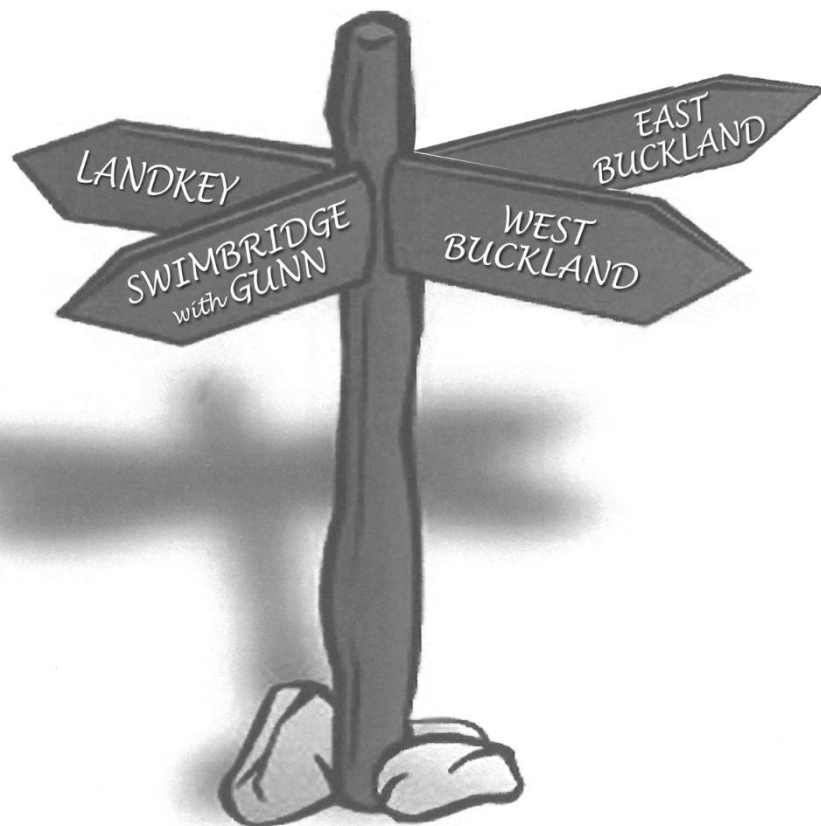


Parish Magazine

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**



October 2026

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

Rector: Revd. Preb. Cathy Scoffield,
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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

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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: Jeanette Ridd

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

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by the 15th of preceding month.

SUNDAY SERVICES – OCTOBER 2026

Sun 4 October <i>Trinity 18</i> (Green)	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Isaiah 5: 1-7 Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matt 21: 33-end
Landkey, 10.30am MP	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
Sun 11 October <i>Trinity 19</i> (Green)	
East Buckland, 9.30am HC	Isaiah 25: 1-9; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14
Swimbridge, 9.30am MP	<i>As above</i>
Landkey 10.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Gunn 11am HC – Harvest Festival	Deuteronomy 8: 7-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:16-30
Sun 18 October <i>Luke the Evangelist</i>	
Landkey 10.30am HC or FS with Baptism TO BE CONFIRMED	Acts 16: 6-12a; 2 Timothy 4: 5-17; Luke 10: 1-9
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	Acts 16: 6-12a; 2 Timothy 4: 5-17; Matthew Luke 10: 1-9
Swimbridge, 4pm Harvest Service	<i>Harvest Festival readings:</i> Deuteronomy 8: 7-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:16-30
Sun 25 October <i>Last Sunday after Trinity</i> (Green)	
East Buckland, 10.30am MP <i>Please note new timing 4th Sundays</i>	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-end
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey HC	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland Harvest Festival FS	<i>Harvest Festival readings:</i> Deuteronomy 8: 7-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 12:16-30



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ALL AT ST JAMES' CHURCH

welcome you to join us for
an evening of food and friendship

HARVEST SUPPER

FOOD | 2 COURSES | BYOB

 **SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER**

 **5.30 PM** |  **JUBILEE HALL**

This follows an optional Songs of Praise Service
at 4pm in the Church

 Bring your family and friends as we
share a hearty meal and
give thanks for harvest

	ADULT TICKET £14
	CHILD TICKET £7

FOR TICKETS

 EMAIL
christine.c.s.ley@gmail.com

 CALL
07890331478

During this Harvest Season, you may wish to give a donation to the Farming Charities in thanksgiving for the work of our farming communities.

