



*Joyfully sharing  
the love of God  
for the good of all*

# CONNECTED

The monthly Anglican/Methodist  
newsletter  
MARCH 2011



*Anglican*

Revd. Kathy Roberts  
The Rectory  
Black Torrington  
Beaworthy  
EX21 5PU  
01409 231279

*Methodist*

Revd Meg Slingo  
The Manse  
Shebbear  
Beaworthy  
EX21 5SH  
01409 281262

## Church And Chapel Contact Numbers

### Churchwardens:

#### **Black Torrington, St Mary's**

Sheila Grabham 01409 231581

Benjie Inniss 01409 231234

#### **Bradford, All Saints, with Cookbury, St John**

Martin Taylor 01409 281327

Tony Lobley 01409 281800

Anne Bird 01409 281568

#### **Highampton, Holy Cross**

Jill Harrow

Val Letheren 01409 231430

#### **Thornbury, St Peter's**

Mike Chandler 01409 253150

Colin Wood 01409 261526

### Chapel Superintendent Minister:

Revd David Morris 01237 472689

davidmorris337@gmail.com

### Rural Worker:

Andy Jerrard 07801 755732

andy.jerrard@tiscali.co.uk

### Chapel Stewards:

#### **Black Torrington**

Peter Ellis 01409 231309

Rose Fielder 01409 231214

#### **Bradford** (*chapel now closed for worship*)

Marjorie Smale 01409 281560

Donald Davey 01409 281438

#### **Shebbear/Lake**

Graeme Quance 01409 281248

#### **Sheepwash**

Helen Orr 01409 231199

#### **Woodacott**

Mrs J Vanstone

Mrs. A Bond 01409 261221

### Benefice Website:

[www.black-torrington-benefice.org.uk](http://www.black-torrington-benefice.org.uk)

### Circuit Website:

[www.shebbearcircuit.ning.com](http://www.shebbearcircuit.ning.com)

*Hello from me...* **Kathy Roberts, Priest In Charge**  
**Black Torrington Benefice**

We are moving into the season of Annual Meetings across the benefice, with reports to be written, accounts to be approved, electoral rolls brought up to date - and vacancies on PCC's to be filled. I am very grateful to all who work so hard, often quietly behind the scenes keeping our churches running efficiently and well. We will have places to be filled in different PCC's. Would you join me in praying for the right people to serve in those vacancies? If you are not already on a PCC in any capacity, would you prayerfully consider helping?

**Confirmation**

A very moving and meaningful benefice confirmation service was held at St Mary's where Wendy and someone from Burdon Grange were confirmed. She told us her story of how she came to faith and how God had made himself known to her when she was ill in hospital. Bishop Bob made the service personal and meaningful, not just for the candidates, but for all who were there that afternoon.

**Welcome to 'Newcomers'**

We were suddenly aware that a number of people have joined us in the different churches over the past few years – and they had never been formally welcomed! We had a newcomers' supper in Black Torrington recently which was a wonderfully relaxed way of meeting together. It was enjoyed so much by everyone that several people have suggested we do it again for all of us in the benefice! It would be good to meet for a bring and share meal together in the summer sometime.

Contd....

## **Lent course**

Lent starts soon – the latest it will ever begin in our life time! The Lent course that we will be studying is *Spot the Difference*, written by Nick Fawcett to help us consider 5 ways in which Christian Commitment should show itself: in a quality of love, a spontaneity of witness, a disposition of joy, a generosity of spirit and a vibrant inner faith. Prayers, bible readings and discussion points are included in each session. Sign up sheets will be available in each of the churches. My hope is for there to be a lent group in each of our churches. If you have never been part of a lent group before, why not try it this lent? I am sure that you will find it enjoyable and rewarding – and possibly challenging!

## **Sermon**

From time to time people comment on what they have heard in the sermon on Sunday, or take issue about an aspect they disagree about, or tease me about all sorts – how long it was or how boring, or incomprehensible it was!

