

## TWO SHIRES BENEFICE SUNDAY SERVICES 2022

	 TATWORTH	 CHAFFCOMBE	 THORNCOMBE	 WINSHAM	 FORDE ABBEY	 CRICKET MALHERBIE
<b>1st SUNDAY</b>	10am  Morning Worship			10am (CW)  HOLY COMMUNION	8am (BCP)  HOLY COMMUNION	
<b>2nd SUNDAY</b>		10.30am  HOLY COMMUNION	10am  Morning Worship	8am (BCP)  HOLY COMMUNION		
<b>3rd SUNDAY</b>	10am(CW)  HOLY COMMUNION		6.30pm  Service of Light	10am  Morning Worship		
<b>4th SUNDAY</b>	8am (CW)  HOLY COMMUNION	6.30pm  Evening Prayer	10am (CW)  HOLY COMMUNION	6.30pm  Service of Light		
<b>5th SUNDAY</b>	<b>A BENEFICE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS ACROSS THE FIVE PARISH CHURCHES PLEASE REFER TO CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS FOR FURTHER DETAILS</b>					

Further details on all the above will be published through <https://twoshires.wordpress.com/>; on A Church Near You; and through our weekly email circular ([twoshiresrector@gmail.com](mailto:twoshiresrector@gmail.com))

Please Check Church Notice Boards for details of Mid-Week Services

St John the Evangelist Church  
Tatworth

# Plant Sale

Memorial Hall  
Tatworth  
Saturday 14th May  
10.30am - 12.30pm

**FREE ENTRY**  
Refreshments available  
Raffle & Stalls

Information  
Chris Mitchell 07702322433- 0146065013




**Come & Join Us  
for  
Wild Church  
on 9th April  
3:30pm**

*Outside St John's Church*

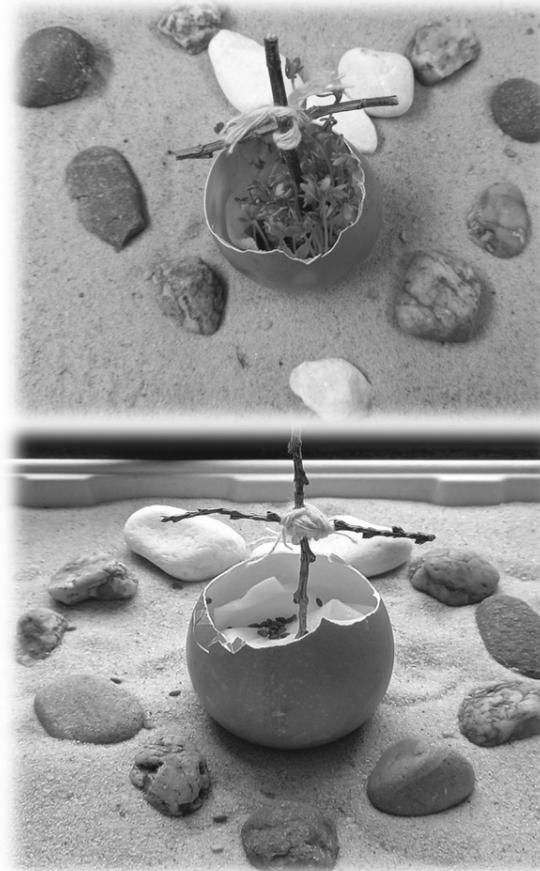
Outdoor, Creative,  
Creation Focused Gathering.  
Think Messy Church Meets Forest School!

**All Welcome!**

## Approaching The Cross



## Wild Church LENT Activities



## Telling Our Story

During our LENT COURSE this year we have been thinking about how we approach the Cross

There have been four sessions with the last one on 4th April

1. Images of the Cross – shapes, traditions, history and hope
2. Big Cross Little Cross – the crosses we carry as we follow Jesus
3. Living the Cross – Good Friday Pilgrims
4. The Way of the Cross – Stations of the Cross
5. At the foot of the Cross – Praying at the Cross (4<sup>th</sup> April)

## Rev'd. Michelle's LENT POEM

### DUST

Dust is everywhere.  
Formed from waste and unwanted things,  
polluting land and air.

Dust does fill our skies,  
In places that are dry, where smouldering ashes  
rise.

Dust found on the ground,  
Where foot prints of refugees can be found.

Dust, ashes, blood and dirt  
Where wars are raging and people hurt.

Dust, covering, hiding  
Stopping us from knowing love abiding.

Dust, which God has given breath,  
Gives us hope when war and death,  
Are raging around us,  
where there is strife,  
Our God comes down and brings us life.

# The Story of St Mary Magdalene Church

Contributed by Audrey Hinkins & Jane Helliard

St Mary Magdalene Church sits in prime position in Cricket Malherbie and serves a scattered Parish including Knowle St Giles, whose Parish Church closed & was sold off in 1987.. An estate Church of gothic style, 40'by 18' was built on the site in the 13th century; the first rector of St Mary Magdalene was William Mann (1297). This building was demolished in 1847 & Elizabeth Pitt built a Victorian gothic design church on the foundations in memory of her husband Stephen.