[The Farming Community Network \(FCN\)](#)

A voluntary group providing free, confidential pastoral and practical support to farmers and rural families through business or personal challenges.

[Addington Fund](#): Provides housing for farming families who must leave their homes or farms through no fault of their own, alongside disaster relief delivered through Forage Aid to support farms severely impacted by extreme weather, floods, droughts, or disease outbreaks.

HARVEST FOOD DONATIONS

Please do bring fresh produce, tinned and packet food donations to our Harvest Services. These will be shared with North Devon Foodbank and The Freedom Centre.

Here is a list of food items currently needed by the Freedom Centre for providing meals and for food parcels:

- Meals in a tin e.g. chilli, stew and curry
- Tinned fruit e.g. pineapple chunks, pears, rhubarb, apple or mandarins
- Custard powder
- Chopped tomatoes
- White easy cook rice
- Coffee
- Pot noodles
- Granola bars, chocolate bars, large and small
- Orange juice – large or small cartons
- White Flour – self raising and plain
- Granulated white sugar, caster sugar, icing sugar
- Jelly – any flavour
- Tomato puree and Worcestershire sauce
- Herbs and spices: rosemary, thyme, cumin and garam masala
- Lemon juice and Vanilla essence
- Sunflower oil
- Washing up liquid
- Men's spray deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes

We have a huge amount of the following, so can we please ask you NOT TO SEND:

Tinned soup, pasta and spaghetti and tea

An Interactive Homelessness Exhibition

**is coming to Barnstaple from
Saturday 10th to Thursday 15th October**

It is called '**Let's Face It**' and will be held at Christchurch Bear Street in Barnstaple. It includes a free concert on Saturday 10th October by Rhys Wynn Jones otherwise known as the 'Night Pianist'. This is a really exciting opportunity to raise awareness of the issues of Homelessness, so please do attend if you can and share this opportunity with others.

Half of all of the proceeds from donations made at the exhibition will be given to the Freedom Centre. The Freedom Centre Alliance will be having a presence there during the week. Find out more from;

[Let's Face It! | Christ Church Barnstaple](https://www.letsfaceit.org.uk/)



A powerful exhibition stories, photos, music and poetry; time to reflect on the realities of homelessness and housing insecurity.

**Christ Church, Bear Street, Barnstaple
October 10th – 15th**

**Sat. Oct. 10th 7.30pm Launch concert
with Rhys Wynn Jones (the 'Night Pianist')**

Exhibition open at Christ Church:

Sun. 11th 1.00 – 4.00
(following worship at 10.30 and a shared lunch)
Mon. 12th 1.00 – 4.00 and 6.00 – 7.30
Tues. 13th 10.00 – 4.00
Wed. 14th 1.00 – 4.00 and 6.00 – 7.30
Thurs. 15th 1.00 – 4.00

All events free; donations invited for Freedom Centre and Encompass. Learn about local charities and organisations
Discover more: <https://swpmethodist.org.uk/lets-face-it/>
or Helen Pearce (Methodist Social Justice: 07450989571)

Exeter Cathedral – Our Cathedral

A Time of Welcome

September and October bring many new people to Exeter and to our beautiful and welcoming Cathedral.

Closest to home, we welcome back the Cathedral Choir who return after a well-deserved summer break, along with Timothy Noon, our Director of Music. The younger choristers are also beginning their first term following their transfer to Exeter School. They will sing alongside six Lay Vicars and Choral Scholars. The Scholars are those studying at Exeter University and gap year students before or after their full-time study.

