

The Offwell Mission Community

St Mary's, Offwell, - St Cuthbert's, Widworthy, - St Michael and All Angels, Farway



THE LINK



APRIL 2024



FIND US - CONTACT



Revd. Jeremy Putnam

For pastoral support and prayer ministry please contact:
Phone: 01404 831911
Email: jeremputnam@parish-church.com

Revd. Tracey Voysey

Phone: 07968 658 638 Email: revdtracey@gmail.com



Working 1 day a week offering pastoral support to the three parishes and support to the church schools. 1 Sunday a month until June 2024.

Benefice Churchwardens

FARWAY

Tara Huffman - 01404 871372
Stefanie Kastner

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley - 01404 831450
David Pavey - 01404 43029

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins - 01404 831688
Vacancy

Websites:

www.parish-church.com



www.offwell.church

www.farway.church

www.widworthy.church

www.achurchnearlyou.com

www.explorechurches.org

www.farwaydevon.org.uk

www.farway.devon.sch.uk

www.offwell.org

www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Facebook Pages



[The Offwell Mission Community](#)

[Offwell Together](#)

[The Offwell Sports And Social Club](#)

[Farway village hall East Devon](#)

[Spotted Wilmington, Devon, UK](#)

Email Addresses:

Offwell Website (for updates)

offwell.org@gmail.com

farwayvillagehall@gmail.com

FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

APRIL

7th 11am Conducted by Mr Gordon Howe
14th 3pm Conducted by Revd. Alison Richardson
21st 11am Conducted by Revd. Julian Albrow HC
28th 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam

MAY

5th 11am Conducted by Revd. B. Mosedale. Rogation Sunday
12th No Service
19th 11am Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam HC
26th 3pm Conducted by Revd. S Santry



The White Hart at Wilmington are having some issues with their phone number, making it difficult for some people to contact them.

Their Booking Number is: 01404 643725 or via Facebook



Jesus stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you'. After he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you'. (John 20:19-20)

I've always been moved by this moment in John's gospel. The scene comes after the crucifixion, and after the resurrection (if you are reading this at the start of April, then this passage is next Sunday's gospel reading). By this time Jesus has overcome death and the tomb, and now stands before his friends. Christians like me believe that Jesus is God, who created the universe out of nothing, and so you might expect Jesus to be dressed accordingly, radiant in glory, surrounded by angels. But no, he meets with his friends bearing the wounds that caused his death, his broken body on display.

Kintsugi is the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery, bringing the pieces back together to restore their wholeness in a new way. The craftsman uses a pure gold lacquer to bond the broken pieces into a treasured work of art. All the cracks and damage are not only on display, but they are honoured by the preciousness of gold.

Western methods of repair work do their very best to hide the cracks, attempting to fool the owner that nothing has been broken, and nothing has been repaired. The best examples can be seen on the wonderful BBC One tv programme – The Repair Shop. Not so with Kintsugi. And not so with Jesus. His body showed the cost, as well as the glory.

Kintsugi pottery is beautiful. Somehow through its renovation it becomes more complete, and more treasured than it was before. And so it is with God's grace and our lives. The grace which we receive from God is the gold lacquer that binds us together, a gold seam, like lightning dancing through life of the church, bringing not only each of us together, but heaven and earth too. It is spoken in words of peace and forgiveness, in words of love and understanding. It means that even in the most difficult and challenging of times the peace of Christ can make us whole. 'Peace be with you' he said. 'And also, with you', we say.

As Ruth and I move on, we go having been recipients of grace, and of peace. We leave here having received far more in kindness than we feel we could ever repay. And we leave having shared life with many we now call friends. Thank you for everything.

May the peace of God be with you, and with all whom you love, now and always.

Jeremy and Ruth.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

| DATES | ST MARY'S OFFWELL | ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS FARWAY | ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SUN. 7 th APRIL Easter 2 | 9.30am Holy Communion | | 9.30am Family Service |
| SUN. 14 th APRIL Easter 3 | 5pm BCP Evensong | 11.15am Family Communion | 9.30am Family Service |
| SUN. 21 st APRIL Easter 4 | 10.30am Family Service | | 9.30am Parish Communion |
| SUN. 28 th APRIL Easter 5 | 10.30am BCP Holy Communion | | 9.30am Morning Prayer |



