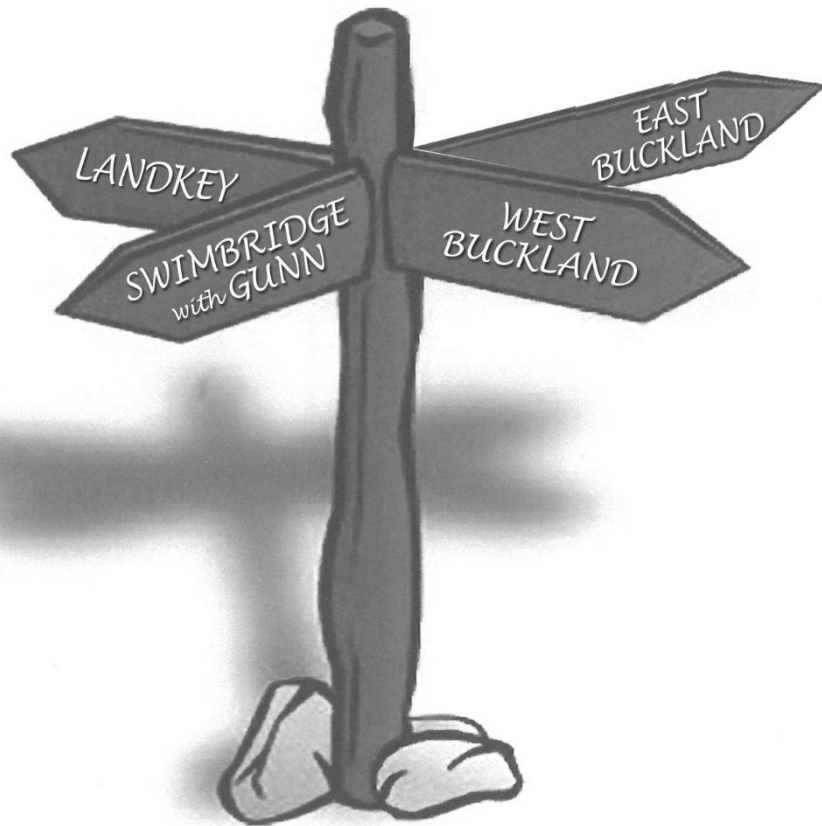


Parish Magazine

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**



May 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES – MAY 2026

Sunday 3rd May <i>Easter 5</i> (White)	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Acts 7 55-end; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14
Landkey, 10.30am	<i>As above</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As above</i>
Sunday 10th May <i>Easter 6</i> (White)	
East Buckland, 9.30am HC	Acts 17: 22-31; 1 Peter 3: 13-end; John 14: 15-21
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 17th May <i>Easter 7</i> (White)	
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	Acts 1: 6-14; 1 Peter 4-12, 5: 6-11; John 17: 1-11
Landkey, 10.30am FS & Baptism	Baptism readings
Gunn, 11am HC	<i>As Swimbridge</i>
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	<i>As Swimbridge</i>
Pentecost Sunday 24th May (Red)	
East Buckland, 9.30am MP	Acts 2: 1-21; 1 Corinth 12: 3b-13; John 20: 19-23
Swimbridge, 9.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Landkey, 10.30am HC	<i>As above</i>
Trinity Sunday 31st May (White)	
West Buckland, 11.15am HC	Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-end; 2 Corinth 13: 11-end; Matthew 28: 16-end

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday 14th May 6pm
St James Church, Swimbridge

**We are delighted to be welcoming West Buckland School Chapel Choir
to lead musical worship for Ascension Day.**

Readings: Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 15-end; Luke 23: 44-end.

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)

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Churchwarden: Mark Haworth-Booth 07813776349

PCC Sec: Sarah Muirhead 07585941215

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

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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

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Tel: 01769 540271 email: dalling.philip@hotmail.co.uk

by the 15th of preceding month.



Bishop's Open Garden

The garden of the Bishop's Palace is one of the best-kept secrets in Exeter. It covers three acres and is one of the most ancient in Devon. Bounded by the old Roman bank and city wall to the east and by the Cathedral to the west, it is a haven of peace in the middle of the city.

