

THE LINK

MARCH 2019



THE BENEFICE OF COTLEIGH, FARWAY, OFFWELL &
WIDWORTHY AND THE VILLAGE OF NORTHLEIGH

SERVICES FOR MARCH

| SERVICE ROTA | OFFWELL | COTLEIGH | FARWAY | WIDWORTHY | NORTHLEIGH |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Mar 3 rd 1 st before Lent | 9:30am HC with Cotleigh | 9:30am HC at Offwell | 11:15am HC at Northleigh | 9:30am Family Service | 11:15am HC with Farway |
| Mar 10 th Lent 1 | 9:30am HC at Cotleigh | 9:30am HC with Offwell | 11:15am HC | 9:30am Family Service | 6:00pm Evensong |
| Mar 17 th Lent 2 | 5:00pm Evening Prayer | 9:30am HC | 11:15am HC with Northleigh | 9:30am HC | 11:15am HC at Farway |
| Mar 24 th Lent 3 | 9:30am All age worship with Cotleigh | 9:30am All age worship at Offwell | 11:15am HC | 9:30am Family Service | 11:15am HC |
| Mar 31 st Lent 4 Mothering Sunday | 9:30am Mothering Sunday | 9:30am Mothering Sunday | 11:15am Mothering Sunday with Northleigh | 9:30am Mothering Sunday | 11:15am Mothering Sunday at Farway |
| April 7 th Lent 5 | 9:30am HC with Cotleigh | 9:30am HC at Offwell | 11:15am HC at Northleigh | 9:30am Family Service | 11:15am HC with Farway |



BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mar 3 rd 1 st before Lent | Exodus 34:29-35 | Psalm 99 | 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2 | Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43) |
| Mar 10 th Lent 1 | Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 | Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 | Romans 10: 8b-13 | Luke 4: 1-13 |
| Mar 17 th Lent 2 | Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 | Psalm 27 | Philippians 3:17—4:1 | Luke 13:31-35 |
| Mar 24 th Lent 3 | Isaiah 55:1-9 | Psalm 63:1-8 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 | Luke 13:1-9 |
| Mar 31 st Lent 4 Mothering Sunday | Exodus 2:1-10 | Psalm 34:11-20 | 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 | Luke 2:33-35 |
| April 7 th Lent 5 | Isaiah 43:16-21 | Psalm 126 | Philippians 3:4b-14 | John 12:1-8 |

THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE OF THE LINK IN MAY - see page 5 for details

Front cover - St Michael and All Angels, Farway

BENEFICE NEWS

A few years ago, after carefully reading all the packets, I bought some tomato seeds. I was a bit surprised to find there were only six seeds in the packet, I obviously hadn't read that bit. Fortunately, they all germinated and eventually produced the most delicious tomatoes I'd ever eaten. Since then I've been saving seeds every year. Nothing special about that I hear you say; most gardeners save seed. But as I was drying them off last Autumn, I reflected on the minor miracle that unfolds in our gardens every year. These tiny little seeds, with a little care on my part, grow into large healthy plants, absolutely laden with delicious fruit.

Jesus made many references to seed and the word Seed is often used to mean the word of God.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3 v 6 'I planted but God gave the growth'.

In Luke 13 v 18 the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a mustard seed. When sown in the garden it grew and became a tree and the birds made nests in its branches.



My abundant crop of tomatoes every year gives me an added pleasure. I'm able to share them with friends and neighbours. Sharing is an important part of Christian living. The most wonderful act of sharing is in the Communion service when by taking and eating bread we share in the 'Body of Christ'.

As I expect our gardening friend, Greenfinger, will mention, March is a very exciting, albeit busy, time for gardeners. Take time to look around and marvel at the beauty as our gardens awaken from winter.

Pam Staunton, Offwell

CHURCHWARDENS COTLEIGH

Pam Lane 01404 43339

FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372

Robin Banks 01404 871355

NORTHLEIGH

John Platt 01297 552416

Pam Mayall 01404 871397

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450

Marion Hutchinson 01404 830055

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688

Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

Benefice Coffee Morning

for all our Parishes

Thursday 21st March

(3rd Thursday of every month)

From 10:30am to 12 noon

At Offwell

Social Club Room



This is for everyone. Whether you go to church or not you will be made very welcome. You just have to enjoy coffee, home made cake and a chat!

