



Sunshine through the Spire, by Jim Miller

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Malcolm's Musings

APRIL 2024

- 3 Wed 10am Holy Communion.
- 7 Sun EASTER 2 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 11am Holy Communion; 6pm Memorial Service for the recently departed.
- Mon 10am All Saints Committee (CL) 2pm Coffee Lounge Communion;
 7pm Standing Committee.
- **9 Tues** 9.45am Little Fishes in Church.
- 10 Wed 10am Holy Communion.
- 14 Sun EASTER 3 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Morning Service; 11.15am Baptism; 1pm Baptism; 4.30pm Cafe Church.
- 15 Mon 3pm Fry Court Service.
- 16 Tues 9.45am Little Fishes in Church.
- 17 Wed 10am Holy Communion.
- 19 Fri 1.45pm Christ Church Visitors.
- 21 Sun EASTER 4 (Foodbank Sunday) 8am Holy Communion;9.15am Parish Communion; 11am All Age Service.
- 23 Tues St George's Day 9.45am Little Fishes in Church.
- **24** Wed I0am Holy Communion in Church; 7.30pm PCC Meeting.
- **28 Sun EASTER 5** 8am Holy Communion; 9.15am Parish Communion; 4.30pm Cafe Church.
- **30 Tues** 9.45am Little Fishes

.Regular activities on back page

Items in Magenta all take place at St Oswald's Church at Newton.

Prayer For The Day

Every Weekday at 8.45am on Zoom & Facebook Live. Same link for Sundays too.

Daily Morning Worship ID: 895 1102 4740 Password: 450872

Why does the date for Easter move about so?

When's Easter in any given year? Easy - find the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20 or 21).

What? If it all sounds a bit confusing, well, here's the history behind it all....



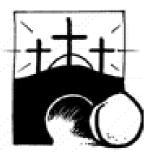
It all began with the ancient Hebrews. They based their calendars upon the rhythms of the moon. These lunar calendars worked well for them, and everything was fine.

Then Christianity arrived - in the Holy Land, where the first century Jews were still using the lunar calendar. Fine. But then Christianity moved on to Rome, which was using a different calendar - one based upon the sun. (The Gregorian calendar, which we use today, and which is in widest use throughout the world, is based on the Roman sun calendar.)

Now establishing certain days in the year became difficult. Especially Easter. The results were often confusin

g. Early church leaders, both Jewish and Roman, agreed that everything to do with the coming of Jesus Christ had been prepared, even the position of the sun, the moon and the stars. They could not agree, however, on how to fix the day for the yearly celebration of Easter.





It was not until the fourth century, with the help of astronomers who took into account the position of both and the sun in the relation to the earth, that a decision was finally made. At last it was accepted that Easter would always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20 or 21). That is why Easter falls anytime between 22 March and 25 April.

Paul

Would you have made the same choice?

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question. "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes, in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story: Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball.

Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?"

Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging. Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play.

The boy looked around for guidance and, getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield.

Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible 'cause Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and turned and threw the ball on a high arc to right field, far beyond the reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!"

Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!"

By the time Shay rounded first base, the right fielder had the ball.

He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases toward home. Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted. "Run to third!"

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

(Sent to Spire by Revd David Boase, forme vicar of Kirkby in Cleveland and who moved to the USA. Now retired. A good story is always worth repeating



Christ Church No Longer on The Web



To keep Christ Church looking clean and welcoming, in addition to the regular cleans we have a Big Spring Clean once a year to really get the cobwebs down.

Last year on the Friday evening for dusting the ledges only 5 people turned up including Irene who organised. I didn't get a photo as that would have made it four, and we were a little disappointed. "We will just do what we can do, "said Irene.

This year we hoped for more and things couldn't have been more different. This photo was taken around 5.30pm, and more people came after this, including 10 Scouts and their leaders. We reckon we had 35+ volunteers and we did far more than we planned, including some things usually left until Saturday.

Well done to Irene and all who turned up. It was a great atmosphere and by the time we had finished the only cobwebs to be found were inaccessible behind the organ.

On the Saturday the hoovering and polishing was done and everything returned to its place. Christ Church felt clean and cared for, and on the Sunday following we still didnt see any cobwebs we had missed.

