

THE LINK

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020



THE BENEFICE OF
FARWAY, OFFWELL & WIDWORTHY

OPENING THOUGHTS

Welcome back to our first printed Link since March when Axminster Print shut down along with many other local businesses that we rely on. Five months on, just out of lockdown, and we have learnt to adapt and change our routines and habits.

Quickly there were offers of help to support those who were in isolation or needed help with food shopping. Local shops quickly moved into action offering home deliveries and we had all we needed. Most of the time was spent at home with all local fundraising events, meetings, weddings and services cancelled. Sue Woodruff of Summerdown organised Saturday markets in June selling local produce and home baking. She raised over £2,000 for the Cavell Nurses Trust nurses and it became the event of the week when we could meet up with friends again.

Learning what we value most, noticing what was under our noses, walking more and driving less, with time to visit neighbours - that has been a positive result of the pandemic. Working from home became the new norm for many and I was joining zoom meetings for pilates classes and choir sessions!

Our churches closed their doors but are now re-opening with Widworthy and Offwell having regular services, as well as being open for quiet prayer. Farway's church doors remain closed until Harvest in September. Children have been returning to their schools and our high streets are buzzing again.

As I watch the swallows prepare for their long hard journey south it makes me think about our own preparation for the journey ahead. Life will be different and there will be difficult times to come for many. Energised by faith let us be aware of the needs of family and friends and of those suffering around the world because of Covid-19 and the instability it has brought. May our three churches support each other and work as partners for all our communities.

Jesus longs to walk beside us and invites you to come to him and find rest.

(Matthew 11: 28) 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will refresh you'.

Tara Huffman of Farway

Look out for the NHS '5 Ways to Well-being in Isolation' for ideas to help others as well as ourselves.

BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS

FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372
Robin Banks 01404 871355

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450
Marion Hutchinson 01404 830055

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688
Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

Village Websites:

Farway: www.farwaydevon.org.uk

Offwell: www.offwell.org

Widworthy: www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk

The Parishes LINK is the magazine of the three Parishes of FARWAY, OFFWELL and WIDWORTHY.

Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the Community. Submissions, BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format, to the editor at parisheslink@gmail.com The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality.

SERVICES for SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

	OFFWELL	FARWAY	WIDWORTHY
Sept. 6th	9:30am HC		9:30am Family Service
Sept. 13th			9:30am Family Service
Sept. 20th	11:00am Family Service		9:30am HC
Sept. 27th		11:15am Harvest Celebration	9:30am Family Service
Oct 4th	9:30 Harvest Festival		4pm Harvest Festival
Oct 11th			9:30am Family Service
Oct 18th	11:00am Family Service	11:15am HC	9:30am HC
Oct 25th		11:15am HC	9:30am Family Service
Nov 1st All Saints Day	9:30 HC		9:30am Family Service

For those who would like to 'go' to church but don't feel able to attend the services in our church buildings, there is still plenty online.

Prayers and on-line services can be found at:

<http://churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/>

There are also extra services on TV and Radio

If any Benefice parishioners would like to 'tune in' to a more local service the Holyford Mission in Colyton video their Sunday services at www.holyford.org. Marion Hutchinson uses it: "I find it most helpful. They are slightly different each Sunday as they are led by various members of their clergy team."

Online Services at other local churches

Honiton Family Church - www.honitonfamilychurch.co.uk Sunday services live on FaceBook. Recent sermons to listen to in audio

The Beacon, Kilmington Baptist Church - www.beaconbaptist.co.uk Livestream services via youtube with other recent services available. Children's activities to download.

Possible open-air services in September

The Community Church Honiton & Sidmouth - www.thecommunitychurch.co.uk

Sunday services live via FaceBook and telephone.

Please send your contributions for the **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER** Link magazine as soon as you have them, by **15th OCTOBER at the latest**. Email: parisheslink@gmail.com Please note - Late submissions may not be included.

BIBLE READINGS



These are the Bible readings used in our Sunday services.

