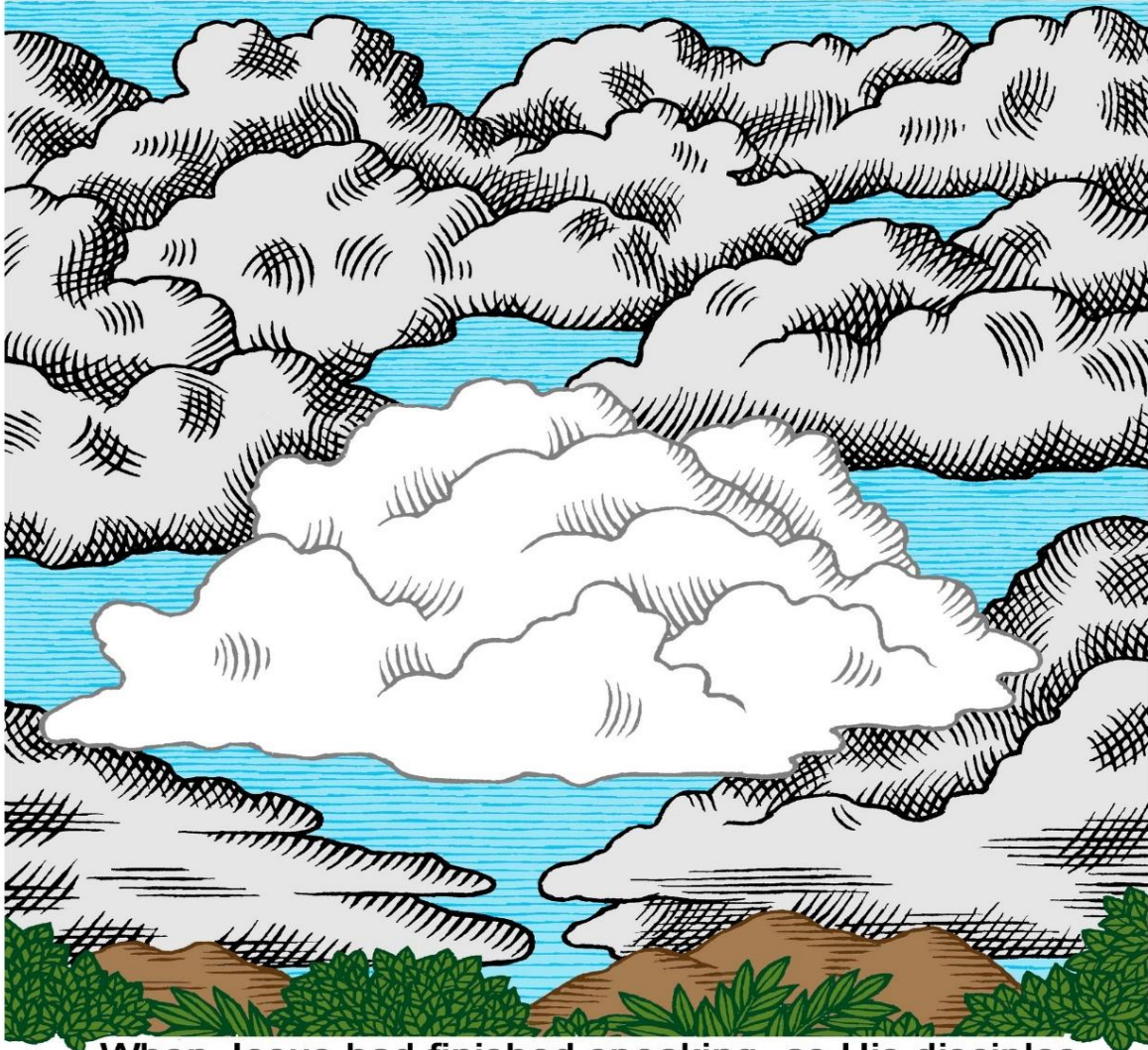




May
2026



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

WEST MOORS PARISH MAGAZINE

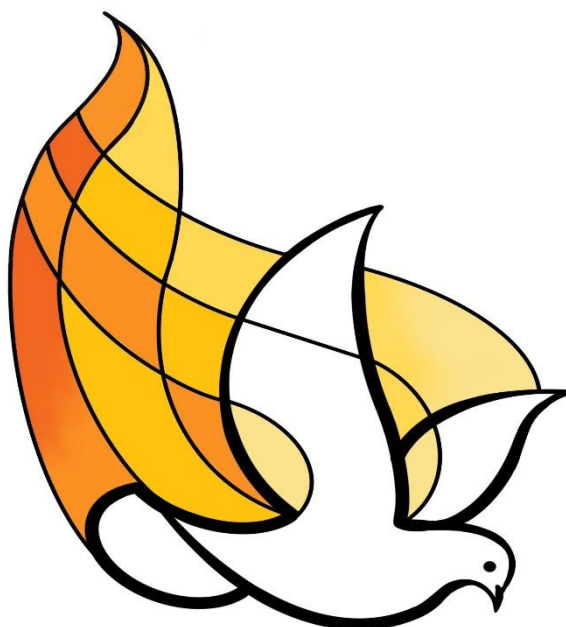
St Mary's Parish Church of West Moors BH22 0JF

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Magazine contributions for June 2026

By or before Sunday 17th May

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com



FROM THE ACTING VICAR

I've now been part of St Mary's Church in West Moors for 4 weeks and it's been a fabulous experience so far. Hearing the school choir sing in church on Mothering Sunday, marching around the church on Palm Sunday, being host to the Accessible Service for the community at Sturts Farm have been just some of the highlights.

And I've been awe struck (and very relieved!) about the range of talents of the people stepping forward and getting involved in doing things in and around the church which makes all this possible. There's those who enjoy the catering and baking and have served up multiple feasts in the time I've been here, there's those who sort out the music and like to choose songs, there's those who keep the church and the grounds tidy, and coming in to the church on Easter Sunday to see the whole place decorated with eggs, chicks, bonnets and other Easter themed decorations was just brilliant; I wouldn't even know where to start with things like that so it's such a blessing to encounter those with interest and talent. Seeing the extra-large fat fluffy chicks on the windowsill at the back of the church was one of my own kids' Easter highlights.

I'm reminded about St Paul's letter to the church in Corinth where he reminds them of the beauty of diversity in their church. He writes "There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12). Certainly, in the West Moors community I've discovered many people who are *hands* because they do things, *feet* because they go places to show love, *ears* because they've listened to me and explained how St Mary's church does things and *mouths* because they've simply been a source of huge encouragement. I wonder if you recognise yourself in any of that.