Many thanks to all who came both days, and those who keep Christ Church lean throughout the year. If you would like to join the team, please see Irene Reah.

Lone Working Guidance



At Christ Church we are continuing to promote Safeguarding and the PCC have agreed to adopt the Diocese of York Lone Working Guidance. While we are undertaking low risk activities, it is still important to be mindful of our own safety. The Guidance is available of the Church Website on the Magazines, Rotas and Policies page. Many thanks for your support in working to keep everyone safe.

Mary Mason - Parish Safeguarding Officer



Christ Church Annual Meeting

We gathered on 20th March for our Annual Church Meeting. I am delighted to report that two Churchwardens were appointed. Helen Land stood again, and Rosemary Wheway returned to the role to replace Jonny Winterschladen who was not standing again. It's good that we have experienced hands as we approach a vacancy.

Celia Elliot and Margaret Lewis joined the PCC and Mary Mason continued for a second term.

Ken Taylor warned us that we do face financial challenges ahead as our income is reducing. We are losing more older members, and new giving is not making up the difference. Despite this, we continue to be a very generous Parish.

2003 had been a good year with much going on from Coronations to Curates inductions. We have a good team to take us through the vacancy when Paul leaves in readiness for the next stage of our journey.

You can read the annual report by clicking HERE.

SAINT OSWALD'S CHURCH ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 7th April 2024 at 12 noon Appoint our Churchwardens for 2024

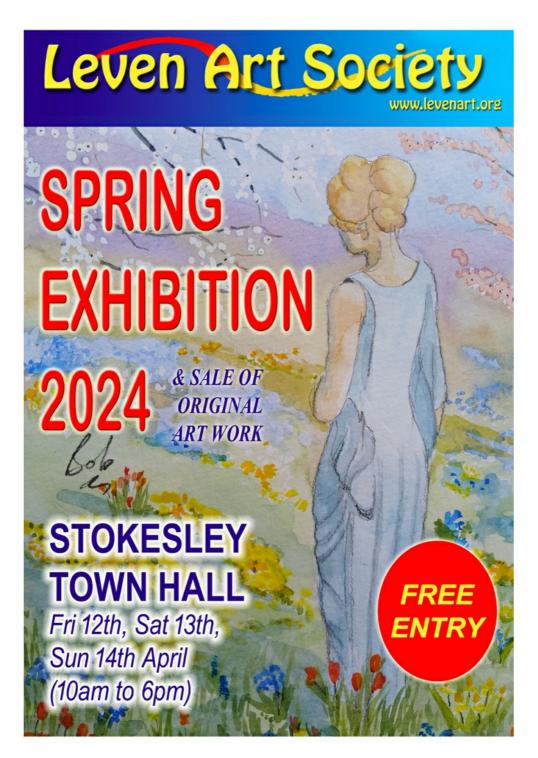
Elect Representatives to the Church Council

Adopt the Annual Report on Church Life

Receive the Church Accounts for 2023

Encourage and Enthuse

Annual Report for 2023 will soon be available for download on the Church website www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk



The Best Teacher

He never taught a lesson in a classroom. He never used an interactive white board. Not once did He use PowerPoint to make His case. He did not have internet access ... or a computer ... or even electricity. He was not trained by a university education department. He never gained qualified teacher status. He was never inspected by Ofsted. He never crossed the teacher pay threshold.



He never spent time photocopying and laminating resources, or putting up classroom displays. He never handed out gold stars, house points or certificates. He never wrote end of year reports. He never referred to the National Curriculum or followed QCA guidelines. He kept no records, gave no grades, and His only text was ancient and well-worn. His lessons were socially inclusive. He taught the economically deprived as well as the wealthy; He taught the physically disabled and the mentally ill as well as those healthy in body and mind. His teaching method was the same with all who came to hear and learn. He opened eyes with faith, He opened ears with simple truth, and He opened hearts with love ... a love born of forgiveness.

He challenged, inspired and healed those He taught. He changed individuals and transformed communities. Even so, He was never nominated for a Teacher of the Year Award or knighted for His services to education. And yet this quiet teacher from the hills of Galilee continues to feed the needs, fulfil the hopes, and change the lives of many millions around the world, for what He teaches brings heaven to earth and reveals God's heart to all peoples everywhere.