The Palace, Palace Gate, Exeter, EX1 1HY
What3Words belt.hours.inches

Sunday 26 April

Sunday 10 May and 17 May

2pm - 4.30pm

£5 suggested donation (card payments welcome)

Please note the garden does not have suitable access for wheelchairs or mobility scooters

Charity Registration Number: 1189807

Scan to
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Guided Tree Tours
on 10 May at
2.15pm
3.00pm
3.45pm

Tea/coffee and cake
available in the
Palace Porch



More Information:
www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk

Life-long learning and vocation

During April, Hazel Price Di Tearall and myself attended the Deanery Synod meeting in Shirwell. It was a fascinating evening with a talk from our Bishop of Crediton, Rt Revd Moira Astin. She spoke very engagingly about her Christian journey and how she recently became a Bishop.

We also heard about the Foundations Course which encourages vocations across our Diocese. Simon Needham, Deanery Synod secretary and part of a local congregation recently completed the course. He is now exploring lay leadership in Creation Care within his parish church. Another friend of mine is currently completing a linked Foundations course with a focus that now leads to a lay ministry of spiritual direction.

Life-long vocation is so important for the growth of all our churches. It's good to step out in faith and see where God can lead us with our local churches.

Many of us have stepped out in faith at different points in our lives and have forged close friendships with those we discern and explore vocation with. During my 3-year pre-ordination training, several of us from North Devon travelled thousands of miles together to Exeter, Plymouth and Salisbury for lectures and residentials.

This Foundations Course is now being offered in North Devon. Please do have a think and pray about whether this is for you – or suggest it to someone you think would be willing to give it a go.

Here is the information for the Foundations course for anyone who may be interested and would like to chat or follow the links provided. The Vimeo video at the end is interesting and presented by Dr Jon Curtis who I previously worked with in the Exeter Diocese Mission & Ministry team and now heads up a CoFE national lay leadership project.

Foundations Course

What is the Foundations Course?

Foundations is the introductory course for everyone in the Diocese of Exeter who is exploring their vocation (both lay and ordained). The course is designed to help people grow in their discipleship, and flourish as part of the Church. It is the foundational course to train as a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader), for ordination training or to train for one of the new Commissioned roles. It is run by the Diocese of Exeter as part of our commitment to lifelong learning and development for all and is open to everyone who is a member of a church community.

The topics covered are: Theology, The Bible, Spirituality and Ministry.

How does the course run? - The Foundations course is a mixture of in person and online teaching. There will be several intakes a year and it will run in different locations to make it as accessible as possible for a wide range of people across Devon. The course occurs three times a year in Barnstaple, Exeter and Plymouth from Autumn-Spring.



You will be placed in a tutor group, so you will be learning as part of a **supportive community**.

Time commitment. - Each course group will run for:

- 3 Saturdays (10am – 4pm) these are all in person
- 4 evenings (7pm – 9pm) these are all in person

Will there be homework?

In-between the in person sessions:

- There will be videos to watch
- Topics to find out about
- Reading to do
- What you explore away from the gatherings will be brought back to your tutor group when you meet
- You will NOT be required to write any essays
- Expect to spend 5-10 hours between sessions undertaking this work

What does the course cost?

The course costs £25 per person. We do not want cost to be a barrier to anyone. We encourage all participants to ask their church to cover the cost, if that is not possible then please contact our Director of Mission and Ministry: [Email Ian Bussell](#).

How do I get onto the course? - To book onto the course, follow the link below. There is no interview to get on the course, it is open to everyone – whatever their level of education.

The dates for the next course starting in autumn 2026 will be published in the spring, and bookings will open in June. If you would like to be added to an email list to be sent the link to the booking form, please [email Jenny](#).



Further information: [Click here to find out more information about the course.](#)



News from the churches ...

St Paul's Landkey

Text and photography by Charles Waldron.



Farewell to Anne and David Foster: On Sunday April 12 Anne Foster, our Licensed Lay Minister, led her last service of Morning Praise at St Paul's with us, as she and David are moving to South Devon very soon. Everyone will miss them and wish them well as they move to be near their family.

Anne and David have been a wonderful part of the church with Anne's ministry a great blessing to the Four Ways Mission Community as our Licensed Lay Minister. St Paul's church congregation have especially benefited from her regular ministry, leading a great range of services. Thank you to them both for all their commitment.

Landkey congregation contributed towards a garden voucher which was given to Anne and David as a thank you gift to help them create a new garden in South Devon.



Pictured right are Anne and David with Landkey Churchwardens Hazel and Peter.