New and returning students begin the Autumn term at both Exeter College and Exeter University. Our Youth Engagement Officer and Community Outreach & Partnerships Officer attended Exeter College's EXtra fair to welcome new students to the Cathedral, sharing its history, heritage and opportunities.

Anyone living within postcodes EX1 to EX4, or studies at Exeter College or Exeter University (many of our North Devon students do) can enjoy free access into Exeter Cathedral with a Welcome Card.

Success: 300+ Photos Submitted For Cathedral Competition

The photography competition was a success, receiving more than 300 entries following the theme of 'light'. Entrants explained why they submitted the photos they had taken and the stories are touching. It is very rewarding to read how much our Cathedral means to people.

The finalists' photos and their stories will be shown in the Cathedral with a *special exhibition from 16th to 31st October*. Do come along, show your support for the creative arts in Exeter and further afield.

Worship

Work has now begun to replace the sound and light system in the Nave. The project, to install new lighting and sound systems in the Nave, aisles, transepts, and the chapels in the East, will improve the experience of both worship and welcome. This major work has been made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of the Friends of Exeter Cathedral. The congregation will enjoy vastly improved clarity of sound during services and worship, clear acoustics, an assisted listening system and higher-quality livestreamed services. The clergy and speakers will also be confident their voices are heard.

National Harvest Of The Sea Sunday 11 October at 6pm

The Cathedral is hosting the inaugural National Harvest of the Sea, a landmark service recognising the fishermen and women, fishing families and coastal communities whose dedication has provided sustainable seafood to Britain for generations.



It ensures the harvest from our seas is recognised alongside the harvest of the land – honouring the fishermen and women who feed the nation, supporting communities that depend upon them, inspiring future generations to value Britain’s proud fishing heritage and recognising the resilience, skill and commitment of the people behind our seafood industry.

To find out more about services, events and tours at the Cathedral, go to <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/>

Wellbeing

Did you know, the Cathedral supports a wide range of charitable organisations in a variety of ways but, in particular, it runs a weekly project reaching out to the homeless and vulnerably housed of the city?

The Wednesday Night Kitchen - Every Wednesday evening from 6:30pm until 8pm a small team of volunteers from the Cathedral Community provide a hot meal of jacket potatoes with fillings and delicious homemade cake. From time to time, we partner with our friends from Exeter Mosque. The Café offers a valuable opportunity to build relationships and enjoy a time of socialising for both volunteers and guests alike. The Cathedral values their excellent relationship with the St Petrock’s Centre which provides valuable on-going support for the homeless of Exeter.

Our Cathedral community is committed to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and the vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community, and we are fully trained to recognise and respond when someone’s safety and wellbeing may be at risk.



A moment of Reflection

“One of my second homes. Always nice to just sit quietly for a while at the end of the day.” **Visitor**

Our Cathedral is a place of worship, creativity and community, please do come to explore and find all it has to offer.

Teresa Turner. Lay Canon of Exeter Cathedral.

News from the churches ...



St Peter's, West Buckland.

Online Shopping: Did you know that your online shopping can raise donations for St Peters church. Please sign up to Easy fundraising, and your weekly food shopping, family days out, and general shopping can be turned into much needed donations - more than 8000 retailers are in the scheme, please sign up today
<https://joineasyfundraising.org.uk/st-peters-church-west-buckland>.

Our village coffee mornings continued throughout the summer, as we head into the autumn and winter the dates for future mornings are : Saturday 10th October, Saturday 14th November and Saturday 12th December, held in the village hall from 10.00.a.m. onwards. All are welcome to attend.

MacMillan Coffee Morning: Will be held in the village hall on Saturday 26th September from 9.30.a.m. onwards. It will be hosted by Gail and Phil Barker, please do come along and support this very worthwhile charity. There will be lots of coffee and cake to enjoy!!! **Village Games:** In the afternoon it is hoped to hold an inter village games starting at 4.00.p.m. on the village green. The village hall bar will be open, and hotdogs will be available. All proceeds raised will be donated to charity.

