



May
2025



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5

WEST MOORS PARISH MAGAZINE

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Magazine contributions for JUNE 2025

By or before Sunday 18th May

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com



Our Lay Pastoral Assistants were recently recommissioned

Stuart Stebbing, Eileen Moore, Liz Bowler, Jan Cribben, Mike Bowler pictured here.

And Debbie Brown recommissioned at the 8am service. A blessing to our parish!

FROM THE VICARAGE

May has arrived! It's a month I've been thinking about for quite some time, as many of you will know – I'm getting married on the 9th of this Month!

After so many months of preparation – the day is here! And it makes me think about this period of time between Easter and Pentecost. The Disciples were suddenly thrust into the spotlight, without Jesus being present on Earth to lead their new movement (a movement we now call Christianity!) they were suddenly 'in charge.'

I wonder if the disciples felt unprepared for this new role in their lives? In fact, God had been preparing them for this moment for several years, as they followed Jesus, observing and helping him in his ministry. But learning and doing are two very different things!

God calls all of his people into discipleship, and each of us have a special role to play in the life of the Church, and in the life of West Moors. I wonder what God is calling and preparing you to do? Jesus teaches us to become disciples in several ways; through Scripture, through prayer and through serving others. When we diligently do all of these things – it's only a matter of time before we feel God calling us to something specific!

It says in Acts chapter 6 that the apostles say amongst themselves "Brothers and sisters, choose seven from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Some say that this is the beginning of the holy order of Deacons – but, more generally, I think it shows that even from the earliest days of the church, people were realising that they had different gifts and passions and God was calling them to serve Him in many different ways.

The nominees of 2025's Citizen of the Year award in West Moors included leaders of the Scouts, Townswomen's Guild, Horticultural Society, Castleman Community Larder, Church members, Lunch clubs and Christmas gift projects. There were so many different ways of serving one's community represented – and so many joyful volunteers standing to receive their certificates!

This month, why not pray that God reveals his calling to you? At St Mary's we're always looking for new people to join the Servers' Team, the Lay Pastoral Assistant Team or the Choir. Has God placed one of these roles upon your heart? If so, come and have a relaxed conversation with me or any member of the clergy at St Mary's!

The end of April saw St Mary's elect new PCC members, Church Wardens and Assistant Church Wardens – a group of people who have graciously accepted God's call to serve him in our church. We're all very excited to see the new opportunities that arise to build our church community in faith, hope and love

As we move forward in May, may we each prayerfully consider where God is leading us to serve, and may St. Mary's be a place where those callings are nurtured and celebrated. In the spirit of the disciples' willingness to step into new roles, we look forward together to the opportunities before us at St. Mary's and in West Moors, trusting that God will equip us for the tasks ahead.

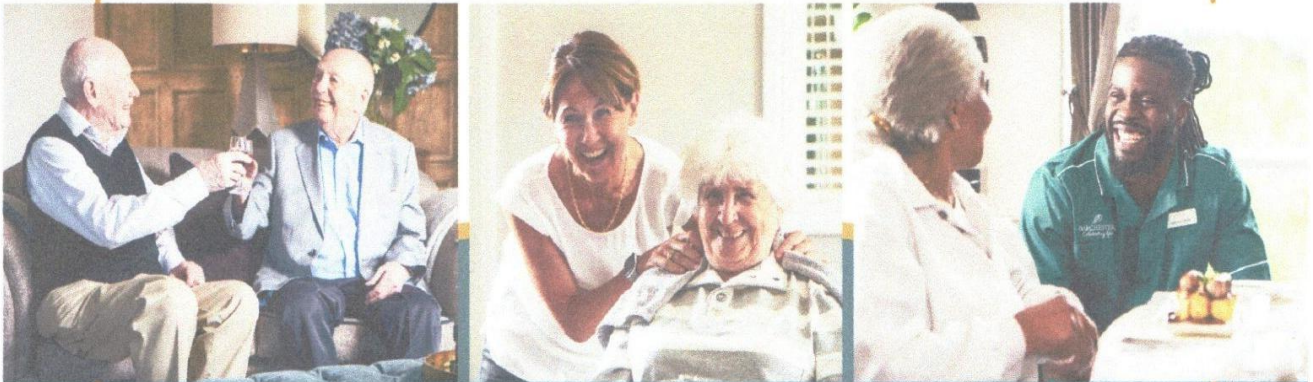
With Blessings, **Rev. Lizzie**



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WEST MOORS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT SALE

Saturday 10th May

10.00am

West Moors Memorial Hall

There will be a selection of bedding, basket, perennials,
veg plants and more.

Please bring your own bags.

