christmas carols, Advent and Christmas poems, 'A Christmas Carol', and the Crib Service with a completely full church. Also well attended, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning family Eucharist. It was wonderful to see the church packed with parents for the two Eden Park Primary School Carol Services.



Sadly, the torrential rain one day prevented Brixham C/E Primary School holding their Carol Service in church; they had to relocate to the school hall, where parents braved the rain to watch! Many members of the same school choir sang at the service on the third Sunday in Advent.

Many people attended the Blue Christmas Tree Service to remember those they will be unable to see this Christmas; red labels bearing names were hung on the blue-lit tree to remember.

The church hall was full of partygoers for the Outreach Christmas Party, when 'old' friends gathered for a delicious tea, quiz and music, served by elves.

Mummy & Me were delighted when Father Christmas appeared, giving out gifts and spreading cheer to amazed babies and toddlers, who had just listened to the wonderful Christmas story. The Youth Group enjoyed their end of term Christmas gathering. Having celebrated the birth of our Lord we move onward into the season of Epiphany, welcoming all who join us.

EW

Messy Church December

Messy Churchers made peppermint creams; wrote prayers on an angel that they had made; made lanterns and the Holy Family lit by a battery-lit candle; made stars from



glittery pipe-cleaners and a Christmas pyramid. And everyone enjoyed singing the Nativity of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. Our thanks, as always, go to all who have helped this year, especially to those who have fed us each month, and to those who create exciting activities.



Next Messy Church is on **Friday 9 January**, followed by **Friday 13 February** and **Friday 13 March**.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but children, please bring an adult!

For further information please contact Lindsay 07813 311613 or Lesley 01803 854036.

All Saints, Lower Brixham

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM LYTE FINGERS

Lyte Fingers' members hope you have had a good Christmas and send best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026.

The Town Council's Christmas Fair in the Scala Hall was on 30 November: news on this next month. We have positive news, though, to start the New Year and lift the spirits through the dark days of January. I am very pleased to report that the Christmas Fair for us was extremely successful, raising £295 in four hours. This year our raffle prize was a beautiful cotton bed quilt, made by Rosemary.

On 9 December some of our group members met for a get-together with mince pies, savoury scones and mulled wine. The afternoon included a 100 question quiz, and even some singing.



Following the fair, and in accordance with usual practice, unsold Christmas goods were taken to All Saints for display and sale until 21 December. Sales

during that period raised over £100, and the raffle was won by our own Jill Sweet, pictured with her prize - the bed quilt displayed behind her.

Our net takings for 2025 have achieved nearly £1000 for All Saints, which is very pleasing in the continuing difficult financial climate.

So we embark on our thirteenth year of crafting together and our first meeting will take place at the end of January to discuss projects for the coming year.



Marion Turner

St Marys, Churston, and the Barn Chapel

Hello everyone. The Christmas Fayre was a great success. Again, thank you to the helpers, who were all amazing. Apart from raising £619 for church funds, it was a very good morning with many of the Galmpton residents. It is so lovely to have the Barn Hall looking and feeling so warm and friendly.

On Advent Sunday (also St Andrew's Day) we hosted a lovely service for the Brixham Mission Community. We welcomed Helen Lovell-Smith

from the Fishermen's Mission who gave a talk and played a video at the end of the service. Galmpton School held their Christingle Service in the church. The service was a wonderful event with the children singing and reading beautifully.

Other events: Carols round the Crib in Galmpton, always popular and a lovely Christmassy village evening, *Quay Harmony* Christmas Concert in the church and the Poinsettia Festival, a quiet reflective morning when we can remember loved ones and buy a poinsettia or cyclamen in their memory.

Our Carol Service was a lovely morning. The children came dressed up as nativity characters. I am sure we would all like to thank the clergy team and LLM's for their hard work at this very busy time of year.

