

The Offwell Mission Community

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

THE LINK

OCTOBER EDITION 2023





Harvest

Earlier in the year, a lovely person gave me four potted runner' seedlings. After planting them out and watching them spiral their way up my bamboo teepees, I was horrified one morning to see they had been munched on by a visiting deer. I thought I'd lost them. But thankfully not! I have since had a bumper crop of runners to last the winter, and wonderfully tasty too. I was so chuffed by the resurrection of my French legumes that I entered some in the Offwell Flower Show. Sadly, no prize. Apparently, I'd left them on the vine too long.

"Let us gather together in the chancel of our church, and there receive, in the bread of the new corn, that blessed sacrament which was ordained to strengthen and refresh our souls." On October 1st, 1843, "Parson Hawker" gathered his parishioners for the very first Harvest service thanking God for providing such plentiful food.

Harvest Festivals have a lot owing to Revd Hawker, revitalising the Lammas Day custom of the English Middle Ages, which had virtually disappeared by the Reformation. Still, as with all traditions, it is very easy to lose sight of the origins and the meaning behind it all. Harvest celebrations go way back to the ancient religious practice of giving thanks for the 'first fruits of the land', a Jewish ritual called 'Shavuot', celebrated in the Spring. For Christians, this is particularly important since Shavuot is held on a well-known day in the Jewish calendar, the first day of the week immediately following the Passover, which for us Christians is... Easter Day. It turns out that Harvest Festivals are for Christians a second Easter celebration, something that St Paul alludes to in his first letter to the church in Corinth, recalling how the 'festival of the first fruits' points to Christ's resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-23) and the promise of a fuller harvest when all in Christ will be raised.

Despite the many environmental and ecological challenges facing our world, and the trials facing our farming community in Britain today, I pray that our harvest celebrations will also be a hopeful time, that refreshes our faith in the light of Easter and the great harvest to come. I am reminded of a passage in the Book of Job – Job is facing real challenges, even disaster and despair, and God says, *"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all humankind."* (Job 12:7)

May we praise God for the harvest that we have collected today, and with eager anticipation yearn for the harvest we are yet to receive, and the faith to recognize them both. Amen.

Reverend Jeremy Putnam

CHURCH SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
Sun. 1 st Oct. Harvest	9:30am Parish Communion	11:15am Harvest Celebration	3pm Harvest Celebration
Sun. 8 th Oct. Trinity 18	5pm BCP Evensong		9:30am Holy Communion
Sun. 15 th Oct. Trinity 19	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Holy Communion
Sun. 22 nd Oct. Trinity 20	10:30am BPC Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service
Sun. 29 th Oct. Last Sunday of Trinity	11:15am Benefice Communion @ St. Michael & All Angels		



BIBLE READINGS



DATES	HEBREW BIBLE	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
Sun. 1 st Oct. Harvest	Joel 2:21-28		Matthew 13:1-9
Sun. 8 th Oct. Trinity 18	Isaiah 5.1-7	Philippians 3.4b-14	Matthew 21.33-46
Sun. 15 th Oct. Trinity 19	Isaiah 25.1-9	Philippians 4.1-9	Matthew 22.1-14
Sun. 22 nd Oct. Trinity 20	Isaiah 45.1-7	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10	Matthew 22.15-22
Sun. 29 th Oct. Last Sunday of Trinity	Leviticus 19 1-2,15-18	1 Thessalonians 2.1-8	Matthew 22.34-46

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

1st 11am Conducted by Mr David Moll

8th 3pm Conducted by Mrs Margaret Cole. It is our HARVEST FESTIVAL and it is hoped we can be joined by all. The produce is offered to all by donation after the service and everyone will be offered Tea/Coffee and refreshments at the close.

15th 11am Conducted by Mrs Gill Harvey

22nd 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.

29th 11am Conducted by Mr. Paul Violet



St Mary's Church Open Day - Saturday 2nd September

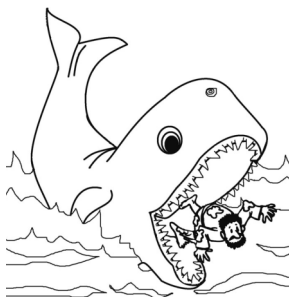
The annual Devon Historic Churches open day this year was a huge success, owing to the fine weather, the support of our wonderful bell ringers, and some yummy yummy cakes. But this year was especially different for a few reasons. For those that attended, the BBQ by the porch was the first welcoming sign, along with the wonderful smell of locally reared pork on the grill.

