



PPT: the Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul
& St Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey
and St Mary's, Hennock



Christmas Bulletin

December- February 2024



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Letter from the Vicar:

A great and mighty wonder!

Many people look forward to Christmas as the most wonderful time of the year.

We can probably predict some parts accurately - the date, the menu (turkey with all the trimmings), and the playlist (traditional carols, Andy Williams, Slade). We may even be able to predict who will give us which presents - the joy of socks from Uncle Albert, or chocolates from Auntie Alice. So where will the wonder be found?

We may wonder about the possibility of a white Christmas in Devon (does a snowflake on Haytor count?), or what lies inside the parcels addressed to us under the Christmas tree.

In our churches every Christmas we celebrate the story of God's greatest gift to all humanity, the coming of Jesus. You may have heard the story many times before, but if you think there is no more wonder to be found, then learn true wonder from the angels.

The Christmas story is full of angels: Gabriel announces wonderful -and startling- news to Mary and Joseph. A host of worshipping angels astonish a group of shepherds on the hills near Bethlehem. Angels had long awaited the revelation of what Almighty God had planned. God created the angels to share the heavens with him, while he placed us on this earth, but this gift is exclusively for us.

St Peter described this gift as:

“good news preached to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.” (1 Peter 1.12)

If you sometimes feel that life is predictable and dull, that there are no mysteries and wonders left, even at Christmas, then you are disenchanted. So I invite you to unwrap the wonderful gift that angels longed to look into, and to join with them in the joyful praise of Jesus. He is God come to live among us in person. He can fill us with joy and wonder, and restore the purpose, love and glory that we have lost along life's way.

A Great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure!..
To God on high be glory
and peace on earth shall reign”

Please note that there are some changes to our regular pattern of services this year. Carols by Candlelight at PPT will be on Sunday 15 December at 7pm.

The Farmyard Crib service will be at Stickwick Farm instead of Warmhill - many thanks to Linda and Richard Harvey for organising this. The Bovey Crib service will be at 4pm instead of 5pm.

yours in Christ,
Graham

**Nativity in the Barn at *The Apple Barn,*
Stickwick Farm TQ13 9PR**

Come along on Christmas Eve at 3pm and follow the Christmas story - visit the inn, see the manger with farm animals looking on (donkey, sheep, goats), and join us for carol singing and music in the barn, to create the Nativity setting.

We would love you to get involved, so please come dressed as shepherds, angels, wise men - or for those joining the throng, wear your Christmas jumper! Tea, coffee, squash and mince pies available. All welcome, free entry. Dogs welcome but must be kept on a lead. Enquiries to linda@stickwick.co.uk

What's on at PPT Bovey & St Mary's

Dec 1st		Advent - Gospel for all Nations. Bible reading: Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.1-14 Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton 11.00am 4.00pm Christingle service
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: 1 Corinthians 16 , John 13.31-34 Holy Communion- Rev David Harris.
8th		Advent 2 -Signs of the Times Bible readings: Daniel 7.1-14, Matthew 24.15-35 9.30am 11.00am. 5.00pm Sunday Praise (HC): Mrs Carolyn Laycock Morning Worship: Mrs Carolyn Laycock. Prayer and Praise: Mr Richard Thomas
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings Romans 13.11-14 Matthew 24.1-14, Morning Worship - Rev Graham Hamilton
15th		Advent 3 - Keep watch stay wise. Bible readings: Zechariah 14.1-9, Matthew 24.36-51 9.30am 11.00am 7.00pm Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton Carols by Candlelight with the Choir
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: Daniel 7.1-14, Mt 24.15-35, Morning Worship: Mrs Carolyn Laycock.
22nd		Advent 4 - Royal Line Bible readings- Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.1-18 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm Sunday Praise: Canon Michael Sansom Holy Communion: Canon Michael Sansom Carol Service: Mr Mark Alexander
St Mary's	3.00pm	Bible readings : Carol Service: Rev Graham Hamilton
Tue 24th Dec		Christmas Eve Bible readings: Hebrews 1.1-12, John 1.1-14 3.00pm Nativity in the Barn (Stickwick Farm TQ13 9PR) 4.00pm Crib Service: Rev Graham Hamilton PPT 11.00pm Midnight Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
25th Dec		Christmas Day Bible readings: Isaiah 62.6-12, Matthew 1.18-end 9.30am 11.00am Christmas Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton Christmas Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
PPT St Mary's		

29th **First Sunday after Christmas**
Bible readings: Jeremiah 31.15-17, Matthew 2.13-end
9.30am Social in Church Room
11.00am Holy Communion: Canon Michael Sansom

January 2025

5th **Epiphany: *We two kings...***
Bible readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Matthew 2.1-12,
9.30am Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton
11.00am Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
5.00pm Prayer & Praise : Rev Graham Hamilton

10th Friday 7.30pm *Simply Christianity* Course starts in church room

12th **1st of Epiphany: *Baptism of Repentance***
Bible readings: Isaiah 11.1-10, Matthew 3.1-12
9.30am Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton
11.00am Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
5.00pm Prayer and Praise: Mr Richard Thomas.

