

# BUDE COAST & COUNTRY BENEFICE

## Voices Together



St Michael & All Angels, Bude



St Winwaloe, Poundstock



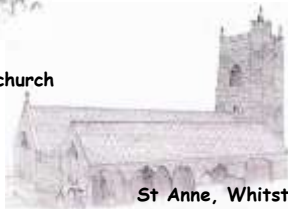
Our Lady & St Anne, Widemouth Bay



St Mary the Virgin, Week St Mary



St Marwenne, Marhamchurch



St Anne, Whitstone

Free

April 2026

## **MAIN CONTACTS FOR OUR BENEFICE:**

Please contact any of the following for information or enquiries about Anglican Church life in the Benefice:

**Our Strategic Rural Dean:** Rev J Terry 07562 700170  
srd@strattondeanery.co.uk

**Our Rector:** Rev David Saunders, The Rectory, The Glebe,  
Week St Mary, EX22 6UY Tel: 07834 459672  
email: rector@bude-coast-benefice.org

### **Our Churchwardens:**

#### St Anne's, Whitstone:

Mervyn Collins: 01288 341598

#### St Marwenne's, Marhamchurch:

Angela Grills: 01288 361247      Sue Shadrick: 01288 361666

#### St Mary the Virgin, Week St Mary:

Lesley Booker: 01288 341221      Linda Cobbledick: 01288 341468

#### St Michael's, Bude Haven:

Penny Heard 07825 266580

#### Our Lady & St Anne's, Widemouth Bay:

Contact Judy MacDonald: 01288 362254

#### St Winwaloe's, Poundstock:

Contact church member Barry Smith: 01288 361716

**Stratton Deanery website:** [www.strattondeanery.co.uk/](http://www.strattondeanery.co.uk/)

### **Editor of *Voices Together*:**

Clare Hicks, Trelowen, Lynstone, Bude EX23 0LR.  
01288 352726; [claremhicks@gmail.com](mailto:claremhicks@gmail.com)

Copy deadline for **May** issue—  
By **Friday April 17th** please

### **ELECTRONIC COPIES OF VOICES TOGETHER**

If you would like to receive a copy of this magazine please email Lesley Booker: [lesleybooker@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybooker@gmail.com)

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Friends,

### Old Eddie

It happens every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembles a giant orange and is starting to dip into the blue ocean. Old Ed comes strolling along the beach to his favourite pier. Clutched in his bony hand is a bucket of shrimps. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now. Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimps.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimps to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place. Invariably, one of the gulls lands on his sea-bleached, weather-beaten hat - an old military hat he's been wearing for years. When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say or 'a guy that's a sandwich shy of a picnic' as my kids might say. To onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimps. To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant....maybe even a lot of nonsense. Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of young folk. Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida.

That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better. His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero back in World War II. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft. Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the

Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were. They needed a miracle.

That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft. Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull! Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal - a very slight meal for eight men - of it. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait.....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigours of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first lifesaving seagull. And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimps and a heart full of gratitude. Who is it you say thank you to? How do you say thank you?

The Bible encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thesalonians 5:18) When we say thank you, we should do it like Eddie, in all circumstances and with a heart full of gratitude. (story from Max Lucado, *In The Eye of the Storm*, pp.221, 225- 226)

Every blessing this Eastertide and always

*Revd. David Saunders*

### INCLUSIONS FOR THE WEEKLY PEW SHEET

To have your Notices included in the Pew Sheet please contact Sue Shadrick on 01288 361666 or email her at

The Editor and production team would like to wish all our readers and contributors a very happy Easter

