

TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2023 - Issue 141

Welcome to Edition Number 141

Contact e-mail address is newsletter@torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk or bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com

Any comments or items you wish to share, please contact the editor, Dave Watson by e-mail; phone 01237 451437 or to 6 Greenings Road, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, EX39 5LU.

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As well as the Circuit Facebook page – **Torridge Methodist Circuit**, we have a private Facebook Group where we care share thoughts, prayers & other material on **Torridge Methodist Circuit Group**. If you wish to join please push the Join button & I can add you.

Please pray for our Ministers, Rob Blackhall & Andrew Vidamour, for Frank Watson & Sarah Richards and all involved in the varied life of the Circuit; for those connected to the various Chapels & the communities in which they live & work.

CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICES

The Circuit Services continue to take place ON VARIOUS Sunday's on Zoom using the Services that are printed in the Circuit Newsletter. The Services are on Sunday Evenings starting at 6.30pm – but the 'doors will be open' at about 6.15pm. The contact/entry details will be send out during the preceding week & the Service can be accessed via a computer/laptop with camera/microphone, I Pad/Phone or using a 'normal' phone. Even if you have a device with camera/microphone & do not wish to be seen – you can join in without the camera on.

If you do not receive an email or want further information – please contact Sarah Richards, Circuit Administrator on 01237 472649 or sarahrichards185@gmail.com

FROM REV ROB BLACKHALL – SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

Dear friends

As you enter the main doors of Queens College, Taunton, where I was school Chaplain for twenty years, you see before you on first half landing of the stairs ahead of you the First World War Memorial. The side panels list those who went to war; the central three, under a carved laurel, those who didn't return. 67 names.

There are a further 34 from the Second World War; but you have to go out to the vestibule to find the brass plaque that remembers those.

I know about some on that great war memorial. There are three Hosegoods. Two brothers and a cousin. Gilbert Hosegood was a fine sportsman, captain of cricket and football, head of school; got distinctions in his examinations. Fine future ahead of him. But Gilbert was 18 and left school and

went to war, not to fight, but as a medical orderly. However, he later joined the Devonshire Regiment and was killed in September 1916, aged just 20. We got to know so much about Gilbert that a school play was written in his memory to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of that great war.

The cost of war is staggering. In the 20th Century 4 times as many were killed in warfare than in the previous 400 hundred years put together. The reality is that we don't really know. Estimates for the First World War vary from 15 to 22 million; for the Second between 70 and 85 million! Quite staggering. And it didn't stop there. Virtually everyday since Peace was proclaimed at the end of WW2 there has been fighting and warfare across our planet. And on it goes, and on. It seems that humanity does not learn. Surely there is a better way.

Numbers, numbers, numbers.

But is the people. Like Gilbert. Like Jamie Hutton. I first met Jamie when he was 11. A livewire; a bit of a rebel, but kind-hearted, friend to many. He remains the only person to have to go the medical centre because of an accident while helping me in a service. That is another story. You get the sort of lad Jamie was by these two stories. The first was when some visitors were due at the headmaster's house, but had to drop out at the last minute. Not wanting to waste the food, the Head invited a couple of pupils to share the meal with his family. Jamie volunteered and, shall we say, ate heartedly. It only then emerged that he had already had his evening meal!

During Foot and mouth Jamie and his friends could not go on Dartmoor to complete their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, but they were able to walk down the North Cornwall coast. Jamie thought it would be a great idea to carry his surf board on the 4 day walk! No wonder Jamie became a Royal Marine.

On the July 15, 2008 Jamie was killed training for his second trip to Afghanistan. I had seen him just a couple of weeks before, when in typical style, he told us he was going off to "play with the Taliban".

It was our tradition at Queens at Remembrance to plant a cross containing a poppy for each named person on the memorial board; their name inscribed on the back.

At remembrance in 2008, we sadly added Jamie's name. Out on the front lawn at the war memorial the time came to plant the crosses. I watch as Jim Hutton, himself a Royal Marine, Jamie's Dad, in full ceremonial uniform, flanked by Mum Sally, bend down plant Jamie's cross and stand in silence.

It's the people. Each one of those figures above was a real, living, human being, with hopes and dreams; unique, almost certainly special to someone else. These are not faceless people; these are not merely statistics; but flesh and bone, precious in the sight of Almighty God. That is what Remembrance Sunday is about for me.

And surely humanity can find a better way.

In Christ's name - Rob

DATES for NOVEMBER

Wednesday	1 st	10am Time for God at Alverdiscott
Monday	13 th	2pm EDI training at Buckland Brewer
Wednesday	22 nd	2pm Circuit Meeting at Alverdiscott
Thursday	30 th	7pm Local Preachers Meeting at Chilsworthy

Sunday 3rd Dec - ADVENT SUNDAY

Advent Course

Wednesdays 2pm at Torrington on 29th Nov, 6th, 13th, 20th Dec

COVID

1. If you are feeling unwell, particularly with respiratory infections, you should think seriously about keeping away from others, and not going to Church events; especially if you test positive for Covid. Tests are still available.

