



Ben Starts at Stokesley

On Wednesday 3rd March the Reverend Ben Gunter will be licensed as the new Priest of Stokesley and Seamer Parish.

He has moved from being Curate at Norton near Malton and this is his first Parish. Ben moves in together with his wife Jacqui and their young family, and I am sure Stokesley will give them a very warm welcome.

It has been a pleasure looking after Stokesley Parish this last year following the departure of Paul Hutchinson in January 2020. It has been a challenging time, but with the very keen and able Churchwardens we have enjoyed it. Ben inherits a good team and Stokesley has a fine new priest.

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk

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MARCH

Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays at 9.30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89511024740>

Meeting ID: 895 1102 4740

Password: 450872

Sunday Communion at 5pm

Live Service at Stokesley Church
on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
No Zoom/FB

Service for Saint Oswald's at

I Iam (1st & 3rd Sundays)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89376005713>

Meeting ID: 893 7600 5713

Password: 969354

Prayer for the Day Monday to

Saturday at 8.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84024175583>

Meeting ID: 840 2417 5583

Password: 974982

SERVICES IN CHURCH IN MARCH

Both Christ Church in Great Ayton and Saint Oswald's in Newton under Roseberry will be open for Worship in March.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 7 Sun | 9.30am Morning Worship at Christ Church: I Iam Holy Communion at Newton. |
| 14 Sun | 5pm Holy Communion at Christ Church |
| 21 Sun | 9.30am Morning Worship at Christ Church: I Iam Morning Worship at Newton. |
| 28 Sun | 5pm Holy Communion at Christ Church |

We are continuing to share worship with Stokesley Church for March, so when we don't have a Service at Great Ayton it will take place at Stokesley and on Sunday mornings the services will continue to be Zoomed and Live on Facebook. We will review patterns when Rev'd Ben Gunter settles in.

Please be assured from the Great Ayton side that we don't want to lose people who have become part of Church through Zoom and Facebook, so will be continuing with this when we eventually get back into Church as it has been such a blessing to many.

Looking Forward

This year has been one of great challenges, not just for us, but for everyone the world over as we have had to respond to new circumstances.



It has shown the determination and resilience in people, and more importantly we have rediscovered the old values of community and loving our neighbours. The simple pleasures in life of a walk in the countryside have been more appealing than time spent on the PC or TV as we realise how precious it is. If we haven't come out of the pandemic with a greater appreciation for our world and a greater desire to protect and care for it, then we have learnt nothing.

We have also learnt so many new skills with IT and where would we have been without Zoom, Facebook and similar this last year. Streamed Services are here to stay and can add tremendously to what we do, but they cannot replace the live event, for you can't have a quiet word on Zoom or hug anyone. We need both, and our live worship needs to be inclusive, inspiring and retain some of the intimacy and involvement that we have enjoyed on Zoom, but with the added dimension of reaching out to others.

Barriers have been broken down between Churches and communities. We have been greatly blessed with Prayer for the Day, Sunday Worship shared with Stokesley Church, and all the people from near and far that we have come together with. New friends have joined us from other Churches and none, and we have captured the vision of the task we share and the same Saviour we follow. When we return back to our buildings we must not forget the vision of unity given to us and slip back into old ways. As Martin Luther King said in his great speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, "I have a dream ... I have seen the promised land." We don't know what the future will bring, and it will be different, but with God with us it can also be a lot better.

We need to keep the vision with us of moving forward positively into the future, just carrying with us the real treasures from the past, but not the excessive packaging that we have acquired over the years. We need to travel lighter, for we won't be taking everything with us into the Promised Land, for Heaven is better equipped than here. And we need to keep the living stones of Christ Church in as good a condition as the stones of the Church building.

We have heard from the Diocese that we **MUST** change to carry on, for we cannot sustain the present model for much longer, so we all need to look to new ways of doing things. This needs to happen, both within our own Church and Diocese and

also with those in different Churches. The time is coming when Christians need more than ever before to get their act together and try and live that unity that Jesus spoke about. We need to see how we can journey together sharing our insights and gifts.

Vicars come and Vicars go - eventually - but God's work and the life of the Church goes on. The future will be challenging and exciting. Do you want the thrill of the ride, or are you just content to sit on the park bench and watch others having fun? I know where I want to be.

To gain new vision we need new people with new ideas and energy to step onto the Church Council. Most of the people now on the PCC were actually on it when I arrived, and frighteningly I am still one of the younger members! This is not so at Newton under Roseberry where I am in the older section.

Could God be calling you to be involved and help give new energy and direction?

We have several vacancies on the PCC and we

do need the younger generations who belong Christ Church to be better represented. Now is the hour. Can you serve, or do you know a younger person you could encourage and pray for? Start now!

Our Annual Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.30pm and is open to all, but only those on the Church Electoral Roll could vote if that were necessary.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Christ Church

Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom

Meeting ID: 874 3753 3788

Passcode: 450764

Let us walk into the future with confidence that God is there waiting for and with exciting things to share and new challenges to be entrusted with.

God bless,

Paul.

Volunteers Needed!



Whatever the Weather



February saw some of the thickest snowfall for many a year. This photo of Cross Lane (between Easby Lane and Little Ayton) was filled with dunes of snow, drifting from across the fields. I had attempted to walk along there at 6am, but after falling headlong in the snow and struggling to get up, I decided discretion the better part of valour and turned back. Seeing Raj Saha's photo from later in the morning I am glad I did. The road to Stokesley was one track only, and having got there for the Morning Service I had to come back another way as someone had got stuck in the snow and blocked the road. Amazingly a week later and it was a beautiful sunny day.