Harvest Festival Service Please save the date of Sunday 25th October for our Harvest Festival service to be held in St Peter's church at 11.15.a.m. Followed by a Harvest lunch in the village hall. Please keep your eye on the village notice boards for further details. Profits raised from the donation of produce always go to local charities along with the collection money from this service. It is one of the most important services of the year - so please come along and join in if you are able to.

Remembrance Service - will be held on Sunday 8th November, with an evening service starting at 6.00.p.m. Please come along and support this service and show your respect, please honour the armed forces members who gave their lives and have died in the line of duty in conflicts since the First World War. There will be the roll call at the war memorial as part of the service " *They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age will not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them*". "When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today"

Christmas Services: Yes, the C word - Christmas is coming - a little festive teaser! there will be beautiful Christmas services to enjoy, wonderful music, the church will be decorated, there will be mulled wine and mince pies, chance to catch up with friends, family and neighbours, and most of all -- there absolutely will be a new performance from the village youngsters - I am privileged to have a small hint as to what this year will hold in store. Last Years "Silhouette Nativity" was absolutely stunning, this year's ideas are VERY exciting! Evening Nativity/Christingle service will be held on Christmas Eve 24th Dec at 6.00.p.m. Details of other festive services will be announced nearer the time - please keep your eyes open for details!

Village Fete: On Saturday 11th July the village fete was held, the weather was absolutely beautiful, a lovely warm day. The village green looked very pretty with various gazebos and tents, bunting and decorations. There was the usual bake-off competition, children's games, stalls, an amazing raffle and BBQ. The day raised much needed funds for the village hall, the village green and the church. Our thanks to all involved for making this day happen. It takes huge amounts of effort and commitment to bring an event like this together. I know the planning and preparation began long before, advertising, mowing the green, setting up, running the day and clearing away and cleaning the hall following the event. These types of events cannot happen without the goodwill, energy and efforts of all the committee of volunteers and helpers. HUGE well done to all involved, and a very special and big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the fete day.

The scaffolding is now gone! Driving past the church reveals that the roof repairs are finally complete and the scaffolding removed. What a long project this turned out to be! A couple of cracked slates still need replacement, plus a small amount of lead work. We hope this will be completed in the near future, with no scaffolding required! We hope the church this year will be drier! Please all say a little prayer for this and for no bad storms this winter!

New Bench: Thank you to the **Lazy Susan** company for providing a beautiful bench to enhance our small but perfectly formed memorial garden. We have planted roses and a blossom tree and it is a nice place to rest a moment for peace and reflection. Please feel free to enjoy this area. In autumn we hope to plant spring bulbs to further enhance this area. Thanks to the team of volunteers who look after the church grounds - they always look pristine, and without the efforts of the volunteers this simply will not happen. I'm sure they will be thankful when the grass is not growing and they no longer need to cut! Your efforts are always very much appreciated.

Used Stamp collection: A reminder that we have a box in the village hall for all used postage stamps. These stamps are split between the RNIB and the hedgehog preservation society. Both charities are always so grateful to receive the stamps - it just takes a little time and effort - to help a charity for free!

A final thought - for the Village Hall and the committee and volunteers who are embarking on a major project - to enhance the hall for all the village residents. This is not an easy task to undertake, it takes massive effort, energy, time and commitment to bring a project like this to fruition.

The hall committee need to preserve and secure the building for future generations to enjoy - the village is light on amenities so let us make the most of what we have. Sincere thanks to all involved for their efforts in the creation of an enhanced space for the community to share, and to come together and enjoy. **Gail Barker**



St Michael, East Buckland

Time passes: It seems very unbelievable that we are heading towards harvest festival celebrations, as well as Advent and the festive season - where did those summer months go? A few diary dates for you. Harvest Festival, with West Buckland Prep School will be on Friday 2nd October at 2.30 On the 29th of November there will be an Advent service, again with the School, starting at 6pm.

