

The Offwell Mission Community

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

THE LINK

JUNE JULY EDITION 2023

Community

The word 'Community' speaks for itself. Literally meaning 'together' (prefix *con*) 'in service' (*munis*). King Charles III's hopeful legacy following his coronation was that the nation could be more united in service, something that was expressed in 'the Big Help Out' campaign.

Since arriving in Offwell, and whilst ministering in Widworthy, Wilmington and Farway I have been struck by the sincerity of our desire to find and build community. Events held over the Coronation weekend were a wonderful example of this. Tea Parties in Farway and Offwell, BBQs in Offwell (I think I did ok on the 'bucking bronco ride!') and Wilmington were amazing community events that brought lots of people together, fortified friendships and created a few new ones too. The whole weekend was really encouraging, especially in light of how in recent years 'community' has felt harder, especially during the pandemic.

Doing community can feel harder at times because people on the whole are having to work for longer, and households are having to depend on two incomes. People on the whole have less time than they used to. Charities have felt the pressure too, as they've struggled to recruit volunteers, and community organisations have been left vulnerable as more people are finding it harder to make regular commitments. It seems to me we are moving away from an 'association' driven sense of community to an 'event' driven sense of community. In other words, we recognise that it is difficult for people to commit to something on a regular basis but when there is an event that inspires enough of us we make space in our lives to make full use of the opportunity.

As a side note, the word 'opportunity' comes from the Latin phrase, *ob portum veniens* "coming toward a port" which refers to a favourable wind blowing ships into the harbour. Think of an opportunity as something a good wind blew your way.

Our villages are good at catching that favourable wind, like the Jubilee last year and the Coronation this year. I wonder if we can create opportunity?

One thing that Jesus was able to do incredibly well was to bring people and groups that were previously alienated from one another back together. Gentile and Jew, pharisee and sinner, guest and host, and friend and stranger. The New Testament gives it a word 'Koinonia' meaning fellowship, and it became the template for the first church in Jerusalem two thousand years ago.

Over the coming months we have a lot to look forward to in our villages. You should expect to see me enjoying the opportunity to come 'together in service'.

Reverend Jeremy Putnam

CHURCH SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
Sun. 4 th June Trinity Sunday	9:30am Holy Communion		9:30 Morning Prayer
Sun. 11 th June Trinity 1	5pm BCP Evensong	11:15am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion
Sun. 18 th June Trinity 2	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
Sun. 25 th June Trinity 3	10:30am To Be Confirmed		9:30am Family Service
Sun. 2 nd July Trinity 4	9:30am Holy Communion		9:30am Morning Prayer
Sun. 9 th July Trinity 5	5pm BCP Evensong	11:15am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion
Sun. 16 th July Trinity 6	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
Sun. 23 rd July Trinity 7	10:30am BCP Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service
Sun. 30 th July Trinity 8	10:30am Benefice Service @ St. Mary's, Offwell		

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

JUNE

- 4th 11am Conducted by Mr Paul Violet
 11th 3pm Conducted by Revd Julian Albrow
 18th 11am Conducted by Dr. Alan Mcilveen
 25th 3pm Conducted by Revd Ben Haslam HC

JULY

- 2nd 11am Local Arrangements.
 9th 3pm Conducted by Revd Steven Santry
 16th 11am Conducted by Revd Alison Richardson
 23rd 3pm Conducted by Revd Ben Haslam HC
 30th 11am Local Arrangements





BIBLE READINGS



DATES	HEBREW BIBLE	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
Sun. 4 th June Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40.12–17,27–31	2 Corinthians 13.11–13	Matthew 28.16–20
Sun. 11 th June Trinity 1	Hosea 5.15 – 6.6	Romans 4.13–25	Matthew 9.9–13,18–26
Sun. 18 th June Trinity 2	Exodus 19.2–8a	Romans 5.1–8	Matthew 9.35 – 10.8 [9–23]
Sun. 25 th June Trinity 3	Jeremiah 20.7–13	Romans 6.1b–11	Matthew 10.24–39
Sun. 2 nd July Trinity 4	Jeremiah 28.5–9	Romans 6.12–23	Matthew 10.40–42
Sun. 9 th July Trinity 5	Zechariah 9.9–12	Romans 7.15–25a	Matthew 11.16–19,25–30
Sun. 16 th July Trinity 6	Isaiah 55.10–13	Romans 8.1–11	Matthew 13.1–9,18–23
Sun. 23 rd July Trinity 7	Isaiah 44.6–8	Romans 8.12–25	Matthew 13.24–30,36–43
Sun. 30 th July Trinity 8	1 Kings 3.5–12	Romans 8.26–39	Matthew 13.31–33,44–52

Annual Meetings

Our parish churches have been holding their annual meetings in which we review the last calendar year and share thoughts about the future. We also get to elect our new officers and churchwardens.

