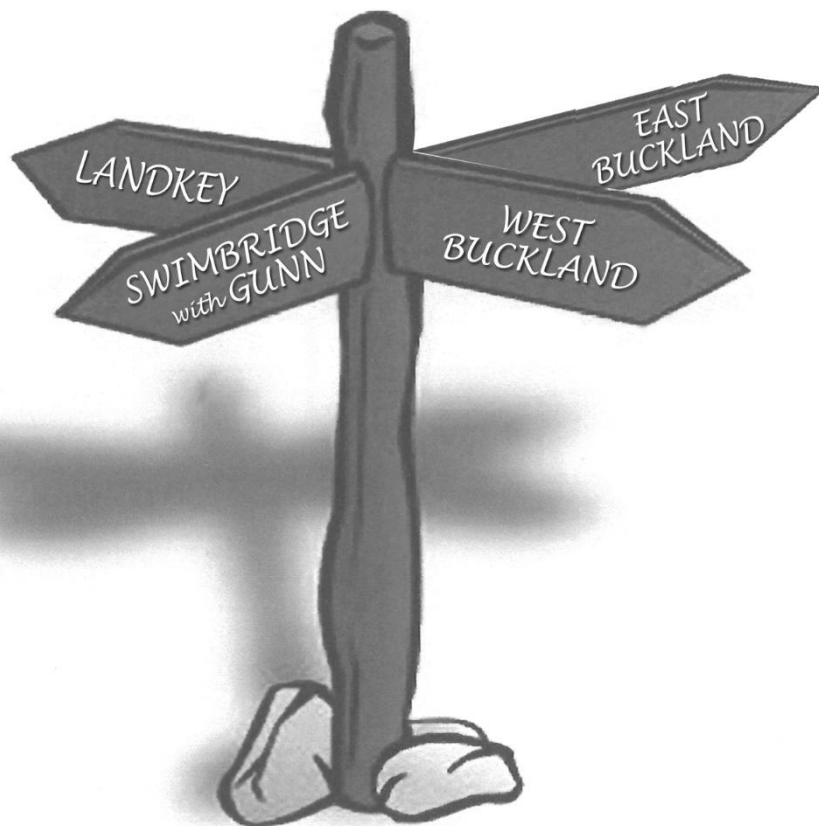


Parish Magazine

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**



April 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES – April 2026

EASTER SUNDAY 5th April (White)	
East Buckland, 9.30am HC	Acts 10: 34-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-18
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey, 10.30am	<i>As above</i>
Gunn, 11am	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
SUNDAY 12th April (White) <i>Easter 2</i>	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-end
Landkey 10.30am MP	<i>As above</i>
SUNDAY 19th April (White) <i>Easter 3</i>	
Swimbridge, 9.30am FS & Baptism	Baptism readings
Landkey, 10.30am HC	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35
Gunn, 11am HC	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
SUNDAY 26th April <i>Easter 4</i> (White)	
East Buckland, 9.30am MP	Acts 2: 42-end; 1 Peter 2: 19-end; John 10: 1-10
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As East Buckland</i>
Landkey, 10.30am HC	<i>As East Buckland</i>



Huxtable Farm B&B & Camping EX32 0SR

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FOUR WAYS MISSION COMMUNITY

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



PALM SUNDAY 29th March

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St James, Swimbridge
10.30am Palm Sunday Family Service at St Paul's Landkey
11.15am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church, West Buckland
-

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2nd April

- 7.30pm LORD'S SUPPER Holy Communion service at St James, Swimbridge
-

GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April

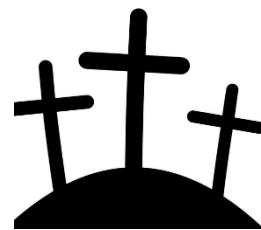
7.30am WALK OF WITNESS

St James Church & Hooda Hill, Swimbridge

A moving opportunity to walk up Hooda Hill to place the Cross. Gather outside St James Church Swimbridge. Everyone welcome. Dogs to remain on leads. Return to church for refreshments including Hot Cross Buns.

Children's Easter activities in church from 9-10.30am.