Two policemen (Constable Ken and Bob) call the station on the radio.

[&]quot;Hello. Is that the Sarge?"

[&]quot;Yes?"

[&]quot;We have a case here. A woman has shot her husband for stepping on the floor she had just mopped clean."

[&]quot;Have you arrested the woman?"

[&]quot;No sir. The floor is still wet."

Great Ayton Allotments

So far, in our fundraising, we have raised £30,000+ out of our target of £50,000!

Thank you to all of those who have attended our events, visited our stalls, made personal donations and supported our campaign!

The community-wide support we have is amazing! We even had Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visit our allotment site, in support, on Friday 15th March.



We have more fun fundraising events coming so add these dates to your diary:

- 30th March (I-3pm) drop in for Coffee and Cake with friends. Chat with us on this day at 3 Rosehill TS9 6BH
- Ist April (8am-4pm) pop along to our Car Boot Sale, in Stokesley 6th April (8am-4pm) we will be back on Great Ayton High Street with another stall! Visit us for cakes, produce and plants...
- 13th April (10am-12pm) join us at our Community Hub Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church Hall. We also have a Craft and Table Top Sale in the Village Hall. To book a table, email greataytonallotments@gmail.com
- 19th April (7pm-11.30pm) It's a Dance Down In The Barn! Come to our fundraising night at Fletchers Farm for dancing, raffles and a hog roast.

More information can be found at our Facebook Group Page

• 3rd May (7pm-11.30pm) - Come visit us at Great Ayton Working Men's club for a Community Gang Night!

Follow our Facebook Group - Great Ayton Allotments Email us for enquiries at greataytonallotments@gmail.com

Little Fishes



The last year has been a busy and exciting year for Little Fishes.

We are welcoming between 15 and 25 children and their families each week. We come together to share songs, a story and a craft with free play too. This year we have had lots of fabulous things happen. We had a visit from a hamster, chicks, a summer party, added poppies to the display outside and a visit from Santa.

Our fantastic tea and coffee team has grown to provide snacks and drinks for us all. We have also welcomed some new volunteers to the story rota, a much appreciated help.



Our link with Marwood has grown. This year we have welcomed the children and staff to share various events. My personal favourite was Mrs Anderson and the chicks at Easter. We have advertised the Marwood preschool forest school sessions which I have attended with several families from Little Fishes. I have also started to attend the Methodist Church playgroup and we look forward to working together.



On a practical note we gained an extra store cupboard to help with ensuring we have plenty of toys for the children. Is it full already with lots of donations of brilliant toys and we are all enjoying the choice of resources.

I include some photos of some of the fantastic fun we have had, including the arrival of Scruffy one of our volunteer's puppets.

Rosie Lovell

Things my mother taught me

To appreciate a job well done: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside - I've just finished cleaning!"

'Religion: 'You'd better pray that will come out of the carpet."

Time travel: "If you don't tidy up that mess, I'm going to knock you the middle of next week!"

Logic "Because I said so, that's why."

Further logic: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me..

Foresight "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident"

Irony: "Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

Osmosis: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper!"

Contortionism: "Will you look' at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

Stamina: You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished."

Weather "It looks as if a tornado has swept through your room

Physics problems: "If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you, would you listen then?"

Hypocrisy: "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times - don't exaggerate!"

Behaviour modification: "Stop acting like your father!"

Envy: 'There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!"

Anticipation: "Just wait until we get home."

Receiving: You are going to get it when we get home!"

Medical science: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."

Think ahead: "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job."

Humour "When that lawnmower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

Become an adult: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

Sex: "How do you think you got here?"

Genetics: You're just like your father."

Roots: "Do you think you were born in a barn?"

Wisdom of age: "When you get to be my age, you will understand."

Justice: "One day you'll have kids... and I hope they turn out just like you!"

38 Years Of Memorial Services



When I started as Vicar of Saint Martin's in Middlesbrough in 1985, the majority of funerals were taken by the clergy, and the lion's share came to the clergy of the Church of England being the National Church which was there for everyone. I used to do 40+ services a year there.

