

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 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 01395 568732, Wed 10.00 – 12.00 & Friday 10.00 – 14.00 in RMC office 01395 443397

Website@rmcommunity.co.uk Please send details of all events to Lucinda for inclusion on website.



Sunday 23rd January – Epiphany 3

Archdeacon Trevor Jones is presiding at the 8am and 10am services at St. Peter's and I will be presiding at the 9.30am at All Saints and the 11am service at St. Michael's.

Thought for the day

One of the most liberating things you can be told as a practicing Christian is that you don't need to pretend to know everything, understand everything or have a glib easy answer to every world problem and situation. Religious faith provides an anchor for your soul and a context and principles for making decisions and evaluating situations but it does not provide answers as to why some people get cancer, why disasters happen, or why I didn't get that promotion.

Admitting we don't know something offends our egos, so we often end up proclaiming things for which we have no justification. Humility is central to Christianity but is a place we'd rather not go if we have the choice. Though it should be relatively easy for a person who believes in a higher power. We already acknowledge that we are not the centre of the universe, that God's ways are far above our ways, and we sometimes struggle to apply God's law of love into concrete political and social situations. Not for nothing is the name "Israel" – struggle with God - very appropriate. But in calling ourselves children of God, we are saying that at one and the same time that we are not God but also that we find peace and strength in our relationship with Him. Our faith can provide peace of mind, strength and confidence – the liberation that Jesus proclaims in this week's gospel story and also the basis for seeking after truth but that truth doesn't arrive gift wrapped but only after a lot of struggling on our part. John's gospel is clear that the truth is something we will be guided towards in conversation with the God of Love - it won't be presented on a plate because life is dynamic and changing constantly.

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

We offer prayers for: Rosie Smith, John Heaven, Glenys Callaghan, Deborah, Keith Baker, Margaret Bown, Brian Shackleton, John Hutchinson, Chris Teuten, Laura, Di Bagshawe, Gillian Andrews.

Recently Deceased: Jim Boyles (Funeral St Peter's 1st February @ 14.00)

Annual Remembrance: Edwin Mules, Alfred Burridge, Mollie Lake, Kenneth Freeman, Bobs Margesson, Douglas Thompson, Lilian Smith, Alan Whiteside.

Dates for your diary

Quiz & Fish & Chip Supper	29 th January	Save the date – see below
Solos	Sunday 30 th Jan	Tickets from the RMC Office or from Christine Channon. Please note this is a week later than usual.
A seat at the Table	9 th February	See details below.
Loaves & Fishes	10 th February	Tickets @ £10 from the RMC Office or Mary Jones.
RMC Away Day	12 th February	All Saints church Sidmouth 10 – 16.00



Fish, Chips & Quiz Night.

In the Peter Hall, 29th January 2022, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start
Bar & Raffle. Tickets £10.00

Please come along for a fun evening in aid of St Peter's Church Funds. Individuals and teams of up to 8 are welcome and tickets are available from Fran in the RMC Office or from Tony Gray.



A Seat at the table: engaging church members with science
Wednesday 9th February, Refreshments from 7 pm, meeting starts at 7.30 pm.
St Peter's Church, The Lawn, Budleigh Salterton. EX9 6LT

You are invited to a meeting to learn more about how you can engage with science in Devon. Speakers from Exeter University will tell you about some of the research going on at Exeter University and what opportunities there are to get involved in the design and delivery of research projects. Your views on research are always welcome! Everyone is welcome. We are advertising in churches around Devon but feel free to invite friends who don't come to church.

Loaves & Fishes Lunch will be on Thursday 10th February, 12.15 in The Peter Hall. Tickets from Fran in the Church Office (Wed 10-12, Fri 10-2pm), and Mary Jones on Sundays (10am service), by Friday 4th February at the latest. Fran 443397/568732, Mary 443333

On the 12th February we have an RMC Away Day planned at All Saints church Sidmouth. I have booked the use of the church from 10am to 4pm and I am now looking for people to help with refreshments – teas coffees that sort of thing. I envisage people taking a packed lunch. This will be a quiet day to rest away from our home churches, engage in some spiritual practices, and wait on God to reveal himself to us. It is open to all people in any of our churches to engage and immerse themselves in the stream of His Spirit. "Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1)

Happy to announce the start-up of the **MEN'S BREAKFAST** on Thursday 17th February at 08:45 am at The Dolphin Café. There will now be spaced tables of 4 people. Please advise me 3 days in advance of the breakfast if you plan to attend. Malcolm Jones 443333

BLISTER PACK COLLECTION @ St Peter's Church. We are unable to recycle the large blister packs. Please don't put any more in the bins! Meanwhile you are doing wonderfully with the small ones. Many thanks. Collections are taken to Superdrug in Exmouth.

Collect: God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the

people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

The effect of reading the law had the effect of re-creating the community as a people brought into being and sustained by God. The laws provide the groundwork of how people were to relate to each other and how the community related to God. A sense of purpose and unity was discovered.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If the reading of the law gave the Israelites a sense of purpose and unity, this piece of St. Paul should have a similar effect on Christians today describing as it does the fully functioning community as a body where each part of that body is indispensable. Gifts and skills are distributed around the whole body so all contributions to the body are needed for us to thrive. The community has become the resurrection body of Christ. A text that proclaims loud and clear that the

Gospel Reading: Luke 4: 14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Luke places this incident at the start of Jesus’ ministry (right after the temptations in the wilderness) and announces that the character of that ministry will be liberation, bringing good news to the poor, release of the captives, bringing sight to the blind, and letting the oppressed go free. Proclaiming the year of the Lord’s favour may allude to the Jewish concept of Jubilee, when land and possessions were re-distributed, debts were cancelled, and slaves were set free.

The Prayer for Today is Celtic in origin, rather beautiful and aptly reflects the premise that we can’t know everything.

As the rain hides the stars, as the autumn mist hides the hills, as the clouds veil the blue of the sky,
So the dark happenings of my lot hide the shining of your face from me.

Yet, if I may hold thy hand in the darkness, it is enough.

Since I know that, though I may stumble in my going, Thou dost not fall.



The Children’s Hospice South West is seeking donations of good quality clothing for all ages. No appointment needed to drop off donations, just pop in and you will receive a friendly & appreciative welcome. The shop in Budleigh Salterton High street is open from 9.00 – 5.00 most days. Many many thanks.

2022 Services

St Peter’s Budleigh Salterton

Sunday 23rd January	Holy Communion	8.00
Sunday	Holy Communion Hymns 327, 652, 541, 834 Setting: Mass of St Thomas – Thorne Anthem: There shall a star from Jacob come forth – Mendelssohn Voluntary: Prelude and Fugue in F Major – Buxtehude.	10.00
Wed. 26th	Holy Communion	9.30
Sunday 30th Jan	Holy Communion	8.00
	Holy Communion	10.00

All Saints, East Budleigh

Sunday 23rd January	Holy Communion	9.30
Tuesday 25th	Morning Prayer	9.30
Sunday 30th January	Holy Communion	9.30

St Michaels, Otterton

Sunday 23rd January	Holy Communion	11.00
Thursday 27th	Morning Prayer	9.30
Sunday 30th January	Holy Communion	11.00



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