The other big difference was the addition of a new Welcome Pack for St Mary's presenting some fascinating insights into 11 historical assets and features of the church building.

(You can also find the welcome pack on the Offwell Mission Community website)

And then add in some fun activities for young and old, including the search for hidden objects around the church, a poetry exhibition, a trip up the tower, and an invitation to have a go at bell ringing, made the whole morning a tremendous success. Thank you to everyone who was involved and to those who came. We love our church, and we love our community.

Reverend Jeremy Putnam



OPEN THE BOOK

At the start of the new school year the 'Open the Book' team was ready with more Bible stories to tell. 'Open the Book' is linked to the Bible Society and all the stories have been adapted by author Bob Hartman who writes inspirational books for children.

We visit the schools in Offwell and Farway once a month to tell them a story from the Bible using drama and sometimes rhyme. The new school term started with "Jonah the Groaner" complete with boat and an inventive whale which managed to swallow Jonah whole! We always try to get the children involved, helping with props and playing some parts and of course this time we needed plenty of groaning from everyone!

We are continuing with Old Testament stories this term and then we hope to start with the New Testament in the new year.

The children always seem to enjoy our visits and we get much pleasure from telling these amazing stories.

We are a small team of four people, but are always looking for new members. If you would like to know more about how you could help, please contact Marion (830055) or Tara (871372).

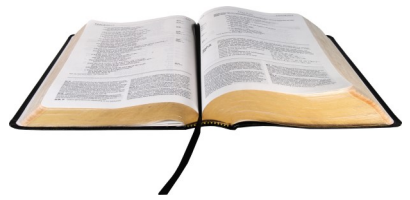
For more information on 'Open The Book' go to the Bible Society website

www.biblesociety.org

Bible Exploration Home Group

Every 2nd Thursday in the month

7pm to 8.30pm



Reading the Bible is a big deal. Whether we're reading it alone or in community, whether we're hearing it in worship, engaging in group Bible study or doing personal daily devotions, reading the Bible is important for our relationships with God, neighbours and ourselves. A new home group has started with the aim of going deeper into the Bible. Meeting to listen to one another, and to read the Bible together in order to learn about how its teachings can be understood today and how we might apply them.

Our first meeting was held on Thursday 14th September and included a short act of worship, fellowship and prayer.

There are so many ways to read the Bible. Devotionally or prayerfully, we can also engage with the Bible through meditation and contemplation, as well as studying the text through its original context, language and meaning. The Bible is rich with wisdom, deep with meaning, and filled with eternal truths. If you are interested in learning more about what the Bible has to offer then come along to our next meeting on **Thursday 12th October**. If you have any questions about the group please contact Revd Jeremy Putnam.

COFFEE MORNING

THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER

10:30AM TO 12 MIDDAY

Every 3rd Thursday of the month we hold a coffee morning in the **Offwell Sports & Social Club** room 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

INTRODUCING AND WELCOME

Hello, I would like to introduce myself - Billy Anne Leach.

My family, husband Andrew and our grown up children, Rachael and Richard, have been very blessed to be able to move in to Widworthy Barton. It is a beautiful home, but we feel that we are custodians rather than



Having St Cuthbert's on our doorstep is the icing on the cake. Several years ago I realised that the enormous pressure on priests who have to cover increasingly large benefices means that us, the laity need to step up and do more where we can. I trained and was licenced by the Bishop of Bedford as a Lay Leader of Worship. The first question of my training was - what is worship? Worship takes many forms and I hope in my own unique way to be able to assist at St Cuthbert's in leading worship which the congregation will enjoy and which will bring you into a closer relationship with our Lord. We would also like to use the Barton to support the Church and can offer the Great Hall as a meeting area after special services. In particular we are very keen to re-start the Barton Fete on the second Saturday in June. Save the date and please do get in touch if you are interested in supporting us in this venture in any way, but particularly if you can man a stall for an hour or two on the day. We very much hope that we can do Widworthy and Wilmington proud. We have experienced a very lovely, warm welcome to the village and hope to make many more new friends.

