

CONTACT

(Funded by donations)

Crook Peak Parish Community Magazine

February & March 2026 Edition

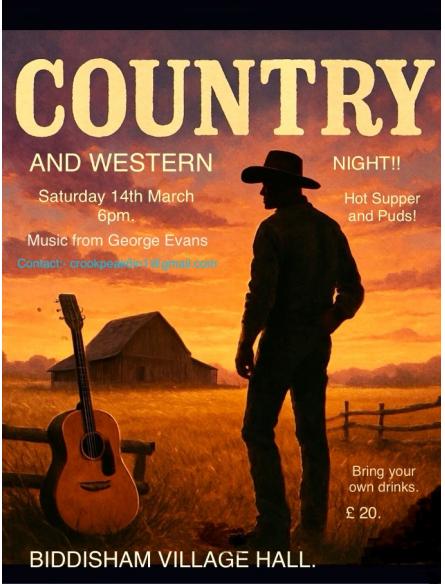
Local news, views, and events from around the villages of: **Badgworth, Biddisham, Christon, Compton Bishop, Loxton, Weare ... and everywhere in between.**



Wilder Churches - During the winter months, when the days are shorter and often cold or wet, it is easy to stay indoors. Days when going for a stroll on muddy paths are not very appealing are a perfect time to visit churchyards, they usually have some paved paths and short grass and if it does start to rain you can visit the church... << See the 'Features and Letters' page for the full article>>

Claire Talbot (churchwarden) writes... Thank you to everyone who prepared our church for our Christmas festivities. The crib was decorated beautifully by the village children. The bells rang out for our carol service, everyone was excited to hear these historic bells restored and ringing again. The church was full with families and neighbours smiling and laughing.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		CORRESPONDENTS	
FEBRUARY			
Feb 3	7pm Cross Hall. ACA Dan Fox Community Seed Banks for Local Soils & Climate Resistance. Free to attend. All welcome.	Badgworth Loxton & Christon	Debra Anderson Philip Davies (07881630629)
Feb 4	7.30pm Cross Hall - Women's Fellowship. Anita Granum, Norwegian Clothes & Customs. Light Supper. All welcome. By Donation	Compton Bishop	Situation Vacant
Feb 6	7.30pm Loxton Village Hall - Drinks night with a Scots theme	Biddisham	Claire Talbot
Feb 7	Axb ridge Farmers' Market	Cover	Sarah Ayling
Feb 12	10am-12noon - Cross Memorial Hall, Coffee Morning - all welcome	Treasurer:	Paul Wattam (732413)
Feb 27	10.30am -12noon Weare Church Room - Coffee Morning + book swap	Weare	Hilary Hugh (hdhugh@btinternet.com)
MARCH		Distribution	Pat Northmore (07788671194)
Mar 4	7.30pm Cross Hall. - Women's Fellowship Green Cleaning. Light Supper. All welcome. By Donation.	Editor	Bob Foster rmfoster10@yahoo.co.uk
Mar 7	Axb ridge Farmers Market	From the Editor: Please ensure your submissions for the (Apr/May) edition arrive in my inbox between 12-14 Mar rmfoster10@yahoo.co.uk . (if you need to send your contribution earlier then Gary can accept them to his email address before Mar 12 ' crookpeak6in1@gmail.com ')	
Mar 11	7pm Loxton Village Hall - Parish Council meeting		
Mar 12	10am-12noon - Cross Memorial Hall, Coffee Morning - all welcome		
Mar 14	6pm Biddisham village hall. Country and Western evening. Live music and hot supper		
Mar 25	7pm Cross Hall. - ACA Helen Gavin. Cheddar Reservoir & Transfer Project & Biodiversity. Free to attend. All welcome.		
Mar 27	10.30am -12noon Weare Church Room - Coffee Morning + book swap		
APRIL			
Apr 1	7.30pm Cross Hall. Women's Fellowship Light Supper. All welcome. By Donation		
Apr 2	7pm. Weare Churchroom - Maundy Thursday Passover Supper. An all-age, interactive evening. Hot meal. Free to attend. By Donation. To book text Ruth 07738 953660 or sign up in church.		
<p>Car scheme The Crook Peak Community Car Scheme offers help in transporting patients for medical appointments at local surgeries and hospitals. A message can be left on 07572336605. Some one will return your call asking for details of the request and you will be notified once a driver has been found. There would be a small contribution dependant on the destination. We are also happy to receive offers from drivers who are willing to help with this valuable service.</p>			
<p>From the Treasurer - We continue to welcome your kind donations to keep Contact Magazine running and available to every household in the Parish. If you wish to support the magazine, please scan the QR Code shown here to donate. Alternatively, you can pay by cheque, made out to 'Contact' or cash to the Treasurer – Paul Wattam, Henmore Lane, Weare BS26 2LB. To pay by bank transfer please Email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01934 732413</p>			
<p>WEARE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION - a small charity established for the benefit of young people in the parish of Weare. Grant applications should be made to The Trustees, C/O Paul Wattam, Henmore Lane, Weare BS26 2LB</p>			