Refreshments will be served after all our services



BIBLE READINGS



| DATES | FIRST READING | NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE | THE GOSPEL |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| SUN. 7 th APRIL Easter 2 | Acts 4.32–35 | 1 John 1.1 – 2.2 | John 20.19–31 |
| SUN. 14 th APRIL Easter 3 | 1 John 3.1–7 | Acts 3.12–19 | Luke 24.36b–48 |
| SUN. 21 st APRIL Easter 4 | Acts 4.5–12 | 1 John 3.16–24 | John 10.11–18 |
| SUN. 28 th APRIL Easter 5 | Acts 8.26–40 | 1 John 4.7–21 | John 15.1–8 |

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 18th April
Thursday 16th May
10:30am to 12 midday

Every 3rd Thursday of the month
in Offwell Sports & Social Club
for all three of our Benefice Parishes

This event is for everyone;
whether you go to church or not,
you will be made very welcome



£ Donations for the Link £

If you would like to give a donation towards the printing of The Link, please place your donation in an envelope marked 'The Link' and either give it to the person who delivers your Link, bring it to a service, or post it in the wall safe at St. Mary's just inside the Church door.

Many thanks.

DIARY DATES

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| WED. 10 th APR. | OFFWELL | OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB Contact Marian for details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com |
| THURS. 18 th APR. | AT OFFWELL GOLF CLUB | MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:30am for 10am Contact 01404 831924 for more details |
| THURS. 18 th APR. | OFFWELL SSC | BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING 10:30am - 12 noon |
| WED. 8 th MAY. | OFFWELL | OFFWELL LADIES LUNCH CLUB Contact Marian for details on 01404 831066 or tuckers@offwell.com |
| THURS. 16 th MAY. | AT OFFWELL GOLF CLUB | MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:30am for 10am Contact 01404 831924 for more details |
| THURS. 16 th MAY. | OFFWELL SSC | BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING 10:30am - 12 noon |
| SAT. 8 th JUNE | WIDWORTHY BARTON | SUMMER FETE 12:30 to 4pm Contact Billy Leach for further details on 07740 121294 |
| SAT. 29 th JUNE | OFFWELL Recreation Ground & VH | SUMMER FETE 1pm to 4pm For further details; see the Offwell website under 'Clubs/Offwell Fete' or via the Facebook Group 'Offwell Together'. |

Offwell Sports & Social Club. Bar open at 7pm every Friday.

Farway Village Hall Coffee Morning every Wednesday 10am-12. Bar open every Friday at 7.30pm

Please see their **Facebook** pages for information about other events

WIDWORTHY FETE

SAT 8th JUNE ~ 1pm - 4pm

HOUSE TOURS - CLASSIC VEHICLES
BBQ - CREAM TEAS - BEER TENT
DOWNHILL SKIING - BOUNCY CASTLE
PLANTS - CAKES - TOMBOLA
TEDDY BEAR BUNGEE JUMPING
WELLY WANGING - PLATE SMASHING
AND MANY MORE FUN GAMES!

WIDWORTHY BARTON
WIDWORTHY, Nr HONITON EX14 9JS

OFFWELL FETE

Saturday 29th June 2024
1pm to 4.30pm

OFFWELL VILLAGE HALL

FUN FOR EVERYONE

WOULD YOU LIKE A STALL?
CAN YOU HELP ON THE DAY?

ALL PROCEEDS TO BE SHARED
BETWEEN THE VILLAGE HALL
CHARITY, ST MARY'S CHURCH,
OFFWELL PTFA AND THE VILLAGE
FUND

For more information contact: 01404 831050, 831066 or 831924

Cleave Farm, Wilmington



Cleave Farm is a small family farm located in Offwell Parish run by Nic and Rachel with their five year old little farmer Jack who is at Offwell School. As well as a small herd of 65 dairy cows we have two diversifications which may be of interest to readers of The Link.

Firstly, we can offer fully funded school visits to the farm for 5 to 18 year olds. We have had several local schools take this up already and some very enjoyable visits. It is an interactive and fun day out where the children can learn

about where their food comes from on a working farm. The older the children are the more involved we will get with the science behind what we are doing. Activities normally include: a milking demonstration, feeding calves and talking about their life cycle and digestive system, interacting with the piglets, digging for worms or looking at our soils and grassland and how this is the basis for our whole farming system. If you know a school that might be interested, please pass on our details or get in touch with us.



Secondly, we produce our own pork which is available to order by email or phone (see below). All our pigs are born and reared on the farm and unlike more intensive systems they are fed on a diet completely free from Soya which has devastating environmental impacts. All our meat is bespoke butchered, and therefore can be butchered to your exact requirements.

Phone: 07866 259995 (Rachel) Email: cleavefarmpork@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook: 'Cleave Farm Pork'

OPEN THE BOOK is an exciting interactive storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children. In February our team told the story of John the Baptist and of Jesus being baptized in the river Jordan.



