

# **THE BRIXHAM MISSION COMMUNITY**



## **Moving Forward Together**

**Issue 30**

**March 2026**

**Magazine free to take**

**Suggested donation £1**

## ***Brixham Mission Community***

## ***Services March 2026***

2026	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Sunday	Lent 2 St David	Lent 3	Mothering Sunday	Lent 5	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
February	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
All Saints' Brixham	09:30 Eucharist	09:30 Eucharist	09:30 Worship for All	09:30 Eucharist	10:00 BMC Eucharist
St Mary's Brixham	08:45 No service	08:45 No service	08:45 Eucharist	08:45 Eucharist	11:00 Eucharist
	11:00 Eucharist	11:00 Eucharist	11:00 Sunday Worship	11:00 Morning worship	
SMVC Churston	10.00 Morning Worship	10:00 Eucharist	10:00 Eucharist	10:00 Family Worship	
STCK Kingswear	10:30 Morning Worship	10:30 Eucharist	10:30 Morning worship	10:30 Eucharist	
CGSG Galmpton	08:45 Eucharist	08:45 Morning worship	08:45 Morning worship	08:45 Eucharist	
<b>Mid-week</b>					
All Saints' Brixham 10.00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Eucharist	10 <sup>th</sup> Communion by ext.	17 <sup>th</sup> Eucharist	24 <sup>th</sup> Communion by ext.	
St Mary's Brixham 10.30	4 <sup>th</sup> Eucharist	11 <sup>th</sup> Eucharist	18 <sup>th</sup> Eucharist	25 <sup>th</sup> Eucharist	31 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist

***Brixham Mission Community Churches welcome you!***

## ***Welcome to the March edition of Moving Forward Together***

### **So what is Lent all about?**

As Lent begins, Matthew's gospel tells us Jesus 'was led by the Spirit into the wilderness' (Mt. 4:1). I have visited the Mount of Temptations, just outside Jericho. You can drive out of town to a reasonably high place; below you the land is irrigated and fertile with olive groves and date palms on a commercial level. Beyond, there's literally nothing there except the Mount of Temptations towering over you. Nothing like the red Devon sandstone that we get here. It's all a sort of pale shade of brown to off-white. There's not a sign of green, no trees, no grass and no evident sign of water. It *is* wilderness. Jesus ventured into nothingness, led by the Spirit to prepare for his ministry.

Lent is our opportunity also to rebuild bridges of friendship between ourselves and God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and also to rebuild bridges of friendship between one another. We often take on a Lenten discipline such as giving up a luxury or taking up a new good deed. You may well ask what's the point even if you succeed all the way to Easter, if you don't let the Spirit into your life to transform you?

Lent is a time for turning and returning to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit so we may grow spiritually

as the person that God has created each and every one of us to be. Lent is our opportunity to let the Holy Spirit lead us into the wilderness of confronting ourselves, letting go of the excess baggage of self and growing closer to God.

Whether you have given something up or taken something up, let the Holy Spirit bless your efforts and give you the strength to see beyond six weeks of no chocolate to grow in love and faith with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and with one another.

## *Lent 2026*

### **Lent Course**

A topical bible study to walk with Jesus. We will meet in groups to discuss the gospel of the previous Sunday and explore ways in which it relates to our own journey with Jesus.

*This is for everyone across the Brixham Mission Community and you will be welcome at whichever venue suits you best:*