The School will also hold an end of term service on 15th December at 9.30. All are most welcome to attend. We are looking at organising a Christmas social evening with carols etc, on 23rd December. More confirmed details to follow on that one. Also, we are changing the time of our fourth Sunday Morning Prayer Service. The new service timing for 4th Sundays will be 10.30am, which we hope will enable others to attend and for David Rushworth who leads the services of Morning Praise.

Di Tearall

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St James, Swimbridge



Swimbridge's contribution to National Heritage Open Day included tours of both the church interior and the churchyard, with its many interesting graves and memorial stones. Pictured left Philip Dalling (third from right) talks about the Yeo family graves whilst (right) David Netherway (in yellow jacket) points out the tombstones of Parson Jack Russell and his wife and the grave of King of the Gypsies Edward Boswell (Photos by Mark Howarth-Booth).

National Heritage Open Day: St James Swimbridge again took part in this prestigious event and the reward for organisers David Netherway and Mark Howarth-Booth and their team attracted a record attendance and the visitors contributed £175 in donations and from the sales of books about the church and its architecture and history. The sum raised will be passed on to the Devon Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) which has helped with projects at Swimbridge in the past, notably with the restoration of the 15th century pulpit at St James.

On the same day, Saturday September 12, neighbouring parish Landkey also ran a National Heritage Open Day (see Landkey section of News from the Churches for details). At Swimbridge David Netherway introduced visitors to the graves of Parson Jack Russell and his wife and the King of the Gypsies, Edward Boswell, who left behind a request that he should be buried at Swimbridge with a service conducted by Russell.

Philip Dalling talked about the Yeo family graves (more than 50 family members are buried in the churchyard). The Yeo family farmed at Bydown, Dennington, Yeoland and Yeocot in Swimbridge parish. The stone-built bus shelter in Swimbridge Square was a gift to the village in the 1950s from the last family member to live locally, Miss Grace Yeo. Many members of the Yeo family emigrated to Australia, New Zealand and Canada and imported pedigree livestock to the developing nations to help improve their agricultures.

Arts & Crafts Fair: St James' church Swimbridge will again play a part in the village's renowned Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, which offers original presents for all ages, traditional Christmas decorations, folk art, original paintings, jewellery and pottery by local artists.

The Arts & Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday November 28th 2026 between 10am and 4pm and there will be stalls in the Jubilee Hall, St James' church, and the Upper Old Schoolroom located in the churchyard. There will be activities for children in the Pre-School, located on the ground floor of the Old Schoolroom.

Harvest Festival: The 2026 Harvest Festival will be celebrated at St James, Swimbridge on Sunday October 18. There will be a Harvest Songs of Praise in the church, starting at 4pm, followed by the Harvest Supper in the Jubilee Hall at 5.30pm. Harvest Supper tickets need to be booked via Christine Ley. Adults are £14 and children £7. Email Christine.c.s.ley@gmail.com or telephone 07890 331478.

Parson Jack in October: The coffee morning on Tuesday October 20 between 10am and 12 noon will feature a mini flower demonstration at 11am by South Molton Flower Club, arranged by parishioner Chris Johnson. There will be a stall and raffle in addition to the usual coffee and cake.

Philip Dalling

St Paul's, Landkey



Pictured left to right are: Hazel Price, Revd Richard Freeman, Angela (Richard's wife) and Peter Soper.

Welcome again, Revd Richard: We were pleased to welcome Revd Richard Freeman to lead our service of Holy Communion once again on 13th September 2026.

He has become a friend of St Paul's and we look forward to his visits, together with Angela, his wife. On his most recent visit he gave a thoughtful sermon based on the Gospel reading for the day, Matthew 18: 21-35, in which Peter asks Jesus is asked how often he should forgive a member of the church their sins: seven times?

Jesus says it should be seventy-seven times. This was an illustration, Richard said, of God's limitless forgiveness. We hope to welcome Richard back again before long. **Charles Waldron**

The Stay Behinds: My intention was to write about a forthcoming holiday in Rhodes, with all its history from the Colossus of Rhodes (one of the seven wonders of the world) to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, who were based there for over 100 years. However, I decided to examine history and people nearer to home.

