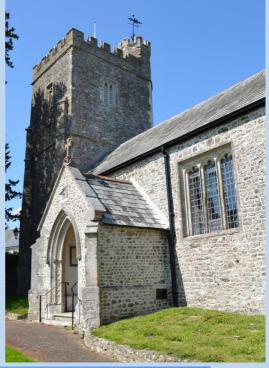
THE LINK

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020







THE BENEFICE OF FARWAY, OFFWELL & WIDWORTHY

SERVICES for FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020

SERVICE ROTA	OFFWELL	FARWAY	WIDWORTHY			
Feb 2 nd	9:30am HC	AT NORTHLEIGH 11:15am	9:30am Family Service			
Feb 9 th	AT COTLEIGH 9:30am HC	11:15am HC	9:30am Family Service			
Feb 16 th	6:00pm Evening Prayer	11:15am HC	9:30am HC			
Feb 23 rd	9:45am All age service	11:15am HC	9:30am Family Service			
Mar 1st - 1st in Lent	9:30am HC	AT NORTHLEIGH 11:15am	9:30am Family Service			
Mar 8 th - 2 nd in Lent	AT COTLEIGH 9:30am HC	11:15am HC	9:30am Family Service			
Mar 15 th - 3 rd in Lent	6:00pm Evening Prayer	11:15am HC	9:30am HC			
Mar 22 nd - 4 th in Lent Mothering Sunday	9:45am Mothering Sunday Service	11:15am HC	9:30am Mothering Sunday Service			
Mar 29 th - 5 th in Lent	SONGS OF PRAISE 6	:00pm at Widworthy	- All welcome			
April 5th - Palm Sunday	9:30am HC	AT NORTHLEIGH 11:15am	9:30am Family Service			



BIBLE READINGS for FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020

Feb 2 nd	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Feb 9 th	Isaiah 58: 1-9a, (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Feb 16 th	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Feb 23 rd	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Mar 1st	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Mar 8 th	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
Mar 15 th	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Mar 22 nd	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Mar 29 th	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
April 5 th	Matthew 21:1-11	Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66

BENEFICE NEWS

A short while ago we were walking in a local garden and were surprised at the number of different flowers which were already in bloom. There were cyclamen, snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and many others including hellebores which are sometimes called the Lenten rose as they often flower during the time of Lent.

Lent is the 40 days before Easter starting on Ash Wednesday which this year is on February 26th. Traditionally this is the time for giving up something we enjoy, in order to remember that Christ went without during his time in the wilderness. You may choose to forego chocolate, cake or alcohol but why not make it the time when you do something extra as well. The Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020 is "Care for God's Creation". Each year a booklet is published with a Bible reading, a short reflection and an action, for each day of Lent. This year's topic is particularly relevant at this time of climate change. With weekly themes and prayers shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect all that God has created.

As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what God has made and to share in the joy and creativity of God who sees his creation and names it good.

As Archbishop Justin Welby puts it "At this time of year we are all called to listen and respond to God's calling each one of us in humility and repentance, so that Christ's death and resurrection at the end of Lent can bring the renewal, response and reconciliation that we so long for".

When we see the vast bush fires raging in Australia and devastation caused by floods and storms around the world, it can be hard to imagine how we can make a difference in our quiet part of Devon but every small action we take can add up to make a difference. Long may we be able to enjoy the beautiful spring flowers which give us so much pleasure.

BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372 Robin Banks 01404 871355

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley01404 831450Marion Hutchinson01404 830055

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688 Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

Village Websites

Farway www.farwaydevon.org.uk

Offwell www.offwell.org

Widworthy www.widworthyparish.co.uk

Benefice Coffee Morning

for all our Parishes

Thursday 20th February Thursday 19th March

(3rd Thursday of every month)

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.



The Parishes LINK is the magazine of the three Parishes of FARWAY, OFFWELL and WIDWORTHY. Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the Community. Submissions, BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format, to the editor at **parisheslink@gmail.com** The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality.

OFFWELL



Quiz Night - Friday 28th February

in the Village Hall, 6:30 for 7:00pm
There will be a Ploughman's Supper,
Bar and Raffle Tickets £5 each
To book contact either Phyllis 831520,
Marion 830055 or Jonathon 831450
Don't worry about not having a team, we can join you up with others. The quizzes are quite light hearted and enjoyable, you don't have to be a Mastermind, so please come and support this event.
All proceeds to the church

CHRISTMAS AT OFFWELL 2019

We welcomed Janine Stedman of TRIP Befriending to the December coffee morning. She encouraged Pam and Dinah to become volunteers.





Do pop into the church and pick up a new Lent booklet, free of charge, from 23rd
February. The church is open every day between 10am and 4pm for you to visit our beautiful old building and for quiet contemplation.

