

The Offwell Mission Community

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



THE LINK FOR LENT

**FEBRUARY & MARCH EDITION
2023**

An introduction to the season

The shortest day of the year is far behind us and the Spring Equinox (20th March) is nearing by the day. Spring brings with it themes of renewal, rebirth and restoration that are central to our Christian faith and help build on our collective anticipation for Easter. However, the forty days of Lent that precede the most holiest of weeks must come first. Dark and slow, with its call to go deeper into faith, Lent not only invites a new appreciation of life, but also beckons us into a renewed relationship with God and strengthens the positive relationships we have with others.

Lent is so often trivialized with talk of giving up chocolate. And yet for 40 days, we have the opportunity to contend with something that so often gets pushed aside. Lent invites us to consider what it means to live.

Most days I will take my dogs on a long walk around Offwell. Now and then I will run the route with them. The circuit is a 2 1/2 mile loop. Rock Ln, N Combe Rd and then Ramsden Ln back to the Rectory. The dogs love it. The younger one is almost always out front, whilst the other is just beside me matching the pace. By the end we're all exhausted, and I wonder why I do it. It's painful, and at times hazardous. But despite the exhaustion and the perilous patches of slippery manure underfoot, I love it and I can see the dogs love it too.

The mix of struggle and exhilaration sums up Lent. The dark and deep reflective nature of the season, the look at life and faith through the lens of prayer, fasting and giving can bring to the surface some tough questions for us. But it is always lifegiving, fulfilling, and of course, will ultimately be good preparation for the joy of Easter.

This month's Link Newsletter is an invitation. Don't worry, I'm not suggesting you go running with my dogs! Instead, you might like to consider taking a walk with God.

Lent begins on Wednesday 22nd February. You are warmly welcome to join us for a special Ash Wednesday service at which ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, including the person leading the service. This symbolizes our fragility and mortality (the ashes) as well as our salvation (the cross).

In this booklet you'll find information about the Bible readings, services and events like you would for any other Link Newsletter. The only difference is the addition of a short verse of scripture and a question to consider for each week of Lent. I hope you find the contents encouraging.

Revd Jeremy Putnam



SUNDAY SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
Sun 5th Feb 3 rd Sunday before Lent	10.30am Family Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
Sun 12th Feb 2 nd Sunday before Lent	4pm BCP Evensong	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 19th Feb Sunday Before Lent	10.30am Family Service		9.30am Family Service
Wed 22nd Feb Ash Wednesday			6pm Imposition of Ashes
Sun 26th Feb 1 st Sunday of Lent	10.30am BCP Holy Communion		9.30am Family Service
Sun 5th Mar 2 nd Sunday of Lent	10.30am Family Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
Sun 12th Mar 3 rd Sunday of Lent	4pm BCP Evensong	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 19th Mar Mothering Sunday	10.30am Family Service		9.30am Family Service
Sun 26th Mar 5 th Sunday of Lent	10.30am BCP Holy Communion		9.30am Family Service

BIBLE READINGS



DATES	HEBREW BIBLE	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
Sun 5th Feb 3 rd Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 58:1-12	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20
Sun 12th Feb 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Romans 8:18-25	Matthew 6:25-34
Sun 19th Feb Sunday Before Lent	Exodus 24:12-18	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Wed 22nd Feb Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2,12-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Sun 26th Feb 1 st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Sun 5th Mar 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	Romans 4:1-5,13-17	John 3:1-17
Sun 12th Mar 3 rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Sun 19th Mar Mothering Sunday	1 Samuel 1:20-28	Colossians 3:12-17	John 19:25-27
Sun 26th Mar 5 th Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

1 MINUTE LENT REFLECTIONS

Week 1

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4

Lent is an invitation to strip back the layers, and reflect on what is most important to us, and what brings us peace and life.

What can you do to make more space for what brings life and peace this Lent?

Week 2

"How can anyone be born after having grown old?"

John 3:4

Life can be seen as a series of beginnings and endings. Lent gives us time to consider what these might be for us, and to honour them with space to reflect and consider their meaning.

Are there any doors that need to close for you, and are there any that might be opening?

Week 3

"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!"

John 4:29

Sometimes we hold things back from the very people that love us most. And yet, invariably when we are more honest and humble enough to share, even our mistakes and failures, those that love us meet us with understanding and grace.

Who in your life would you like to thank for their honesty and/or understanding?

Week 4

"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."

John 9:16

Many of us separate religion from spirituality. In the same way we might separate discipline from freedom. Lent is often perceived as a religious discipline and yet Jesus often showed that faith is not the same as religious conformity.

