



Four Ways Mission Community

St Michael East Buckland, St Paul Landkey, St James Swimbridge
with the Church of the Holy Name Gunn, St Peter West Buckland

Sunday 17th May 2026 *Sunday after Ascension*



Well done and thank you to everyone who was part of and supported the Landkey Table-top Sale last Saturday.

Thank you to the Church Knit and Natter Group for all their contributions and instigation of the event. The total raised has just exceeded £500. We will also be putting some special items online to sell in aid of St Paul's Church Tower Restoration Project. If anyone would be interested in being involved in local online selling to raise funds for any of our Mission Community churches, please do get in touch with me.

Late on Wednesday afternoon I took a phone call from someone asking if they could go in to look at St James Church, Swimbridge. I went over to open up and found three very friendly people in the church porch, having already explored the churchyard.

Peter and Annie were on holiday from Boston, USA and a young student, Josh from Nebraska, is just completing his degree at Exeter University. Josh was in the churchyard searching for his ancestors named Venn. Coincidentally they all met and became friends in the church porch whilst waiting for me to come and open up! I missed asking to take a photograph of them, but they have written in the visitor book and were so delighted to come into St James Church. Peter in particular is very knowledgeable about the carvings and interiors of our medieval churches and pointed out many things I'd not seen or realised. It was a joy to unexpectedly meet them all and to be encouraged by their passionate enthusiasm and gratitude.

It reminded me of these words that I read at St Paul's Landkey on the day of their APCM this year. An encouragement to keep the churches open when we can, never knowing who drops in.

AN OPEN CHURCH - How wonderful it is when walking through a village you find a church and try the latch of the door and it opens up and allows you in; into that distinctly English church smell of damp, old hassocks, candles, prayer books, embroidered altar frontal, creaky pews, a flower arrangement by the pulpit with the petals of the open flowers just beginning to drop. There is an open visitor's book on the back table I write on, and I wonder if I will ever come back here again and read what I have just written. As I kneel in a pew, holding that familiar ledge for your hymn book on the back of the pew in front and with never quite enough room for your legs, I look towards the altar and east window above. I am so aware of the hundreds of years this church has been prayed in, all those who have loved this sacred place and continue to love it and long for it to remain open and prayed in forever. From Richard Carter's new book *100 Reasons for Living*

I was blessed to meet with Peter, Annie and Josh this week. I don't know who else may have visited the churches across our Mission Community. Thank you to everyone for keeping these churches so welcoming to visitors. With thanks and prayers for you all.

Rev'd Preb Cathy Scofield Rector Four Ways Mission Community

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Sunday 17th May – Easter 7
Sunday after Ascension

9.30am Holy Communion, Swimbridge

**10.30am Family Service with Baptism of
Sidney Gratton, Landkey**

11.15am Holy Communion, West Buckland

LECTIONARY READINGS

Acts 1: 6-14; 1 Peter 4-12, 5: 6-11; John 17: 1-11

Collect – *Sunday after Ascension*

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Friday 22nd May

**Friday Family Church at St Peter's
West Buckland**

5-6pm – Play and praise

Pentecost themed craft activities with food

6-7pm – Contemporary worship

Everyone welcome to this monthly service, musically led by Nigel. An opportunity to hear and sing some new songs.

Pentecost Sunday 24 May

9.30am Morning Praise, East Buckland

9.30am Holy Communion, Swimbridge

10.30am Holy Communion, Landkey

LECTIONARY READINGS

Acts 2: 1-21; 1 Corinth 12: 3b-13; John 20: 19-23

Sunday 31 May

Mission Community 5th Sunday Service

11.15am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, West Buckland