## Dates for your April Diary:

- Wed 8th: Messy Church, St Michael's 10.30—12.30
- Sat 11th: Lego Café, WSM church, 9.30—12 noon  
*Elijah*, Buce Choral Society, St Michael's 7 pm see p 24
- Mon 13th: MU meeting, Stamford House, Stamford Hill 2 pm  
Happy Memories Memory Café, WSM church 2.30-4.30 pm
- Wed 15th: Lunch Club, WSM church 12 noon
- Thur 16th: Benefice Prayer Group, St Michael's, Bude 10 am
- Fri 17th: CAMEO, 11 Ashbury Grove, WSM 2 pm
- Wed 22nd: Poundstock church APCM, Poundstock Gildhouse 7.30 pm
- Thur 23rd: MU Open Afternoon, St Endellion church 2—4.30 pm
- Fri 24th: Pop up Pub, Poundstock Gildhouse 7—11 pm see p 20
- Sun 26th: Johnny Cowling, WSM church 7 pm see p 9
- Mon 27th: Happy Memories Memory Café, WSM church 2.30—4.30 pm
- Thur 30th: Benefice Prayer Group, St Michael's, Bude 10 am**

## Dates for your MAY Diary:

- Fri 8th: Quiz, Poundstock Gildhouse 7.30 pm see p 24 for details
- Mon 11th: MU meeting, Stamford House, Stamford Hill 2pm
- Wed 13th: NSPCC Coffee morning, 18 West Park Rd 10.30—12 p 25
- Thur 14th: Benefice Prayer Group, St Michael's, Bude 10 am  
Talk by Jonathan Ball, St Michael's 6.30—7.30 pm see p 25
- Sat 16th: Poundstock Gildhouse Plant Sale, 10 am—12.30 pm see p 24 for details
- Thur 28th: Benefice Prayer Group, St Michael's, Bude 10 am

## Regular Group Meetings:

- Tuesday afternoons: Week St Mary Adventure Church 4.30 pm
- Tuesday evenings: Bible Study St Marwenne's house group 7 pm —  
contact Janet Ward 01409 255 759
- Wednesday mornings: Coffee & Chat, The Bray, Marhamchurch 10.30-noon
- Wednesday mornings: Bible Study at St Michael's, 11 am

Why not lend your copy of this magazine to a neighbour or friend when you have finished with it?

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**Week St Mary Parish  
Hall from 12 noon**

**Next meetings  
TBC  
All most welcome**

**Sue Edwards  
01288 341083**



**Week St Mary  
Happy Memories Memory  
Café**

**2.30—4.30 pm in church  
Refreshments**

**Mondays 13th &  
27th April**

**All welcome  
Contact: Lesley Booker  
01288 341221**

**C A M E O**

**Come And Meet Each Other**

**Friday 17th April  
at 2 pm**

**11 Ashbury Grove  
Week St Mary**

**Join us for tea, cake & chat**

***contact:*  
*Linda Cobbledick*  
*01288 341468***



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## Benefice Prayer Group

### Psalm 103 1-4 (NIV)

1. **Praise the Lord, O my soul: all my inmost being, praise His holy name.**
2. **Praise the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits;**
3. **Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases,**
4. **Who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with love and compassion.**

This psalm, written by David, focuses on God's boundless mercy, forgiveness, and loving-kindness.

It commands us to bless God, and intentionally remember his benefits – rather than focusing on hardships, because God already knows what you need. Prayer isn't about updating him or convincing him, it's about you....unburdening yourself, so that you stop carrying what the Father is already holding.

Wise words indeed!

So we continue to invite anyone who is weary and downhearted or who just wants to be present, to come and experience the wonderful healing power of prayer.

The prayer group continues to meet on alternate Thursday mornings at 10.00 am at St Michael's Bude.

Next meeting dates:      16<sup>th</sup> April              30<sup>th</sup> April  
   14<sup>th</sup> May                28<sup>th</sup> May.

Praying we see you there.      Sue Shadrick: 07450974651.  
   Penny Heard: 07825266580

**Week St Mary Church  
presents**

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## Mothers Union - Kledh Kernow Branch

Looking forward to the wonderful festival of Easter, last month members created Spring cards. The designs were of various spring flowers, including daffodils, snowdrops and forget-me-nots. Guided once again by Susanne Bartrop an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship was had by all. We were also delighted to welcome another new member at the last meeting.