Sept. 6th	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalms 149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 13th	Exodus 14:19-31	Psalms 114	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 20th	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalms 15: 1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept. 27th	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
Oct 4th	Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalms 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Oct 11th	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Oct 18th	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalms 99	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Oct 25th	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12	Psalms 90: 1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8	Matthew 22: 34-36
Nov 1st All Saints Day	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalms 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

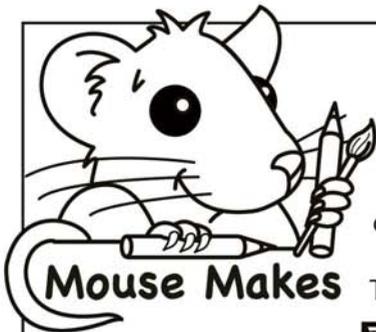
The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippian church, chapter 4, verses 6 & 7

Excerpt from 'Giving Thanks'

by Anonymous

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,
 For the labour well done, and the barns that are heaped,
 For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
 For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home –
 Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!





Mouse Makes

The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

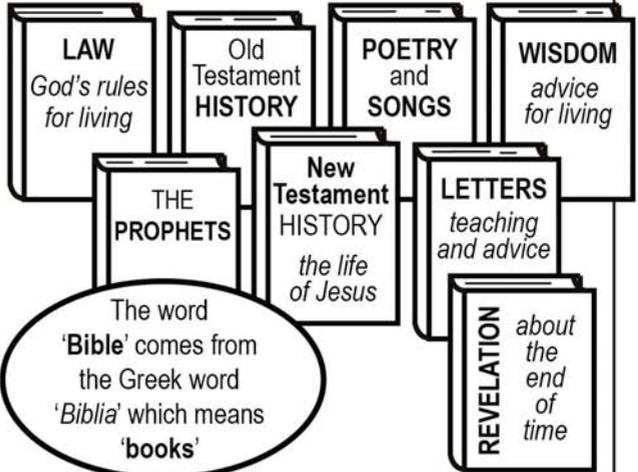
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K
 R I O S I L G
 O G O N S W O
 P H K E D O L
 H T S W O R D
 E R L T M D O
 T E A E G O D
 S V W S E E D
 L E T T E R S
 T L W A N L O
 H A M M E R N
 O T I E H I G
 N I R N I R S
 E O R T S A B
 Y N O R T I I
 F I R E O N B
 P O E T R Y L
 F O O D Y O E



The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblia' which means 'books'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



Mirror
James 1:23



Food
Hebrews 5:12-6:1



Honey and Gold
Psalm 19:10



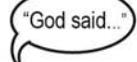
Light
Psalm 119:105



Rain
Isaiah 55:10-12



Seed
Mark 4:14



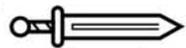
Living Word
Hebrews 4:12



Hammer
Jeremiah 23:29



Fire
Jeremiah 20:9



Sword
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.



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HONITON FOOD BANK



The onset of the Coronavirus pandemic is set to change our lives for a very long time and at the King's Centre Food Bank the amazing team of volunteers have adapted our model to ensure that essential food is being delivered to families and individuals who are in food crisis. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Honiton and the surrounding area, together with support from East Devon District Council, Tesco, Honiton Round Table and many others we have been able to provide over 7,500 meals since lockdown.

The financial forecasts for the coming months are looking bleak and we are anticipating an increase in demand. Therefore, we will be looking to add to the number of volunteers from the Autumn.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from some additional support then we will deliver within a 5-mile radius of Honiton (sometimes further!).

Please contact by email:

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We aim to deliver within three days of someone making contact.



OFFWELL



We started services at St Mary's on July 19th with a "welcome back" family service which was well attended. At the moment we are holding a Communion service on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30am and a family service on the 3rd Sunday at 11am. Bishop Oliver Simon will be leading the service on September 6th.

We will be holding our Harvest Festival service on October 4th at 9:30am which will be led again this year by Rev. Michael Selman. We hope you will be able to come and celebrate this special time of the year with us when we say thank you to God for all his goodness to us.

Church services are of course a little different in these unprecedented times with no singing allowed but Charles Boyce still comes along to play the organ and you can always hum along! Of course we have to observe social distancing and wear masks but we want everyone to feel as safe and comfortable as possible. The welcome is as warm as ever.

