

TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2025 - Issue 155

Welcome to Edition Number 155

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 often 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

The **April Zoom Service** is on Palm Sunday 14th April at 6.30pm led by Frank Watson

FROM REV ROB BLACKHALL – SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

Dear Friends

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18)

We have Good News, that is what the word Gospel means. The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the best news; and like Mary we are called to share it. Life has overcome death; light has triumphed over darkness; hope has prevailed over despair. This changes everything; and we have Good News. In a world where there is so much that is less than good; and certainly the "news" is hardly every good.

And what do you do with Good News? Like Mary, your share it.

The Church is one organization that doesn't exist for itself, but for others. Our Christian discipleship leads us to sharing this Good News in so many ways. That is the Mission of the Church.

For over twenty years my mission field was the school in which I was Chaplain, appointed by the Methodist Church. I spend my days among young people and adults who really didn't know much about the Church, which they largely regarded as insignificant.

One of my tasks, alongside care for the community, was pointing to another way. I was partly there to challenge them, and to invite them to think about what really matters in life; to see things in a different way.

Part of that was to demonstrate that Christianity made sense, in a world, that especially for teenagers, then, and even more so now, didn't and doesn't.

So, they would talk of faith, often for hours (that was a great joy – even if at times, when I wanted to go home to bed, all they wanted was to carry on talking, and arguing). Good times. If I suggested that they darken the doors of a Church they would be horrified!

Our sharing of the Good News isn't only with words, but with actions too. How interested are we in the life of others; especially those whom we may regard as "different" from us? Isn't the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for all people? Certainly, that is one the emphasis of a Methodist Way of doing things.

And what about Justice and fairness in our world. There is a whole agenda of being a Justice seeking Church which is part of the Good News of Jesus Christ, that I suspect we have yet to embrace.

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and conquer every place and time.*

*Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Saviour, with the Father reigns.*

*In every insult, rift and war,
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.*

*Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love and praise.*

Easter blessings to you all – Rob

LENT 2025

Sunshine and Showers: Prayer's beautiful messiness

Tuesdays 2pm	Thursdays 7pm	
Northam	Zoom	
April 1	April 2	Prayers for healing: do you get answers, or no answers?
April 8	April 9	Answering prayers ourselves: does God act, or do we act to answer prayers?



Booklets are available at the course. If you would like one before hand then please let Sarah know

Resources and videos:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/sunshine-and-showers/sunshine-and-showers-prayer/>

SOUL FOOD - Methodist Church Lent and Easter material 2005

This year's Lent and Easter resources are now on the Methodist Website.

In the wilderness, Jesus reminded us that people don't live by bread alone. Each week during Lent, we'll reflect on what sustains us, based on the lectionary Gospel passage for Sunday.

Date	Week/Day	Theme	Old Testament	New Testament
9/3/25	Lent 1	Soul food: All the things that nourish us	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Luke 4:1-13
16/3/25	Lent 2	Soul shelter: Nourished by a safe home (for everyone)	Psalm 27	Luke 13:31-35
23/3/25	Lent 3	Soul rest: Nourished by patience and slowness	Psalm 63:1-8	Luke 13:1-9
30/3/25	Lent 4	Soul repair: Nourished by unconditional love and forgiveness (Mothering Sunday)	Psalm 32	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
6/4/25	Lent 5	Soul mates: Nourished by companionship	Psalm 126	John 12:1-8
13/4/25	Palm Sunday	Soul songs: Nourished by music from the heart	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 19:28-40
18/4/25	Good Friday	Soul support: Nourished by each other when times are tough	Psalm 22	John 19:13-42
20/4/25	Easter Day	Soul stories: So well nourished that we have to share it	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Luke 24:1-12

There are daily reflections which can be emailed to you.

Please sign up at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/>

For Preachers and leaders of worship there is a Worship Pack.

[8314_Soul_Food_2025_Lent_Worship_Resource_New_Design_revised.pdf](#)

I commend the material to you.

