

# No place like home.

Thoughts from the Revd. Mike Loader, Assistant Curate

I don't know about you, but even after the best and most adventuresome or relaxing of holidays, there is nothing quite like arriving back home, opening the front door and getting back to one's own bed.

By birth I am a 'Kentish man', having been born north and east of the river Medway, and as I am writing this from Kingsnorth, a village near Ashford where Joy had her home, I am back in my 'home county' and in a sense have come back home after my 'holiday' in Devon. However, after living now for some forty years in Tavistock, that really has become the place that I call and feel is my real home. As Christians I think it is good to take some time out and ask ourselves "where is our real and abiding home?"

That can be a difficult question to face for many of us as we live our comfortable life style, so full of the many things that we enjoy. But for some of our brothers and sisters who do not fare so well, and especially for those who are being persecuted for their faith, perhaps their answer would differ from ours. Is home to be Earth or Heaven?

Saint Paul showed a hint of a similar dilemma when writing to the Christians living in Corinth: to be "at home in the body and away from the Lord", or rather to be "away from the body and at home with the Lord", which was better? (1Cor5vs6-9)

In fact, perhaps the dilemma is not quite that stark. Paul gave the advice that we should "walk by faith and not by sight", and to make it our aim to please the Lord. Our Jewish heritage as Christians thus builds upon the notion that our whole being and life is to be one of ongoing prayer and sacrifice to our Heavenly Father. How else are we to understand Paul's command to "Pray without ceasing"? (1Thes5v17). So in that way of understanding our lives, we are always "at home with our Lord Jesus".

Paul also reminds the Ephesian Christians that they, and by extension we also, are to "make the most of the time" (Eph5v16), and that we are also "always to be giving thanks". What a transformation that can bring

to our lives if we let go of the bitterness, criticism and grudges that we so often continue to cling on to.

Medical studies have shown that such a change in attitude actually does produce significant advantages to our health and wellbeing, as greater quantities of endorphins are released into our system as we practise forgiveness.

If we could only get into the mind-set that this present time of our abode here on planet Earth is but our temporary home. We are to be transformed, in the words of Paul, by the “renewal of our minds” in preparation for our eternal dwelling in the ‘heavenly places’. Just how would that impact on our day to day living? Paul was also anxious to disclose to the Corinthian Christians what was “the secret and hidden wisdom of God” (1Cor2v7), wisdom that the rulers of his age had failed to understand, and probably that holds even more true for our generation as well.

However Paul did not want to leave those believers with no hope or promise, so he wrote those inspiring words “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1Cor2v9). What a magnificent future we Christians are privileged to look forward to.

So where are you now? At home or away? With the body of Christ, which is the Church, or out on your own? Let your imaginations run free, maybe to your dream holiday, and then take a moment to reflect upon that promise of Paul’s. Does it not spur you on to work in whatever way, big or small, with young or old, to continue to work to build up God’s kingdom here in Tavistock now, until in a future yet to come, we shall be “away from the body and present with the Lord”, rejoicing in all that has been done in His name.

May God bless us all, and let us give thanks that we all have a part to play in this great calling.

**August 2015** *(Services are in Tavistock Parish Church unless otherwise indicated)*

Sat 1      2 pm      Marriage of Brendan Chapple and Josephine de Carles -  
Christ Church, Brentor  
2 pm      Marriage of James Curry and Eleanor Huish

**Sun 2      NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

7.30 am      **Morning Prayer**  
8 am      **Holy Communion**  
9.45 am      **Family Communion: a service for children  
and adults together**  
9.45 am      **Family Service – Christ Church, Brentor**  
11.15 am      **All-Comers' Family Service – Gulworthy**  
12.30 pm      **Family Baptism**  
6 pm      **Evensong – St Michael's, Brent Tor**

Tue 4      7.30 pm      Prayer and Stillness Group – 10 Courtlands Road

**Wed 5      10.30 am      Holy Communion** followed by coffee in aid of the  
SEED Project

Fri 7      10 am      Holy Dusters

**Sun 9      TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

7.30 am      **Morning Prayer**  
8 am      **Holy Communion**  
9.45 am      **Family Communion: a service for children  
and adults together**  
11.15 am      **Morning Service – Gulworthy**  
6 pm      **Evensong – St Michael's, Brent Tor**