As we are unable to hold our usual Open Day, we hope you will take the opportunity to visit the church during September to see the exhibition of life during lockdown in Offwell by Carol and Frank Hayes. We are very grateful to Carol and Frank for all their hard work in putting it together. The church is open between 10am-2pm on Sundays and between 2pm-4pm on Wednesdays. Any donations would be welcome in the box in the wall.

Offwell during Coronavirus

On 12th September we should have been enjoying the Offwell Flower & Produce Show, admiring the talents of friends and neighbours who have toiled over the summer to produce award winning fruit and veg, bread and cakes, jams and juices, flower decorations, poems and handicraft.

This will be the first time in over 60 years that the Show has not been held, due to Covid-19. In the June Link I wrote about the power of the outdoors and the importance of our gardens on our spiritual and mental wellbeing.

We cannot come together to hear each other's Covid stories so from September there will be a display in St. Mary's of photos, reflections and images of village life over the past few months - during lockdown, shielding and social distancing. The people of the village have contributed their own stunning photos and you can view them during church opening times: 10:00am – 2:00pm on Sundays (except during a service) and 2:00pm to 4:00pm on Wednesdays.

If you have any photos you would like to add to the display over the coming months please send them to me at carol@westcolwell.co.uk.

Carol Hayes

Marking VJ Day on 15th August

Thank you to John Tristram for ringing the tenor bell in St. Mary's at 11am to mark this occasion. Hopefully most villagers heard it.

Online versions of The Link for 2020 can be found on the Offwell website.

Find them on 'St. Mary's' at the bottom of 'Our Village' page. www.offwell.org

OFFWELL



On 12th September we were all looking forward to welcoming visitors to our churches and raising funds for **Open Churches Day**, the main annual fund-raising event for the Devon Historic Churches Trust. With the present Covid-19 restrictions hitting church funds particularly hard it is now more important than ever that we support the Trust in their efforts to help parishes throughout the County. If you would like to make a donation to the Trust go to: www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk.

OFFWELL FLOWER SHOW

Regarding the Offwell Flower Show
The answer for now is a big fat NO

We know we asked you to mark your card
But to make it work is just too hard

So we're sorry but, with a heavy heart
We must now say that you can't take part

Fingers crossed we can still have fun
At the Flower Show twenty twenty one

Please pass the message to all you know
We have had to cancel the Flower Show



It was with sadness that the Flower Show Committee took the decision that this year's event must be cancelled. Social distancing, hygiene concerns and other restrictions due to the virus, meant that it would have been impossible to be fully compliant.

Make a note in your diaries for **11th September 2021** and keep everything crossed that we can have a bumper show next year.

Please pass this message on to anyone who may not have seen the message here, in The Link, on the website (offwell.org) or in the local press.

Thank you for your continued support. See you next year!



BOTTLE TOP COLLECTION

At the end of July Budleigh Salterton Lions collected a 20kg sack of bottle tops to be recycled for charitable causes. Our thanks to Windmill Garage for providing a convenient location for the pick-up and also to those who have been collecting and regularly depositing their plastic bottle tops in the bin in St. Mary's porch. Sadly, the company that collects them is stopping it's service, so our tops will have to go in the normal recycling until something else can be arranged.

Thank you, John Tristram

Fish and Chips frying in the car park from 6:00-7:30pm on **Saturday September 5th & October 3rd**. As we are practising virus safety measures could you all please bring your own condiments, chairs, cushions etc if wishing to sit outside. The bar will be open, but no standing at the bar and no wandering around the club room, the Jubilee Room has been set out for you to sit in as well as the clubroom. Children can play outside or sit at tables in the club room. Hand sanitizers to be used on entry to club room and toilets, social distancing at the chip van. It has worked well for the last two occasions. We look forward to seeing you all.

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At the time of going to press Offwell School is preparing to open to all our children on a full-time basis. Staff are excited about the prospect of welcoming everybody into school and have been busy:

Organising their classrooms to make them inviting and safe

Planning new learning projects

Sourcing necessary equipment

Familiarising themselves with new procedures

As you will know, many of our children will not have been in school since March - a significant stretch of time (but one that does include the summer holiday)! Our aim for their return is to ensure they have access to their usual high-quality education, as well as making sure they stay safe and well.