The church is so grateful for the support it receives from its volunteers. A special 'thank you' went to Mary Wakely who has served as Churchwarden at St Cuthberts for the last few years, and also to Tony Cooke who has served as treasurer for St Cuthberts.

Future Plans for our Churches

Revd Jeremy will be hosting a meeting at 7pm on Thursday 15th June to hear from you about our future hopes for our churches, and to pray together. It doesn't matter if you've been going to church for 50 years or 5 mins, or whether you are on the PCC or not. If you are interested in being part of a regular group (once a month) that would like to help shape the life and mission of our churches, and pray together, then please be in touch with Jeremy. jeremyputnam@parish-church.com or 831911.

THAT PENTECOST EXPERIENCE



“On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each one of them. Everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.”

Acts 2:1-4

(New Living Translation)

Can you remember your Pentecost moment? It’s something you can never forget. Some of us remember where we were when President Kennedy was assassinated. More of us remember the exact moment we heard of the death of Princess Diana but can you remember where you were when you felt that rushing wind, tongues of fire or waves of peace, calm and stillness, when you were changed for ever on that day when the Holy Spirit entered your heart and mind and soul?

Jesus had gone, fifty days after His resurrection, now ascended and returned to His Father but he’d sent another to be with His followers. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the triangle (the Trinity) that is God. The Spirit is His life-giving power – the bit of God that dwells inside us, spurring us on, bringing us comfort, guiding us in what to do – making us more like Christ.

The Holy Spirit appeared like “tongues of fire” on their heads and set the disciples ablaze. It was the Tower of Babel reversed (Genesis ch.11). At Babel humans clambered up to be near God but here, God has already come down to be one of them. Now all the nations could understand each other. Now language was not a barrier.

The Holy Spirit sent the disciples out to talk about all they had seen and heard to spread the Good News and the Spirit empowered them to live God's way. God made his presence known to this group of believers in a spectacular way – violent wind, fire and His Holy Spirit. Would we like God to reveal Himself to us in such recognisable ways? He may do – or maybe not. Elijah needed a message from God (1Kings 19:10-13), experiencing a great wind, earthquake and fire but God's message came in a gentle whisper. God may use dramatic methods to work in our lives – or He may speak in a gentle whisper. We just need to wait patiently for God and always listen.

Our Christian faith is not limited to any race or group of people. Christ offers salvation to all people regardless of who or what they are. Those visitors in Jerusalem were surprised to hear the apostles and others speaking in languages other than their own but they need not have been. God works all kinds of miracles to spread the Gospel, using many ways and languages as He calls all kinds of people, not just a select few, to become His followers. No matter what your race or language, your education or status in society, God speaks to us through a raging furnace or a gentle whisper – and when the Holy Spirit enters your life, you're never the same again.

Are we listening for our Pentecost moment? Have you had your Pentecost experience? Ask God to pour out the Holy Spirit in your life – it's too good to miss!



“Father God, we pray that as we celebrate Pentecost, we recognize our utter dependence on You and stand overwhelmed by Your power. We praise You that on this Day of Pentecost, Your promise of the Holy Spirit is for us today. May we know and experience what it means to be filled with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the life-enhancing power and presence of the Holy Spirit. May He empower us to live in You. Amen.”

Peter Jolly

“O God of burning cleansing flame;
Send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim,
Send the fire today!
Look down and see the waiting host,
And send the promised Holy Ghost;
We need another Pentecost!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

William Booth, Founder of The Salvation Army (1829-1912)

THE CORONATION - VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS

Coronation Tea in Offwell – Sunday 7th May 2023

120 villagers attended Offwell's Coronation Cream Tea on Sunday afternoon. As the church bells rang out the clouds parted and guests were welcomed into a village hall resplendent in, what seemed like, miles of red, white and blue bunting. Sewn and knitted by Annette Warne this bunting has been displayed over the years at all the Offwell Jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II. A splendid five foot crown and royal garland, displayed on the stage, were made by Viki Whitehead and red, white and blue was in abundance everywhere, including the bowler hats.



