



# Around the Parishes

Awliscombe - Buckerell - Combe Raleigh -  
Cotleigh - Gittisham and Honiton  
April 2020

## What's going on out there ....?

**Church is going on.** It may not be as we know it normally, and there are undoubtedly many aspects that we miss dreadfully, but there is no doubt that the praying, witnessing, serving, loving Body of Christ is alive all over the place, like a huge invisible spider's web . (Sorry for the analogy if you don't like spiders!) Just as when life is 'normal' we need to turn to God in prayer to offer him our love and to allow ourselves to be re-filled and re-energised, so we need - perhaps even more so - to do at this complicated time.

**On Sunday mornings** we invite you to join us in a short service of prayer. This can be found on the website, [Honitoncofe.org](http://Honitoncofe.org). If you are not a computer person, you may have a Bible or a Book of Common Prayer somewhere around the house - turn to Morning Prayer near the beginning of the Book of Common Prayer and follow it as best you can. You will find that the psalms are at the back of the book, and are divided up into morning and evening for each day of the month. Saying just the psalms at the beginning and end of each day can be a wonderful source of comfort. They are incredibly human in the range of emotions and feelings they encapsulate. If you don't have anything, ring somebody from your church, and they should be able to point you in the direction of someone who can download you some material and leave it on your doorstep - or theirs for you to collect.

We are inviting everybody to light a candle at **7pm on Sunday evenings** throughout this crisis, and place it in a window as a sign of our collective concern, care and compassion. You are invited to pray - if that is your 'thing', perhaps using the following words:

Keep us, good Lord,  
Under the shadow of your mercy  
In this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
And lift up all who are brought low;  
That we may rejoice in your comfort  
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
In Christ Jesus our Lord.



**During the week:** I hope to have a form of daily prayer up on the website before too long. Meanwhile, a daily passage from the Bible, or the psalms (see above) might help.

**Thursdays 7pm** A few people in Awliscombe have hitherto gathered either for a Eucharist or to say Compline. You may wish to join them in prayer at 7pm.

**Other times:** If you would normally have been going to a PCC meeting or something similar, instead pause, light a candle and say the Lord's Prayer and the Grace, thinking of those who you would usually be meeting with and praying for them. You might want to ring one or some of them afterwards for a chat and to keep in touch.

**On p3 you can find a list of what is available on the Radio and Television**



## ST MARY AND ST GILES , BUCKERELL

It seemed as if April, with Holy Week and Easter Day , would be very strange this year but this has been made more of a challenge since all places of worship are now closed .The whole world and many ways of life have been changed so very fast by the effects of the world -wide pandemic which has hit us all .

It was fitting that Mothering Sunday finished with the Candle of Light being lit in many homes that evening, as the day itself was a quiet one with so many families apart .The church was decorated with gifts of flowers left there in memory of mothers and for those mums who could not be visited by their families that day .

Here in Buckerell we had a “ tree “ for messages and prayers, so with the special prayer leaflets for Covid 19 and for prayers at home that may all help people to

feel supported whilst in isolation .

We also have ribbons of hope on all three church gates. If you are able to take a walk or a bike ride past our church they make a cheerful display . Please do add your own .

We are fortunate that a kind group of people went into action very quickly in recent weeks to work out a support system , with “buddies “ for all those in any kind of need . Buckerell On Alert ( BOA) is an initiative of the Parish Council and we also have Reverend Sue ‘s church continuity groups being planned . Hopefully in the coming weeks and months we will be able to keep in touch .

“May friendship and good memories last even when we are apart “

*Penny Mear*

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## ST NICHOLAS COMBE RALEIGH

At the beginning of the year who had heard of ‘corona virus’? Those two words are now at the forefront of everyone’s mind as the country battles to minimise its effects. Social distancing is not something that Christians usually advocate or practise (there don’t appear to be many hermits in the Honiton area!) but adhering to the rules is important if we are to emerge from this with the best possible outcome.

In common with other villages we have more or less gone into lockdown but that doesn’t mean total cut-off from our neighbours. Telephone calls and emails are flying thick and fast as we keep an eye on each other and offer help where we can.

Daffodils were distributed on Mothering Sunday and left on doorsteps to bring a little cheer to what, for many of us, was by far the quietest Mothering Sunday we’ve ever known.

On the positive front we have a new church path! It still has to be resin-topped and the water supply is not yet connected but we are getting there and hopefully in the next ‘Around the Parishes’ will be able to report on a job completed.

Meanwhile stay safe and keep well.

*Rosemary Mapleston*

*From Revd Sue:* In addition to Rosemary’s thoughts, I’d just like to say what a wonderful breakfast so many of us enjoyed in the Village Hall, courtesy of Little Critturs - or at least their chefs and waitresses. I don’t know how many breakfasts were served in the end, but they were delicious, and were served with such a smile - even catering for people’s individual whims.

I was thrilled to meet up with Esme and other Mums from Little Critturs, and was hoping to be able to be a regular part of their group, taking along some simple craft activities. However, this *wretched* virus has put a stop to that, as to most other things ... but when we’re back to some semblance of normality, I will look forward to coming and getting sticky and messy on a Tuesday morning! Keep safe everybody!



## RADIO AND TELEVISION - CHURCH WORSHIP & MORE

|               |      |      |   |
|---------------|------|------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b> | 0605 | R4   | Something Understood (Reflections on a theme) |
|               | 0710 | R4   | Sunday (news and comments)                    |
|               | 0810 | R4   | Sunday Service                                |
|               | 1130 | BBC1 | Sunday Worship                                |
|               | 1315 | BBC1 | Songs of Praise                               |
|               | 1500 | R3   | Choral Evensong (rptd from Wed before)        |
| <b>Daily</b>  | 0945 | R4   | Daily Service (Longwave only)                 |
| <b>Wed</b>    | 1530 | R3   | Choral Evensong                               |
|               | 2045 | R4   | Lent Talks                                    |

### & On Line ...

There is simply loads of stuff—too much to mention all of it. However keep an eye on the website for the Diocese of Exeter. Some of the other things that I have found helpful and really enjoyed using include:

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| <a href="http://pray-as-you-go.org">pray-as-you-go.org</a>       | This gives you simple daily prayers and scripture, complete with some lovely pictures and music. Very calming!   |
| <a href="http://www.sacredspace.ie">www.sacredspace.ie</a>       | Your daily prayer online. Readings with reflections on the content. Again, helpful and thought provoking. (It has been known to prompt a sermon!)  |
| <a href="http://www.pathwaystogod.org">www.pathwaystogod.org</a> | One of my absolute favourites. There is just a <i>wealth</i> of material here, and it's trustworthy, sound scholarship. On their home page click on 'resources' and you will find Praying with Art, Thinking Faith, Scripture and Theology resources, retreats at home and a whole host of other things. You can |

### WANTED ....

Articles, pictures, bright ideas to share .... Anything you or somebody you know would like to contribute to the next issue. Please email it in Word format to [sue41260@gmail.com](mailto:sue41260@gmail.com). I can't guarantee anything, but I will do my absolute best to make it an all round interesting publication if I can!



### Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter ....

Obviously, we're not going to be together to celebrate this greatest of feasts, which will be an enormous sadness to all of us. However, I am endeavouring to put together some simple material for each day from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, which Charles Pegman will put up on the website for me, so that we can all be together in the power of the Holy Spirit and our suffering, crucified and risen Lord. If you are able to go out for a walk, and know of somebody else who might appreciate the material to use, do think of printing it off and leaving it in their porch.

## St Michael's Awliscombe

A blessed Easter to you all. St Michael's may be closed, possibly for the first time in its long history, but we as a congregation are keeping Christian spirit alive. Keep it up!

March, and Lent, have been very much overshadowed by the advance of the Covid-19 virus accompanied by a multitude of uncertainties. One just in time joyous exception in Awliscombe was the baptism on 8<sup>th</sup> March of Elsie Selway. Elsie's parents, sisters, and Godparents, relatives and family friends filled St Michael's for a lively service conducted by our Team Rector, the Revd Sue. Our prayers are with Elsie as she embarks on life as a member of Christ's family.

At the time of writing this in the last week of March many of us are in 'self-isolation'. Soon Easter will upon us, with longer evenings, spring flowers, and time to celebrate the Great Fifty Days of Eastertide. Instead of the usual services we will be marking these events with our own devotions, listening to or watching the live streaming of services, and keeping in touch with one another. The last week of March saw a transformation from winter to spring with leaves emerging on trees, plum blossom – and weeds waking up in the gardens. If you are able to take exercise walking in nearby lanes it is a heartening experience to witness this great annual revival.

A very cheering aspect of Awliscombe and Weston life has been the wealth of offers from so many members of our community to do shopping, collect prescriptions, and help in so many ways. It is good to see so many people pulling together.

*Roger Caudwell*



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## St Michael's Gittisham

Now that we are in 'lockdown' the older and vulnerable villagers are being looked after by a team of volunteers co-ordinated by representatives drawn from St Michaels (Julia Barrett), the Parish Council (Carol Hall) and The Village Hall Committee (Sue Fallows). Julia and myself are keeping in touch with parishioners by telephone.



I am one of those designated as 'high risk' who are not allowed out – my notification from the NHS Coronavirus Unit said I could "open my windows"!! As I have a little garden with patio I have been going out there to feed the birds, do light exercises and collect logs in.

