

THE LINK

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2021



The desert and

*barren land
will celebrate*

*and blossom
with flowers.*

*The people the
LORD has rescued*

*will go home
singing.*

Isaiah 35:1,10

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OPENING THOUGHTS

'You are nearer God's heart in the garden than anywhere else on earth'. I can still hear my Mum quoting these lines from Dorothy Frances Gurney's lovely poem, God's Garden. I always say I grew up on an allotment (we lived in a flat with no garden) as we spent so much time there, evenings and weekends. It was very hard work for my Mum but essential to keep us all in fresh fruit and vegetables as money was so short. I'm not sure if Mum quoted those lines to encourage us youngsters or herself. My brothers and I were expected to help where we could but I remember we also had fun and learned a lot about wildlife and certainly enjoyed the fruits of our labours. So I grew up surrounded by the beauty and bounty of the earth and I've loved gardening ever since.

It seemed appropriate to write about gardens at this time with the Flower Show coming up in September and the Festival of Harvest the following month. Also, as life begins to return to some sort of normality, it's worth reflecting how we turned to gardening and the natural world during lockdown. To be surrounded by such beauty and brightness during those dark, difficult and, for some, lonely days was for many of us a real Godsend. It was National Thank you Day on 4th July when we gave thanks to all who helped sustain us during the last 18 months, the NHS, our local communities and friends and all the various essential workers and unsung heroes. There doesn't have to be a special date to give thanks to our heavenly Father for all the beauty and wonder of the world around us.

There are numerous references to gardens in the bible but there are four of particular significance. Of course, we all know about God creating the Garden of Eden where the story of man starts, Genesis, chapters 1-2. The garden of Gethsemane is a bitter sweet place. It became the garden of suffering and betrayal but before that it was a place Jesus like to go to pray, John 18, 1-2. The garden near Golgotha, close to where Jesus was crucified, was where His body was laid in a new, empty tomb. It represented sadness to Jesus' followers but it was here the great news of the resurrection was announced to Mary, Matthew 28, 1-15. It became a garden of victory. The fourth garden is in the very last chapter in the very last book of the bible, Revelations 22, 1-2. We read about the same Tree of Life as in the Garden of Eden, only now it's in God's Paradise.



In the first garden we lost our connection to God. In the second God is found in the midst of our suffering, whilst in the third garden hope is found in resurrection. The final garden is the place of harmony and peace without pain or suffering. Every garden represents different stages of our lives and God is in every garden.

Pam Staunton, Offwell

BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450
Marion Hutchinson 01404 830055

FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372
Robin Banks 01404 871355

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688
Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

AUGUST SERVICES

| | OFFWELL | FARWAY | WIDWORTHY |
|-------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------|
| August 1st | 9:30am HC | | 9:30am Family Service |
| August 8th | | | 9:30am Family Service |
| August 15th | 11am Family Service | | 9:30am HC |
| August 22nd | | 11:15am HC | 9:30am Family Service |
| August 29th | 6pm Benefice Songs of Praise at Widworthy | | |

BIBLE READINGS

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| August 1st | 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a | Psalms 51: 1-12 | Ephesians 4:1-16 | John 6:24-35 |
| August 8th | 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 | Psalms 130 | Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2 | John 6:35, 41-51 |
| August 15th | 1 Kings 2:13-12, 3:3-14 | Psalms 111 | Ephesians 5:15-20 | John 6:51-58 |
| August 22nd | 1 Kings 8 (1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43 | Psalms 84 | Ephesians 6:10-20 | John 6:56-69 |
| August 29th | Song of Solomon 2:8-13 | Psalms 45: 1-2, 6-9 | James 1:17-27 | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH

August

1st 11am Conducted by Revd. Andrew Sails. H.C.
 8th 11am Local Arrangements
 15th 11am Conducted by Mrs. Ann Skinner
 22nd 3pm Conducted by Revd. Alison Richardson
 29th No Service

September

5th 11am Conducted by Mr Gordon Howe
 12th 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben. Haslam. H.C.
 19th 11am Conducted. by Mrs. Pam Murphy
 26th No Service. Joining C of E for Harvest

October 3rd 11am Conducted by Dr. Alan Mcilveen

A Reminder that we have our Harvest Festival at the chapel on 10th Oct at 3pm Conducted by Revd. Julian Albrow.