Rob Blackhall

REVD STEPHEN HILL

When a Minister dies, an official obituary is prepared that is presented to the Methodist Conference and printed in the Minutes of Conference. Here is the Obituary that has been prepared for the Revd Stephen Hill. You only have 350 words; and there is much more I could say about Steve! Above all Steve was a man of God; faithful husband and father. We rejoice in his commitment to God through his ministry and delight that he now worships in a greater light. Rest well my friend.

Rob

Stephen Hill: Born in South Normanton, Derbyshire on 11 May 1957. Steve was convinced of his call from an early age. He enrolled at Cliff College and entered fully into the life and ministry there, learning evangelistic skills. To widen experience, Steve went to serve as a pastoral assistant at the Mint, Exeter, wholly engaging in Church life. On candidating he was sent to Wesley College, Bristol. Steve then served in the following circuits, Glossop, Wythenshawe, Bilston and Jersey.

On Christmas Day in 1999 Steve had a massive heart attack. It was a miracle that he survived, but he was not fit for the active work and became a supernumerary, moving to Thornbury. It was his deep desire to return to the active work and was stationed at Weston Super-Mare, followed by Liverpool (Crosby) and Torrington. By this time, he had met and married Betsan. He continued to be beset by numerous health concerns which limited what he could do. Steve wanted to do so much but his body would not allow him to do so.

He had a strong pastoral heart and preaching was a highlight for him. He was a lively preacher to match his excitable nature. In his younger days Steve was always bursting with good ideas about how to build the Churches in his charge. His zeal for sharing the love of Jesus in a variety of ways remained as strong as ever. Due to his health issues Steve was granted recuperative years and he and Betsan moved to Hartland; and still wished to return to a full and active ministry. This proved not to be so. Betsan and he settled down in Westward Ho! where Steve, with Betsan's help, continued to preach when he could. Steve loved having his family around and was supported by his children, Adam, Matthew and Chloe. Despite numerous illness and set-backs Steve never grumbled and always remained hopeful. His faith remained immensely strong

He died on 20 February 2025 in the 68th year of his age and the 43rd year of his ministry.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

During our discussion on Marriage and Relationships those of us who meet to wrestle with some difficult material were aware that there are things that we as Christian disagree. We came to the conclusion that while that might be so, and while that we were one in Christ; that we should be thinking about some of the major issues of our day; and about our faith. Hence, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

These will take place one a month from 10-12 in various locations. It will be an opportunity to discuss and meet together. What might the Bible teach us? How has the Christian Church looked at a particular question over the years? Where does our God given reason lead us? Have we any experience that adds light in given area?

DISCUSSION MORNINGS - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

There are things we don't always agree on, but should think about, from 10-12am

Mon 7th April	Alverdiscott
Tues 13th May	Buckland Brewer
Wed 11th June	Torrington

FROM REVD ANDREW VIDAMOUR

Dear friends,

'He was known to them in the breaking of the bread' (paraphrase of Luke 24: 30-31). It seems to me that so much of the medium and the message of Easter is summarised in these words from that story of the Risen Christ appearing to two of his friends on the road to Emmaus – when, later, over a meal together, it became clear that this man (who had seemed to be a stranger) was indeed that Jesus who had been crucified, in a different guise.

What a mystery is here! There is so much in that simple act of breaking bread, what we take to be an ordinary, everyday activity, which yet becomes heightened and enriched by God's presence in Christ. Clearly there are echoes of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion) here,

and we may also reflect on that phrase of Pierre de Caussade, ‘the sacrament of the present moment’: in Christ, and with Christ, and through Christ, the very essentials of life, the very daily routines we know so well, these become holy and a seedbed for the revelation of God’s truth. Why else, perhaps, did Jesus describe himself as ‘the bread of life’ (John 6: 35)?

