

The Offwell Mission Community

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



THE LINK



EASTER EDITON - MARCH 2024



Snowdrops popped up and flowered in the Rectory garden this year in time for Candlemas. And the daffodil stems were well on their way in readiness for Mothering Sunday. Bluebells will be any day now ready to bless woodland walkers; and churchyards will be busy with wildflowers and bees to remind visitors that God's ordered creation brings forth life each year.

The newly formed Benefice Choir have been rehearsing the song 'By Faith' which starts with the words 'By faith, we see the hand of God, In the light of creation's grand design.' And we certainly do here in the parishes of Offwell, Widworthy and Farway. Christians of course, believe that there is a purpose behind the beauty of creation, and through the ordered pattern of life. We see it everywhere, dormant bulbs turn to plants,

withered flowers turn to seed and emerge from the frost covered soil again, winter to spring, death to resurrection.

Many of the saints, mystics, and fathers and mothers of the church have said that God, who is love, wanted to create something to love. In the late fourth century, St. Augustine said that "the church consists in the state of communion of all creation."

Sadly, the climate issue has highlighted how the industrialisation of the western world has led to our separation from creation, and in turn has divorced our lives from the life of all. And we have learnt that this separation is now proving to increase our own suffering, which ironically may well lead us back to a greater sense of spiritual communion with all.

Easter is early this year, a bit like the snowdrops, a nice hint to what St Paul meant when he said, 'for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed'. During the week before Easter the Church ponders on the profoundly important events of 'Holy Week' and more specifically Jesus' crucifixion. It is before the cross we are confronted with the gut-wrenching truth that in God's own suffering on the cross *we consist in the state of communion of all creation*.

At Christmas we hear the words of St John 'all things came into being through Him [Christ]'. During Holy Week we learn what these words really means as we are brought together in Christ's suffering, as we can also be in creation's suffering.

Reverend Jeremy Putnam



BIBLE READINGS



DATES	HEBREW BIBLE	NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	THE GOSPEL
SUN. 3 rd MAR Lent 3	Exodus 20.1-17	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	John 2.13-22
SUN. 10 th MAR. Mothering Sunday	1 Samuel 1.20-28	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	John 19.25-27
SUN. 17 th MAR. Lent 6	Jeremiah 31.31-34	Hebrews 5.5-10	John 12.20-33
SUN. 24 th MAR. Palm Sunday	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15, 16	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8.31-38
MON. 25 th MAR. Holy Monday			John 12.1-11
TUES. 26 th MAR.. Holy Tuesday			John 12.20-36
WED. 27 th MAR. Holy Wednesday			John 13.21-32
THUR. 28 th MAR. Maundy Thurs.			John 13. 1-17, 31b-35
FRI. 29 th MAR. Good Friday			John 18.1 - 19.42
SUN. 31 st MAR. Easter Sunday	Isaiah 25.6-9	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18



Lent Breakfasts

Every Friday during season of Lent starting 9am 23rd Feb
at the White Hart Inn, Wilmington

While we catch up with friends, have a bite to eat and meet new people we'll be thinking about one faith question each week, using the new short course material called 'Come and See'. It's a simple uncomplicated look at our experience of faith.



You don't need to let us know you are coming, just come and see.
If you would like more information about the course, or what to expect than get in touch with
Rev'd Jeremy Putnam, St Marys Church Offwell 01404 831911



BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

DATES	ST MARY'S OFFWELL	ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS FARWAY	ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY
SUN. 3 rd MAR Lent 3	9.30am Parish Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
SUN. 10 th MAR. Mothering Sunday	4pm Mothering Sunday Family Service	11.15am Family Communion	9.30am Family Service
SUN. 17 th MAR. Lent 6	10.30am Family Service		9.30am Parish Communion
SUN. 24 th MAR. Palm Sunday	10.30am BPC Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
MON. 25 th MAR. Holy Monday			7pm Night Prayer
TUES. 26 th MAR.. Holy Tuesday		7pm Night Prayer	
WED. 27 th MAR. Holy Wednesday	7pm Night Prayer		
THUR. 28 th MAR. Maundy Thurs.			7pm Maundy Thursday Said
FRI. 29 th MAR. GOOD FRIDAY		2pm Last Hour at the Cross	
SUN. 31 st MAR. EASTER SUNDAY	10.30am Easter Family Communion	4pm Easter Songs of Praise	9.30am Easter Family Service