SEPTEMBER SERVICES

| | OFFWELL | FARWAY | WIDWORTHY |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sept 5 th | 9:30am HC | | 9:30am Family Service |
| Sept 12 th | | | 9:30am Family Service |
| Sept 19 th | 11am Family Service | | 9:30am HC |
| Sept 26 th | | 11:15am HARVEST THANKSGIVING | 9:30am Family Service |
| Oct 3 rd | 9:30am HARVEST SERVICE | | 4pm HARVEST THANKSGIVING |

BIBLE READINGS

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Sept 5 th | Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 | Psalms 125 | James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17 | Mark 7:24-37 |
| Sept 12 th | Proverbs 1:20-33 | Psalms 19 | James 3:1-12 | Mark 8:27-38 |
| Sept 19 th | Proverbs 31:10-31 | Psalms 1 | James 3: 13 – 4:3, 7-8a | Mark 9:30-37 |
| Sept 26 th | Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 | Psalms 124 | James 5:13-20 | Mark 9:38-50 |
| Oct 3 rd | Job 1:1; 2:1-10 | Psalms 26 | Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 | Mark 10:2-16 |

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*The heavens tell of the glory of God.
The skies display his
marvellous craftsmanship
Psalm 19:1*

Websites:

Farway:

www.farwaydevon.org.uk

Offwell:

www.offwell.org

Widworthy:

www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk

www.explorechurches.org

www.achurchnearyou.com



OFFWELL



Our services will follow the usual pattern for August and September; Communion on the first Sundays of the month, 1st August and 5th September at 9:30am and Family Services on third Sundays, 15th August and 19th September at 11am. Revd Stephen Treeby will be taking Communion in August and Bishop Oliver in September.



An early reminder that the **Harvest Service** will be on **3rd October**, taken by Bishop Oliver, with the **Harvest Supper** on the Friday before, **1st October**. The details will be on the village website nearer the date.

The church will now be open every day from 10am until 4pm. It would be lovely if a couple more people could take on the job of unlocking and locking the church one day a week. Please contact Marion (830055) if you feel you could help.

Devon Historic Churches Day is on **11th September** which coincides with the Flower Show. The tower will be open in the morning and there will be the usual trail for the children. Coffee and cake will be served in church. Together with the Flower Show in the afternoon this promises to be a full and very enjoyable day in Offwell.

The Benefice Coffee Morning will start again in August - see page 5 for details. It would be a lovely way to get to know some of the newcomers to Offwell as well as meeting up with old friends again after so long.



The Offwell Ladies' Lunch; another enjoyable social event, has started again on the second Wednesday of every month.

Anyone who would like to join us and who is not already on the mailing list should contact Marian Tucker, 831066 or email tuckers@offwell.com. Further details will be available on the Offwell website.



'Open the Book' will be starting again in the school from September. Open the Book (OtB) offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship.

www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book

St. Mary's is looking for a **church cleaner** for one hour a week at their own convenience; nothing strenuous and wages by agreement. There may be extra hours on occasion.

For more information please telephone Jonathan Paveley on 01404 831450.



PTFA Events

Offwell School PTFA will be holding a **Treasure Hunt** during the weekend of **Saturday 26th September**. Up-dated information will be posted on the Offwell website during September.

The **PTFA Grand Summer Raffle** will be drawn on Sunday 27th September, with tickets being available over the summer months.

Lots of lovely local prizes up for grabs!

If anyone, business or families, wishes to contribute a prize, absolutely anything and everything, please contact Marina Hodder:

ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk.



Offwell Hay Cart

In the April/May edition of The Link we wrote about the new village Hay Cart, being built by Mike Rowland Wheelwright from Colyton. At the time of writing the Cart is nearing completion and the wheel rims, or felloes, have been sent away to be engraved with the words 'Offwell Village'. Felloe (pronounced felly) probably derives from the old English word felg meaning 'rim of a wheel'. At Rowland's all the work is still done by hand in the traditional way and Mike and Greg's new apprentice, Sam Phillips, at just 21, has been closely involved in the Cart's construction.



Cllr. Clive Whithear has already mended and varnished the flower boxes and once the Cart arrives Peter and Melanie Jolly will be ready to plant them up.

Pictures of the cart in situ will be posted on the Offwell village website.





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OFFWELL FLOWER SHOW 2021

Saturday 11th September

In Offwell Village Hall

Entries from 8:30am to 11am

Judging starts at 11:30am

2pm - Doors open

& Teas being served

Awards presented at 3pm



Hi folks,

we hope you're all well. It's getting closer and closer! We hope your beans are growing, your rhubarb is succulent and your flowers are blooming. You will all have received a copy of the Schedule and your preparations should be well underway. Please contact Marian if you need another copy of the Schedule; it is also available on the Offwell web site. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form, a copy

of which was attached to the Schedule. More copies can be obtained from Marian and it will also be available to download from the website.