**Tuesdays from 24<sup>th</sup> February 10:30** All Saints, Lower Brixham

**Wednesdays from 25<sup>th</sup> February 11:00** St Mary's, Brixham

**Thursdays from 26<sup>th</sup> February 14:00** Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Galmpton.

*Rev'd Philippa*

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN THE BMC

### Monday 30 March

6.00pm Kingswear Compline

### Tuesday 31 March

10.00am All Saints' Lower Brixham Eucharist

6.00pm Barn Chapel Galampton Compline

7.00pm St Mary's Brixham Stations of the Cross

### Wednesday 1 April

10.30am St Mary's Brixham Eucharist

6.00pm St Mary the Virgin, Churston Compline

### MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 April

7.00pm St Mary's Brixham Mass of the Last  
Supper and Vigil

### GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

10.00am All Saints' Lower Brixham Stations of the  
Cross

12noon Kingswear Prayers at the Cross

2.00pm St Mary's Brixham Holy Communion from  
the Altar of Repose

2.15pm St Mary's Brixham Reflections on the  
Cross

3.00pm St Mary the Virgin, Churston Last hour at  
the Cross

### HOLY SATURDAY 4 April

8.00pm St Mary's Brixham Service of Light for  
Easter Eve

**BEHOLD PRODUCTIONS!** [www.iam-mark.com](http://www.iam-mark.com)

**Praise for I am Mark:**

“Sometimes it takes a living voice, like this one, to make you hear the Bible for the first time.” *Archbishop Rowan Williams*

“A mighty performance: perfect Fringe-fare.” *The Tablet*,  
review by Patrick Hudson (Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 2023)

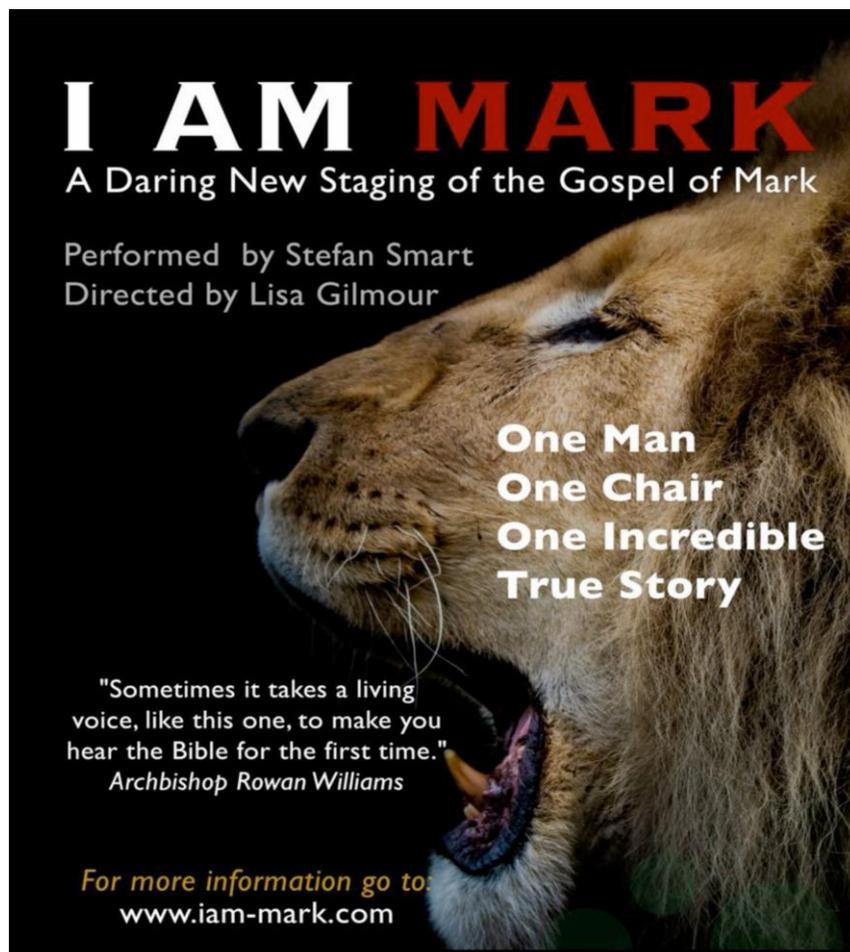
“Go! You don’t have to be religious to appreciate this.”  
*Specialist Nurse*

It's at **St Mary’s Brixham** on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** at **2pm**.

Tickets are **£10 including refreshments**.

Phone Administrator 07790 104293 or email Rector  
[rectorbrixhammc@gmail.com](mailto:rectorbrixhammc@gmail.com).

Tickets will also be available at the door.