I do spend quite a bit of time reading the passages, listening to God and considering what he may be saying to us, individually, and as a benefice. I know that this is true for Gerry and for Tony too. Tony has written an article about his recent assessed sermon. Would you pray for those who preach – it is a great responsibility. Would you also let us know what was helpful and what you think could be done differently. It means that we are all helping each other towards a greater understanding of the word of God. God honours our prayers and the more we are engaged in listening to God together, the better we will be able to discern and understand what he is saying to us.

With every blessing and love

Kathy

## **A Reader-in-Training**

February has presented me with my greatest challenge yet. The first practical part of my training has been to preach a Sermon to all of you. This was done on 6<sup>th</sup> February and several of you kindly completed assessment forms.

The preparation for this started about two weeks earlier by reading through the Old and New testament readings for the day and trying to understand what they and the Gospel reading were saying. Once the content of the readings was clear in my mind I asked God to reveal how to use this information. Over about a week God kept suggesting acting together – I think God probably got quite annoyed with how stupid I was - because it finally sank home when I tipped up the spoon in the sugar bowl and sent a teaspoon full of sugar all over the place and had to quickly clear it up before Morag noticed! It was the grains that were the point and I finally got the message when I realised how much mess a simple teaspoon of sugar could cause. So the theme was settled and when “thought for the day” on 1<sup>st</sup> February was about Antony Gormley's new sculpture made from many nails – a thing of great beauty and worth made from simple old discarded items it seemed to really fit.

With a lot of help and some shaky knees the sermon was delivered although each time I started to speak I was sure my uncertainty would show. It certainly seemed to get easier towards the end.

Thank you all for your patience and to those who filled in an assessment form my gratitude not just for all the nice things you said but for the suggestions for improvement which were gently pointed out.

Since the start of term at University we have looked at the Holy Spirit, The Church as the communion of Saints and the body of Christ, and the sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist). These are very big topics and they continue to present many challenges. To try to understand them in the light of two thousand years of scholarship is a privilege which is very satisfying.

Thank You ( and please don't mention the sugar to Morag)

Tony Lobleby

## **Black Torrington Benefice Services in March**

*Services at parish church unless otherwise indicated*

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

9.00 am Bradford Holy Communion

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 am Thornbury Holy Communion

11.15 am Black Torrington Iona Holy Communion

4.00 pm Cookbury Evensong

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March ASH WEDNESDAY**

9.30 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

7.15 pm Bradford Holy Communion

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 am Thornbury Holy Communion

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 am Bradford Family Worship

11.15 am Highampton Holy Communion (Healing)

6.30 pm Thornbury Evening Prayer

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

12.00 noon Thornbury Lent Silent Prayer and Healing

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

9.00 am Black Torrington Holy Communion

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 am Thornbury Family Worship

11.00 am Bradford Holy Communion

6.30 pm Black Torrington Holy Communion (Healing)

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

12.00 noon Bradford Lent Silent Prayer

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 am Highampton Holy Communion

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 am Bradford Iona Holy Communion

11.15 am Highampton Morning Prayer

11.15 am Black Torrington Family Holy Communion

6.30 pm Thornbury Holy Communion

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

12.00 noon Cookbury Lent Silent Prayer

Gluten free wafers are available at all services of Holy Communion.

If you require these please inform the person on duty at the door.

**SHEBBEAR METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
**METHODIST SERVICES IN MARCH**

**Black Torrington Chapel**

Service every Sunday 11.00am

*Village Sunday School fourth Sunday every month*

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Mr John Guy

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Mrs Nancy Hall-Tomkin

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Congregational

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Mr Roy Harris  
(Sunday Club meets)

**Lake Chapel, Shebbear**

9.00pm on the last Wednesday of every month **Compline** -

*a short service for the end of the day, a particular blessing at the day's end  
when there is nothing to rush off to afterwards!*

Weekly Ecumenical Prayer Meeting Thursdays 8.00 pm  
6 Broad Street, Black Torrington (*next to the Bead Shop*)

*for more info. on any of these events, contact a chapel steward  
(see page 2)*

**SERVICES AT WOODACOTT METHODIST CHAPEL**

For details of Services in March,  
please contact: Iris Fry 01409 261322

## **THE PRAYER CHAIN**

A group of people who pray privately (and in strict confidence) for specific situations.

