



Church Bulletin

December 2017



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Who's Who at PPT

Vicar:

Rev. Graham Hamilton, St Peter's
Vicarage, Coombe Cross, TQ13 9EP.
833813 email: vicar@pptbovey.org.uk
Day off - Tuesday

Ministry Assistant:

Mr Mark Alexander, 07955 716329
email: mark@pptbovey.org.uk
Day off - Saturday

Church Office Manager:

Mrs Ruth Flynn,
Church Office 834835
email: admin@pptbovey.org.uk
Monday 8:30am-5.00pm
Thursday and Friday 8am - 12 noon

Family Worker:

Mrs Carolyn Laycock,
2 Wallfield Rd 832335

Churchwarden:

Mrs Jane Bailey, Orchard House, East
Street 834502

Reader:

Mrs Eleanor Oelmann,
Higher Coombe 682643

P.C.C. Members:

Rev G Hamilton	Chair
Mrs J Bailey	834502
Mrs D Hamilton	833813
Mr C Beauchamp	01647 277313
Mr K Jones	01647 277515
Mr Roy White	832771
Mrs E Oelmann	682643
Mr M Totterdell	833084
Mr J Waldron	830879
Mrs J Sugden	834375
Mrs M Steele	832137
Mrs T Johnson	832995
Mr P Francis	835041

P.C.C. Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Colin Turner, 832266
email: treasurer@pptbovey.org.uk

Gift Aid Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Kate Martin

P.C.C. Secretary:

Mrs Alison Jones

Safeguarding Officer:

Mrs Ruth Flynn

Deanery Synod Reps:

Mr Charlie Beauchamp

Mr Kevin Jones

Mr Roy White

Diocesan Synod Rep:

Mrs Dawn Hamilton

Sunday Club Co-ordinator:

Mr Paul Johnson 832995

Mothers' Union:

Mrs Irene Holman 836794

Captain of the Ringers

Mr Robert Brown 834461

Servers' Co-ordinator:

Mrs Katrina Walton 835874

Transport Co-ordinator:

Mrs Margaret Steele 832137

Sick Visiting Co-ordinator:

Mrs Sylvia Francis,
Torsmead, Shewte Cross 835041

First Steps Toddler Group:

Mrs Camilla Matheson,
3 Town Meadow, Ilsington 01364 661195

Church Room Secretary:

Mrs Jane Midgley,
Summerfield, East Street 832751

Letter from the Vicar: *The one true Gift*

Dear Friends,

I am writing on 'Black Friday', the day after Thanksgiving in the USA, when the Christmas shopping frenzy begins in earnest, fuelled by unmissable bargains in store and online.

Soon people will begin opening windows on their Advent calendars, counting down to Christmas. You can buy Children's calendars with themes from 'Lego Star Wars', 'Finding Dory', 'My Little Pony' or "Paw Patrol". Luxury adult calendars are popular this year with fine chocolates, cosmetics or rare malt whiskies (only £9999!). We can smile, or weep, but it is not the retailers' responsibility to proclaim the real message of Christmas: it is ours. Whatever the must-have gift may be this year, the Church of Jesus Christ stocks only one product, in its original edition, the same as always, the 'One True Gift' of eternal life and joy through faith in Jesus Christ.

We are the church, the shop-front for the gospel of Jesus.

Each one of us is 'the shop round the corner' for our friends and neighbours. Do we have our stock ready for Christmas?

I would like to encourage each of you to use the season of Advent to take stock and renew your confidence that Jesus is the only gift we need and have to give.

As well as opening calendar windows, open your bible daily to meditate on the gospel. If this is not yet your daily routine, I recommend "The One true Gift" by Tim Chester, a series of meditations from the book of Philippians, which we

are studying in the morning services: (copies available for £2.99)

Let yourself be captured by the glorious riches of Christ, in whom dwells the fullness of God, yet who emptied himself in love to live among us and serve us, and give us the sure hope of eternal life.

And when we have recovered our confidence that in Christ we have a treasure that will outlast every Christmas fashion, then let us share the gift with others. Paul told the Philippian Christians to follow Christ's example and "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." (Philippians 2.14-16)

We can hold out the word of life by delivering the Churches Together Christmas leaflet to a street in your neighbourhood, by inviting a friend or neighbour to come to a

Christmas carol service and hear the good news of Jesus, and by modelling a different way of life, not following the frenzy of material excess, but giving generously to the needy, keeping Christ at the centre of our Christmas.