From: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Dear All

I pray, that you will all have a happy and prosperous New Year. The start of a New Year is an opportunity to re-evaluate and perhaps come up with ideas that lead to change, allowing us to flourish in ways unimaginable last year. This is true for all of us in the villages covered by Crook Peak Parish. At the beginning of last year, I wrote that we would definitely be forming a new partnership with Axbridge, Shiphэм and Rowberrow through 2025 under the leadership of Rev Alistair Forster. Sadly, because of Rev Alistair Forster's ill health and untimely death at the end of November 2025, this was not to be. While we mourn the sad loss of Rev Alistair, we are looking forward this year, to fulfilling his vision of bringing Crook Peak, Axbridge, Shiphэм and Rowberrow together to form West Mendip Benefice. This will inevitably involve a number of meetings and some negotiation and compromise on all sides. At the end of this process, I am confident that we will end up being stronger together. We will continue to serve our communities, providing baptisms, weddings and funerals. We will continue to welcome the schools into the churches for their special services. We will ensure that weekly worship continues in all six churches. The churches will continue to remain open 24/7, providing a quiet oasis of peace, comfort and stillness in this increasingly violent, uncomfortable and busy world. Know, that you are all always welcome in your churches. We would love to see you on a Sunday morning, to pray with you and to share our hope in the world to come.

God Bless

Gary (Lay Minister Crook Peak Parish).

PRAYER CHAIN LETTER

In this age of status-chasing, Lent presents an opportunity for us as Christians to stand out from the world and represent who our God is and what he has done for all mankind.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Do, please, ring with any prayer requests 01934 750856

UK's Easy Eco Tips 2026 Calendar (from A Rocha)

FEBRUARY

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at

www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/

MARCH

Take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. See if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own - after church on Sunday or with a youth group for example. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at

www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean

From the Registers

Funerals

28 th November 25	Caroline Woolley
13 th January 26	David Rogers
15 th January 26	John Stuchbery

Ruth Orriss Eco Church Champion to the PCC

Features & Letters

Wilder churches ... During the winter months, when the days are shorter and often cold or wet, it is easy to stay indoors. Days when going for a stroll on muddy paths are not very appealing are a perfect time to visit churchyards, they usually have some paved paths and short grass and if it does start to rain you can visit the church. The churchyard of St. Andrews at Compton Bishop is a great place to observe and enjoy the ever-changing natural world. On December 22nd (the shortest day) I saw, in bud or flower daisies, common and ivy-leaved speedwell, common sow thistle, ivy-leaved toadflax and annual meadow grass. There were also fruits ripening on the ivy, catkins on the hazel, and a collection of conkers under the horse chestnut tree. The week after Christmas sitting on the bench by the Preaching Cross I heard a woodpecker, probably Greater Spotted Woodpecker, drumming and a Green Woodpecker calling. By the following week, in spite of the cold snap, snowdrops and primroses were in full bloom and jackdaws or jays looking for something to eat had disturbed the collection of conkers. By the time you read this the days will be longer and warmer and there will be even more to see or listen to in all the churchyards in our parish.