The scones and cakes were donated by the villagers with cream, jam and sundries sponsored by the Parish Council and the Flower Show committee. There was a game of Pin the Jewel on the Crown for the young ones and Wrap your Daddy up as a Mummy, which, as you can imagine, provided much hilarity. Some of the children read a poem about the Coronation and there were two winners of the Make a Crown competition. All the children received a commemorative coin. Around 20 families took part in a King themed quiz and a game of Irish Bingo

proved as popular as ever. Four gentlemen battled it out to see who could hold the most pegs in one hand with Revd. Jeremy just missing out on the top prize! (His grip strength possibly hampered by holding on too long to a Bucking Bronco the evening before!) The afternoon was rounded off with a glass of fizz to toast the King and a rousing rendition of God Save the King.



King Charles' Coronation Message to the nation included the following words: *"To those who joined in the celebrations - whether at home, at street parties and lunches, or by volunteering in communities – we thank you, each and every one."* It is that same spirit of volunteering that brought the Offwell community together for the Coronation Tea with the biggest thanks being reserved for the Tea Committee: Sophie Joy, Marian Tucker, Viki Whitehead and Lynn Whithear. All their hard work turned a special occasion into a very, very special occasion.

£191 was raised from the raffle and it was unanimously agreed by all that this should go to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Carol Hayes

THE CORONATION - VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS

WIDWORTHY / WILMINGTON

“On Sunday evening a BBQ was held in the car park at Wilmington Village Hall. And then on Tuesday, 9th May, at 10.00am, a **Coronation Peal** was rung on St. Cuthbert’s ancient bells that lasted 2hrs 51mins. Exeter Cathedral



bell ringer, David Hird, led the ringers and commented afterwards: *“Many thanks for letting us ring the first peal on the bells. They actually rang quite well and benefitted from two lots of oil in the bearings.”* During the previous week David and his ringers had replaced three ropes with spares from various Exeter towers; the one on the tenor coming from Exeter Cathedral itself.”

FARWAY

The Farway Village celebrations for the Coronation of Charles III was well attended and everyone, adults and children, enjoyed the bright sunny day in the hall and gardens and then by the adults for the Coronation Concert in the bar late into the evening. The food, brought by those who attended was, as always amazing along with a vintage tea supplied by the Farway Hall Committee.



Coronation Reflections by Pam Staunton

I'm still feeling a glow from the celebrations of the Coronation weekend. For some of us (10% of the population) it was the second coronation we'd experienced in our lifetime. I was very young when Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne. Very few people owned a television back then but we were invited by a family friend. I remember there were a lot of people but my young brother and I had front seats – on the floor. I think we were given a toy to play with, but that was an age when children were taught to behave and although I'm sure we were bored out of our minds, behave we did. The television was tiny, the images black and white and it meant very little to me.



The coronation ceremony represented the culmination of 1,000 years of history, tradition and symbolism, taking place in Westminster Abbey where every monarch has been crowned since 1066. In a spectacle on the grandest scale King Charles III was crowned Monarch of the United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies and the British Overseas Territories and head of the Commonwealth.

So many things have changed beyond imagination in the years between the two coronations; the advancement of modern technology has paved the way for multi-functional devices, mind boggling, intimidating and overwhelming for some of us. Now most people own at least one television, some very big. The recent coronation was shown on enormous screens at numerous venues all round the world. In her first few years the Queen sent out around 400 congratulatory telegrams to subjects who had turned 100. The corresponding figure in 2020 was 16,254.

In an ever-changing world it is reassuring that some things remain the same. It's comforting to hold on to familiarity, to tradition, to the values we hold dear to us. Over two thousand years ago another king was born, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. No pomp, no ceremony and ultimately his throne was a cross, his crown thorns. But to this day he is worshipped around the world. His love for us is steadfast and unchanging. He cares for us, wants only good for us and promises us everlasting life. He's there for all of us. We don't have to swear allegiance to him, all he asks is that we love him and love one another as he loves us.

