

WEAR ST. LUKE PARISH MAGAZINE



Water Lily

July

2026

50p



I love the poems of R S Thomas, a priest who ministered near Anglesey and had a reputation of being extremely gruff, even dour. However, I find his poems manage to name the reality of struggle whilst never losing hope of the divine breaking through.

Many of us will be venturing out to explore our beautiful countryside this summer. I commend his poem 'The Bright Field' as a way to make your roaming an experience of depth and spiritual connection:

The Bright Field.

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once but is the eternity that awaits you.

Rev'd Louise Grace

JULY SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S

5th July	10am	Eucharist
12th July	10am 3pm	Eucharist Forest Church
19th July	10am	Joint Mission Community Eucharist Service at St Margaret's
26th July	10am	Morning Worship



JULY READINGS AT ST. LUKE'S



5th July	Zechariah 9. 9 - 12 Matthew 11. 16 – 19, 25 - 30
12th July	Isaiah 55. 10 – 13 Romans 8. 1 - 11 Matthew 13. 1 - 9, 18 - 23
19th July	Joint Service at St Margaret's
26th July	Romans 8. 26 - 39 Matthew 13. 31 – 33, 44 - 52



ST LUKE'S **ALTAR FLOWERS**



JULY

5th July	Kate Hilton
12th July	Kate Hilton
19th July	St. Margaret's
26th July	Sandra Greedy

AUGUST

2nd August	Carol Dargue
9th August	Carol Dargue
16th August	Anne White
23rd August	Anne White
30th August	Janet Milford



JULY SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

5th July	10am	Eucharist
12th July	10am	Eucharist
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
19th July	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	Mission Community
		Joint Service
26th July	10am	Family Friendly Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evensong



MISSION COMMUNITY MID-WEEK SERVICES AND EVENTS

Mondays:

7pm Compline (via Zoom)

Wednesdays:

10am Morning Worship (via Zoom)
2.30 – 3.30pm Coffee/tea and cake (St. Margaret's)

Fridays

9am Morning Prayer (St. Margaret's)

Saturday

8am Prayer Breakfast (St. Margaret's) (4th July)

CREAM TEAS IN THE GARDEN



Friday 24th July. 3 – 5pm – There will be Cream teas in the garden of Ken and Sandra Greedy at 29 Southbrook Road, Countess Wear. Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from Ken, Sandra or Brian Bolt, or phone Ken and Sandra

at 01392 271458 or e mail – greedyk61@gmail.com All proceeds will go to St. Luke's Church Funds. We are hoping that the weather will be suitable to sit in the garden, if not you will be welcomed into our home.

Birthday Honour for Alexis Poole

In exciting news earlier this month, our own Alexis Poole was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours List.



Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Alexis Poole has been awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours for her services to policing over the past 25 years.

Alexis has been in the role of Assistant Chief Officer People since 2019 but has previously carried out a variety of roles in Devon & Cornwall, including as Head of Performance and Analysis. Prior to joining Devon & Cornwall in 2005 ACO Poole worked in both the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office and has carried out a range of national work for the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and College of Policing over this time.

As well as her role as ACO for Devon & Cornwall Police, Alexis is a Board Member for the College of Policing and the co-founder of the NPCC Senior Police Staff network. In addition, as the first NPCC portfolio lead for neurodiversity, she founded and led the National Neurodiversity Working Group which has effected a sea-change in the way in which neurodiversity is thought about, acted upon, and championed right across policing in the UK, and beyond.

Chief Constable James Vaughan said: "I am delighted that Alexis has been recognised for her career-long commitment to policing. She is a committed leader who has supported and increased equality for underrepresented groups in policing; and has, for many years, contributed significantly to advancing the role of women in policing at all levels. Through her leadership and dedication, she has brought about lasting structural change and individually inspired countless people.

"What sets Alexis apart is not just her sustained commitment, but also the humility and grace with which she serves others. She never seeks personal praise or recognition but instead focuses entirely on the well-being and progress of those she supports.

“I am extremely proud to have Alexis as a part of my Executive team and I, and countless others, have benefitted enormously from her skills and professionalism over the years.