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of prayer for any reason, please contact:

Gavin & Kelly O'Meara - 020 3174 0047

Email [gavin@fecareers.co.uk](mailto:gavin@fecareers.co.uk)

or

Margaret Taylor - 281327

(if unavailable Sheila Granger 281383)

*...and if you would like to be part of this unseen but essential ministry, please contact Gavin & Kelly O'Meara*

## **Benefice Prayer Breakfast**

Monday mornings

The Rectory, Black Torrington

8.00 am (breakfast) 8.30 am (prayers)

**All Welcome**

## **PRAYER BOXES**

Black Torrington Church and Chapel both have prayer boxes outside each building for anyone to request a prayer. If you have a request, please put it into the box. All prayers will be collected and put on to the prayer chain. The prayer chain is a group of people who will pray in confidence for any situation.

## **Bible Society - Hatherleigh District Action Group AGM**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm  
at Hatherleigh Methodist Church

Further information from  
Beverley Agnew 01837 810348



## **ALPHA AT THE INN**



An Alpha Course begins on  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
At the Union Inn, Stibb Cross

9.45 am till 12.00 noon with free coffee and cake!!  
Creche provided

Further information or to arrange a lift,  
contact Maureen Ellis 01409 231309

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

The monthly informal gathering for lively worship  
at Shebbear - the next gathering on  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March is at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## **Meditative Prayer Group**

On the third Saturday each month there will be  
a group meeting for coffee and quiet meditative prayer

Next meeting **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
at Tor View, Black Torrington, from 10.30 am.

**All are welcome to come along.**

For more details contact Wendy Stratton 01409 231426

## Prayer in the benefice during Lent



During Lent there will be an opportunity for half an hour of silent prayer in each of the churches in the benefice at 12.00 noon.

Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	St Peter's, Thornbury
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	All Saints, Bradford
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	St John's, Cookbury
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	St Mary's Black Torrington
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Cross, Highampton



With the season of Lent approaching when we will be encouraged to read our Bibles more often, there are more free copies of Bible Reading Notes available in all the churches.

If you would like to know more about this please feel free to ring me on 01237 451084 or come and speak to me after a service.

Gill Harris

## More about Lent

Lent is an opportunity we use to become more aware of our relationship to God, to others and to his world. In the benefice we offer the lent course for study, reflection and personal growth.

We also have a time of silent prayer in each church on a Wednesday at 12 noon. This lasts for half an hour and is a chance to pray for the church and the community. Do check in the pew sheet each week where the silent prayer will be held. Prayer with a group of people in silence is extraordinarily powerful.

Each week in the pew sheet Kate will be putting some simple suggestions from Christian Aid about how we can become aware of some of the needs of those who have less than ourselves and how we can help meet their needs - in sometimes very easy and fun ways. Keep a look out for those.

## To Feed Others

This month £45.12 was collected To Feed Others - thank you once again to those who are fasting in order to feed others.

## NEWS FROM THE PASTORAL TEAM

We now have a core of trained Pastoral Visitors. As a part of our community outreach, they are prepared to visit, to listen confidentially, to provide support to **anyone** in the community who feels a need. The approach is ecumenical, as we have visitors who are part of the Shebbear Methodist Circuit.

Pat Clarke is the co-ordinator, so contact her (01409 250317) or Kathy Roberts (01409 231279) to arrange.