**Wed 12      10.30 am      Holy Communion** followed by coffee in aid of the  
SEED Project

**Sun 16      ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

7.30 am      **Morning Prayer**  
8 am      **Holy Communion**  
9.45 am      **Family Communion: a service for children  
and adults together**  
9.45 am      **Holy Communion – Christ Church, Brentor**  
11.15 am      **Holy Communion – Gulworthy**  
6 pm      **Evensong – St Michael's, Brent Tor**

Mon 17 3 pm Marriage Blessing for Colin and Laura – St Michael's, BT

**Wed 19 10.30 am Holy Communion** followed by coffee in aid of the SEED Project

Sat 22 2 pm Marriage of Thomas Honey and Caroline Johnson

**Sun 23 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**7.30 am Morning Prayer**

**8 am Holy Communion**

**9.45 am Family Communion: a service for children and adults together**

**11.15 am Holy Communion – Gulworthy**

**6 pm Evensong – St Michael's, Brent Tor**

**Wed 26 10.30 am Holy Communion** followed by coffee in aid of the SEED Project

**Sun 30 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**7.30 am Morning Prayer**

**8 am Holy Communion**

**9.45 am Family Communion: a service for children and adults together**

**4 pm Afternoon Service – Gulworthy**

**6 pm Evensong – St Michael's, Brent Tor**

### **Prayer of the month**

O God, our heavenly Father, renew in us the sense of your gracious presence and let it be within us a constant impulse to peace, trustfulness and courage on our pilgrimage through life.

Let us hold you fast with loving and adoring hearts, and let our affections be fixed on you, so that the unbroken communion of our hearts with you may accompany us in whatever we do, through life and in death.

For Jesus's sake, Amen



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# *Tidings from Tavistock*

We have just said a sad but fond farewell to the Exon Singers who, for the 49<sup>th</sup> time, provided the town with a feast of choral music. This group of 28 singers filled the church with glorious sound, and the Parish Centre with music and laughter. They work incredibly hard (and play hard!) and some very weary choristers wended their way from Tavistock on Sunday morning after leading the 9.45 Eucharist service – a real treat!



*Rehearsing for the Eucharist service*

We enjoyed an eclectic mix of music, from Cole Porter to Finnish and Estonian songs for summer nights, from Italian madrigals to a range of traditional American songs. The climax of the concerts came on Saturday night when 'composer in residence' James Burton's "Convergence of the Twain", a dramatic musical interpretation of



Thomas Hardy's poem about the sinking of the Titanic, thrilled and moved those who heard it. Then, after a performance of Howells' Requiem, the choir, joined by about 50 local singers to form the 'Festival Chorus', gave a powerful rendition of Faure's Requiem, always a crowd pleaser.

Every year this is a week to anticipate and then revel in – and next year promises to be extra special as the Exons Festival celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> year!

On a slightly more prosaic note, on Saturday July 4 the Parish BBQ invaded the Vicarage garden. The weather remained kind, over 60 burgers and 60 hot dogs were cooked and consumed, wine and beer flowed and the trampoline proved very popular (with the younger attendees!)



*The cooks.....*

..... *those who enjoyed their fare*



....*and an interested onlooker!*



# Mission of the Month

## The Seed Project in Zimbabwe

Jackson Nazombe, trustee and co-founder of Seed, recently returned from a visit to Zimbabwe and was sad to see that the quality of life had deteriorated since last year. Many had not been paid for several months and some factories had closed down. Perhaps because of this, food production had been hampered by decisions to turn to cash crops that were inappropriate for the soil.

Bearing these facts in mind, Seed is aiming to do more work with schools, including practical life skills. This will help the problem of 95% of school leavers being unemployed, and many not completing their education. The students are responding and realising their worth in helping to support their families. Other successes include the creation of seed beds in the new market gardening project and the reforestation project. Seed works primarily in communities where unemployment, ill health and hunger are high. The focus is on empowerment rather than aid.

We should be really inspired by 10 year old Josh (Jackson's son). During Lent he challenged himself to read 1000 pages. An active little boy who loves sport, he put this to one side and woke early each morning. He did this for Seed because he realised how fortunate he is compared to the children of Zimbabwe. Through an anonymous donor pledging to match what he raised in sponsorship, he accumulated £6000.

Seed employs two full time Community Development Workers in Zimbabwe, and just one part time employee in the UK. This means that funds are used to improve the lives of people living in Zimbabwe.

We will, as in previous years, be serving tea and coffee from 11.00am – 4.00pm in St Eustachius' Church on Wednesdays in August. Please support this as our contribution to this very worthy mission.