Sarah Ayling

Locations of Local Defibrillators Updated

Phone 999. You will be given a keypad access code if necessary. Not all are locked.

Location	What3words	Parking
Badgworth School Room	extensive.choice.pave	Park in Car Park
Biddisham Hall	divorcing.bashed.battle	Park in Car Park
Cross BT Box, White Hart Pub	endearing.lights.galloping	Park on the road
Cross Memorial Hall	clicker.sands.coolest	Park on the road
Compton Bishop BT Box	ears.ringside.hotdog	Park on the road
Loxton Hub A gate immediately on the left from Loxton Garage forecourt.	alien.cupboards.unfilled	Park on the road
Rooksbridge Post Office	drizzly.roadways.spruced	Parking outside
Weare, St Gregory's Church	scoring.flexible.inflate	Parking outside
Weare Memorial Hall	renamed.household.ketchup	Park on the road
Lunns Garage	lamps.scout.shielding	Garage Forecourt
Webbington Hotel Left of the Reception steps	exploring.fists.ashes	Parking outside

Axbridge Trefoil Guild meets on the second Tuesday of the month, usually in the Catholic Church Rooms in Cheddar at 2pm - 4pm. On February 10th we will hold our (brief!) AGM followed by a tasting session of international foods to celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day. There will be a larger District celebration for all in the Guiding movement locally in Cheddar on Thinking Day itself, 22nd February. Our meeting on 10th March will be a crafting afternoon, with an Easter theme. If you would like to join us, or for more information on Trefoil Guild please contact Sue on 01749 870239 or email swild34@hotmail.com

News from the Villages

Badgworth

Robert Anderson writes...

St Congar's Carol Service: The St. Congar's Carols held 4pm Sunday 21st. December were enjoyed by 77 adults and 8 children, as before we were enthralled when Margot Stanley lead us off with Once in royal David's city. Mince pies and sausage rolls were made by Catherine and Claire, new residents to our village. On this occasion the retiring collection of £184.50 went to 'Crisis at Christmas'. The Crook Peak Special Choir directed by Debra Anderson sang six Christmas items and led the congregation in nine carols to which they contributed soaring descants! The seven lessons were read by six members of the community with Gary Orris reading the final lesson. This was a truly joyful occasion.

The Crook Peak Special Choir: We were delighted when the choir were invited to sing for half an hour at the Weare Academy Christmas Fayre on the 10th December, another joyful occasion. We hope this collaboration with the Academy will continue. It was a privilege for the choir to sing at the funeral of Rev Alistair Forster on the 23rd December when the choir were augmented by ex-members of the Axbridge Benefice Choir. We are planning a choir concert later in the year.

Bell Ringing: The Friendly Academy of Badgworth Bellringers (FABB) continue to meet twice a week on Thursday mornings and evenings and once a month we have started to ring at Compton Bishop. We aim to ring before all the Badgworth church services and we would like to ring for services at other Crook Peak churches. We have had the ringing chamber newly carpeted this week by Jamie of Biddiscombes Carpets in Winscombe who did an excellent job at a very reasonable cost. This was financed by the ringers themselves.

Actions with Property: Ollie Chatting, a recent resident was employed to return our churchyard footpaths to near their original state. This was arduous work and in winter weather.

Assessment of service attendees: For the 'Statistics for Mission on-line' there were 19 attendees during our service in October; the Holy Communion service held Sunday 12th October and led by Revd. Eric Petrie.

Biddisham

Claire Talbot (churchwarden) writes...

Dear friends,

Thank you to everyone who prepared our church for our Christmas festivities. The crib was decorated beautifully by the village children. The bells rang out for our carol service, everyone was excited to hear these historic bells restored and ringing again. The church was full with families and neighbours smiling and laughtering.