## Pancakes!

Shrove Tuesday falls on 8<sup>th</sup> March and there will be a pancake tea at Bradford Village Hall, starting after school until 5.00 pm, Everyone is warmly invited to come along for a pancake and possibly a pancake race! Transport can almost certainly be arranged.

It's hoped that the hall will be full of hungry people, so lots of pancakes will be needed! If you would be willing to make some in advance, and to bring them along on the day, or arrange to have them collected, please ring Morag 281800

To give us some idea of numbers, if you're planning on coming, it would be useful to know in advance. Please telephone Morag 281800



## BLACK TORRINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
PTFA Pancake Coffee Morning - in school  
10.15 am - 11.30 am

ALL WELCOME

## Youth Service

If it is not too far to go, the Inspire Service at **6.30 pm** on the **last Sunday in the month** at Torrington Methodist Church might suit lively people of all ages

## **BBC 1 and BBC2**

The next fun time for children of pre-school age (BBC1) and those of primary school age (BBC2) will take place in



### **Bradford Village Hall**

On

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

(And on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month)

**From 10.30 am - 12.00 noon**

For fun, games, crafts, refreshments etc  
and a chance to learn simple  
Christian truths and beliefs.  
All children are welcome

For more information contact:

Liz Priest (01409 261312) or Pat Clarke (01409 250317)

## **Highampton School**

Highampton School will be holding a Service  
at Highampton Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2.15 pm

All Welcome

## **COFFEE MORNING**

St Peter's Church, Thornbury

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

10.30 am - 12.00 noon

Cakes, produce, bric a brac, raffle  
plus coffee and good company  
please do come and join us





## In aid of St Mary's Church, Boiler Fund

### **BRUNCH**

*(All day breakfast)*

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Black Torrington Village Hall

To help with catering, tickets will be available for:

10.00 am - 11.00 am

11.00 am - 12.00 noon

12.00 noon - 1.00 pm

1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Tickets: £5.00 (children under 11 years £3.00)  
available from:

Anne Gray - 01409 231231 ~~ Avril Priest - 01409 231378

Sue Marshall - 01409 231746 ~~ Sheila Grabham - 01409 231581

*Please book tickets by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March*



## **FLOWERS IN CHURCH**

Is there a special occasion you would like to commemorate, or someone you would like remembered?

Have you thought of the possibility of making a donation for flowers for the church?

This can be done anonymously, or we can have a card placed with the flowers and a note put into the regular weekly pew sheet. If you are not sure who is responsible for flowers, do speak to one of your church wardens. They will be very happy to help you.



## **The Tuesday Group**

*Bible exploration & discussion*

11.00 am **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

The Badger House, Black Torrington  
*(the home of Kate & Benjie Inniss)*

This month we shall continue with the topic 'Journeys',  
All are welcome



## **TIME OUT LUNCH**

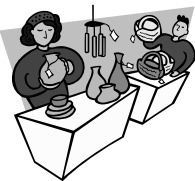
**12.30 pm - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Have lunch with us!

Everyone within Black Torrington benefice and the local  
Methodist area is invited to join us for a light meal  
and a time of friendship. No set charge, but a small donation  
towards costs is appreciated.

A relaxed simple meal with friends is something to enjoy.  
Why not join us this month. Everyone is welcome

Bookings to Maureen Ellis - 01409 231309 or  
Val Letheren - 01409 231430



## **Black Torrington Village Hall ~~Table Top Sale**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March ~~ 10.00am - 12 noon**

Suitable items for St Mary's table  
(cakes, saleable bric-a-brac, etc)  
will be gratefully received, and may be given  
to Sheila (01409 231581)  
or Anne (01409 231231)

## **Men's Breakfast**



The next breakfast at The Golden Inn, Highampton  
is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

To book, please contact Peter Ellis 01409 231309

## **Sunday Evening at the Chapel**

### **Relax with David Robinson on the Organ**

Join us on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

At 6.00 pm

With refreshments to follow

## **Family Indoor Sports Evening**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May, at Bradford Village Hall

Starting at 6.30 pm

Adults £4.00, under 12's £2.00

Lots of fun games for everyone to take part in,  
plus refreshments.

