



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



Spring Bulletin

March - May 2026



Signs of Life

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Letter from the Vicar: *Signs of Life*

Dear friends,
After weeks of incessant rain, when it has felt that time is standing still, I am sure that we are all looking forward to some spring sunshine and warmth. Gardeners among us may be impatient to dig, sow and plant- so spare a thought for farmers, anxious for winter wheat crops sown in the autumn, and for their livestock, long kept out of sodden or flooded fields. The spring bulbs seem eager to raise their heads into bloom.

There are seasons when little seems to be happening on the surface, but roots are being strengthened, and then come seasons of spectacular growth.

An Easter hymn puts it like this:

*Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth
many days has lain;
Love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.*

We are still in the sombre season of Lent, and following the story of the Passion of Jesus, according to the gospel of Matthew. The gospel does not flinch from describing the weakness and wickedness of humanity, as religious factions unite in plotting against Jesus, Roman authorities overlook injustice in order to keep the peace, one disciple betrays Jesus and the rest abandon him. But the Passion story also displays the dignity and majesty of Jesus, who knows exactly what lies ahead, and is preparing his disciples for what is to come, who

suffers without complaint and then rises in triumph over sin and death.

In the weeks up to Pentecost we will then return to Jesus' familiar parables of how the Kingdom grows, as we learn to sow gospel seed in faith.

The coming of Easter also brings to light new life in the church.

We have five children preparing to be admitted to Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, and three adults preparing for confirmation in the summer. We are planning an outdoor service for Easter Day at PPT, and possibly an outdoor service at Pentecost. I hope that the marquee will go up again at the end of April.

I am very encouraged by the response to the appeal for a Youth and Family Worker: at the time of writing we have already raised £61,000 towards our target of £97,000, and the PCC will be deciding how we should proceed at its next meeting on 25 March. Please pray for this project to come to fruition, and make your pledge by 22 March.

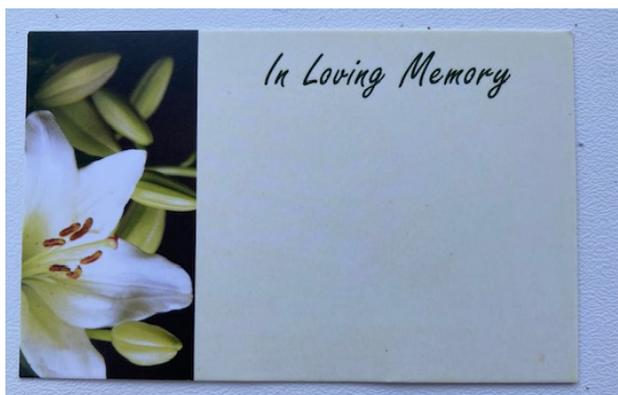
We will be renewing the Electoral Rolls at PPT and St Mary's in preparation for the Annual Church Meetings (at St Mary's on 26 April and PPT on 3rd May). We will thank those who have served faithfully as wardens and PCC members, and elect new members.

yours in Christ,
Graham

From the Church Floral Arrangers

In the Winter Bulletin we mentioned our intention of starting a 'Lily Fund', to help purchase Lilies to decorate the Church at Easter.

During Lent, there will be envelopes at the back of Church, with a card attached - 'In Loving Memory', for you to write your message on, remembering loved ones or celebrating the risen Lord.



If you wish to make a donation, please take the envelope & card away, write your message & put the card in the envelope, with whatever monies you wish to donate & bring it back to Church. You may wish to put your name on the envelope or remain anonymous.

The envelopes can be given to myself or Sue Nickels, or handed to the Churchwardens to be put in the Church Office Pod for safekeeping.

We will provide card holders to attach them to the arrangements. If you have a particular window/position in the Church where you would like your card to be placed, please state this on the envelope.

On Saturday, April 4th, the Church Floral Arrangers will decorate the Church, with lilies & your cards.

Thank you all for your support of this initiative.

Sarah Gilbert.

Family and Children's Ministry

What an amazing start to the year it's been - filled to the brim with opportunities for children and families to connect with God! We kicked off 2026 with the first in our series on 'Introduction to Communion for Children' in which 5 of our young people have been learning all about the Lord's Supper through Graham's thorough and wonderful teaching. It has been a joy to walk alongside these children and families as they prepare for the next step in their faith.

