

## THE RALEIGH MISSION COMMUNITY

**OUR VISION:** "To know and worship God, to show his love by reaching out into the community and welcoming all into his church."



[www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk) The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6LT

Vicar - Rev'd Martin Jacques: 01395 443473 vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk

RMC Office: Fran Mills – Mon, Tues & Thursday working from home 9.00 – 13.00 07880331465

Wed 10.00 – 12.00 & Friday 10.00 – 14.00 in RMC office 01395 443397 raleighmc@gmail.com

[Website@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:Website@rmcommunity.co.uk) Please send details of all events to Stacey for inclusion on website.

### Sunday 28th April – 5th of Easter

Rev'd Martin will be presiding at both services at St. Peter's and Margaret Scrivener will preside at All Saints and Chris Cant will preside at St. Michael's at 9.30am and 11am respectively. In the evening at St. Peter's, at 6pm we have the first "Sunday at six" concert featuring the organist from Rennes cathedral, Jean-Rene Andre.

### Thought for the day.

It probably says a lot about me that my favourite painting is "The scream" by Edvard Munch. It captures something primal about the human condition and the strain, stress and anxiety that plagues our lives. There were four large rooms in the immersive art exhibition where you entered and stood or lay or sat while art masterpieces were projected and melted and were re-formed around you. It was pretty mesmerising and actually made us feel a little sea-sick even though the place wasn't really moving. I had to wait until the last room to be immersed in "The scream" and my day wouldn't have been complete until that had happened. Richard Rohr in his daily communication from New Mexico is currently talking about art as a window into God and spiritual experience, which leads me to think about Western and Eastern approaches to religious imagery. Apart from brief periods of iconoclasm, both West and East have developed sublime artistic traditions resulting in the pinnacle of renaissance art in Italy (I remember being rather exhausted by the umpteenth "Madonna con Bambino" in an art gallery in Venice a couple of years ago) and icons which the Orthodox call "Windows into heaven". These images are not painted but "written" and you are invited to see through and beyond them to eternal truths. The pinnacle of both Western art and Eastern iconography is the same – Madonna con Bambino – the virgin and child – seeing through them to the mystery of incarnation – the fusing and inseparability of God with his creation – of spirit and matter. If the scream is the problem, then the antidote is surely the virgin Mary with Jesus the son of God being held in her arms. Existential angst countered by the peace that passes all understanding. Writing this piece prompted me to find the book that changed my entire Christian outlook and steer it in an incarnational direction. It is called "Ponder these things" Praying with icons of the virgin - written by Archbishop Rowan Williams and is one of my most treasured possessions.

**We offer prayers for:** Rosie Smith, Joseph Dixon, Alice Barratt, Jackie Clemo, Bryan Power, Mark Rufus, Beryl Schmidt-Rieche, Rosey, Melanie Hayward, Andrew Allan, Malcolm Dobbins, Kevin Stuart Banks, Luke Johnston, Mandy & Frank

**We also pray for all those suffering from a terminal illness or undergoing invasive treatments.**

**Recently deceased:**

**Lord Clinton.** Memorial Service for T/L Lord Clinton at Exeter Cathedral on Monday July 15th @ 14.30

**Annual Remembrance:** Doris Cutler, Anthony Draper, Theodore (Teddy) Morris, John Hutchinson, Fred Humphreys, Ruth Gooding, Kathleen Moss.

**The Prayer for Today: is a part of Psalm 143.**

Teach me the way I should go, teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Let thy great Spirit lead me on a level path.

**The annual Revision of the Electoral Roll is underway.** Please contact the Electoral Roll Officer for the church you usually attend: St Peter's Barry Laver (tel 445588) At St Peter's, Richard Bunting @ All Saints East Budleigh & Angela Marshall @ St Michael's Otterton to advise any changes necessary or if you wish to be added to the Roll because you have recently moved to the Parish, joined the Church or have reached the age of 16. Eligibility requirements are stated on the Revision Notice put up by the church Entrance. Please also note that members of the three congregations should they wish to vote at their respective APCMs that they need to be on their church's Electoral role. If they are not sure to contact their electoral roll Officer who will either confirm that they are on the roll or give them a electron form to complete.

### Dates for your diary

<b>Solos Lunch</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Tickets from Christine Channon</b>
<b>Sundays @ 6.00 St Peter's Church</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Entrance free, closing collection.</b>
<b>L &amp; F</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Tickets from Mary Jones</b>
<b>Mothers Union Meeting</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>2.30 in the Peter Hall. The speaker is Luc Vandamme MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP.</b>
<b>Men's breakfast</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Tickets from Malcolm Jones</b>
<b>RMC Joint PCC Meeting</b>	<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Please note change of date due to Archdeacon's Visitation Service</b>

**Bishop's Open Garden: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 14.00 – 16.30 @ £5. A chance to visit the garden of the Bishop's Palace one of the best kept secrets in Exeter**

**Mothers' Union:** Our April meeting was very enjoyable and informative when Andrew Kingsnorth spoke about his work overseas, thank you ,Andrew. Our next meeting is Tuesday 14 May 2.30 p m at the Peter Hall when Luc Vandamme is speaking about the Mission Aviation Fellowship. This should be very interesting. Light refreshments follow the talk. All welcome. There will be a retiring collection.

Our Spring Concert proved to be a great success: it was a treat to see people actually queueing to come into the church! Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend on what was a beautiful sunny evening. Delighted to say St Peter's Church benefited financially by £900.00 after expenses. The retiring collection for the people of Gaza was a fantastic response amounting to £404.00. My sincere thanks to every person who assisted in any way, to make the evening a success. Malcolm Jones

**Collect:** Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

**First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40:** Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and

For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and

starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**The gospel's progression to the "ends of the earth" is symbolised here by the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch. The mysterious African interior certainly held huge fascination for Jews. But was he Ethiopian? He was in Jerusalem worshipping and reading Isaiah so there is a possibility that he was a successful Jewish Emigree working for the Candace of Ethiopia. We'll never know of course and the fact that he was a Eunuch which would disqualify him from being accepted as Jewish is made nothing of in the story. The encounter ends with his baptism and the onward march of the gospel.**

**Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-21:** Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Along with 1 Corinthians 13, this is the most explicit advocacy that Love is the dominant virtue for a Christian. Here it is given a theological rationale. We love because "God is Love". This sublime message is compromised somewhat because the scope of that love according to the author of the whole letter, is to be extended to those people he sees as Orthodox believers rather than those who have "gone out" (2:19). So that humanizes the message. God is indeed love but flawed humanity finds it very hard to live up to those standards.**

**Gospel Reading: John 15: 1-8:** 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me,

and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Another one of the seven “I am” sayings from John’s gospel. This one stresses how apart from God or “Christ” we cannot bear fruit for the gospel. We must stay rooted in Christ or the word of God. How we do that varies according to religious tradition, by regular communion, by reading scripture, or through prayer and “spiritual communion”. I would argue that a truly rounded Christianity would emphasise all three equally.**

**Car parking at St Peters:** 2024 Parking permits are now available from the church office in St Peter’s at a cost of £80. Please see Fran for more details.

**St Peter’s Budleigh Salterton**

Sunday 28th	Holy Communion	8.00
	Holy Communion: Hymns: 349 242 491 364 Setting: Mass of St Thomas - David Thorne Anthem: Laudato Si -Jean-René André Voluntary: Variations on “Christus Vincit” - Denis Bédard	10.00
Wed 1st May 2024	Holy Communion	9.30
Sunday 5th	Holy Communion	8.00
	Holy Communion	10.00

**All Saints, East Budleigh**

Sunday 28th April	Holy Communion	9.30
Tuesday 30th	Morning Prayer	9.30
Sunday 5th May	Holy Communion	9.30

**St Michael’s Otterton**

Sunday 28th April	Holy Communion	11.00
Thursday 2nd May	Morning Prayer	9.30
Sunday 5th	Morning Prayer	11.00

**Free Will Offering envelopes for St.Peter's.** The new numbered boxes start on 7th April and are now available for collection at the back of the Church. If anyone would like to use this convenient method of donating to St.Peter’s Church, please let me know. I can also supply a standing order form for those wishing to save themselves the trouble of hunting around for cash every week!

**IMPORTANT REMINDER TO EVERYONE** – please advise me if you have signed a Gift Aid form in the past and no longer pay any tax. Just as important, let me know if you become a tax payer as we can claim back 25p in every £ donated which is a valuable part of our income. Judith S-Young

**Sundays at Six:** For five Sundays from 28 April we will be presenting a new series of musical events at St Peter’s. The myriad sounds of our wonderful organ will be heard across three organ recitals from Stephen Tanner, David Davies and for the first event, Jean-René André the organist of Rennes Cathedral in Brittany, France who we are delighted to welcome back for a return visit to Budleigh. Our own choir will present their monthly offering of Choral Evensong and will close the series with a choral concert of "Sacred Music for the Seasons". All events will be at 6.00pm. Free admission with a retiring collection.

**Digital Piano for sale:** St Peter’s has recently had to replace the digital piano used primarily for choir practices and the old instrument is now available for sale. It is NOT currently in working order and would take a minimum of £200 to repair (no guarantee). If however, you would be willing to take a risk please speak to Tony Gray or one of the Wardens.