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

3rd 11am Conducted by Dr. Alan Mcilveen

10th 3pm Conducted by David Moll

17th 11am Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam. HC

24th 3pm Conducted by Revd. Dr. Stephen Mosedale

29th 7pm Good Friday Service Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam

Refreshments will be served after the service

31st 11am Conducted by Prof. Stephen Lea



St Mary's Offwell

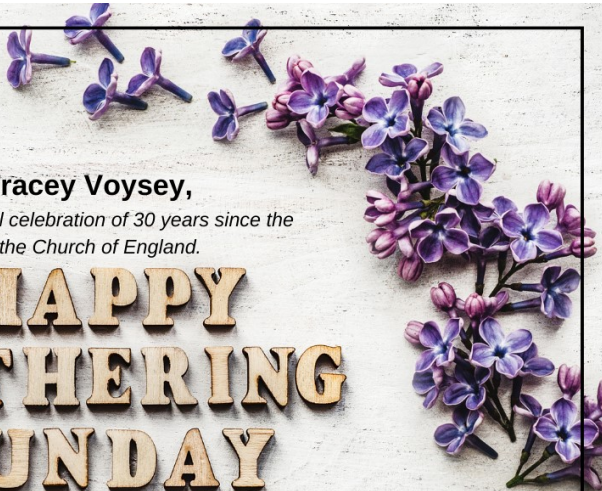
4pm Sun 10th March

Family Celebration with

Revd Jane Wilson, Revd Tracey Voysey,

and Revd Jeremy Putnam *inc. a special celebration of 30 years since the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England.*

HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY



NIGHT PRAYER 7PM

MONDAY 25TH MARCH AT ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FARWAY

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH AT ST MARY'S OFFWELL

A quiet and contemplative end to the day. Following the readings for Holy Week from the Gospel of St John and including music, psalms and poetry. 30mins.

HOLY COMMUNION & VIGIL 7PM

MAUNDAY THURSDAY AT ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY

A very special Holy Communion service reflecting the events of The Last Supper.

And then in a darkened church we watch and wait in silence as the disciples did with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. We remember Jesus' prayer that God's will be done. We conclude by hearing the account of the arrest of Jesus. 1hr 30mins.

LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS 2PM

GOOD FRIDAY AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FARWAY

A thought provoking look at the Cross through art and iconography. This service includes psalms, poetry, art and music to help us consider the profound importance of Jesus' death on the cross. 1hr.



On **Thursday 28th March at 2pm**, **Offwell School PTFA** are hosting a **Free Afternoon Tea** in the village hall to thank everyone for their support and to which **all villagers are invited**. There will be children's activities and the Grand Spring Raffle will be drawn. This year the focus is on raising funds for outdoor structures for the school playground and meadow in order to provide much needed space for learning, stories, games, imaginative play and a great space for playtime.



Offwell Ringers

would welcome another learner. Friendly group meeting on 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month from

7pm to 8pm in St. Mary's church. There are 6 of us and 6 bells, but it would be great to have more to cover holidays etc and to plan for the future.

St Cuthbert's Church, Widworthy

JOIN US FOR OUR

EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE

9.30AM EASTER DAY

inc. Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ



HE IS RISEN



He is
Risen



10.30AM PARISH COMMUNION
EASTER DAY AT ST MARY'S OFFWELL

Easter Day Songs of Praise



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
FARWAY CHURCH
SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 4PM

Join us for a service
celebrating the Resurrection
with England's favourite
Easter hymns and readings.