Many of you would have met Bishop Kelly Betteridge in her role as Archdeacon of Bodmin. Following her taking up the role of Bishop of Basingstoke, she has accepted the invitation to be the new Bishop Ambassador for Mothers' Union. The title is intended to reflect the role of strengthening relationships between Mothers' Union and the Church of England. On her acceptance of the position Bishop Kelly commented 'My interest in and support of the MU was first ignited in the 1990's during two visits to the African continent..... I welcome the global connectivity that the MU offers and sustains'. Bishop Kelly was a very supportive member of the Truro diocese MU.

### April Dates

Please note that our April meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm at Stamford House Stamford Hill. This is the second Monday of the month owing to the Easter bank holiday. We will be celebrating Spring and Eastertide.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Mothers Union Open Afternoon at St Endellion's Church 2pm - 4.30pm. There will be a speaker and time for fellowship. All welcome.

The May meeting will also be on the second Monday of the month due to a Bank Holiday.

*Sheila Waring*



Paul & Robin

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**Zoom services:** for details of any other zoom services scheduled for the month in the Benefice, please see page 26.

**PLEASE NOTE: SERVICES MAY CHANGE—check pew sheets/ local information/ACNY website.**

**Readings may be adapted for particular services**

**SERVICES FOR APRIL**

DATE	READINGS	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LEADER
Wednesday 1st April		08.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	DS
		10.00	Holy Communion	WB	DS
Thurs 2nd Maundy Thursday	Jeremiah 13: 5-10 Psalm 1 Luke 16: 19-end	20.00	Holy Communion & Watch	BH	DS
Friday 3rd Good Friday	Genesis 37: 3-4. 12-13.17-28 Psalm 105: 16-22 Matthew 21: 33-43 45—46	11.00	Walk of Witness	Triangle	TBC
		11.00	Stations of the Cross	M	WL
		12.30	Stations of the Cross	W	DS
		15.00	Liturgy of Good Friday	BH	DS
Saturday 4th Easter Vigil	Vigil Readings	18.00	Easter Eve, Vigil & Fire	WSM	DS
		20.00	Easter Eve, Vigil & Fire	BH	DS
Sunday 5th Easter Day	Acts 10: 34—43 Colossians 3: 1—4 John 20: 1—18	09.30	Holy Communion	BH	DS
		09.30	Holy Communion	P	JT
		09.30	Holy Communion All Age	M	RD
		11.00	Holy Communion All Age	WSM	DS
Wednesday 8th		08.30	Morning Prayer	Zoom	WL
		10.00	Holy Communion	WB	RD
		10.30	Messy Church	BH	Team
Sunday 12th 2nd of Easter	Acts 2: 14a.22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-end	09.30	Holy Communion	M	DS
		09.30	Morning Prayer	P	WL
		11.15	Holy Communion	W	DS
		18.00	Evening Prayer	WSM	DS

## SERVICES FOR APRIL & MAY continued

DATE	READINGS	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LEADER
Wednesday 15th		08.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Zoom WB	DS DS
Sunday 19th 3rd of Easter	Acts 2:14a. 36-41 Psalm 116: 1-3. 10 -end 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35	09.30 09.30 11.15	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion	BH M WSM	DS WL DS
Wednesday 22nd		08.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Zoom BH	DS DS
Sunday 26th 4th of Easter	Acts 2: 42-end Psalm 23 1 Peter 2: 19-end John 10: 1-10	09.30 09.30 09.30 10.00 11.15	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Prayer Morning Prayer Holy Communion	M P W WSM BH	RD DS WL WL DS
Wednesday 29th		08.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Zoom WB	WL DS
Sunday 3rd MAY 5th of Easter	Acts 7:55-end Psalm 31: 1-5. 15- 16 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14	09.30 10.00 18.00	Holy Communion All Age Worship Evening Prayer	BH WSM M	DS WL WL
Wednesday 6th		08.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Zoom BH	LMB DS

<p><b>KEY:</b> CHURCHES: BH = Bude Haven M = Marhamchurch P = Poundstock WSM = Week St Mary W = Whitstone WB = Widemouth Bay</p>	<p>LEADERS: DS = Rev David Saunders RD = Rev Rob Dickenson DA = Rev D Adams JT = Rev J Terry WL = Worship Leader MM = Methodist Minister</p>
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**St. Michael's Church, Bude**

**Wednesday 8th April**

**10.30 until 12.30**

**Theme: "Friends in South Africa "**

*Children, please bring an adult:  
Adults, please bring a child*



**FREE  
LUNCH**



**Enquiries: 01288 353137**



**Artist view of a quiet garden**

## **Poundstock Quiet/ Peace Garden**

The peace/quiet garden is a community-based space that embraces the ancient Celtic practice of contemplation and spiritual connection. It is open to all people of all faiths and none. It will provide a tranquil, contemplative community space for quiet and reflection for locals and visitors alike.