Cake stall and raffle.

SOUP LUNCHES

Once again, we held two soup lunches in Lent. Donations were for Christian Aid, specifically for their work in Sudan. Year 4 pupils from St Mary's School again joined our serving team; their efficient hard work and friendly welcome to visitors was hugely appreciated. Awesome teamwork! Delicious home-made soups and good company! Many thanks to all who contributed in any way. We raised a total of £550!





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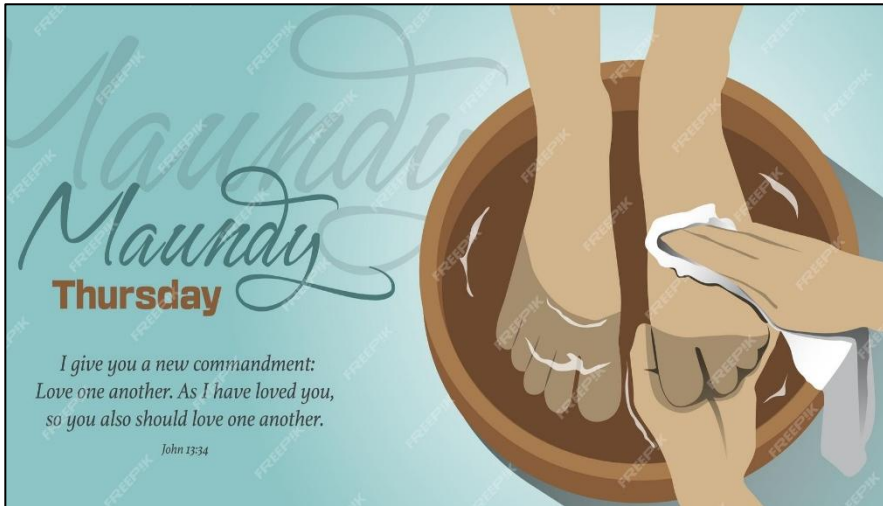
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MAUNDY THURSDAY





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MU theme for 2025 – “Join US and JOIN IN”.

Meeting on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.

The next meeting will be on Monday May 19th at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.
The Speaker will be the Rev. Matt Smith who will tell us about his journey from
‘Plumber to Priest’

It was too late to be included in last month’s magazine that we had a surprise invitation from BBC Radio Solent Dorset to be on their Breakfast Show in their ‘Work place Shout Out ‘ slot. Every morning during the week before Mothering Sunday, we had about 30 seconds to say something about MU and introduce the final record. It was impossible to include all we would have liked to say, outlining activities in our Branch, the various schemes we support in the Diocese and draw attention to Campaigns run by MU throughout the UK and beyond.

Various schemes we support in the Diocese have been listed in previous magazine articles. The campaigns that the MU supports and actively participates in are the promotion of ‘ 16 days of Activism’ which is against gender violence, and it comes together with ‘Women’s Aid’ in an endeavour to end domestic abuse, and together with The Clewer Initiative, ‘We See You’ project which is led by the Church of England against modern slavery.

The Purpose of the Mothers’ Union is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and family life. The Aim of the Society is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life in order to carry out its aim.

On May 9th many of us will be at Christchurch Priory to see Rev. Lizzie marry Rev. Sam; we wish them a long, blessed, and happy life together.

Love and Prayers

Mary Hurdley

*‘We are God’s hands and feet across the world,’
says Kathleen Snow, our new Worldwide President.*

A.M.H

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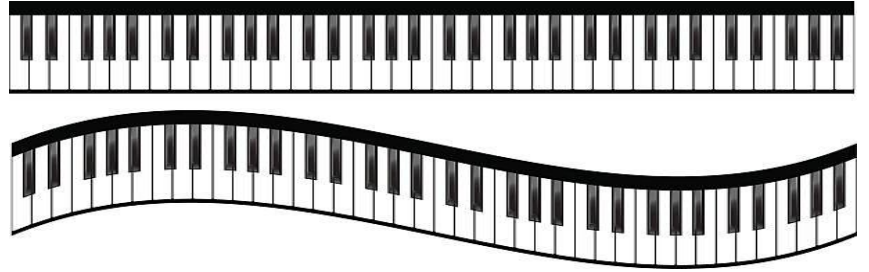


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PIANOTHON

Many thanks to all who made this such a happy, successful event!



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Susan Yates (07759 151201) Susanyates1603@icloud.com

The Children's Society Spring Box Opening Coffee Morning took place at St Mary's with a total raised of £313.90 including the "extra" stall after Church on Sunday and many kind donations. Thank you to all who supported us in any way. We were blessed with a lovely sunny morning. Thank you so much to all our helpers who made this possible. Most of the boxes were brought in - thank you to all who were able to. The final figures of the box money raised will follow once they are all in and counted.