With best wishes

Jane

*Now, do take time during these busy days to rest
and find some peace for yourselves.*

*May the joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ child
Be yours this Christmas.*

Jane

St Thomas of Canterbury, Kingswear

We had a very successful Carol concert on 6 December when the village held its Kingfest celebrations. St Thomas's became the central hub with ringing of the bells preceding the concert which was so well attended by the village.

We had our second concert on 20 December which again was attended by so many of the villagers.

A member of the council bought and erected lights for the churchyard which created many compliments as it depicted the nativity.

Stephen Pearson

A little poem for the January edition:

The Famous old Grouse

High up on the lonely moor
The haggis hunter stands his ground
Ever alone, his reputation gone before
His rifle cocked and ne'er a sound
Lest scare the haggis from the moor.

Stephen

Dates for your diary

JANUARY

Friday 9th St Mary's Messy Church

FEBRUARY

Friday 6th St Mary's hall Christian Aid quiz

Friday 13th St Mary's Messy Church

Wednesday 25th Lent lunches start

MARCH

Friday 13th St Mary's Messy Church

FORTNIGHTLY

Friday 7.00-9.00pm in term time

St Mary's Youth Group 11 -18s

WEEKLY

Thursday 9.30-11.30am

St Mary's church hall *Mummy & me*

Friday 9.15-11.15am in term time

Barn Chapel Stay & play

WHO WE ARE

Revd Dr Philippa Bellows, Team Rector rectorbrixhammc@gmail.com 01803 927797

Revd Angela Sumner, Associate Priest (SSM) 01803 853959

Debbie Perret, Administrator debbie.brixhammc@gmail.com 07790 104293

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (LLMS)

Wendy Emlyn 07785 573145 Margaret Pickthorne 07969 474613

Martyn Hodge 01803 851302 Elaine Vestey 07930 815155

Hilary Hyde 01803 852323

PARISH OFFICERS

ALL SAINTS', LOWER BRIXHAM

Warden: vacant

PCC Secretary: Margaret Dyer waysider11@hotmail.co.uk
01803 852799

Organist: Mr R Thomas 01803 850125

Choir Director: Jean Aird (Mrs Jean Holman) jeanaird@aol.com 01803 858235

Treasurer: Mr I A Webb ianw@iawaccountancy.co.uk 01803 845961

Safeguarding: Martyn Hodge martynhodge47@gmail.com 01803 851302

ST MARY'S, HIGHER BRIXHAM

Wardens: Susan Francis susanfrancis46@hotmail.co.uk 01803 411574

Roger Holtom stmaryschurchwarden1@gmail.com 01803 857357

PCC Secretary: David Roberts david@slatecottage.org.uk 01803 854036

Acting Organist/Dir. of Music: Michael Hackeson

Treasurer: Alison Lodge alisonwo@yahoo.co.uk 07733 555542

Safeguarding: Margaret Jaycock margaretjaycockbxm@gmail.com 01803 883713

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, CHURSTON

Warden: Jane Washington janewashington30@gmail.com 01803 844088

Warden/Safeguarding: Philip Mantell philip.81mantell@btinternet.com 01803 844128

PCC Secretary: Debbie Perret deb.perrethome@gmail.com 07790 104293

Treasurer: Mr I A Webb ianw@iawaccountancy.co.uk 01803 845961

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, KINGSWEAR

Warden: Gary Lewis Gary.Lewis@a1plc.co.uk 07940 734721 contact via Carmen Lewis 07957 432993

PCC Secretary: vacant

Safeguarding: vacant. Diocesan Safeguarding Officer Costa Nassaris
costa.nassaris@exeter.anglican.org 01392 294969

Treasurer: Carolyn Williams carolynwilliams351@gmail.com 07801 847248

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

St Mary's Church hall Mrs M Seffert 01803 853525

Barn hall, Galmpton Lynn Miller 07305 788503

OTHER CONTACT DETAILS

BMC Treasurer: Alison Lodge brixhambmc@gmail.com 07733 555542

Funerals: The Team Rector

Baptisms: The Team Rector/Administrator

Weddings: Rachel Fox rachelpaul2506@outlook.com 07359 143257

