

Yealm & Erme Mission Community

The Parishes of St Mary, Brixton; All Saints, Holbeton, Holy Cross, Newton Ferrers; St Peter, Noss Mayo; St Werburgh, Wembury; St Bartholomew, Yealmpton



Taking the love of Christ to all generations

The Week - Sunday 16th May - Easter 7



Sunday Services

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter
9.15am	Holy Communion	St Bartholomew
10.00am	Holy Communion (Zoom)	Holy Cross
11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	St Mary St Werburgh
6.00pm	Holy Communion	All Saints

Numbers in churches are limited, masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Please use the contacts below if you wish to attend the service.

St Werburgh	863292 wemburychurch@gmail.com
St Mary	880591 annie.66.kay@gmail.com
St Bartholomew	231099 graham.c.searle@btinternet.com
Holy Cross	872891 phild244@gmail.com
St Peter	872663 mrandsrnsbarnett@gmail.com
All Saints	830558 amw@flete.co.uk

The link for the Zoom services is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82679859604>

The Collect

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

The Readings

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 (NIVUK)

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.'

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.'

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.' Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

John 17:6-19 (NIVUK)

'I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full

measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

This Week

Reflection on the readings

To be, or not to be a disciple? I am not sure if we have a choice! According to Jesus in the Gospel of John (Ch 15: V16), it is he who chooses his disciples.

In Acts we hear of other disciples who have been present throughout Jesus' ministry (there are 120 gathered with the apostles). Joseph Barsabbas is named, but it is Matthias who is chosen.

Another must take the place of Judas in the ministry and apostleship. The new community of witnesses must in some way be complete, whole - 12.

The choosing one is God, for God alone knows the heart (1.24), and this is not a position for anyone who is ambitious or self-promoting, deceiving or self-selecting.

The interesting thing about the choice of Matthias has nothing to do with Matthias himself.

It would seem that two people were equally suited to the task, the vacancy is for one!

Instead of considering Judas's sad end as natural wastage, they saw it as a gap that needed to be filled. The symbolism of the 12 tribes had to be maintained for the initial witness to make its point.

Most of the tribes had disappeared 700 years earlier when the northern kingdom was devastated. The prophets had foretold that Israel would regather. The early church saw that Jesus was central to this gathering of the New Israel.

In Acts we hear that the two candidates were put forward to replace Judas: They were willing to put God's glory before what the world offers.

They also met two basic criteria: they had been with Jesus from his baptism until the ascension, and they had witnessed his resurrection.

Others must also have been with Jesus throughout his ministry, so we must assume these two had particular qualities. Did they have exceptional resilience and courage?

Were they noted for compassion, humility and loyalty to their Lord? Did they have outstanding gifts of preaching or healing?

Were they people of prayer? Or were they perhaps skilful cooks, shrewd accountants, cheerful in a crisis, fonts of good jokes and stories?

We can't know - but are left to think about the qualities that should mark out any disciple, including ourselves.

How can we possibly meet those fundamental conditions of having been with Jesus and witnessing his resurrection?

We, too, make choices in our lives as Christians. Are we as clear about the criteria for our decision making as the apostles were, or do we muddle along, following fashion or crowd?

Or do we really pray for God's guidance to prevail?

Truth, belief and belonging are key themes in this week's readings. The Gospel passage is a post-resurrection meditation by John in which Jesus intercedes for his disciples.

The prayer beautifully illustrates Jesus' intimate relationship with God the Father. There is a strong sense that the 'world' is a difficult place for the disciples.

In John's Gospel, 'world' has a secular meaning: a place where people don't share the disciples' faith.

The disciples dwell in this context, but they do not belong. So, Jesus prays to God for their protection, but he also sends them into the world to share the truth they have found.

We shouldn't lose sight that this is the mission of the church: To share the truth that we have found in Jesus.

The responsibility is placed on each one of us to share what we have found in Jesus. The best way to share this truth is to live it by showing what it means to you through the decisions you make, the way you make them and the way you then live them out.

Alan's thought for the week

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and find joy in the story you are actually living. *Author Rachel Martin.*

Verse for this week

You will do everything you have promised;
Lord, your love is eternal.
Complete the work that you have begun.

Psalms 138:8

A Prayer for this week

God of yesterday, tomorrow and today,
we are children of the world you love and care for.
We praise you, heavenly Father,
for calling us into a relationship with you.
We praise you, Lord Jesus,
for the power of your name and the protection of your prayers.
We praise you, Holy Spirit,
for your guidance and gifts that enable us to draw others to you.
For you are faithful in times of uncertainty,
strong when we are weak,
and the breath of all our being,
the energy of all our doing and the peace of all our resting. Amen.

This week please pray for...

Hospital chaplains
The peoples of Palestine and Israel
Those working in hospitality
Mothers with post-natal depression.
Students returning to face to face teaching in their universities

Please pray for those who are unwell at this time...

Betty, Bob, Dai, Eva, John, Pam, (Wembury), Della and Richard Braide, Peter and Margaret Miller, Margaret Jones, Chris King, Keith Osborne, Mary Watts (Yealmpton) Sue Geldard, (Noss)

And for all who mourn...