A community engagement meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February regarding the possible development of a peace/quiet garden at Poundstock. The land to be developed, which was donated to the church, lies adjacent to the church.

The meeting was successful, and interest was expressed in the design and building of the bridge across the stream for access.

Funding has been sought for the bridge, and it was agreed that the project will be carried out in stages as funds become available.

The surrounding schools will be invited to design different aspects of the garden, from the herb garden, labyrinth, and ant farms, to flower beds, etc.

If you have a calling to be part of this exciting development please chat to Rev David Saunders.

POUNDSTOCK GILDHOUSE

# POP-UP PUB

FRIDAY  
24TH  
APRIL

7 - 11  
PM



GILDHOUSE  
ARMS



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## WEEK ST MARY

### ADVENTURE CHURCH

Every Tuesday in term time at 4.30 pm

Week St Mary Church



## Week St Mary Lunch Club

Wednesday 15th April

Week St Mary church

12 noon

Bookings: 01288 341221



## WEEK ST MARY LEGO CAFÉ

Saturday 11th April

Week St Mary church with breakfast from  
9.30—12 (breakfast till 11.30 am)

## A note from the Editor:

**Copy deadlines** for 2026 issues of *Voices Together* are:

May: April 17th

June: May 22nd

July: June 19th

August: July 17th

September: August 21st

October: September 18th

November: October 16th

December: November 20th

## Tips from Poll's Garden for



### Sunshine and showers

Spring is in full swing, with tulips and flowering cherries in bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the veg plot. It's an exciting month as you start to sow outdoors. Just watch out for frosts and keep any tender plants indoors for now.

Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors

Sowing seeds outdoors is an easy, inexpensive and plastic-free way to grow new plants. It's ideal for a wide range of hardy flowers and vegetables.

Protect fruit blossom from late frosts

Most top fruit and soft fruit are very hardy but once they start into growth in spring, flowers and buds are especially vulnerable to frost and may need protection to crop well. Remove weeds that will smother seedlings and small plants, by hoeing or digging out.

More jobs for this month

1. Start to feed citrus plants
2. Increase the water given to houseplants
3. Plant new pond plants and divide waterlilies
4. Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
5. Prune fig trees
6. Divide bamboos
7. Last chance to prune climbing and rambling roses

*Poll*

## Week St Mary Tower Restoration 2026

For nearly four centuries, our Grade I listed church tower has stood as a proud landmark, rising 100 feet above the landscape and watching over our community since 1643. Its history is woven into the story of this place — a symbol of heritage, faith, and continuity.

Today, however, this remarkable structure has been placed on the Heritage at Risk Register. Time and weather have taken their toll, and without urgent action the tower's future is uncertain.

A full renovation is now required to preserve and protect it for future generations. The work is extensive, with an estimated cost of £400,000.

We are asking for your help. Every donation, large or small, will bring us closer to restoring this historic tower and ensuring it continues to stand tall for centuries to come.

If this landmark means something to you, please consider supporting the restoration fund. Together, we can safeguard this piece of history and keep our tower standing proudly over the community once again.