The Parishes LINK is the magazine of the Five Parishes of COTLEIGH, FARWAY, NORTHLEIGH, OFFWELL and WIDWORTHY. Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the Community. Submissions, BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format, to the editor at parisheslink@gmail.com The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality.

FARWAY



Restoration of our church porch is now completed. It makes for a lovely welcome to our beautiful church. Traditional materials have been used to compliment the stone arches, benches and flagstones.

Winter League Skittles Matches continue every Friday night in **Farway Village Hall** during March. As we get towards the end of the season, matches are becoming increasingly competitive, with two teams tying for first place. The bar will be open from 7.30pm and the fire will be burning brightly - if you can get near it!



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

Friday 1st March

Local Services

11:30am at St Giles Church, Kilmington

Followed by a bring and share lunch at
The Beacon Baptist Centre

7:30pm St Giles Church, Kilmington

Followed by tea and coffee

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18th May

Spring Coffee Morning

In Farway Village Hall

Doors open at 10:30am

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Services for March

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 rd | 11:00am | Conducted by Mr. Terry Palmer |
| 10 th | 3:00pm | Conducted by Revd. Brian Hadfield |
| 17 th | 11:00am | Conducted by Mrs. Elizabeth Lynn |
| 24 th | 3:00pm | Conducted by Mr Gordon Howe |
| 31 st | 11:00am | Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam S |
| April 7 th | <u>3:00pm</u> | Conducted by Prof. Stephen Lea |



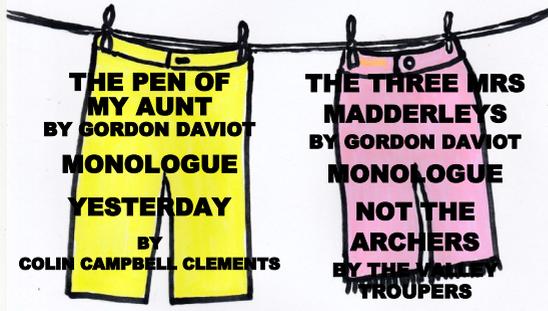
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NO MAY ISSUE OF THE LINK

Unfortunately the Editor is not able to produce the **May** issue of The Link. If you have details of any articles for May in advance they may be able to be Included in April edition.

Advertisers who have paid in advance will have their advertising period extended by a month.

Contributions need to be emailed by 15th March at the latest to parisheslink@gmail.com

We need an ASSISTANT EDITOR for THE LINK

HELP!

so we can ensure that the magazine is produced every month.

If you think you may be able to help, please email Melanie & Jan at:

parisheslink@gmail.com

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COTLEIGH



CHURCH DUTIES for March

Sidesmen:

Mar 10th Peter Haines

Mar 17th Pauline Gordon

Altar Flowers - No flowers in March

Cleaning Rota: Mrs Pam Lane

Cotleigh 200 Club

Draw Results

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-------|----------------|
| Christmas | £100 | No.16 | Pam Spiller |
| December | £15 | No.22 | Pearl Retter |
| | £10 | No.99 | Pauline Gordon |
| January | £15 | No.44 | Ray Cleall |
| | £10 | No.66 | Tom McCaig |
| February | £15 | No.32 | S Davis |
| | £10 | No.90 | Win Godfrey |

Membership is open to all and costs £10 per year if you would like to join please contact:

Chris or Tessa Henley Tel: 01404 831028

If any children would like to do an **Easter Garden** this year please place your displays in the church by

Saturday 20th April

All participants will receive an Easter egg



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COTLEIGH EASTER BINGO

Saturday 13th April

Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:30pm start

All very welcome

Prizes will consist of vouchers, Easter eggs, money and other prizes. There will also be a raffle (all contributions gratefully received)

All money raised in aid of The Admiral Nurse

For further information please contact:

Pam Lane on 01404 43339

COTLEIGH VILLAGE CONTACTS

Parish Council

John Woolacott 831820

Parish Clerk

Kerry Kennell 861129

Fete Committee

Nigel Young 831300

Village Hall Bookings

Len Spiller 861396

PCC / Church Wardens

Pam Lane 43339

Bowls Club

Pauline Gordon 831878

200 Club

Chris or Tessa Henley 831028

ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY



Ash Wednesday is March 6th when we begin the 40 days of Lent which is a time of prayer, fasting and contemplation leading up to the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Because it is a penitential season, the altar cloth is purple and there are no flowers in the church until Easter Sunday.

One bright spot in Lent is **Mothering Sunday** which is **March 31st at 9:30am** during which we remember and give thanks for all that our mothers do and have done for us. During the service, the children present are invited to come to the altar to collect posies of spring flowers to give to their mothers.

The family service on **March 3rd at 9:30am** will be taken by Dr Miriam Prins.

Sunday, **March 10th at 9:30am** is another family service and it will be taken by The Rev Nigel Freathy.

Bishop Oliver will take our service of **Holy Communion on March 17th at 9:30am**

The Rev Nigel will take the Family Service on **March 24th at 9:30am** after which there is coffee and biscuits and a time for everyone to enjoy a chat.

Our **Mothering Sunday Service on March 31st at 9:30am** will also be taken by The Rev Nigel Freathy.

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Robin's gardening career began in 2002 when he and his friend Steve took on an abandoned allotment in rural Hampshire. Having been bitten by the horticultural bugs and succeeding in growing a healthy abundance of vegetables, Robin documented this year on the plot in his book *Allotted Time*, published by MacMillan in 2004. Since then, he has been gardening professionally in both Hampshire and Bath.



Last year, he and his wife, Ali, moved to a converted chapel in the idyllic Blackdown Hills with a view to converting the congested and long-overgrown garden into a productive smallholding. They have brought their thriving gardening business with them, and offer a range of high-quality, bespoke horticultural services, from planned, seasonally appropriate maintenance to small scale landscaping projects, design and planning, and also specialist pruning services.

OFFWELL



31st March is Mothering Sunday

There will be a **family service at 9:30am** with posies for the ladies and a challenge for the children - that sounds intriguing.

Everyone is welcome, this service is open to all and is a wonderful opportunity to remember and give thanks for our Mum, even if she is no longer with us. We're always pleased if you can stay for light refreshments and a chat afterwards so please come and celebrate this special day.

A big thank you to all the flower arrangers for the lovely displays in church. We are delighted to say that we now have a full rota.

Sometimes special floral arrangements are made for places like the window ledges and it would be really helpful if these could be removed when necessary.

The **6th March is Ash Wednesday** and the start of Lent and there will be booklets available called '**Love Life, Live Lent**'.

These will be in church from 3rd March, free of charge, on a first come first served basis. They contain short daily readings and comments to 'help you change the world for the better one small action at a time'. Some people give something up for Lent but this is to encourage us to do something positive as well.

ARTICLES for THE LINK

We are trying to make the Link reflect the lives of the communities served by our churches.

Do you have a hobby, or are you involved in a local charity or activity that you think 'The Link' readers would like to hear about?

If you have, please email the Editor on:

parisheslink@gmail.com

**PAULA GOODER &
PETER BABINGTON**
**LOVE LIFE
LIVE LENT**



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OFFWELL FLOWER SHOW -

More info to follow soon



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This month the Offwell School entry was created by our School Ambassadors. They interviewed Mrs Legg our headteacher to see if they could learn a little more about what makes her, and therefore our school, tick.

What made you decide to become a teacher? My children. When they were aged 3 and 6, I became interested in what they needed to learn and how they could learn. So I started training in Early Years and as they grew older I decided to stay in KS2 and teach there.

Did you always want to be a teacher? No, I actually wanted to be a brain surgeon then I wanted to be a nurse because my mum was and then I developed an interest in art.

Do you still like teaching? Yes I love it. I love learning, so I love learning new things to teach you all - I also learn a lot from you!

What is your favourite part about being a headteacher? I have to say my favourite part is the Friday Celebration Assembly. We have a chance to reflect on what the children have done all through the week and I get to celebrate all the good things that have happened.

Why did you want to come to Offwell? I had looked at the outside of the school, as I went past and felt it looked creative - I love the wellies! I liked the fact that it was a small school with a big personality.

What is the best thing about Offwell? It is so hard to have a favourite part – I have to say all of it, because we are in the most beautiful countryside, with our classroom in Offwell woods, and we are right in the heart of our village, next to the church, yet so close to the town. Most importantly, since it is a small school, everybody knows each other like a family.

What plans do you have for Offwell? I am looking at creating a curriculum, with the help of our teachers and children, that links to our vision. We need to include ways to look after our wellbeing, and get on well with others; learn the skills and knowledge we need to understand our world; and make sure that we live well, by helping others and protecting our environment for the future.

You work hard as our headteacher, how do you relax? I'm glad you noticed, Alex! One way I relax is by going on long walks - the harder the day, the longer the walk! I really like long walks, spending time with my family, occasionally doing some gardening. I have chickens and I have one cheeky chicken called Betty – she often escapes so I have to do some chicken chasing!

Do you have any hobbies? Well, as I said, I walk and when I can't walk, I love reading, because when you read a great book, you could be anywhere in time or space. If I ever have some time to spare (in the holidays, if I can) I love drawing – I do portraits.

What is your favourite thing to do at Offwell?

My favourite thing to do is go out onto the front playground at playtime and listen to the children having fun, while I look across to the hills – we are in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and on a clear day the view is gorgeous.

Describe yourself in 3 words. Creative, curious (as in curious about things!) and caring.





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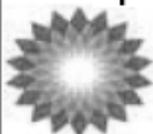
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NORTHLEIGH



Lent course: ST. GILES

Northleigh will be hosting the last of four sessions of the Lent Course run by the Holyford Mission Community. They are all at 7:30pm and the venues are as follows:

- 18th March SSB Colyton
- 25th March Musbury Church
- 1st April Branoc Hall (Branscombe)
- 8th April Northleigh Village Hall

During **Holy Week** in Northleigh Church there will be the **Liturgy for Good Friday** at 12 noon (19th April) and **Easter Communion** at 11:15am (21st April).

Advance notice: For **Rogation** (26th May) there will be an afternoon "tour" of the Upper Coly involving four churches, three Parishes, two Valleys and one farmhouse tea - look out for details.

Northleigh Village Hall Bar is open on Sundays from 12:00pm to 2:00pm

March Diary:

Thursday 7th Crafty coffee at Pat Smith's house

Wednesday 13th - Norley Nosh Lunch 12:15 for 12:30 book with Pam 01404 871397 by preceding Monday

Wednesday 13th Quiz 7.30 for 8pm £4 entry to include light refreshments, bar open, call Caroline 01404 871395 for details

Tuesday Feb 19th - The Northleigh Film Club

Bohemian Rhapsody Film Starts at 7:30 The Bar will be open. Claire 01404 871280

Thursday 28th, Friday 29th & Saturday 30th at 7.30pm – Northleigh Village Hall

The Valley Troupers present '2 Pairs of Shorts +'. This year the group will be presenting four short playlets and two monologues for your enjoyment.

Tickets are £8.00 available from Pauline on 01404 871516.

Regular Activities:

Monday: **Art Group** 2:00 to 4:00pm Carole 01404 871444
Yoga 7:00pm

Thursday: **Drama** 01404 831462

Friday: **Short Mat Bowls** 7:15pm Pauline 01404 871516

Support for Devon Air Ambulance

Northleigh has, for many years, chosen Christmas as the time to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance. Ellen Hunt's magnificent Christmas Stalls were reported in the January Link.

At Northleigh Christmas Party the raffle raised £119 and the retiring collection at the Christmas Carol Service raised £132. Thank you once again for your generosity and support

Fix it! Don't Ditch it! SIDMOUTH REPAIR CAFÉ



We are hearing more and more about 'repair cafés' in the media. The first started ten years ago in Holland as part of the movement to upcycle and repurpose – to give stuff a new life rather than throwing it away. It's a very simple set up. Anyone can bring along anything to fix – from clothes to computers, from lamps to lawnmowers. A team of experienced 'fixers' help to repair whatever it is – to be taken away and reused.

The Sidmouth Repair Café had its first session last September – and it's proving popular. Bring along a teddy or toaster to see if they can be brought back to life and you can also sit for a chat over a cuppa and a cake or a bacon sarnie.

So, it's about reducing landfill and maintaining repair skills – and working with the local community.

All the 'repair guys' volunteer their time and expertise for free and it's also free to come in, just buy your drinks and food like a regular café..

Any questions? You can ask Clive in Offwell on 01404 831924



The Sidmouth Repair Café is held on the last Saturday of every month at the **Youth Centre on Manstone Lane** (that's just behind Lidl in Sidmouth). We hope to see you on **30th March**. Future dates for 2019: 27th April, 25th May, 29th June, 27th July, 28th Sept, 26th Oct, & 30th Nov.

OFFWELL WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE TRUST

There was great excitement when we heard that the BBC Countryfile wanted to film at Offwell Woods. The filming was to be about the work of the Axewoods Cooperative who have been doing some chainsaw work for us helping to cut back dead Rhododendron and create open spaces in the woods improving the habitat. Inspired by the Food Bank system they have pioneered a Log Bank scheme designed to help struggling families and individuals out of fuel poverty.

The presenter Margherita Taylor who is fairly new to Countryfile, was extremely friendly and put everyone at ease and was extremely fortunate in being able to have her photo taken with our volunteer team!

The programme was aired on 17th February but you can still see it using the BBC 'catch-up' facility.



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Greetings fellow gardeners and others who might be interested - welcome to March. It is an interesting month, the one containing the Vernal Equinox (from when we look forward to lengthening hours of daylight—more time in the garden) and The Ides of March (the 15th, which might need googling!). I think it is the doorway to spring when the potting shed door opens wider and wider even if on occasions it has to be closed for a bad spell of weather. I remember reading that March makes optimists of us with the burgeoning of the yellow of daffodils and forsythia. Let's all be optimistic even if there are times when we think winter is dragging on too long.

I know that at least one of my readers is an aficionado when it comes to daffodils and of course everybody has an affection for them. So, here is a date to remember. **Saturday 16th March is Sidmouth Daffodil Day at Kennaway House from 10am to 3pm. Free!**

Now for a very interesting item concerning **Bees**. It has been reported that an Australian bee that produces a 'cellophane-like' substance for its nest could help reduce the world's dependence on plastics. The masked bee -*Hylaeus nubilosus*- has a distinctive yellow mark on its back, does not sting and does not live in hives. Its nesting material is non-toxic, waterproof, flame resistant and can withstand heat. (Is that not marvellous!!) Scientists in Australia are very hopeful that good things can come of this development.

Have you thought about **Summer flowering bulbs** yet? Many can be purchased now and indeed planted. Only plant when the weather is mild and sunny. Here are a few suggestions: Dahlias, Gladioli, Iris, Crocosmia, Liatris, Agapanthus, Paeonia and Begonia.

Liming, a topic that I've not touched on before, is of importance in our area of clay, particularly for the vegetable side of horticulture. Liming is the addition of lime to the soil to combat acidity, to improve soil structure or to remedy calcium deficiency. Quick-lime (calcium oxide), slaked lime (Calcium hydroxide), ground chalk or limestone may be used. Liming makes heavy clay soil more workable as it encourages the formation of soil crumbs by the process known as flocculation. For the vegetable growers among you this may be useful where soil is a heavy clay.

Now for the answers to my quiz questions last month:

- Q.1. A stolon is the botanical name for a shoot that grows from the base of the stem of a plant. A runner from a strawberry plant is properly called a stolon.
- Q.2. Deadly nightshade.
- Q.3. Flora.
- Q.4. Spinach.
- Q.5. Cherry.

A few jobs for March. Sort out your stored dahlias, destroying any that have rotted or dried out beyond use. Pot up and moisten and keep inside a cold frame in light to bring on growth. The first shoots of about 4 inches long may be used as cuttings to increase your stock. Plant herbaceous perennials and deciduous shrubs. Sow sweet peas if not already done so. Sow beetroot in modules for an early crop. Grub out weeds from paving and gravel before they get too greater hold. On sunny days open doors and vents of greenhouses, but remember to close at sun-down. Have fleece ready to cover tender plants on frosty nights. Take basal cuttings of plants such as phlox, lupins, delphiniums and chrysanthemums. Cut back mop-headed hydrangeas. Prune hardy fuchsias. Allow hellebores to self-seed. Pot up when 3 or 4 inches high and grow on for next year. Pass spares to friends. Dead-head any spring bulbs that have gone over and, by the way, there is still time to do some pruning of straggly shrubs before the rising of Spring sap.

Enjoy the coming season.

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