DIARY DATES

FRI. 1st MAR.	WHITE HART WILMINGTON	LENT BREAKFAST 9am
SUN. 3rd MAR.	ST. MARY'S	BENEFICE CHOIR PRACTICE 5pm to 6pm
FRI. 8th MAR.	WHITE HART WILMINGTON	LENT BREAKFAST 9am
WED. 13th MAR.	OFFWELL	OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB Contact Marian for details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com
THURS. 14th MAR.	IN OFFWELL	BIBLE EXPLORATION GROUP 7pm - 8.30pm For anyone in the Benefice, not just Offwell folk
FRI. 15th MAR.	WHITE HART WILMINGTON	LENT BREAKFAST 9am
SUN. 17th MAR.	ST. MARY'S	BENEFICE CHOIR PRACTICE 5pm to 6pm
THURS. 21st MAR.	AT OFFWELL GOLF CLUB	MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:30am for 10am Contact 01404 831924 for more details
THURS. 21st MAR.	OFFWELL SSC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING 10:30am - 12 noon
FRI. 22nd MAR.	WHITE HART WILMINGTON	LENT BREAKFAST 9am
THURS, 28th MAR.	OFFWELL VH	School PTFA AFTERNOON TEA 2pm—5pm

Offwell Sports & Social Club. Bar open at 7pm every Friday.

Farway Village Hall Coffee Morning every Wednesday 10am-12. Bar open every Friday at 7.30pm

Please see their **Facebook** pages for information about other events

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE SUMMER FETES

OFFWELL FETE Saturday 29th June, 1pm to 4.30pm

at Offwell Recreation Ground and Village Hall

If you have a business or know of anyone who might be interested in booking a stall please get in touch with a member of the Fete committee (£10 for Offwell villagers and £15 for those living outside the village). We are also interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help out on the day.

For more information please contact one of the following committee members via the Facebook Group 'Offwell Together' or directly:

Lynn (01404 831924) - Marian (01404 831066) - Viki (01404 831050) - Sam (01404 831450) - Ruth (01404 831911) - Melissa (07516 810488) Sophie or Karen.

WIDWORTHY FETE Saturday 8th June, 12.30pm to 4pm

at Widworthy Barton

Contact Billy Leach for further details on 07740 121294

FARWAY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL



The children of Farway CofE Primary School have had a very busy start to the new year. We have had a new therapy dog start with us, two WILD Wednesday sessions, a llama visit, Youth Speak competition, class trips, as well as sports trips and worship with Revd. Putnam. We have been very busy!

We are celebrating Lent at our school at the moment. To start off the celebrations, we held our annual pancake races in



school- parents were invited to participate too! The children have taken part in collective worships this week about the meanings and traditions of Lent, such as, sacrifice and gratitude. After the half-term school holidays, the children will continue to delve deeper into Lent and its importance in Christian life.



OFFWELL CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL



'A Bible story well told has the power to spark the imagination, inspire exploration, give hope, create a smile, teach important lessons and connect generations' - this is what the **'Open the Book'** storytelling project is all about.

Every four to six weeks local church volunteers visit St. Mary's and perform **'Open the Book'** stories with the children from Offwell School. The church volunteers re-enact, with audience participation, stories from the Bible using *'The Lion Storyteller Bible'* created by professional storyteller, Bob Hartman. The Storyteller Bible gives an overview of the Bible from Creation to the Ascension; the aim being to present the Bible in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way and to tell the stories in ways which enable the children to engage imaginatively with the text.

'Open the Book' tries to follow Old Testament or New Testament stories which are linked to the Christian festivals calendar. Over the past few visits the children have enjoyed: Daniel in the Lion's Den, Gospel stories of Jesus and Jesus in The Temple as a child.



As well as enjoying the interpretation of the stories the children also thoroughly enjoy participating in the performance. They put on outfits and have a short practice with the group telling them what they need to do. This brings everything to life and helps embed these stories in the minds of children of all ages.

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

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 21st March
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