



Church Bulletin

January 2018



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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: *Toward the Goal and for the Prize*

*Run the straight race thro' God's good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.*
(Fight the Good Fight: John S B Monsell 1863)

Dear Friends,

it may seem strange to start the new year with a picture of the finishing line on our front cover. Now is the time to make or renew resolutions for the coming year. But we can easily assume that we have finished the race as Christians: we have trusted in Christ, we have received salvation, so all is well, and we can sit back and wait for heaven?

There is a wonderful truth in this: the work that Christ accomplished on the cross is complete and finished. We have been saved by faith in him. But as Paul makes clear in Philippians 3, he cannot sit back and relax, pretend that he already knows Christ enough, is already perfect or has obtained resurrection: instead Paul says:

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3.13-14)
If Paul did not think that he had ‘arrived’ as a Christian, none of us can. We do not yet fully know or reflect Christ’s character and glory.

New year is a time to look ahead to this ultimate prize and to consider how we may grow in faith, hope and love. We are called to press on towards the goal, and this requires intentional effort. Weekly attendance at Sunday worship is a good start, but we also need a daily habit of prayer and bible reading,

whatever our age. There will be a selection of resources available in January to help you make a fresh start, and daily reading and prayer topics are printed in the weekly notice sheet. Christian life is not meant to be a private or lonely marathon, but a team race- we should not run alone. There is a gathering for prayer almost every day, and the PCC will be considering ideas such as prayer triplets from the recent prayer course to help us further. New home groups for adults and teenagers should be forming soon.

I hope that you will renew your resolution, but the best motivation for this is not duty or guilt, but desire. Paul’s words are filled with a passionate longing to possess the prize, which is nothing less than union with Christ. As the hymn puts it: *Christ is the Path and Christ the prize*. There is nothing and no-one in this world more to be desired than Christ. Our 5pm evening service ‘Word & Worship’ now follows a different series to the mornings, and we will focussing on the glory of God revealed in Christ, by learning from the book of Exodus where the holiness of God is revealed in fire.

Let us begin our new year by renewing our vision of the beauty and holiness of God revealed in Christ, who is our path and prize.

yours in Christ,
Graham

Mission Focus - Traidcraft

Church Representative - Colin Coombes

Locally 2017 was a significant and interesting year for Fairtrade and Traidcraft. Bovey Tracey has regained its Fairtrade Town status due to the initiative of councillor Chris Robillard.

This was supported by a small ecumenical committee, the Town Council and, most important, local traders and businesses. As part of this process a meeting was held in March. This was attended by Sue Errington, the Devon

Fairtrade co-ordinator, and Nimrod Wambette, a coffee grower from Uganda. Local traders and councillors were also present to hear the positive effects of Fairtrade on farmers and craftsmen in developing countries.

Thanks are due to the 11:00am congregation at PPT for increasing their support of the Traidcraft stall during 2017. Sales have risen by 40% over the past year. Support from Bovey Methodist Church, Ilsington Church, Chudleigh Church and Manaton Market has also continued to be very good.

Last year I decided to stop having the monthly stall at Bovey Tracey Farmers' Market. Changes in the running of the market and relatively poor sales made it no longer worth the effort put in by my helpers and myself. The stall ran at a small but increasing loss. It is regrettable that this has meant an overall reduction in sales of Traidcraft products. Hopefully

this will be offset by local retailers stocking and selling more Fairtrade products in the shops.

Two other main issues are currently being pursued by the Fairtrade Foundation. Firstly Sainsbury Supermarket Group is changing how it deals with farmers in developing countries. It is moving away from the procedures set up by the Fairtrade Foundation and introducing its own way of operating. This means that farmers and other suppliers will have less say in how the Fairtrade premium is spent. This will reduce the benefits to their communities.



The other issue is regarding Brexit and the trade deals that the UK government makes with developing countries. It is important that these countries are not disadvantaged by new trading arrangements that are put in place after the UK leaves the EU. The Fairtrade Foundation has started campaigns to address both these issues. To find out more and to support the campaigns go to the website www.fairtrade.org.uk or browse Fairtrade Foundation Sainsbury and Fairtrade Foundation Brexit.

As a New Year's resolution why not plan to buy a few Fairtrade goods each month to donate to the HITS box and help the poor abroad and locally at the same time.

Once again thank you for your support without which Wendy and I could not contribute to the work of Traidcraft and the Fairtrade Foundation.

Engage with God

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

How to create a personal mission statement

Successful people the world over whether in business, entertainment, science or other fields have long been creating personal mission statements.

They put together milestones, identify timescales, create specific targets and revisit and revise their mission statement regularly.

What would happen if we treated our spiritual life and service in the same way to help us get (and give) the most from our Christian walk?

As the New year arrives we often think of how we would like to change in the coming year and make resolutions to be better in some way that are all too quickly broken.

Thankfully as Christians we have God's power at work in us to transform us into the people God created us to be.

By creating a mission statement in conjunction with our creator we might be better placed to embark on the work that he has planned for us to do.

If you would like to develop a personal mission statement it must reflect God's vision for your life and therefore spending time praying, fasting, listening, reading and asking God what he wants. This

should help us to understand God's strategy for our lives.

We then need to capture those vague thoughts and convert them to concrete ideas by writing the statement out (or drawing it, singing it or however else works for you).

Try splitting your personal statement into five areas:

- Physical - how does God want me to take care of my body?
- Spiritual - how does God want me to grow in my relationship with him?
- Relational - how does God want me to grow in my relationship with others?
- Personal / emotional - what areas of my character does God want to develop in me?
- Professional - what does God want me to do in my work?

Once you have got some thoughts down then test your statement by sharing it with a close friend or family member who knows you well and isn't afraid to tell you things as they really are.

Be prepared to revise the statement as you keep bringing it before God for his refining.

All that's left to do then is to commit to this call of God on your life. Be prepared to review your statement regularly, updating and setting new milestones and targets and prayerfully considering each change in the light of God's calling on your life.

Bovey Calendar

January 2018

5 Fri	9.10am	Service of morning Prayer
	5pm	Choir Practice
	7.30pm	Life Explored Course at Ridgeway, Marsh Lane
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 3.1-15 <i>The burning bush</i>
	8am	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	9.30pm	Sunday Praise with Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton
	11am	Morning Worship: Rev Graham Hamilton
	5pm	Word and Worship: Mr Mark Hamilton
8 Mon	9.10am	Morning prayer
9 Tues	12.30pm	Friendship Lunch at the Edgemoor Hotel
10 Wed	10am	Holy Communion
	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
11 Thur	7am	Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
	2pm	Funeral of Margaret Bray in Church
	3.30pm	Little Stars service
12 Fri	9.10am	Morning Prayer
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
14 Sun		Rejoicing in Prayer
		am Reading: Philippians 4.1-9, John 1.43-end
		pm Reading:Exodus 13.20-14.30: <i>The pillar of fire</i>
	9.30am	Sunday Praise: Mrs Carolyn Laycock
	11am	Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton & C Laycock
	5pm	Word and Worship: tbc
	7.30pm	14-18s group starts at Southbrook Lodge
15 Mon	9.10am	Morning prayer
17 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
	7.15pm	Parochial Church Council meeting in the Church Room
18 Thur	7am	Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
19 Fri	9.10am	Morning prayer
	9.45am	First Steps in the Church Room
	7.30pm	Codelife group for men in the Church Room
	7.30pm	Life Explored Course at Ridgeway, Marsh Lane

20 Sat 10-4pm Peninsular Gospel Partnership Day: St Leonard's Exeter

21 Sun

Content with Christ

am Readings: Philippians 4.10-end, John 2.1-11

pm Reading: Exodus 19.1-19: *The holy Mountain*

9.30am

Sunday Praise: Eleanor Oelmann

11am

Morning Worship: Eleanor Oelmann

5pm

Lord's Supper: Rev Graham Hamilton

6.30pm

Service of prayer for Christian Unity: Holy Spirit Church

22 Mon

9.10am

Morning Prayer

12.30pm

Christians Together leaders' lunch: Church Room

24 Wed

10am

Holy Communion in the church

2pm

Jack in a box Baby Group in the Church Room

5pm

Wise Guys: CY course in the church room

25 Thur

7am

Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room

9.45am

First Steps in the Church Room

26 Fri

9.10am

Morning Prayer

9.45am

First Steps in the Church Room

5pm

Choir Practice

7.30pm

Life Explored Course at Ridgeway, Marsh Lane

27 Sat

10-4pm

Parochial Church Council Away Day

28 Sun

Prophets without honour

am reading: Jeremiah 26, Matthew 13.53-14.12

pm Readings: Exodus 33.1-23 *Face to face with glory*

9.30am

Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton

11am

Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

5pm

Word and Worship: Rev Simon Hughes

29 Mon

9.10am

Morning Prayer

31 Wed

10am

Holy Communion in the church

2pm

Jack in a box Baby Group in the Church Room

5pm

Wise Guys: CY course in the church room

February

1 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

Moreton Deanery Synod: place to be confirmed

2 Fri

9.10am

Morning Prayer

3 Sat

12.30pm

Newcomers' Lunch in the Church Room

4 Sun

The sea of Faith

am Readings: Psalm 107.23-32, Matthew 14.13-36

pm reading: Exodus 40.1-5, 34-38: *The Holy Tent*

8am

Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

9.30pm

Sunday Praise: Mr Mark Alexander

11am

Baptism at Morning Worship: Rev Graham Hamilton

5pm

Word & Worship: tbc

Notes & Events

Epiphany Feast

Mark the end of Christmas with a celebration for all ages on Saturday 6 January from 5pm in the church room. A short act of worship, casserole and choice of puds for £5 (£3 children)- bring your own drinks. Games and fun. Please sign up by 2 January

Wise Guys

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

Alpha Course

Bovey Tracey Baptist Church are planning to hold two 6 week mini Alpha courses starting on Wednesday 17th January 2018. One at Lunchtime and one at 7.30pm, with an Away Day on Saturday 17th February 2018.

Life Explored Course

It's not too late to join the Life Explored course at Ridgeway, Marsh Lane on Fridays from 5 January- 7.30-9pm. Contact Graham for details.

Church Room Drains

The Church Room drains have long been causing problems so the PCC have authorised work to resolve the problems. This will mean digging up the access to the carpark and restricted access to services in the Church Room. To minimise disruption the work will be carried out from 2nd - 5th January. During this time the carpark will be inaccessible and the Church Room will not be functional.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Peninsular Gospel Partnership Annual Conference:

Saturday 20 January 2018, 10am-4pm at St Leonard's Exeter

with Justin Mote (Director of Training for the North West Partnership)

Justin became a Christian as a teenager through a teacher at school. After school he worked in retailing before going to theological college. He has served in churches in Basingstoke, London and the Wirral. His passion is to equip people for a Bible teaching ministry in local churches. Justin is married to Jo and they have three children. He loves watching cricket and would love to play golf better.

8 Signs Your Christianity Is Too Comfortable

Brett McCracken

.../continued from December's edition

5. No one at your church ever annoys you.

If you go to church with people who are always easy to talk to, always fun to be around, and always closely aligned with your opinions, tastes, and preferences, your Christianity is too comfortable.

One of the glorious things about the gospel is that it creates a new community out of disparate types of people who, in many cases, wouldn't otherwise choose to spend time together.

6. You never feel challenged, only affirmed.

If your Christian faith never confronts your idols and challenges your sinful habits—but only ever affirms you as you are—this is a sure sign of a too-comfortable faith. Healthy faith doesn't just celebrate you as you are but relentlessly moulds and refines you into the likeness of Christ, which is a beautiful but necessarily uncomfortable process.

7. You've never had to have a 'truth-in-love' conversation with a fellow Christian.

It's always more comfortable to just "live and let live" when there's an offence or sin that needs to be called out. It's more comfortable to just shrug when we see others in our community making unhealthy decisions.

But this isn't true Christian love.

Love isn't opposed to truth, and if your faith doesn't include the capacity to speak hard truths in love, it's too comfortable.

8. No one in your church could comment on any area of growth they've seen in you.

To believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ is to believe in change. Though not always linear, the Christian life should be marked by growth, forward momentum, and change for the better.

If you're a Christian who's grown so little that no one in your church could identify any area of improvement, your faith is too comfortable.

Why is it important that we avoid falling into comfortable Christianity? Because comfortable Christianity is far from the costly, inconvenient, idol-crushing, cross-shaped path for disciples of Jesus. Comfortable Christianity has little prophetic to say to a comfortable, consumerist world. Comfortable Christianity has little urgency in mission and little aptitude for growth.

Uncomfortable Christianity, however, leads to life and transformation. It leads us to rely on God and not on ourselves; to serve rather than be served; to live lives marked by sacrifice. It leads us to do hard things, to embrace hard truths, to do life with hard people for the sake and glory of the One who did the hardest thing. It may be uncomfortable, but it will be worth it. On the other side of discomfort is delight in Christ.

A Twenty-First Century Similitude of a Dream?

At the recent Prayer Course, “We could try meditating,” said Carolyn. “We can sit or lie still, and quiet our minds.” (“No lotus position?” I thought, inappropriately, but gratefully.) “We can repeat, in our minds, a phrase like ‘Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name’, over and over.”

A few days later, lying in bed just before the alarm would ring out, I lay there and thought I would give the meditation a try. Apart from the usual raucous dawn cries of the rooks in the nearby trees, and the gentle snoring of Ollie the cat, there was nothing to disturb me, so I started the mantra in my head.

“Our Father who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name...
Our Father who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name...
Our Father who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.....”

After a short while, in a way I cannot really effectively describe, possibly akin to being half asleep, half alert, I can see in my mind’s eye that I am standing on the bank of a river, flowing past, slow and deep, at my feet. Across the river, about fifteen yards away, is a wide grassy bank, and beyond that a group of dwellings; a quite large group, single storey, flat roofed, brilliantly white, with small gardens around them. No roads, just

wide paths, and the dwellings stretching up a gradual slope, into a glorious distance.

On the further bank, between the river and the start of the houses, is a large group of people, dressed in white, a rather subdued white, and looking up the slope, they are chanting in unison:

“Hallelujah, hallelujah...
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.....”

Hallelujah, hallelujah...
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.....”

There is no sun, there is no sky as such; there is a soft radiance in the air, and a sense, an aura of peace, seems to flow across the river, and overwhelms me.

What is at the top of that slope, that they are gazing at so intently while they worship?

The alarm sounds and the wonderful sight leaves my vision, but an afterglow remains, even though I have to get up.

Roy White

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

January

2 Tues 10.30am Community Coffee Morning

7 Sun

Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Matthew 2.12
10am Morning Worship: Mr Edward Goodman

14 Sun

Readings: Revelation 5.1-10, John 1.43-end
10am Morning Worship: Mr Keith Butler

18 Thu 12.30pm Soup & Pud in the Village Hall

21 Sun

Pressing onto the goal

Readings: Philippians 3.1-21, John 12.20-26
10am Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton

28 Sun

Content with Christ

Readings: Philippians 4.10-end, John 2.1-11
10am Morning Worship: Mrs Eleanor Oelmann

February

4 Sun

The sea of Faith

Reading: Matthew 14.13-36
10am Baptism of Rafe Stenning : Rev Graham Hamilton

6 Tues 10.30am Community Coffee Morning

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

Advance notice of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 18 March

Rota

Date	Sidesman	Reader	Intercessor	Flowers
7th	Pat Savage-Jones	Ken Swan	Service Leader	Rachel
14th	Harold Joll	June Brown	Brian Marnham	Rachel
21st	Ken Swan	Miles Pomfrett	Christine and Richard	Rachel
28th	Pat Savage-Jones	Anne English	Ellena Jamie	Rachel
Feb				
4th	Harold Joll	Libby Marnham	Service Leader	Rachel

Sketches from Church history: Queen Elizabeth

Last year we followed the story of Christianity in England to the death of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.

Queen Mary died two years after executing Thomas Cranmer. Her vicious persecution of Protestants (over 300 martyred) and her political errors - including defeat by France in war and the loss of Calais meant that few mourned her. But the nation remained bitterly divided. Would the new Queen Elizabeth, the Protestant daughter of Ann

Boleyn, aged 25, fare any better? Elizabeth proceeded with caution and chose moderate advisors like Sir William Cecil. The old Archbishop of Canterbury died the same night as Mary, and Elizabeth chose a known reformer, Matthew Parker, to succeed him. Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy which restored all the reforms of Henry VIII, abolished by Mary and rejected all papal authority in England. Parliament also passed an Act of Uniformity which restored the (more Protestant) Prayer book of 1552, with minor concessions to more Catholic-minded clergy. A team of commissioners was appointed to tour the country and ensure that the new regulations were observed. Eleven of the (Marian) Bishops refused, and were deposed- most fled the country. Perhaps 200 clergy objected, but the rest submitted. The Queen managed to recruit new bishops, and the 'Elizabethan

Settlement' eventually brought stability to the church and nation.

Elizabeth wished to deal gently with the many English people who could not in conscience abandon the Catholic faith, but their position was made impossible by the scheming of the Popes. Pius IV sent missionaries to attempt converting the Queen, but his successor Pius V tried direct political action, stirring English Catholic nobility to rebel against the Queen and replace her with Mary Queen of Scots, who had



been driven from Scotland. In 1570 the pope declared the Queen a heretic and ordered English Catholics to break their allegiance to her on pain of excommunication. This put English Catholics in an impossible position, and made them all potential traitors. He also trained missionary priests to operate in England: these Jesuits expected martyrdom, and 250 were not disappointed. A serious plot against the Queen's life was thwarted in 1583. Mary Queen of Scots remained a focus of discontent until her execution in 1587. But this triggered further action. The Pope had been trying to organise a Crusade against England in the 1570s and finally persuaded Philip of Spain to take the lead. The Armada sailed in 1588- to complete disaster. English Catholics were kept under severe constraint, and many of these rules were not eased until the middle of the 19th century.