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## Offwell School Oak Class replicas of the Coronation Regalia

Learning about history is always enlivened by using art and before the Easter holidays Oak Class completed their research into the symbolism of the Coronation Regalia. In just two weeks, following the Easter break, the children produced the most stunning replicas which can still be viewed in St. Mary's and on the Offwell village website.



*Susan Holohan*





# Preparing for the future whilst preserving the past

**WE ARE PREPARING TO RENOVATE AND REORDER THE INTERIOR OF ST MARY'S CHURCH. WE ARE SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT TO WIDEN THE NAVE AISLE, REESTABLISH THE FONT TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION AND REPAIR MANY OF THE BOX PEWS.**



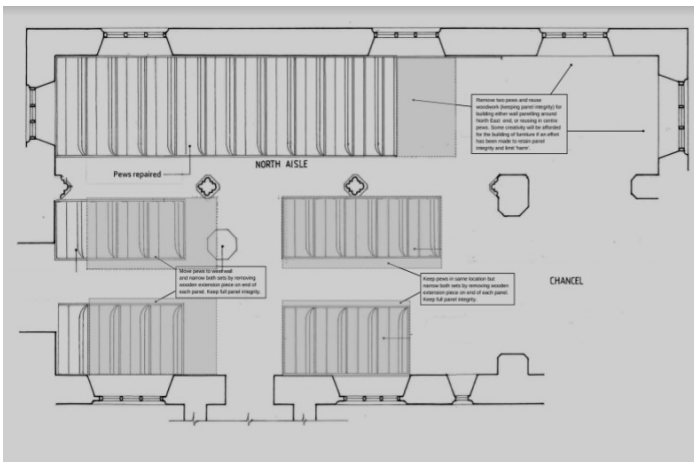
The work will enable us to provide greater hospitality to visitors and worshippers during events and services. By widening the nave aisle our ability to host funeral services and weddings will be enhanced giving enough space for two people to walk side by side, and for those with mobility restrictions greater access. The renovation work to the box pews will ensure they can continue to be used for years to come. The repositioning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century font to the south aisle will return it to its original location, but will also create space for groups to meet, and hospitality to be provided.



Unfortunately, the project will be extremely costly in time and money and therefore we seek the support of our community as well as visitors, and through charitable grants.

One piece of work currently underway is a pew timber survey, being conducted by a consultant specialist for the conservation of historic timber. In this survey the reconfiguring of the pews will be planned in such a way that limits harm and keeps the integrity of the original panelling. Once this has been carried out, the Parochial Church Council will be asking the Diocesan Advisory Committee for their recommendations prior to the faculty application being submitted to the Chancellor. We hope that by the end of the summer we can then move forward with fundraising and making early preparations for the work to be carried out.

You can see the various plans on our website [offwell.church](http://offwell.church)



If you would like to support the project please scan the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to our website to make your gift - and please don't forget to gift aid your donation, if you are eligible to do so.

# DIARY DATES

|                                    |                              |                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesdays</b>                    | FARWAY VH                    | <b>GENTLE YOGA</b> 11am - 12 midday (every Tuesday)                                                                    |
| <b>Wednesdays</b>                  | FARWAY VH                    | <b>COFFEE MORNING</b> 10am to 12 (every Wednesday)                                                                     |
| <b>Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>    | OFFWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB | <b>HOT DOGS &amp; BURGERS</b> for sale outside the club. Bar open for members and guests                               |
| <b>Fridays</b>                     | FARWAY VH                    | <b>BAR OPEN</b> 7.30pm (every Friday)                                                                                  |
| <b>Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | OFFWELL                      | <b>OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB</b><br>Contact Marian for more details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com             |
| <b>Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> June</b> | OFFWELL GOLF CLUB            | <b>MEN'S BREAKFAST</b><br>Friends & neighbours welcome . Arrive 9:30am for 10am. Contact 01404 831924 for more details |
| <b>Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> June</b> | OFFWELL SSC                  | <b>BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING</b> 10:30am to 12 noon                                                                      |
| <b>Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | FARWAY VH                    | <b>FARWAY SCHOOL PTFA JUMBLE SALE</b><br>There will also be family fun and activities                                  |
| <b>Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | OFFWELL CAR PARK             | <b>HONITON WINE BAR PIZZA MAN</b><br>6-8pm (every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday)                                            |
| <b>Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>   | OFFWELL VH                   | <b>QUIZ</b> hosted by Farway Football Club.                                                                            |
| <b>Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>    | OFFWELL VH                   | <b>SUMMER CREAM TEA</b>                                                                                                |
| <b>Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>    | OFFWELL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB | <b>HOT DOGS &amp; BURGERS</b> for sale outside the club. Bar open for members and guests                               |
| <b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>    | OFFWELL                      | <b>OFFWELL SCHOOL SPORTS DAY 1pm</b><br>(or alternative date - Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup> )                                 |
| <b>Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>  | FARWAY VH                    | <b>DEFIBRILATOR AWARENESS SESSION 7pm</b>                                                                              |
| <b>Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>   | OFFWELL                      | <b>OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB</b>                                                                                       |
| <b>Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>   | FARWAY VH                    | <b>FLOWER SHOW</b> 2:30pm                                                                                              |
| <b>Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> | GOLF CLUB                    | <b>MEN'S BREAKFAST</b>                                                                                                 |
| <b>Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> | OFFWELL SSC                  | <b>BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING</b> 10:30am to 12 noon                                                                      |
| <b>Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>    | OUR 2 SCHOOLS                | <b>Last day of summer term - start of the holidays</b>                                                                 |
| <b>Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>   | OFFWELL CP                   | <b>HONITON WINE BAR PIZZA MAN</b> 6-8pm                                                                                |
| <b>Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> July</b>   | FARWAY                       | <b>CHARITY CREAM TEA 2:30pm</b> in a marque at Sidling field on Farway Common                                          |