- 12-1pm HOUR BEFORE THE CROSS service at St Paul's, Landkey
2-3pm HOUR BEFORE THE CROSS service at St James, Swimbridge
-



HOLY SATURDAY 4th April

- 2-4pm Children's Easter activities at St Paul's Landkey
7.30pm EASTER VIGIL St James Swimbridge
-

EASTER SUNDAY 5th April

He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

- 9.30am Easter Holy Communion St Michael's East Buckland
9.30am Easter Holy Communion St James Swimbridge
10.30am Easter Holy Communion St Paul's Landkey
11am Easter Holy Communion Church of the Holy Name, Gunn
11.15am Easter Family Service St Peter's West Buckland



Good Friday in Swimbridge

Get up early and join in carrying the cross to the top
of Hooda Hill

For about 50 years on Good Friday morning, a large
number of people from the village and beyond have
made this a special event; Why not join in this year?



**Meet at St James at
7.30 am.**

**Everyone welcome.
Dogs on leads please
Hot Cross Buns and
hot drinks afterwards.**

Further details from
Churchwarden Mark Haworth -
Booth 01271 830267 or David
Netherway 830587

RESURRECTION ENCOUNTERS – Revd Cathy Scoffield

I wonder which of the Jesus Resurrection encounters speaks to you most?

Perhaps Jesus and Mary Magdalene on Easter morning (John 20: 1-18)

Or Matthew 28: 8-10, as Jesus commissions two Mary's to return and tell the other disciples.

Or Jesus meeting the disciples who have locked themselves away (John 20: 19-29)

Or Jesus cooking breakfast for the disciples who have been fishing all night without success before their miraculous catch of fish and Peter's restoration (John 21: 1-25).

And the resurrection encounter that has increasingly appealed to me over the last few years is Luke's Gospel chapter 24: 13-33 – Jesus walks alongside two disciples on the road to Emmaus, unrecognised until he stays with them for supper and breaks bread. I have often sat in the National Gallery just gazing on this Caravaggio's painting and watching other people's reactions. We see Jesus hands breaking bread and reaching out in the moment before he both disappears and is recognised as their Risen Lord. The hand of one of the disciples also seemingly reaching out of the painting, inviting us to become part of this Resurrection Encounter.

Here's the National Gallery link to the painting: [Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio | The Supper at Emmaus | NG172 | National Gallery, London](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/michelangelo-merisi-da-caravaggio-the-supper-at-emmaus)



OUR ROAD TO EMMAUS by Lisa Kelly

Like many of us today, the disciples on the road to Emmaus were at a loss and in despair over a world seemingly gone mad, seeing the foundational principles of the world around them being shaken and living in fear for their lives. The horror and shock of the Crucifixion had overwhelmed all hope and threatened the teachings of love and compassion Jesus had sought to instil.

Do the horrors of today's world events overwhelm your sense of hope? Do the teachings of love and compassion seem pointless in the face of war and terrorist atrocities, global warming, racial hatred, refugee crises, and so many other evils? Wherever you are at this moment, you are on that road to Emmaus. Something happens on this road.

Christ joins the disciples, walks beside them, breaks bread with them, and opens their hearts with his Word in a way that is so overwhelming, the world is no longer mad to them. Note the world situation has not changed at all, but the hearts of the disciples have.

For any Christian, for anyone who professes belief in the Resurrection and the teachings of Jesus, our hearts must be overwhelmed by this same interaction with God on our own roads to Emmaus. Christ walks beside us today. Christ breaks bread with us today. Christ opens our hearts with his Word today in exactly the same way he did on that road to Emmaus 2,000 years ago.

His teachings are the same: **Love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Love your neighbour and pray for your enemies. Forgive all. Welcome the stranger. Care for the sick. Visit the imprisoned. Provide for the least among us. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**

Nothing has changed, except now we are the ones walking the road.

This encounter on the road so turned the hearts of the disciples that they literally turned around and ran back into the fray, back into Jerusalem, back into the world.

So must we allow our encounter with Christ in others, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the Word to turn around our hearts today. We must allow ourselves to be so overwhelmed by the revelation of a God of love that no fear, no evil, no suffering, and no hatred can leave us in despair.

The choice is ours. You can continue on your road to Emmaus and stay there. Continue to live in despair, confusion, instability, and fear. Continue to live in a world where evil has the last word and death is the end of life.

Or hear the Word, hear the Voice, and be overwhelmed by Love. Go back to Jerusalem, back to your passion, back to healing, back to a life of hope, and back to a world where love has the last word and life never ends. ***May we all find strength, courage and hope in our Risen Lord this Easter-tide.***



ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST
Jesus' Appearances After the Resurrection

News from the churches ...



St Peter's, West Buckland.

Services Reminder: A reminder that our regular church services are held on the first, third and fourth Sunday of each month starting at 11 15.am. All are welcome to come along and join in.