Eileen Hooper

The Friends of St Eustachius' present  
an evening with

# Johnny Cowling



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Fun

Thursday 10 September  
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Tavistock Parish Church

Tickets £7.50

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## **WANTED**

### **DYNAMIC, FORWARD THINKING** **GOVERNORS**

The school Governors of Tavistock Church School Federation are reconstituting and would like some more Foundation Governors. Along with the day to day tasks of the Governing Body, Foundation Governors are tasked with ensuring the school stays true to its Christian values.

A school governor plays a vital role in helping to shape the strategic direction of the school, along with challenging school leaders to ensure that all of our pupils achieve the very best that they can. The role of a school governor is a demanding and yet highly satisfying one. We are particularly looking for governors who have skills in finance, leadership and change management, Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools (SIAMS), computing, interpreting data, early years education and human resources.

As a Governor you will need to be prepared to attend regular meetings as well as undertake specific roles and responsibilities.

If you would like more information on the role of a school Governor please phone Helen Tripp, (Clerk to Governors) at St Rumon's Infants school on 01822 612085.



# **From the Diocese...**

## ***Social Responsibility and Sustainable Living***

### **THE PEOPLE WHO SHARE**

By its name this seems like a good title for a church group – local Christians who divide their land, goods or money in common.

However, the ‘People Who Share’ is a global movement that is making sharing mainstream. ‘We’re on a mission to build a Sharing Economy and we love to help you discover that sharing is..... fun, affordable, easy, accessible, mobile and of course social. We bring it all together on-line, on land and on-the-go’.

‘We run big campaigns such as Global Sharing Day previously called National Sharing Day and reach over 60 million people in 192 countries.’

‘We’re building a Sharing Economy one click at a time, you can start sharing at [compareandshare.com](http://compareandshare.com) the world’s first one-stop comparison marketplace of the Sharing Economy – see more at [www.thepeoplewhoshare.com](http://www.thepeoplewhoshare.com)

‘We’re committed to reshaping the world through sharing, harnessing the power of reciprocity to create happier, healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. We’re here to enable sharing, to make it easy for people who need, to connect with people who have, and build a global community of sharers. Our passion is unlocking the sharing potential that exists in each of us. What will you share?’

‘Our vision of the future is a thriving Sharing Economy where the need to own is transformed. Everyone is a supplier of goods, services and experiences. Where people share skills, time, resources, knowledge, responsibility, opportunities, ideas, good, services and stuff.’

‘It’s a world in which our collective capability meets our collective needs and we collaborate to enhance each other’s lives, protect our planet and create wealth from which everybody benefits.’

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

## CHURCH AND ECOLOGY

### **Papal Encyclical reflections** (Martyn Goss (July 2015))

Pope Francis has published a significant and far-reaching letter with his Encyclical '**Laudato Si' (Praised Be): On Care for our Common Home**. He analyses how the global economy with its obsession on short term financial gain is actually in danger of undermining the very life-supporting processes which sustain known life on earth.

Fundamentally it examines how scientists and others see global warming as having grave implications especially for the most vulnerable peoples and places on the planet, who already feels the deadly consequences of poverty and inequality. The poorest contribute least to the problem but suffer the worst effects, as aid agencies have been telling us for decades. The reasons behind all this are our dominant means of production and consumption.

All of this calls for more radical and deeper actions – more than technological fixes and especially for a stronger role for non-government organisations, civil society and the world's faith communities.

Unlike many official environmental documents, it uses the word 'ecology' and looks at the inter-connectedness of the challenges we face (pollution, habitat loss, water depletion, land use, biodiversity decline, climate instability), and calls for joined up solutions especially between scientists, businesses, politicians and religious leaders

### **The themes of the encyclical:**

The intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet

The conviction that everything in the world is connected

The critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology

The call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress

The value proper to each creature

The human meaning of ecology

The need for forthright and honest debate

The serious responsibility of international and local policies

The throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle  
Normally, papal documents are addressed to the bishops of the Church or the lay faithful, but here the Pope addresses his message to all people: "*In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home...*"



## UPCYCLING IN DEVON!

The Devon Reuse project aims to promote and stimulate more reuse, repair and upcycling in the community, in small businesses, charities and social enterprise, and will run throughout 2015. The project will establish a Reuse Forum, an online Reuse and Repair Directory, provide workshops and practical skills training events, and make community reuse kits available for loan to people wanting to host events such as clothes swaps and ‘give and take days’.