And in this we may be reminded, too, of other occasions when the Risen Christ shares a meal with his friends, such as that breakfast on the seashore after the disciples had been out fishing all night. There is something deeply unifying about table fellowship, and it is no accident that these Easter appearances of Jesus involve meals on more than one occasion.

For, at its heart, the message of Easter is not only about God’s love and hope coming to us in the familiar events and activities of life – it is also very much a shared, social reality. So not only does the Risen Jesus appear to individuals (such as Mary Magdalene), but so often he comes to groups of people, such as the disciples in the upper room they have locked because they are so afraid (and again later when Thomas is also present).

The Risen Christ transforms and transfigures the feelings and experiences of those grief-stricken and fearful people, and it is together that they go out to face the world in Christ’s Name, for example at Pentecost.

So as we sing the great Easter hymns, and perhaps share in an Easter Communion Service, may we be reminded that Easter means hope not only for us as individuals but also hope for the world. Where might we see that hope? For you yourself? For your loved ones? For your community? For the Church? For humanity? For the planet?

With every blessing for Holy Week and Easter.
Andrew Vidamour

BURIED TREASURE

If you have any buried treasure in the form of archive documents (minute books, account books, property papers, correspondence, baptism registers etc), Dave Watson or I would be pleased to receive it as we make deposits of historic material at the North Devon Record Office from time to time, and other material can be retained locally.

In particular, we would be pleased to have any photographs of the interior of Bridge Street Methodist Church, Bideford (which can be copied and returned if necessary).

Thank you for your help in this – it is important to be good stewards of past records as part of our Christian calling.

With every blessing - 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.

FROM FRANK WATSON – CIRCUIT LAY MINISTER



A reminder that **Mid Week Morning Prayer** takes place **every Wednesday morning** at **9.30am** at **Torrington Methodist Church**. At this short time of prayer (around 20 minutes) we use the liturgy of Prayer in the Morning from The Methodist Worship Book, supported by additional material, mainly, The Methodist Prayer Handbook. There is of course opportunity within our time together for you to bring your own prayers. Tea or Coffee is served afterwards which you are very welcome to stay for should you wish.

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 19th April from 10am till 12noon. Proceeds for the Church Shelter Box Gaza Appeal

Warm Welcome

Come and enjoy a **Warm Welcome** at Torrington Methodist Church. Saturday 19th April, noon to 2.00pm, straight after our coffee morning. Free - entry, drink, food, activities
Have soup & sandwich, possibility of cake! 😊
Time to chat, or play board games, or enjoy a craft activity.
Under 18s need to be accompanied by an adult.

This is part of The Methodist Church initiative offering A Warm Welcome to everyone, nationwide.

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** runs on Mondays, during Term Time at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church**. We meet from 9.30am to about 12noon, The cost is £1.50 per family—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 take place at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church**. – Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be available for Chapel Funds. The next Market is on Saturday 12th April from 10am to 1pm.

The **Community Choir**, based in the Chapel has returned to practice on various Mondays at 7.30pm.

Many thanks to all who came along and support the Concert by 'Our Atlantic Roots'. They shared their story & faith as well as singing. They were greatly appreciated by those present.

GOOD FRIDAY – Simple Lunch of Soup, Bread & Cheese on 18th April at 12noon in Buckland Methodist Church – Proceeds for Bideford Harbour Projects

This will be followed at 1pm by a Time of Reflection led by Revd Stephen Skinner

If any Chapel would like me to bring some historical bits to display during a Coffee Morning or such like with specific items to that Chapel, please contact Dave Watson, in plenty of time.

BIDEFORD NEWS

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING – This takes place from 10am-12noon on the last Saturday of the month. This is a Free event but donations are gratefully received for local charities. The next one is on Saturday 26th April.

JIGSAW PUZZLE AFTERNOON – This takes place on Wednesday 16th April from 2-4pm. We will be making jigsaws together, with a break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

EVENTS AT ALVERDISCOTT METHODIST CHAPEL

Coffee Morning

On April 3 the charity will be Children's Hospice South West.