*On the second Sunday of the month at*

St Mary's, Brixham:

# **WALKING TOGETHER**

The second Sunday service at St Mary's Brixham is getting, not just a new name, but also a much clearer identity and purpose.

## **Name**

We have come up with an acronym for the service which also usefully describes the purpose of the service:

**W.A.L.K.**

The service will be called **Walking Together** which suggests many images around the way of discipleship: pilgrimage, the road to Emmaus etc.

- ❖ Walking together we **worship** in songs and praises.
- ❖ Walking together we **ask** God to hear us in our prayers.
- ❖ Walking together we **love** Jesus and each other.
- ❖ Walking together we **know** Jesus and each other as we grow.

**Service Structure** With these four words we can create a service structure which remains similar each month and which is labelled by each letter of the acronym.

**W** Worship - songs and hymns of praise

**A** Ask - offering prayer and confession

**L** Love - loving Jesus and each other

**K** Know - learning more about Jesus  
and growing as disciples

### **Logo**

The service would also be advertised using an eye-catching logo to draw the eye each month as to what is happening next. The hike boot print and the word 'walk' point instantly to the concept on which we can build.

### **Children**

We have an opportunity to build on our relationship with the Brixham Church of England School and the school choir. We hope very much that they will come each month to join in with us.

### **Themes**

In the first five months we can explore the key words that are used for the service:

12<sup>th</sup> April - **Walking Together** (the path of discipleship)

10<sup>th</sup> May - **Worship** (exploring songs and hymns in worship)

14<sup>th</sup> June - **Ask** (on prayer)

12<sup>th</sup> July - **Love** (the two great commandments - fellowship with Jesus and each other)

9<sup>th</sup> August - Know (not knowing ABOUT Jesus but knowing Jesus and the growth that comes from knowing him)

Then we are ready for the new school year and Harvest Festival in September.

*Hilary Hyde, M Pickthorne, Mandy Palmer*

## **All the Kingdoms of the World**

*A poem based on Matthew 4:1-11 Lent 1*

So, here's the deal and this is what you get:  
The penthouse suite with world-commanding views,  
The banker's bonus and the private jet  
Control and ownership of all the news  
An 'in' to that exclusive one percent,  
Who know the score, who really run the show,  
With interest on every penny lent  
And sweeteners for cronies in the know.  
A straight arrangement between me and you  
No hell below or heaven high above  
You just admit it, and give me my due  
And wake up from this foolish dream of love...  
But Jesus laughed, 'You are not what you seem.  
Love is the waking life, you are the dream.'

*Malcolm Guite*

From *Elaine Vestey*

## **The Table**

The days are long the hours are short, confusion  
And fear abundant. Security forces  
Are milling about searching for troublesome  
preachers.

You never know what you have till it's gone,  
Certainties confidence is shattered. That girl  
And the cockerel turned life upside down,  
The panic is ice in my vein. He said this would happen  
Though I did not listen, oh tell me that it's just a  
dream,  
But yes, we were all there and he was insistent  
We join him in breaking the bread.

*Stephen Bellows*

## **Another Read?**

Many of us will be using a special book to study during Lent. Maybe you are looking for an additional book, but one that suits the more inward mood of Lent? *Tales of a Country Parish* by Colin Heber-Percy may be the book for you. It began as a daily message to his parish, Savernake Forest, during the troubled days of 2020.

Poetry, rock music and mice in the house rub shoulders with religious writings and 'the big questions of what on earth are we doing here and can you find heaven in a Londis shop'? His young child's encounter with a nun, foot and mouth disease, Rogationtide and why Donald Trump chose not to go to a military cemetery in northern France are some others.

It is a gentle read, but by no means is it insipid. It does not sidestep the deep problems of the world. His observations of our human behaviour and foibles [including his own] are recorded with compassionate understanding. You will have to read it for yourself to find out how good Mrs Murphy crept into the book of Psalms.