We are holding a cake bake stall after the 10.00am Eucharist on the 12th May. Your support for this would be greatly appreciated; also any cakes donated would be greatly appreciated to help us on the day.

Summer extravaganza at Westival – taking place on Saturday the 12th July between 12.00pm and 4pm. We are again looking forward to having a tombola and bring and buy stall for The Children's Society. Prizes gratefully received and a box will be put in the porch to collect prizes nearer the time. Many thanks.



"Every year we help more and more young people from 12,000 five years ago to more than 72,000 last year. We campaign for change, too improving millions of children's lives. The amazing support of house box coordinators like us helps to make this possible and I know that with our continued support in the coming months, we can make even more of an impact in 2025."

Prayer for The Children's Society; Andrew Moran, Head of Supporter Experience:-

Gracious and loving God, We give thanks for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Revealing His victory over death to His disciples. As we reflect on this holy mystery, We pray for the children and young people who seek new beginnings in their lives. We lift up the work of The Children's Society, Bringing hope and renewal to those in need. May their efforts shine brightly, Guiding children out of despair. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With love and God's Blessings

Geraldine Cole/Rosemary Dunning/Julie Hardman/Susan Yates



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A joyful Easter Celebration

We were delighted to welcome so many family members, friends, and members of our school community to St. Mary's Church for our Easter service. It was heart-warming to see the church filled with joy and togetherness as we came together to celebrate this special time of year.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the story of Easter, reflecting on its message of hope and new beginnings. Their enthusiasm and understanding shone through in their readings and prayers, making the service a truly meaningful occasion.

One of the highlights of the morning was the incredible singing accompanied by the talented Mrs Foster. Everyone was absolutely blown away by how beautifully the children sang, filling the church with their voices. Their confidence and passion made the service all the more memorable, and we are so proud of their hard work and dedication.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Easter service. It was a wonderful way to come together as a community and celebrate the season of renewal and joy.



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY

Sunday 4 May

Easter 3

Acts 9.1-6

Revelation 5.11-end

John 21.1-19

Sunday 11 May

Easter 4

Acts 9.36-end

Revelation 7.9-end

John 10.22-30

Sunday 18 May

Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18

Rev 21.1-6

John 13.31-35

Sunday 25 May

Easter 6

Acts 16.9-15

Rev 21.10,22-22.5

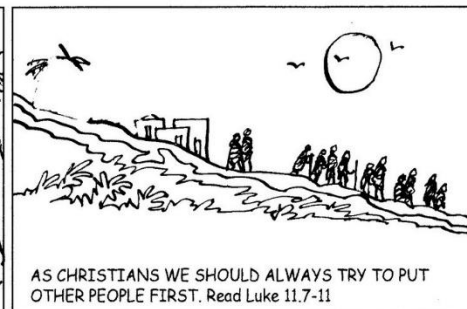
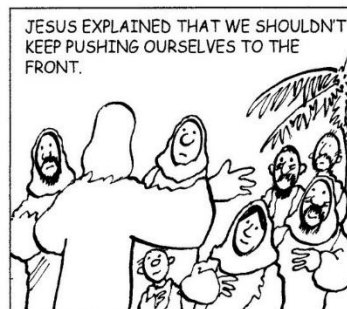
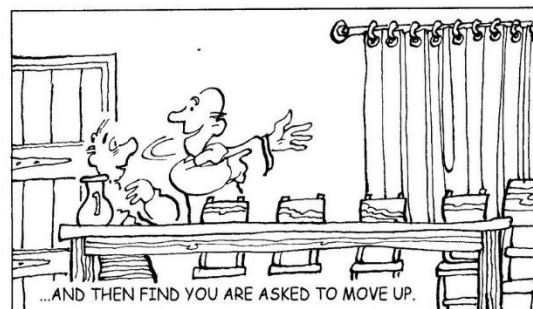
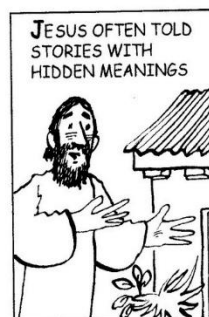
John 5.1-9

Sunday 1 June

Acts 16.16-34

Rev 22.12-14,16,17, 20-end

John 17.20-end



FUND RAISING NEWS

Chris Wilson

After the huge success of the *Pianothon* when we raised £1286.99 we are now looking forward to our next major event which is the

AUCTION OF PROMISES 17th MAY in the church hall at 7.00pm

We are hoping this will raise much needed funds for our Church and that it will be an enjoyable occasion and social event.