Garden Club

Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00. For the latest information contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.

LANGTREE METHODIST CHURCH

Our Bible Study continues weekly on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. We are continuing our study of Genesis using a series of three books by Warren Wiersbe. There is always plenty of interesting discussion so please come along if you can.

We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in Langtree Sunday School, aiming to finish at about 9pm.

Blessings - Cathy

NORTHAM METHODIST CHURCH

An Invitation to Northam and Bideford's Bible Study

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 meet on Tuesday Afternoons at 2pm at the home of Diana Yendall & led by Julia Spencer
Contact 01237 477836 or 01237 425361 – Lynne Burgon will also be involved in the leading of the sessions.

We are studying **Women of the Old Testament - 12 Studies by Gladys Hunt**

LENT COURSE after Easter Break

April 29th	The Shunammite Woman: Taking the Initiative	2 Kings 4: 8-37
May 6th	Esther: Captive in a strange Land	Esther 2 and 4
May 13th	Esther: Courage to act	Esther 5: 1-8 and chapters 7 and 8
May 20th	The Model Wife: A Portrait of Excellence	Proverbs 31: 10-31
May 27th	Abigail: A level headed Woman	1 Samuel 25: 2-44

Bible Month at Northam: The Gospel of John at 2pm

Northam 8th July: Julia Spencer

15th July: Linda Davis

22nd July: Andrew Vidamour

29th July: Dave Watson

All Welcome because we all learn from each other

NORTHAM THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Starts at 2.15pm - £2 including Speaker, Draw & refreshments

Apr 3 – TBC

April 17 – Maggie & Della

May 1 – Outing

May 15 – Jenny's Cream Tea.

MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH

Ecumenical Bible Study Group - Our Bible Study in conjunction with Thornbury/Bradford Anglicans was held fortnightly on WEDNESDAY mornings at 10.30 am in Milton Schoolroom. **We are on hold at the present time but hopefully will restart in the near future.**

Please contact David & Janet Fisher (Tel: 07858506973) or Grace Millman (Tel: 01409261251) for further details.

PRESIDENT'S EASTER MESSAGE

The Rev'd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, shares her message for Easter.

Happy Easter

I want to begin this message at Eastertide by inviting you to reflect that creation and resurrection (we are made, and we are yet more wonderfully re-made) are mirror images of each other. They are held together by the will and loving purposes of God. Put at its simplest we know that God is our Life-giver. Such knowledge has endless implications and ramifications for us, all of them glorious. In our life with God, there are no dead ends, a new door can open in what seemed to be a brick wall; in God there is endless patience and resourcefulness that cannot be defeated by even the worst of our sinfulness. We should rejoice that the cross and the empty tomb have been present in the heart of God since the very foundation of the world.

It is notable that the account of the resurrection begins in darkness and despair. The women friends of Jesus creep out to give the dead body of Jesus the proper care that was not possible as his body was removed from the cross in a hurry. None of the 12 disciples are present at this dawn moment. Perhaps their despair overwhelmed them. Perhaps they are frightened for their own safety. Perhaps their grief has paralysed them. It is a group of brave women who go and are the first witnesses to the resurrection. No-one believes them. They have gone with spices and oils to anoint a dead body but find, instead, an empty tomb and receive a message that Jesus is risen.

Only Peter, last heard of weeping bitterly at his denial and betrayal of Jesus, goes to the tomb to check up on their story which they struggle to articulate.

Does Peter go with the first fledgling beginnings of wild and desperate hope?

Does he go, suddenly remembering the strange things Jesus predicted?

Does he go sensing in his body and his soul that strange, living, powerful presence of God that had been such a strong part of the time in Jesus' company?

Does he go because he is outraged that someone has stolen the dead and tortured body of his friend?