*Tales of a Country Parish* by Colin Heber-Percy

Published by shortbooks ISBN 978-1-78072-497-3

*Alison Crozier*

### **Can you believe it's that time of year again**

Even though there have been several Special Church Meetings recently it will soon be time for the Annual Parish Church Meetings again. And this year, for the first time, the representatives to the Brixham Mission Community Council will be elected.

May I remind everyone that, if you wish to vote at these meetings, your name must be on the Parish Electoral Roll, not to be confused with the Electoral Roll of the Local Authority [Torbay or South Hams]. Although these rolls are fully revised periodically, they can be added to at any time and forms are available in church. For further details please speak to one of your Church Wardens.

*David Roberts*

## The Fourth Anniversary of the Invasion of Ukraine

On the fourth anniversary of the war and the National Day of Prayer for Ukraine, we gathered at St Mary the Virgin, Churston, for a quiet time of remembrance, to pray and to be together: an evening of shared presence, where one light becomes many, and strength is found in unity. Some came forward to light a candle.

St Michael the Archangel has been the patron saint of Kyiv since ancient times. May the Archangel be a guardian and companion to the people of Ukraine, bringing strength and consolation and restoring hope. May peace once again prevail.

*Jane Washington*



## WE BELIEVE IN LIFE BEFORE DEATH



We have had our first meeting of the year and are delighted to report that, despite missing three of our good fundraisers last year, we are slightly up on our money! Thank you all for your praying, acting and giving, for knowing how great the need is. "I was hungry and you gave me food." May God bless you all and THANK YOU.



We have enjoyed our first occasion of the year, our quiz and pudding evening in St Mary's church hall. It was a fun evening with truly delicious puddings and a

wonderful £600 winging its way to Christian Aid.

Thank you to Marie and her helpers for organising, to Nicola for her preparing and her wonderful delivery of the quiz and to all our generous supporters.

*Photo: the winners*



As you read this we will have had our first Lent lunch in the Baptist Cafe. The rest of the Lent lunches are in the Christian Community Centre and are from 12.15 to 1.30 every Wednesday:

4<sup>th</sup> March hosted by the Methodists

11<sup>th</sup> March hosted by All Saints'

18<sup>th</sup> March hosted by St Mary's

25<sup>th</sup> March hosted by Our Lady Star of the Sea

1<sup>st</sup> April hosted by the United Reformed Church

These are truly ecumenical lunches. People from all the churches enjoy catching up with old friends or making new ones. It is good to share part of the Lenten season knowing our fun and laughter is helping to bring in God's Kingdom both here in Brixham and to vulnerable people across the world.

Our annual St Patrick's ceilidh on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March in the Scala Hall from 7-10 as always promises to be an enjoyable evening. Even if dancing is becoming difficult for you the music is great and our singing will raise the rafters with Mark, Hugh and John to lead us. Hoping to see lots of you there.

'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' *Corinthians 9:7*

This Lent Christian Aid promises to keep you smiling while we lighten your purses! *Marie, Lindsay & Mary*

## St Mary's, Higher Brixham February

February began with a full church for **Merrisie's Dedication** service, which was a very happy occasion with plenty of family and friends supporting one-year-old Merrisie.

The same week saw a busy time at St Mary's as we held two fund-raising events. The first was a **Coffee Morning / Soup Lunch / Bring & Buy** at Hunter's Moon, Horsepool Street in aid of the **Restoration Project** at St Mary's. It was lovely to have support from other churches in the BMC, and the **wonderful** kitchen team were hard pushed to keep up with tea, coffee, cakes of all sorts, and a variety of soups and home-made bread. Thanks go to everyone who supported on the day and to those who served. With a few subsequent donations we made the amazing total of **£1110**, which will help towards our forthcoming works to improve facilities at the west end of the church, enabling us to use the space for community events more comfortably.

