

THE BRIXHAM MISSION COMMUNITY

Lent is a time to keep hope alive



Pupil Chaplains, Galmpton Primary School

Moving Forward Together

Issue 30

February 2026

Brixham Mission Community

Services February 2026

2026	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	SERVICES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
Sunday	Presentation of Christ	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Sunday next before Lent	1 st Sunday of Lent	
February	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	18 th
All Saints' Brixham	09:30 Eucharist	09:30 Eucharist	09:30 Worship for All	09:30 Eucharist	7.00pm Eucharist
St Mary's Brixham	08:45 No service	08:45 Eucharist	08:45 No service	08:45 Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
	11:00 Eucharist	11:00 Sunday Worship	11:00 Eucharist	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 with SPCM	
Mid-week					
All Saints' Brixham 10.00	3 rd Eucharist	10 th Eucharist	17 th Eucharist	24 th Communion by ext.	
St Mary's Brixham 10.30	4 th Eucharist	11 th Eucharist	18 th Eucharist ASH WEDNESDAY	25 th Eucharist	

Brixham Mission Community Churches welcome you!

Welcome to the February edition of Moving Forward Together

February marks the end of the Church's season of Christmastide with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ on 2nd February. It also marks the beginning of Lent, with Ash Wednesday on 18th February this year.

I've been thinking about good endings and good beginnings. The Feast of the Presentation of Christ, also known as Candlemas, takes us more deeply into the meaning of *Emmanuel*, God with us. Throughout Christmastide, we've celebrated the birth of Christ, the visitation of the Wise Men, the baptism of Christ and, most years, his first miracle in Cana. It's a whole series of good beginnings. We complete it with Jesus being presented in the Temple, as the Jewish Law required; his divinity is recognised by Simeon and Anna. It's a good ending to the season of Christmas and Epiphany because here we have the first public recognition that the infant Jesus is the Messiah. He is God. That's why we light candles and celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It marks the end of Christmastide, but like all good endings it opens doors to new beginnings for us and for our own relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a holy time for Christians, a penitential season, when we take the opportunity to deepen our relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, by prayer, reflection and rebuilding any bridges of friendship that may have become weakened. 'Lent' derives from a Saxon word for Spring, and is

a time of hope, reconciliation and preparation to open our hearts to the Risen Christ at Easter. Many of us may hold to the traditional practices of giving up a luxury during Lent, in the hope of becoming more obedient. Others may take up a new good habit in the hope of self-improvement. Of course, there is nothing wrong with any of that.

Lent is not a time of desolation but a time of hope and renewal. To make this Ash Wednesday a good beginning to your Lent, you may like to ask yourself what the Lord may be asking of you to deepen your relationship with him and rebuild any bridges that need rebuilding in friendship and love with God and with one another. And keep your eyes open for those signs of spring, crocuses and snowdrops, buds and new life. Lent is a time to keep hope alive. *Rev'd Philippa*



Photo (and front cover) Pupil Chaplains from Years 5 and 6 were commissioned in a special service at Galmpton School this month. They are photographed with probationary Pupil Chaplains in Year 4.

This group of children are ambassadors for living and telling the story of Jesus within their school and enabling others to

live life in its fulness. They are involved in leading worship, social initiatives and supporting other children. Many congratulations to the Galmpton pupils' chaplains.

Rev'd Philippa

Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday 18th February: Eucharist with Ashing
10:30am St Mary's, Brixham
7:00pm All Saints, Lower Brixham

Everyone welcome

Lent Discussion Groups:

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 24th February 10:30 All Saints, Lower Brixham;
Wednesdays from 25th February 11:00 St Mary's, Brixham;
Thursdays from 26th February 14:00 Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Galmpton.

Rev'd Philippa

In memoriam:

Our great friend and long-serving churchwarden at St Mary's Brixham, Susan Francis, passed away peacefully on Sunday 11th January. Susan was a constant ray of light welcoming visitors and parishioners to the church for regular services, baptisms, weddings, funerals and all events.

She served the Lord and her church community with tremendous commitment and energy. Our prayers are with Colin and the family.

Susan will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rev'd Philippa



Susan: May she rest in peace and rise in glory

From Rev'd Philippa: " *Brixham CIC does lots for Ukraine*"



The proceeds from the quiz will help fund new Brixham Projects and FREE events, which benefit the town in 2026. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you there.' John Brennan Brixham Future CIC

From Churston:

Fourth Anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.
Join us on 24th February 5-6pm Churston church.
Informal evening of fellowship, refreshments, poetry
and prayers.

From Hilary Hyde, LLM

As many of you may know, I have been to three of our churches recently, to let our congregations know about the work of Anna Chaplains and Friends. This is very close to my heart and is much treasured by those we visit and through the good friendships that are formed.