Don't worry if you think your exhibit might not be good enough. It's a fun day and every entry will be warmly welcomed.

Those of you marked as sponsors will soon be contacted for collection of your sponsorship money - it's only £3 - all the sponsorship money is paid out in prizes. You can also drop your contribution in to Marian or Lynn if you're passing.

For those of you that have had an extra year basking in the glory of a winning cup, please would you return these to Marian, before the end of August - clean and polished please!

Carry on making, baking, arranging and growing. We're looking forward to a bumper year and another great day.

The Committee

If anyone can volunteer to make some cakes for the tea & cake refreshments, please contact Helen on 01404 41918. We would also welcome any contributions towards the raffle which can be dropped off to Marian or Lynn.

Thankyou





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FARWAY



The doors to the church are open all the time again.

The school are holding some of their assemblies in the church and the **Open the Book** team are planning to start visiting our local church schools again from the Autumn term.

We have a wedding in the church on our Harvest weekend in September so we will be looking forward to decorating the church with Autumn flowers and garden produce.

We look forward to singing again too!



We had a socially distanced gathering at the beginning of July in the Village Hall Garden. This was the first get together since the Hall closed under lockdown sixteen months ago. Everyone brought their own refreshments and had a very relaxing time catching up with the latest local news.



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Sam in Exeter

A British love affair with the garden lawn

I met my husband's brother for the first time when we visited him and his wife at their house in the north of England. Shortly after our arrival he urged me to view his garden and beautifully manicured lawn.

"I challenge you to find a single weed" he smiled in that knowing way of certainty that I wouldn't. My husband and I were living in a high rise flat at the time so lawns and neatly tended flower beds were not high on our list of priorities.

That was back in the 1970's and when we moved to our Devon farmhouse, with its large wrap around garden, the importance of a neat lawn became an essential part of our general wellbeing. For some reason if the lawn was cut then it didn't seem to matter that the flower beds were also in need of similar attention.

Some believe that for all our other achievements in the sphere of gardening, the most important and iconic contribution of British horticulture to the world is the lawn. Lawn care in itself has achieved cult status as an activity with the act of pushing a mower around possessing an almost primordial appeal.

Lawns were established as an indispensable element of garden design during the 18th century. The earliest lawns were very much the preserve of the elite. Beyond the ha-ha, cattle, sheep and deer maintained the pastures. Next to the house men with scythes regularly trimmed the herbage, an extremely labour intensive and skilled task with the aesthetic demanding as smooth a surface as possible. As grass was predominantly a resource for feeding livestock this could be considered as an 'outrageous act of ostentation' but lawns have held a powerful appeal ever since.



In recent years perfect lawns have been getting a bad press. For the sake of the environment we are being encouraged to transform our lawns into an eco-friendly oasis; to embrace weeds and 'let it go brown'. 'If you can stay your hosepipe when all about you is turning brown your grass will be back', we're told, and it's true.

The good news is you don't have to abandon your lawn completely - it's already a wildflower meadow - just move the mower blades up and cut less. No longer having the cricket pitch roller effect may be a small price to pay but how you will cope with young Jimmy's lack of kick about opportunities is another matter altogether.



Since the last newsletter we have had some changes within the Council. At our Annual meeting Andrew Pearsall stood down as Chairman (staying on as a Councillor) and Diana Preston has now taken up the baton with Rupert Joy acting as the Vice Chairman. We have to thank Andrew for the hours of (unpaid) work he has put in to the role and his help in keeping the show on the road through some difficult times over the years.

One thing that did come up was the difficulty in contacting everyone. Despite a notice on the notice board (we are going to get more), on the website and two Facebook sites some of you still had only heard by word of mouth. We had previously set up an email list but eventually got stopped because of the complexities of GDPR. So 'plan b' will be to set up a newsletter via **MailChimp** which people can sign up to. We hope to get this set up shortly and will circulate the details over the coming weeks.

We have to thank all those who came to the recent village meeting to look at the outline planning application for the **Sand Quarry**. The turn-out was really appreciated and we hope that we picked up all your comments for and against. It was very good to meet so many of you.

We now have a new **Tree Warden** for the parish Ed Coombs, thank you for volunteering.