2. Continue to be vigilant with regards to hygiene, especially where food is concerned.

3. Ventilation remains something to consider and keep under review.

DATES 2023/24

CIRCUIT MEETING

Wednesday 22nd November 2pm

Wednesday 20th March 2pm

Tuesday 18th June 7.30pm

PASTORAL
MEETINGS

April 8-19

CHURCH COUNCILS

Mar 5-16

May 20-25, June 3-7

LOCAL PREACHERS 7pm

Thursday 30th November @Chilsworthy

Tuesday 19th March

Wednesday 25th June

CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING 7pm

Thursday 14th March

WAYS OF WORSHIP (TBC)

CIRCUIT CONVERSATIONS (Sunday 3-5)

Once a Quarter

ZOOM SERVICES

2 a month (TBC)

THY KINGDOM COME

May 9 Ascension Day to

May 19 Pentecost, 2024

BIBLE MONTH

June 2024

SYNODS

Sat 27th April TBC

ADVENT STUDY

Wednesday 2pm

@Torrington

Nov 29th

Dec 6th

Dec 13th

Dec 20th

LENT STUDY

Thursdays 2pm

Feb 15th, 22nd, 29th

March 7th, Wed 13th, Tues 19th

ENCIRCLED IN CARE

NORTHAM

Tuesdays 2pm

14th November

Across The Generations

12th December

Health, Healing & Well-being

9th January

Mental Health Issues

6th February

Loss and Bereavement

12th March

Domestic Abuse

TORRINGTON

Wednesdays 7pm

15th November

13th December

10th January

7th February

13th March

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

2pm Kendor

April 23

June 4

(July 9)

Jan 23

March 5

QUIET MORNING / TIME FOR GOD

Time for Quiet and for reading
10-12.30

11-12 Guided Meditation

Wed 1st Nov Alverdiscott

Wed 6th Dec Torrington

Thurs 4th Jan Buckland

Thurs 8th Feb Langtree

Wed 6th March Lake

Thurs 11th April Northam

Wed 1st May Black Torr

Wed 5th June Milton D

Thurs 4th July

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

Sunday 31st March EASTER DAY

Circuit prayer Diary

There are copies of the Circuit Prayer Diary for 2023/24 now available. These have been distributed to Chapels via the Pastoral Meetings and/ or Church Councils.

This also incorporates the District Prayer Diary. For each day of the month there is a subject for the Circuit and the District; some at the same. There is also a column for "My Prayer" for you to add your own prayer reminder for the month.

I commend this to you.

God Bless - Rob Blackhall

FROM REVD ANDREW VIDAMOUR

Dear Friends,

In November, we often find the theme of remembering. On 1st and 2nd November, we have All Saints Day and All Souls Day, when we remember those who have died and whose memories we treasure. This can be a bittersweet time as we experience a sense of loss but we also value and recall with thankfulness the fine qualities of our loved ones, and all the special times we have shared with them.

Then we have a different kind of remembering on 5th November, recalling the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, and the planned attack on the Houses of Parliament and their occupants. As we recall the hostilities of that time, perhaps Bonfire Night may remind us of the continued need to work for peace and reconciliation in our own day.

And this theme carries over into the recollection involved in Armistice Day (11th November) and Remembrance Sunday (12th November, this year). On these days, in particular, we call to mind the deaths, bereavement, injuries and other great suffering caused by wars across human history, both as a solemn act in itself and as a spur to bridge-building, greater understanding and goodwill, and the quest for justice now and in the future.

So we have several kinds of remembering in November, and these may all give us a wider perspective on where we are. Nostalgia is often rather more a sentimental, partial view of the past; remembering, by contrast, is generally more realistic and nuanced.

And this is true, too, of the remembrance we do in the Sacrament of Holy Communion (or the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist). When we recall the words of Jesus, 'do this in remembrance of me', as we break the bread and take the cup, we are indeed bringing to mind the events of the Last Supper.

However, in a mysterious way, we are also bringing into the present that spirit of loving and merciful self-sacrifice which was in the heart and life of Jesus – and, again mysteriously, in this

way God's Holy Spirit is helping that sort of love to grow in our hearts and lives as well, and drawing us together in the process, to offer that love to the world.

Thanks be to God.
Andrew Vidamour

EDI TRAINING

- If you wish to do the EDI course online, can you let Sarah Richards know.

To do the training online please take the following steps:-

1. Go to <https://mcb.theologyx.com/> If you have already used Theology X (probably for the Advanced safeguarding module) use the same username and password to sign into MCBX (the new Methodist online training platform).
2. If you do not have a Theology X account, just go straight to the MCBX and register there to create an account.
3. There you will find the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Module
4. You do not need to do it all at once but can do as little or as much as your time allows.
5. At the end you will be given a certificate (via email). Please could you let Sarah Richards have a copy of that so we can keep a record.