Don't just put a star on your Christmas tree: be a star, and offer the word of life to those in the darkness!

yours in Christ,

Graham

*Shine like stars in the universe
as you hold out the word of life
(Philippians 2.15)*

Mission Focus - St Barnacles

Church Representative - Vacant

Rev Tim Buckley writes:

Next year it will be 175 years since the foundation stone of St Michael's was laid. We want to have a year of jubilee, to invite people old and new to come in, and to go out and let folk know we are still very much in business.

At the moment we are still uncertain about the future of the building of St Barnabas. We are waiting for a formal offer which if acceptable would very much fit with our vision for the church premises.

We are also looking at the building of St Michael's, and considering whether the Lord is calling us to extend the premises. We could do with more room for our children's work, and a specific area for community use.

The work of the church is of course about changing lives with the good news of Jesus Christ. We would value prayer for the work among the children who come to St Michael's, many of whom come from challenging

backgrounds and whose attendance is extremely erratic. Pray for David's long term work in following baptism families and maintaining contact with them. We would also value prayer for our recently launched pastoral action team, as we seek to support a number of people in difficult positions.



Finally please pray for growth at every level - for every church member to grow in their faith, for the fellowship at St Michael's and St Barnabas to deepen beyond Sundays and small groups, and for the many around us who are living without knowledge of Jesus Christ to be saved.

We look forward to meeting PPT at some point in the

New Year!

Engage with God

As part of our mission statement we 'Engage with God, through the Bible, prayer and sacrament.'

I cannot pray

I cannot say **Our** if my faith has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say **Father** if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily life.

I cannot say **who art in Heaven** if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say **hallowed be thy name** if I, who am called by his name am not holy.

I cannot say **thy Kingdom come** if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say **thy will be done** if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say **on Earth as it is in Heaven** unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now.

I cannot say **give us this day our daily bread** without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellow men.

I cannot say **forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us** if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **lead us not into temptation** if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say **deliver us from evil** if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say **Thine is the kingdom** if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say **Thine is the power** if I fear what my neighbors do or say to me.

I cannot say **Thine is the glory** if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say **forever** if I am anxious about each day's events.

I cannot say **amen** unless I honestly say "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

Author Unkown

Bovey Calendar

December

1 Fri	9.10am	Morning Prayer
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
	5pm	Choir Practice
	6pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsal
3 Sun		Ready and Watching
		am Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-37
	8am	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	9.30pm	NO Sunday Praise
	11am	Morning Worship: Rev Kevin Hooke
	4pm	Christingle: Rev Graham Hamilton
4 Mon	9.10am	Morning prayer
5 Tues	12.30pm	Friendship Lunch at the Edgemoor Hotel
	7pm	Prayer Course
6 Wed	10am	Holy Communion
	2pm	Jack in a box Baby Group in the Church Room
7 Thur	7am	Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
	3.30pm	Little Stars service
	7.30pm	Light up a life with Rowcroft Hospice: Rev G
8 Fri	9.10am	Morning Prayer
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
	6pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsal
9 Sat	1pm	Wedding of Rebecca Lambert and Andrew Heale
10 Sun		Imitating Christ
		am Reading: Philippians 2.1-13, Luke 1.39-55
		pm Reading: 2 Peter 1.12-21 Is the Bible trustworthy
	9.30am	Sunday Praise with Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	11am	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	5pm	Lord's Supper: Rev Graham Hamilton
	6.30pm	Reformation 500: Cranmer -at Ilsington Parish Church
11 Mon	9.10am	Morning prayer
13 Wed	10am	Holy Communion in the church
	2pm	Jack in a box Baby Group in the Church Room
	5pm	Wise Guys in the Church Room
	7.30pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting in the Church Room
14 Thur	7am	Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room

15 Fri	9.10am 9.45am 7.30pm	Morning prayer First Steps in the Church Room Codelife group for men in the Church Room
17 Sun		Lights in the World am Readings: Luke 1.68-79, Philippians 2.14-30 pm Reading: John 10.25-38 Is the Bible Authoritative?
	9.30am 11am 5pm	Sunday Praise: Eleanor Oelmann Morning Worship: Eleanor Oelmann Celebration: Mark Alexander
18 Mon	9.10am 7pm	Morning Prayer Town Carols by Candlelight
19 Tue	2.15pm	Mother's Union Advent Service in the Church
20 Wed	10am	Holy Communion in the church
21 Thur	7am	Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room
22 Fri	9.10am	Morning Prayer
24 Sun		The coming King am reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-16, Luke 1.36-38 pm Readings: Hebrews 1.1-9, John 1.1-14
	11am 5pm 11pm	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton Crib Service: Rev Graham Hamilton Midnight Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
Christmas Day		About that time Readings: Titus 3.4-7, Luke 2.1-14
	10am	Morning Worship: Mark Alexander
31 Sun		God with us-in the flesh am Readings: Ephesians 1.3-14, John 1.10-18
	9.30pm 11am 5pm	Sunday Praise: Eleanor Oelmann Morning Worship: Eleanor Oelmann NO Celebration Service
January 2018		
6 Sat	5pm	Epiphany Feast in the Church Room
7 Sun		Pressing onto the goal am Readings:Philippians 3.1-21, Matthew 2.1-12 pm reading: Exodus 33.11 <i>Face to face with glory</i>
	8am 9.30pm 11am 5pm	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton Lord's Supper: Rev Graham Hamilton Morning Worship: Rev Kevin Hooke Word & Worship: Rev Graham Hamilton

Notes & Events

Epiphany Feast

Mark the end of Christmas with a church family celebration for all ages on Saturday 6 January from 5pm in the church room. A short act of worship, hot meal and some games and fun together. Further details to follow...

Wise Guys

Wise Guys is our fortnight club for young people aged 10-14. We meet again on Wednesday 13 December from 5-7pm in the church room. Come and eat pizza, play games and learn wisdom from the bible.

Book of the Month

The One true Gift
by Tim Chester

Available to purchase for £2.99 from church on Sundays. A series of daily meditations for the season of Advent.



Reformation 500

Ideas that Changed the World

Christians Together will be marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a series of study evenings on the people whose ideas formed our modern world by returning to the core teachings of the bible.

Sun 10 Dec 6.30pm at Ilsington: Christ alone (Cranmer) led by David Harris

All Christmas Services at PPT and the other churches in Bovey Tracey are in the Churches together Christmas leaflet

8 Signs Your Christianity Is Too Comfortable

Brett McCracken

In many parts of the world today, it can be easy to live a comfortable life as a Christian. But is that a good thing?

I'd like to suggest that the Christian faith is inherently *uncomfortable*. To be a disciple of Jesus is to deny oneself, to take up a cross, to be subject to persecution, to give up the creature comforts of home, to forsake the priority of family, to be willing to give up all material possessions, to be crucified with Christ. And this is just the beginning.

C. S. Lewis once said, "I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity."

But comfort-seeking is our default mode in a consumerist society, so we often find ourselves in "comfortable Christianity" without even knowing it. What are some indicators that our Christianity has become too cozy, more like a pleasant bottle of port than the uncomfortable, sharpening faith the New Testament envisions?

Here are eight signs that your Christianity might be too comfortable:

1. There's no friction between your Christianity and your party politics.

If you're all-in with one political party and never feel any tension whatsoever with your Christian faith, it probably means your faith is too comfortable. Whether you're Labour or Tory, a robust Christian faith should create dissonance with politics at various points.

A faith that aligns perfectly with one political party is suspiciously convenient and lacks prophetic witness.

2. There are no paradoxes, tensions, or unresolved questions.

If you never ponder or wrestle with the mind-boggling tenets of Christian theology (e.g., the Trinity, the incarnation, God's sovereignty coexisting with human action, the Holy Spirit's presence, to name just a few), your faith is probably too comfortable.

A healthy, uncomfortable faith constantly rocks you, prods you, and blows your mind. It's a faith that leaves you restless to want to know more, not satisfied you've grasped all there is to grasp about God.

3. Your friends and coworkers are surprised to learn you're a churchgoing Christian.

A sure sign your faith is too comfortable is if nothing in your life sets you apart as a Jesus follower, to the point that even those who know you well can't tell you're a Christian.

A comfortable Christian is one who easily blends in, looking and talking and acting just like his or her lost neighbors.

4. You never think about or even remember the Sunday sermon on Monday.

If Sunday sermons at your church are so forgettable (or you're so disengaged) that you rarely recall them after you leave church, your Christianity is probably too comfortable. Biblical preaching shouldn't leave us apathetic or unchallenged. The Word of God is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

.../ to be continued next month

Sketches from Church History (12)

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer

Thomas Cranmer was a scholar inspired by Luther's writing. He impressed King Henry when the king was trying to divorce Katherine of Aragon and marry Ann Boleyn, so that an heir could be raised. The Pope delayed for his own political reasons, so Henry used the general discontent against Rome to declare himself head of the Church of England.

Henry made Thomas Archbishop in 1533. While Thomas Cromwell refilled the king's treasury by confiscating the monasteries and their estates, Thomas Cranmer sought to bring spiritual reformation, aided by brother bishops like Latimer and Ridley who encouraged the reading of the bible in English, once the King authorised a translation in 1538.

This was a time of rapid change and great confusion. King Henry considered himself a theologian and issued many religious edicts, but Cranmer quietly tried to set forth a clearer vision.

When Henry died in 1547, a Council ruled for Edward (aged 9) and vigorously pursued Protestant Reformation, with much destruction of medieval statues, vestments and church silver. Cranmer published a book of twelve homilies (or sermons) to be read in parish churches, and in 1549 the first English prayer Prayer book, required by law (the Act of Uniformity) to be used by all clergy. This provoked the Prayer Book Rebellion, starting in Sampford Courtenay.

Cranmer produced a second edition of the Prayer Book in 1552, with forty-two articles of religion summarising the new doctrine of the Church of England.

Cranmer was familiar with the ancient Church Fathers and the new reformers like Luther and Calvin. His aim was to raise the standard of Christian worship, so that ordinary people could understand the bible, liturgy and sermons, and participate by receiving bread and wine, and singing congregational psalms.

But when Mary Tudor, daughter of Katherine, became Queen, she sought to restore the old Roman Catholic identity of England. Old Bishops were restored, all the laws of Edward's reign were repealed, and churches began to restore Latin and ornaments.

The people accepted these changes, but when Mary announced her intention to marry the King of Spain, there was great alarm. Then Mary began a violent persecution. Latimer and Ridley were burnt in Oxford in 1555, and Cranmer was put under great pressure to submit to the Pope. Cranmer wanted to be loyal to Mary as he had been to Henry and Edward. He decided to confess his faults and submit to Rome, but Mary would not spare his life.

Allowed to preach on the day of his execution, he exhorted people to obey the king and queen, but then deviated from the prepared script. He renounced the recantations that he had written or signed with his own hand: "And as for the pope, I refuse him, as Christ's enemy, and Antichrist with all his false doctrine." He was pulled from the pulpit and burnt on the spot where Latimer and Ridley had died. He placed the hand that had signed his recantation into the flame first, and his last words were: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit... I see the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

What's on and who's who at St Mary's

December

3 Sun

Advent

Readings: tbc

4pm Light up a Life service: Veronica Dell

5 Tues 10.30am Community Coffee Morning

10 Sun

2nd of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11, Mark 1.1-8

10am Holy Communion: Rev David Witchell

11 Mon 7.30pm PCC Meeting at Warmhill Farm

12 Tues 12.15pm Primary School Christmas service

17 Sun

3rd of Advent: Carol Service

4pm Carols: Rev Graham Hamilton

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service at Warmhill Farm: Rev Graham Hamilton

Come dressed as Shepherds, Angels or Kings if you would like to. Hot soup will be served, all welcome.

Christmas Day

10am Hebrews 1.1-9, John 1.1-14
Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

31 Sun

1st of Christmas

Readings: Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21

10am Morning Worship: tbc

January

7 Sun

Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

10am Morning Worship: Mr Edward Goodman

Churchwardens: Mr Derek Baker 835355, Mr Miles Pomfrett 331062

Minutes Secretary: Lyn Russell 832176

P.C.C. Treasurer: Mrs June Brown, West Hele, Hennock Road, 832108

Electoral Roll Officer & Sacristan: Mrs Diana Wiles, Warm Lodge, 832530

Deanery Synod Rep: Mr Andy Marchant, 833661

Churchyard: Hennock Volunteers

Rota

Date	Sidesman	Reader	Intercessor	Flowers
3rd	Pat Savage-Jones	June Brown	Service Leader	Rachel
10th	Harold Joll	Miles Pomfrett	Brian Marnham	Rachel
17th	Ken Swan	Anne English	Christine and Richard	Rachel
25th	Harold Joll	Libby Marnham	Ellena Jamie	Rachel
31st	Ken Swan	Frances Swan	Brian Marnham	Rachel
Jan 7th	Pat Savage-Jones	Ken Swan	Service Leader	Rachel

The Back Page: Farewell from Mark and Wendy

We would like to say a massive thank you to the many of you who have prayed for and encouraged us during Mark's long job search.

It's taken 10 months, but we are delighted to say that he has a new job, starting on 4th December, in Chesterfield. Mark will be moving into rented accommodation on 2nd December, and I'll stay in Bovey until we've sold our house.

These last few years have had many challenges and difficulties, particularly with my ill-health, and we are so grateful to have the support of such a loving and caring church family. God has never let us go, and we are confident that He will continue to help us in the challenges and adventures ahead. We'd still value your prayers - for Mark's new job, the search for rented accommodation, the sale of our house, for my continued recovery from depression and cancer, and for settling in to Chesterfield. Thank you!

We will certainly miss you all very much indeed. Chesterfield is in a lovely part of the country (not as nice as Devon, I hear you say!), and we'd love to have visitors (once we have an address!)

We pray that you, individually and as a church you will know God's love, holiness and life, and may continue to

hold firm to God, who He is, and all that He promises.

With much love,

Mark and Wendy Harrison