Gittisham had a lovely 'Memories' over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> March – the last event allowed. There were a good number of visitors who sanitized on entering the hall and were encouraged to continually do so as they picked up the files with village weddings, funerals and events. A former villager came down from Lancashire with some amazing pictures of the village, cottages and occupants pre-war and earlier, plus pupils at the village school which closed in the 50's. Refreshments were served on both days. Thank you Rev'd Sue for your service sheet with reference to Gospel reading up to mid- April and the additional prayers and to Julia who is looking into ways of leading a short form of Morning Prayer on Sunday using online/ telephone conference facilities.

Wishing everyone a safe passage through this awful time, it is good to talk even if not face to face so please keep in touch with the vulnerable and self isolating.

*Carol McCann*



Pictures from  
Gittisham's  
Wonderful  
Memories  
Weekend

The picture above makes you realise just *how* fantastic the recent spring weather has been!

The one to the right makes me wonder just how many feet have stood on those cobbles!



### St Michael's Cotleigh

Just like everybody else, everything is cancelled in the village - not just the services, but even the Easter Bingo! We send our very best wishes to everybody and hope that you are managing ok in this incredibly complicated situation. Obviously, there will be no service in church on Easter Day, but that doesn't stop us wishing everybody all a very happy Easter, and looking forward to the day when we can all get together again to celebrate.

Pam Lane

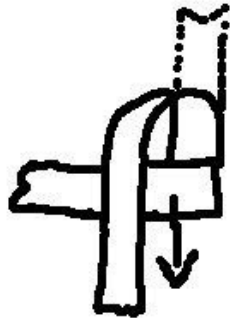


# A CHALLENGE FOR PALM SUNDAY!

~ cut 2 strands of palm ( or paper) about 1/2" x 14"

~ follow instructions to form a palm cross

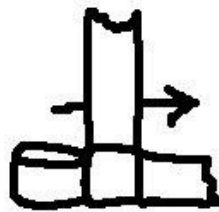
## Weave a Palm Cross



step 1



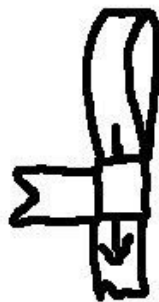
step 2



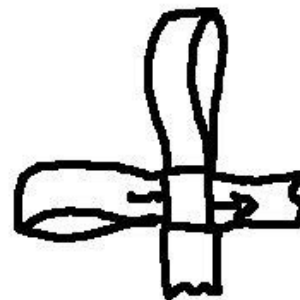
step 3



step 4



step 5



step 6



## St Paul's Honiton

Until 15 March we were carrying on more or less as normal. The Lent Lunches on Wednesdays had got off to an excellent start, and we were all enjoying the chance to sit and chat over bowls of delicious home-made soup.

On Thursday evenings members from St Paul's and other churches in the Mission Community had begun gathering at The Otter Inn at Weston for an evening of 'Table Talk'. We were having a great time. Over our drinks and crisps (and the occasional bowl of chips, one of which was mine!) we plunged into such topics as hope, evil and justice, and I think we were all agreed that the evenings were giving us a lot of food for thought throughout the following week. Again, we have been rudely interrupted! However, we will pick up again when 'normal' life resumes!

I was enjoying going into Awliscombe, Offwell and Farway primary schools and beginning to think about Easter with them. And was looking forward to the opportunity to sing my all time favourite non-religious Easter song which has the wonderful refrain of

*"I'm... a...spring chicken! I'm yellow and small. My feathers are fluffy and they're keeping me warm. My legs are not long, so I'll never be tall, But I'm a real spring chicken and I'm having a ball! (Chicken I'm a chicken, and I'm having a ball!)"*



(If you want a laugh, imagine what actions you might put to those words with small children, and then imagine me doing them!)

Those last Collective Worship services, knowing that school was stopping indefinitely, were really emotional moments. I am full of admiration for the teachers and the way in which they coped with that last frantic week before school was stopped. I'm equally full of admiration for the work they and many, many parents are now doing to try and keep some semblance of normal education going for our young people. Finally, on Sunday 15 March we were just in time to put in place a somewhat embryonic 'church continuation plan' whereby we ensured that members of the congregation, as groups of 4, had each other's phone numbers and email addresses. **If you were not in church on that day, and didn't get allocated a group ... hold on: I'm working on it!**

We will all be thinking of each other so much in the coming days and weeks, especially as we celebrate Easter apart from each other, and we continue to

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### Looking for something to do?

Why not make your own Easter arrangement, using whatever you have in the garden? It could be around a candle, it could be your own Easter Garden. Take a photo and send it in - I'll try and put pictures in the next issue. *Revd Sue*



Alleluia!  
Christ is risen.



And, no matter how difficult the circumstances,  
this comes to you wishing you  
all the hope and joy of the  
Resurrection.

Happy Easter!