We will be holding a Country and Western fund raising evening on Saturday 14th March at the village hall. Starting at 6pm, George Evans will provide live music and there will be a hot supper with famous Biddisham puds. Do come dressed for a great cowboy night out. Tickets £20 from crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk or pop in and see Claire at Windermere.

Could anyone spare a few hours to help with the following housekeeping at the church: Cleaning out the gutters. Dusting and hoovering the interior 4 times a year. Signing up to the strimming around the gravestones during the grass growing season. Contact Claire.

Biddisham villagers Club winners.

Drawn by Gary Orris at the village carol service:

Congratulations.

1st prize - Colin Mokirgan

2nd prize - Chris Hellier

3rd prize - Tracy Cox

Membership fees of £10 for 2026 are being collected over the next few weeks. Please join and help maintain our village church. Contact Claire for more info.

David Rogers: Sadly, Dave of Windy Cottage passed away just before Christmas. Dave has lived in the village since 1971. Moving from Bristol for a rural life, Dave never regretted this big change. Marrying Denise and bringing up his family, Dave lived a happy and contented life. His man's shed has always been an Aladdin's cave - mending and restoring motor bikes and anything mechanical that came his way. Dave was always willing to help when asked and yes Dave was a real gentleman and a good friend.

Claire

News from the Villages (Cont)

Weare

Hilary Hugh writes.. How lovely did the village look this Christmas? With twinkling lights stretching from the A38 up both Notting Hill and Sparrow Hill, the whole village felt especially cheerful and welcoming.

The church tree looked wonderful, beautifully complemented by the old children's sledge and the many festive messages hanging from its branches. Huge thanks go to the fabulous new team who helped put up the tree, including Sam Stitch with his tractor, and to Coz for bravely leading the carols – no easy task! The children sang Away in a Manger so beautifully, and a big shout-out must go to the school for teaching both traditional carols and more modern Christmas songs. Thank you also to the army of mince pie makers, expertly organised by Alex.

The WeAre Christmas Crackers event raised a wonderful £388 for Weston Hospicecare's We Care Christmas Appeal. Each donation to the appeal has been generously doubled, meaning it will go twice as far to provide comfort, care and hope for local families. With only 20% of its funding coming from the Government, the hospice relies heavily on the generosity of the community to continue its vital work. Thank you to Suzanne for organising the run, walk and toddle – it was a super turn out of friends and neighbours and great fun too!

Coffee Mornings and Book Swaps will continue throughout 2026 on the last Friday of each month (except August), from 10.30am to 12 noon. Do pop in to the Church Room, next door to the Church, for a coffee, a chat and a slice of cake – you will be very warmly welcomed.

Cross & Compton Bishop

Jane Murray writes.. At the start of December lights started appearing in people's front gardens all along the Old Coach Road – no need to take a torch with you at night at this time of year! We attended the Women's Fellowship Christmas party and the Gardening Club Christmas party in Cross Memorial Hall, both of which provided excellent food and convivial company.

Like the other villages we sang Christmas carols with gusto ; Carols in the (White Hart) Carpark was well-attended and Santa was kept busy distributing gifts to the younger villagers, while the Cross Connections committee provided mulled wine and mince pies . Then on Christmas Eve about 80 people crammed into the church for the traditional Crib Service – with the same format and the same songs as we have sung for at least 20 years' and later many returned for Midnight Communion.

Cross & Compton Bishop (cont)

Jane Murray writes (cont) .. Sadly, on the Saturday before Christmas John Stuchbery of Crook Peak House on the Webbington Road died, after a year-long fight with cancer and this week the church was full again for the 'Celebration of his life'. The tributes underlined John's zest and sense of fun in his family life as well as his thoughtful and constructive attitude both in business and as part of the local community. Two days earlier we had attended Dave Rogers' funeral in Biddisham, and our friend Jean Vosper of Badgworth Arena died on Christmas Eve (funeral next week) so it has been a bitter-sweet start to the New Year. However the days are lengthening and spring flowers are showing , and my broad beans are growing. So we look forward to a good season. Happy New Year everyone!

