

The Offwell Mission Community

St Mary's, Offwell, - St Cuthbert's, Widworthy, - St Michael and All Angels, Farway

THE LINK

APRIL & MAY EDITION 2023

From Hero to Zero

Les Reed, once manager of Charlton Athletic FC has held an extraordinary record ever since his time in office in 2006. Mr Reed lasted only 7 games in charge, and still to this day holds the shortest reign in Premier League history. I'd like to think this is an exceptional example, but unfortunately there are plenty of managers that over the years have lasted less than ten games. The game of football has often been accused of being very short-sighted. Heroes reduced to zeros in a matter of days, messiahs to mess-ups in a month, kings to criminals in a season.

I can't help but think that the culture of our time all too often reflects the same short-sighted attitude as that of the premier league. Celebrities come and go, politicians rise and fall, major government policies are often accused of being vote winners instead of really investing in the future of our country. The 'quick fix' seems to be a slogan of honour for a new generation of movers and shakers, rather than taking time to consider the future as well as the present.

If you lived in the 1950s, you may remember how the country felt at the time. Still rebuilding from the devastation of the war, there was a strong sense of unity, both in recovery, as well as hope for the future; unemployment was low; the welfare state and the introduction of the NHS meant that people were eating better, working more safely, and living more healthy. The spirit of Britain at the time was to bless the next generation, and leave their children with a healed and prosperous country.

Have we lost this desire to invest in the future? In the midst of a world that is obsessed with instant gratification making the most of life now, have we lost the culture of 'paying it forward', of legacy and gift; handing on a better world to our children?

This week the Church marks the beginning of Holy Week with our Palm Sunday celebrations in which we are reminded of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On that day in Jerusalem palm leaves were waved by the hundreds; praises sung with loud voices rejoicing at the sight of the one who would reclaim Israel, and begin the liberation of God's people.

Six days later they were calling for him to be crucified.

In their view he'd gone from hero to zero, from messiah to mess-up, from king to criminal, in a matter of days. How fickle the crowds were. It is easy for us to look back and say they were too impulsive and quick tempered, but are we any different?

Despite our short-sightedness, the Easter story reminds us that God is not. His plan is for eternity. He cares for the here and now, but he also cares just as much for tomorrow and forever too. Jesus championed a way of life that was exemplified by his cross and passion. His sacrifice and resurrection ensured that we have life; a life for the here and now, but also a life for all eternity. Choose His way and you choose life; for today, for tomorrow and forever.

May you have a blessed and life filled Easter season.

Reverend Jeremy Putnam

Coming soon - New Benefice Website

The parish churches of Offwell, Widworthy and Farway will be pleased to share with you our new website which we plan to launch at Easter.

Please pay it a visit. You'll find interesting facts and history of our churches, along with information about services and events, and interesting articles and local news.

Why not take a moment to subscribe to our website so you receive a copy of the link automatically via email and from time to time other local information about our parishes and upcoming events.



Community and Church Surveys

Have your say!! We are in the process of listening and consulting with our community to learn more about what it means to be the Church in Offwell, Widworthy and Farway for today. We would really appreciate your time in completing our surveys. Your response will be anonymous but crucial to us moving forward. Every voice matters. So we hope that you decide to take 5 mins out of your day to complete one or both of these surveys. Thank you.

Revd Jeremy Putnam

There are two surveys -

1. One for regular church attendees and/or people who identify as Christian and live in our parishes.
2. For anyone who lives in our parishes, or are connected with our communities through social circles or our schools.

You will find the links to the surveys on the offwell.org website on the 'About Offwell' St. Mary's Church page and on new Offwell Mission Community website once it goes live.

Both surveys should only take about 5 mins, and they are both anonymous. We'd love your help as we move forward.

CHURCH SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
Sun 2nd Apr. Palm Sunday	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
Mon 3rd Apr. Holy Week	7pm Night Prayer		
Tues 4th Apr. Holy Week		7pm Night Prayer	
Wed 5th Apr. Holy Week			7pm Night Prayer
6th Apr. Maundy Thurs	7pm Said Communion		
Fri 7th Apr. Good Friday			2pm Last Hour at the Cross
Sun 9th Apr EASTER DAY	9:30am Family Communion	11:15am Family Communion	9:30am Family Communion
Sun 16th Apr Easter 2	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
Sun 23rd Apr Easter 3	10:30am BPC Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service
Sun 30th Apr Easter 4	9:30am Benefice Communion @ St. Cuthbert's, Widworthy		
Sun 7th May Easter 5	10:30am Family Communion		9:30 Morning Prayer
Sun 14th May Easter 6	5pm BCP Evensong	11:15am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion
Sun 21st May Easter 7	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
Sun 28th May Pentecost	10:30am Family Communion		9:30am Family Service



BIBLE READINGS



DATES	READING 1	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
Sun 2 nd Apr Palm Sunday	Matthew 21.1-11	Philippians 2.5-11	Matthew 26. 14 - 27.66
Mon 3 rd Apr. Holy Week			John 12.1–11
Tues 4 th Apr. Holy Week			John 12.20–36
Wed 5 th Apr. Holy Week			John 13.21–32
6 th Apr. Maundy Thurs			John 13. 1–17,31b–35
Fri 7 th Apr. Good Friday			John 18.1 – 19.42
Sun 9 th Apr EASTER DAY	Acts 10.34-43	Colossians 3.1-4	John 20.1–18
Sun 16 th Apr Easter 2	Acts 2.14a,22-32	1 Peter 1.3-9	John 20.19-31
Sun 23 rd Apr Easter 3	Acts 2.14a,36–41	1 Peter 1.17–23	Luke 24.13–35
Sun 30 th Apr Easter 4	Acts 2.42–47	1 Peter 2.19–25	John 10.1–10
Sun 7 th May Easter 5	Acts 7.55–60	1 Peter 2.2–10	John 14.1–14
Sun 14 th May Easter 6	Acts 17.22–31	1 Peter 3.13–22	John 14.15–21
Sun 21 st May Easter 7	Acts 1.6–14	1 Peter 4.12–14; 5.6–11	John 17.1–11
Sun 28 th May Pentecost	Acts 2.1–21	Corinthians 12.3b–13	John 20.19–23

Church bells will ring across the nation to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III
It is hoped that it will be possible for the bells of **St. Mary's, Offwell** to ring before the afternoon tea on **Sunday 7th May**.

Ringers from Exeter have arranged to ring a full peal at **St. Cuthbert's, Widworthy** on **Tuesday 9th May at 10am** for about two hours.

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

SATURDAY 6TH MAY

The Coronation of King Charles III is a historic moment in the life of our nation.

The Coronation ceremony, which will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May and conducted by The Archbishop of Canterbury, will be the centrepiece of the Coronation weekend (6-8 May). It will be a service rooted in Christian symbolism, reflecting the King's role today whilst looking to the future.

The ceremony will be followed by a day of community celebration; including a Tea Party in Offwell on Sunday 7th May and a day of volunteering and service in our communities on Monday 8th May.

Building on themes of community, faith and service, the Coronation weekend will be a celebratory moment, a chance for people to come together and for churches to share an invitational message about the Christian faith.

We are sharing a range of resources to mark the Coronation weekend. In our churches, in the lead up to the Coronation the Book of Prayers will be available for people to take away. These books will include daily prayers for each day between Easter (9th April) and Coronation Day itself (Saturday 6th May). We ask that a donation of £2 is made to cover the costs.



Lend a hand.
Make a change.

The Big Help Out - <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>

The Big Help Out will be held on Monday, 8th May 2023 and is being organised by The Together Coalition and a wide range of partners such as The Scouts, the Royal Voluntary Service and faith groups from across the United Kingdom. The Big Help Out will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation.

In tribute to His Majesty The King's public service, The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.