Teams of six, if you don't have enough for a full team, please  
come along and we'll see what we can do.

More information from Liz 01409 261312

Proceeds in aid of St Peter's Church, Thornbury

## **Some Benefice News:**

**Happy Birthday to all who celebrated a birthday in February including:**

Ronda Mogridge  
Mary Dayman  
Eileen Arney

### **Birth Congratulations**

Congratulations to Tina and John Ody on the birth of their son, to the grandparents Jackie and Dudley Ody and to Avril and Den Priest on the birth of their grandson.

### **Thanks**

David and I would like to thank everyone who has been praying for us during the last several months while I have been undergoing cancer treatment. We have felt really upheld through your prayers, love and support, and it has actually been a time of many blessings.

Thank you.

Jean Forrester-Barker

### **THANK YOU**

A big thank you to Rosie Lewis for designing and printing the Christmas cards which were sold in aid of St Peter's Church, Thornbury, a wonderful total of £157 profit was collected.

Thanks also to Pat and Eddie Comper for managing the selling side for us. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Thornbury PCC

## **Foodbank.**

As we have grown in experience with the Foodbank it has become clear that there are several items from the full list which are always needed. Because we collect regularly each week, rather than occasionally, we are in the best position to satisfy this need so please concentrate on the items from the list below when considering a donation.

- ◆ long life juice
- ◆ long life milk
- ◆ sugar (500g and 1Kg size)
- ◆ tea (40 or 80 bag size)
- ◆ coffee (100g size)
- ◆ tinned meat
- ◆ biscuits
- ◆ sponge puddings
- ◆ tinned tomatoes
- ◆ tinned rice



**All these items are available at your local shops!!**

Items may be left at the back of church,  
or contact Tony Lobley (281800)

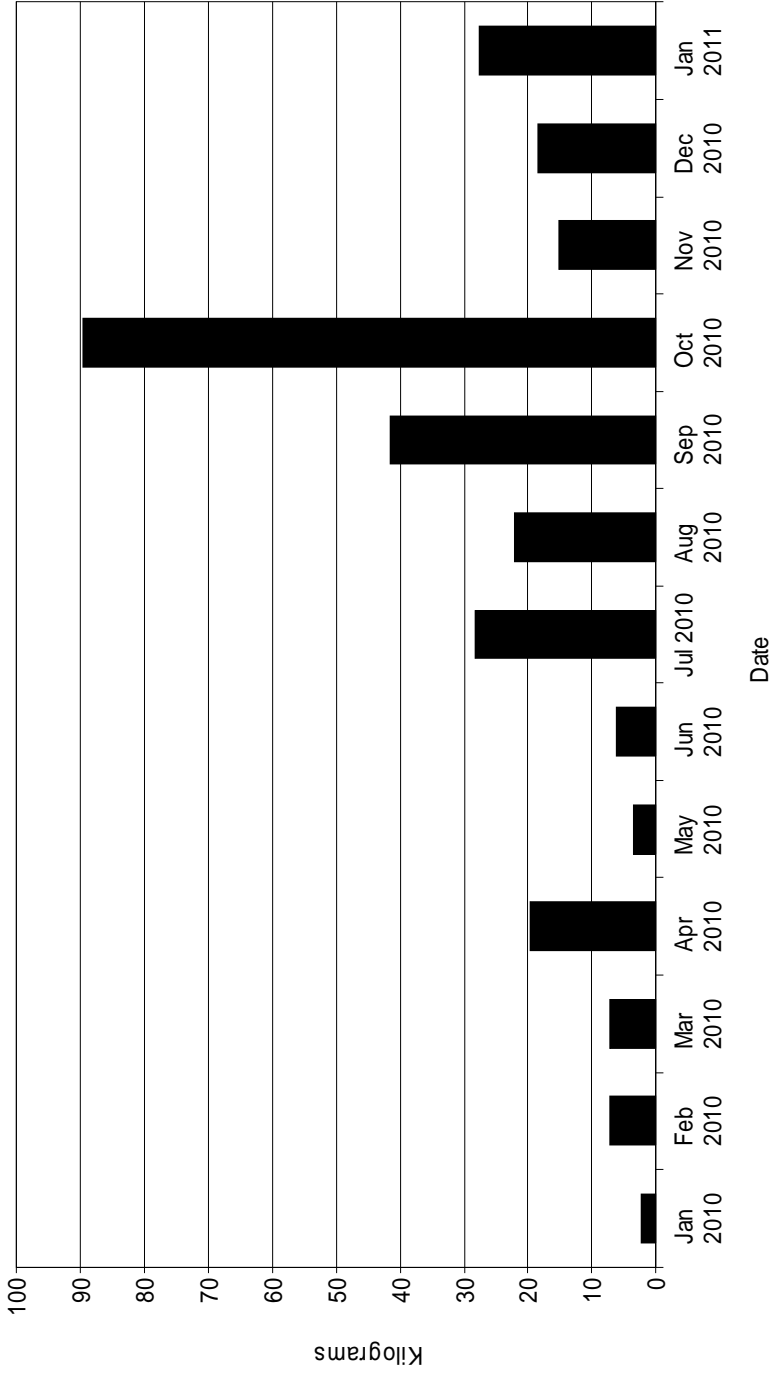
## **A Big Thank You from your Social Action team**