Loxton & Christon

Philip Davies writes... Loxton and Christon both had plenty going on up to and over the Christmas period. At the start of the festive season the Loxton Village Party got everyone into the swing and took over £500. This was followed by the Loxton Christmas lunch at The Hub and in the evening the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights by Jenny, winner of the children's draw. The highest tree yet at over 20 feet, it looked resplendent with glittering baubles, shiny trimmings and over 3000 lights.

Loxton church was filled for the Carol Service with readings from villagers and the bells ringing out at the end of the service while the congregation enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies.

Carols in the Stable hosted by Karen and Andy Whiston was very well attended as usual with the carol singing accompanied by Weston Brass. The event also raised a wonderful £288 for Crisis.

On Christmas Eve a group of villagers went to The Webbington Hotel and sang carols to the very appreciative guests.

At the end of the month a new event, "The Loxton Village Walk", proved very popular with villagers of all ages and a wide selection of dogs walking a circular route to Compton Bishop and back. The Hub provided complimentary curry and drinks on their return.

Once again the New Year's Eve party at the Village Hall was a great occasion as the arrival of 2026 was celebrated into the early hours. The event also raised a profit of £340.

The Parish Council meeting at the start of January was pleased to record that, after considerable efforts, the hedge between Loxton and Christon had been trimmed back and was no longer a hazard to traffic. The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday March 11th at 7pm.

The Village Hall will be holding a Scottish themed drinks night on Friday, February 6th in recognition of Robbie Burns. There will be whisky tasting and Scottish Pies and mash.

Dates for the diary:

Fri, Feb 6th 7.30pm, Drinks night - village hall with a Scots theme

Wed, March 11th 7pm. Parish Council meeting in the village hall

Mon 16th Feb to Tue 3rd March The Hub closed for winter hols.

WHO'S WHO IN CROOK PEAK PARISH

We are a Ley Led Parish and hold regular services across all six churches together with Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. For general enquiries contact The Administrator. For confidential matters, email Gary Orriss on crookpeak6in1@gmail.com or phone **01934 733281**. All are monitored regularly and responded to as soon as possible, dealing with most urgent matters first. Please bear with us if there is a slight delay.

LAY MINISTER **GARY ORRISS**

Lay Worship Assistants: Pete Murray & Ruth Orriss

Churchwardens:

Badgworth: David Parker, Yew Tree House, Badgworth, BS26 2QN Email: dparker305@gmail.com
Robert Anderson, Grove House, Badgworth, BS262QJ 07774 286676 robert.l.anderson@btinternet.com

Biddisham: Claire Talbot, Windermere, Biddisham Lane, Biddisham, BS26 2RH Tel: 01934 750531
Email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Christon: Mary Counsell, Gilbert Lodge, Winthill, Banwell BS29 6NG Tel: 07889 598231

Compton Bishop: Steve McColgan, Orchard Cottage, Butts Batch, Compton Bishop, BS26 2HF Tel: 01934 732321
Gary Orriss, Stable House, Cross, BS26 2EF Tel: 01934 733281

Loxton: No Churchwarden. Email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Weare: No Churchwarden. Email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Other Officers

Treasurer Paul Wattam Tel: 01934 732413

Parish Administration Tel: 07844 129964 email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Electoral Roll Sarah Pettifer Tel: 01934 732578

Communications Ruth Orriss Tel: 01934 733281

Secretary to PCC Vacant email: crookpeakparish@hotmail.co.uk

Covenants William Fox Tel: 01934 732239

Weare Church Room Anna Fox Tel: 07437 612339
Sarah Pettifer Tel: 01934 732578

Children in Church Ruth Orriss Tel: 01934 733281

Crook Peak Village Halls – Open for Bookings

Cross Hall (julietparry@hotmail.co.uk) Capacity: 50/60 seats .. Cost from £22 for 4 hours (Plenty of Parking on street)	Badgworth School Room www.badgworthschoolroom.co.uk : Capacity: 35/45 seats ... Cost from £15 for 4 hours (Outdoor play .. Ping Pong ... Parking 8 cars, plus on street ... Cycle rack)	Weare Church Room (Anna Fox - wwjfox@aol.com) Capacity: 40/55 seats Cost from £18 for 4 hours (On street Parking)	Badgworth and Biddisham village hall. Booking secretary 07828133197 Capacity 75-80 Off road car park Cost £30 for 4 hours
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ROTAS FOR CLEANING & FLOWERS

