

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**



March 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES – MARCH 2026

SUNDAY 1st March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	Readings
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17
Landkey, 10.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
SUNDAY 8th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	
East Buckland, 9.30am HC	Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey 10.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Gunn, 11am HC	<i>As above</i>
MOTHERING SUNDAY 15th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	<i>Mothering Sunday Readings – please check with service leader as there is a choice of readings.</i>
Swimbridge, 9.30am MP	Exodus 2: 1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-end; 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 or Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 33-35 or John 19: 25b-27.
Landkey, 10.30am MP	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
SUNDAY 22nd March <i>5th Sunday of Lent (Purple)</i>	
East Buckland, 9.30am MP	Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey, 10.30am, HC	<i>As above</i>
PALM SUNDAY 29th March <i>(Red)</i>	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Matt 21: 1-11; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-end (or 118: 19-24) <i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14-end of 27 or Matthew 27: 11-54
Landkey, 10.30am, MP	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>

HC – Holy Communion; MP – Morning Prayer; FS – Family Service

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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by the 15th of preceding month.

The season of Lent – Cathy Scoffield

Lent is traditionally time for us to deepen our spiritual life as we journey with Christ to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. You may be familiar with the practice of *Lectio Divina*. *Lectio Divina* is a Latin phrase meaning 'divine reading'. This can be done in a group setting or as individual practice as a form of meditating on the word of God. It trains us to listen in a reflective and repetitive way to read the Bible, that is not so much focused on becoming informed by the text but rather being transformed by it. It does not replace the other types of Bible reading – rather *Lectio Divina* adds depth and value to all other forms of Bible reading, facilitating a movement from our hearts to more active ways of wrestling with scripture.

The four traditional steps of *lectio divina* are read (*lectio*), reflect (*meditatio*), ask (*oratio*) and yield (*contemplatio*) [What is Lectio Divina? - Lectio 365](#)

As a more visual aid to the spiritual life, there is also the practice of ***Visio Divina***, which I'm looking forward to participating in through St Martin in the Fields Lent Course this year. We will be contemplating seven paintings from the National Gallery, led by Neil McGregor and then reflecting on them in small group sessions.

Here's a short explanation of *Visio divina* from *The Upper Room* website: [The Upper Room](#) :

Visio divina invites the viewer into "divine seeing." *Visio divina* shares roots with the ancient practice of [lectio divina](#). (*Lectio divina* calls for a slow, careful interaction with scripture through meditation and prayer, allowing a word or phrase to rise in our consciousness, a holy word to savour and examine.) Similarly, *visio divina* invites us to encounter the divine through images. A prayerful consideration of and interaction with a photograph, an icon, a piece of art, or other visual representation allows the viewers to experience the divine in a unique and powerful way.

You may practice *visio divina* individually or in a small group or worship setting by using a piece of art as a focal point for prayer. You can also pair scripture with the image in order to reflect on the scripture through the art.

As a helpful example of this to share with you, I recently read this excerpt by Sr. Carino Hodder, Op on *The Plough* website, which contains many interesting contributions of those in religious life to and deepen spiritual life.

Can You Find Jesus in This Painting?

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *The Procession to Calvary*, 1564, oil on panel. [See larger version on Wikipedia.](#)



Art often portrays Christ larger than life, but works where he isn't might tell us more about our spiritual lives.

'One of my sisters in the convent keeps a pinboard in her room on which she has tacked a variety of prayer cards and holy pictures. For a time, the centre-piece of her devotional collage was a postcard-sized print of Pieter Bruegel's *The Procession to Calvary*. Painted in the sixteenth century, it is a vast, overwhelmingly crowded landscape in which brightly coloured figures swarm busily around a pathetically tiny Christ, stooped beneath the cross he is carrying and barely discernible to the viewer's eye. The first time I saw *The Procession to Calvary* pinned to my sister's corkboard, I commented on how striking I found it. "It's remarkable, isn't it?" she said, and then added wryly, "It's a picture of my soul."

