

# THE LINK

## THE BENEFICE OF OFFWELL, FARWAY & WIDWORTHY

### FEBRUARY & MARCH 2022

I have lost count of the number of people who have said to me in recent months that the last two years seem to have disappeared as if they are blanks in the memory. A feeling occasioned perhaps by a sense that nothing seems to have happened while dramatic and life changing events have taken place, like people who have been in accidents resulting in amnesia regarding the accident and the events leading up to it. A sudden disruption of the routines of life, accompanied by a dramatic fear of the unknown, that leads to profound psychological challenge, even trauma.

Many people have succumbed to a fear that has left them socially isolated and alone. A fear that became pervasive, spread daily by a sensation seeking media, a fear that damages communities and individuals.

For many ordinary Christians the closure of the churches to Parishoners in need of support and succour in dark times was unprecedented in our history - even during the Black Death the churches did not close – and a profound mistake and lost opportunity to fulfil the Christian mission.

Many people felt abandoned and mystified by the decision to close the churches when in past times of war and national emergency the uplifting role of the churches in sustaining national life was recognised to be more important than ever. It was certainly not the decision of the churches of our Benefice to close and we reopened as soon as legally permitted. Lessons need to be learnt from this episode.

Jesus enjoined His followers to go on meeting together despite ferocious persecution, knowing well that people, while individuals, are also social creatures and need company to remain positive and balanced. Deliberate isolation is rightly viewed as a very powerful punishment in the penal system, and it makes people prey to fear.

The saying goes that 'love casts out fear' and Christians need not fear death if they have faith in Christ's promise of redemption. So, as we try to recover some degree of normality in 2022, let us cast aside our fears as Christ urged us to do (Matthew 6.26), rediscover the vital role of our beautiful churches at the centre of our villages, and live in amity together as we re-establish normal life in our communities.

*Jonathan Paveley*

# FEBRUARY

	<b>St. Mary's ~ OFFWELL</b>	<b>St. Michael &amp; All Angels ~ FARWAY</b>	<b>St. Cuthbert's ~ WIDWORTHY</b>
<b>Feb 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service
<b>Feb 13<sup>th</sup></b>			9:30am Family Service
<b>Feb 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10:15am Family Service	11:15am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion
<b>Feb 27<sup>th</sup></b>			9:30am Family Service

## BIBLE READINGS

<b>Feb 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	Psalms 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
<b>Feb 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalms 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
<b>Feb 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalms 37: 1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
<b>Feb 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Isaiah 55:10-13	Psalms 92: 1-4, 12-15	1 Corinthians 15:51-58	Luke 6:39-49



Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare of the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;

He is my God, and I am trusting in him

*Psalms 91, verses 1 & 2  
New Living Translation*

## FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

### February

- 6<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Mr. Chris Mann  
 13<sup>th</sup> 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.  
 20<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Mrs. Gill Harvey  
 27<sup>th</sup> 3pm Conducted by Mr. Gordon Howe

### March

- 9<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Mrs Elizabeth Lynn  
 13<sup>th</sup> 11am Local Arrangements  
 20<sup>th</sup> 11am Conducted by Revd. Julian Albrow  
 27<sup>th</sup> 3pm Conducted by Revd. Ben Haslam H.C.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** 11am Conducted by Mr D. Bradford



# MARCH

	<b>St. Mary's ~ OFFWELL</b>	<b>St. Michael &amp; All Angels ~ FARWAY</b>	<b>St. Cuthbert's ~ WIDWORTHY</b>
<b>Mar 6<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> in Lent</b>	9:30am Holy Communion		<b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lent</b>			9:30am Family Service
<b>Mar 20<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lent</b>			9:30am Holy Communion
<b>Mar 27<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday</b>	11:15am Mothering Sunday Service	11:15am Mothering Sunday Service	9:30am Family Service
<b>Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent</b>	9:30am Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service

Please note: the morning service at Widworthy will be at the later time of **11am** on 6<sup>th</sup> March, when Professor Nigel Biggar of Oxford University will be preaching.

## BIBLE READINGS

<b>Mar 6<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> in Lent</b>	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
<b>Mar 13<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lent</b>	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17 - 4:1	Luke 13:31-35
<b>Mar 20<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lent</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
<b>Mar 27<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday</b>	Exodus 2:1-10	Psalm 34:11-20	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	Luke 2:33-35
<b>Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent</b>	Isiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8

### BENEFACT CHURCHWARDENS

#### FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372

#### OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450

Marion Hutchinson 01404 830055

#### WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688

Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

### Websites:

[www.farwaydevon.org.uk](http://www.farwaydevon.org.uk)

[www.offwell.org](http://www.offwell.org)

[www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.widworthyparishcouncil.co.uk)

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

[www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)

# 2022 DIARY DATES

<b>Feb. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL	LADIES LUNCH CLUB (2 <sup>nd</sup> in month)
<b>Feb. Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	QUIZ NIGHT
<b>Feb. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)
<b>March, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	WIDWORTHY	Morning Service at <b>11am</b>
<b>March, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL	LADIES LUNCH CLUB (2 <sup>nd</sup> in month)
<b>March, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)
<b>Mar. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>		MOTHERING SUNDAY
<b>April, Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>		GOOD FRIDAY
<b>April, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>		EASTER DAY
<b>April, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	ST MARY'S	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
<b>June, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL	JUBILEE STREET PARTY
<b>July Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	CREAM TEA 3pm
<b>Sept. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW
<b>Sept. Friday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	HARVEST SUPPER
<b>Nov. Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL VH	QUIZ NIGHT

## Benefice Coffee Morning

for all our Parishes

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

From 10:30am to 12 noon  
At Offwell, Social Club Room



*This is for everyone.  
Whether you go to  
church or not you will be  
made very welcome. You*

*just have to enjoy  
coffee, home made  
cake and a chat!*



## QUIZ NIGHT

*Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February*

6:30pm for 7:00pm in

**OFFWELL VILLAGE HALL**

**£6 per head**

*Ploughman's Supper,  
Bar open*

Please phone to book:

Phyllis: 831520

Marion 830055

Jonathan 831450

Proceeds to St. Mary's Church