As you will have heard in the news the Foodbank organisations in both Bude and Okehampton have come under pressure since Christmas to provide more food for our customers. The redundancies in Okehampton have had a particularly severe effect and in Bude we have more or less doubled the number of boxes we issue each week.

As you can see in the graph (on page 19) we are now taking very much more this year than we were taking last year.

Your generosity is very much appreciated by everyone at the Foodbank and by all who receive help .

# Black Torrington Benefice Monthly Donations To Foodbank



## **Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

### **St Mary's, Black Torrington**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - 7.00 pm - in the Church

### **All Saints, Bradford**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April- 7.15 pm

### **Holy Cross, Highampton**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April

### **St Peter's, Thornbury**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April

*For the election of:*

**Churchwardens**

**Deanery Synod Representatives**

**Members of the Parochial Church Council**

**And for the appointment of Sidespeople**

All whose names are on the church's electoral roll, or who reside within the parish and whose name appears on the register of local government electors, may attend the first part of the meeting to elect Churchwardens. Only those whose names are on the electoral roll of the church may take part in the election of members of the PCC.

A nomination for Churchwarden is not valid unless the nomination paper is received by the minister of the parish before the commencement of the meeting.

**NOTE** - to be included in the electoral roll of a church, you should either live within the parish or have worshipped regularly at the church for a least six months.

## **Black Torrington Benefice**

### **Our Vision**

**We are part of the Church of God, seeking to build a community rich in faith and prayer, love and thanksgiving, that sees Christ in every person and in every place and where all are welcome.**



### **THESE NAMES ARE OF THOSE PEOPLE WILLING TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT TO SERVICES AND EVENTS WITHIN THE BENEFICE**

*(It is suggested that you keep this list by your telephone,  
should you find you require transport at any time).*

#### **BLACK TORRINGTON**

Benjie Inniss	01409 231234
Gill Harris	01237 451084
Brian Harrington	01409 231519
Peter Roberts	01409 231799
Wendy Stratton	01409 231426
Anne Gray (covering Sheepwash)	01409 231231

#### **HIGHAMPTON**

Benjie Inniss	01409 231234
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#### **BRADFORD**

Tony and Morag Loblej	01409 281800
Eileen and David Arney	01409 221434
Pat and Bob Clarke	01409 250317
Margaret and Martin Taylor	01409 281327