St Mary's 11.00am Bible Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Matthew 2.1-12,
Morning Worship: Mr Keith Butler.

19th **2nd of Epiphany: *Enter the King***
Bible Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9, Matthew 3.13-4.11.
9.30am Sunday Praise: Mrs Carolyn Laycock
11.00am Morning Worship: Mrs Carolyn Laycock.
5.00pm Prayer and Praise: tbc

St Mary's 11.00am Bible readings: Isaiah 11.1-10, Matthew 3.1-12
Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

26th **3rd of Epiphany: *The Gospel of the Kingdom***
Bible readings: Isaiah 9.1-4, Matthew 4.12-25.
9.30am Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton
11.00am Holy Communion- Rev Graham Hamilton
5.00pm Prayer and Praise- tbc

St Mary's 11.00am Bible readings: Isaiah 42.1-9, Matthew 3.13-4.11.
Morning Worship- Mrs Carolyn Laycock.

February 2nd

Candlemas: *Light of the World*
Bible readings: Revelation 7.9-16, Matthew 5.1-16
9.30am Sunday Praise- Rev David Harris
11.00am Holy Communion- Rev David Harris
5.00pm Prayer and Praise- Mr Robin Alexander.

St Mary's Bible readings: Isaiah 9.1-4, Matt 4.12-25.

9th		4th Before Lent: <i>But I say to you.. be perfect!</i> Bible Readings: Isaiah 58.1-9, Matthew 5.17-26
	9.30am	Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton
	11.00am	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	5.00pm.	Prayer and Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton.
St Mary's		Bible readings: Revelation 7.9-16, Matthew 5.1-16
	11.00am	Morning Worship- Rev David Harris.
16th		3rd before Lent: <i>But I say- be pure!</i> Bible readings: Deuteronomy 30.15-20, Matthew 5.27-37
	9.30am	Sunday Praise: Mr David Robinson
	11.00am	Holy Communion: Mr David Robinson
	5.00pm	Prayer & Praise: tbc
St Mary's		Bible readings: Isaiah 58.1-9, Matthew 5.17-26
	11.00am	Morning Worship: Mr Keith Butler
23rd		2nd before Lent: <i>But I say..make peace!</i> Bible Readings: Leviticus 19.1-18, Matthew 5.38-48
	9.30am	Sunday Praise: Canon Michael Sansom
	11.00am	Holy Communion: Canon Michael Sansom
	5.00pm	Prayer & Praise: tbc
St Mary's		Bible readings: Deuteronomy 30.15-20, Matthew 5.27-37
	11.00am	Morning Worship: Mr David Robinson

KNITTING FOR UKRAINE

Brenda Ambrose is an elderly lady whom I visit, she has been busy knitting for several months now and was inspired to try and help the children of Ukraine after watching the news of their war with Russia. Brenda is 88 years old and has vivid memories of her wartime childhood during the Second World War as does her life long friend who has also started to knit for Ukraine Brenda does most of her knitting in her armchair at home and sometimes she joins the sewing group in the church room. You may remember that in the last bulletin Brenda asked for donations of wool and she thanks everyone who generously responded and these photos show the result: 72 scarves, 22 hats , 26 pairs of mittens, 8 pairs of booties and a blanket. These have now been sent to the charity cr2ee who support Moldova and Ukraine.

cr2ee have a warehouse in Exmouth from where the goods are sent by sea ,they have a local 'drop Off' point at Braida Garth, Staplake Lane Starcross EX6 8QT Brenda has done so much knitting that she has already sent two large boxes containing similar items to cr2ee and she is still knitting! *Jill Hosford*

From the Registers:

Congratulations to:

James Warner and Hannah Barber who were married at PPT in October.

Our condolences to the families of:

James Swales,

Theresa Samuels

whose funerals were held at PPT and Frances Swan

whose funeral was at St Mary's Hennock

Youth at PPT

We are two groups, consisting of 37 young people, 9 leaders and 1 trainee young leader.



2024 has been a brilliant year!

Studies on Revelation, Fruits of the Spirit, understanding that we are children of God and how we can have a very personal relationship with HIM. The older group planning is young people led with teaching on such topics as, Islam, Jehovah witnesses, LGBTQ2+ and relationships.

The Wise Guys have developed a love for Prayer Stations, a time of focussed prayer, with prayer prompts and visual aids. We dance and praise the Lord - *because the fruit of the spirit is not a coconut* 😊

Both groups love “Bible Challenge Nights” Our Christian themed film nights are a big hit too!

We have welcomed many new members into both groups, as the young people have invited their non-Christian friends to come along and most of them have stayed with us.

Easter was a great time of reflection and fun and Christmas will be too. In the summer both groups join to play games in the park.

Quite a few from the older youth group come along to the 5pm service on Sunday evenings.

