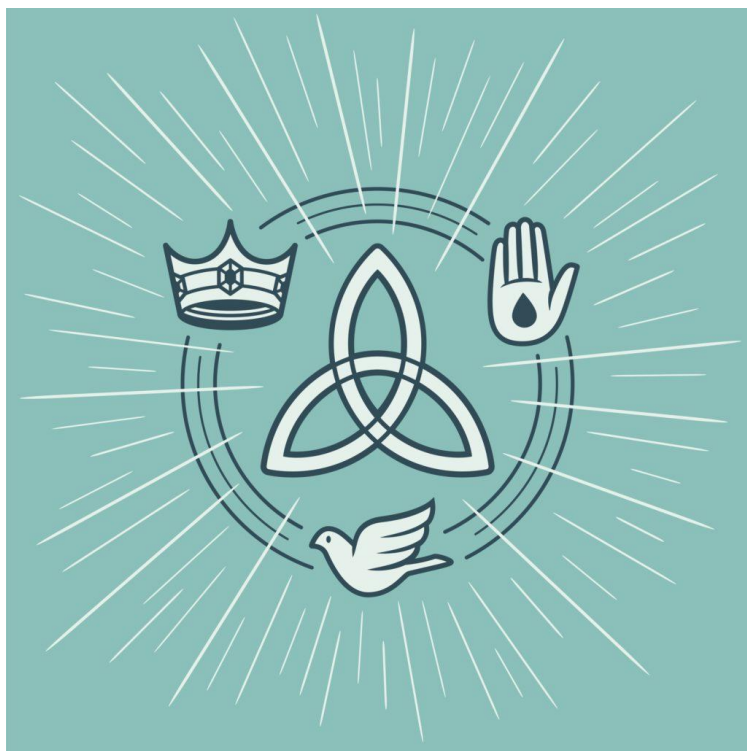


WEAR ST. LUKE PARISH MAGAZINE



May 2026

50p



There's a wonderful depiction of the hope of God's people, expressed through the prophet Isaiah in the Bible - of a time that is peaceable. It's a time when 'young men shall see visions and old men will dream dreams...the wolf will lie down with the lamb, and swords will be beaten into ploughshares'. This describes a time when the everyday experience of everyday folk will be of justice, mercy and humility.

These prophetic words, spoken so powerfully across millennia that they still give voice to our prayers and hope, with a resonance that is soul deep - this hopefully stirs us to compassion and calls out the best in us as humanity.

It all starts with us living these values consistently, every day without fail, modelling for our next generation the peaceable kingdom of God.

To quote from another Biblical prophet, Micah:

"What is it that the Lord requires of us, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God"

Revd Louise Grace

MAY SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 3rd May | 10am | Eucharist |
| 10th May | 10am 3pm | Eucharist Forest Church |
| 17th May | 10am | Joint Service at St Margaret's |
| 24th May | 10am | Morning Worship |
| 31st May | 10am | Eucharist |
| Trinity Sunday | | |



MAY READINGS AT ST. LUKE'S



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 3rd May | Psalm 23 John 14. 1-14 |
| 10th May | Acts 1. 1 - 11 Luke 24. 44 - 53 |
| 17th May | Acts 1. 6 - 14 John 17. 1 - 11 |
| 24th May | Acts 2. 1 - 21 John 20. 19 - 23 |
| 31st May | 2 Corinthians 13. 11 - 14 |
| Trinity Sunday | Matthew 28. 16 - 20 |



ST LUKE'S ALTAR
FLOWER ROTA



MAY

JUNE

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 3rd May | Sandra Greedy | 7th June | Sandra Greedy |
| 10th May | Sandra Greedy | 14th June | Sandra Greedy |
| 17th May | St. Margaret's | 21st June | Hazel Major |
| 24th May | Kate Hilton | 28th June | Hazel Major |
| 31st May | Kate Hilton | | |



MAY SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| 3rd May | 10am | Eucharist |
| 10th May | 10am | Eucharist |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| 17th May | 8am | BCP Holy Communion |
| | 10am | Mission Community Joint Service at St Margaret's |
| 24th May | 10am | Family Friendly Holy Communion |
| 31st May | 10am | Ecumenical Service at St. Nicholas Church, Topsham |
| | 3pm | Songs of Praise |



MISSION COMMUNITY MID-WEEK SERVICES
AND EVENTS

Mondays:

7pm Compline (via Zoom)

Wednesdays:

10am Morning Worship (via Zoom)

2.30pm Coffee/tea and cake (St. Margaret's)

Fridays

9am Morning Prayer (St. Margaret's)

Saturday

8am Prayer Breakfast (St. Margaret's) (2nd May)

Easter Day

On Easter Day, I attended the church at Countess Wear, led by Revd. Louise Grace.