FRANK WATSON – LAY PASTORAL WORKER

And so we are into November! The clocks have gone back, the weather is feeling more wintery each day and the shops (whether we like it or not) are beginning to fill up with things preparing us for Christmas.

So as promised in the October newsletter, my second idea for coping with all this change, this month is introducing a puzzle section within the newsletter. There will be a crossword and wordsearch each month, with the answers appearing in the next month's edition.

If anyone has any fun puzzles which they think others around the circuit would like, then please do send them to me and I will include them one month. Happy Puzzling!

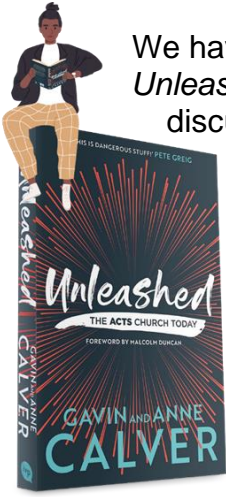
Circuit Knitters

The knitting pattern booklets from The Mission to Seafarers have gone like hot cakes! I had to print more before the latest round of Pastoral Committees even finished. But if you still would like one and can't see any in your church please say and I will print a third batch.

To remind people, there are three hat patterns and a pattern for fingerless mittens. Within the booklet it says "Knitted items made by you, with love helps seafarers arriving in the UK and around the world during the long, cold days and nights spent on the open seas. From woolly hats to fingerless mittens, each item of knitted clothing finds a home and the seafarers they're matched to are extremely grateful for the extra warmth!"

If you are already busy knitting or think you would like to make any of the items then please feel free and remember that once they are finished just let one of your church stewards have them and they will make sure the items get to me to be collected and sent off to the Mission. Happy Knitting!

Circuit Book Club



We have met for our first discussion session and people are already enjoying reading *Unleashed, The Acts Church Today* and are looking forward to the rest of the book and discussion sessions.

A reminder to the group that Discussion Sessions will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday's of the month held on Zoom at 7.00pm. The Zoom link (which was sent out to you) will be the same each time, but if you misplace it please just let me know and I will resend it to you.

Unleashed Discussion Dates are as follows:

- 1st November – Session 2: Unleashed Power
- 15th November – Session 3: Unleashed People
- 29th November – Session 4: Unleashed Presence
- 6th December – Session 5: Unleashed Potential
- 20th December – Session 6: Unleashed Participators

Encircled in Care Course

The Encircled in Care Course continues, a reminder that the course is designed as stand alone sessions and therefore gives you the option of attending some or all of the topic sessions. Below is a short description of what is contained within each session. **Please remember that because we are now into autumn the Wednesday (Torrington) session has now move to afternoons.** Therefore, both Tuesday at Northam and Wednesday at Torrington, will both start at 2.00pm. The dates of each session are listed below and will be continue to be advertised in the Circuit Dates List.

Session 6: Across The Generations			
In this session we... explore the idea that the Christian community is multi-generational, and caring takes place both from younger to older and from older to younger, increase our understanding of issues of spirituality and ageing, and provide information about the challenges of dementia.	Tuesday 14 th November	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 15 th November	Torrington	14:00
Session 7: Health, Healing and Well-being			
In this session we... explore how issues of health and wholeness are part of pastoral ministry, and offer guidelines for the ministry of healing and reconciliation.	Tuesday 12 th December	Northam	14:00
	TBC	Torrington	14:00
Session 8: Mental Health Issues			
In this session we... increase our awareness of mental health issues, and consider how churches might support people affected by mental health problems, and their families and friends.	Tuesday 9 th January	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 10 th January	Torrington	14:00

Session 9: Loss and Bereavement			
In this session we... increase the confidence of all in working through issues of loss with people, consider how churches might help people 'return' following the loss of a loved one, and explore the stages of grief.	TBC	Northam	14:00
	TBC	Torrington	14:00
Session 10: Domestic Abuse			
In this session we.. recognise that Domestic abuse affects people within the life of the Church as well as in the wider community, reflect on the issues of domestic abuse, and consider what appropriate responses we might make.	Tuesday 12 th March	Northam	14:00
	Wednesday 13 th March	Torrington	14:00

TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIAN FAITH

Just want to give the Circuit heads up about a new series of conversations Frank and I will be leading this September. The discussions are aimed at people on the fringe of our chapels. Maybe people who support our coffee mornings or fundraisers, people we meet through Toddler groups, Sunday Breakfast, Youth groups or Messy Church. Anyone really who is faith aware but maybe not regular church attenders. Personal invitation always works best but towards September we will be issuing posters and advertising on social media. If you know of anyone who might want to come, please give Frank or I a ring and we can explain more. The groups will be informal and limited to about 6-8 people.