Coffee Mornings: A reminder too that the coffee morning is always held on the second Saturday of each month starting at 10am, in the village hall. We usually have a large selection of baked goods available to purchase, along with a raffle, and book stall. These are lovely community mornings, and it provides a wonderful opportunity to see friends and neighbours. Please do come along and support if you are able, as this is the church's regular source of income, all the profits generated go towards the running costs and maintenance of our church.

Huge thanks to all our regular attendees, and all those who bake, donate, wash up, run the raffle, etc, we could not do this without you , and your ongoing help and support is greatly appreciated.

Maintenance works: We are hoping to have a local builder come and do some much needed repair work towards the end of March and beginning of April. This work is badly needed; we have been waiting a long time to secure a builder. Fingers crossed for some dry weather to speed the process on its way.

Events and special services: Our **Mothering Sunday Service** was held on March 15 at 1115am. This is always a lovely service, always bright and cheerful, and we always have a small token present for children to pass on to Mum or a special person.

Easter Sunday will be on April 5 when will have a beautiful family service, followed by the usual traditional egg hunt and fun and games for the children - also a special guest appearance of a lamb - for photos and "petting". This is always a highlight for all children large and small! - and if that doesn't get you in the mood for spring - nothing will!

PCC meetings are scheduled for Wednesday March 18, Wednesday May 20 (Annual PCC) and Wednesday September 9. All meetings are held in the village hall starting at 2pm. All are welcome to attend. Should you have any queries or questions please feel free to contact Gail Barker 01598 761149 or email gailbarker@gmail.com

Forty years ago by Melbourne Pool

March 22nd was our fortieth wedding anniversary. Where has all that time gone?



During a recent visit to the midlands my husband and I took the opportunity to revisit the church where we got married all those years ago – at Melbourne in South Derbyshire, situated next to Melbourne Hall and Melbourne Pool, as the pictures show. A true trip down memory lane!

The Church of St Michael & St Mary is fascinating and the original church on the site is mentioned in Domesday book, compiled in 1086. This church was replaced early in the 12th century. Melbourne once had a royal castle, although only scant remains survive now, and it is said to have been one of the places which held prisoner Mary Queen of Scots in the 16th century.

Mystery surrounds the building of this fine church, it is thought to have been built by the first Bishop of Carlisle during the reign of King Henry 1 (1100-1135). The church has the feel of a miniature cathedral as it is very large and has a certain grandeur. At the west end there is a high gallery and along each side walkways.

Why does the church have this rare two-story feature? It is thought to be a "royal church" built as a part of the manor at Melbourne of King Henry 1. One really interesting feature is a medieval picture showing the damnation of sinners and their suffering in hell (see photo).

The location of the church is beautiful, located as it is next to Melbourne pool. Melbourne Hall is a Georgian country house, previously owned by the 2nd Viscount Melbourne, British Prime Minister from 1835 to 1841. It is now owned by the 14th Marquess of Lothian. The gardens of Melbourne Hall are open in summer for tourists to enjoy. If you are ever in the Midlands near Melbourne in Derbyshire do pop in and see this lovely church – it is well worth a look!

Editors's Note: Philip Dalling can thoroughly endorse Gail's recommendation. He grew up nearby and enjoys his visits!

St James, Swimbridge

Spring Q&As: The Spring 2026 series of Q&S organised by the Friends of St James, Swimbridge was launched in March with three talks focusing on service of different kinds – science, social and the arts.



Dr Alice Mills



Roger Bartlett.



Mark Haworth-Booth

This series of three Q&As focuses once more on service. The speakers come from three different sectors – science, social services and the arts.

First Spring Q&A

On 19 March Dr Alice Mills spoke to a gratifyingly large audience, with the most engaging enthusiasm, about a new science centre for Barnstaple. It will be called Planetary Lab and be sited in the Green Lanes Shopping Centre. Fundraising is now in process but North Devon Council has provided the premises at no charge, which is great practical support. The centre will have interactive exhibits and staff on hand to advise young people about getting into STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

One of the young people present, is hoping to study astrophysics, in which Alice has a doctorate from Durham University. Planetary Lab will also display examples of the high-tech manufacturing that takes place locally, such as the exciting objects recently on show in the *Northern Devon Innovates* exhibition at the Museum of Barnstaple. The public will be allowed to handle these exhibits, which is typical of the lively and interactive approach taken by Alice and her colleagues. The Lab will need volunteers, and I think Alice can expect lots to come forward.