# SAVE THE DATE

|                                         |                                 |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.              | OFFWELL CHURCH                  | OPEN DAY                            |
| Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.              | OFFWELL VH                      | FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW               |
| Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct.                | OFFWELL VH                      | HARVEST SUPPER                      |
| Sat. 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct.              | OFFWELL VH                      | BARN DANCE                          |
| Tues. Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup><br>@ 5:30pm | OFFWELL,<br>St. Mary's Lychgate | HALLOWEEN LIGHT & FIRE PIT EVENT    |
| November                                | OFFWELL VH                      | QUIZ - date & time tbc              |
| December                                | OFFWELL                         | SCHOOL PTFA - CHRISTMAS FAYRE - tbc |
| December                                | OFFWELL                         | SCHOOL PTFA - WREATH MAKING - tbc   |
| December                                | OFFWELL VILLAGE                 | CAROL SINGING - date & time tbc     |
| Thurs. 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 24         | OFFWELL VH                      | BURNS SUPPER                        |

## COFFEE MORNING

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month we hold a coffee morning in the Offwell Sports & Social Club room for all three of our Benefice Parishes.

Everyone is welcome, whether you go to church or not, you will be made very welcome.



Do you want to put the world to right,  
Gripe about the TV last night,  
Recommend a book you've read,  
Share something juicy a neighbour said,  
Tell us about a holiday,  
Or how you fill the time each day,  
Have a gardening tip or recipe,  
Or do you just want company?  
Then come for coffee, cake and chat  
And you'll always find lots of that.

*Pam Staunton*





## Our new Website is live

Find us at [www.parish-church.com](http://www.parish-church.com)

& [www.offwell.church](http://www.offwell.church) [www.farway.church](http://www.farway.church) [www.widworthy.church](http://www.widworthy.church)

Have you ever had the feeling that you don't know what's going on in the Benefice parishes? The new Benefice website is about to change all that, by covering regular church news, church affairs and church events. Information on repair and renovation projects; how, why and where you can help with Parish finances; Church and Community Surveys – they're all there at the click of a mouse, plus direct access to parish posts on Facebook. By signing up to the monthly newsletter you can receive regular digital copies of The Link, via email, and if you have parish news for inclusion on the website email: [www.parisheslink@gmail.com](mailto:www.parisheslink@gmail.com).

### Facebook Pages



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

Email: [farwayvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:farwayvillagehall@gmail.com)

### Websites:

[www.parish-church.com](http://www.parish-church.com)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)  
[www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)  
[www.farwaydevon.org.uk](http://www.farwaydevon.org.uk)  
[www.farway.devon.sch.uk](http://www.farway.devon.sch.uk)  
[www.offwell.org](http://www.offwell.org)  
[www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)



### CONTACTS

#### Rev. Jeremy Putnam

Phone: 01404 839111

Email: [jeremyputnam@parish-church.com](mailto: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