Here's a flavour of the subjects for discussion....

Week 1 - What does Christian Faith mean today?

Week 2 - Does climate change impact our faith?

Week 3 - Does knowing Jesus really change peoples lives?

Week 4 - What does the word 'Church' signify today?

Week 5 - What does our Christian faith offer to those suffering in our world?

Week 6 - Has this series of conversations impacted you in any way?

More details contact Frank or Revd Lynne Burgon

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Online Training Programme 2023

This training will now only be delivered in person in the Circuit.

CIRCUIT IN-PERSON FOUNDATION TRAINING

CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING FOUNDATION TRAINING SESSION – Dates for this will be announced later so people who need to do the training again as a 'Refresher' can be accommodated.

Advanced Module

The Advanced course is being delivered Online and Onsite across the region. So if you are just waiting to do the Gathering Signing Off Session please contact Jacqui for details. If you think that you do need to do the Online Advanced Course, please speak to Jacqui, who will confirm whether you need to do this Course.

Online Advanced is to be booked through your Circuit Safeguarding Officer, the course is an e:learning exercise through an online platform which delegates progress through at their own speed. On registration, delegates will be given the booking link to sign off your learning journey at the relevant gathered session.

After registering, the Gathered Session date will be given - **note you cannot attend a gathered session until you have completed all of the online modules;**

BIDEFORD METHODIST CHURCH - 1937



BIDEFORD HIGH STREET METHODIST CHOIR REHEARSING FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S BROADCAST.

NAMES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.

Top Row.—Messrs. T. HEALE, C. BROUGH, W. T. WEBB, C. HARRIS, F. FULFORD, F. J. HUTCHINGS, (organist), R. B BLACKMORE, A. KINGDOM, H. ANDREW, F. LANG, T. J. MARTIN, and E. J. MORRISH.

Second Row.—Mrs. A. KINGDOM, Miss. C. PARKHOUSE, Mrs. R. R. PADDON, Miss I. HEADON, Miss L. BOND, Miss L. SELDON Miss O. JUDD.

Third Row.—Mrs. W. R. BLACKMORE, Miss J. FERRETT, Miss B. HAMLYN, Miss M. JENNINGS, Mrs. J. HARRIS, Miss F. V HEADON, Miss D. SHUTE, Miss P. EDWARDS.

Fourth Row.—Mrs. LEWIS, Mrs. LUCAS, Mrs. KENNARD, and Miss L. GOODMAN. Choirmaster: Mr. W. REED BLACKMORE.

Other members of the choir not included in above group are: Miss GWEN SANDERS, Mrs. A. SHUTE, Miss C. M. HAMLYN, Miss B. HARVEY, Miss R. BABB, Miss M. MORRIS, Mrs. W. J. COUCH, Miss L. J. BLACKMORE, Miss D. M. TYSON Messrs. S. KIVELL, E. WOOD, S. FERRETT, and S. MORRIS.

High Street Methodists' Broadcast.

AT HALF-PAST-SEVEN on Sunday evening the choir and congregation of High Street Methodist Church, Bideford, will make the first broadcast from a place of worship in the town.

Great interest centres around the occasion and it is anticipated there will be a crowded congregation. High Street (United) Methodist have always made a feature of their choir and congregational singing, stretching back to the days of the old Silver Street Church from which a move was made in 1913. The late Mr. Robt. Blackmore, father of the present choir master, was largely responsible for building up the fine choral tradition with a choir numbering some forty to forty-five voices. It was always his endeavour to

encourage congregational singing as much as possible. The traditions of the church and family have been maintained by his son Mr. W. Reed Blackmore, who will be the conductor at the broadcast. The organist will be Mr. F. J. Hutchings.

The broadcast is in the series entitled "Carolare," a time when all join in the singing of favourite hymns and sacred songs. Preceding the broadcast there will be a short evening service which will be conducted by Mr. F. A. Wilshire who has been associated with many of the broadcasts in the series and who will give comments on the hymns and tunes.

On Saturday evening Mr. Wilshire is lecturing on "Handel," with musical illustra-

tions, in High Street Methodist Assembly Hall. It is of interest to note he is a member of the Bar, practising on the Western Circuit, Recorder of Bridgwater, and deputy County Court Judge of the City of Bristol. On Monday of last week he had an experience unique in the judicature of England. After presiding over the County Court in the morning he was called to preside over the City Quarter Sessions in consequence of the sudden illness of the Recorder. He has a distinct flair for public entertainment and is well-known throughout the West of England for the sparkling humour which is characteristic of his talks.

BUCKLAND BREWER

We continue to Live Stream Services on the Buckland Brewer Methodist Church You-Tube Channel on the 3rd & 4th Sunday in the Month & the 5th Sunday if there is one.