The second event was the **Christian Aid Quiz** in the church hall, which was well-attended and contested, being won by the **Fallon family**, and raising **£600** for the work of Christian Aid. Thanks go to Marie and her team for the puddings and arrangements, and to Nichola for doing a wonderful job as quiz-master. *(see photos in Christian Aid report page 13)*

The church was full the following week as Revd Chris conducted the funeral service for our beloved sister **Susan Francis**, whose life here in Brixham touched so many people. Not only was she our churchwarden, sharing with other wardens in the BMC the extra responsibilities arising from the vacancy, but she also served on the Deanery Synod, helped with Messy Church, was active in St Mary's Bowls

Club and the W.I. Our prayers continue for Colin and the family at this most difficult time.

We were delighted to welcome friends from around the BMC to the **Ash Wednesday** ashing service as Lent began. We look forward to further Wednesdays with the **Lent Course**, and **Christian Aid Lent lunches** in the Community Centre also on each Wednesday.

**Mummy & Me, Messy Church** and **Youth Group** continue with new faces appearing at each, encouraged by friends who already come. **Coffee Mornings** on **Saturdays** in the church hall continue with visitors calling in to join the regulars.

Thanks go to all who keep the church moving forward, especially to those who are no longer able to attend but who support with prayer. L.W

### ***Messy Church @ St Mary's, Higher Brixham***

Continuing our theme of **'I am'sayings'** we moved to **'I am The Good Shepherd'**.





We started the afternoon hunting for 19 named sheep hidden around the church. Our two helpers had great fun rounding them all up at the end of Messy Church!

Thanks to Revd Mark, we enjoyed a **puppet theatre** telling the assembled company of adults and children exactly how a shepherd looked after his sheep and knew each of them, looking after them at night by lying down across the entrance to the sheepfold and using his crook or a sling with stones against any lions or wolves. Shepherd Linbenot explained that every single one of the sheep was precious to the shepherd and, if one was missing, the rest of the sheep would be left safe while the shepherd looked for the missing one. God knows us all and will always look for anyone missing from his flock.

Because it was half-term we were fewer in number, albeit with two lovely new members, but all present enjoyed the afternoon in which everyone made:

- A lost sheep pop-up model***
- A Good Shepherd doorhanger***
- Sheep for the prayer tree***



*A wooden marble maze per family.....finding the way out of the sheepfold*

*A picture featuring Jesus the Good Shepherd  
And wonderful sheep biscuits using marshmallows  
and chocolate spread!*

As always, we thank our great team of helpers,  
including those in the kitchen who provide supper for  
all.

**Next Messy Church is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and  
all are welcome.**

*For further information please contact Lesley  
01803 354036 or Lindsay 07813 311613     L.W*

### **ST MARY'S HIGHER BRIXHAM**

**SATURDAY 11 APRIL 1.00pm - 4.30pm**

A Gospel singing workshop to be led by Steve Dawes, Musical  
Director of **Callington Community Gospel Choir**.

Free, with tea/coffee during the interval.

To be followed **from 7.00pm - 9.00pm** by a concert by the  
Callington Community Gospel Choir: £8.00 per person  
to include cheese and wine in the interval.

Please come and join us and fill the church with joyful music.

### **EASTER COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 4 April 10am - 12noon St Mary's Church Hall**

Come and enjoy tea, coffee, cake and companionship.

Bring your Easter Bonnet (ladies and gentlemen)  
and enter our competition.

*Jan Lobb*

## Dates for your diary

**MARCH** (also please see Holy Week services page 5)

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 27 Mount Road 10am-12noon**

coffee morning/bring and buy  
in aid of BMC Lent Appeal for  
Fishermen's Mission

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Messy Church**

**Tuesdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>**

**10.30am All Saints' Lent course**

**Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>**

**11am St Mary's Lent course**

**12.15pm Christian Community Ctr  
Lent lunch**

**Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>**

**2pm Barn Chapel Lent course**

### **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 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

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### ST MARY'S, HIGHER BRIXHAM

Warden: 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

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### 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

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### 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: Sandra Barton Jayne sbartonjayne@outlook.com 07341 845462  
Treasurer: Carolyn Williams carolynwilliams351@gmail.com 07801 847248

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### CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

St Mary's Church hall Mrs M Seffert 01803 853525  
Barn hall, Galampton Lynn Miller 07305 788503

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### 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 14325