Sacred art in the spiritual life wasn't something I had much time for before I entered the convent. Perhaps fittingly, it was the sister with Bruegel's *Procession* on her wall who helped me the most to appreciate it. Whenever I have caught a glimpse of her collaged pinboard over the years, I have seen something to remind me that while there is a time and a place for reading, writing, and arguing about theology, **there is also much to learn by simply *looking* – looking with a gaze that can rebound from the image up toward God and then downward, inward, into ourselves.**

After all, Christian discipleship has something very important in common with the creation of art. Both are matters of perspective and proportion. It is the task of an artist to decide how large they will make each of the figures in their landscape, and where they should place them. It is the task of the Christian, meanwhile, to decide what place their Savior will take in the messy and overpopulated landscape of their interior life. Images like Bruegel's *Procession* are effective because they are both alarming and familiar: alarming, because we know it is not good that Christ should be hidden from our sight in this way; familiar, because he too often is.

Bruegel was a follower of Hieronymus Bosch, and the pangs of spiritual queasiness that Bruegel's *Procession* draws out from me are matched only by another painting from Bosch's school. It is the anonymous *Christ's Descent into Hell*, in which the frenzied crowds of gaping demons and damned souls upstage a miniscule Christ, who is peeking through a backlit door into Sheol like a mouse through a mousehole.

In the season of Lent, we are invited to adjust our perspective. We may feel more at home with the world of Bosch and Bruegel, searching for a Christ hidden from our sight by an evil which seems big enough when we are in it. But by the time we arrive at Holy Saturday, those Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving may have opened us up to the grace by which God reshapes the figures of our inner landscape until they are restored to their rightful size. This daily choice to look at things the way they truly are is, for me, the basic spiritual discipline of Lent: the discipline of remembering that hell may well seem big enough when we are in it, but it is nothing compared to the love of Christ.'

Do take up the opportunity to explore some art or scripture reading through *lectio* or *visio divina*. I would love to hear how you get on... **Cathy**

For our prayers - Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Installation of [the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally](#), will take place at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday, 25 March 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Historically known as an enthronement, the Installation marks the symbolic start of the Archbishop of Canterbury's public ministry in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion.

Rooted in centuries of tradition, the service will look forward with hope in Jesus Christ and celebrate the diversity of the Church of England, the nation, and the Anglican Communion today.

Archbishop Sarah will be installed on the Cathedral Chair (Cathedra) as the Diocesan Bishop of the See of Canterbury, the oldest diocese in the English church. Following this, she will be installed on the Chair of St Augustine (St Augustine Cathedra) as Primate of All England, which also symbolises her ministry in the Anglican Communion.

The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the day the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus.

Details about the Installation service will be shared in the lead-up to the service.



Photo credit: Neil Turner. Text & photograph sourced from the Archbishop of Canterbury's website.

Eternal and loving Christ,

You came not to be served but to serve, and to give your life for those who seek.

We thank you for your servant Sarah as she is called to serve in this role. ~

Rest upon her with gentle grace, persistent mercy, and eternal wisdom.

Bless and empower your church, this nation, and, we pray, the worldwide Anglican Communion. Amen

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News from the churches ...

St James, Swimbridge



Servery planning progress: After making do with a rather haphazard refreshment servery area in the far back corner of St James' church we are at last looking forward to creating a much better properly designed area with running hot water and sink and proper storage with a possible small fridge for milk and other items.

Our architect has provided some concept sketches and we are currently waiting for feedback from the Exeter Diocesan authorities before doing more detailed work, carrying out a wider consultation, gathering support and, of course, fundraising.

There remains lots to do. In the case of any work to our Grade I listed building nothing is simple and everything is expensive. However we have got this far thanks to the financial support of The Friends of St James and the generous funds from the Christmas Shining Star project run by Brenda during the 2025 festive season and which it is planned will be repeated in 2026. As they say, watch this space for more news. **David Netherway.**



The concept sketches reproduced above show the location within St James' church of the planned servery, with figures superimposed to show the scale. The sketch on the right shows the planned servery in detail.