...including the family and friends of John Allen, Gisela Broughton, Revd Owen Murphy and Richard Springbett

Thy Kingdom Come 2021:

Surrounding the South West (every mile on the Coastal Path) in Prayer 1030 Saturday 19th June

I've signed up our Mission Community (MC) to pray at '2 points' on the South West Coast Path which are in our MC. The points are 397 and 399 which you can find if you follow the link below. It would be good if we could have at least 10 at each point from the MC.

The day could be enhanced with coffee & perhaps picnic lunch. We may be joined by friends from elsewhere and other churches.

Point 397 is on the coastal path along from the Warren Car Park, just past Warren Cottages and above Searush Cove which is easily identifiable on the Yellow Walk Map. I am volunteering to lead prayers at this point.

Point 399 is on the coastal path between St Peter the Poor Fisherman (the ruined church) and Swale Cove. Again, easily identifiable on the Yellow Walk Map. We are looking for someone to lead this team but not necessarily a minister.

There are other points including Wembury which you can join, but someone has already signed up to these. The points selected help demonstrate our MC commitment. Please check out the link: www.southwestawake.com and compare with the Yellow Walk Map. The Yellow Walk Map is 'Around and About: Newton Ferrers, Noss Mayo & Wembury'.

What good places to pray – great if you could be there. Could you let me know?

Rev Trev (trevor@filtness.org)

Gifting the Cost of Covid Vaccinations

A way of supporting the fight against world-wide COVID that is gaining ground is to donate the cost of the vaccinations that we may have received so far. The unit cost per vaccination is between £30-40 pounds. This of course can be done over time depending on personal economic circumstances.

The idea began with Rev Scott Patterson of Curry Rivel, Somerset and you can donate through the JustGiving website. Alternatives are:

UNICEF:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/coronavirus/>

For the first six months, monthly donations to this appeal will go towards funding Unicef's work to support children affected by Covid-19. After that, donations will go to our Children's Emergency Fund, to save and protect children in emergencies around the world, including Covid-19 and other emergencies where funds are most needed.

The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC):

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/coronavirus-appeal>

Covid-19 is spiraling out of control in India, with the health system unable to cope. Help the most vulnerable face this devastating surge.

Alan

Ivybridge Deanery Synod

meets by Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday May 19th - everyone is welcome to join to hear our speaker Phil Williams from Christian Surfers UK to discover how this community shares the gospel with others - the surfers and surfing communities.

Use this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89011995676?pwd=Zm1qU2NuaHFvR1kveHQ3ajlTcVJxUT09>

Morning Prayer

Takes place daily Monday to Saturday at 9.00am, again using the Zoom application using the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83376611156?pwd=Z292Z1hEcndyUINRRRTdJK1ZHaEI0QT09>

Readings for Morning Prayer

Monday 17 th	Tuesday 18 th	Wednesday 19 th	Thursday 20 th	Friday 21 st	Saturday 22 nd
Acts 19 v 1-8	Acts 20 v 17-27	Acts 20 v 28-end	Acts 22 v 30 & 23 v 6-11	Acts 25 v 13-21	Acts 28 v 16-20, 30-end
John 16 v 29-end	John 17 v 1-11	John 17 v 11-19	John 17 v 20-end	John 21 v 15-19	John 21 v 20-end
Psalm 68 v 1-6	Psalm 68 v 9-10, 18-19	Psalm 68 v 27-28, 32-end	Psalm 16 v 1, 5-end	Psalm 103 v 1-2, 11-12, 19-20	Psalm 11 v 4-end

Next Sunday - Pentecost

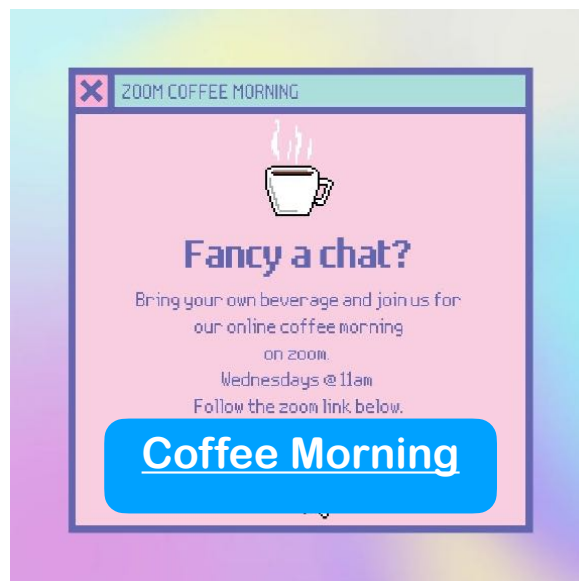
8.00am
10.00am

Holy Communion
Holy Communion

St Werburgh
Holy Cross and Zoom

Readings for next Sunday

Psalm 104:24-34,35b, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 1:2:1-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15



See Kim's Ascension reflection on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uksp9MVM-3s&t=13s>

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