	Badgworth		Biddisham		Compton Bishop			Christon	Loxton	Weare	
2025	Flowers & Dusting	Brass	Flowers	Cleaning & Brass	Flowers	Cleaning	Brass	Flowers, Cleaning & Brass	Flowers, Cleaning & Brass	Flowers & Brass	Cleaning
Feb 1			Sue	Issy						L. Taylor	L. Taylor
Feb 8					J Murray						
Feb 15											“
Feb 22			No Flowers		LENT (No Flowers)					No Flowers	J Wattam
Mar 1				Vacency							
Mar 8											
Mar 15											
Mar 22											
Mar 29											
Apr				Teresa	Sheila	Easter Flowers				A Le Prevost	“

Crook Peak United Parish - Six Buildings, One Church

Services for February and March 2026

We welcome everyone to our churches, including believers of all denominations.

Please be aware that CONTACT MAGAZINE is published every two months and may not reflect short notice changes. Please check A Church Near You, WhatsApp or your emails.

We are moving towards bringing together Crook Peak, Axbridge, Rowberrow and Shiphэм Parishes into the new Benefice of West Mendip.

Sunday 1st Feb (1st) Epiphany 4 (White)	9.00am	Agape Meal	Weare	1 Corinthians 1:18-end John 2:1-11
	10.00am	Praise and Worship	Weare	
Sunday 8th Feb (2nd) 2 Before Lent (Green)	10.00am	Holy Communion CW	Badgworth	Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6.25-end
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer CW	Compton Bishop	
Sunday 15th Feb (3rd) 1 Before Lent (Green)	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Loxton	Genesis 9.8-17, Luke 18:31-43
	10.00am	Morning Prayer CW	Biddisham	2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17.1-9
Wednesday 18th Feb (Ash Wednesday)	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Shiphэм	Special Readings
Sunday 22nd Feb (4th) Lent 1 (Purple)	10.00am	Holy Communion CW	Christon	Romans 5.12-19, Matthew 4.1-11
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer BCP	Badgworth	Deut. 6:4-9,16-25, Luke15:1-10
Sunday 1st March (1st) Lent 2 (Purple)	9.00am	Agape Meal	Weare	Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17
	10.00am	Praise and Worship	Weare	
Sunday 8th March (2nd) Lent 3 (Purple)	10.00am	Holy Communion CW	Weare	Romans 5.1-11, John 4.5-42
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer CW	Christon	
Sunday 15th March (3rd) Lent 4 (Purple)	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Biddisham	Exodus 16.2-7a John 6:1-14
	10.00am	Morning Worship CW	Loxton	2 Corinthians 1:3-7,Luke 2.33-35
Sunday 22nd March (4th) Lent 5 (Purple)	10.00am	Holy Communion CW	Compton Bishop	Romans 8.6-11, John 11.1-45
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer BCP	Badgworth	Lam. 3:19-33, Matt. 20:17-34
Sunday 29th March (5th) Palm Sunday (Red)	10.00am	Holy Communion CW	Badgworth	Philippians 2.5-11 Matthew 27.11-54
		Crook Peak Together		
Friday 3rd April Good Friday (Red)	2.00pm	Contemplation	Christon	Special Readings
Saturday 4th April	8.00pm	Easter Vigil	Rowberrow	Special Readings
Sunday 5th April (1st) Easter Day (White)	10.00am	Easter Celebration CW	Weare	Acts 10:34-43 John 20.1-18