Anna Chaplaincy is a national organisation started by Debbie Trower who, when her parents needed to go into care, realised that there was no spiritual care available to them. It is part of the Bible Reading Fellowship and, although fairly new, is growing fast. At a recent count there are 470 Anna Chaplains and many more Friends. Here are some main points from my talks.

Anna Chaplaincy is all about being with someone, to listen to their life story, to help them understand their beliefs or spiritual understanding, or just to be a friend, someone to share a cup of tea and chat. I hope that the information and examples that I have given in my talks will be remembered and that we can ensure that all our congregation who used to come to church but are now unable to feel that they are remembered and valued.

Some of the conversations following my talks have highlighted people that may have been forgotten, those who are now feeling that they need to reduce their workload, as well as people who have expressed an interest in becoming an Anna Friend. There is still a lot of work to be done. I have not yet been able to give a talk at Churston church, but my plan is to do that next month. I very much look forward to

being there with them as I have been pleased to be welcomed in Kingswear, St Mary's Brixham, and All Saints.

As the words of the hymn 'Brother, sister, let me serve you' remind us, Anna Chaplaincy is a way of holding the Christ light for them in the night time of their fear. "We will weep while you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you, I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through".

Let me know of anyone who would like a visit, or maybe it might be yourself. My phone number is 852323. (If I am not available, please let Rev'd Philippa know.) One of the joys of this role that I experienced just a few days ago was, when visiting a poorly gentlemen, after I had said a blessing for him he said to me 'you can't go wrong with God'.

What a beautiful thing to be able to say! I pray that we all will be able to say this and really mean it.

With Blessings

Hilary Hyde LLM



CHRISTIAN AID

Last year we again raised over £13,000. May God bless you all.

Quiz and pudding evening Friday 6th February in St Mary's church hall from 7.30 – 10.00pm. To book or join a team, Marie 07715 349669.

Lent Lunches start on Wednesday 25th February from 12.15 – 1.30pm. First lunch in the Baptist Church cafe, then all in the Christian Community Centre, same time.

St Patrick celebrations: We promise to raise the rafters this year with Mark and Hugh joined for the first time by John, “Raise the Roof”, to lead our singalong! As always our wonderful Stargazy Pie will accompany the dancing.

Christian Aid reminds us of what we can achieve when we work together. This Lent, you can help forge a world where everyone can live a full life, free of poverty, whilst enjoying good company, fellowship and fun.

“I have come that people may have life, and may have it in all its abundance” (*John 10 v11*)

Marie, Mary and Lindsay

From Kingswear:

When Heaven Invades Earth* is a book title. “Thy Kingdom come,” we pray.

A Covenant Prayer begins, “I am a child of God made in your image and likeness,” and includes, “You call me to be witness to your presence, boldly, courageously, gently”. It ends, “What is true in heaven, may it be seen in me within the dance of the Trinity of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

During the service which included the dedication of my great-grandson, we heard, “Sin is hard-wired into our DNA.” Jesus, the Messiah, came to earth, was part of village life, taught, died on a cross and rose from the dead. Heaven has already invaded earth. If we want to see the new heaven and the new earth, then we must co-operate with God and not just simply wait for him to act. The New Testament contains all the instructions. We try to co-operate but again and again we fail. But through his grace and mercy, God has made it possible for us to begin all over again, and again and again. Thanks be to God, Amen

Alison Crozier

**When Heaven Invades Earth, A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles* by Bill Johnson

Available from Eden, Amazon, Oxfam etc.

All Saints, Lower Brixham

Torbay Lifeboat Crew celebrated Christmas with a service of songs and readings. We are grateful to the Riviera Singers, the Fishtown (hand bell) Ringers and the WAGS (Crew Wives & Girlfriends). There were also two pieces of Lifeboat related poetry. Martyn Hodge led the Service with refreshments after, enjoyed by 170 people.

The **All Saints Nine Lessons and Carols** was organised by Jayne Carter and Martyn Hodge, and the following week **Churston Grammar School** gave a wonderful concert to their relatives and friends. The church was packed.

Our Sunday morning **Christingle Service** took place during *Worship for All* on 20th December. £120 was raised for the Children's Society. Martyn also led a **Christingle Service in a local residential Home**.

On Christmas Eve our **Nativity Play**, led by Elisabeth Lakey, was the highlight of the Christmas season. It was followed by Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day service.

January brought more fundraising. David and Margaret Watters have kindly offered to host our Valentine's Day Coffee Morning at 27 Higher Ranscombe Road on 14 February 10-12. All welcome!

On **Shrove Tuesday** we hold our Pancake Supper in the church at 6:30pm. All welcome. Tickets £5.