When people ask me what West Moors is like, that has become my answer – there's a brilliant diversity of talent – it's the body of Christ doing its thing well. And that's also a reminder to us all that there's a place for all of us in the church, no matter our skills or preferences. Therefore, we should continue to encourage each other to keep on doing what it is that we are doing because we need each other to be the body. Imagine if we were only made of hands, or noses, or just legs. Perhaps don't imagine that if you want to sleep at night.

What part of the body do you think you are? What makes you unique in the way that you encourage others? Let's celebrate our differences as we journey together in Christ.

Rev Jeff

The Body Is A Unit, Though
It Is Made Up Of Many
Parts; And Though All Its
Parts Are Many, They Form
One Body. So It Is With
Christ.

1 Corinthians 12-12

BibleWordings.com

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LET THE BELL RING OUT!



The Prayer of Blessing

Almighty God,
we thank you for the skills of the craftsmen
who formed this bell
and the ability to ring it.

Bless, we pray, this bell:

may its voice call the faithful to prayer,
awaken the hearts of the heedless,
and lift the spirits of the sorrowful.

Grant that all who are called by its sound
to this house of prayer
may enter your gates with thanksgiving
and your courts with praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



We are all so pleased that
the bell at St Mary's church
has been mended.

We have missed its call and
it is good to have it restored
to us in time for Easter.

PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

As we prepared for Easter many of us joined in walks together as we explored and expressed our faith.

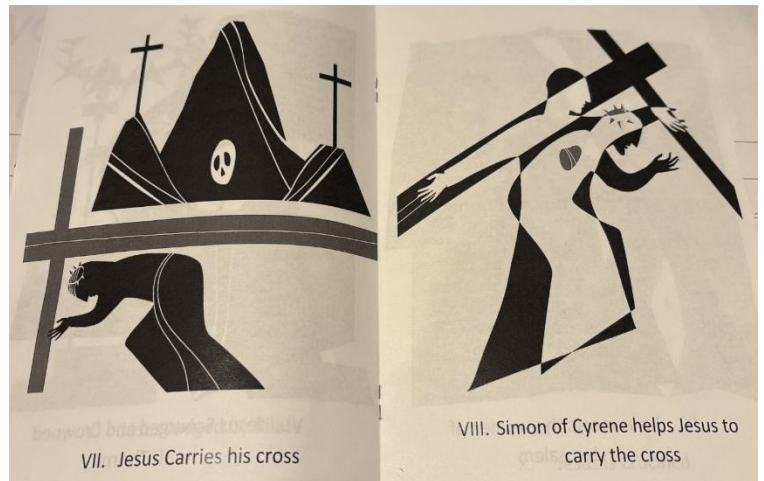
The mini pilgrimages included the traditional walk around the outside of our church on Palm Sunday morning waving our newly blessed palm crosses.