Wishing you all many blessings - Billy

HARVEST AT WIDWORTHY

In Widworthy we are having our **Harvest Festival service on Sunday October 1st at 3:00pm**, before which the Offwell Team will be ringing our bells.

Following the service, all will be welcome to a **Harvest Cream Tea in the Great Hall of Widworthy Barton at about 4pm.**

Farway CofE Primary School



We are really pleased to be able to write for our Parish magazine! If you would like any more information about the school, please look at our website or Facebook page. Or if you would like any further information, please contact the school office.

Early Years will be starting the first two weeks with their 'getting to know you' module in Maths, exploring a range of matching and sorting, measure and pattern, shapes and counting activities. They will then explore matching, sorting, and comparing in greater depth through 'Mastering Numbers' and continuous provision. Preschool will be starting with activities to support their listening, which will help later with identifying initial sounds. They will explore these (s,a,t,p) in a variety of contexts, with supporting activities and Bug Club picture books. Reception will be beginning their Phase 2 sounds (s,a,t,p), identifying these within the alphabet and building up to identifying them within simple words.

In Class 1, their topic within Maths will be Place Value. Year 1 will be focussing on numbers within 10 - sorting, counting and comparing, using resources to support them. Year 2 will be focussing on numbers up to 100, beginning to explore place value and using their knowledge of 2's, 5's and 10's to help partition, estimate and compare numbers. As a whole class, they will be participating in activities to support and strengthen skills around 'maths talk', helping to develop mathematical oracy, fluency and reasoning. In Literacy, Class 1 will be starting with '*Dear Mother Goose*', building up to independently write a letter to *Mother Goose*. The children will be looking to strengthen their letter formation by writing a few relevant letters/words each morning and afternoon, which helps build stamina for writing in Literacy.

Class 2 have made a marvelous return to school and have immediately dived into their learning. Their project title is 'Sow, Grow, Farm', which has a geography focus. They will be learning about farming in the U.K. then comparing it to farming in North and South America. At the same time, their science will focus on life cycles and plants, thinking about reproduction and change across the animal kingdom. Last week, they started with the smallest form of sowing and growing – allotments. Immediately they were using their learning behaviours of curiosity and making links, asking questions and showing wonder. They investigated the local environment while thinking about the life cycles of the creatures they found.

In English, Class 2 are reading the beautifully illustrated book by Michael and Clare Morpurgo called 'Where my wellies take me.' This book charts a walk taken in the countryside and links it with many poems that were inspired by the glory of the English countryside. The children will use ideas from this book to inspire them to write their own recounts after a day trip to Branscombe, where they will have the chance to work with other children from across the Federation.

In Maths, Class 2 have impressed with their fluent recall of the structure of mathematics. They have been thinking about place value while counting and making numbers in different ways. Something that would help at home is to practice by reading numbers with 5 or more digits, talking about what the different digits represent and thinking about how the numbers change if you add or subtract 100, 1000, 10,000 or even 100,000. The focus this week is rounding up or down – ask your child to explain how they do that today. We look forward to seeing what awaits us in this new school year!

Best wishes and God bless, *Mrs Tubbs*, Head of Learning



A CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS



SINGING FOR A CHURCH OR COMMUNITY CHOIR IS NOT ONLY FUN, BUT GREAT FOR YOUR WELLBEING TOO. MAYBE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING IN OUR BENEFICE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS. THE PARISHES OF OFFWELL, WIDWORTHY AND FARWAY ARE FORMING A CHOIR TO SING AT OUR CAROL SERVICES AND FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS IN DECEMBER. PRACTICES WILL BE HELD ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 5PM TO 6PM AT ST MARY'S CHURCH.

COME AND SING!