After my first year I realised that people need something afterwards. Life is so full at the time of bereavement with so many people to see and things to organise for the funeral, that our own grief can be put on the back burner. Eventually all the paperwork is done, and the folk and family who rallied round at the time can fade away as they get on with their lives. It's often then that grief and loss really hit us, so I started doing Memorial Services where all of the bereaved were invited back. It gave space for feelings, and gave me a chance to say some things which I have always hoped to be useful. We have remembered the people by name and by the lighting of a candle.

When I came to Christ Church we did 50+ funerals, so started doing 2 services a year at Easter and Remembrance Sunday. We have a good team with Jean Cumbor being a sidesman from the beginning, and Rosemary Wheway also taking part as our Pastoral Assistant. In 2010, when Michael and Barbara Rea opened up their Funeral firm in the village, I invited them along as well as I very much respect the professionalism and care they show in their work. I had known Michael from him working with Mr Bert Carter from Swainby, and he was an absolute gentleman and so caring. The staff at Reas Funeral Service, now with other branches, have continued with these standards.

The Memorial Services have always been well attended and appreciated by those who come. We have moved with the times and now as well as reading names out, we also have the photographs of the person on the big screen, and can now Zoom the service to relatives living away or unable to attend for other reasons.

It has been a great privilege to be part of this journey with folk, and I must confess to a feeling of impending loss knowing that I will be doing my penultimate service at Christ Church on Sunday 7th April, for I suspect they have given me as much as they have given others attending. I intend to do one last one in September before I retire.

I have always felt that Funerals can speak so loudly of the love of God for people in the support the Church can give at this time. We only have one standard for funerals at Christ Church for Church members and villagers alike, and that is to always give the best that we can give.



We have had some incredibly memorable services - several where the deceased have sung at their own funerals, lots where memories are brought to life with photo slideshows, we have had family members from abroad take part through Skype and then Zoom, Jazz Bands play, Choirs sing, a Rugby team singing "Delilah" around the coffin, lots and lots of different music - including bagpipes, and even a barn owl that flew down the Church to the son standing by the coffin.

We also started the tradition of everyone walking up behind the hearse to the cemetery, for when I arrived it was just me trying to keep up with Bill Harbottle, who could still march up Guisborough Road at a great pace despite his age.

Without doubt, this has been part of ministry that I have always felt privileged to

be part of. How we treat our dead says a great deal about us, and I hope here we have always sent them off in style as we have commended them to God. Thank you to all who have allowed me into your lives in this way.



Paul

Where do pets come from?

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you any more. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, I will create a companion for you that will be with you and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal "

And God said," I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, I will create for them a companion who will be with them and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility.

And they were greatly improved.

And God was pleased And Dog was happy.

And Cat wasn't bothered one way or the other.

Flower Guild 2023



This year we have decorated the church for all the major festivals, Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and we also decorated for the Coronation of King Charles.

Easter colours were white and yellow arrangements in baskets with eleven of these being sponsored.

For the coronation in the May we decorated the windows with crowns, and

circular arrangements with red, white and blue flowers to compliment with a small vase of spring flowers.

Harvest flowers for the windows were decorated with pumpkins, chrysanthemums all displayed within apple crates all using autumn shades.

For the Christmas season the bamboo trees came out again with the addition of new lights, sledges and small Christmas trees with a small candle within a glass vase which were lit for all the church. There were 18 sponsored flower arrangements.

This year we kept our theme very traditional with yellow blooms, red and green carnations, complimented by green foliage and berries.

At the end of November the memory tree was assembled, we had well over 100 memory card on the tree. All the donations from this went to the Herriot Hospice.

We would like to appeal for some more help with the decorating of the church, at any of the festivals, as our numbers are depleting and we are in need of some

volunteers.

We do hope that you have all enjoyed the floral decoration in the church as much as we have enjoyed doing them.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who has helped or donated, your support is greatly appreciated.

Marina Charlton



From the Registers

Funerals & Memorial Services

6 March Olive Hall
15 March Jean Robinson
21 March Doris Heward
23 March Margaret Wilson
27 March Mary Barron
28 March Sue Allan

Services in Magenta took place at Saint Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry.

