

# The Offwell Mission Community

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

## THE LINK

NOVEMBER EDITION 2023

### Remembrance

My great uncle Frank, who I never knew, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1916, fought at the Battle of Jutland in the North Sea on the "Dreadnought" battleship, "HMS Iron Duke". He survived and came home. I suppose eventually, that was the catalyst for a decision to always attend a Remembrance Sunday service each year, instilled in me by my father, who himself was posted to Burma and India during the Second World War. Since I was a small boy (quite a while ago now) I have rarely missed attending a Remembrance Sunday event and I feel I have been able to pass on to my children that sense of paying respects and gratitude for lives laid down.

Years pass, yet we still have the need to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom – whether in the Great War or the Falklands, Northern Ireland or Afghanistan. We remember, we grieve, yet we are reminded of and comforted by words in Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble."

Grief is a lonely business. It leaves us shocked, desolate, disabled and yes, sometimes disbelieving – but most of all, it is heartbreakingly lonely. Just as our love and relationship with the one we've lost is unique, so too is the grieving that follows. There are no time limits, no short cuts, no pills, rules or comparisons we can make. It hurts, it haunts – and everyone's grief is their own.

I remember so well a time of great loss and confusion in my own life, when it felt as if the bottom had dropped out of the world I knew and I was falling helplessly out of control. It wasn't that I believed God was not there. I never doubted His existence for a minute. I simply couldn't understand. The presence that had been my dearest earthly friend – and my heavenly one – seemed to desert me when I needed Him – and them - most.

Slowly, so slowly, with God's help, family and friends, I began a journey upwards, stronger, wiser and more aware than ever of God's love for me and His presence when I needed Him most. I recalled then, and do so now, especially at this time of year, some words from Revelation ch. 21. In these verses, the apostle John sees a vision of a new heaven and a new earth in which this healing would be complete – "God himself will be with His people. He will remove all their sorrows and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever." (v.3-4). Through such challenges we become what He knows we can be. He *does* take care of all the little pieces, fixed back together, perhaps never quite the same again, but all the stronger for it.

As we approach this year's national and personal season of Remembrance and beyond, we pray that we may be able to always reach out to others as real and effective channels of God's comfort, healing and love. Amen.

"Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me." (from Lamentations 3:22-24)

*Peter Jolly,  
Methodist Local Preacher*

# CHURCH SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov. All Saints	9:30am Parish Communion		9:30am Morning Prayer
Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Remembrance	4pm BCP Evensong	10:45am Act of Remembrance	9:30am Act of Remembrance
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> before Advent	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Christ the King	10:30am BCP Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service



## BIBLE READINGS



DATES	HEBREW BIBLE	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov. All Saints	Revelation 7.9–17 New Testament	1 John 3.1–3	Matthew 5.1–12
Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Remembrance	Amos 5.18–24	1 Thessalonians 4.13–18	Matthew 25.1–13
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> before Advent	Zephaniah 1.7,12–18	1 Thessalonians 5.1–11	Matthew 25.14–30
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Christ the King	Ezekiel 34.11–16,20–24	Ephesians 1.15–23	Matthew 25.31–46

### FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

#### NOVEMBER

- 5<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Mrs P Murphy  
 12<sup>th</sup> 3pm Conducted by Revd. Brian Hadfield  
 19<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Dr Alan Mcilveen  
 26<sup>th</sup> 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.



An up-to-date list of Community Services in Honiton can now be found on [www.offwell.org](http://www.offwell.org). This includes **Operation Rudolph**, a community led project that will provide a meal on Christmas Day for anyone who may find the Christmas season hard, be it for financial or social reasons. For information about Gift Drive events in November go to the Health Services page where you will find the link for 'Community Services in Honiton'.

# BENEFICE NEWS



All three churches celebrated Harvest on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Parish Communion took place at 9.30am at St. Mary's followed by an 11.15am Harvest Celebration at St. Michael & All Angels and a 3.00pm Harvest Celebration at St. Cuthbert's. In each of the three churches the congregation was surrounded by magnificent displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables, as everyone gave thanks for 'crops gathered in'.



In **Offwell** Harvest Supper was held at the Village Hall where everyone enjoyed a hot meal followed by the game Mustingo, with Revd. Jeremy acting as MC. In **Farway** Harvest Supper included a Barn Dance; a sell-out success with local band 'Slack-Ma-Girdle' boasting an impressive selection of instruments. In **Widworthy** Billy Anne Leach assisted Bishop Oliver in leading the service of thanksgiving after which everyone was invited back to Widworthy Barton for a cream tea.' *NB You will find a full review of the Harvest celebrations on the Benefice website.*

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The **Widworthy Fete** will be held at Widworthy Barton on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Please let us know if you can attend the first planning meeting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 7.30pm at Widworthy Barton. If you cannot make the meeting but have ideas about how we can make it a success please get in touch with **Billy Leach on 07740 121294** or email [billy@renewablepower.co.uk](mailto:billy@renewablepower.co.uk). We hope to be able to put on a great day of fun for all.