***Dr Alice Mills demonstrating the electrical field
(photograph: Mark Haworth-Booth)***

The vote of thanks was given by a regular member of our congregation – Naomi, daughter of Fr David and Mrs Andrea Chance – who teaches science at Chulmleigh Academy. Naomi perfectly expressed the gratitude we all felt for a most inspiring talk.

The next Q&A is scheduled for Thursday April 16 at 7.30pm when Roger Bartlett will speak about The Freedom Centre, Barnstaple. The Freedom Centre is a beacon of hope and best practice in helping the homeless. Roger has been Operations Manager for the Freedom Community Alliance since 2019. Prior to that he was a police officer in Devon & Cornwall, finishing as the North Devon Sector Inspector in 2017.

Roger is an active supporter of the North Devon-based Charity Amigos, and each November leads a team of men on a two-week mission to Uganda. His strong Christian faith gives him purpose and hope in all that he does.

The third and final Q&A of the Spring season, on Thursday April 30 will feature Mark Haworth-Booth on his career in the arts. Mark is well-known in Swimbridge as secretary of the Friends of St James and a local councillor.

He will talk about what sparked his career in the arts His 35-year-career as a curator was spent mainly at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he championed the art of photography. This brought him into contact with some fascinating creative artists like David Hockney, Hollywood stars such as Cary Grant, and even the late Queen Elizabeth.

All Q&As are held in St James' church, starting at 7 30pm. Entry is £5, Friends of St James free. All are very welcome.

Mark Haworth-Booth

The Holy Name, Gunn



Spring in the Air? Normally my March notes start with an enthusiastic approach about Spring being in the air, but not this year. It is true that the South West has probably been a little warmer than the rest of the country but it is still very unpleasant with copious helpings of wind and rain - not like Spring at all.

However, I have mown the lawn at home twice and will hopefully get the chance to mow the church lawn before our service on Easter day when we will be welcoming Revd Richard Freeman to Gunn. By then we will have said our final goodbyes to Barry Gouldbourne - he and Jean have lived in Gunn for many years and of course seen many changes.

Strong attendances: We have had numerically strong attendances for our last couple of monthly services but of course our congregations are not enough to cover the cost of the repairs highlighted by our Quinquennial inspection and we will need help from both the Mission community and Exeter to keep the show on the road. The inspection is already a year old. **William Crosbie Dawson**

News from St Paul's, Landkey - Valerie Orchard

So did March come in like a lion and out like a lamb?!! All I think about is the continuous rain.

Here's a photograph of St Paul's basking in the March sunshine. Photograph by Cathy Scoffield

On Sunday 8th March we welcomed the return of Richard Freeman and his wife Angela to St Paul's. He took the service and his sermon was about the Samaritan woman being at the well gathering some water. Then Jesus spoke to her when in fact as he was a Jew this should not have happened. I am quite sure That we have all at times spoken to people who others may not have agreed with. But as Jesus was aware we all need water to drink and survive.



After this service a group from the congregation went to the Riverside Park near North Molton for a delicious carvery lunch. To be able to enjoy a meal and sit and talk to others getting to know a little more about each other. Gosh, we have all led some interesting lives!

Then followed more food, on Tuesday 10th March we shared a delicious Lent Lunch, with a choice of 3 soups, bread rolls, tea and coffee. This was held in the home of Mike and Josie with Angela as one of the chef's that day. Thank you to them for hosting and arranging this enjoyable time together.

Over the past few weeks, the knitting group has been busy on another project. This has been making Baby Vests. I became aware of mothers in Djougout. This is in the Horn of Africa where these new mothers had nothing to wrap their new-born babies in apart from newspaper. Hence the babies got the name of "The Fish and Chip Babies" so we began to knit and crochet. We had sent a few out last year. This time waiting for collection we have 80 baby vests, 33 hats, 35 blankets and a few other items. Some of the knitting will go to a Christian organisation Vision for Asia, also sending to Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and other parts of the world who are needing love and help.

I believe there is another Christian Charity T4U. If anyone would like to help, we have patterns that we can pass on.

Members of St Paul's Knit and Natter group: Margaret, Jackie, Valerie and Nicky



Photograph taken by Cathy Scoffield.

Over the coming months there will be plenty of events taking place here at St Paul's including the Table Top Sale on Saturday 9th May.



TABLE-TOP SALE



Saturday 9th May, 10am-2pm

Old School Centre

Manor Road, Landkey EX32 0JB

FREE ENTRY - STALLS include:

CAKES - CRAFTS - BOOKS - BRIC-A-BRAC - TOYS

REFRESHMENTS - RAFFLE

FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES

In aid of St Paul's Church, Landkey

Stalls £10. To book please contact:

Joyce Alderman joycesheelagh@gmail.com

or Cathy Scoffield 01271 830352.