We always look at the whole child and their individual strengths and needs. Our aims are to:

Be Well – continuing to value mental and physical health

Learn Well – ensuring all our children achieve their full potential

Live Well – learning to live with and for each other

At Offwell, we believe in the right of every child to be educated, kept safe, protected and supported. This is why we are looking forward to the school fully reopening for the new academic year so that we can continue this work.

Staff will be in school on Thursday 3rd and 4th September finishing preparations and ensuring all is in order. We welcome the children back on Monday 7th September.

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FARWAY



For support during these difficult times Pat Beard is co-ordinating help within the village.
 Contact Pat on: Email: patriciabeard@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01404 871445

Farway Village Hall will remain closed until further notice



The Farway yew tree is one of the ten largest trees in East Devon and could be 1,000 years old - older than our church.

FARWAY HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

*Sunday 27th of
September at 11.15*

*Service at
St. Michael's Church
Farway*

Yew is known as the tree of everlasting life..... it continues to regenerate by growing new shoots from decaying heart wood or by sending out new shoots.

The yellow fungus, *Leatiporus sulphureus*, is commonly known as 'chicken of the woods' and is edible, except if it grows on a yew tree when it's poisonous!

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Sept	6 th	11am	Local Arrangements.
	13 th	3pm	Conducted by Revd. A Rothwell
	20 th	11am	Conducted by Dr S Jones
Oct	27 th	3pm	Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.
	4 th	11am	Conducted by Mr Stephen Haddad
	11 th	3pm	Conducted by Mr Tom Harding. HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Nov	18 th	11am	Conducted by Dr Stephen Mosedale
	25 th	3 pm	Conducted by Revd Ben Haslam H.C.
	1 st	11am	Conducted by Mr Gordon Howe

*Due to Covid19, we have decided to postpone our **125th Anniversary** celebrations until **2021***

OFFWELL WOODLAND



During the past few months I have seen considerable disruption in the woods. The harvesting of the Western Hemlocks closed off part of the woods. Our woodland volunteers have not been able to operate and we have had no school visits. However, despite all this life in the woods has carried on as normal.



This year has been a good year for butterflies. Starting off with Brimstones we then saw record numbers of Meadow Browns. The year continued with Small Blues, Peacocks and Red Admirals, finishing off with large numbers of Large Whites. Our birds have had a successful year with many species from Willow Tits to our resident Buzzards recorded. What we have also seen is an increase in Dormice numbers. It seems that whilst we have been socially isolating our woodland occupants have been making the most of a very good year.

Vernon Whitlock

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WIDWORTHY



We joyfully resumed our regular schedule of services at 9:30am on the first Sunday in July, with most taking place in the church yard when the weather has permitted. Although we are not permitted to sing, we have enjoyed listening to the hymns played on cd. Several people have remarked that it is easier to concentrate on the words while listening, as well as enjoying the swallows soaring above us.

On **September 13th**, we look forward to welcoming the Archdeacon of Exeter who is taking our Family Service at 9:30am. Our third Sunday Holy Communion **September 20th** will be taken by the Revd Nigel Freathy.

September 19th we have the marriage of Natasha Craig and Ross Martyn-Fisher in the church and wish them every happiness in their future life together.

We start October by giving thanks for all God has given us in this strange year in our Harvest Festival service at 4pm on **October 4th**. The service will be taken by the Revd Nigel Freathy. Bishop Oliver is taking our Family Service **October 11th** and our Holy Communion **October 18th**, both at 9:30. The Rev Nigel Freathy will take our Family Service October 25th. Following this service, we will have our delayed Annual Parish Meeting in the church so that the required social distancing can be observed.

Roses for Remembrance

A large conifer at St Cuthbert's which is dying is being removed and in its place a bed of Roses in Remembrance will be planted. The tree is kindly being removed by the very dedicated local team who tend our churchyard over the coming weeks and the area will be tidied with some new top soil put in. A list of fragrant roses will be available to choose from and sponsored by family and friends who wish to fund a 'Rose in Remembrance'. During the Coronavirus it has not always been possible to say 'goodbye' to loved ones and this may be the opportunity to do something special in their memory or in the memory of other who have died before. It could be that you would just like to sponsor a fragrant rose and from time to time sit quietly in the Church grounds to reflect in the peace and beauty of the surroundings.