**NB.** A **Summer Fete** will be returning to **Offwell** in 2024. The date for your diary is Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October a full congregation enjoyed a sunny afternoon at St. Michael & All Angels in Farway, listening to a small group of musicians dedicated to performing Early Music in an engaging way. **'The Lost Art of Wooing', a journey in love, was performed by The English Ayres**, who describe themselves as 'a circle of musicians dedicated to performing early music in such a way that it is never boring.' The concert was followed by tea and cake and all retiring donations will go towards Farway Church Tower Restoration Fund. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

# ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN WELBY VISITS DEVON FOR REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

In St. John's Gospel readers are repeatedly prompted to 'come and see' who Jesus is and engage with Him. The Gospel also sounds a constant theme of mission so it is no surprise that the Archbishop's visit to Devon for this coming Remembrance Weekend, which runs from **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**, is called the

## 'Come and See Mission Weekend 2023'



### Come and See: Call to Prayer

For the duration of the Archbishop's visit to Devon a 24/7 online prayer room will be running to establish a chain of unbroken prayer for the whole weekend. Head to the 24/7 prayer webpage to join in and book a prayer slot. Our hope in prayer is that those we invite to 'come and see' will also 'come to know' Jesus.

<https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/ed514a/>

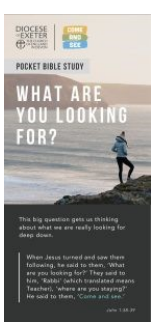
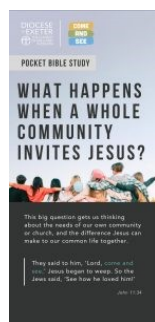
### Come and See: Grow in faith

A new 5 part Bible study series for personal reflection or small groups has been launched for this special weekend. Providing space to consider the Biblical Invitation to 'Come and See'. Led by Revd Jeremy Putnam and Sharon Blythe.

The video series can be found here - <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10718419>

Study series can be found here -

<https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Come-and-See-Bible-Resources.pdf>



## St Michael's Church, Honiton Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm

### Special memorial service for the Faithful Departed

This special service on All Souls day will offer people an opportunity to remember those they love but see no longer, whether the loss is recent or long ago. During the service we will read aloud the names of the departed, remembering them in prayer and thanksgiving. If you would like a loved one remembered in the service please go to the website and complete the online form to let us know their name and whether you'll be attending the service.

[www.stmichaelshoniton.com](http://www.stmichaelshoniton.com)

# COME AND REMEMBER EVENTS

## The Archbishop in Conversation

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30pm to 5pm,

Exeter University Alumni Auditorium.

Join the Archbishop of Canterbury for an afternoon of reflective conversation about bereavement, grief and finding hope. Justin Welby will draw on his own experiences of bereavement as he talks to others who have suffered loss. The afternoon will include the chance to meet representatives from local bereavement support charities in our marketplace. There will also be the opportunity to remember loved ones with a candlelit walk and time of reflection accompanied by the University of Exeter Chapel Choir. Refreshments will be provided.



Book tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-archbishop-in-conversation-tickets-680867070737>

## Our churches will be holding remembrance services over the weekend

### OFFWELL:

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November** 10.45am – 11.15am

Act of Remembrance Service, Remembrance Gate, St. Mary's Church  
Half muffled bells will be rung between 10.15 and 10.45am to call for the Remembrance Day Service

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November** 4pm – 5pm

Evening Prayer for Remembrance in St Mary's Church followed by refreshments.

### WIDWORTHY:

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November** 9.30am – 10.15am

Act of Remembrance in St Cuthbert's Church

### FARWAY:

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November** 10.45am – 11.45am

Act of Remembrance in St Michael & All Angles Church



At Offwell School the children have been busy making wire poppies to be attached to St. Mary's WW1 memorial gates for the Remembrance Day service.



# ALL ABOUT ANNA CHAPLAINCY

By Carol Hayes



As Remembrance Sunday draws near our thoughts turn more and more towards those we have lost and those who are nearing the end of their lives. While there's a growing focus on youth and young families **Anna Chaplaincy** offers support for older people, both emotionally and spiritually. They are named after the widow, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel. Both are good role models of faithful older people and Anna Chaplains are there for people of strong, little or no faith.

Anna Chaplains visit the elderly wherever they may be living, whether in residential or nursing homes, sheltered housing, retirement complexes or other private homes. The emphasis is on spiritual support but people's practical struggles will also play a part in their overall wellbeing.

Increasingly many older people are feeling that they are beyond the interest and concern of their wider community and even, sometimes, their church. Life for the elderly can be isolating as well as challenging. Spiritual support provided in a gentle and loving way brings comfort and succour to people who may be at a low point in their lives, enabling them to live with greater meaning and purpose.