This may be a bit in advance, but next year is the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** which will include a 4-day long weekend of celebrations from **Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022**. This will include lighting the beacons, a service of thanksgiving, the Big Jubilee Lunch and a pageant. What sort of celebration does the village want? Do you want any at all? Where could it be held? It is likely that a road closure on the A35 for a street party may not be well received by the Highways Agency but that doesn't stop us asking! We don't know if anyone in the Village is already co-ordinating something, if so please let us know and the Parish Council will do all it can to help.

Can you help keep Wilmington Safe?

Can you give 1 or 2 hours a month to help **Wilmington Community Speed Watch Team** monitor the speed and volume of vehicles passing through our village on the A35?

Hours flexible and to suit. Sessions are usually of 1 hour's duration.

The Team is sponsored by Devon and Cornwall Police so you will be required to complete a simple online application form. A short training course is carried out online and support will be given where necessary. Interested and think that you can help?

Go to <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Register.php>

Simply follow the instructions to join an Existing Group; it should take approx. 3 minutes

Any queries please give the Wilmington Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator (Barbara Cuthbertson) a ring on 01404 831359.



ST. CUTHBERT'S, WIDWORTHY



It now has been four years since we have had a **House for Duty priest** for the Benefice. Our churches have met the requirements set out by the Diocese before the advertisement could take place. The post was advertised briefly at the beginning of the pandemic when the country was locked down and unsurprisingly, there were no applicants. The church-wardens of the Benefice met recently and composed a joint letter to the Archdeacon asking that the post be advertised forthwith. We wait to hear the outcome. The successful candidate will live in the Offwell Rectory and provide services on Sunday and two days a week across the three parishes. While we still will need some help from our retired clergy who have supported us so diligently and well during the interregnum, we are looking forward to having someone whose presence in the parishes will help us grow and flourish.

While you are enjoying your summer holidays, save some energy and save the date for the up-coming **Devon Historic Churches Stride and Ride**, this year on **Saturday, September 11th**. In Widworthy, we have a sponsored "spring clean" of the church instead of walking or cycling to the churches in the area. This not only supports Devon Historic Churches but half of the money raised is returned to St Cuthbert's. We like to stay ahead on our repairs, maintenance and upkeep which on a listed building are not cheap so please plan to come along and help clean or sponsor someone who is. The village has preserved and cherished this beautiful little church for centuries and we want to carry on the legacy so that it will be here for generations to come. Also, please remember the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can be obtained from the Widworthy treasurer, Tony Cooke,

widworthytreasurer@btinternet.com

Our usual pattern of services at 9:30 continues in August and September, with the wonderful addition that we now at last are allowed to sing again! On the fifth **Sunday in August, the 29th** there will be a **Benefice Songs of Praise at 6:00pm in Widworthy** followed by wine and canapes. We do hope everyone in the Benefice can join us to sing the favourite hymns we've missed for the last 16 months.

Sunday **3rd October** will be our **Harvest Thanksgiving at 4:00pm** followed by a cream tea in the church.

Smile lines - Out to graze

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing. "These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?" A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"

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Offwell School Rocks!

What's the link between...David Attenborough, Mary Anning, some rocks and a local school?

Offwell School has recently taken a step towards celebrating greater diversity and providing their pupils with inspirational leaders. For many years the two school houses have been Drake and Raleigh – well-known adventurers (some might say pirates) from the Elizabethan period. The children were concerned by reports in the media about the 'credentials' of these two men and they undertook research into their lives. What both men achieved in terms of navigation, exploration and defending the country can be admired but there are significant areas where it is harder to feel pride. Drake played an active role in the beginnings of the slave trade, sailing with John Hawkins, and its heinous exploitation of African peoples. There is no direct evidence that Raleigh was also a slaver but there is documentary evidence that his wife was an advocate of a trend in the 1590s of owning and 'displaying' a slave.

The children debated the issue and decided change was needed. But who would be suitable replacements – they wanted people of whom they could feel proud and would provide inspiration? One of the first names was Sir David Attenborough, a man whose enthusiasm and concern for nature and humanity has deeply affected many - he was elected unanimously. One down one to go.



With diversity in mind the children identified five women who they felt were a complimentary match for Sir David. The shortlist, from the past and present, was: Greta Thunberg, Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Malala Yousafzai, Rosa Parks and Mary Anning. Again, research was undertaken and presentations were made to the rest of the school. After two extremely tight votes... Mary Anning was adopted as the Leader of the second House! The children felt that Mary's life showed dedication and perseverance as she strived for recognition and never gave up.