Some of us joined the companions and friends of Sturts Farm for their annual Palm Sunday walk, marking the boundaries of the farm with poetry and fellowship along the way. Our

procession included colourful ribbons and lovely chickens crafted from dough all held aloft on crosses and branches, part of the tradition of the Sturts community.





And in more solemn mood we walked the trail of the Stations of the Cross around the church, with bible readings and prayer at each station, ending with the quiet contemplation of Compline.





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The Children's Society Spring Box Opening Coffee Morning took place at St Mary's with a total raised of £352.20 (including cakes and toasted buns sold after Church the following morning). Many thanks to all who helped in the kitchen on refreshments, on stalls, baked cakes, donated items for the bring and buy, gave raffle prizes and supported our event on the day or after. Many house boxes were brought in and we shall be collecting the last few on the list over the coming few weeks. If you would like to have a house box for The Children's Society please see any one of us on our committee.

Our next fund raise will be at Westival – which is to take place on Saturday the 11th 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.

Thanks to the generosity of incredible supporters The Children's Society are able to be there for children today and work towards a brighter future. With our help last year they supported 57,652 young people across the Country through one-to-one sessions, group work, events and more.

A prayer by Andrew Moran, Head of Supporter Experience:-

*Good Shepherd, you call each one by name
and lead Your people into safety and abundant life.*

*We pray for children and young people
who feel vulnerable, unheard, or at risk.*

*Protect them with your steadfast care
and guide them into places of rest and reassurance.*

*We give thanks for The Children's Society,
whose tireless work reflects sanctuary, guidance, and hope
to those navigating danger or uncertainty.*

empower their mission,

that every young person may flourish In security and compassion.

With love and God's Blessings

Geraldine Cole/Rosemary Dunning/Julie Hardman/Susan Yates

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FUND RAISING NEWS

Chris Wilson

SPRING FAYRE Saturday 9th May in the Church and Hall

This replaces the Harvest Fayre this year

Please help us to make this a success by donating goods if you can. The following stalls will need items: Tombola, Raffle, Plants, Bottle Stall and Cakes

Everyone is welcome, please tell your family and friends about it and come along if you can

BARN DANCE Saturday 12th September in West Moors Memorial Hall

Tickets £15. Bring your own food. Contact Stuart Stebbing for details

TWO TOGETHER TALK ON DYLAN THOMAS Saturday 31st October in the Church Hall

An entertaining talk on the life and work of the great poet and learn about his local connections told in words, music and pictures

Watch this space for more details and other events



GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Congratulations to two members of our congregation who were honoured this year in West Moors Town Council Good Citizen Awards.

Rev Lynne Morris was nominated for her work as Chair of the West Moors Dementia Action Group for nearly 11 years; striving to make West Moors a safe and caring place for people with dementia and their carers.

Ken Burke received the Good Citizen Award for generously giving his time to maintaining West Moors Cemetery; going above and beyond to help keep this important community asset neat and tidy.

Well done and Thank you!



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A short gentle service followed by
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Sunday 17th May 2026 at 3pm

St Mary's Parish Church
Station Road, West Moors

We look forward to seeing you.

Revd Lynne Morris 07485 294507

Pentecost 

Plant Sale

Saturday 9th May 10am to 12noon

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MU theme for 2026 – “Join US and JOIN IN”.

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

The next meeting is on Monday May 18th at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

The Speaker will be Terry Saunders, speaking about his experiences in Uganda.

I am writing this in Easter Week, a quiet time after the busy-ness of Holy Week, when the many services follow the story of Jesus, from his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey until the day of his Resurrection. I enjoy the simplicity of the Stations of the Cross, when we follow Jesus's journey to his crucifixion up until the joyfulness of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Then follows a Bank Holiday, I think of May as the month of Bank holidays, always at least 2 and sometimes 3. They originated in the UK with the Bank Holidays act in 1871, introduced by banker and politician Sir John Lubbock to give bank employees statutory time off. Originally just 4, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, August Monday and Boxing Day. More were added and over the years they became Public holidays. In the summer they cause chaos in this area as crowds migrate to the sea and on Boxing Day the crowds flock to stores for the Sales.