Welcome to Allan and Evie: At our service on April 19 2026, we welcomed Allan and Evie Golding from New South Wales, Australia. They were visiting the grave of Allan's great grandmother, Elizabeth "Annie" Golding who died at the age of 35 in 1879 and is buried in the churchyard.



They had travelled down from Bourton-on-the-Water that morning and were making the return trip after the service. We were very pleased to welcome them and were surprised when they made a gift to the church of a ciborium engraved with words in memory of Annie.

Pictured: Allan and Evie Golding with Churchwardens Hazel and Peter, Revd Brenda Jacobs and Revd Cathy Scoffield.

Easter services in review: Our Lent and Easter services at St Paul's have been very enjoyable and well supported. Revd Penny Body made a welcome return to lead our Easter Sunday service on 5th April. There were as many as 35 in the congregation and all were very welcome.

The church had been well decorated with flowers in the nave and Easter posters had been added to the noticeboards in the porch. Thanks especially go to Ange Bellamy and Peter Elder for their hard work but not forgetting all others who helped to make the church look bright and cheerful for Easter.

***Easter flowers and shadow of cross
showing the three crosses of Good Friday.***



Our Hour Before the Cross service on Good Friday at 12 noon was led by Revd Cathy who read seven passages, interspersed with music and hymns, inspired by the last words of Jesus on the Cross. It was a quiet and very meaningful occasion, particularly as Cathy blew out the candle at the foot of the Cross to symbolise Christ's death.

Our Palm Sunday service was held in St Paul's on 29th March and was ably led by Anne Foster. It was a service of Morning Prayer with readings, hymns and a sermon all in the theme of marking Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem shortly before his death.

It can sometimes seem like an anticlimax after a service has taken place which had been looked forward to for so long. The good news, though, is that Easter continues to be celebrated until Pentecost on 24th May 2024, and all will be welcome to join us as we do so."

Best wishes, Charles

Photographs by Cathy Scoffield

Spring is here and if you are thinking of decluttering or spring cleaning please remember our table top sale in the Old School Centre, Vicarage Rd. on the 9th May. Tables are £10 each with this money going to St Paul's Church. You might even like to book a table and donate all the proceeds to St Paul's.

We have lots of plans for the church and garden but without money we cannot move forward. If you have nothing that you want to sell then you might find something that you would like to buy. You never know what treasures you might find hidden amongst the bric-a-brac. Refreshments available and as always a raffle. **Joyce Alderman.**



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 joyce.sheelagh@gmail.com

or Cathy Scofield 01271 830352.



Landkey Church Garden

an excerpt from St Paul's Annual Report by Cathy Scoffield

Village church community engagement is so important and we are now opening the church for several days during the week to encourage more visitors to drop in. (10-3pm Thursday to Saturday)

A huge encouragement has come from The Castle Inn who chose the church as their nominated charity last year. It was agreed with PCC and The Castle Inn that funds raised through their weekly Quiz Nights and special fundraising events would go to developing the church garden for outdoor events and community use.

The garden has great potential for mission outreach through wider community engagement. The Castle Inn have now raised and given the church project £5,000 for which we are hugely grateful to Creighton Kirk, his team and all who have supported this.

Photograph below taken by David Foster.

Pet Service taking place in the Landkey Church Garden.



Photograph above taken by Cathy.

Two Crab Apples and one Spindle Tree

saplings, recently collected by Joyce and Cathy from a Tree Giveaway at Quince Honey Farm.

These will be planted in the church garden soon.



St Michael, East Buckland

Easter Services: What a complement of Easter services on offer throughout the Mission Community for worship, and celebrating. We at St Michael's had an uplifting Easter Sunday morning service with a few more in the congregation than usual to join us as well for refreshments afterwards.



Living Hope- As I write this piece the second Sunday of Easter has just passed by. Peter 1: 3-9 focuses on the living hope believers have through Jesus's resurrection, assuring us of a secure imperishable inheritance despite current suffering, highlighting that faith is tested by trials to prove its genuineness, resulting in praise, and ultimate salvation.

Hope is not a vague wish but a certainty based on the resurrection of Jesus. APCM - All welcome to attend at St Michael's on May 19th at 2pm. With prayers and hope from all at East Buckland

Di Tearall



St Peter's, West Buckland.



Celebrating Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday at West Buckland – left to right, candles lit for Mothering Sunday, the Easter post box topper created by Lorraine Nichols, Fran Jacobs holding the Easter lamb, with Norma Sinniah.

Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday services (pictured above), conducted by Rev Cathy, were both well attended and it was lovely to see so many youngsters join in too. The church looked beautiful on both occasions and there were activities for the children. Thanks to all who attended and to all who worked so hard to ensure the church looked lovely for these special services. A special thank you to Ally Ayre for the loan of Leo the lamb, who was impeccably behaved throughout the service and enjoyed all the cuddles from all the children (big and small), and also to Louise Homewood who works so hard to ensure there were lovely crafts, games and treats for the children.

PCC Meeting: A reminder that we have our annual PCC meeting on Wednesday May 20 at 2pm. This will be held in the village hall and all are welcome to attend. I am really pleased to confirm that the existing committee has very kindly agreed to stand again for a further year, which gives great continuity and provides a full committee. Without these extremely hard working volunteers it will not be possible to keep the church doors open, and the church functioning as it does, (let alone all the fundraising activities which happen throughout the year,) so a massive THANK YOU to all involved.

Coffee Mornings: Our next coffee morning is to be held on Saturday 9th May in the village hall at 10am. Please come along and support if you are able, it's a great way to meet friends and neighbours, there is a book stall, baked goods stall, bric a brac and raffle. Future dates are Saturday June 13th, Saturday 11th July and Saturday 8th August.

Just a thought - Facing Turbulent times: We are in very turbulent times at the moment, I don't remember, in my lifetime, the state of the world feeling so precarious. One of the most important ways to improve mental health if you sometimes feel a bit low is to talk to someone about how you feel. "A trouble shared is a trouble halved". **It's good to talk!** **Get outside;** Spending just 2 hours a week outside in nature is associated with better health and wellbeing and can boost low mood.

Build resilience; When we hear something concerning, such as negative news headlines, it's very tempting to focus on the negative. If we pause and reflect, we can often find something to be grateful for, such as friends, neighbours, loved ones, even small things such as clean water, a meal shared with family, our pets and our beautiful surroundings of North Devon. Even in all this chaos and upset - **-- we still have much to be thankful for!** **Finally** --- To put a smile on your face - A Donald Trump joke! Steve Jobs would have been a better President than Donald Trump..... but that would be comparing apples to oranges which is unfair !!! Boom boom! **Gail Barker**

St James, Swimbridge:

Clergy and parishioners from St James' church Swimbridge were present at Exeter Cathedral earlier this year to witness the Collation and Installation of a fellow member of the congregation, Teresa Turner, as a Lay Canon and Member of Chapter at the Cathedral and her appointment as Chair of the Finance Committee. Teresa takes this opportunity to give an overview of the role of the Cathedral in the life of the Diocese of Exeter.



Exeter Cathedral & Teresa Turner seen with St James' PCC Member David Netherway at her installation.

Our Cathedral: Following my installation as a Lay Canon at Exeter Cathedral, Fr David Chance asked me to include something in the Mission Community Magazine. If you haven't been for a while, I encourage you to visit the Cathedral in person or view it online, follow live-streamed services and sign up to receive the weekly edition of Cathedral Life. It makes interesting reading and gives an indication of the breadth of activities making the Cathedral such a vibrant place. <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/>

Standing at the heart of the County of Devon (from the north, we may differ as to where the heart lies!!) and Diocese of Exeter, the Cathedral is a church but, because it is the seat (cathedra in Latin) of the Bishop of Exeter, it is called a cathedral. The area under the pastoral care of the Bishop is the Diocese, making the Cathedral the 'mother' Church of the Diocese. It's not there to replace the parish churches, although does sometimes feel like a small parish community.

The Cathedral belongs to us, the people of Devon, with three main parts to its role: It is: A centre for worship and mission in the Diocese; A place of civic gathering for the people of Exeter and Devon and, as the Bishop's seat, it provides a focal point and resource for the wider church in Devon, including us in the Four Ways Mission Community.

Cathedral's Vision: Exeter Cathedral is a sacred and beautiful place for worship, welcome and wellbeing. Through worship the Cathedral works with the Bishop, delivering the Diocesan mission, growing in prayer, making new disciples, and serving the people of Devon with joy. It welcomes people to gather there, reaches out to support them in joint ministry and offers a range of inspiring worship and music. The music of the Cathedral Choir is exceptional, was recently recorded for BBC Radio 3 and described by Classic FM as "one of the country's finest choirs."