Children, Spirituality and the Natural World

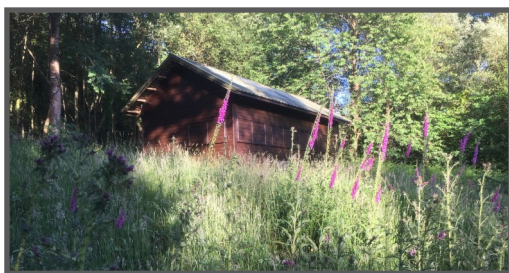
Thinking about Harvest Festival a recent article in the Church Times, by Revd. Sally Welch, caught my eye. Sally was writing about experiencing her first Harvest Festival in a city church, where tins and packets (for the local homeless centre) replaced the pumpkins, courgettes and vegetables decorating the rural church where she had lived most of her life. The contrast brought home to her how different the experience of harvest was for urban and rural children.

In 2012 the National Trust published *Natural Childhood*, a report which highlighted the growing alienation of children from outdoor spaces.

Using the term 'nature deficit disorder' it emphasised the part that the natural world could play in helping children understand their relationship with the world and its people.

In her article Sally Welch goes on to say that in a church context there is a real need for integrating the natural world with the more formalised constructs of building-based worship and encounters: *"...it has valuable lessons to offer that will serve to develop and nurture not just our souls, but our minds and bodies....The use of the natural world, as a way of enabling the spirituality of children and young people to flourish and grow, should be conscious and deliberate."*

The children at Offwell School are doubly fortunate to not only live in the heart of the countryside but also benefit from regular walks to Offwell Woods where, in Sally Welch's words: *"...contemplating a conker, a feather, a leaf or a tree can help us to see that God is not confined to people or buildings, but has the whole of creation in his care.... We learn from the natural world to celebrate the wholeness, the interdependence, and the interconnectedness of all created things."*



Closed churches during Covid placed even more importance on outdoor 'pilgrimage' of this kind. How our children re-engage with church worship once again will be a challenge for all.

Carol Hayes



Sally Welch is the author of *'Outdoor Church: Twenty Sessions to take church outside the building for children and families'*
Published by Barnabas for Children - £8.99

The LINK is the magazine of the 3 Parishes of OFFWELL, FARWAY and WIDWORTHY.

Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the community.

The next edition will be **OCT/NOV 2021**. Submissions to be received by **10th SEPT at the latest please**. Email Melanie at: **parisheslink@gmail.com** Submissions, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format. The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality. Please note - **Late submissions may not be included**.

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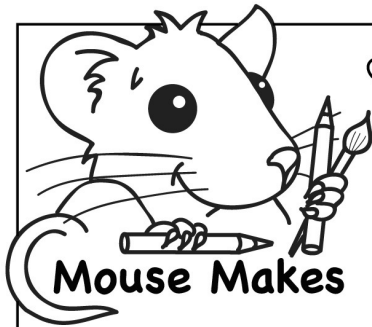
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IN THE BEGINNING ...



What did God create in the beginning?

___ V ___
and ___ H ___

What was the first thing God said on the first day?

"Let there be

___ G ___

What did God separate on the second day to create heaven?

___ T ___

How many great lights did God create in the heavens?

What grew on the dry land?

___ N ___ and

___ E ___



READ
Genesis
1:31

B S E A S O N S S
E D A Y F L W O M A N
D L A N D O I A N A C I F
S T H R E E U G T E N R A I O
M V S K Y N R H E A V E N S F
U G O O D I T T R E U A I H R
L Y S I X G W F I V E T M G U
T E A R T H O P S E A I A R I
I A W C A T T L E N A O L O T
P R V E G E T A T I O N S U F
L S X U M O R N I N G E E N U
Y U K F R U I T H G O D E D L
X H U M A N S O B I R D S
F O O D Y H T R E E S
C R E A T U R E S

What did God create to fly above the earth?

___ D ___

What did God make after all the creatures?

___ A ___

Find the answers to the questions in the word search then find all these words too:



CREATION • ONE • DARK • DAY • NIGHT • EVENING • MORNING • SEA
VEGETATION • LAND • SEEDS • FRUIT • THREE • SEASONS • YEARS • FOUR



SKY • FISH • FIVE • CREATURES • CATTLE • ANIMALS • GROUND • HUMANS
WOMAN • FRUITFUL • MULTIPLY • FOOD • SIX • GOD • SAW • GOOD





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