Peter is given a chance to start again. His betrayal of Jesus is not the end of their friendship, as Peter expected and deserved, but the beginning of Peter's new life, in which Jesus entrusts his gospel to Peter and the friends who abandoned him in the garden and at the cross.

The joy of Easter Day is not about a happy ending, after all, to the story of Jesus but rather and more importantly it is good news that we are all, like Peter, forgiven people and healed of our memories of injury, guilt or failure. We are, the Church, a community of genuinely forgiven people called to show plainly to others that we are a community of forgiving people and a forgiving

Church. The resurrection of Jesus is the remaking of creation itself. The resurrection of Jesus is the word of God speaking in the heart of darkness and to bring life out of nothing and to bring the human race into existence as the bearers of his image and likeness.

When I was welcomed into the Northampton District as Chair the Order of Service had an image of an Icon of the Resurrection on the front cover (reproduced with permission). It showed the resurrection of Jesus in a particular way. The image shows Jesus rising from death and smashing grave stone as he strode powerfully into new life and the new creation. He is not pictured alone. He is holding the hands of two people, Adam and Eve. They are pictured as old people, with lined faces, as people who have known pain and distress, suffering and heart ache.

In the icon they are pictured being re-made and entering a new creation.

I share the detail of this icon with you because resurrection is not just something experienced by Jesus but something which encompasses us now in all we are and do as forgiven and redeemed people. Then when we die we merely recognise a country we have already entered and somewhere whose light and warmth we have already experienced. Dying then, is going home.

God in the resurrection is re-making us, moulding and filling us. God is holding us by the hand and leading us onwards into renewed and redeemed life. This Easter we rise with Christ, we are a new creation called to be a faithful witnessing community filled with the power and love and grace of God. Each of us is called to remember and to understand that God forgives and God calls us into new life – to live to Gods praise and glory.

I am always glad to remember that the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins speaks of God “eastering in us”. In God our life begins afresh day by day, because God is and always will be, God with us.

THEOLOGY EVERYWHERE - FAITH IN THE AFTERNOON - by Philip Turner.

‘It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed’[1]

When the sun should have been at its most radiant, Matthew, Mark and Luke are united in recording that the noon-day light is replaced by darkness at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion.

Without light it is near-impossible to see. ‘God is ignoring me,’ said the woman I was supporting in the hospital where I work as a chaplain. Doctors had told her she had cancer and, with her husband recently dead, she now sensed her own life was at it’s end. ‘I pray but God isn’t there,’ she said ‘but when I used to pray I knew God was there.’ How might we see when it feels like light has failed?

The contemporary experience of living on earth today might also be likened to a failure of light. Putin’s territorial ambitions. Genocide in Gaza.[2] 12 million Sudanese refugees.[3] Global temperatures soaring past the critical 1.5C threshold.[4] Foreign aid diverted to pay for military spending. We live in times where it can be difficult to glimpse light. Yet, the noon-day light should

be burning bright. Never before has there been so many Christians on our planet as there are today.[5] So why is there darkness after noon?

Looking to Moses and the prophets[6] could suggest that God is the bringer of darkness, perhaps to dazzle us with how much the world is misaligned with God's kingdom. This may be true, but it does not in itself offer hope for the cancer patient: it does not offer hope in a world where so much feels outside our control.

In the darkness of the afternoon when Jesus hung on the cross Luke offers two avenues that are hopeful, if not necessarily comfortable. The first is the example of Jesus who, in the noon-day darkness, articulates an active and embodied faith: 'into your hands I commend my spirit'.[7] When we can no longer see, we can only trust in God's vision, and stretch out our hands to be led.[8] The second is a reminder that trust in God can spring up beyond belief boundaries, like in the centurion who, as part of Rome's military machine, seems to have developed eyes suited for seeing in darkness. Where might we find such people today: the people who praise God, because in darkness they have seen the flame of God's love?[9]

Both avenues require surrendering the current way we see, in our own life, in the life of our churches and in the wider world. Tomáš Halík, a Czech Catholic priest, philosopher, and theologian, draws on analytical psychology to suggest that the noon-day crisis is where the image of ourselves we have worked hard to create begins to crack, inviting us to root ourselves more deeply, and let our ego decrease so that the Christ within us may increase.[10] It is a book that challenges the way Christians have often unconsciously made the Christian mission colonial, where we seek more people like us, or more people to become like us. Darkness might describe non-egocentric mission, the mission of the crucified Christ.