The Weekly '**Time Together**' **Toddler Group** continues on Mondays, during Term Time at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** with both Methodist & Anglican volunteers being present. We meet on Monday's from 9.30am to about 12noon, The cost is £1.50 per family & the numbers have been steadily increasing – families do not just come from Buckland but from neighbouring communities – they often come as friendship groups – so if anyone is aware of any Babies & Toddlers, who with their parents, grandparents or carers are looking for a 'chilled out' session of play & chat with tea/coffee/biscuits – just point them in the direction of Buckland Chapel – Dave Watson 07484 223515 or bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com

The **Wednesday Weekly Coffee Morning** also continues at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** from 10am-12noon – this is for **ALL** but especially for those who have moved into the parish/village since lockdown or anyone who would like to meet others in the community over a mug of tea/coffee with Biscuits & possibly Cake!!

The **Monthly 'Mini Market'**, raising funds for Community Groups in Buckland continues at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church**. The next one will be on Saturday 11th November from 10am to 1pm with many items on sale – Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be available for Chapel Funds.

The **Community Choir**, based in the Chapel has return to practice after having a couple of months off.

TORRINGTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Torrington Methodist Church welcome all to their Coffee Mornings where delicious Bacon Butties are served and where cakes and bric-a-brac are sold. The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 18th November from 10am till 1pm. Proceeds for Action for Children. This event will be part of the Torrington Christmas Fayre.

NORTHAM AND BIDEFORD BIBLE STUDIES UPDATE

We have started again on Tuesday Afternoons at 2pm

At the home of Diana Yendall.

01237 477836 or 01237 425361

This group is open to all: If YOU would like to join us you would be VERY WELCOME, even if you can only come now and then.

We are very much a discussion group where we all learn from each other.

We will be Studying: The Book of Revelation

Andrew says: *One important distinction: I suggested that Revelation was written for a pre-Christendom Church (i.e. before the Constantinian Settlement around 320 CE), under persecution, and we may consider the Church in Western Europe now to be in a post-Christendom situation, which may be relevant.*

Dates: Punishment for the World Rev 15:5-16:21

November 7th Bible Study

1. Babylon the whore Rev 17:1- 19:10

14th Frank's Encircled in Care Course

21st Bible Study

2. The Drama behind the History Rev 19:11-21:8

28th Bible Study

3. Jerusalem the Bride Rev 21:9-22:21

December 5th NO Bible Study

12th Frank's Encircled in Care Course

January 9th Frank's Encircled in Care Course

Do we want to start again on 16th January or February - depending on the weather?

FROM JULIA SPENCER

Beatitudes for a Local Church

Blessed are those who don't use tears to measure feelings;
Blessed are those who stifle the urge to say 'I understand'- when they don't;
Blessed are those who hear with their hearts and not their minds;
Blessed are those who resist a quick comforting answer;
Blessed are those who allow the sorrowing enough time to heal;
Blessed are those who keep unsought advice to themselves;
Blessed are those who allow the bereaved - to remember those still fresh in their hearts;
Blessed are those who still keep contact when the crowd has dwindled;
Blessed are those who, admitting their own discomfort - put it aside to help others;
Blessed are those who handle fragile sorrow with an understanding heart;
Blessed are those who carry on caring even when they don't feel like it.

From Donald Hilton's Called to Praise

MILTON DAMEREL NEWS

We are announcing a new **BIBLE STUDY** starting on Tuesday 31st October at 10.30am in the Schoolroom at **Milton Damerel Chapel**. This is an Ecumenical 'venture' with Thornbury St Peter's Church, but a warm welcome to those interested in joining us. The leader is Revd Stephen Skinner and has asked for suggestions for topics/books people would like to cover.

STREAMS on Wednesday 8th November from 2pm – 4.30pm at **Littleham Village Hall**

Choose from a variety of crafting activities, interspersed with coffee, cake and chat.

This is an event catering for women – no need to book – just turn up.

CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICE for Sunday 12th November 2023

Hidden Treasure

This act of Worship is based on the them chosen by our President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton, and the Vice-President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett.

The Prayers are taken from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023/2024, “Hidden Treasures”

As this is the basis for the Zoom Service on 12th November, the Intercessions pick up on the theme of Remembrance.

Call to Worship

Loving God,

You have promised that you will remain with us, always.

Even when we are tempted to despair, you still call us by name.

You reveal to us the treasures that are all around us;

The places, the people, who will speak to us words of surprising hope and truth.

Give us the wisdom to value the riches you reveal to us in

the everyday, and in the unexpected,

in the new and surprising and in the practices of old.

Give us courage to share them,

to speak and to show your good news,

*that your kingdom of joy and peace grows here on earth. **AMEN***

Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

StF 745 For all the saints

Prayers of Adoration

Generous God,

Whose hidden treasures surprise us

as we journey through life and faith.

Open our eyes, Lord,

to the splendour all around,

there to be seen

if I had eyes to see,

there to be heard

if I have ears to hear.