Offwell School will celebrate the Coronation of Charles III with a display in St. Mary's. This will include facsimiles of symbolic objects including the Coronation Chair, made by order of Edward I and brought to Westminster Abbey in 1296; the Sovereign's Sceptre, the Coronation ring and the Sovereign's Orb - topped with a cross this has been a Christian symbol of authority since the Middle Ages. The oldest piece of Coronation regalia is the coronation spoon from the 12th century. It is used to anoint the new monarch with holy oil: 'thus infusing him or her with God's spirit and rendering them unassailable .

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

April

- 2nd 11am Conducted by Revd. Brian Hadfield.
7th 7pm GOOD FRIDAY Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam. Followed by refreshments
9th 3pm EASTER SUNDAY Conducted by Revd. Dr. Stephen Mosedale. H.C.
16th 11am Conducted by Mr David Moll.
23rd 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam
30th No Service

May

- 7th 11am Conducted by Prof Stephen Lea
14th 11am Conducted by Mrs. Abigail Hardiman
21st 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.
28th 11am Local Arrangements. Afternoon Cream Tea



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

St Mary's, Offwell | St Columba's, Widworthy | St Michael and All Angels, Farway



A 'Holy Week and Easter' companion booklet will be available to those who attend our churches and anyone else who would like one. It will also be available online via the new benefice website and our Facebook page.



Facebook Pages

[The Offwell Mission Community](#)
[The Offwell Sports And Social Club](#)
[Offwell Together](#)
[Spotted Wilmington, Devon, UK](#)
[Farway village hall East Devon](#)



Websites:

www.achurchnearyou.com
www.explorechurches.org
www.farwaydevon.org.uk
www.farway.devon.sch.uk
www.offwell.org
www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk



CONTACTS

Revd Jeremy Putnam - Phone: 01404 83911

Email: jeremyputnam@parish-church.com

Typical Working Pattern is Mon - Wed (Exeter)

Thurs, Fri & Sun (Offwell, Widworthy & Farway)

Benefice Churchwardens FARWAY

Tara Huffman - 01404 871372

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley - 01404 831450

David Pavey - 01404 43029

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins - 01404 831688

Mary Wakeley - 01404 831345

DIARY DATES

Sat. 1 st Apr.	OFFWELL SOCIAL CLUB	EASTER BINGO NIGHT from 6pm - open to members, their family and friends
Tuesdays	FARWAY VH	GENTLE YOGA 11am - 12 midday (every Tuesday)
Tues. 4 th Apr.	FARWAY VH	EASTER BINGO - Eyes down 7.30pm
Wed 12 th Apr.	OFFWELL	OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB Contact Marian for more details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com
Fridays	FARWAY VH	BAR OPEN 7.30pm (every Friday)
Sat. 15 th Apr.	OFFWELL CAR PARK	HONITON WINE BAR PIZZA MAN 6-8pm (every 3 rd Saturday)
Thur. 20 th Apr.	OFFWELL SOCIAL CLUB	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING From 10:30am to 12 noon For all our Parishes - <i>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!</i>
Thur. 20 th Apr.	OFFWELL GOLF CLUB	MEN'S BREAKFAST Friends and neighbours are welcome at Offwell Golf Club; arrive 9:30am for 10am. Contact 01404 831924 for more details
Sat. 22 nd Apr.	FARWAY VH	SPRING FLOWER WORKSHOP 10.30am
Sun. 7 th May	OFFWELL VH	VILLAGE TEA to celebrate Coronation of King Charles III 2:30 to 5pm - Booking essential
Sun. 7 th May	FARWAY VH	King Charles III Coronation VINTAGE AFTERNOON TEA
Wed. 10 th May	OFFWELL	OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB
Thur. 18 th May	GOLF CLUB	MEN'S BREAKFAST
Thur. 18 th May	OFFWELL SC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING
Sat. 20 th May	OFFWELL CP	HONITON WINE BAR PIZZA MAN 6-8pm