New dates for Friends' Q&As: New dates have been confirmed for the Friends of St James Spring 2026 series of Q&A evenings.

The new season will start on Thursday March 19 when Alice Mills will talk about the exciting plans for a Barnstaple version of the Exeter Science Centre to open this year.

On Thursday April 16 Roger Bartlett will talk about the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple, a nationally-admired and most inspiring service helping the homeless.

The third and final Spring Q&A will feature as speaker Friends chairman Mark Haworth-Booth. Mark's talk will be titled *Photographic Pleasures* and will reflecting on favourite images from his long career as a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

All the Q&A events will be held in St James' church, starting at 7 30pm.

Mark takes the opportunity to thank all who support the Friends, which is greatly appreciated. The Friends area currently helping with designs for a new servery in St James's (see above) which will make our services and events held in the church even more welcoming. **Philip Dalling.**

St Paul's, Landkey



Spring is coming at St Paul's: Snowdrops, crocus and daffodils have come into flower and celandines are opening in the churchyard. Spring is coming and at St Paul's our thoughts are turning towards how to develop the garden. For those who don't know us, in front of the church below the wall there is an open space on which once stood a cottage. Over the last couple of years the congregation have been trying to reclaim this space. It has taken a great deal of hard work but bushes have been cut down and trees trimmed. We were surprised at how big the space is. What to do with it?

For the last two years we have held our pet blessing service there and we hope to do so again this year. Other ideas for its use have come thick and fast. We want to open the garden for use by the community to this end we have placed a seat in the garden and are thinking of acquiring picnic tables and benches. It has been suggested that the Brownies might like to use the space for games and outdoor crafts, perhaps utilising the space to work towards one of their badges.

We have also been thinking of what to plant. Recently Cathy and I went to Quince Honey Farm to collect three bare rooted trees which were being given away. When we arrived we found ourselves at the end of a very long queue and we only just managed to claim the three trees. We took away 2 crab apples and a spindle. They have been potted and will eventually be planted in the garden.

We also hope to participate in the Women's Institute's wild flower scheme. Their idea is that wild flowers, which they will provide, will be sown throughout the country. We have also discussed the possibility of raised beds in which to grow herbs and perhaps vegetables. So plenty of ideas. To get an outsider's perspective the person who oversees the gardens at the North Devon Hospice is coming to give an expert opinion on what can be done.

St Paul's garden has lots of potential; it will be interesting to see how it develops. **Joyce Alderman.**

St Michael, East Buckland



Spring and history: So Spring is on its way (hopefully!). The abundance of snow drops this year is wonderful. Crocus, daffodils and even primroses are making an appearance. Also the birds are rising earlier, as the lighter mornings arrive with their chorus, we just need the rain to lighten up!

Making history: So history has been made by our new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, the 106th Archbishop and the first female in the role. I find it quite surreal that I have met her a couple of times, and we at St. Michael's have had the pleasure of her leading a service in our church.

Spire Project: There is at the moment an issue that is dividing the Anglian community. It is called the Spire Project, with a fund of £1000m its aim is to address past connections with the transatlantic slavery, to repair, heal, and bring justice. The Archbishop has defended the project, saying the Church had a calling to confront historical justice. However critics argue that it is wrong to try and justify the fund at a time when Churches are struggling. A topic for conversation maybe? **Di Tearall.**

St Peter's, West Buckland.



The baked goods stall with Louise Homewood

Coffee mornings: Just a reminder that we hold a **coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month** throughout the year. The venue is West Buckland village hall and the starting time is 10am. We have a wonderful baked goods table, book stall, Bric- a- Brac and raffle. Please come along and support us if you are able, it is the church's main source of income, and without it we are not able to carry out ongoing roof repairs and keep the church in such good order. It's a great opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours. Dates in 2026 are March 14th, April 11th, May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, Aug 8th, Sept 12th, Oct 10th, Nov14th and Dec12th.