Some of those who become Anna Chaplains, or Anna Friends, are themselves post-retirement and discover new meaning and impetus through helping others.

Ellen Holah is a Community Police Officer in Exeter. She has been an Anna Chaplain for two and a half years and she spoke to me about how it all came about:

*"Through my police work I came into contact with an elderly lady of 99, who thought she had been scammed on the 'phone. She was still living on her own, was profoundly deaf, losing her sight and she'd had enough of life. She tried various times to end it all and the only relative was an 86 year old niece, living in Cardiff. I was upset and appalled by this elderly lady's situation so I contacted my Bishop and she told me about Anna Chaplains. That was during Covid and I began my training on-line. Sadly, help was too late for this 99 year old as she eventually succeeded in taking her own life."*

To find out more information go to: [www.annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk)

There you will find details about Anna Chaplains in your area, how to apply to become an Anna Chaplain and how to request a visit for an elderly relative or friend.

**NB. (Carol Hayes' full article can be found on the *Benefice* websites)**

# 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>FRIDAYS</b>	FARWAY VH	<b>BAR OPEN</b> 7.30pm (every Friday)
<b>THURS. 2<sup>nd</sup> NOV.</b>	ST. MICHAEL'S HONITON	<b>SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> FOR THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED 7pm
<b>THURS. 2<sup>nd</sup> NOV.</b>	OFFWELL SCHOOL	<b>PTFA AGM</b> 7.30pm- This is a Parent, Teacher & FRIENDS Association so ALL are welcome
<b>SUN 5<sup>th</sup> NOV.</b>	ST. MARY'S	<b>CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> 5-6pm
<b>WED. 8<sup>th</sup> NOV.</b>	OFFWELL	<b>OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB</b> Contact Marian for details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com
<b>THURS. 16<sup>th</sup> NOV.</b>	AT OFFWELL GOLF CLUB	<b>MEN'S BREAKFAST</b> 9:30am for 10am Contact 01404 831924 for more details
<b>THURS. 16<sup>th</sup> NOV.</b>	OFFWELL SSC	<b>BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING</b> 10:30am - 12 noon
<b>SAT. 18<sup>th</sup> NOV.</b>	OFFWELL CP	<b>HONITON WINE BAR PIZZA MAN</b> 6-8pm
<b>SUN 19<sup>th</sup> NOV.</b>	ST. MARY'S	<b>CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> 5-6pm

## LOOKING TOWARDS CHRISTMAS

<b>FRI. 1<sup>st</sup> DEC.</b>	WIDWORTHY BARTON	<b>2024 WIDWORTHY FETE MEETING</b> 7.30pm
<b>SUN. 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. CUTHBERTS	<b>ADVENT CAROLS</b> 4pm
<b>FRI. 8<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	OFFWELL	<b>SCHOOL PTFA - CHRISTMAS FAYRE</b> 3.30pm
<b>SAT. 9<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	OFFWELL VH	<b>SCHOOL PTFA - WREATH MAKING</b>
<b>SUN. 10<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. MARY'S	<b>CHRISTINGLE</b> 4pm
<b>SUN. 10<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. CUTHBERTS	<b>CHRISTINGLE</b> 4pm
<b>SUN. 10<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS	<b>CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT</b> 7pm
<b>SUN. 17<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. MARY'S	<b>CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT</b> 7pm
<b>SUN. 24<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. MARY'S	<b>CRIB &amp; TOY SERVICE</b> 2pm
<b>SUN. 24<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. CUTHBERTS	<b>NINE LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b> 4pm
<b>SUN 24<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS	<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b> 11.15pm
<b>MON 25<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. MARY'S	<b>CHRISTMAS ALL AGE FAMILY SERVICE</b> 9.30
<b>MON 25<sup>th</sup> DEC.</b>	ST. CUTHBERTS	<b>CHRISTMAS FAMILY COMMUNION</b> 10.30



# FIND US - CONTACT



## Revd. Jeremy Putnam

Phone: 01404 831911

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

Typical Working Pattern is Mon - Thurs (Exeter)

Fri & Sun (Offwell, Widworthy & Farway)

## Revd. Tracey Voysey

Phone: 07968 658 638

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

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

## Websites:

[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)



## Offwell Mission Website

[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)

## Facebook Pages



[The Offwell Mission Community](#)

[The Offwell Sports And Social Club](#)

[Offwell Together](#)

[Spotted Wilmington, Devon, UK](#)

[Farway village hall East Devon](#)

## Email Addresses:

**The Link magazine/newsheet:**

[parisheslink@gmail.com](mailto:parisheslink@gmail.com)

**Offwell Website (for updates)**

[offwell.org@gmail.com](mailto:offwell.org@gmail.com)

**Farway Village Hall:**

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

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 16TH NOVEMBER  
10:30AM TO 12 MIDDAY

Every 3rd Thursday of the month we hold a coffee morning 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

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