St Michael, East Buckland



Wardens Report for the APCM: Di has been really poorly but thankfully now recovering and has written this report for St Michael's Church APCM. This is being shared in the April magazine as we don't always get to read the other church annual reports. It is good to reflect on the last year. Huge thanks to Di for all her incredible care and wonderful organisation as a wonderful church warden - **Cathy**

Di writes: Thankfully we are still managing to provide two services each month, with thanks to David Rushworth, and Cathy. David leading Morning Prayer on the fourth Sunday, and Cathy providing Holy Communion on the second Sunday.

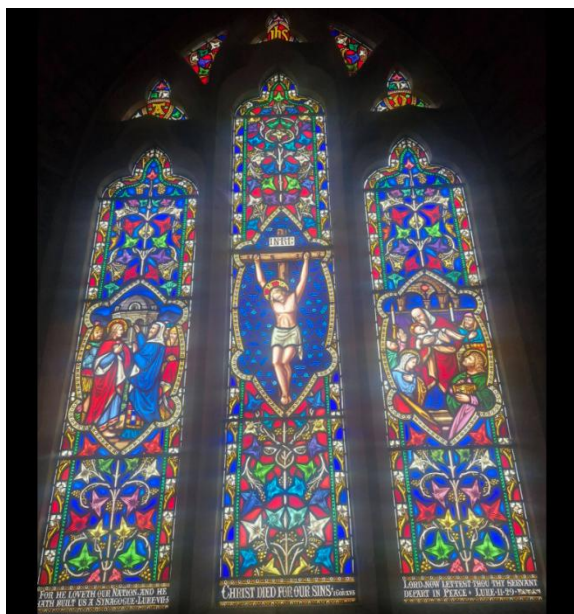
West Buckland School are still keen to use the Church at Harvest, Advent, and Christmas, which is a joy for us when they do. It is excellent to be forging links with them, so much so that these events are becoming an annual occasion.

We have had a couple of social gatherings, one being a bell ringing competition in the summer where we provided refreshments, and won some prizes for ourselves, and this seems to be turning into another annual event.



Thank you to Peter Crook for organising this, as well as getting visiting teams to come, and ring throughout the year, also for taking charge of our tower and bells.

A musical performance was held at the parish hall, with the Ashreigny hand bell ringers and Harmony 4. It was an enjoyable evening and a fitting prelude to Christmas.



It was with some sadness that we lost two of our former pcc members. Rosalie Priscott, who for some years was our treasurer, and organist, and Michael Downward former headmaster of West Buckland School, and regular worshipper.

We are still in the process of finding a solution to our lighting issue, hopefully we can say that it will be resolved soon. Paul is going to submit a report on the fabric and building of the church. Finally, a huge thank you to all pcc members for the unstinting support, and for Cathy as our leader. So onwards we proceed as a team within our mission community to ensure the smooth running of St. Michael's within these uncertain times.

Photographs taken by Cathy Scoffield.

Banner created by pupils of West Buckland School. St Michael's East Window

PRAYER FOR OUR FARMING AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Loving and generous God,

We come before You with gratitude for the beauty and richness of the rural world - the fields and farms, the villages and churches, the people and traditions that shape our land.



We pray for all our farming communities and those who work the land, tend livestock, and steward creation. Strengthen them in times of uncertainty and bless them with all they need to flourish. May their work be valued and their voices heard.

We pray for all who live in our rural Mission Community.

May we be guided by Your Spirit to listen well, act justly, and bring hope where it is needed most.

In a time of challenge and change, may Your Church be a place of welcome, a source of support, and a light in rural places.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

An advertisement for 'Fine MEMORIALS'. The text 'Fine MEMORIALS' is in a large, elegant script font. Below it, in a smaller, italicized font, is 'Your independent local Mason'. To the left of the text is a small illustration of a stone archway with a cross inside. To the right is a small circular logo with a cross and the text 'THE GUILD OF MASONRY'. Below the main text, it says 'BARNSTAPLE - 01271 371333' and '41A BEAR STREET, BARNSTAPLE, EX32 7DB'. At the bottom, it says 'WWW.FINEMEMORIALS.CO.UK'. There is also a small logo for 'BRAMM' in the bottom right corner.

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

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PCC Sec: Sarah Muirhead 07585941215

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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

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

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Deanery Synod: Vacant

St Michael, East Buckland

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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

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by the 15th of preceding month.