If you are interested to find out more or in sponsoring a 'Rose in Remembrance' please contact Marc Kastner 01404 831614.

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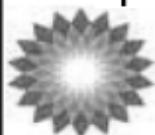
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FESTIVAL & FEAST DAYS

Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them and is traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon, the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. It used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1st August and was called **Lammas**, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church. They were then used as the communion bread during a special mass thanking God for the harvest. The custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church, and nowadays we have harvest festivals at the end of the season.

Celebrating the harvest was once a pagan affair. Today's church celebrations only began in earnest in Victorian times, when the Rev. Robert Stephen Hawker invited his parishioners to a special harvest thanksgiving service at the church in Morwenstow, Cornwall, in 1843.

In centuries past, farmers would lay on a harvest feast and a corn dolly might be given place of honour and hung up in hope of a good harvest the following year. The old West Country tradition of 'Crying the Neck' dates back to times when crops would be hand harvested. A reaper would hold the last bundle of corn – sometimes known as the 'neck' – aloft and cry out to the other harvesters. The corn was then tied and kept in the parish church until the following spring.

Farway, Offwell and Widworthy will all be holding a Harvest Festival Service this year, but due to Covid-19 there will be no Harvest Suppers. At Offwell the Harvest Supper was one of the most popular and well-attended annual events so this year a Harvest donation to the Honiton Food Bank would be much appreciated. Please do not leave anything inside St. Mary's or the church porch. *See page 7 for details of the Food Bank*

Colour-me-in – feasting harvest mice



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Hedges

Our county would not be what it is without the distinctive character of our hedges. The 'Devon Bank' typically consists of a large bank, with laid hedge shrubs on top and veteran hedge trees at wider intervals. Some of these date back to medieval times and give our country lanes and byways their irregular shapes.

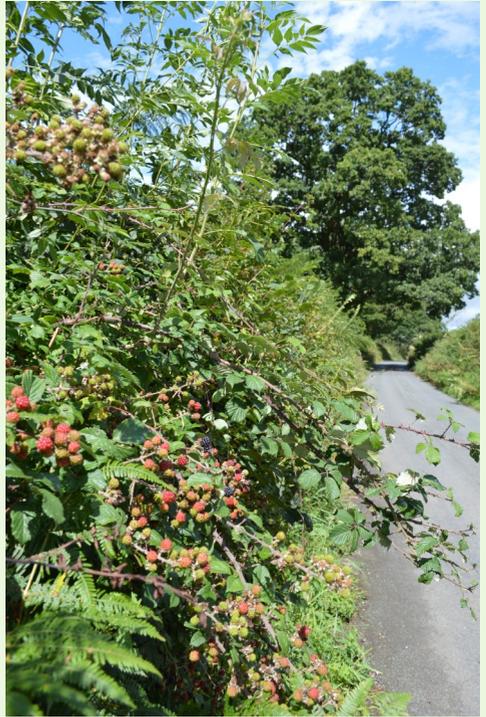
Nowadays, in our own gardens, we use hedges as borders to our properties, wind breaks, privacy or for structure. They also provide a habitat for wildlife, for birds to nest, small animals to shelter, as a food provision and corridors for movement.

Environmentally hedges are essential too. They capture air pollution by absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and help to form a barrier between traffic fumes and our outdoor spaces. Hedges can also help to prevent flooding, providing a permeable surface to soak up the rainfall and with climate change this has never been more important. One in four homes have their front gardens paved over and one in three contain no plants, according to a survey by RHS in 2016.

There are a variety of choices when planting a hedge, evergreens, deciduous or conifers. Of course all require some maintenance to keep them healthy and in shape. The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 makes it an offence to damage or disturb any nesting of wild birds and this is usually considered to be between March and August; It is always a good idea to have a gentle but thorough check prior to trimming your hedge.