Perhaps Jesus' followers today are called to the task of acknowledging how dark the afternoon can seem, but also that it cannot last. Halík notes that evening must follow the afternoon, and in the Bible the evening is when a new day begins.[11] A new day that is rooted in surrender, because what Easter celebrates is not resuscitation, but resurrection: a transformation into a new way of being.

[1] Luke 23.44f.

[2] UN Special Committee finds Israel's warfare methods in Gaza consistent with genocide, including use of starvation as weapon of war, 14 November 2024 [<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/un-special-committee-finds-israels-warfare-methods-gaza-consistent-genocide>]

[3] Sudan war: A simple guide to what is happening [<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59035053>]

[4] January 2025 sees record global temperatures despite La Niña

[<https://wmo.int/media/news/january-2025-sees-record-global-temperatures-despite-la-nina>]

[5] Tomáš Halík, *The Afternoon of Christianity: The Courage to Change* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2024), p.60.

[6] e.g Exodus 10.22, Amos 8.9

[7] Luke 23.46

[8] John 21.18

[9] Luke 23.47.

[10] Halík, The Afternoon of Christianity, p.31-33

[11] Halík, The Afternoon of Christianity, p.211

Philip Turner

Philip is a Chaplain at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust. He served in the Ipswich, North Hertfordshire and York Methodist Circuits and studied theology Cambridge, Sheffield and Durham, where he wrote his doctoral thesis on a practical theology of holiness. In his current role he offers pastoral support to patients, carers, volunteers and staff, and teaches spiritual care to nurses, doctors and therapists. He is married to Karen and they have two sons who persuade them to run and ponder the meaning of Rocket League. Philip co-leads www.startingpointbath.org.uk.

The **Theology Everywhere** website is made available by the Methodist Church as one of the actions being taken to create a learning church. Contributors are from varied backgrounds; many but not all are Methodist. The views expressed are the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the position of the Methodist Church.

The moderator of Theology Everywhere is Rev'd Dr George Bailey. Enquiries should be addressed to him at george.bailey@methodist.org.uk

The following is the Plan/Lectionary for March, April & May

HC= Holy Communion	PC= At Parish Church
MC= Methodist Church	C& F= Coffee and Fellowship
Café= Café Worship	SB=Sunday Breakfast
T = Transport	LUAL – Light Up A Light
CA – Church Anniversary	

Post codes of Chapels

Alverdiscott – EX31 3PT	Bideford (High Street) – EX39 2AN
Buckland Brewer – EX39 5LP	Langtree – EX38 8NF
Littleham – EX39 5HW	Milton Damerel – EX22 7DJ
Northam – EX39 1BS	Parkham – EX39 5PG
Shebbear – EX21 5SJ	Torrington – EX38 8AL

LECTIONARY for April & May

Lent 5 Year C - Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8 (Passion)

Palm Sunday Year C - Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40; Luke 22.14-23.56

Easter Day Year C - Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18; Luke 24.1-12

Easter 2 Year C - Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

Easter 3 Year C – Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14

Easter 4 Year C – Acts 9: 36-41; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17

Easter 5 Year C – Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

Or (Aldersgate Sunday) Isaiah 12:1-6 or Isaiah 51:1-3,7-11; Psalm 130; Romans 5-1-11

or 2 Peter 1:1-11; Mark 12:28-37 or Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Easter 6 Year C – Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22 – 22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Ascension Day Year C – Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93: Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53



THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN BIDEFORD

Good Friday 18th April 2025

Walk of Witness

Starting (with hot cross buns) from 9.15am

Pollyfield Centre, East The Water (led by Rock Church) (gather at 9.15am for a 9.45 start) We will have a reading, a minute of silence, prayer or meditation and a hymn or song at each venue – ***leaving Pollyfield Centre at 10.00am*** Our route then stops at...

Bethel Chapel (led by Central Church) ***Arrive 10.10am, leave 10.20am***

Bideford Methodist Church (Honestone Street car park)

Arrive 10.35 am, leave 10.40am

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church (North Road): ***Arrive 10.45am, leave 10.50am***

Lavington United Reformed Church: (Bridgeland St): ***Arrive 10.50am,***

leave 10.55am

Bideford Baptist Church (Mill Street): *Arrive 11.05am, leave 11.10am*

Northam Methodists (Jubilee Square) *Arrive 11.15am, leave 11.25am*

The Quakers (Corner of High Street and Allhalland Street): *Arrive 11.30am, leave 11.40am*

St Mary's Church, Bideford (Church Walk): *11.45am. The short United Good Friday Service commences at 12 noon* followed by coffee and hot cross buns, and bread and cheese. Lunch will be served until 1.00pm, so that everything is finished and cleared away before the Devotional Service commences in St. Mary's at 2.00pm.

The collection at the United Service will be for the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Please join us anywhere along the route, you are very welcome.

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
	Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday	Easter 2
At Home Worship	X	F Watson Zoom 6.30pm on Mon 14th April	X	Buckland Live Stream 10am
Bideford 10.30am	Vidamour	F Watson	Harris HC	Lavington URC United
Northam 10.30am	D Watson	Bate	Vidamour HC	Price
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Vidamour on 11th April	X	Blackhall HC on 25th April
Langtree 11am	Blackhall	@Parish Church	Booth HC	@Lake
Milton Damerel 11am	X	Cafe	Ley HC	@Lake
Shebbear 10.30am	Withall	C&F	United @Parish Church	F Watson HC United
Sheepwash 11am	Ley HC	@Baptist Church At 3pm	@Parish Church	@Village Hall
	TORRINGTON	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH
Alverdiscott 11am	Price	X	Potter HC	X
Torrington 10.30am	Sambles	Harris	Blackhall/F Watson HC	Booth
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)	S Skinner HC Parish Church @11am	D Watson Parish Church	S Skinner HC Parish Church @9.30am	
10am (MC)				Blackhall
Littleham 10.30am	X	Vidamour HC	X	Harris
Parkham 11am	Hall-Tomkin	SB 10am @Parish Church	S Skinner HC Parish Church @11am	Macwilliam Songs of Praise @Parish Church

Maundy Thursday 17th April Services at Northam at 10.30am – Vidamour HC
Torrington at 7pm – Blackhall/F Watson

Good Friday 18th April – Services at Northam at 3pm – Vidamour
Alverdiscott at 11am – Blackhall/F Watson HC
Buckland Brewer at 1pm – Parish Church

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6
At Home Worship	X	Potter Zoom 6.30pm Easter Offering Service	Buckland Live Stream 10am	Buckland Live Stream 10am
Bideford 10.30am	Withall	Blackhall	Vidamour HC	Price
Northam 10.30am	Hall-Tomkin	LA	Davis Fellowship 4pm	Potter HC
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Vidamour on 9th May	X	X
Langtree 11am	Davis	@Parish Church	F Watson	@Lake
Milton Damerel 11am	X	Withall	Cafe	@Lake
Shebbear 10.30am	Booth	C&F	United @Parish Church	Blackhall HC United
Sheepwash 11am	D Watson	@Baptist Church At 3pm	@Parish Church	@Village Hall
	TORRINGTON	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH
Alverdiscott 11am	F Watson	X	Blackhall HC	X
Torrington 10.30am	Blackhall	Whatton HC	Macbeth	Bate
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)	Hayes HC Parish Church @9.30am	D Watson Parish Church		
10am (MC)			Savage	Harris
Littleham 10.30am	X	Vidamour HC	X	Withall
Parkham 11am	Vidamour HC	SB @10am	S Skinner @Parish Church @10am	S Skinner @Parish Church Rogation