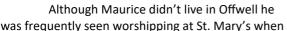
The Mothering Sunday service is on 22nd March at 9:45am

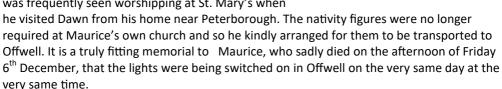
Everyone is welcome

There will be posies for the children to give to the mums (and to the ladies who are not mums). The children especially, always enjoy this service and there will be something for them to make.

Now the New Year has finally begun
It's time to think of some gardening fun
Or craft or jam or a flower display
Get your calendars ready, we've named the day
So don't forget, make a note for yourself
The Flower Show is September the twelfth

This Christmas we had a wonderful new Nativity Scene at St. Mary's, thanks to the generosity and workmanship of Mike Mulrain and Clive Whithear who built the stable, and Maurice Annison, father of Dawn Mulrain, who donated the nativity figures. Lynnette and Ken Perritt kindly purchased the donkey and the church wardens provided the lamb. Jonathan and Sam Paveley bought all the new Christmas lights.





This year we also have lights adorning the church interior (thanks to Jonathan and Sam) and brave souls (Mike, Dawn and Clive) climbed the tower to erect the star. It's not too late if you would like to help sponsor the new Christmas lights. Please leave your donation in the box on the wall by the door.

Offwell C of E Primary School

Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness. admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Tel: 01404 831417

We are all back at school for the Spring Term and fully immersed in our learning. Classes change their themes for learning at least once a term, and usually each half term. This enables us to plan for specific learning in each subject, making coherent, meaningful links where helpful.

Ash Class are looking at Transport and are using a book called 'The Train Ride' to learn



how to sequence stories and work on their memories to order events. They have set up a train station in the class and are busy selling tickets and reading timetables. Taking advantage of a lull in the rain, the class took a 'train ride' around the school this week, stopping at different stations along the way.

Willow Class is studying Kenya as a comparison to the United Kingdom. As part of that they will look at the geography and people, with a particular interest in the area where Ashley and Oscar live (children we are supporting through school). Yesterday, the children had to imagine how they would reach Kenya so they decided they would fly and they learned about passports and



boarding passes. They also followed their route on a map.

Beech Class are investigating Mountains and Rivers. They will locate mountains and rivers, learn how mountains are formed and follow the journey a river makes from its source to the sea. The children will also find out about the challenges people face climbing some of the world's highest and most famous peaks. In computing, the class will look at effective search techniques and study how the World Wide Web finds and presents information.



Oak Class are looking at the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons and the resistance of Alfred the Great and Athelstan to the invasions. Linked with this they are studying Beowulf in English: they have acted out interviews based on the slaughter of the people by Grendel the monster; prepared a job description for a warrior to defeat the monster and are looking at questioning skills (open questions) to identify the best candidate. Language is at the root of all learning, so the children are encouraged to seek out the

most appropriate vocabulary for the circumstances – Grendel should not be described as 'fluffy' and King Hrothgar needs to be more than 'disappointed' about the carnage.

All of this, plus Maths, Science, Music, Art, P.E., PSHE, R.E and French! Offwell School is, as usual, busy, productive and enjoyable; providing the stimulating and inspiring environment that enables our children to Be Well; Learn Well and Live Well.

FARWAY



FRIDAY NIGHTS in FEBRUARY & MARCH

Winter League Skittles Matches continue every Friday night in the Village Hall.

The bar will be open from 7:30pm and you are most welcome to join us for a drink and chat.

The Skittles Fixtures List can be found on the Farway Village Website

<u>farwaydevon.org.uk</u> – look on the Village Hall page in the Skittles dropdown box.



Farway welcomed in the New Year in style with a 1920's themed fancy-dress party in the Village Hall organised by Sue, Alice & Katy Burnell. The event was a "roaring" success and was well supported by the village.

FARWAY PCC MEETING

February 18th at 7:30pm

at "Devenish Pitt" by kind invitation of Robin and Marion

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FARWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Services for FFBRUARY

2nd 3:00pm Conducted by Revd. Brian Hadfield

9th 11:00am Conducted by Revd. Andrew Sails. Sacrament (HC)

6th 3:00pm Conducted by Revd. Steve Santry

23rd 11:00am Conducted by Miss Mary Hext

Services for MARCH

1st 11:00am 8th 3:00pm 15th0 11:00am 22nd 3:00pm 29th No Service



Please send your contributions for the **April/May** Link magazine as soon as you have them, by **15**th **March at the latest**. Email:

parisheslink@gmail.com
Please note - Late

submissions may not be included.

ST CUTHBERT'S WIDWORTHY



SERVICES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

Sunday, February 2nd is the festival of *Candlemas* commemorating the purification of Mary after giving birth according to the Jewish custom, and the presentation of Jesus in the temple, and the service **at 9:30am** will be taken by the Rt Revd Oliver Simon.