Main Events: Sunday 15th March 2026 is **Mothering Sunday**. We will hold a special service in church starting at 11 15am to celebrate Mums and all special carers in our community. There will be a small token gift for children to give to their Mums or special carers, to thank them for all they do throughout each year! This is a lovely uplifting service please do come along if you are able. Sunday 29th March is **Palm Sunday** and Rev Cathy will be holding a combined service with East Buckland in St Peters Church, West Buckland, starting at 11.15.a.m. Sunday 5th April is **Easter Sunday** - we will be having the traditional Family Service, especially for the children, with the usual fun and games following the service, including the Easter Egg hunt! Hopefully a very tame and well-behaved lamb will come along, and join in the fun, and be available for "petting" and photographs! Our usual service is held at 11 15am on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month. All are welcome.



Christ Church Shimla, stained glass and Lockwood Kipling windows.

Christ Church Shimla: In January my husband and I were fortunate to be able to visit India, a place I have wanted to visit for a long time. To see all the wonderful sights, and buildings, and we even saw tigers on our safari, so we were extremely lucky. As part of the tour, we visited Shimla in the foothills of the Himalayas. There is the most beautiful "English style" church - 8,000 feet above sea level. It is the second oldest church in North India. The windows were designed by Lockwood Kipling, father of Rudyard Kipling. It is one of the lasting legacies of the British Raj.

I asked a local lady if the church is well supported, and she assured me that it is full to capacity every single service! How wonderful to travel thousands of miles and find a tiny taste of home, something so comforting and familiar amidst the exotic! **With Best Wishes Gail Barker.**

Teresa installed as Lay Canon at moving cathedral ceremony



Clergy and parishioners from St James Swimbridge were present at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday February 1st to witness Teresa Turner's Collation and Installation as a Lay Canon and Member of Chapter at the Cathedral and her appointment as Chair of the Finance Committee.

'Collation' is the formal, legal act of appointment by a Bishop. 'Installation' is the symbolic placement into the physical stall in the quire which, in Teresa's case, is the stall of St Barnabas.

Teresa's installation involved swearing oaths of allegiance and responding to questions of commitment. As a member of Chapter, she shares responsibility with the Dean and other members of Chapter for the governance of the Cathedral Church. This responsibility stretches from promoting its mission and ministry to caring for the property vested in the Cathedral and ensuring the good management of the Cathedral's finances.

The tradition involved in the ceremonial part of the service goes back several hundred years. Teresa was presented with a copy of the Constitution and a loaf of bread (M&S special!), which she is seen holding in the photographs. This is the 'prebend'. Prebend comes from the Latin verb *praeberere*, 'to grant', and is the traditional 'payment' for a Lay Canon! Our own Rector, Cathy, is a 'Prebendary' of the Cathedral. This recognises the important role she has.

Following her installation Teresa commented:

"It was a truly special occasion, and I was so touched by the people who came along to support me in the role. I've found the Cathedral to be a very welcoming place, both the people and the improvements to the building itself. I will do my best to play my part in meeting the challenges that lie ahead of us"

Four Ways Mission Community Rector Cathy Scoffield said: "I have always found it incredibly moving to be with people who make their vows and take oaths in church. Last Sunday evening was another of those special occasions during a beautiful Choral Evensong in Exeter Cathedral."

The main picture shows Teresa (sixth from the left) with fellow Lay Canons and Cathedral staff. Pictured l-r are Giles Frampton, Ian King, Deborah Parsons, Cate Edmonds, Dean Jonathan Greener, Teresa, James Mustard, Jenny Ellis.

The picture on the right shows Teresa with David Netherway, a member of St James' Parochial Church Council, who was present at the ceremony as a supporter from the parish. David has a strong Christian vocation of service, deeply embedded in our local community.

Father David has asked Teresa to explain more about the role in the morning service at Swimbridge on Sunday 8th March.

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Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

From *The Open Gate* by David Adam.