In what ways do we conform unnecessarily, and in what ways do we exercise our freedom?

Week 5

"Jesus began to weep."

John 11:35

Stereotypes can be harmful. The idea that God should not cry because it shows weakness, and therefore God can't be omnipotent, is a harmful (to us) human construct. Crying as Jesus did, shows the importance of compassion and empathy, and honours the pain of loss.

Lent is a time to reflect on unhelpful constructs and the power we have to change them. What needs to change?

DIARY DATES

Sun 5 th Feb	Farway Church	Songs from the Woods Concert with Friends in Harmony Choir, to include guitar solos. A candlelit journey through song to evoke the England of ages past and to share more contemporary pieces, each telling a story. 3-4pm To be followed by tea and cake. FREE ENTRY
Wed 8 th Feb	Offwell	Offwell Ladies Lunch Club <i>contact Marion for more details 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com</i>
Thurs 16 th Feb	Offwell Social Club	Benefice Coffee Morning for all our Parishes From 10:30am to 12 noon Offwell, Social Club Room  <p><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></p>
Thurs 23 rd Feb	Honiton Golf Club	Men's Breakfast <i>Friends and neighbours are welcome at Offwell Golf Club; arrive 9:30am for 10am. Contact 01404 831924 for more details</i>
Sat 25 th Feb	Offwell Social Club	Phil's 80s Disco <i>Open to all - Bar Snacks Available</i>
Sat 4 th Mar	Offwell SC	Fish and Chip Van Returns
Wed 8 th Mar	Offwell	Offwell Ladies Lunch Club
Thurs 16 th Mar	Offwell SC	Benefice Coffee Morning
Thurs 16 th Mar	Golf Club	Men's Breakfast
Sat 18 th Mar	Offwell Social Club	Quiz Night <i>and Pizza Man Returns to the Village</i>

SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHURCHES

For all its regular day to day expenditure, repairs and upkeep of the churchyard and church buildings, the local church is entirely dependent on local support. Our churches do not receive financial help from any outside bodies. Nor do we receive financial support from the national church or the UK Government. The ministry and work of the church is entirely down to us, the parishioners, and the contributions we can make, large or small.

In **St Mary's Offwell** we have plans to reorder the interior of the church building. The work will enable us to provide greater hospitality to visitors and worshippers during events and services. The widening of the nave aisle will enable two people to walk side by side. And the renovation work to the box pews will ensure they can be used for years to come. The project will be extremely costly in time and money and therefore we are seeking the support of our community, as well as visitors and supporters from elsewhere. If you would like to support the project please visit our 'Parish Giving Scheme' webpage. If you'd like to know more about the project then please speak to one of the churchwardens who will be happy to talk through our plans.

Whether it is a regular donation or a one off gift, all funds will go directly to supporting the development and sustainability of our churchyard and church buildings. The ongoing upkeep of **St Michael and All Angels** and **St Cuthbert's** are largely covered by the generosity of a handful of people, something that is wholly unsustainable. To secure the future of our church buildings for both worship and community use we need your support.

If you are not part of the 'Parish Giving Scheme' then why not consider becoming a member and supporting our churches on a regular basis. The scheme allows full control of how often and how much you give.

To support one of our churches go to <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk>, or scan the QR code with your phone or tablet. If you would like a paper application pack then please contact Jeremy by phone 831911 or by email - jeremyputnam@parish-church.com



St Mary's Offwell
Parish Code is - 150615145



St Cuthbert's Widworthy
Parish Code is - 150615155



Farway Church
Parish Code is - 150615134

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

February

5th 11am conducted by Mr David Moll
12th 3pm conducted by Revd. Brian Hadfield.
19th 11am conducted by Revd. Andrew Sails.
26th 3pm conducted by Revd, Ben Haslam H.C.

March

5th No Service at the chapel
12th 3pm conducted by Revd. A. Richardson
19th 11am conducted by Mrs. Heather Hurren
26th 3pm Revd. Ben Haslam. H,C
2nd April 11am Revd. Brian Hadfield



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
www.farway.devon.sch.uk
www.offwell.org
www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk



Contacts

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Typical working pattern is Mon - Wed (Exeter)
Thurs, Fri & Sun (Offwell, Widworthy & Farway)

Benefice Churchwarden

FARWAY

Tara Huffman - 01404 871372

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins - 01404 831688

Mary Wakeley - 01404 831345

OFFWELL

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