The school children enjoyed participating as usual, especially when told of John's tasty lunch of crispy locusts. The response was a resounding Yuk!

In March we told the story of Jesus calling the disciples to leave their boats and follow him. The children joined in enthusiastically with the flipping, flapping and flopping of the fish.



Mothering Sunday

Carol Hayes



Like many traditions Mothering Sunday began with a religious purpose. Held on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday it was originally a day to honour and give thanks to the Virgin Mary, also known as Mother Mary.

The dictionary definition for 'mothering' is: *'the nurturing of a child by a mother or in the way that a mother does'*. At the Mothering Sunday service Revd. Jeremy was joined by Revd. Tracey Voysey and Revd. Jane Wilson. Many of you will remember Revd. Tracey's words in last August's Link where she described her four children as *"... a gift from God, who we nurtured into this world until they were ready to venture into their own worlds."* The sermon at the Mothering Sunday service was given by Revd. Jane Wilson and she talked about the biblical definition of mothering, quoting Isaiah 66:13: *"As a mother comforts a child so I will comfort you."* As God uses the metaphor of 'mothers' to describe the ways He loves and cares for His children, so can we nurture and care for others in a 'mothering' sense, whether or not we have children of our own.

This was heartening to hear as I have always felt rather excluded from Mother's Day celebrations, being childless, but the service was poignant in so many other ways. A close neighbour of mine, Suzanne Fry, had died that same morning; Revd. Jeremy remembered her in his prayers and older members of the congregation spoke lovingly about their memories of Suzanne. I was able to pass on this information to Suzanne's sons, and it was, I know, a great comfort to them to know that their mother was present and remembered in church on the day she died.

Mothering Sunday also coincided this year with the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women priests. Revd. Jane was one of them, alongside Bishop Jackie who, at the time, was eight months pregnant with her first child. Jane recounted her ordination in 1994, alongside 35 other Deacons, as they all stood to face the congregation. The Bishop asked the question: "Is it your will that these people are ordained?" to which there was a resounding "YES, IT IS OUR WILL!"

The most poignant moment occurred at the very start of the service when Revd. Jeremy informed the congregation that he will be leaving. This came as devastating news to us all, churchgoer and non-churchgoer alike. Jeremy's friendship has been a great joy, not only to me, but to so many others in the Benefice. It is always difficult to describe what it is about other people in your life that enable a caring relationship in the 'mothering' sense. You can use words like kindness, caring, nurture, compassion, honesty, trust, respect; you just know it when you experience it. We are all richer for knowing you Jeremy, so thank you.

FARWAY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL - PENTECOST

As a school we have been looking at the story of the early church focussing on the gift of the Holy Spirit. We have all read Acts 2 together, thinking about how we can go out and be the church, giving gifts and serving others. We held a special worship to celebrate this birthday and as with any birthday, we ate cake, what a wonderful Pentecost party it was! Also, we have been thanking God for all the gifts he gives us and how we can serve our community, just like the church does. The children decided that they will donate to local food banks, smile, and pick up litter if they see it.



Our theme for the term has been *forgiveness* so the children have been using the Lord's Prayer as a stimulus for this and delving deep into the lines, 'And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us' thinking carefully what this means and how we can forgive.

OFFWELL CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL - THE ETHOS GROUP

Offwell School's Ethos Group is a group of children, staff, governor and parent representatives who work to enhance the Christian Distinctiveness of the school and its commitment to put faith and spiritual development at the heart of the curriculum.

At a recent Group meeting the children discussed developing Reflection and Prayer spaces in each classroom, to give fellow students a place where they could focus and think quietly. This has now been put in place. Mr. Thomas (teacher) and Mrs. Joy (parent) recently visited each class to talk to the children about how these spaces are used.

Ash class chose decorated stars for their 'Prayer Space' to learn that '*Christians believe that we are all special to God because he knows each and every one of us*'. The children chose stars because '*God lives in the sky*'. **Willow** has a prayer tree created from bamboo with reflections on the theme of friendship. **Beech** has a kindness jar. This includes the names of children who have shown kindness. There is also a small prayer book which includes a prayer written by one of the children.

In **Oak** a new space has been set up which includes a number of bible-based books, flowers and fairy lights. There is also a prayer book for the children to write in and share their own reflections and prayers.

Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Joy found that for some of the children the idea of prayer is daunting but that it doesn't have to be. It remains important that prayer is invitational and children have opportunities to reflect.



(NB. For more information and photos of the Prayer/ Reflection Spaces go to: www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk Newsletter for 15th March 2024)