Ashing Service, Ash Wednesday 7pm.

Until next time

Peter

St Mary's, Brixham

A few of us braved the elements to attend the **Installation Service of Claire Reynolds**, our former curate, at Okehampton. It was a hugely welcoming occasion, with the ceremony taken by Bishop James, who encouraged the churches of the Benefice of Okehampton, Inwardleigh and Belstone with Sticklepath to welcome and assist Claire in her ministry to the parishes, as well as to the new housing development in the town.

Sadly, our beloved churchwarden **Susan Francis** died in hospital on Sunday 11th January, (probably at the time we were singing "*Thine be the glory.*") Not only was she one of our hardworking churchwardens at St Mary's, but she also helped at Messy Church, served on Deanery Synod, prepared refreshments, acted as verger at funerals, was a great listener to all, and was the smiling face greeting everyone at each service and each event.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. RIP Susan. Our thoughts and prayers continue with Colin and the family. Her funeral will take place at St Mary's on 13th February at 2pm.

Mummy & Me, Messy Church, Youth Group, Bible Study group and Outreach Coffee Mornings have all restarted with new members joining each and enjoying themselves.

Men's Breakfast starts on February 11th at 9.00am, with subsequent breakfasts taking place on the first Wednesday of each month. All welcome.

Our two church schools, **Brixham C/E Primary and Galmpton C/E Primary**, now have Pupil Chaplains whose aim is to help younger pupils to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. Rev'd Philippa has been working with the volunteers to aid them in their understanding of their commitment. Those at Galmpton were commissioned at a service attended by their parents, while the commissioning service for Brixham will take place later in February.

On Tuesday 3rd February, you are cordially invited to a **Coffee Morning** / Bring and Buy / Soup Lunch in aid of restoration work at St Mary's 10.30am – 2.30pm. LW

MESSY CHURCH JANUARY 2026

With a NEW YEAR we began our NEW QUEST, looking at Jesus's "I AM...." sayings, starting with "I am the Light of the World".

We started by making Christingles, making sure everyone knew the significance of each part, especially the (battery operated) candles representing Jesus the Light of the World. Christingles were used as visual aids about 150 years ago in the Moravian Church, enabling people to access the gospel.

We looked at the painting by William Holman Hunt of Jesus, the Light of the World, noticing that the door at which Jesus is standing has no handle on his side, because we are the

ones who have to open the door on our side, and invite him into our hearts.

Messy-Churchers enjoyed the crafts including colouring little prayer books for a New Year and making lanterns to reveal the passage from St John 8 v12. Everyone went home with a great bagful of goodies to remind them of their time at Messy Church.

Our thanks as always go to all who selflessly give up their time to help, either in church or preparing supper in the church hall. Our next Messy Church is on Friday 20th February.

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

Christmas at Churston and the Barn

16 December Carols round the crib

16 December Quay Harmony Christmas Concert

20 December Poinsettia Festival

21 December Carol Service

24 December Crib Service

25 December Christmas Day Service

We received half of the profit from **Quay Harmony** ticket sales, and we sold refreshments for our own profit as well.

Poinsettia Festival was a valuable morning to those who wished to remember loved ones and was much appreciated. The **Galliard Recorders** played quietly, there were teas and

coffees and a very well established team made this event run smoothly. **Carol Service** at 10.00am is becoming very popular with all who do not drive at night. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards were much enjoyed.

On 28 December a short contemplative service, followed with a real old fashioned **children's party**, was a great success.

We remember the December decorators who made the church look so fabulous this year and the cleaners.

Jane Washington

Kingswear Kingsfest





From Stephen

Have you been shriven?
They had it easy in the
Middle Ages
No fridges or freezers
Temptations deep frozen or chilled
Just use up what you have
Empty shelves are what you need
Preparation for your time
Of waiting
Try it, just for an hour
Just you and your empty shelves
You may then be ready to think
How to live lightly on Earth

Dates for your diary

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3rd Horsepool St coffee/soup/bring&buy

Friday 6th St Mary's hall 7.30pm Christian Aid quiz

Monday 9th Singalong Brixham Does Care

Wed 11th St Mary's hall 9am Men's breakfast

Friday 13th St Mary's 2pm Susan Francis' funeral

Sat 14th Hr Ranscombe Rd 10am All Saints' coffee

Tuesday 17th All Saints 6.30pm Pancakes

Friday 20th St Mary's Messy Church

Tuesday 24th 10.30am All Saints' Lent course

5pm Churston Ukraine 4th anniversary

**Wed 25th 11am St Mary's Lent course
12.15pm Baptist Church Lent lunch**

Thursday 26th 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

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

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



Photo : Messy Church