Our Toddler group 'Friday Friends' is as popular as ever. Last year we saw an average of 50 people attending each session. This is a huge encouragement to our team who spend a great deal of time and energy preparing for the sessions and making the group a welcoming and inviting place to be. We have a lovely community of people – Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers who don't seem to want to leave at the end of the sessions, it's always so lovely to be able to share our faith and offer a listening ear to those who need it.

PPT's new midweek bible club for kids 'Rooted' had it's first term in the Autumn of 2025. The club happens on Tuesday evenings between 6-7pm and is full of bible stories, activities, craft, games and a time for prayer. Children gain points for remembering the memory verse, groovy moves during our song and answering questions. We end each term with a 'shop' full of goodies where they get to 'spend' their points!

Rosie Stephens.



THE LEPROSY MISSION



This year the focus is on children

Do you remember the overwhelming feeling of love when you first saw your newborn child? So small, vulnerable and precious. Imagine how you would feel when their life is threatened by an illness or disease which you know very little about.

Leprosy begins with blotchy marks on the skin which is often mistaken for a rash, the blotches gradually change and the skin becomes painful, painful nodules develop and the limbs gradually become numb.

Leprosy is a disease which is feared by most people living in countries where it still spreads among the population and because of this anyone showing signs of leprosy is often rejected by their community, family and friends. Young children are rejected by their school-friends, they don't want them anywhere near them, they lose their closest friends and become unwanted and invisible.

Help is not easy to find in the rural parts of Africa and Asia. The Leprosy Mission have hospitals, where patients are diagnosed and treated, but these are sparse and often involve a long journey for those seeking help.

Imagine how comforted and safe

your child would feel when they're admitted to the hospital and told that they will start to receive good food, a warm bed, kindness and most of all the antibiotics to treat the leprosy.

Children need a strict routine of daily medication, regular follow-ups and constant care.

In Africa and Asia leprosy is stealing children's mobility, opportunities, friendships and futures. Leprosy should be a thing of the past yet every year thousands of children are being diagnosed with the disease. Many more are 'hidden' without the vital care and compassion that they need.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy, seeking to bring about transformation, breaking the chain of leprosy and empowering people to attain, healing dignity and life in all it's fullness.

Jill Hosford.

(The Leprosy Mission will be our Mission Focus for April 2026)

Walking the Way

The Vicar will be leading the 'Walking the Way' course beginning on Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm in the Church Room. This is an opportunity to discover how Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and is ideal preparation for baptism or confirmation, for refreshing your faith or exploring it for the first time. Please contact Graham if you are interested.

Keswick in Devon

2-6 March 2026, at All Saints Church Sidmouth.

Keswick in Devon is a five day conference based in Sidmouth, with stimulating bible teaching and ministry. This years conference is themed around 'Confidence'. Writing to the Christians in his charge, the apostle John encourages them to '...continue in him so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.' The speakers at this years conference are Dr Andrew Ollerton, theologian, author and pastor who works with the Bible Society; and Dr Helen Miller, who teaches at Moorlands College. The conference is free of charge, but there is an opportunity to donate towards the cost of running the conference. To find out more, [click here](#).

Gathering for five days 6-10 April 2026 at Torquay Riviera Centre to hear God's word, to praise our risen Saviour, and to rest. With plenty for adults, teens, and

Rising Lights

kids, alongside space to enjoy Torquay with friends and family. Organised by FIEC (Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches) but for everyone, Rising Lights is a chance for us to gather as believers, to be refreshed, and to grow in our faith. We'll be unpacking Philippians during our morning gatherings, helping you to return home refreshed for the next season of your Christian walk. Vibrant all-age worship will take place every afternoon before two evening gatherings run back-to-back featuring a variety of speakers.

Plus, there will be seminar tracks for adults along, a programme for children and youth, and provision for students and young adults.

Programme and speakers

Paul Mallard, former pastor, author, and FIEC Director for the West Midlands, is our main speaker, opening up God's word to us each morning from the book of Philippians.

Mission Focus:

Each month we have a different focus for our prayers and mission giving.

Our Focus for February and March is the Youth Worker Appeal

April will be Leprosy Mission

May will be Falcon Camps

If you wish to make a donation you can put cash in the collection plate on Sunday, use the contactless payment device, or make an online donation through the Church Bank account: please name the mission focus in the reference box.

If you wish to make a donation to general church funds, please set up a standing order, or use the yellow envelopes in each pew and at the back of church.