Our first practice will be at
St Mary's Church,
on Sunday 1st October at 5pm



FARWAY CHURCH EX24 6EQ

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 3-4pm

Followed by tea and cake

“THE LOST ART OF WOOING”



A journey in love, performed by: *The English Ayres*

A small group of musicians dedicated to performing Early Music in an engaging way

Songs from composers including Monteverdi, Campion, Purcell and Azzaiolo

Jeni Melia - soprano

Chris Goodwin - baritone & lute

Nicola Moore - mezzo-soprano

Lucy Clitherow - soprano

FREE ENTRY with retiring donations welcomed
in aid of Farway Church Tower Restoration Fund



St Michael's Church, Honiton
Thursday 2nd 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

Formally the parish church of Honiton, latterly a chapel of ease, and now officially closed for worship. Efforts are being made to make use of the building and to have it more available for the people of Honiton. On the website you'll find information about 'pop-up events' and one-off acts of worship.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
HARVEST SUPPER

FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER in the VILLAGE HALL

A HOT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED at 7:00pm
THERE WILL BE A BAR (opening at 6pm)
ENTERTAINMENT & A RAFFLE

Tickets must be booked
£10 per adult, £5 for children under 12

TICKETS OR ENQUIRIES from:

PAM - 01404 831478

PHYL - 01404 831520

JONATHAN - 01404 831450

For catering **PLEASE BOOK BEFORE 1st OCTOBER**



BARN DANCE

OFFWELL VILLAGE HALL

LIVE BAND

OCTOBER 14TH
7 PM

CASH BAR, FOOD, RAFFLE

TICKETS £15

PRE BOOK, TICKETS WILL GO FAST!

Viki 01404-831050

LYN 01404-831924

MARIAN 01404-831066

DIARY DATES

TUESDAYS	FARWAY VH	GENTLE YOGA 11am - 12 midday (every Tuesday)
WEDNESDAYS	FARWAY VH	COFFEE MORNING 10am to 12 (every Wednesday)
FRIDAYS	FARWAY VH	BAR OPEN 7.30pm (every Friday)
SUN. 1st OCT.	WIDWORTHY BARTON	HARVEST CREAM TEA 4pm in the Great Hall following the Harvest Festival Service
SUN. 1st OCT.	ST. MARY'S	BENEFICE CHOIR PRACTICE 5-6pm
FRI 6th Oct.	OFFWELL VH	COFFEE MORNING 9am All are invited by Offwell School PTFA - come along and support your local school
FRI 6th Oct.	OFFWELL VH	HARVEST SUPPER 6pm for 7pm meal
SUN. 8th OCT.	FARWAY CHURCH	CONCERT 3-4pm ' <i>The English Ayres</i> ' FREE ENTRY
WED. 11th OCT.	OFFWELL	OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB Contact Marian for more details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com
THURS. 12th OCT.	OFFWELL	Benefice 'BIBLE EXPLORATION HOME GROUP' 7pm
SAT. 14th Oct.	OFFWELL VH	BARN DANCE 7pm Live Band, Bar, Food & Raffle
SAT. 14th OCT.	OFFWELL CAR PARK	HONITON WINE BAR PIZZA MAN 6-8pm (every 3 rd Saturday)
THURS. 19th OCT.	@ OFFWELL GOLF CLUB	MEN'S BREAKFAST Friends & neighbours welcome . Arrive 9:30am for 10am. Contact 01404 831924 for more details
THURS. 19th OCT.	OFFWELL SSC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING 10:30am - 12 noon
Wed. 25th Oct.	OFFWELL Recreation Ground	FIREWORK DISPLAY Gates open 6.15pm, Display 7:30pm Hot Food & BBQ £6 for age 15 and over.
Wed. 25th Oct.	OFFWELL Recreation Ground	Offwell PTFA - CHILDREN'S LANTERN PARADE supporting the firework event
TUES. 31st Oct. @ 5:30pm	OFFWELL, St. Mary's Lychgate	HALLOWEEN LIGHT & FIRE PIT EVENT

FIND US - CONTACT



Revd. Jeremy Putnam

Phone: 01404 831911

Email: 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

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

Offwell Mission Website

www.parish-church.com

www.offwell.church

www.farway.church

www.widworthy.church

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.

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



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

Offwell Website (for updates): offwell.org@gmail.com

Farway Village Hall: farwayvillagehall@gmail.com

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