There will be a bar and the auction should be great fun

At the time of the copy date for this magazine we already have lots of wonderful promises.

A catalogue of all the lots will be available before the auction so you can see what appeals to you for making bids on the night.

Here is what we have so far:

- Visit for four people to an O Gauge model railway with lights, sound and scenery
- An authentic Indian curry for four
- A picnic for two at the seaside
- A garden tub of plants
- Boxed champagne and a hamper
- An afternoon drive and tea for two people at a garden centre
- Two hours cleaning or gardening
- Dog walking
- Drop off / pick up from Bournemouth or Southampton Airport for up to four people
- A homemade cake for every month of the year
- A 1 litre bottle of Glenfiddich 12 year special reserve single malt whisky
- A homemade 7" iced and decorated Christmas cake
- Round of golf mid -week for one with Noel for 18 holes; Moors Valley Golf Course
- Lunch at the Beach Hut
- An introduction to Geocaching
- A bottle of home-made lemon and ginger cordial. Up to four bottles available.
- Meet the Clarke friendly chickens - admire, stroke or hold. Up to four people enjoy a glass of wine, cake and delicious fresh laid eggs to take home.
- Afternoon tea at the Vicarage for up to ten people
- Pick two readings for Bible Sunday and Rev. Lizzie will preach on them
- Breakfast for two at Pandora's Cafe
- Afternoon Tea Hamper for four people - scones, clotted cream, jam, tea or coffee
- Haircuts and sets
- Morning coffee or afternoon tea in the Garden Room at Rev. Lynne's garden
- Three bottles of wine, one white, one red and one fizz
- Wash a car
- A home-made gluten free lemon cake

Something for everyone!

Following this will be

A FISH AND CHIP SUPPER 28th June 6,00pm

Further details to follow

SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN PARTNERSHIP

A TIME OF CRISIS

Bishop Stephen

We have been fortunate to celebrate a peaceful Easter in our land, we find Sudan and South Sudan in probably the most desperate state in more than 25 years of our half century of partnership. This Spring marks the second anniversary of the conflict in Sudan, and the BBC has reported that fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has claimed more than 150,000 lives.

The UN calls it the world's largest humanitarian crisis in which some 12 million people have been forced to flee their homes, creating new crises particularly in neighbouring Chad and South Sudan.

As the conflict intensified, Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo, his family and staff were forced to flee and with other supporters we helped him re-establish the Episcopal Church HQ in Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast. More recently the SAF has recaptured most of Khartoum including the symbolically important Presidential Palace. The RSF is now concentrated in El-Fasher in the Darfur region in the north and west of Sudan. It has been responsible for the most appalling atrocities yet denies it is ethnic cleansing but "tribal conflict". Efforts are being considered for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate. The UK Government's recent decision to reduce the Overseas Development Aid budget is very disappointing.

In South Sudan, violence has returned too. Many people worry that Juba may be consumed by violence again, most recently triggered by President Salvar Kiir arresting the First Vice-President Riek Machar. The South Sudan Council of Churches has been urging all parties to seek peace and not conflict. "Faith before tribe" should be the guiding principle but that is easily said but much harder to practice. How do we do that ourselves?

Our partnership with the Sudans is founded on prayer and fellowship so please continue to hold the people of the Sudans in your prayers.

One way in which you can offer practical help is by supporting the Sudan Medical Link Fete, held in my garden on Sunday 15th June at 2pm. All are welcome as we raise much needed funds for medical aid for families in South Sudan.

+Stephen, Bishop of Salisbury

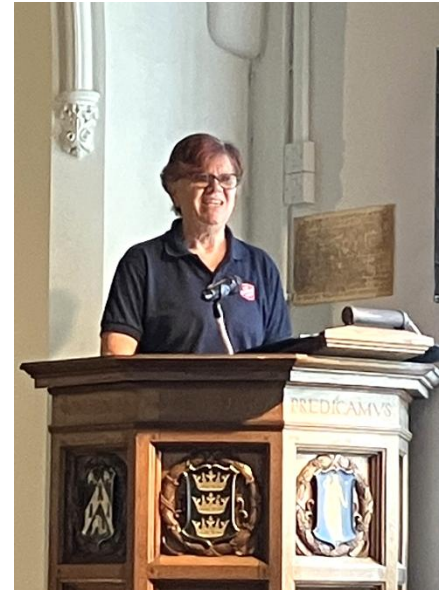
God bless for a happy Easter,

We were pleased to be able to make a contribution to our sisters and brothers in our link diocese. See the page about the Soup Lunches. And we continue to hold the people of the Sudans in our prayers.