Open our will, Lord

to perceive you

in the glory of everyday things

and the intricate design of creation.

Open our will, Lord,

to be eager to follow your command and do all I can to guard and protect all that you have given,.

Open my mouth, Lord,

let me sing your glory

and speak your praise.

*In Jesus name **Amen***

Prayers of Confession

*When humble shepherds kneel before you,
We see that everyone is important and has something to offer.
Forgive us when we choose who is important and who is not.*

*When visitors from the East kneel before you,
We see that wisdom comes in unfamiliar viewpoints.
Forgive us when we prefer what we already know, to new revelations of love.*

*When disciples leave nets to follow you,
We see how extraordinary to ordinary can be.
Forgive us when we place limits on what love can do.*

*When a carpenter offers abundant life,
We see beyond, in the midst of life.
Forgive us when we miss the sacred in the everyday.*

*Give us new eyes that catch the glimpses of glory. **Amen***

StF 421 Empty broken

Isaiah 45:1-7

Matthew 13:44-46

STF 254 Seek ye first

Sermon

StF 706 Longing for light

Thanksgiving

*God is love:
And where love is, God is there.*

We give thanks for the hidden acts of love.

*For gracious words that lower tension, for hopeful words that temper grief,
For comforting words that soften pain,
Thanks be to God, for God is love.
And where love is, God is there.*

*For pardon privately sought and given,
For mediation that works through misunderstandings,
For injuries forgiven and friends reconciled,
Thanks be to God, for God is love.
And where love is, God is there.*

*For acts of generosity performed without fanfare,
for needs secretly met and hardship quietly relieved,*

*For acts of kindness assuring someone that they are loved,
Thanks be to God, for God is love.
And where love is, God is there.*

*In many ways that others never see,
Without publicity or thought of any reward,
Sometimes without invoking God's name,
God's love is made know
Thanks be to God, for God is love.
And where love is, God is there. **Amen***

Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of Conference

INTERCESSIONS

Lord of all, we pray for the victims of war - those across the world who bear the scars of conflict: the injured, maimed and mentally distressed; those who have lost their limbs, their reason or their loved ones through the horrors of war.

*Lord, in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

We pray for those left homeless or as refugees, those who have lost their livelihoods and security, and those who still live in daily fear for their lives.

*Lord, in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

We pray for children who have been orphaned, parents who mourn their children, husbands and wives who have lost their partners - countless families whose lives will never be the same again.

*Lord, in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

We pray for those in the armed forces, charged with keeping the peace in countries across the world - their work involving months away from family and friends, and often danger to themselves.

*Lord, in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

We pray for world leaders and rulers, politicians and diplomats - those whose decisions and negotiations affect the lives of so many, and in whose hands peace ultimately lies.

*Lord, in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

Give wisdom to all who work for peace, courage to those who strive for justice, and strength to those who seek to break down barriers, so that the causes of conflict may be overcome. Grant that wherever war, or the threat of war, continues to haunt lives, a way of reconciliation may be found and a spirit of unity established between people and nations.

*Lord, in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

*In the name of Christ. **Amen.***

Lord's Prayer

StF 132 O God our help in ages past

Blessing

*In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*And the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be with you all, now and evermore.*

Amen

THE GREATEST ENGLISHMAN AND MISSIONARY TO GERMANY

Christopher Dawson, who was a leading Christian historian of the 20th century, described St Boniface as “the greatest Englishman”. It is believed that Boniface was born in Crediton, Devon in about 675.

He joined a monastery in Exeter and then moved to one in Winchester. He was ordained as a priest at the age of 30. Boniface first left for the continent in 716. He travelled to Utrecht and later visited Rome where Pope Gregory II renamed him "Boniface", after the (legendary) fourth-century martyr Boniface of Tarsus, and appointed him missionary bishop for Germania. His original birth name was Winfrith.

In Fritzlar, Germany he felled a sacred Oak tree and because he wasn't struck down by the pagan gods the people converted to Christianity. A church and a monastery were built in Fritzlar. In 732 he travelled again to Rome where Pope Gregory III appointed him as Archbishop of what is now Germany. He was very active in the church in Germany and established a system of diocese. He also founded an Abbey at Fulda.

He went on to Frisia, which is now part of Holland, baptising many new converts. However, the by now aged Archbishop was slain by bandits. His remains were eventually buried in the abbey church of Fulda after resting for some time in Utrecht, and they are entombed within a shrine beneath the high altar of Fulda Cathedral, previously the abbey church. A copy of the Gospel which is believed to have been held by him at the time of his death is also in the Cathedral. Legend has it that he is also credited with the invention of the first Christmas Tree!

The UK National Shrine is located in the Catholic church at Crediton, Devon. There are a number of churches in England named after Boniface and St Boniface's Catholic School, founded in 1856, is still going strong in Plymouth. In 2019 Devon County Council, with the support of the Anglican Diocese of Exeter, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, and local Devon leaders of the Orthodox, Methodist, and Congregational churches, officially recognised St Boniface as the Patron Saint of Devon.