The Revd. Nigel Freathy will take our Parish Service on Sunday, February 9th at 9:30am

Bishop Oliver will be with us again to will celebrate Holy Communion on **Sunday, February** 16th at 9:30am

The fourth Sunday Parish Service on **February 23rd at 9:30am** will be taken by The Revd Nigel Freathy and we hope you will be able to join us after the service for **tea or coffee, biscuits and a chat!**

February 26th is **Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of Lent when during the 40 days leading up to Easter, we enter a period of prayer, fasting and repentance, culminating in the death of Jesus on Good Friday and the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Sunday. From Ash Wednesday until Easter, the church is stripped of flowers and the altar hangings are purple, the liturgical colour of penitence and preparation.

One bright spot in Lent is **Mothering Sunday** which is March 22nd, **at 9:30am** during which we remember and give thanks for all that our mothers do and have done for us. During the service, the children present are invited to come to the altar to collect posies of spring flowers to give to their mothers.

On **March 1**st at 9:30 there will be a Family Service. On Sunday, **March 8**th at 9:30am there is another family service and it will be taken by The Revd Nigel Freathy.

Bishop Oliver will take our service of Holy Communion on March 15th at 9:30am

The Revd Nigel Freathy will take the **Mothering Sunday service** on **March 22**nd at **9:30am** after which there is **coffee and biscuits and a time for everyone to enjoy a chat**.

As there is a 5th Sunday in March, we will play host to the **Benefice for a Songs of Praise at 6:00pm on March 29th** which will be taken by The Revd Nigel Freathy. There will be **wine and canapes after the service**.

A reminder that Wilmington Village Hall is available for hire

- free for Wilmington residents and only £10 minimum charge for others for 2hrs.

Radiant heaters on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The hall has a spacious parquet floored hall (easily seats 50) with attractive timber beamed vaulted ceiling, a large meeting room and kitchen (microwave, kettle, refrigerator), folding tables, ample seating, crockery.

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Crumbling Churches - Is Holiness, Beauty and Devotion Enough?

The role of the PCC and churchwardens in particular, is a particularly onerous one. As the senior lay representatives of the parish churchwardens are responsible for management, maintenance and mission. And with regard to 'mission' the churchwarden must: "...use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote peace and unity among them."

More concerning for the PCC are the Parish finances. In an age of dwindling congregations, they must take ultimate responsibility for the care and maintenance of all church buildings and their contents.

In the 19th century Offwell was fortunate to have the wealthy Copleston family as incumbents. During the Copleston era St. Mary's benefitted from continuous church improvements and in 1898 heating was installed for the first time.

It was a very different story in other parts of the country. When Bishop Edward Copleston became Bishop of Llandaff, one of the poorest sees in Great Britain, he writes about the churches being:

"...in a frightful state of decay — that it is positively unsafe — that any day the roof might fall and bury the congregation."

"... Certain things need to be done such as flooring to the Church, where there is none, casements to the windows, plastering to the walls and to make what use (you can) of my authority in forbidding the practice of burying in the church – certainly of burying without a vault or a floor-stone.... They seem to have no idea in this country of the duty of clearing the earth from the walls of the Church. Some people observe to me when I speak of it 'there are graves there' – which is perfectly true – but they ought to sink these graves, with their contents, carefully and decently to a proper depth – and make and drain the whole way round the Church, close to the wall."

When this was written, in 1828, Bishop Copleston was building Offwell House and the roof on the south aisle at St. Mary's had been renewed 13 years previously. Edward Copleston also sponsored the construction of many new parsonages and schools in his South Wales diocese.

Today, we no longer have wealthy incumbents to pay for church repairs and the latest Church of England data shows that church attendances have fallen steadily across Britain over the last decade, to just 1.18 million regular churchgoers in 2018. At All Saints' Church in Graveney, Kent, with a population of 490, seven parishioners are bearing the responsibility for keeping an almost 1,000 year old village church open by raising donations out of their own pockets. The church hosts weddings, funerals, baptisms, christenings and all manner of non-Christian events, such as helping rough sleepers and raising money for charity. Nevertheless, just to keep the building open and pay the vicar, parishioners are donating £40 a week from their own pockets.

In 2010 Offwell produced its ten year Parish Plan. At that time 8% of respondents felt that the Church was not important to them while 67% acknowledged its value as an historic building. 54% wanted the Church to remain open for weddings, baptisms and funerals. 48% felt the Church was important as the centre of the community while only 26% mentioned Sunday worship.

St. Mary's has been at the heart of village life for hundreds of years and in 2020 there needs to be another conversation about how we can ensure that it remains an important part of our community well into the future.

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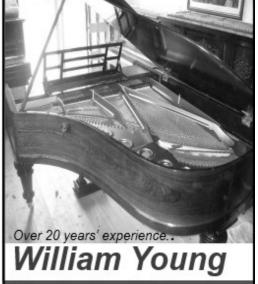
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Local References available

For a professional and reliable service contact:-

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