



# THE LINK

## THE OFFWELL MISSION COMMUNITY

St Cuthbert's, Widworthy | St Mary's, Offwell

St Michael and All Angels, Farway

### JANUARY 2023

The moment I realised that Offwell, Widworthy and Farway had very little light pollution was early September. I have a telescope which I'd not been able to use for seven years due to the flood lit night sky above Truro. There is nothing better than looking up on a clear night and seeing the stars and planets stretched out in front of you. I was thrilled when I managed to fix my telescope on Jupiter, to see its swirly red eye with its orbiting moons. Absolutely fantastic.

Devon is one of the ancient homes of the Celtic Christian practice. In this tradition there are two books, the Big Book and the Small Book. The Big Book refers to the universe, to creation, to everything that has been spoken into being by God. In this ancient tradition the universe is like a sacred vibration, a living text that we can learn to read by being attentive to the voice of God.

The Small Book is the book of Scripture, the Bible, in which we listen for God speaking to us through the sacred witness and words of God's people. As we learn to read the Bible, we come to learn how God works through people like you and me. We learn of God's wisdom revealed through life, and we learn the way in which God speaks to the human heart and into human history.

If we listen only to the Small Book and ignore the Big Book, we may miss the vast utterance of God in all things. If we listen only to the Big Book and ignore the Small Book, we may miss the intimacy of His voice, and God speaking in the secret places of the human heart.

This month the Church marks the Epiphany, when the Magi pursued the signs in the night sky and took note of scripture in their preparations.

Navigating life can be difficult at times, and you may be thinking of starting a New Year's resolution as many do. If the Epiphany tells us one thing, it must be that we are richly rewarded whenever we make time to be attentive to God in whatever we do. Being a Christian in the outdoors helps remind us that the church is not a place, but a people. It helps remind us that when we leave the church building on a Sunday, church doesn't end, it's just beginning. It also reminds Christians that the God they witness in creation is exactly the same God they experience when they gather on a Sunday.

Wherever you are and whatever you do I hope you find God, his peace and his blessing.  
*Reverend Jeremy Putnam*

# JANUARY 2023 SERVICES

	<b>St. Mary's ~ OFFWELL</b>	<b>St. Michael &amp; All Angels ~ FARWAY</b>	<b>St. Cuthbert's ~ WIDWORTHY</b>
<b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b> Christmas 1	<b>10:30am Benefice Communion @ St. Mary's</b>		
<b>Jan. 8<sup>th</sup></b> Epiphany	<b>4pm</b> BCP Evensong	11:15am Family Communion	9:30am Family Communion
<b>Jan. 15<sup>th</sup></b> Epiphany 2	10:30am Family Service		9:30am Family Service
<b>Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Epiphany 3	9:30am BPC Holy Communion		9:30am Family Service
<b>Jan. 29<sup>th</sup></b> Epiphany 4	<b>10:30am Benefice Communion @ St. Michael &amp; All Angels followed by bring and share meal – see facing page</b>		



## BIBLE READINGS

<b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Numbers 6.22–27	Galatians 4.4–7	Luke 2.15–21
<b>Jan. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Isaiah 60.1–6	Ephesians 3.1–12	Matthew 2.1–12
<b>Jan. 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Isaiah 49.1-7	1 Corinthians 1.1-9	John 1.29-42
<b>Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Isaiah 9.1-4	1 Corinthians 1.10-18	Matthew 4.12-23
<b>Jan. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Malachi 3.1-5	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40

## FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

### January

1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Conducted by Mrs Margaret Cole
8 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Conducted by Prof Stephen Lea
15 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Conducted by Dr Sue Jones
22 <sup>nd</sup>	3pm	Conducted by Revd Ben Haslam. Covenant Service
29 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Conducted by Mr Gordon Howe





## Epiphany Services

The festival of Epiphany, on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**, will be held in all three parishes in different ways. In both St Cuthbert's and St Michael and All Angels we will be holding a Family Communion service to mark this major festival. Please do join us for this special occasion in which retell the story of Magi travelling to see the new King in Bethlehem. Both services include a fun talk centred on the real gifts of the Magi, this is for young and young at heart.

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## SURVEY

In the month of January we will be asking members of three communities for ideas and feedback about the life of the church and our villages to help inform our mission planning. The more we hear from you the better we'll be able to plan and shape our church life. All are welcome to attend the service and meeting, and all are welcome to contribute to the survey. The survey is available to complete online and on paper, and available on our Facebook page and [offwell.org](http://offwell.org) We'd love to hear from community groups as well as individuals.



The **Benefice Service** on the **29<sup>th</sup> January at Farway** is followed by a bring and share meal. Revd. Jeremy will give a presentation on a mission plan for the churches for 2023/24, followed by a discussion around some of the ideas. The emphasis is on discussion, the plan is to be fashioned by the feedback and comments at the meeting.

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## OUR VILLAGE SCHOOLS

### Offwell Primary School welcomes new teacher

Mrs Helen Sutton has been volunteering and working in school over the last term. She now joins the school as teacher in Ash each Friday, as well as providing both PPA and Special Needs support on a Tuesday. The quality of applicants for the position was high, and as a result the school is obviously delighted to have Mrs Sutton join the school team. We wish Mrs Sutton all the best for her new role.

## SPRING TERM DATES

### Farway C of E Primary School

Non-Pupil Day: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Pupils start: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Half term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Last day of term: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Offwell C of E Primary School

Non-Pupil Day: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Spring Term 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Half Term – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

# JANUARY 2023 DIARY DATES

<b>Every Friday</b>	FARWAY VH	Winter Skittles Matches 7:30pm
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL	LADIES LUNCH CLUB (2 <sup>nd</sup> in month)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL SC	BENEFICE COFFEE MORNING (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	OFFWELL GOLF CLUB	MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Offwell Ladies Lunch Club** - contact Marion for more details

**01404 831066** or [tuckers@offwell.com](mailto:tuckers@offwell.com)

**Offwell Men's Breakfast** Friends and neighbours are welcome at Offwell Golf Club; arrive 9:30am for 10am.  
**Contact 01404 831924 for more details**



Find us on Facebook



**The Offwell Mission Community**



**Offwell Sports And Social Club** (public group)



**Offwell Together** (private group)

## Websites:

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

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

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

[www.farway.devon.sch.uk](http://www.farway.devon.sch.uk)

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

[www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)

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

## Benefice Coffee Morning

for all our Parishes

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

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!*



**Revd Jeremy Putnam**

**Phone: 01404 83911**

**Email: [jeremyputnam@parish-church.com](mailto:jeremyputnam@parish-church.com)**

Typical Working Pattern

Mon - Wed (Exeter)

Thurs, Fri & Sun (Offwell, Widworthy & Farway)

\*Jeremy's position is a 'House for Duty' post for 2.5 days a week. During the rest of the week he is employed by Exeter Diocese as the Diocesan Giving Advisor.

## BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS

### FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372

### OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450

David Pavey 01404 43029

### WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688

Mary Wakeley 01404 831345