“The awarding of an OBE is a fitting and well-deserved recognition of her service, which reflects the very values the Honour represents: dedication, community, and impact.”

ACO Poole said: “Being recognised with an Honour in this way has been personally overwhelming, particularly given that I am lucky enough to work amongst inspiring and professional people who care deeply for the public and work tirelessly to provide the best possible service for them at all times of the day and night.

“When I first arrived at Peckham Police Station in 1999, I had no idea of the opportunities and adventures that were ahead, and which continue now in Devon and Cornwall.

“A career in policing is full of days you did not expect to have, and moments of enormous pride. I am endlessly grateful to the staff and officers I have had the pleasure to work with over the years, but particularly today, and I see this Honour as a reflection on all we have achieved together over this time.”

From the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary’s website:

Chudleigh Open Garden Event

On Saturday 13th June it was a warm and sunny day, so we decided to go to the Open Garden Event at Chudleigh. We arrived at Saffron Court at 10.15am and we were the first people to buy our tickets. We were greeted by Paul Sowden and Peter Ingerslev. Our ticket had details and a map of the 14 gardens to visit.

We started our garden visit at Saffron Court. We walked around the large garden area dropping down over lawns with a wide selection of trees and hedging. The extensive flower beds contained flowering shrubs and plants. At the bottom of the garden there was a small, wooded valley with a stream and ponds surrounded by ferns and wild plants.



Paul Sowden and Rosemary Sowden opened their garden in aid of Rainbow Living. Each garden visited were raising money for their own charity with the sale of plants, drinks, cakes, artwork, books, hot dogs and many other things. Paul and Rosemary were selling homemade marmalade, plants, tea, coffee and homemade cakes. At the end of two days, they had raised £1060. After our long walk around their large garden, we had to sit down with coffee and some cakes, served to us by Caryll Ingerslev.

We were given a Hedgehog Hunt question sheet when we set off. Every garden would have a wooden hedgehog hiding somewhere, each holding an answer to the questions on the back of the hedgehog. In our first garden we found a hedgehog with the question 'How big is a hedgehog'. As we did not know we looked at the answer – '20 – 30 metres long'. I think we were too engrossed at looking at all the flowers, shrubs and trees so we did not look for the wooden hedgehogs.



After our rest, we set off to a long-established country garden. There were two ponds, where we saw some goldfish in one pond, with a ramp for frogs to get out of the pond, and an orange and black large Koi Carp in the other pond. There were beautiful mature trees and shrubs.

Our next stop was a one-third acre garden with herbaceous beds, woodland area, vegetable garden, a pond, various seating areas and a children's trail.

Our fourth garden was much smaller than the others we had visited. It had taken four years to develop the narrow area of concrete and stones, to cultivated space to grow vegetables. There was a pond for newts, but just as our own pond in our garden, you have to be very patient to spot them. The owner was very proud of the eight fruit trees which had settled in.

We did walk from one garden to the other and the gardens were not very close to each other. It was quite a long walk to the last garden, which was

situated by a river. At the front of the house there were raised beds growing beetroot, cabbage and runner beans. The rear garden was very beautiful with many different coloured, perfumed roses in full bloom. There were also flower beds with perennial plants.

Time was running out so we decided to go to one more garden on our way back to Saffron Court. It was a long walk, and the map was not much help. We met a group of ladies who told us we could not get to the garden along the road we were following, so we decided to go back, say goodbye to Peter and Caryll and go back home.



Walking around Chudleigh, wherever we went, there were pictures of hedgehogs on fences, in windows and doors and road signs. Here are some of the signs we saw.

SLOW. Hedgehogs. Please drive carefully. Thankyou

CAUTION. Hedgehogs crossing.

We have not seen a hedgehog in our garden for years. Chudleigh must be their town.

Sandra Greedy

Summer Heatwave

I was listening to Jeremy Vine on the radio when callers were phoning in to let him know what they were doing back in 1976 when we had a heatwave just like what we are experiencing now with temperatures more than 30 degrees. I can remember it well as Sandra was suffering with the heat as she was pregnant at the time. Wimbleball reservoir was getting very low and it was a time of hose pipe bans and, in some areas, standpipes were installed. As far as I can remember we never had to resort to collecting water from standpipes, but we were trying to save water in any way possible. We were living in Tiverton at the time, and we were collecting washing up water and pumping bath water for use on the garden. Sandra and I remember when the heatwave ended as it was the

29th August 1976 when our son Philip was born at 7pm to the sound of thunder and lightning and the bells of St Peter's Church ringing out. It was no wonder that Sandra was suffering as she was carrying Philip who came into the world at 9lb 11ozs. Let's hope that this is not the start of many more heatwaves which do cause distress to so many people.

Ken Greedy



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

King's Award Ceremony for Rainbow Living

In 2008, after many years of planning and fundraising, 5 young disabled and learning-disabled adults moved into Rainbow Living's first Rainbow house in Exeter. Rainbow Living is a volunteer-led charity providing safe supported homes for disabled adults across Devon. They create homes where individuals can thrive, grow in independence and feel part of a vibrant community. They now have 5 homes.

2 years ago, Peter and Caryl Ingerslev joined the Rainbow Living Fund Raising Committee. They have been volunteers at fundraising events, including Board Games Evenings, which were great fun, and a Quiz in our Church Rooms. They were volunteers at the recent Chudleigh Open Garden Event.

Peter and Caryl have received an invitation to a special ceremony, hosted by The Lord Lieutenant, where they will receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Rainbow Living volunteers will receive the highest National Honour for Voluntary Groups in the U.K. The event takes place at Winslade Manor, on September 5th with a cream tea to be served afterwards.

We hope they have a wonderful afternoon, which they do deserve. No doubt they will let us all see their Awards.

Sandra Greedy

Morning Prayer by the River

In the stillness of early morning, before the noise and demands of the day begin, we walk prayerfully towards the river. The air is cool, and the world seems to awaken gently around me. As we go near the water, we see ducks gliding silently across the surface and swans moving with a grace that speaks of peace and dignity. Beyond the river, cattle graze quietly in the meadow, unconcerned by hurry or anxiety.

These simple sights draw our hearts towards God. They remind us that creation is not just calming but is a witness to the faithfulness of our Creator God. Jesus said, *“Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap... yet God feeds them”* (Luke 12:24). Watching the ducks on the river, I am reminded that the same God who sustains them also watches over me.

The cattle in the meadow evoke the image of the Good Shepherd who cares for His flock. Their calm presence encourages me to trust God's provision and guidance. In our world that often encourages busyness as a merit, creation offers a different lesson: to receive each day as a gift and to rest in God's care.



The river itself becomes a symbol of God's sustaining grace, constantly flowing, always moving, yet bringing refreshment and life. As I walk and pray, worries begin to loosen their grip, and gratitude takes their place.

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, *“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”* On mornings like these, that grandeur is not found in dramatic displays but in the quiet beauty of swans, ducks, cattle, water, trees and sky. Through them, God gently invites me to begin the day with wonder, trust, and praise.

Peter

PEW CUSHIONS

The Pew Cushions are expected around the middle of July. Contributions of any amount is very much welcome as always.

Please put any money in an envelope marked ‘Pew Cushions’ and hand it to Ken, Sandra or Rowena or leave on the collection plate. Cheques or Bank transfers are also acceptable.

Bank details are Account Name: Wear St Lukes P.C.C

Nat West Bank. Sort code 56 - 00 - 49. Account no. 00746029

Please reference your payment “Pew Cushions”

Jo Shaw

Countess Wear Community Choir Concert

Countess Wear Community Choir warmly invite you to their summer concert in St Luke’s Church, Countess Wear on Friday July 10th. Doors open from, 6.30 for prompt start at 7.00pm. It won’t be a long concert, the music is very varied, and we will be serving prosecco and elderflower in the interval. Do come to support and let your neighbours and friends know.

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 July magazine by the **22nd July**.

Parish Magazine Editor – clerkwear@gmail.com



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