A crypt from the old church still remains & many Pitt family coffins lie within. This building which is Grade 2 listed in a conservation area, stands proudly today & is sound & in a good state of repair. The surrounding churchyard is well kept & includes a wild meadow with daffodils & primroses flowering in abundance. St Mary Magdalene had its own Rector until 1941, since then it has been linked with various different parishes. Currently we have a spiritual & supportive incumbent who oversees 5 parishes.

As a church St Mary Magdalene is financially in good order, well able to fulfil all commitments for 2022, including full Parish Share, the money paid to the Diocese to cover clergy pay, housing, training & pensions amongst other Diocesan expenses.

We receive loyal & dedicated support from outside of parish boundaries, from people who have longstanding family ties to St Mary Magdalene, & who join us for Christmas, Easter & Harvest services. We have some regular financial support from parishioners & many have enjoyed coming along to the social events that have been organised pre-Covid, which were always well supported & helpful in creating income for the church. We are most grateful for support.

However, this is not all, or even, about money, our beautiful, peaceful little church was built here for worship & prayer & so it remains today.

By now you may be asking where this is leading. Well, the problem is that of the approximately one hundred resident of Cricket Malherbie & Knowle St Giles there are just four wishing to attend services regularly i.e. one Sunday & one mid-week service per month. So being practically minded the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has passed a resolution as required, to ask the Bishop of Taunton (currently no Bishop of Bath & Wells in post) for permission to become a **Festival**

**Church.**

**Christian Festivals**



St Mary Magdalene

## What is a Festival Church?

The Church of England's description on their Website reads 'A Festival Church is a building which is not used for weekly worship, but is valued & required by the community for local events & for Festivals of the Church & for Rites of Passage (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals).

So when approved, St Mary Magdalene will have services at Easter, Harvest Time, Christmas & three other occasions, as a minimum of six is the recommendation & will be available for Baptisms, Weddings Funerals.

At present there are 5 weddings & a Blessing service booked for 2022. The PCC aims to keep this church open, currently there are rumblings circulating about more small rural church closures. The church will continue to be open from dawn to dusk daily for private prayer & contemplation. In recent days with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, there have been many visitors coming to light candles for Peace.

The PCC sees this decision to become a Festival Church as a positive one, not a backward step but a step into the future. However, this move is not irreversible & we can continue to pray that as properties change ownership & new homes are constructed that they become occupied by people who want regular worship opportunities in St Mary Magdalene.

In the near future, plans are in place for a Church Flower Festival to take place over the Platinum JUBILEE Celebration weekend in conjunction with other community events within the parish. Full details will be given in the May edition of the LINK Magazine.



Dear All

**"I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18)**

Welcome to this edition of Open Door! As I write this it is mid-March, the sun is shining, the daffodils are in bloom, and many other plants are waking up from their winter sleep. The dawn chorus is loud as birds are getting busy nest building and seeming to remind us all every morning that all is well!

I am a keen butterfly spotter, and the spring sunshine has begun to beckon the butterflies back into the air. By the time you read this they will be much more plentiful!

As I was walking through Tatworth the other day, my mind miles away thinking about something or other, my day dreaming gaze was arrested by something on the pavement in front of me. I looked and assumed it was a leaf – as at first glance it was quite still and just lying on the tarmac. I was not expecting to see a butterfly and I wasn't looking for one – I hadn't seen any this spring at that point. But as I looked I realised that it was a Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly. It was absolutely still and didn't move at all as I peered closer. I quite assumed that, sadly, it had not survived the cold night. But then, to my utter amazement, it moved... It began to tremble its wings, warming up in the spring sunshine, and eventually it took to the air. I was so happy I had to tell my family the moment I saw them, and now I am telling you! You will find a photo I took here!

The words from scripture above are from the Gospel of John, and are the words that Mary Magdalene exclaims on Easter morning to the disciples after she finds out that Jesus has risen from the dead. He is alive again! She had gone to tend to his body in the tomb and, finding it empty, understandably was upset. Imagine her surprise to see Jesus again, who she initially thought was the gardener! A wonderful moment, and full of such joy!

As you celebrate Easter this year, look out for things that bring you unexpected joy, unexpected happiness, and be reminded that this is also the joy that Jesus brings us, and leaves with us, always.

**Reverend Philip Butcher, Rector**



**Photo of Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly in Tatworth on 17 March 2022**

**All** are very welcome to all services and events held by the churches of the Two Shires Benefice. For further information on things going on; pastoral information; specific contacts; safeguarding, data protection; or anything else; please see in church porches, on notice boards, and online through [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com).

We also welcome all enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

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**The Church of England Parish Churches of:**

St John the Evangelist, Tatworth  
St Mary Magdalene, Cricket Malherbie  
St Michael & All Angels, Chaffcombe  
St Stephens, Winsham  
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Thorncombe