Week St Mary Church Tower: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/week-st-mary-church-tower>.

or scan the QR code to go to the Crowdfunder page for the project



### POUNDSTOCK EVENTS IN APRIL & MAY



Friday 24th April:: Pop up Pub 7—11 pm

Friday 8th May: Quiz Evening 7.30 pm

Sat 16th May: Plant Sale 10 am to 12.30 pm

Poundstock Gildhouse is open every Wednesday 10.00am - 4.00pm from 8th April - 7th October. See separate posters for details

Any queries contact Maria 07428 101323



## PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY 16TH MAY**

10.00 – 12.30 pm

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TOMBOLA & REFRESHMENTS**

For information and table bookings please call  
01566 781559

**PLEASE PARK IN THE CAR PARK UP THE HILL**

CHARITY NO:  
1191054



Bude Choral Society

PRESENTS

# FELIX MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7pm

St Michael's Church, Bude  
EX23 8SD

Conductor John Hobbs \* Organist Stephen Tyrrell  
Soprano Emma Hewitson \* Contralto Rebecca Squire  
Tenor Ben Hoadley \* Bass Julian Rippon

Tickets: £20 in advance £22 on the door

Paper tickets £20:

Ark Angel bookshop, Bude & Bude Tourist Information Centre  
or email: [tickets@budechoral.org](mailto:tickets@budechoral.org)

Online tickets £20: from Bude Tourist Information/ Visit Bude site

## SPONSORING

### VOICES TOGETHER

Would you like to sponsor an edition of the magazine? Maybe to celebrate a special event, or to remember a loved one, or you can remain anonymous if you prefer.

Please contact Heather Whitlock on

**07771 964672**

**for details**

Poundstock Gildhouse

## QUIZ EVENING

FRIDAY

8th May

starting at 7.30 pm

THE GILDHOUSE, POUNDSTOCK  
(just off the A39 at Poundstock)

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE, £5.00 PER PERSON**

**DRINKS AND NIBBLES AVAILABLE**

**AT THE POP UP PUB**

PROCEEDS TO

**ST WINWALOE'S CHURCH**

CALL 07792 381260 TO BOOK A TABLE

BOOKING RECOMMENDED DUE TO SPACE LIMITS

# NSPCC

Jenny Cloke invites you to a  
**COFFEE MORNING  
& BRING and BUY**  
in aid of the NSPCC  
18 West Park Road, Bude  
on Wednesday 13th May  
10.30 am—12 pm



**St Michael's church, Bude**

**would welcome any contributions to Bude Food Bank please.**

**A box for your donations is at the back of the church.**

**Thank you**

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BUDE & BUDE LITERARY FESTIVAL**

**WELCOME YOU TO A TALK**

**ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY 6.30—7.30 pm**

***From the Great Atlantic Way to the Wild Atlantic Way ... and  
Back Again***

**By local architect & writer JONATHAN BALL**

**Tickets £6 via [budelitfest.co.uk](http://budelitfest.co.uk) or from**

**The Literary Festival Box Office at Bude Library**

**from March 30th Mon, Wed & Fri 12—2 pm, Sat 11—1pm**

### **Services on zoom**

We will continue Zoom Services for as long as there is a demand for them. If there are any types of service other than Sunday morning prayer, Family Service or Holy Communion and Wednesday morning prayer that you miss and would like to see especially on Zoom either regularly or as a one off, please let me know and I will see what can be done.

Lesley Booker [lesleybooker@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybooker@gmail.com)

For times of all church services for the month please see pages 14 and 15. Each Sunday there will be a "zoomed" service and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays will be on zoom at 8.30 am.

### **St Marwenne's House Group**

The aim of the group is about growing in discipleship. It meets every Tuesday at 7 pm. Contact Janet Ward on 01409 255759 or email her at [janetmwuk@gmail.com](mailto:janetmwuk@gmail.com) for more details.

### **Advertising in *Voices Together***

If you run a business and would like to advertise in this magazine, please contact Heather Whitlock on 07771 964672.

If you are a not-for-profit local group or organisation and would like to put a one-off advert in for an event or similar, please contact Heather as above or the Editor (contact details p 2). We would ask for a small donation, depending on the size required. Adverts accepted at Editor's discretion. Thank you.

### **A Prayer for our Times**

Loving God, I place into your hands:

all my fears about the state of the world;

all my despair at the violence within the world;

all my concerns about the fragility of the environment;

all my worries about my own life.

Loving God, I place into your hands

today, tomorrow and all time Amen