Activities, Events and Meetings - April 2025

Tue 01	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:00-10:30	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Praying for healing)	14:00	Northam
Wed 02	World Autism Awareness Day		
	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Worship and Community Lunch <i>(Booking for Lunch required)</i>	11:30	Northam
Thu 03	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Alverdiscott
	Thursday Fellowship	14:15	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Praying for healing)	19:00	Zoom
Fri 04	Torrington United Churches Lenten Lunch	12:00-13:45	Torrington
Sat 05	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 06	Holy Communion	09:30	St Mary & St Benedict, Buckland Brewer
	Holy Communion	11:00	Sheepwash
Mon 07	Circuit Discussion Meeting	10:00-12:00	Alverdiscott
Tue 08	Circuit Lent Study (Answering prayers ourselves)	14:00	Northam
Wed 09	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Thu 10	Circuit Lent Study (Answering prayers ourselves)	19:00	Zoom
Fri 11	Torrington United Churches Lenten Lunch	12:00-13:45	Torrington Baptist Church
Sat 12	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 13	Palm Sunday		
	Coffee & Fellowship	10:30	Shebbear (Lake)
	Holy Communion	10:30	Littleham
	Café Worship	11:00	Milton Damerel
	Sunday Breakfast	11:00	St James's, Parkham

	Farm Palm Sunday	15:00	Bowden Farm, Bideford
Mon 14	Monday in Holy Week		
	Online Evening Worship	18:30	Zoom
Tue 15	Tuesday in Holy Week		
Wed 16	Wednesday in Holy Week		
	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Thu 17	Maundy Thursday		
	Holy Communion	10:30	Northam
	Thursday Fellowship (Maggie & Della)	14:15	Northam
	Holy Communion	19:00	Torrington
Fri 18	Good Friday (Bank Holiday)		
	Walk of Witness	09:30	Pollyfield Centre, Bideford
	Walk of Witness (followed by Service)	10:30	St Swithun's, Littleham
	Service of Reflection	11:00	Alverdiscott
	Simple Lunch	12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Service of Reflection	13:00	Buckland Brewer
	Service of Reflection	14:00	St James's, Parkham
	Good Friday Service	15:00	Northam
Sat 19	Holy Saturday		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Torrington
Sun 20	Easter Day		
	Holy Communion	09:30	St Mary & St Benedict, Buckland Brewer
	Holy Communion	10:30	Bideford
	Holy Communion	10:30	Northam
	Holy Communion	10:30	Torrington
	Holy Communion	11:00	Alverdiscott
	Holy Communion	11:00	Langtree
	Holy Communion	11:00	Milton Damerel

	Holy Communion	11:00	St James's, Parkham
Mon 21	Monday of Easter Week (Bank Holiday)		
Tue 22	Tuesday of Easter Week Earth Day Stephen Lawrence Day		
Wed 23	Wednesday of Easter Week		
	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Thu 24	Thursday of Easter Week		
Fri 25	Friday of Easter Week World Malaria Day		
	Holy Communion	15:00	Wistaria, Black Torrington
Sat 26	Saturday of Easter Week		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Bideford
Sun 27	Holy Communion	10:30	Shebbear (Lake)
	Songs of Praise	11:00	St James's, Parkham
Mon 28	George, Martyr, Patron of England, c. 304 (transferred) International Workers Memorial Day		
	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-11:30	Buckland Brewer
Tue 29	Mark the Evangelist (transferred)		
	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:00-10:30	Northam
	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	14:00	Alverdiscott
Wed 30	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer