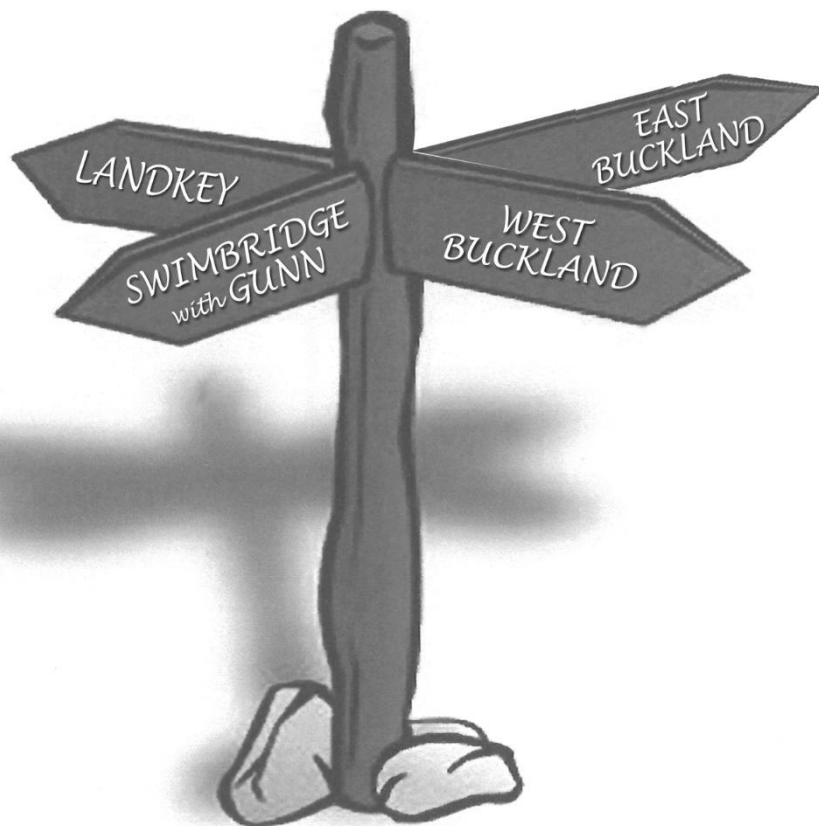


Parish Magazine

for

The Four Ways Mission Community

**St Paul, Landkey, St James the Apostle, Swimbridge
with The Holy Name, Gunn,
St Peter, West Buckland & St Michael, East Buckland**



June 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES – JUNE 2026

Sunday 7 June <i>Trinity 1</i> (Green)	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Hosea 5: 15 – 6: 6; Romans 4: 13-end; Matt 9: 9-13, 18-26
Landkey, 10.30am	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am MP	<i>As above</i>
Sunday 14 June <i>Trinity 2</i> (Green)	
East Buckland, 9.30am HC	Genesis 18: 1-15; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35-10:8
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey 10.30am HC AD Verena	<i>As above</i>
Gunn 11am HC	<i>As above</i>
Sunday 21 June <i>Trinity 3</i> (Green)	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Genesis 21: 8-21; Romans 6: 1b-11; Matt 10: 24-39
Landkey, 10.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Gunn, 11am HC	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
Sunday 28 June <i>Trinity 4</i> (Green)	
East Buckland, 9.30am MP	Genesis 22: 1-14; Romans 6: 12-end; Matt 10: 40-end
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey, 10.30am FS with baptism	Baptism readings /Patronal reading



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The Mission Community of St. James, Swimbridge with the Chapel of the Holy Name, Gunn, St. Peter, West Buckland, St Michael, East Buckland and St. Paul, Landkey

Patrons: The Bishop of Exeter and The Earl Fortescue Trust (Patronage suspended)

Priest-in-Charge: Revd. Preb. Cathy Scoffield,
The Rectory, (off Liverton Drive) Barnstaple Hill, Swimbridge, Devon EX32 0PH
Tel: 01271 830352 Email: revcathyscoffield@gmail.com

St. James the Apostle, Swimbridge

Churchwarden: Mark Haworth-Booth 07813776349

PCC Sec: Vacant. Mark Haworth-Booth and Cathy Scoffield are currently covering this.

Treasurer: Janet Patton 01271 831065 Electoral Roll: Mary Fardon 01271 344629 Organ/ Choir: Janet

Patton 01271 831065 Bell Ringer: Chris Ley 07890331478

C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School: Head Teacher: Gemma Poland

Website: www.swimbridgeparishchurch.org

Chapel of the Holy Name, Gunn

Warden and Treasurer: William Crosbie-Dawson 01271 831141

St Peter, West Buckland

Churchwarden: Pat Witheridge 01598 710512

PCC Sec: Gail Barker 01598 761149 Treasurer: Ally Ayre 01271 830011

Electoral Roll: Liz Overall 01598 760314 Tower Captain: Peter Crook 01598 760437

Deanery Synod: Vacant

St Michael, East Buckland

Churchwarden: Diane Tearall 01769 579031

PCC Secretary: Charlotte Smalley 01598 710629 Treasurer: Vacant

Tower Captain: Peter Crook 01598 760437

St Paul, Landkey

Churchwardens: Hazel Price 01271 831259 and Peter Soper 01271 830801.

PCC Secretary: *vacant* Treasurer: Ann Rumble 01271 346463

Deanery Synod: Hazel Price 01271 831259

Website: www.landkeyparishchurch.org

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by the 15th of preceding month.

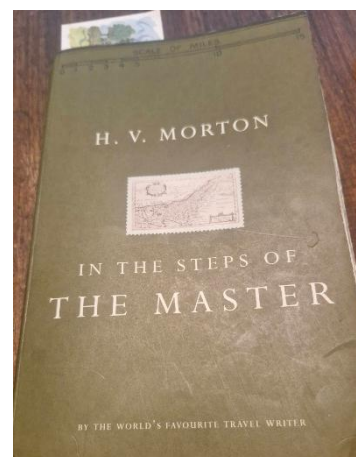
Inspiring Reading - Revd Cathy Scoffield

I wonder if you are enjoying reading or perhaps listening to an inspiring book – perhaps you have several on the go? My reading of novels, spiritual books and non-fiction tends to come along like buses these days and I long to become more disciplined and spend more time reading. We have 100s of books in our home including a great floor to ceiling bookcase in the study. Some books are incredibly special, sentimental and nostalgic. Books given to me or read at significant times in the journey of life and faith. I also love finding new authors alongside the well-loved, inspiring ones collected on the bookshelves. Books read slowly are the ones we really need to reflect on. I currently have two of these, which are so inspiring and special.

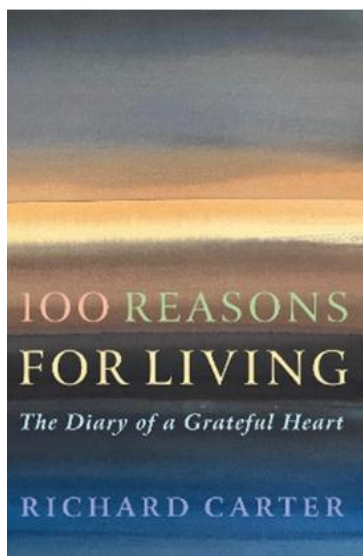
Last year, Pat from Gunn leant me the most beautiful paperback by H.V. Morton *In the steps of the Master*. It is a wonderfully descriptive and alive account of the journey the author took to the Holy Land in the 1930s. Having visited the Holy Land myself in 2018, it connects so well with the pilgrimage journey I took in 2018 with Exeter Diocese curates. And for those who have not visited, it can take us there through imagination, knowledge of the Bible and become a prayer:

We climbed out into the Kedron Valley. I looked up, high above me to the left, the walls of Jerusalem with the moonlight over them. As we went through the lonely valley with its crowded tombs, we came to the foot of the Mount of Olives and saw the little walled Garden of Gethsemane, with the light of the moon falling between its cypress tress and lying across its quiet paths.

(HV Morton – In the Steps of the Master, p72.



During April I enjoyed a trip to London which included the book launch of *100 Reasons for Living: the Diary of a grateful heart* by Richard Carter. He is a currently Vicar for Mission at St Martin-in-the-Fields, founder of the Nazareth Community and a wonderfully encouraging friend to me and to so many. Richard's latest book is rooted in gratitude, autobiographical stories, quotations, artwork, poetry, and beautiful illustrations including many from his talented brother [Andrew Carter - Artist & Printmaker : Works on paper : All the Days of December](#).



There are many contributions from others creating 100 Reasons for Living that inspire us to think of our own, with gratitude. The book is published as Richard stands at another threshold in life, retiring from his role as a full-time priest in central London.

In his book, Richard offers one hundred powerful stories gathered from his two decades of pastoral ministry – hidden everyday stories from asylum seekers, homeless and those on the edges of society, of hardship and hope, pain and unexpected grace. Amid the overwhelming weight of suffering, Richard finds a quiet yet infectious joy – not by ignoring life's struggles, but by seeking the hidden blessings within them. Authentic joy, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, can feel elusive when life is difficult or the world seems overwhelming. Join us for a day to hear Richard's stories and to rediscover that joy – even in the hardest of times. [100 Reasons for Living The Diary of a Grateful Heart by Richard Carter - Paperback / softback - 9781786226211](#)

May our reading, listening, attentiveness or deep joy of art and creation inspire each of us with gratitude and joy in this shared journey of life.

Here are three of Richard Carter's *Reasons for Living*.

Photographs taken by Cathy Scoffield

Reason 1 – Love walks with you - Dom Helda Camara – *1000 reasons for Living*

If you have 1000 reasons for living,
If you never feel alone
If everything speaks to you
From the stone in the road
To the star in the sky
From the loitering lizard
To the fish, Lord of the sea,
If you understand the winds
And listen to the silence,
Rejoice,
For love walks with you
Your comrade
He is your brother
She is your sister.



Reason 48 - Finding the middle of the wheel - Abbot John Chapman, *Spiritual Letters*.

The only way to pray is to pray
And the way to pray well is to pray much
Begin where you find yourself
Simply, humbly come home to God
Set aside distractions for though they will return
They will multiply if we do not make space for
what is beyond
Just give yourself to God and beg him to have
mercy on you
And offer him all your distractions
Come into the centre of the wheel
Where all the revolving around the edges no longer matters
Into that space within God will make the prayer



Reason 49 - In His Presence – Richard Carter

Our modern ways of living teach us to pursue aims and outcomes. What have you achieved? What goal have you reached? Our contemplative prayer is other. We seek only to be in his presence. You will know if you are progressing if you let go of the idea of progressing and seek simplicity of heart in the whole of your life. We should not think of contemplative prayer as something transactional, just simply the joy of being in the presence of someone we love. Our contemplative prayer is a walk; uphill, downhill, in the sunshine, rain and the storm; in moments of joy, in times of sorrow, anxiety and despair. Think not of how far we are from our destination; the meaning is in the walking. Every moment, every circumstance there is the possibility of deepening our awareness of God's presence. Even our turning away can be our turning back with greater love. You may be tempted to turn aside, to believe there are better ways and more exciting people to follow; your gaze will be constantly diverted from the path. Sometimes you will leave the path behind, following a distraction or desire, but slowly you will learn that these diversions take you nowhere. Return to the path for beauty walks with us. Christ's presence is not a possession we acquire.

He is the one with us on the road. Did we not feel our hearts burning within us?

News from the churches ...

St Paul's Landkey Valerie Orchard and Charles Waldron



I am quite sure that we have all enjoyed the warmer weather. Having been watching the young lambs in the fields frolicking about. The countryside has blossomed and now fresh green leaves, nature is wonderful. So today I have just heard that May is to be a No Mow May. No lawns to be cut to allow the wild flowers and grasses to flourish and the pollinating plants and insects time for them to feed on. How I love the smell of freshly cut grass.

On the 20th April we had a meeting with Ian Smith with regards to planning the Church Garden. The Castle Inn here in Landkey has wonderfully raised £5,000 for work to be carried out on this piece of garden to enable all the community to come and enjoy. Ian and Cathy walked the garden and now Ian will draw up plans and ideas as to make the best use of the garden. Then it will be down to getting spades and forks at the ready with as much help as we can muster amongst our local community to enjoy a new project.

On Saturday 9th May we held our Table-Top Sale at the Old School Centre, raising over £500 funds for the Church Tower restoration project. Thanks to everyone's hard work and commitment. Here are a few photographs taken by Cathy Scoffield. L-r **Some Table Top Stalls: Marcia Clayton (local author), Angela Bellamy, Trevor Swann and Margaret Perryman**



We all have a lot to look forward to in the coming months. *Valerie Orchard*

Welcome to AD Verena: We were very pleased to welcome the Archdeacon of Barnstaple, Verena Breed to St Paul's to lead our service of Holy Communion on 10th May 2026. Inspired by the Gospel reading for the day, John 14:15-21 in which Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments", Verena asked who was the one person in our lives we would never wish to be separated from. She raised her left arm and drew our attention to the band that she was wearing on her wrist before giving a touching account of why she wore it. When she was six years old, her daughter drew out a prize from a Lucky Dip at school. Bringing it home, she asked her mum what it was. Verena said that it was a friendship band and that she should give it to her best friend as a sign of their enduring bond. Her daughter thought for a moment, then said that her mum should have it - which she still has, nineteen years later! In the same way, our love from God is enduring. We hope to welcome Verena back in the summer.



Ciborium consecrated: At our service on 3rd May 2026, the inscribed ciborium donated by Allan and Evie Golding during their visit from Australia on 19th April 2026 in memory of Allan's great grandmother, Elizabeth, who is buried in St Paul's churchyard, was shown again to the congregation. The words in the accompanying card from Allan and Evie were read out by Emma: *"This personalised ciborium is gifted to the good folks of St Paul's Landkey in sincere appreciation for their friendship and devoted assistance in us being able to locate & honor our ancestor Elizabeth "Annie" Jones Golding. The Goldings of Goodavale, Jeir, NSW Australia."*

Cathy had consecrated the ciborium on 26th April, but this service presented a more relaxed occasion to allocate the gift the attention it deserved as the Annual Meeting took place on the previous Sunday.
Charles Waldron



St Michael, East Buckland



Spring arrives in North Devon: The Methodist church in Chittlehampton greeted the arrival of spring with a Tulip Festival. There were beautiful displays in the chapel and the adjoining garden and a wonderful tea!

Time rushes by: As I write this, I can't believe how the time is rushing by.

It's 50 days after Easter, and we are about to celebrate Pentecost. Saying that, by the time this is published we shall be in June!

Going back in time to April I attended a very interesting Deanary Synod meeting in Shirwell, it was great to meet like minded people from churches across North Devon, in the same situation as most rural Churches at the present time.

It was uplifting to meet our guest Bishop Moira, she was a very down to earth lady, understanding and funny, who gave a fantastic talk and insight into her life, and told of the journey of how she eventually became a Bishop and how she came to be in Devon.

She wants to, given time, visit her churches in the area, so I was pondering the idea of inviting her to one of our fifth Benefice Services, not necessarily at East Buckland. Any ideas would be welcome.

Looking forward to catching up with some of you at the Archdeacon's Visitation dates.

With Blessings from all of us at St Michael's. **Di Tearall.**

St Peter's, West Buckland



A breath of spring at West Buckland

Reflections: As we approach our Annual meeting at the end of the month I thought I would reflect on the past few years. It's so easy at times to feel overwhelmed by the endless tasks associated with keeping a church in good working order - watertight, windproof, and welcoming!

Sometimes we forget to celebrate the "small wins". It takes a whole team of dedicated people to keep things going - and I am proud to be a part of the most amazing team here in West Buckland. So here are some of St Peter's wins--- in more recent times! (I am dancing around the kitchen with joy - in celebration of each and every one!)

- * Our common fund share is paid up to date!
- * Our community coffee mornings are held generating a regular income for the church.
- * Our wonderful team of grass cutters keep the church grounds looking excellent throughout the year.
- * Our grant from the Parish Council each year helps towards the grass cutting costs.

Year by Year:

- * 2022 - Part of the wooden flooring area was renewed, and some Victorian floor tiles replaced.
- * 2022- The french drain around the church was made good, and a large section of guttering at the rear of the church was replaced.
- * 2023 - The wooden flooring underneath the organ was renewed and made good.
- * 2024 - The heaters were refurbished and returned to full working order, and all the wiring checked.
- * 2025 - The main pathway benefits from improved lighting.
- * 2025 - Quinquennial inspection report is completed.
- * 2025 - Under a temporary faculty permission 2 choir pews are removed, and the choir area is tidied to create additional space for more flexible worship.
- * 2026 - A large piece of guttering is replaced at the front of the church, roofing tiles replaced and lead flashing attended to.
- * 2026 - The very top of the bell tower has work completed to address a large crack and some rotting floor timbers.

We have a small but mighty team on the PCC, who keep the wheels turning! The church is always welcoming, decorated with fresh flowers and looks cared for! We manage to keep the church open every day for our visitors. We have a bell ringing team who regularly ring the bells, which sound wonderful and, last but not least we are so very blessed to have Rev Cathy, who is a complete inspiration, and a treasured part of our community!

Goals for this year: So we remind ourselves of the good things achieved, and look forward to hopefully achieving more in the coming years: Our goals for this year 26/27 are: To start to "grow our church" - we have a couple of contemporary worship sessions arranged for Friday evenings starting with crafts for families at 5pm followed by snacks and contemporary worship with modern music at 6pm. on Friday 22nd May and Friday 26th June. These sessions are open to all, so please do come along and give them a try.

West Buckland goals for future continued: *We have a nasty "damp" issue in the bell tower to resolve - as soon as funds allow - hopefully the next building project on the list.

*We need to put in some sort of toilet facility - as soon as funds allow. We are currently looking for grant funding to support this project.

*Our Annual PCC meeting will be held at 2pm in the village hall on Wednesday 20th May, this meeting is open to all, please do feel free to come along and join in.

*A reminder that we have our coffee mornings on the second Saturday of each month, held in the village hall from 10am onwards. Please come along and give them a try.

Here's to keeping St Peter's Church going for a further few years! With best wishes to all.

Gail Barker

St James, Swimbridge

Fresh produce from streamside wigwam



The adults pictured above left, being helped to prepare the ground for the wigwam by the Pre-school children, l-r, are Curt Norman, Georgina Lansdell, Anne-Marie Pearce and Emma Crook (Picture by David Netherway). Pictured right, David with the wigwam (Picture by Philip Dalling).

Children from Swimbridge Pre-school have helped to install a runner bean wigwam in the Streamside Garden at St James' church.

Two Pre-school parents, Anne-Marie Pearce and Curt Norman did a great job installing the wigwam. The project, overseen by Parochial Church Council member David Netherway, has been partly funded through profits from the Swimbridge Pantomime, The Wizard of Oz, which featured Four Ways Mission Community Rector Rev Cathy Scofield as an unforgettable Emerald City guard.

David Netherway explains: "The Pre-school children are already busy growing the runner beans ready for planting out and the project is already proving a big hit with the little ones. An official opening for the wigwam is planned."

The wigwam will also be used to grow cucamelons and climbing pumpkins and it is hoped that some of the produce can be sold for the benefit of the Pre-school.

Ascension Day Choral Feast



St James' Swimbridge was the venue for a choral feast on Ascension Day when the church played host to the members of the West Buckland School chapel choir.

David Netherway's picture (above) captures three significant elements of the occasion – a sizeable congregation in the pews, the packed choir stalls holding the West Buckland choristers beyond the chancel screen and the presence of Father David Chance (standing left) who was the co-celebrant with the Four Ways Mission Community rector the Rev Cathy Scofield.

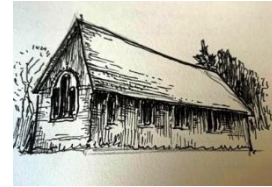
The choir, conducted sang the Kyrie Eleison, the Gloria in excelsis, the Sanctus, the Agnus Dei and the Anthem Benedictus from Mass in G by F Schubert as well as making a powerful contribution to congregational hymn singing.

Cathy Scofield writes: We were delighted to welcome West Buckland School Chapel Choir for the Ascension Day Service at St James Church on Thursday 14 May. This was a well-attended service with beautifully arranged music and liturgy. Thank you to all the choir, organist Dominic Carter and musical director Nick Smith for all their dedication and commitment to sharing their gift of music across local churches.

We wish Nick Smith all the very best for the future as he moves on from West Buckland School to a new post. Nick also owns Thin Nick's Pizza company (thinnickspizza.co.uk) serving delicious, artisan wood-fired pizzas at various locations in North Devon. Do look out for him and buy pizzas from him on Tuesday evenings - outside the Jack Russell pub!

The Holy Name, Gunn

Peter and Rusty steal the show at Parson Jack Coffee Morning



Gunn parishioner Peter Cain and Rusty made the short trip down to Swimbridge on the third Tuesday of May to perform at the monthly Parson Jack Studio Cafe coffee morning.

Always welcome visitors, Peter and Rusty had a special role to play on this occasion, entertaining young visitors from the Swimbridge Pre-school, which is located on the ground floor of the Parson Jack venue.

Peter featured some specially selected items from a children's songbook and had the young visitors dancing to his music, with the Hokey Kokey being especially popular. The ever-present Rusty also made a big hit with the visitors.

The Pre-school children are already counting the days to Peter and Rusty's next trip down from Gunn.



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