The best times to prune a hedge depend on the type of hedge but every hedge needs a good annual prune as a minimum. If your hedge has become overgrown and is becoming difficult to maintain, they can respond well to renovation. This can be done in mid-winter for deciduous and mid spring for evergreen. Some can be reduced by up to 50% but anything more drastic should be done gradually over several years. However, Conifers should not be renovated as they do not re-shoot from old wood, they respond better to regular light trimming.

So, hedges are essential, both environmentally and aesthetically. Look after yours and it will provide so much more than a boundary.



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Book & Film Reviews



FILM REVIEW - THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a 2019 TV series portraying Jesus through the eyes of those who met him. It is quite unlike any other film made of the life of Christ with artistic storytelling, creativity and the inclusion of humour, while staying true to the message of the Gospels.

The series has been well received by critics and viewers alike.

The disciples and other characters come alive as we get to know them going about their everyday lives. Then Jesus comes on the scene, bringing change, excitement and tension. Jesus plays games with children, speaks with women and socialises with the marginalised of society as well as bantering and joking with his disciples. The religious leaders of the day are suspicious of him and the Romans seek to maintain their control and power.

Having watched many other films about the life of Christ we believe this to be the most realistic and moving portrayal of Jesus that we've ever seen. You can imagine yourself actually being there with Jesus, listening to him and being alongside the disciples. Due to the extensive research, the set, costumes, actors and atmosphere it portrays the Gospel story as it was in its culture through Jewish and Roman eyes and not as we imagine it to be as seen through our Western eyes. We learnt a lot about the characters, customs and political and religious tensions of the time. Suitable for all ages, highly recommended.

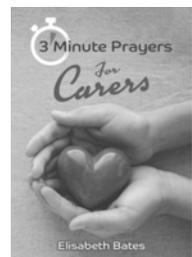
It was the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time but you won't find it on terrestrial or subscription channels. It can be downloaded **free** as a mobile app, on YouTube and Facebook.

BOOK REVIEW - Anna Chaplaincy Carer's Guides pack BRF, £10 per pack

How do we look after ourselves and others better in the wake of a health crisis such as Covid-19? This Carer's Guide series offers practical help and guidance to carers who find themselves needing to provide spiritual support to older people or others in residential care.

The aim of these guides is to give you the confidence and skills to enable those in your care not only to cope emotionally and spiritually but even to thrive, despite challenging circumstances.

Anna Chaplaincy is an organisation training and supporting Chaplains in communities as a way of supporting older people emotionally and spiritually. For more information, see their website www.annachaplaincy.org.uk



Saving our Parish Churches



On 12th September, as well as celebrating the Offwell Flower & Produce Show, we were also looking forward to **Devon Historic Churches Day**, when all churches in Devon should be open, welcoming visitors and raising funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust.

The Trust was inaugurated in 1973 to raise funds to repair and preserve churches and chapels, of all denominations, throughout Devon, and Open Churches Day is the Trust's main annual fund-

raising event. With the present Covid-19 restrictions hitting church funds particularly hard it is now more important than ever that we support the Trust in their efforts to help parishes throughout the county.

The future for our parish churches is bleak. In May the Rt. Rev. Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London, said that there would be significant changes to key aspects of Christian worship for some time to come:

"I don't envisage, even up to the end of the year, we will be back to our normal services..... There are some very challenging questions that we'll have to face, not least about singing and about the receiving of Holy Communion. So the future will look different."

With church surveys now finding that more adults are watching services on-line than were attending church before the pandemic Sarah Mullally went on to say:

"There is going to be a challenge for us in the future, about

asking ourselves why do more people access on-line than may be coming to our buildings? How do we enable them to enter into our community, to be part of our community in church?"

There are growing concerns that if the Covid crisis does lead to church closures the Church authorities might indeed prefer a slimmed down institution, leaving a few larger buildings open while smaller parishes worship on-line.

"The usually sleepy pages of the Church Times", writes one newspaper correspondent, "were set alight last month by the suggestion of an impending death: of the parish church itself. And it is a death, implied The Rev. Stephen Trott... that would not be caused by the forces of secularisation but by the actions of the church authorities themselves."

If you would like to make a donation to the Devon

Historic Churches Trust go to www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk for more information.





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