Have you heard of the Stay Behinds? I heard the term once years ago though the only thing I remembered about them was that their life expectancy was three weeks (this is incorrect, life expectancy was two weeks). It was only talking to a friend recently whose father was a Stay Behind that I investigated further. Stay Behinds were Britain's very last line of defence in the Second World War. Formed by Churchill in 1940, their sole purpose was to harass the Germans as they advanced through Britain. With no border to cross into safety the only choice was capitulation or to fight to the bitter end.

In 1939 the government compiled a register of all men born in 1913. Men born in that year who were in certain jobs were placed on a list of reserved occupations. It was from these young men that the Stay Behinds were drawn. They were chosen for their detailed knowledge of the countryside (my friend's father knew Dartmoor like the back of his hand). These men signed the Official Secrets Act and many never ever talked about what they had been trained to do. Anyone who identified a Stay Behind would be shot.

They were divided into patrols. Here in North Devon these were: Bideford (East the Water), Braunton, Snapper, Tawstock, Torrington, Acland. These patrols had hideouts in which weapons and rations were stored. (Rations were to last for two weeks, their life expectancy.) Their orders were to attack the enemy, blow up bridges and make the Germans pay for every foot of land they gained.

Many of these hideouts have been lost completely but the Acland Patrol bunker is in Acland wood, now identifiable only by a depression in the woodland floor. My friend remembers a car regularly taking her father off to some unspecified place, she also remembers that he made frequent visits to Torrington to visit a 'relative' - never heard of either before or after the war.

Her most dramatic memory is of picking the lock of a cupboard and proudly showing her father what she had found - she thinks it might have been a hand grenade. Her father was certainly frightened, She can still remember the look on his face as he grabbed it and threw her to one side. **If your father or grandfather was in a reserved occupation he may have been a Stay Behind. To find out you can consult the British Resistance Archive, however the organisation was so secret their name might not be on it!**

Joyce Alderman

St Paul's Landkey Heritage Open Day

The church was open to visitors on 12th September 2026 as part of Heritage Open Day. Michael Gee (BEM), a Landkey resident who has researched local history, gave a well-prepared and informative talk on the often-overlooked architectural features of the church, including the many bosses on the inside of the wagon-wheel style roof.

The aim of the day was to raise funds for the Devon Historic Churches Trust which provides grants for the maintenance of churches across the county.

We are extremely grateful to Michael Gee for all his continued commitment to support and share the heritage of St Paul's Landkey.

An image of Michael, taken by Revd Cathy, seen from the altar through the hagioscope, or "squint".



Landkey Harvest Flower Festival

St Paul's Church has been most wonderfully and creatively decorated for their September Harvest Festival weekend. Theme: *All things bright and beautiful*.

THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard with co-ordinating, stewarding, providing refreshments and for freely providing all the spectacularly beautiful arrangements.

Thank you also for the generous food donations which will be shared between The Freedom Centre and the Foodbank.



Photographs taken by Cathy Scoffield



Looking towards Spring in the Church Meadow Garden.

Daffodil bulbs and plant pots are currently available in St Paul's church to take home and grow daffodils for the church garden.

These can also be collected from the church porch between 11am to 2pm on Saturday 24th October and then returned in January where they will be planted in the new border.

Thank you to Valerie Orchard for donating many daffodil bulbs. Please donate your plant pots for this as we plan to school and local community involvement.



The Holy Name, Gunn



Summer is over: As you will all have noticed the lovely hot summer is behind us and we are back to our Devon weather! However, wasn't it a treat for which we have waited 50 years. For many of us 1976 is in the dim distant past although not for the author of this article, who remembers it well as his first summer as a married man!

Farmers affected: The farmers are among the first to be affected by extreme conditions. The total annual rainfall here was 60 inches in 2025 and January 2026 was very wet with just over 7 inches (175mm) recorded. February and March were below average with about three inches (75mm) falling. April and May were also dryish months and we all know what happened in July - less than (12mm). The countryside here was not as badly burnt as in most other parts of the country, where there was no silage to cut and no corn to harvest.