CHURCH HALL 200 Club

MARCH 2024 Winners		
£20	25 Anne Stewart	
£20	12 Alison Lambert	
£20	29 Karen Hallam	
£10	94 Jean Cumbor	
£10	80 Sylvia Wadd	

If you would like to join the Church Hall 200 Club, and maybe become a lucky winner as well as helping raise funds for improvements and equipment, its only £24 a year.

This month 80 members of the 200 Club contributed £85 to the Hall Fund.

To Subscribe, contact either Julie Bourke juliebourke@hotmail.com or Karen Peverell & karen.peverell@btinternet.com

Parish website
Church Office e-mail
Diocese of York
Stokesley Deanery
A Church Near You

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk gapo1876@outlook.com www.dioceseofyork.org.uk www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk www.acny.org.uk

Malcolm's Musings

A couple and their daughter were taking a break in the country and on Sunday morning went to church. The church was minus flowers and organ music during Lent. The three-year-old, puzzled by the silence, asked her father: "Why isn't the organ playing Daddy?" Heads in the congregation turned. Father, embarrassed, whispered "Because it's Lent," upon which came the same voice asking: "Who to?"



The obituary on Sue Lowther-Pinkerton, who died recently at 99, was raised on the North West Frontier, served in the ATS during the war and later with M15. She was apparently something of a rebel in her childhood and on one occasion when the school photograph was being taken, she stood at one end of the back row. As the camera traversed from her end, during the long panoramic exposure, she decamped and ran around the rear rank and was photographed again at the other end. Only when the photograph was printed and framed was the anomaly discovered, and her father found himself presented with a bill for having the school photograph retaken.

A letter to a newspaper reported that a local hospital had a sign in the gents' loo which stated: "Female cleaners may operate in this toilet." The writer asked: "Is this another example of cost cutting in the NHS?"

A Devon hotel used to have a notice at the restaurant door "No mobile phones or vegetarians."

A teacher recalled that one day when she was taking a cookery class, a pupil said to her: "I likes making dough, Miss. It cleans your hands lovely." The teacher added: "I withheld this remark until members of staff had eaten all the scones offered by the girls."

Barristers' court expressions can have hidden meanings. For example, "As your Honour well knows" could be code for "Your Honour doesn't know. I know your Honour doesn't know - and your Honour knows that I know that your Honour doesn't know. So pay attention."

"The downward trend in the numbers of Anglicans in pews at Harrow churches appears to have bottomed out." Newspaper report.

Malcolm Race

Editor of Spire

Paul Peverell revpev@btinternet.com

If you would like a paper copy of Spire delivering to your door, please contact lean Goat on 01642 723274.

The Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry

Services

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday	, 8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)

9.15am Parish Communion Live on Zoom & Facebook.4.30pm Cafe Church (2nd & 4th Sundays of month)

Tuesday 9.45am Little Fishes Toddler Service (School Term time only)

Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer - every week

At Saint Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion on 1st & 5th Sundays of the month

All Age Service on 3rd Sunday of the month (No Service on 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

Contact the Vicar for Baptisms & Weddings

Baptisms, Banns and Weddings can be arranged by emailing the Vicar, Paul Peverell at revpev@btinternet.com

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Canon Paul Peverell	07871 854200
Curates	Rev'd Geoff Jaques	01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean	01642 722649
Licensed Lay	Dr Nick Land	01642 778076
Ministers (LLM)	Margaret Lewis	01642 722628
	Peter Titchmarsh	01642 724153
ALM - Pastoral	Rosemary Wheway	01642 722451
Organist	Andrew Blair	blair37@btinternet.com
Churchwardens	Dr Helen Land	01642 778076
	Jonathan Winterschladen	01642 723576
PCC Treasurer	Ken Taylor	01642 722400
Safeguarding	Mary Mason	01642 724316
Gift Aid Sec.	Ynez Clarke	01642 723181

Church Hall Office

For **Church Hall bookings**, please contact the Church Office Email: gapo1876@outlook.com Tel 01642 722 665 Secretary available on Monday, Thursday & Fridays 9am - 12 noon

(For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar)