

The Offwell Mission Community

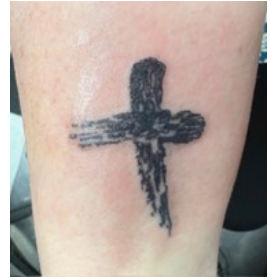
St Mary's, Offwell, - St Cuthbert's, Widworthy, - St Michael and All Angels, Farway

THE LINK

FEBRUARY 2024

As I write this the Church is in the season of Epiphany – the days at present are cold and I'm reminded of my childhood, and of the looking forward to February. It always means that my birthday is on the horizon, and that Lent is somewhere to be found around then too. This year Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February and it marks the start of the 40-day period of Lent which is traditionally known as a season of self-examination, self-denial and penitence, to mirror something of the time of temptation Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Ash Wednesday and the custom of having the sign of the cross marked on my forehead in ash is always symbolically poignant for me. The Ash Wednesday Cross is an imperfect symbol that reminds me to look differently at people, because it says to me, about me, you're guilty but not condemned. You've made a mess of things, but you are believed in. You're broken, but beloved.



Through the Cross Jesus says whatever you're caught in, I make you free, whatever you are accused of, I hand you pardon. Whatever you're judged of, I give you release, whatever binds you, I have broken.

This is what the sign of the cross means, it's an outward sign and acknowledgement of our hidden sins and the things which create a burden of guilt. We all carry the same mark, but in penitence we are called to think differently and be faithful to the Gospel by creating a Jesus society.

Whether or not you wish to think of the Ash Wednesday Cross in this way, I pray that this Lent we will all commit ourselves to thinking differently about others, about ourselves and about God, because that's how we will journey together, to make our communities and our world a better place to be a part of. Amen.

Reverend Tracey Voysey

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
SUN. 4 th FEB. 2 nd before Lent	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
SUN. 11 th FEB. Last before Lent	4pm BCP Evensong	11.15am Parish Communion	9.30am Family Service
WED. 14 th FEB. Ash Wednesday			7pm Service for Ash Wednesday
SUN. 18 th FEB. Lent 1	10.30am Family Service		9.30am Parish Communion
SUN. 25 th FEB. Lent 2	10.30am BPC Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer



BIBLE READINGS



DATES	HEBREW BIBLE	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
SUN. 4 th FEB. 2 nd before Lent	Proverbs 8.1, 21-31	Colossians 1.15-20	John 1.1-14
SUN. 11 th FEB. Last before Lent	2 Kings 2.1-12	2 Corinthians 4.3-6	Mark 9.2-9
WED. 14 th FEB. Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58.1-12	2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10	Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21
SUN. 18 th FEB. Lent 1	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-22	Mark 1.9-15
SUN. 25 th FEB. Lent 2	Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8.31-38

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

- 4th 11am LA - conducted by ourselves
 11th 3pm Conducted by Revd. Dr. Brenda Mosedale
 18th 11am Conducted by Revd. Terry Spencer
 25th 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam



One chorister's reflection on The Choir for Christmas ...

If the plan was that it should

be inclusive of the whole community,

unite us in our endeavour to learn a new skill,

encourage worship in each church visited for *Nine Lessons & Carols*

then I believe that's exactly what we achieved. For me, the biggest surprise was at the smallest church, Widworthy, on 24th December.

The place was **rammed**: choirstalls overflowed; transepts hurriedly filled with extra seats; the roof raised by the volume of sound from lustily-sung carols. Perhaps, being the last outing for the Choir meant we sang with extra gusto: it was especially good to have our full complement of tenors and basses.

The congregation on Christmas Eve at St Cuthbert's sang the final carol – 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' – by glittering candlelight, reminding us all that carols greatly pre-date electric light bulbs!

Barbara Oakes



A Choir for Easter

CHOIR REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD IN
ST MARY'S CHURCH, OFFWELL
5PM ON SUNDAYS
4TH FEB, 18TH FEB, 3RD MAR, 17TH MAR

DIARY DATES

FRI. 2nd FEB.	OFFWELL VH	CHARITY QUIZ in aid of 'Back Up'. 7pm for 7:30
SUN. 4th FEB.	ST. MARY'S	CHOIR REHEARSAL 5pm
THURS. 8th FEB.	IN OFFWELL	BIBLE EXPLORATION GROUP 7pm - 8.30pm For anyone in the Benefice, not just Offwell folk
WED. 14th FEB.	OFFWELL	OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB Contact Marian for details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com
THURS. 15th FEB.	AT OFFWELL GOLF CLUB	MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:30am for 10am Contact 01404 831924 for more details
THURS. 15th FEB.	OFFWELL SSC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING 10:30am - 12 noon
SUN. 18th FEB.	ST. MARY'S	CHOIR REHEARSAL 5pm

FIND US - CONTACT



Revd. Jeremy Putnam

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Typical Working Pattern is Mon - Thurs (Exeter)

Fri & Sun (Offwell, Widworthy & Farway)

Revd. Tracey Voysey

Phone: 07968 658 638

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Working for the parish 1 day a week & 1 Sunday a month



Benefice Churchwardens

FARWAY

Tara Huffman - 01404 871372

Stefanie Kastner

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley - 01404 831450

David Pavey - 01404 43029

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins - 01404 831688

Vacancy

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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



OFFWELL MISSION WEBSITE

www.parish-church.com

www.offwell.church

www.farway.church

www.widworthy.church

FACEBOOK:

[The Offwell Mission Community](#)

Do visit our website where there will be new articles to read (and more)

Sign up to the monthly newsletter to receive copies of 'The Link' by email.

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 15th February
10:30am to 12 midday

Every 3rd Thursday of the month
in the Offwell Sports & Social Club
for all three of our Benefice Parishes



This event is for everyone;
whether you go to church or not,
you will be made very welcome

Facebook Pages



[Offwell Together](#)

[The Offwell Sports And Social Club](#)

[Farway village hall East Devon](#)

[Spotted Wilmington, Devon, UK](#)

A colour copy of The Link is available on the 'Offwell Mission' & 'Ofwell.org' websites