Looking forward to the Church Spring Fayre, the fund-raising project, putting leaves on the tree, will finish and we will announce who has bought the lucky leaf and wins £10.

We enter this month of May with a heart that sings:
May our mouths be filled with new songs of praise and thanksgiving.
We bless the Lord for his faithfulness.
May the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ make us victorious today.
Help us to live each hour mindful of the triumph of the cross.

Love and blessings
Mary Hurdley



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EASTER AT ST MARY'S



SMILE! Short-staffed

Two men were working for a local council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it – why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

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ST MARY'S CE FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY SPONSORED COLOUR RUN

On Thursday 26th March the children took part in a colour run on the school field. The children had an amazing afternoon taking part in the run and cheering on their peers, even if they did get a bit messy!

The children spent time gathering sponsorship for the run and managed to raise over £3000 to go towards building and developing our outside nature area. We would like to say a huge thank you to our PTA for giving up their time to organise such an exciting and rewarding event!



THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Canon Paul Hardingham

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the church, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: *'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised'* (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but instead energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but *all* of us are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples *'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'* (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own *'native language'* (lit: *dialect*, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives, and the Spirit will translate our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3000 people were added to the Church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).



FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Louise Collins, Stuart Stebbing

Church Wardens

Debbie Brown, Paul Brealey,

Christine Nutland

Assistant Wardens



Loving God, Loving West Moors



Easter reminds us that hope is more than a feeling - it is a promise we can trust. As the world around us comes alive and the days stretch longer, we are gently reminded that God is always at work, even when unseen. In seasons of planting, waiting, or new beginnings, may we place our trust in the One who brings life from death and light from darkness.

Easter was a particularly special and uplifting time in our church this year. The services were well attended and filled with a real sense of joy and reflection as we celebrated together. The church looked stunning, the bell was fixed and able to ring out once again, and the sense of community was as strong as ever.

We also share the joyous news that Revs Lizzie and Sam's daughter, Liberty Grace Duckhouse, was born on 10th April. We give thanks for this wonderful blessing and hold them all in our prayers at this special time.

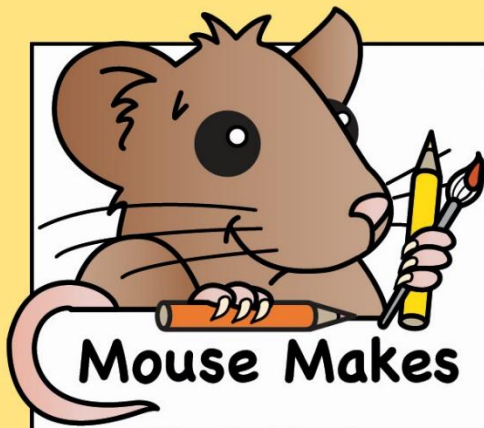
We were especially pleased to welcome Rev Jeff on Mothering Sunday, and we are very grateful to him for leading us so thoughtfully through Holy Week. As he is covering Rev Lizzie's maternity leave, we are delighted that he will be with us for some time to come.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 26th April. This is an important moment in the life of the church, giving us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look ahead with hope and purpose.

Looking forward, we are busy preparing for our Spring Fayre on 9th May. This will be an important fundraising event for the church, and we hope it will also be a wonderful occasion for the whole community to come together. Your support, whether by attending, helping, or contributing, will be very much appreciated.

Loving God, Loving West Moors.

Louise



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

_____ *Genesis 1:2*

The

_____ of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A _____ *Romans 8:15*

H _____ *John 14:26*

The Spirit of

_____ *John 16:13*

The Spirit of

_____ *Acts 16:7*

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___
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What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read *Acts 2:1-41*

How many believers were baptised that day?

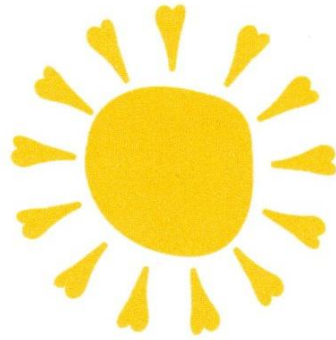
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K	P	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	R	S	R	
I	D	W	I	N	D	O	V	E	W			

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND



Loving God
Loving West Moors



SPRING FAYRE

**Saturday 9th May
10am to 12 noon**



**At St Mary's Church
The Avenue, West Moors**