The work of Boniface made a substantial contribution to laying down the “Christian foundations of Europe”. He travelled tremendous distances as a missionary and evangelist spreading the Gospel message in what was at the time very much a pagan Europe,

The following is the Plan for November

HC= Holy Communion
MC= Methodist Church
Café= Café Worship
T = Transport

PC= At Parish Church
C& F= Coffee and Fellowship
SB=Sunday Breakfast

Post codes of Chapels

Alverdiscott – EX31 3PT
Black Torrington – EX21 5QF
Langtree – EX38 8NF
Milton Damerel – EX22 7DJ
Parkham – EX39 5PG
Sheepwash – EX21 5NA

Bideford (High Street) – EX39 2AN
Buckland Brewer – EX39 5LP
Littleham – EX39 5HW
Northam – EX39 1BS
Shebbear – EX21 5SJ
Torrington – EX38 8AL

Lectionary Readings for November

5 Nov – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7,33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

12 Nov – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

12 Nov – Remembrance Sunday

Isaiah 25:1-9 or Isaiah 52:7-12 or Micah 4:1-8; Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 46; Romans 8:31-35,37-39
or Revelations 22:1-5; Matthew 5:1-12 or Matthew 5:43-48 or John 15:9-17

19 Nov – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

26 Nov – Sunday before Advent

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a or Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
	Ord 31	Ord 32 Remembrance	Ord 33 Safeguarding	Sunday before Advent
At Home Worship	X	Blackhall Zoom 6.30pm	Buckland Live Stream 10am	Buckland Live Stream 10am
Bideford 10.30am	Ley	Booth	Burgon HC	Vidamour
Northam 10.30am	Potter	Parish Church 10am Messy Church 4pm	Vidamour HC	Withall
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Blackhall HC on 10th Nov	Vidamour on 24th Nov	@Lake
Langtree 11am	Hall-Tomkin	@Parish Church	Blackhall HC	@Lake
Milton Damerel 11am	X	D Watson AAW	Cafe	@Lake
Shebbear 10.30am	C&F	Parish Church Remembrance	United @Parish Church	Hill United
Sheepwash 11am	Withall	@Baptist Church	@Parish Church	Village
	TORRINGTO N	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH
Alverdiscott 11am	Blackhall HC	X	Potter	X
Torrington 10.30am	Harris	Blackhall Remembrance	Macbeth HC	F Watson & Sheriff
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH
Alwington	@ Torrington	X	X	X
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC) 10am (MC)	Skinner HC @Parish Church @9.30am	F Watson at 10.45am @Chapel	Tooke	Blackhall HC
Littleham 10.30am	X	United @Parish Church	X	Harris HC
Parkham 11am	SB	United @Parish Church	Spencer T	HC @Parish Church

Activities, Events and Meetings
November 2023

Wed 01	All Saints' Day		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	'Time for God' Quiet Morning	10:00-12:30	Alverdiscott
	Worship and Community Lunch (<i>Booking for Lunch required</i>)	11:30	Northam
	Circuit Book Club Discussion Session 2 (Unleashed Power)	19:00	Zoom
Thu 02	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Alverdiscott
	Thursday Fellowship	14:15	Northam
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 03			
Sat 04	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 05	Coffee and Fellowship	10:30	Shebbear (Lake)
	Sunday Breakfast	11:00	Parkham
Mon 06	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians		
	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 07	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
Wed 08	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Thu 09	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 10			
Sat 11	Armistice Day		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 12	Interfaith Week (until Sat 18)		
	Remembrance Sunday		
	Messy Church	16:00-17:30	Northam
	Circuit Evening Worship	18:30	Zoom
Mon 13	Living Wage Week (until Sun 19)		
	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 14	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
	Encircled in Care Course (Across The Generations)	14:00	Northam
Wed 15	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Encircled in Care Course (Across The Generations)	14:00	Torrington
	Circuit Book Club Discussion Session 3 (Unleashed People)	19:00	Zoom
Thu 16	Thursday Fellowship	14:15	Northam
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 17			
Sat 18	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Torrington
Sun 19	Safeguarding Sunday		
	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims		

	World Toilet Day		
	Annual Commissioning of Pastoral	10:30	Northam
	Visitors Service with Holy Communion		
	Café Worship	11:00	Milton Damerel
Mon 20	International Transgender Day of Remembrance		
	World Children's Day		
	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 21	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
Wed 22	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Circuit Meeting	14:00	Alverdiscott
Thu 23	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 24			
Sat 25	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (until Sun 10 Dec)		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Bideford
Sun 26	Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)		
	Women against Violence Sunday		
Mon 27	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Tue 28	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:15-10:15	Northam
	Joint Local Preachers Meeting with the Bude and Holsworthy Circuit	19:00	Chilsworthy
Wed 29	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Circuit Advent Course	14:00	Torrington
	Circuit Book Club Discussion Session 4 (Unleashed Presence)	19:00	Zoom
Thu 30	Andrew the Apostle		
	Thursday Fellowship	14:15	Northam
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree

TEATIME PUZZLE BREAK

THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Q G O X V E G A S S E M N R N T M
R E Y A R P R E V E L A T I O N S
O G N O I T A T P M E T S K V D I
B R E V E R O F L R U F J Z A Q T
L Z V F J G O O D N E W S H U F P
K R A G P R A P V I A T D C O V A
I P E B B I S R A E L Z G X L L B
A K H T K I N G D O M S A P G S Y
M T P J A N B B N E G T T R I Q S
F R S G U W O L W B N I Y S E E E
R U O I V A S I E X R O E A S T K
R E S U R R E C T I O N F O O K H
E C N C K H Y A P A E O M E G X F
Y A S P I R C S R G E T C W D C Y
H R G L O L I F E T Z R H F N E Q
V S A L V A T I O N H K C E G L N
D O G M J E R U S A L E M K F W V

BAPTISM	GLORY	LIFE	REVELATION
BIBLE	GOD	MARY	SALVATION
CHRIST	GOOD NEWS	MESSAGE	SAVIOUR
CREATION	HEAVEN	MOSES	SIN
EARTH	HOLY	NAZARETH	SPIRIT
FOREVER	ISRAEL	PRAYER	TEMPTATION
GARDEN OF EDEN	JERUSALEM	RESURRECTION	WATER
GENESIS	KINGDOM		

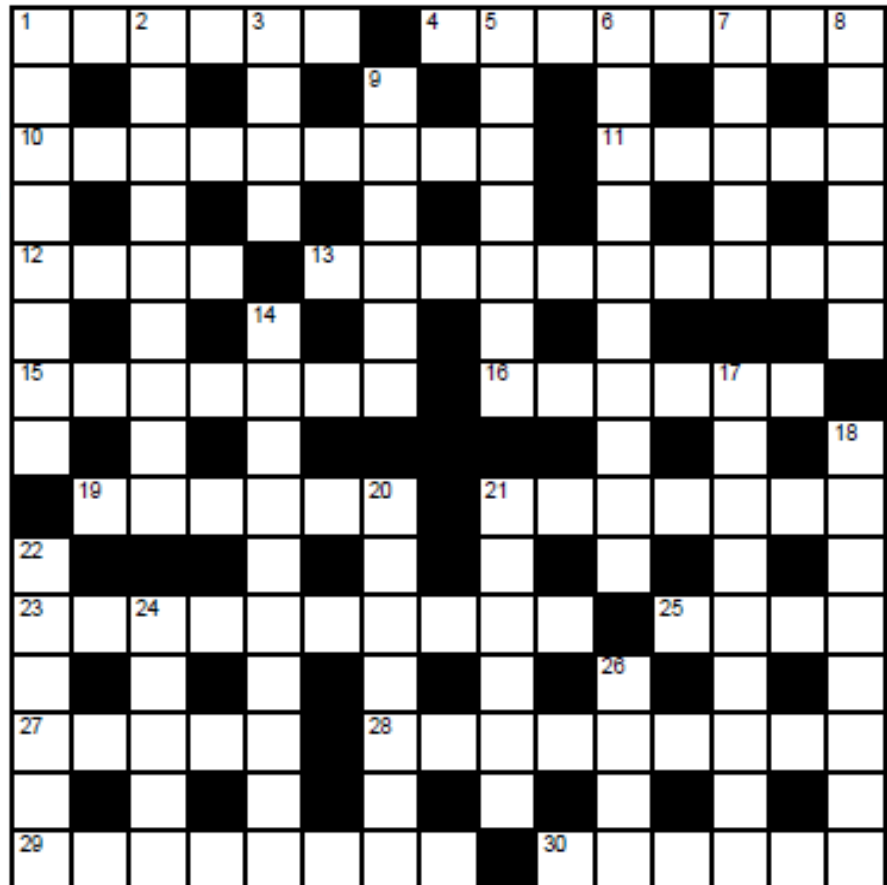
BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
 4 Seemed (8)
 10 New Testament book (9)
 11 Unit of length (5)
 12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
 13 Contemplation (10)
 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
 16 A son of King David (6)
 19 Concurred (6)
 21 Light sources (7)
 23 Propitiations (10)
 25 A false god (4)
 27 Gather (5)
 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
 29 Instructors (8)
 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
 2 Inspiring (9)
 3 Compass point (4)
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

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6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)

7 Jewish leader (5)

8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)

9 Bread makers (6)

14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)

17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

21 Tiny amount (6)

22 Jesus did this with authority (6)

24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)

26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)