Work will include identifying and establishing a network of people, small businesses and organisations in Devon interested or active in reusing, repairing, re-making, or re-purposing any item, as part of the Reuse Forum.

The Forum will enable people to network, share know-how, and explore potential partnerships. Are you an individual maker who needs specific materials or do you have any ideas for a reuse enterprise but need some help? Are you interested in ‘repair cafes’? Are you a business that has reusable materials in your waste that you would like to see reused? Are you a charity or social enterprise that could benefit from marketing and promotion, or anything strategic? Do you want to revive jumble sales in your area? There will be different interest groups with different goals, but it is hoped that all interests can derive benefit in one way or another. The online re-use/repair directory will enable the public to easily find and connect with useful contacts, such as repair services, in their locality. Reuse enterprises, upcyclers and repairers will be able to market their services, through inclusion in the directory. Do you know a repair enterprise that should be included? If so, please send us the contact details. The online reuse directory will be based on the market town areas of Devon. Different reuse and repair initiatives will be broken down into 6 categories: buy, sell, repair, hire, donate and swap.

If you want to be included in any way please get in touch, either as an individual business, community group, charity or social enterprise, whether as part of the reuse/repair directory, the forum network, or are just interested in any of the training events, either participating or offering skills.

Please contact Emma Croft via email: [emma.croft@devon.gov.uk](mailto:emma.croft@devon.gov.uk) or phone 07966566435, or join the free DCRN email list for regular email information about local events and news. Richard Gomme at [info@dcrn.org.uk](mailto:info@dcrn.org.uk)



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**FREE CAR PARKING**

## **Tavistock MC Camp 15-22 August** **Southwood Farm, Strete, South Devon.**

By the time you read this, the final preparations will be underway for our first camp in this new venue. Our hosts, run a working farm and have been generously allowing church groups to camp in this stunning location, perched high above the beach near Blackpool Sands since 1968! Urban Saints manage the site, and we will have the use of a large tented marquee for meals and meetings and, by my book, a kitchen which is of 'Cordon bleu' standards for camp catering! There are also boys' and girls' toilets and 4 showers with hot water, so no excuse not to wash!

We will be 60 adults and children camping together at the beginning of the week and although some people cannot stay the whole week, we will still be about 30+ through until the following Saturday. What do we plan to do? We will be eating and sharing fellowship together, and on Sunday evening we are encouraged to all go and share Worship with the youth group who will be camping in the adjacent field. This is usually a vibrant and uplifting service held at Strete church, where we are all packed in like sardines!! On Monday we welcome Revd. Chris to supper and to share the evening with us and look forward to a talk from him. We are keen to encourage conversations about the Christian faith but we are a community camp where we recognise we have friends on camp who are at very different stages in their own journeys of faith.

During the day, Ali is planning to offer some children's activities but really the day is open for everyone to explore or simply to rest and relax in the fabulous surroundings. If you wish to visit us and have not yet told us, please get in touch with Sally as soon as possible. Supper is served at 6pm, and you would be so welcome.

Ali and Sally

[sally@sallysholidaycottages.co.uk](mailto:sally@sallysholidaycottages.co.uk)

810285

# Gulworthy Notes

Fantastic. That sums up the absolutely amazing support we had at our Dog Show and Fete. Set-up Saturday went so smoothly that we were ready in record time. The marquees and activity tents were erected, everyone so willing to help each other. The Friday weather forecast was for an overcast Sunday with a lot of rain. How wrong they were. Not only did it not rain overnight but, more importantly, Sunday saw the sunshine come out amidst some clouds. It was dry as visitors' cars poured into the car parking field in what seemed like a never ending stream. Happy people, many with their dogs - a wide variety, some small, some huge, some fluffy, some straight haired - wended their way to the show site. The many different activities, stalls, food and fun enveloped the crowd.

The dogs were paraded .....



the ducks raced .....



... cream teas were savoured, ice creams dribbled, burgers and bangers munched. Skittles were skittled and arrows shot. How the afternoon flew by. Then, as the draw numbers rang out, the inevitable trek back to the car park began, signifying the end of a glorious afternoon. Did our volunteers disappear - no way! They set to, to dismantle the show very quickly and we set off for home, happy but tired.