Worship helps us grow as individuals but, also, grow as a community in depth, diversity, and discipleship.

Welcome: To bring more people into the Cathedral, into its wider community, not just the building, means enhancing what we offer, embedding existing partnerships, reaching out to others where they are, and engaging under-served groups. It means expanding our communications and online engagement, providing support in different places, developing our engagement with children, families, schools, students, and adult learners. You will see from the website the great strides already made on that journey.

As a building, the Cathedral is a centre of performance, hospitality, volunteering; it's a destination and a place of education and learning. Workshops and activities are held at key times for both young and old; discussion groups and talks bring engaging speakers; musical and light performances inspire and poetry groups come together; food is shared.

The variety of activity brings together so many diverse groups of people with specialist skills to care for the community and its resources. We have florists, stonemasons who preserve skills, passing on knowledge, training others, archivists supporting work at an international level, encouraging and inspiring others, particularly younger people, to consider a future career. Heritage skills are developed through the incredible embroidery of The Company of Tapisers (creating beautiful vestments, collection bags, etc.) and those who preserve and restore the historic books, treasures and fabric of the building. All these activities bring a greater sense of belonging and community.

Wellbeing: This guides our approach to safeguarding, pastoral care, and human flourishing. It includes care of Cathedral congregations, staff, volunteers, and visitors – including those no longer able to attend.

Heritage: The Cathedral, with the longest uninterrupted mediaeval vaulted ceiling in the world, and its vast wider estate are world class heritage assets. They need maintaining and preserving for future generations and, importantly, to be accessible to all, emotionally, spiritually and physically. Recent developments have transformed the Cloisters and the Nave into a far brighter, welcoming and accessible place - including amazing new toilets!

Do go and look. Have coffee and cake in the Chapter House. While there, visit the Treasures exhibition, find the Exeter Book, the oldest book of literature in the world, and The Fortescue Book of Hours, alongside ancient wax votives. If you feel energetic, take a rooftop tour, explore the many beautiful areas within the Cathedral, the 15th Century astronomical clock or simply sit, be still and take in its beauty. How do we manage this?

It takes time, money, lots of volunteers and hard work fundraising at all levels. As the second largest venue in Exeter, concerts and events are held several times a week. Although controversial initially, the benefits are significant, not just helpful financially. They bring the wider community into the cathedral; some find their faith there, others enjoy the incredible architecture, some are inspired to take on roles within or without, volunteering, sharing knowledge.

It is a charity, led by the Chapter (akin to a board of trustees) with a duty to maintain the Cathedral and its community, share it with others and ensure it has a sustainable future. In medieval times, it was customary to read a chapter of the Bible or a monastic order's rule book when a cathedral's governing body met. The meeting became known as a Chapter meeting, those present as the Chapter.

The Chapter includes seven non-executive members, known as Lay Canons, which is where my role lies.

Faith: At my installation I was presented at the high altar and asked various questions about my willingness and commitment in the role. Each time I answered, "With God's help, I will." To me, this is where the element of faith comes in. I couldn't undertake this alone and need that leap of faith. The role is challenging, there's a lot to learn. I feel welcomed, inspired and am learning to listen and be guided by faith, praying hard we find a way through the uncertainties ahead.

Teresa Turner



Carrying the Cross to Hooda: Despite persistent drizzling rain and strong winds some 50 people carried on the Swimbridge tradition of carrying the Cross to the summit of Hooda Hill, early on the morning of Good Friday.

The procession gathered in the churchyard of St James' church at 7 30am and carried the heavy wooden Cross through the village (pictured above left). When they reached the top of Hooda Father David Chance led a brief service (pictured above right). The Cross remained in place over the Easter period and was visible for a great distance.

Afterwards the Cross bearers and walkers returned to St James for hot drinks and hot cross buns.

It was a joy to see many families staying for Easter children's craft activities and mini Easter Egg hunt in church until 10.30am.



The Holy Name, Gunn



The church, as always was beautifully decorated for the Easter Sunday Service led by Revd Richard Freeman who it was good to welcome back. Thank you to everyone who keeps the church and grounds so beautifully to welcome everyone at the monthly 11am Sunday Service, usually 2nd Sundays.

Photograph of one of Gunn church windows, taken by Cathy Scoffield on Holy Saturday.



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