#### **COOKBURY**

Anne and Stan Bird	01409 281568
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## MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**10.00 am**

St John's, Cookbury

Family Worship

**11.00 am**

Black Torrington Methodist Chapel with Mrs Betty Agnew

**11.15 am**

St Mary's, Black Torrington

Iona Holy Communion



## BURDON GRANGE EASTER FAIR

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April

2.00 pm

Highampton Village Hall

Easter Egg competition - 2 or 3D egg,  
for children, adults and residents

Usual stalls, draw and cream teas

## Pew sheet and Connected

Please forward items for the weekly pew sheet to

Kate Inniss by **Wednesday** each week

and for Connected to Sheila Grabham

*s.grabham@btconnect.com*

by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

***Items received after the deadlines may not be included***

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - St Peter's Church, Thornbury, Coffee Morning 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** - Lent Silent Prayer, Black Torrington 12.00 noon

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** - Bradford Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 7.15 pm

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April** - Highampton Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April** - Lent Silent Prayer, Highampton 12.00 noon

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** - Thornbury Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May** - Indoor Sports Family Fun Evening at Bradford Village Hall, in aid of St Peter's Church, Thornbury

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October** - Farmers Harvest Market, Black Torrington Village Hall

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October** - Black Torrington Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall

## FUNERAL

**Susan de Bethune, 88 years, at North Devon crematorium on 31<sup>st</sup> January.**

Susan de Bethune died at Holsworthy Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Guy and Susan de Bethune came to live at Moor View, Chilla in 1961, shortly after they were married. Guy worked on his smallholding and Susan taught, first at Morwenstow then at Northlew.

We remember Guy and their daughter Caroline in our prayers. Caroline has lived near Vancouver in Canada for many years.

Guy would like to thank the many neighbours who supported him and Susan during her illness.

**Readings for March**  
to help you as you prepare for services

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March (G)**  
*Sunday next before Lent*

Exodus 24: 12-end  
2 Peter 1: 16-end  
Matthew 17: 1-9

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March (P)**  
*2nd Sunday of Lent*

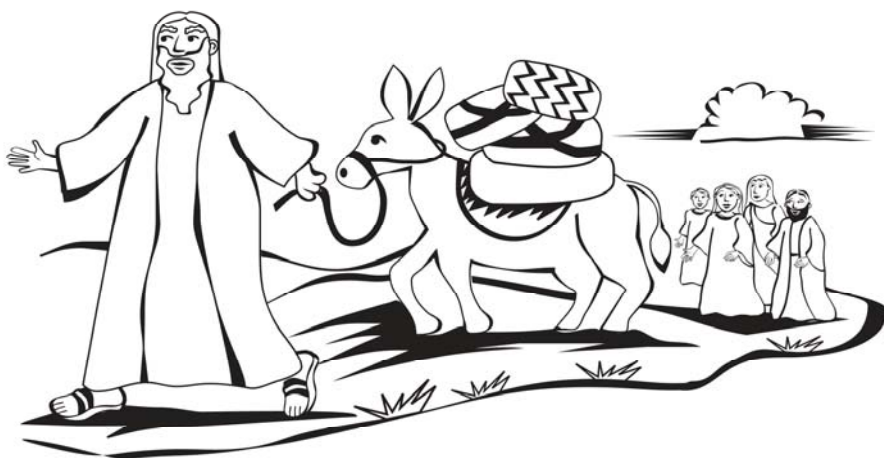
Genesis 12: 1-4a  
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17  
John 3: 1-17

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March (P)**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent*

Genesis 2: 15-17,, 3: 1-7  
Romans 5: 12-19  
Matthew 4: 1-11

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March (P)**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

Exodus 17: 1-7  
Romans 5: 1-11  
John 4: 5-42



*So Abram went, as the Lord had told him. (Genesis 12:4a)*

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*Note: readings may vary at some services, according to the theme*