We have recently raised:-

December: Youth Cafe £630.00

January: Christian Institute £231.21

From the registers:

Our condolences to the families of those whose funerals were held at PPT:

Ann Fidler (on 6 February)

Mavis Schooling (on 18 February)

April		
1st	7.30pm	Monthly Prayer meeting in the Church Room
2nd		Maundy Thursday
	7.00pm	Bible readings: Exodus 12.1-14, John 13.1-17 Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton & Mrs Carolyn Laycock followed by Prayer Vigil in church
3rd		Good Friday
PPT	10.00am	Bible readings: Isaiah 52.13-end 53, John 18-19 Family Service: Rev Graham Hamilton
St Mary's	2.00pm	Hour at the Cross: Rev Graham Hamilton
5th		Easter Sunday
	9.00am	Bible readings: Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 27.51-28.15 Sunday Praise (HC) -Rev Graham Hamilton
	11.00am	Holy Communion - Rev Graham Hamilton
	5.00pm	Prayer and Praise- Rev Graham Hamilton
St Mary's	11.00pm	Bible readings: Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 27.51-28.15 Holy Communion - Canon Michael Sansom.
12th		2nd of Easter
	9.30am	Bible Readings: Acts 2.14, 22-32, Matthew 28.16-20. Sunday Praise: Mr Richard Orr
	11.00am	Morning Prayer: Mr Richard Orr
	5.00pm	Prayer & Praise: Mr Mark Alexander
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: 1 Peter 1.3-9, John 20.19-end Morning Worship: Rev David Harris
19th		3rd of Easter- Disappointed Prophet.
	9.30am	Bible Readings: Isaiah 35, Matthew 11.1-19 Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton
	11.00am	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	5.00pm	Prayer & Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton.
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: Acts 2.14, 22-32, Matthew 28.16-20 Morning Worship: Mr Richard Orr
26th		4th of Easter. St George's Day- Still on Offer.
	9.30am	Bible readings: Ezekiel 28.1-10, Matthew 11.20-30 Sunday Praise: Mr David Robinson
	11.00am	Morning Worship: Mr David Robinson
	5.00pm	St George's Day Service Rev Graham Hamilton.
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible Readings: Isaiah 35, Matthew 11.1-19 Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
May		
3rd		5th of Easter. Liberty or Legalism
	10.30am	Bible readings: Isaiah 42.1-4, Matthew 12.1-21 United Service: Rev Graham Hamilton. Followed by lunch and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	5.00pm	Prayer & Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton

6th	7.30pm	Monthly Prayer meeting in the Church Room
10th		6th of Easter. Spiritual Warfare Bible readings: Acts 4.1-13, Matthew 12.22-45 9.30am Sunday Praise: Rev David Harris 11.00am Holy Communion: Rev David Harris 5.00pm Prayer & Praise: Rev David Harris
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: Isaiah 42.1-4, Matthew 12.1-21 Holy Communion: Canon Michael Sansom
14th	6.00pm	Ascension Day Bible Readings: Acts 1.1-11, Ephesians 1.15-23 Evensong: Rev Graham Hamilton
17th		7th of Easter. Kingdom Parables - soils Bible readings: Acts 4.1-13, Matthew 12.46-13.23 9.30am Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton. 11.00am Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton. 5.00pm Prayer & Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton.
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: Acts 4.1-13, Matthew 12.22-45 Holy Communion: Rev David Harris
24th	ttbc 5.00pm	Pentecost: the Spirit of Life! Bible readings: Acts 2.1-21, John 7.37-44 United Service in Mill Marsh Park Prayer & Praise in the Church Room
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: Acts 2.1-21, John 7.37-44 Holy Communion: Canon Michael Sansom
31st		Trinity Sunday Bible readings: Isaiah 43.22-44.5, Matthew 13.24-43 9.30am Sunday Praise: Mrs Carolyn Laycock 11.00am Morning Worship: Mrs Carolyn Laycock 5.00pm Choral Evensong: Rev Graham Hamilton
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible readings: Acts 4.1-13, Matthew 12.46-13.23 Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton.
June:		
4th	7.30pm	Monthly Prayer meeting in the Church Room
7th		First after Trinity: Kingdom Parables - seeds and pearls Bible Readings: Romans 14.5-8, Matthew 13.44-52 9.30am All Age Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton 11.00am Morning Prayer: Rev Graham Hamilton 5.00pm Prayer & Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton
St Mary's	11.00am	Bible reading: Isaiah 43.22-44.5, Matthew 13.24-43 Morning Worship: Mrs Carolyn Laycock

Anglican Update

This is our parish magazine, but we do not want to be too parochial, and ignore the wider church.

Graham attended General Synod in February, and you can read his report on the [church website](#). Dame Sarah Mullally, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, set the tone of her future ministry. There was some important legislative business, and debate on national life, and the controversial process of 'Living in Love and Faith' was concluded, but only for a new process to be announced, so little has changed.

The Diocese of Exeter has recently been awarded a grant of £10 million by the national church Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). The money is specifically targeted to help churches grow and make new disciples (one of the Diocese of Exeter's core aims.) It will be delivered through five interventions:

- Energising & Releasing Clergy for Mission
- Empowering Lay Disciples for Missional Transformation
- Ensuring Children, Young People & Families (CYPF) are at the Heart
- Enabling Growth Through Revitalisation, Planting, and Pioneering
- A Bold Reshaping of the Church in Plymouth (known as Plymouth 2035)

You can read more about the plans on the [Diocesan website](#).



Riverside Surgery Befrienders

Have you heard of Riverside Surgery Befrienders? We are a voluntary organisation that provides transport to medical facilities both locally and throughout South Devon for those who have no other form of transport or help from family or friends. It has been active in Bovey for 30 years, and has been getting busier and busier year on year; in 2025 we had almost 1800 requests. If you are fortunate enough NOT to need us, then how about HELPING us instead? We are looking for volunteers to drive patients to their appointments, using the volunteer's own car. All mileage expenses are paid so you will not be out of pocket; it is only your time which we ask that you give for free, and this can be as little or as much as you want. All we ask is that once a driver has accepted an assignment that they honour that and do not cancel except for unavoidable reasons. Thus our ideal volunteer is somebody who is either retired, or working part time with a predictable timetable, so that they can definitely commit to whatever they have agreed to take on. You should also live within the catchment area normally served by the Riverside Surgery. According to the 2024 census Bovey has well over 1000 residents in their late 50s up to mid-70s, which is our ideal target range for recruitment, and yet we currently only have around 40 volunteers. Thus, there must be many more who could step up. Even if you don't want to transport patients, we still need other volunteers to act as coordinators and match up patients with available drivers; in fact, some of our volunteers do both. If Befrienders is to keep going for the next 30 years, it needs new blood as none of the existing volunteers are getting any younger! So, could you be part of the next generation?

For more information contact Wendy Ferguson, 01626 832850

fergusonjandw@outlook.com

A Decade

He had signed up for a decade -- ten years. He wasn't absolutely sure why he had, but the money was clearly an incentive, much more than he would have earned in the ordinary way over such a period, with an inflation factor built in. His health was good, no potentialities for illness, genetic or otherwise, and his mental state was uncomplicated. So he fitted the bill.

The purpose of the experiment? To see how individuals reacted to being on their own, completely on their own, in an ultimately sheltered environment. Like solitary confinement, but more so, no human contact at all. Plenty of films to watch, but nothing interactive, just entertainment; an extensive library and a well equipped gym. And plenty of food.

There were twenty such experiments going on around the world in different countries with people of different cultures, different ethnicities, different religions or none. Two were in England he was told, him and one other. At the end of the ten years they would hope to have enough successful outcomes that they had a small crew suitable to man a spaceship to journey to an Earth-like planet orbiting a star five light years away. They would take turns to be awake keeping an eye on things, to avoid another Hal situation, while the others were in suspended animation. That was the plan anyway.

Well here he was in this large pod, a product of English culture with all that follows or does not follow from that. He watched the films, he read the books, he ate the food, he worked out in the gym. He was lonely, but not greatly affected.

At the end of the decade the door automatically unlocked and he walked up the slope and back into the world he had left ten years before, when the pod was located in a well maintained science park. Now the carefully manicured lawns were extensive meadows, and the gardens riots of untended vegetation. He walked around the science park, there were cars here and there rusting quietly away and those that had occupants, had skeletons in them. Unsurprisingly he was shocked and non-plussed, his ten years of solitude had not prepared him for this outcome. There was no human life, but plenty of animal and bird life, not to mention the plants and trees.

He was overwhelmed and went back down to the pod, opened and went in and shut the door.

After a few days of puzzled contemplation he decided to go outside again. When he got outside he walked across the meadow and down the road which was already being returned to nature by plants growing up through the tarmac. After walking for a mile or two towards what had been a busy town, he noticed movement on the road ahead, something or someone approaching. He was pretty sure it was a human, so hiding behind a bush he watched and waited. After a while it became clear it was a young woman. He watched her walk by and then moved out from his hiding place on to the road behind her.

He cleared his throat, he hadn't spoken out loud for a long, long time:

"I say," he said, she perceptibly jumped, then turned, "My name's Adam".

(Roy White)

Youth Worker Appeal

The Church exists to make disciples for Jesus. We want to reach people of every age across our community, but research such as the *'Talking Jesus'* Report suggests that that most people find faith before they are 18, and 81% by age 24: the most significant factors in coming to faith are Christian family (34%), reading the bible (24%), Sunday School (19%), attending church (19%) and conversations with Christians (15%).

The most effective way to reach children and young people who do not come to church is by giving the existing church families and young people the confidence to share their faith with friends and neighbours, and show that it is true and attractive. We believe it takes the whole church family, not just a church worker, to raise a young person as an active disciple, and that youth work must be integrated with Sunday services and family life as well as with special groups.

We are blessed at PPT to have a flourishing work with children and families, co-ordinated by Rosie Stephens, our part-time (24 hrs/week) **Children & Family Worker** who focuses on families and children under 11. Our work with young people also flourished under the leadership of Angie Blanche, our youth worker until February 2025. A small team of volunteers has maintained two groups for young people, but there is currently no provision for young adults.

We are grateful to the volunteers who have maintained these groups, and the PCC believes this is now a moment of

opportunity for us to build on the progress of our work with children and families by appointing a **Youth & Family Worker** to work alongside Rosie in reaching and discipling young people aged 11-25.

The cost of employing a full-time Worker for three years will be **£97,000**. This figure may seem daunting, but at the time of writing we have already received pledges of **£61,500!**

If we wish to attract someone with training and experience to lead the work with young people and also support young adults and families, then a full-time appointment is the best option. Their role would be to help teenagers and young adults to come to faith and grow to Christian maturity by:-

- reaching out and sharing faith with young people, including the use of social media
- teaching the Bible systematically at enjoyable weekly peer groups (11-14, 14-18, 18-25)
- encouraging parents to fulfil their role as disciple-makers,
- helping young people grow in Christian maturity through worship, prayer, service and governance (Family Forum)
- developing and training volunteers to support the groups and form appropriate relationships (including mentoring)
- organising and encouraging participation in residential events, such as Spree and 'Tiverton'
- developing links with local churches, schools and youth organisations, such as SWYM

Please pray and pledge your support by 22 March, so that the PCC can decide to proceed at its next meeting on 25 March!

Graham

Who's who at PPT Bovey & St Mary's Hennock:

Vicar:

Rev. Graham Hamilton 01626 833813
email: vicar@pptbovey.church

Church Administrator:

Camilla Matheson 01626 834835
(Home number if urgent - 01364 661195)
email office@pptbovey.church

Family Worker:

Rosie Stephens 07876 662138
email: familyworker@pptbovey.church

Youth Worker:

position vacant

Churchwardens (PPT)

Michael Codner 01626 824644
Peter Chesterman 07487 690791
Email: wardens@pptbovey.church

(Hennock)

Ellena Jamie 01626 854752
Miles Pomfrett 01626 331062

Licensed Lay Minister:

Carolyn Laycock 01626 832335
David Robinson 07733 300037
Richard Orr 07759 171058

Anna Chaplain:

Jill Hosford 01626 832966

Elected P.C.C.Members (PPT):

Annie Cook 07866 962420
Andrew Barnes 07546676781
Sally Simmons 07982 438848
Simon Merrett 07966 313524
Katie Law 07484 757105
Karen Chesterman 07714 745576
Steve Matheson 01364 661195

Deanery Synod Reps:

Jack Knightly 07963 443294
Greg Wilgar-Jones 07588 589285

Diocesan Synod Reps:

Dawn Hamilton 01626 833813
Roy White 07342 211662
Mark Alexander

P.C.C. Hon. Treasurer:

Roy Pitchford 07793 909985
e: treasurer@pptbovey.church

Gift Aid Hon. Secretary:

Kate Martin 01647 277458

Parish Safeguarding Representative:

Mrs Serena Worth: ppt.serena@gmail.com
07405 375103

Safeguarding Administrator:

Shirley Codner 01626 824644

Captain of the Ringers

Mike Wigney 07748 933779

Choir Co-ordinator:

Margaret Steele 07879 442876

Church Room Secretary:

Jane Midgley, 01626 832751
jane.midgley@gmail.com

Flower Rota:

Sarah Gilbert 01626 833934

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.

PPT bank account (via Ephesians Fund)

Name: P C C Bovey Tracey

account no: 7995 6060, sort code 30-84-67.

St Mary's Hennock is a registered charity:

Charity No. 113060. The 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.

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.