However, the last two weeks of August and September have been very wet. The grass has turned back to green and is growing rapidly. We will have to get the lawn mowers back out and the farmers will get another crop of silage and have grazing for the early winter months so perhaps it is not all gloom and doom here.

Garages sold: Nothing very exciting has happened in Gunn, although it does look that if the sale of the garages is completed we will have some money to start on the repairs highlighted in our last two Quinquennial inspections, as long as our listed status does not once again put the costs out of our financial reach.

Harvest Festival: Our Harvest Festival Service is at 11am on Sunday 11th October, followed by our normal lunch, which the ladies have already started planning. **William Crosbie Dawson**

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO HARVEST
ON SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2026

FROM THE ARCHIVES... **September 1912**

The harvest festival was held in the Church of the Holy Name at Gunn on Thursday last at 6:30pm.

The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion by Miss B Tamlyn, Mrs Hunter and Mr Tatham LLR. The service, which was fully choral was very bright and heartily joined in by a crowded congregation. The Rev AR Fuller, Rector of Filleigh preached an effective and forcible sermon appropriate to the occasion.

On Sunday the services were continued, and the Vicar the Rev HJF Van was the preacher.

On both days the choir of the parish church rendered valuable assistance, and Mr L Wallace (organist of the parish church) presided at the organ.

The collections were, as usual, in aid of the North Devon Infirmary and Barnstaple Dispensary. Previous to the service on Thursday a public tea was held for the first time for 18 years and proved a great success. About 80 people showed their appreciation of the trouble taken on their behalf by attending and doing full justice to the good things provided.



PILGRIMAGE - Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage marking 800 year anniversary

Members of the Society of St Francis have been undertaking a peace pilgrimage across England to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October 1226.

The pilgrimage that began on Friday 17 July at Alnmouth Friary celebrates the life and legacy of St Francis, whose commitment to peace and reconciliation continues to inspire Christians around the world.

Sister Judi, of the Society of St Francis, said: "Francis was very much about bringing peace, and the theme of peace is especially urgent for our world today. We hope the pilgrimage will be an outward sign of peace, openly showing that we long for peace, and encouraging others to do what they can to help this.

"It's often easier to talk when walking alongside others, rather than across a meeting room. Pilgrimages can be life changing, and being out in nature can help to refocus our minds and bring healing and wholeness.

The Francis Peace Pilgrimage has been travelling through communities across the North of England, including Newcastle, Durham, York, Leeds, Bradford and Manchester. Those walking took a brief pause for prayer at Bishopthorpe Palace on Saturday 1 August, before continuing south to their final destination in London.



Rooted in the enduring Franciscan charism of simplicity, reconciliation, and love for all creation, this pilgrimage seeks to renew the saint's timeless call to peace in a world still marked by division and conflict. Inspired by the life and witness of St. Francis - who crossed boundaries of culture and religion, most notably in his encounter during the Fifth Crusade- The pilgrimage invites participants to become instruments of peace in their own time. It is not merely a physical journey, but a spiritual one: a walking prayer shaped by contemplation, fraternity, and reverence for the natural world.

***St. Francis of Assisi Preaching to the Birds
by Giotto di Bondone***

Pilgrims are walking together in a spirit of humility and joy, embracing the Franciscan values of poverty, simplicity, and care for creation. Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said: "This pilgrimage is a wonderful reminder that Christ's peace starts with each of us. I'll be praying for Sister Judi and everyone on the journey, and I hope it encourages us all to bring peace and hope to our communities."

As the global community commemorates this significant centenary, the Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage stands as both remembrance and response: remembrance of a life wholly given to Christ, and response to the urgent need for peace in our world today. In walking together, participants echo the prayer so often associated with St. Francis - "make me a channel of your peace" - and carry its hope forward into the present age.

This text is shared from the Archbishop of York's and Society of Franciscans websites