The church looked so colourful with all the flowers. Candles lit at the beginning of the service added to the atmosphere.

The readings and sermon were interesting and appropriate.

On leaving the church we were given an Easter egg.

Thankyou.

Wednesday 8th April

I was so impressed with the flowers that I returned to the church on Wednesday.



There I was able to look more closely at the displays. They really were most impressive.

The church yard looked lovely with fresh cut grass and spring flowers, with the Easter Cross on display.

Thank you once again to all concerned.

Sheila Pacey.

Thank you to everyone who gave donations towards the purchase of flowers for Easter and who helped to arrange flowers for the windows, the lilies for the pedestal and altar, the yellow and white cross and the Easter garden.

Sandra Greedy



SCAM ALERT



**Warning to all computer users, don't be fooled
by what you see on the screen.**

On Monday afternoon Sandra was scanning the internet using the Google search engine for some ideas for the May edition of the Parish Magazine. Having found a couple of possibilities, which she saved on the computer, she cancelled the session only for some pornography images to flash up on the screen. In horror she quickly cancelled the images, only for a message to pop up on the screen saying that the computer was being infected by viruses and Trojan scam ware. In panic she screamed to me, as I was in the lounge sorting out the instruction for fitting a video doorbell, or was I dozing, as one does at my elderly age (according to Rowena), because it was late afternoon. Foolishly I phoned the number displayed on the screen and spoke to, what seemed, a very pleasant man, called Eddie. He said to me that our computer was being attacked by viruses and that he could sort the problem out whilst I was speaking to him. It was then that I made the biggest mistake by giving him access to our computer to resolve the issue. Some of you might watch the BBC programme called “Scam Interceptors” hosted by Rav Wilding who in his programmes says that you should never give anyone access to your computer. This was a huge mistake and as I sat there, I could see he was looking at various files on the computer. I still did not twig that there was a potential problem and agreed to pay £500 for a 5-year deal to cover the installation of a virus check software package that would protect our computer. Within the deal he would periodically check that the virus checker was working correctly and our computer was being protected. I was then contacted by a second person called Dominic, who would sort out the payment via Pay Pal. I do not have a Pay Pal account and so he arranged one for me over the phone and I agreed to pay the money. I still did not think that this was a potential scam so once I had paid, I thanked them for sorting the problem and I hung up. I then checked that the computer was working ok. Eddie had installed an icon on the desktop, so I was relieved that the problem had been sorted.

It was 4am on Tuesday morning that I suddenly woke up in horror and realised that we had been the victim of a scam. Having made the payment

on our bank account I phoned the bank at about 5am and they agreed that this was likely to be a scam and consequently they put a stop on the account. They could see that there was a payment of £500 to Pay Pal pending on the account. As a result, our debit cards were cancelled and new ones to be sent over the next week. We managed to get a couple of hours sleep and at 7am I contacted our son Philip who works in fraud and security for Vodafone. I can hear him now, saying “Father what have you done?” He was pleased that I had contacted the bank and cancelled the card and put a freeze on the account so that no more transactions could take place. His advice was to then call all our other banks and credit card providers and arrange for the accounts to be frozen and new cards issued. Our bank is attempting to recover the money from Pay Pal and hopefully reimburse us. We were also advised that we should delete our credit cards off our phone wallets and change our passwords for our email accounts. The process of contacting the banks resulted in me spending the rest of the morning on the telephone.

At 9am on Tuesday morning I disconnected the computer and took it to our local computer shop, ISCA Digital, who looked at the computer and checked for remote access software and viruses. Thankfully they advised me that all looked good and the scammers had in fact installed anti-virus checking software onto the computer which was ok but not worth the £500 that I had paid.

This was a painful experience, not only because of the trouble of getting all the financial matters sorted but also the worry of what personal information may have been obtained from the computer which potentially could be sold on to other unscrupulous people. I am writing this to hopefully highlight how easy it is to get drawn into the trap of these scammers.

PLEASE TAKE MY ADVICE, AND THE ADVICE OF THE PROFESSIONALS. DO NOT GIVE SOMEONE ACCESS TO YOUR COMPUTER UNLESS YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO.

IT IS A LABOURIOUS AND PAINFUL JOB TRYING TO SORT OUT THE RESULTING PROBLEMS.

An embarrassed Ken Greedy who, unwittingly, fell into the trap.



The Daffodil Song

There's a Daffodil on the hillside, green.
Is a daffodil supposed to be, seen?
If you ask the Creator,
If the spring will come later,
A sparrow flits by and then the flower's gone.



There's a Daffodil in a window box, bright.
Is a daffodil supposed to be, there at night?
If you ask the Almighty,
If the flower's doing rightly,
A bumblebee buzzes in and then the flower's gone.

There's a Daffodil at the front, gate.
Is that a sign of God's love or just fate?
If you ask the Spirit,
If they'll always be near it,
A warm breeze blows through and then the flower's gone.

Yellow, mellow, Daffodil!
Hallowed, hallowed, God's love still!
We'll see them, tomorrow! (Yay, yeah, yeah!)

Jami Patterson

STORIES AND LETTERS

I love to receive a card, letter or email from a relative or loving friend, communication is so important. God wants to communicate with us and this can be in many ways, but one important way is through the bible. However, the bible can seem quite daunting, but I find using bible reading notes makes it so much easier.

I order bible reading notes for a number of people from the Bible Reading Fellowship and can recommend New Daylight. We have found it really helpful using it each day. It is very easy to read because it already includes the bible passage with relevant notes and closes with a prayer. It could take just 5 or 10 minutes a day but often it will lead you into taking a little longer as you think it through and maybe pray about how it affects you or others.

If you would like to order a copy they are £5.99 each and cover four months. I have some old copies if you would like to use one prior to ordering.

The Bible Reading Fellowship Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word, to deepen our fellowship with you and with each other through your love. And in doing so may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly and follow more faithfully in the steps of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for evermore. Amen

Maree Day

Integrity and Justice

After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them ‘You must say, “His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep”, If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.’ So, they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told.

What would you do if you were encouraged to take part in a cover-up? Your conscience might tell you to do the right thing, but what if you were approached by people who held immense power, had influential friends and used violence? Or if you knew that any attempt to change the narrative would be used against you. either in a domestic setting or in a fraudulent judicial system? In such a situation, you might take the easier option.

At Jesus’ trial. He knew that the charges against him were false and that the witnesses against him were giving contradictory accounts. Even Pilate recognised that the chief priests were motivated by jealousy and that their charges of blasphemy were tenuous. Yet Jesus stood firm, refusing to engage with injustice. The soldiers who had guarded his tomb were pragmatic. When told what to say to protect those who had put Christ to death, they took the money and did as they were ordered.

We might wish that corruption like this could not happen today, but human rights organisations suggest that there are many people around the world who are wrongly imprisoned, suffer abuse, are silenced, become victims of summary punishment or simply disappear. Some are known as ‘prisoners of conscience’ who have criticised corrupt regimes but have never advocated violence or hatred as a response. Jesus’ steadfastness in the face of extreme threat should inspire us to advocate on behalf of the voiceless and powerless. They are loved by God.

Bible Reading Fellowship - New Daylight

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Do you like seeing the churchyard neat and tidy? As you can appreciate the cost of fuel is the main expense of keeping the grass trimmed and the edges strimmed. There are no labour costs, but if you feel you could help by making a small contribution towards the cost of fuel it would be most appreciated. If anyone has a free hour now and again and could help to maintain the churchyard by trimming bushes or helping with the mowing, Ken is always happy for any help

Ken Greedy. Mobile 07767 494163.

REMINDER - OPEN CHURCH

St Luke's Church will be open from 2 – 4 pm on Wednesday afternoons. You are welcome to come in and look around or spend some quiet time praying or thinking. There will be a member of the Church to welcome you and answer any questions that you might have. Let your friends and neighbours know that they will always be welcomed into the Church.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES PLEASE

Poems, stories of your holidays, of your gardens, recipes or any articles that the readers of the magazine might find interesting or amusing, would be very much appreciated.

Please send your articles for the June magazine to the editor's email by **19th May**.

Parish Magazine Editor – magazineeditorwear@gmail.com

Thank you for your contributions they are always very much appreciated!



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