So a great big Gulworthy thank you to everyone who helped, showed, sold, cooked and visited. The biggest GBGTY must go to our co-ordinator, Rosie Steer, who seemingly indefatigably organised, guided and walked miles, making sure everything was ok, but without whom the event would not have been such a success. As I write, the show was only yesterday so I don't have a result to give you. Whatever it is it will be split 50/50 between St Paul's Church and Gulworthy Parish Hall. (Hot off the email, we raised a few pence over £4000. Brilliant.) What a fabulous community we have for, without the beautiful Woodovis Caravan and Camping Park allowing us to be there, and being so helpful - even providing a superb band to entertain us, we could not find such support anywhere in our parish.





Earlier that Sunday, at our morning service led by Revd Christopher, we were introduced to Steven Martin who has just joined the ministry team as a curate in training and we welcomed him to Gulworthy. We were also pleased to hear that a reader in training, Brian King, is joining the team. Even better was that we welcomed back Wendy Roderick from her desert school on the Oman / Saudi borders. She gave us a truly inspiring sermon, including in her story the strengthening development of their school and church with unbelievable increases in numbers joining. Great to see you again, Wendy.

A couple of days before the Fete had been our St Paul's Church gift Day, an opportunity for members of our community to meet Revd Christopher, enjoy a chat, and for many to show support financially towards the keeping of our little church and all the services it provides. In three weeks' time the church will be having its quinquennial (5 yearly) inspection by an architect appointed by the diocese. The report will inevitably identify a number of maintenance issues that need to be addressed, though in recent years we have completed all the listed tasks, so we should be in pretty good order. Fingers crossed.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July our PCC met to be updated on progress and to plan for the near future. For some while St Paul's has been open during the day time



for anyone to visit and have a moment of quiet reflection or say a prayer. Revd Christopher has now completed the draft of a Prayer Card which we hope will be available by the end of September. Jeremy of Bowrish Saw Mills has offered to make a 'Prayer Tree' to place the cards on for visitors to take a card and read from a selection of short prayers. Our revised booklets for Eucharistic services, which guide our congregation through the service, have gone on trial and seem to be helpful. It enables the prayers and responses to be read and indicates when to stand, sit or pray. Our accounts for the half year show us to be a bit behind on raising the cost of keeping going, but the Fete and future events should help us to get closer. Our Gift Day was also very successful in giving an opportunity for our community to meet Revd Christopher at St Paul's. Many were able to make a financial donation or commitment to our church. Thank you so much. The parents and children coming out of Gulworthy School had been invited to tea and cakes while the adults had a chance to talk to Revd Christopher. Some mums found lots of sticky fingers afterwards, I know. In my last Notes I asked if, during the summer holiday, you would sort out any spare or no longer worn clothing for our collection for the sale to a merchant in October; the money received will be ring fenced for the bibles for next year's giving of bibles to all school leavers to secondary school. Please leave your donation in the church when you are passing. We have had a few donations already but we need lots more for it to be viable for the merchant to collect from us. Our last 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service was great fun, with some kites made by Jeremy, lots of fun, food and prayers. The next one is on 30<sup>th</sup> August and will be in the Meadows jointly with members of St Eustachius'. I hope you can bring your children or grandchildren to join in the fun. Ring Viv on 612803 for details.

The Historic Churches' Day will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September when not only will St Paul's be open with light refreshments for visitors but a number of our parishioners and friends will be doing a sponsored cycle ride around some other churches. Please contact Lesley 833181 if you would like to join them. September will see our Harvest Festival, and a ceilidh is being planned for October - but more of that in the next Parish Magazine.

Alan Fox



## **Gulworthy WI**

Irene welcomed 37 members, a guest and our speaker, Roger Bird, to our meeting. She introduced Roger Bird, a street pastor, who then told us all about his work at the weekends in the streets of Tavistock over the last six years. Set up by the Ascension Trust in London 12 years ago, Street Pastors were launched in Brixton Baptist Church in 2003 with 15 women and 3 men, guided by Les Isaacs. There are now 11000 pastors working in 300 towns. The pastors have been working in Tavistock since November 2009.

There is an urban trinity of Church, Council and Police. The pastors wear a uniform which includes a hat. Their aim is to give a visible presence, a listening ear and pastoral support. A volunteer commits to work one Friday or Saturday evening every month. The volunteers meet at 9.30pm for prayer before patrolling the streets. Their shift is usually four hours, broken into two shifts. They have contact with base by radio and wireless. They also provide flip-flops for girls who can't walk in their high heels and lollipops to increase sugar levels. Training takes place over a thirteen week period, where they learn about their responsibilities, street awareness and child vulnerability. There is considerable homelessness in West Devon. Since 2012 they have visited Tavistock College on Wednesday afternoons, walking around and listening to the pupils. It was truly interesting to listen to Mr Bird, who is obviously very sincere and dedicated about his work. Ann Gerry gave the vote of thanks.

Irene gave reports on the Launceston celebrations and the visit to Albaston WI. There were quite a few upcoming trips for our diaries. Anne Yeo and Pat McNicol are organising a Tree Planting Ceremony to celebrate the WI centenary which will be held in the Gulworthy Cemetery on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

The meeting ended with Irene thanking everybody for their help. The next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm when Michael Stephens will be telling us how to create a wonderful winter garden.

For further information about Gulworthy WI please contact Rose-Marie Bonnevier: 01822 610566.

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## The Gospel according to John.

John's gospel is the 4<sup>th</sup> and last gospel in the New Testament. The writer is traditionally considered to be the apostle John, the son of Zebedee and younger brother of James, and the gospel is thought to have been written during the last 10 years of the first century. In style it is considerably different to the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Its main theme brings out the significance of all that Christ did and said; the whole of John's thought is dominated by the mystery of the incarnation, expressed particularly in the first 18 verses of the prologue: *'In the beginning was the Word, and The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning'* Ch1 v1-2.

After the prologue the gospel can be divided up as the revelation of the Son of God to Israel to the end of chapter 12, and then from chapter 13 to 20 the revelation of the Son of God to the Gentiles, concluding with the epilogue in chapter 21.

As well as the 7 miracles/signs, starting with the changing of the water to wine at the wedding feast at Cana - considered the first of our Lord's miracles - there are the 7 'I am' sayings, such as *'I am the bread of life'* (Ch 6 v35), and no doubt the best known, most quoted, and I would say the most comforting, verse of the New Testament is found in Ch3 v3 *'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life'*

John's gospel, with its emphasis on the pre-existence of Christ as the 'word made flesh', who is present with the Father at creation, and which also shows Jesus Christ fulfilling and making obsolete the traditions of Judaism, is a gospel of deep spiritual and theological meaning.

Ian Silcox

# Brentor News

The Post-Baptism party was held on Saturday 20th June in Brentor village hall. All children who had been baptised in either St Michael's or Christchurch in the last 5 years were invited, with the age range being from 2 - 13 years.

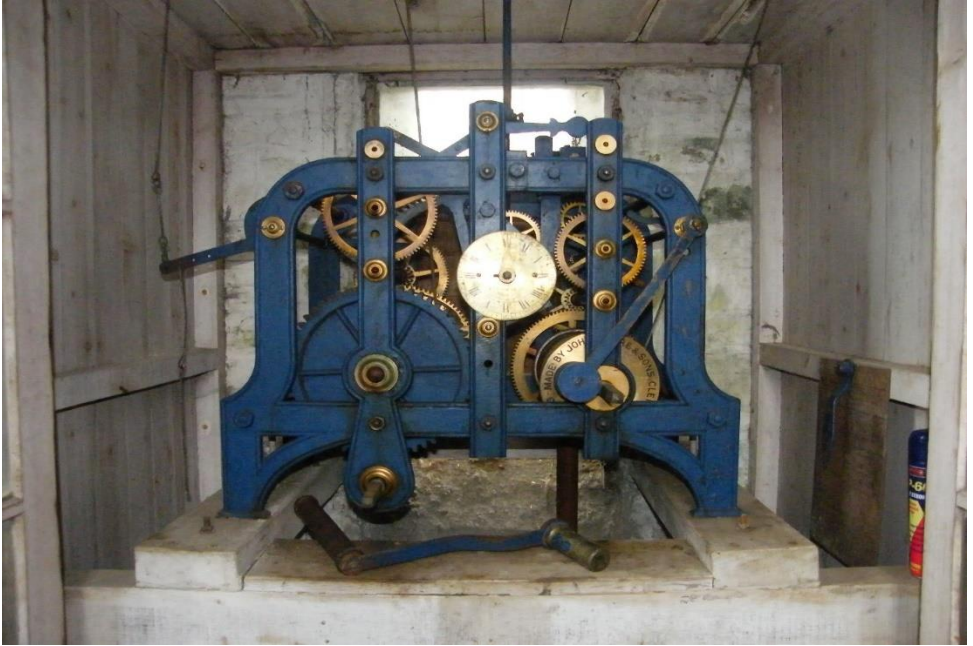
Children began the party with a walk up the lane to the Church pond. Laurie Harris took charge of allowing the children to do a pond dip. The children enjoyed looking through the trays of microscopic creatures. From the pond we headed back to the village hall where a meal of sausages, mash and beans was served, followed by fresh fruit. The party ended with some party games and balloon fun with party music. A good time was had by all.

Mark Corber





# Christchurch Clock



Here at Christchurch we're currently trying to get the church clock running again – it hasn't worked for a couple of years, and according to the log book, the last formal maintenance was in 1968!

However, we're not entirely sure as to the clock's history; we know that it was made in 1863, and there is a plaque in the church claiming it was installed in 1953 to commemorate the Coronation. However, the structural supports apparently installed to hold the mechanism have graffiti dating to the 1920s...

So, does anyone out there (in any of the parishes!) have any further information about our clock and its history? Where did it come from, and when was it installed? Also, who was the inspired genius (probably circa 1960) who turned a washing machine into a fully-operational electric striker for the bell?!

If you do know anything about its past, we'd love to hear from you!

David Harris, Churchwarden, Brentor.  
david@brentorchurch.org.uk

## BRENTOR COMMONS

A drizzly mid-July walk around Bowden gave a new perspective to these surroundings. The overall colour palette was a range of greens, from the now fully grown bracken (noticeably shorter where we have been rolling and cutting each year) to the pale unripe hazel nuts and darker sloe berries.

The fine misty rain that had gently settled on the common bent grass produced an ethereal edging to the footpaths, and the intricate spiders' webs showed their abundance in the shrubs and grassy tussocks.

The overall green colour was nicely relieved by odd small patches of yellow buttercups and tormentil, purple self-heal and thistles, and white bedstraw and clover. The prolific cow parsley mentioned last month has been replaced at the roadsides by valerian which, although largely white, has a nice pinkish tinge.

As there was very little wind we were able to smell the honeysuckle and meadowsweet. The wild dog roses also had a faint but delightful bouquet.

There seemed to be a lot of insects about. Meadow brown and ringlet butterflies were really abundant; it's good to see so many around. The downside was the greyflies. There were up to ten on Janet's coat as we walked along the back path. The smallest area of exposed skin was instantly attacked by these silent bloodsuckers. How they can land on your skin without you knowing is a real mystery.

Barry Albrighton



### **Tor and Tavy WI**

The group meet only once a month at Brentor Village Hall but there seems to be a lot of news this time as we have also been on some outings.

Tor and Tavy is a member of the Four Rivers Group of WIs, and as a group we meet once a year for a social evening. This year it was our turn to host the event and on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April we had Christ Church, Brentor, as our venue for the first part of the evening. Around 80 WI members arrived at the church to listen to a 30 strong Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir entertain us, and they certainly did that. They were introduced to the audience by Tor and

Tavy President, Trish Wall, who, with the choir director Rosemary Cole, had compiled a programme that would entertain all ages. We all joined in to start the evening with Jerusalem and then we were treated to a selection including Nessum Dorma, Bring Him Home, This Old Man sung as a “round” by everyone and a medley from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. The entertainment was rounded off with some World War 2 songs which called for some more audience participation and we just about raised the roof of the church, a wonderful place for acoustics!!! The ladies then walked a short distance to Brentor Village Hall for a delicious finger supper provided by the Tor and Tavy WI.

Our May monthly meeting was a talk by a former South West Manager for John Lewis/Waitrose. He was one of the most interesting speakers we have had and didn't need to use any notes or props to talk on a subject that he is obviously very excited about. We learnt about the beginnings of a small retail business owned by a family to the huge operation it has become today. It is still run as a family business insomuch as the employees have a say in the daily running and they all get dividends at the end of the financial year. Since our last report we have had three visits to various places, including the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see a performance of Top Hat. This was a musical with plenty of singing and dancing and fabulous costumes; it had us all singing along and enjoying a great evening.

Early June saw us visit Eastcott Vinery near Okehampton where we had a tour of the vineyards and also the factory where they crush all the grapes and make and bottle the wines. It is run by a husband and wife team who made us very welcome and introduced us to the wine business from vine to bottle. They were very interesting and treated us to a tasting before we left. Wines were available to buy, from rose to white and bubbly. They are an award winning vinery and now supply Marks and Spencer.

Later in the month 15 members and their partners went to the Royal Citadel in Plymouth for a tour of a working barracks. We left Tavistock in the mist and rain and expected to be in waterproofs all day but by 3 in the afternoon the sun came out and we were touring the barracks in beautiful sunshine with a most interesting guide who told us all about the Citadel and its history and took us onto the ramparts from where we had the most spectacular views over the Hoe and beyond. All the time we were there we could hear a Royal Marine Band playing such a varied programme and that really made the afternoon.

## Events of interest to the whole Tavy Mission Community – August 2015

**Sunday 2nd August: 2 pm ~ 5 pm:** Open Garden at Longridge, Lydford in aid of St. Luke's Hospice. Large and landscaped garden, refreshments available, most parts wheelchair friendly.

**Wednesday 5th August: 10.30 am ~ 11.30 am:** Mary Tavy Methodist Chapel Hall open for a chat, a drink, jigsaw swap and visit of the Mobile Library at the War Memorial bus-stop 10:45 ~ 11:10 am. All welcome.

**Wednesday 5th August: 2 pm** Moorland Outreach. Mary Tavy Methodist Chapel. Speaker: Mrs. Joan Gosling (Tavistock). A welcome to all.

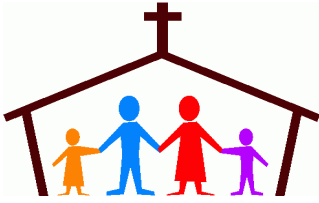
**Sunday 9th August: 12 noon ~ 4 pm:** Mary Tavy Country Fayre on the Recreation Ground, Mary Tavy. All welcome.

**Monday 17th August to Saturday 22nd August inclusive 10 am to 12 noon each day:** St. Andrew's/St. James' Summer Activities for children. **Venue:** Next to the Tiddybrook play area, Woodpecker Way, Tiddybrook Estate.

**Saturday 22nd August 4 pm to 6 pm: Community Barbecue:** **Venue:** Next to the Tiddybrook play area, Woodpecker Way, Tiddybrook Estate. Refreshments available. No entry charge.

**Saturday 29th August: 5 pm:** Barbecue in aid of St. Peter's Church Funds. **Venue:** Harford Bridge Leisure Park, by kind invitation of the Williamson Family. Bring & Buy Stall and Raffle.

**Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August: 2.30 pm:** Peter Tavy Village Fayre. All the fun of a traditional village Fair. Come and join us for a great afternoon.



## Martha's Page

Hello everyone,

August is a very busy month of the year as children are on their summer holidays and lots of activities/events occur this month. August is also known for many things, including the dog days of summer, National Watermelon Day (Aug 3) and National Smile Week (Aug 5-11).

On Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July the Vestry Group led the intercessions at the Parish Eucharist. I thought it would be nice to include some examples for you to use at home, especially for those who could not join us:

Dear God, as another school year comes to an end we thank you for our schools and teachers. We thank them for the love and support they give us to grow and mature into adults and for the knowledge they have given us. We think about those who are finishing this term and are moving on a year, starting or changing schools. Please help those who are leaving school and going on to university; we hope they do well and get a good job. Thank you for the assistants who assist children who are less able, and for those who keep the school clean and tidy for us to enjoy. Most of us take school for granted in our younger years, but the teachers work hard for our future.

Amen

Dear God, We pray for families; for mums, dads and carers who provide children with their daily needs. Thank you for the love they give, sometimes in really tricky times like unemployment, poor housing or very little money. We pray for children all over the world, especially in countries at war.  
Amen

Dear God. Thank you for keeping wild animals safe. Thank you God for even the smallest creatures, especially those animals which give us food.  
Amen

Dear God, we pray for those who long to work but can find no employment. We pray for those who work long hours but are not paid a living wage. We pray for those whose tiny handful of wealth will not pay the prices that are demanded. May those of us who have money learn to be thrifty with ourselves and both generous and just towards others.  
Amen



After the Church service the Vestry Group held their

summer party which was enjoyed by all those who attended. We had a 'bring and share' picnic, played skittles, had a chocolate challenge and played musical hats in the church yard.

The Gulworthy fete was a huge success as always and the weather was very sunny. The duck racing and dog show proved to be very popular and entertaining.

Crowds turned out to watch the Tavistock Carnival. Hopefully next year St Eustachius' will be able to put in an entry to be part of the fun!

Exam results are out this month, so I hope everyone gets the results they need.

With Love, Martha x

**Vestry Group Birthdays in August:**

Eva - 7 years old

Happy Birthday!



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