Lent Appeal 2025

The BH1 Project
Provided by [The Salvation Army - Boscombe](#)



We were pleased to welcome Annette Watts - community project manager - to a Sunday morning service to talk to us about the work of BH1.

The BH1 Project, run by the Salvation Army in Boscombe, works to help people who are homeless,. They depend entirely on donations.

We were pleased to support their excellent work with our Lent Appeal this year. Many thanks for your contributions.

APCM Sunday 18th May

**After the Sunday 10am Service on the 18th May
St. Mary's will hold our
Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

**Please come along and support St. Mary's and
get excited for our future ministry together.**

FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Karen Clark, Louise Collins

Church Wardens

Stuart Stebbing, Debbie Brown

Assistant Wardens



Loving God, Loving West Moors

As we move through the joyful season of Easter, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past few weeks and look ahead to what's coming up in our church life.

Our Easter services were truly special - beautifully led, prayerful, and full of hope. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who played a part in making them happen: our clergy, musicians, readers, flower arrangers and all who worked quietly behind the scenes to prepare the church and support our worship. The church looked stunning, and the sense of community was as strong as ever.

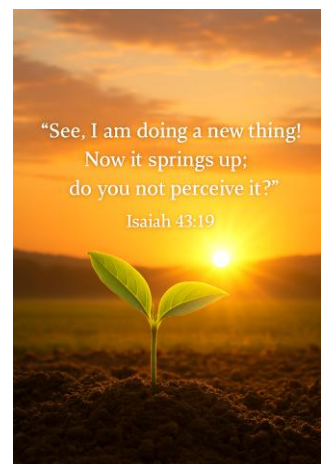
During Lent, many of you took part in the Lent Course, which offered a meaningful space for reflection, conversation, and spiritual growth. Thank you to those who led and hosted the sessions - it was a real gift.

Looking ahead, don't miss our Auction of Promises on Saturday 17th May - a wonderful evening to come together, have some fun, and support the life and work of our church. There are some brilliant promises on offer, and we'd love to see you there!

The following day, on Sunday 18th May, we'll be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) after the 10am service. This is a key moment in the life of our parish, when we reflect on the past year, look ahead, and elect church officers for the year to come. All are warmly encouraged to attend - it's a chance to celebrate all that God is doing in our church and to be part of shaping its future.

As always, thank you to everyone who continues to support our church - whether through practical help, prayer, or simply by being present. Your faithfulness keeps our community thriving.

Easter reminds us that hope is not just a feeling - it's a promise. As new life bursts into bloom around us and the days grow longer, we are reminded that God is always at work, even when we cannot see it. Whether we are sowing seeds, waiting in faith, or celebrating new beginnings, let us trust in the One who brings life out of death and light out of darkness.



Loving God, Loving West Moors.

Louise



All are welcome to the

Forget me Not Service

A short gentle service followed by
tea and cake

Sunday 25th May

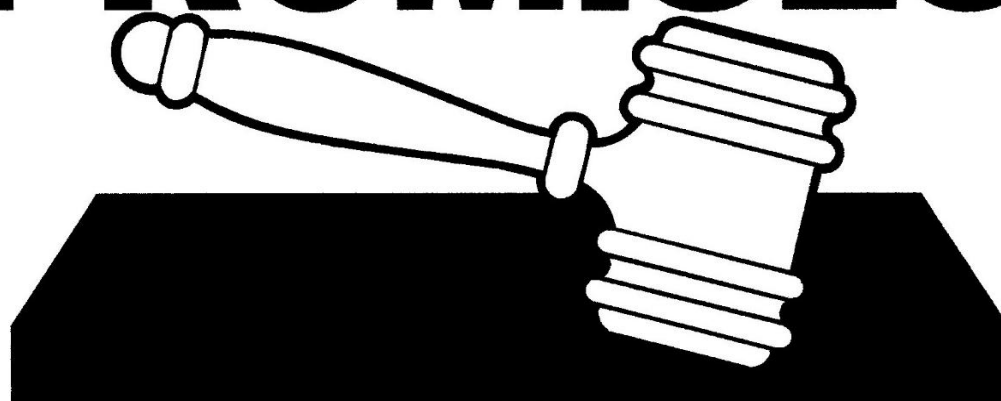
3pm

St Mary s Parish Church
Station Road, West Moors



For more information contact Revd Lynne 01425 477470

AUCTION OF PROMISES



**Saturday 17th May
7.00 pm**

with Nibbles & Bar

**ST MARY'S
CHURCH HALL**

in aid of

St. Mary's Church Funds

Do Come along and make

a bid or just sit back and enjoy the fun.

All ages welcome.