Food after 5pm started because we didn't have anything to do for an hour whilst waiting for youth to start, so we brought food! Now we have a time of fellowship chatting and eating together.

We cannot thank the leaders enough, for giving their time, for their willingness to “get alongside” our young people and for the patience and understanding that they show. Thanks also to Mark and Janna Styants (and team) for monthly Rora Youth Gatherings- God is Good 😊



If you get a chance, take a look at the youth notice board in the Hunt Room

Wise Guys – Monday evenings at BTYC– 6.30 -8pm – young people in school years 6-9

14-18's (Lodges) – Sunday evenings at PPT – 7-9pm – young people in school years 9-13

Food after 5pm service (but only if you have attended the 5pm) 6-7pm, bring your own food, wash up your own plate 😊

Angie Blanche- Youth Worker.

Family Work 2024

What an amazing year it's been – filled to the brim with opportunities for children and families to connect with God! We kicked off 2024 with the completion of the 'Introduction to Communion for Children' in which we saw nine of our young people learning all about the Lord's Supper through Graham's thorough and wonderful teaching. It was such a joy to share in their first communion at the start of February. For Mothering Sunday the children organized a 'café' after church which was well received by all – the congregation were spoilt by an amazing selection of cakes and drinks, all served by the young people.

This linked with our Sunday club teaching in the Spring about serving others – just as Jesus came to serve.

The Easter Trail at the Scout Hut saw over 200 people again this year - the rain didn't stop us! Families joined in to hunt for the pictures which told the story of Easter Week and the crucifixion – there were chocolate prizes, Easter gardens, Brick Ideas Lego and hot cross buns all round!

Our PPT toddler group – now rebranded 'Friday Friends' is as popular as ever! A lovely community of parents and small children who are coming along each week, making a simple craft linked the bible story, having an opportunity to find out something more about the Christian faith in a very safe space and of course enjoying the cake!

Rosie Stephens, Family Worker

A Month with the Messiah

Handel's *Messiah* has captivated audiences for centuries, but the depth of its theological and spiritual messages invites deeper exploration. In *A Month with the Messiah*, a cast of thirty scholars, pastors, musicians, and theologians come together to provide a profound and accessible devotional commentary on this musical masterpiece. Curated to appeal both to long-time admirers and newcomers, this book dives into the libretto's scriptural themes with clarity and reverence.

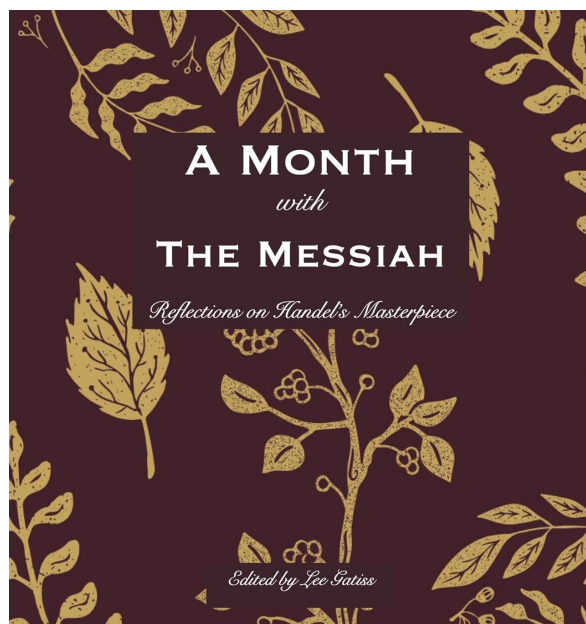
This beautifully produced hardback companion to the *Messiah* invites readers on a journey of spiritual reflection, exploring the hope, redemption, and joy that Handel's music captures so vividly. Each contributor brings a unique perspective, drawing from their rich backgrounds to shed light on how these passages resonate in today's world.

Whether you're enjoying *Messiah* for the first time or looking to deepen your appreciation of it, this collection is a companion to enrich your listening, worship, and reflection on Handel's enduring work. Perfect as a book for Advent, as a Christmas gift for someone else, or for your own enjoyment!



Simply Christianity

is a relaxed opportunity to read through one gospel -the gospel of Luke- and get back to the roots of Christian faith, in the person and teaching of Jesus himself. Graham will lead five sessions, starting on Friday 10th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Church Room. There will be lots of time to ask all the questions you want, over coffee and cake. Contact Graham if you are interested.



Vicar

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PPT Bovey is a registered Charity: 1128849.

The PPT Bank account is

'P C C Bovey Tracey',
acct no. 01219910, sort code 30-96-06.

The Hennock bank account is:

FOR PCC OF HENNOCK
acct no: 01220021 sort code 30-96-06

Please note that the Church office is no longer staffed, but ansaphones, emails and post are checked regularly during the week. Contact the church wardens for details.

The Church Website contains details of all events, audio sermon files and documents for download: go to www.pptbovey.church

"PPT Bovey is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults.. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm please contact the Parish Safeguarding officer. If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, please contact the police or local authority Children or Adults Services."