Jim Miller also watches the weather, and in particular takes wonderful photos of Christ Church Spire from his garden in all seasons. You can see these in the Church Hall once we re-open. He is also a cloud watcher. He took the picture below on a freezing day looking towards the Cleveland Hills. The thick Cirrus clouds known as Cirrus spissatus lowered on the horizon into a layer of Altostratus as a gentle mist hung in the calm air on the North York Moors below.



LENT 2021

This Lent we will be running the York Course, "Caring for Creation" every Monday in Lent on Zoom from 1.30pm - 3pm.

Meeting ID: 848 5992 8814

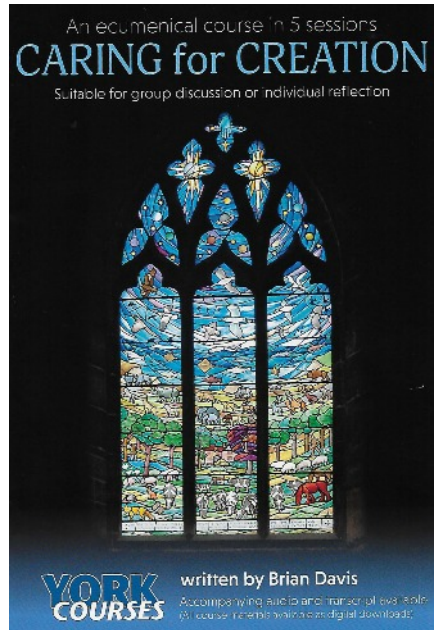
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After the recorded input, which is always excellent, we will go into groups in the Breakout Rooms to have a chat. We will all have something of value to say for the Lockdowns have made us appreciate the environment even more.

Topics to come

- The Age of Humans - The Anthropocene Era (*No, I haven't a clue what that is either.*)
- Coming out of Denial and Facing Crisis
- Faith, Hope and Love

There is an introductory booklet available from the Churches or from Jean Cumbor tel 01642 724899 or email anjecrumbo@btinternet.com

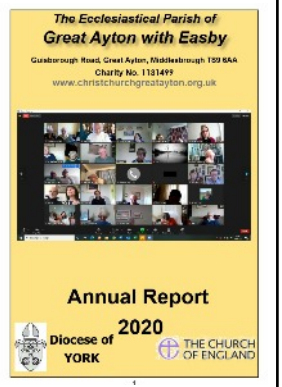


Annual Report 2020

My apologies for the lateness of the March Spire, but we have had a busy time with funerals and I also had to get the 2020 Annual Report ready.

If you want to see how I used my time with the latter, then click [HERE](#) to see a copy.

There are also a limited number of paper copies available in Church.



We're going GREEN!

For several years the PCC has been asked why we don't have a green electricity supply to the church. But the answer had always been...we'd like to but it's too expensive for commercial users! **Until now!!** As our present contract is nearing its renewal date, our energy broker, Simon Calgie has researched possible



suppliers again and came up with a very attractive 3-year fixed rate offer from a major supplier for 100% electricity from renewable sources! And it will cost the church little more than the best conventional tariff on the market!! So from 31 March the Church and hall will operate on only green electricity! We are also considering switching to green gas but we have not yet come up with an attractive offer - we will keep looking!

This is another step in our quest to become an Eco Church, promoted by the environmental charity A Rocha and supported by the Church of England. We hope that we will be able to take a further step later this year by switching to all LED lighting in the Church. We have already done this in the Church Hall.

And maybe we can all do something to improve our eco credentials? There are now many energy suppliers who offer competitive rates for green electricity. As one of our church members put it:

"I remember my Dad in the late 90s saying the UK could never produce enough green power to render coal-fired power stations obsolete....sheer weight of numbers has shifted the momentum and made it possible. If you join that weight of numbers, we're really not very far at all from achieving that seemingly impossible goal"

Ken Taylor

A New Face at Middlesbrough Foodbank

"Hello to everyone, I hope you are all well and keeping safe. My Name is Alan Jones and I would like to introduce myself as the new Project Manager of Middlesbrough Foodbank. I have lived in Middlesbrough my whole life, spending my early years in Linthorpe where my parents still live. I was married at Avenue Methodist church just over 20 years ago and have two children, both boys, Alex will soon be 15 and Owen is 18 in July.



I am now into my fifth week of working at Middlesbrough Foodbank and thinking back to my first few days I think I was most surprised by how generous people have been over the past few months and this was shown by the amount of donations waiting to be sorted and put away by the amazing volunteers at the Depot.

Over my first few weeks I was able to visit each of our Foodbanks and meet the teams of volunteers that are working tirelessly to keep the centres running. Each of the centres has had to adapt due to current restrictions but they are all still offering a friendly greeting and kind word to their clients.

Most recently I visited the Genesis project, in Grove Hill, and helped Kath Dean, Shaun and the team give out food parcels to local residents. The session started at 11am and sadly people started to queue from around 10am. Kath explained that many of her volunteers were people the project had helped in the past, they all work extremely hard and the session had a real community feel.

In my short time working at Foodbank I have witnessed the massive need in Middlesbrough but I have also seen the great generosity and spirit that lives in the people of town. This is shown not just in the donations we receive at Foodbank but through the people who run this and the many other projects that offer help in the town.

I look forward to working with you all in the future and am sure we will be able to make a real difference in the months and years ahead"

Alan Jones - Manager

Foodbank Collections on 3rd Sundays

Good News from The Genesis Project

For several years now Christ Church has enjoyed good links with The Genesis Project at Grove Hill in Middlesbrough and have supported their work with donations of items and money to help them. “Grace’s shed” is a valuable collecting point and they look forward to the regular deliveries from it.

From St Oswald’s Church Hall in Grove Hill they run a clothing and furniture bank as well as being the centre for many meals to be distributed. Before Lockdown they had a Friday luncheon club, but as mixing is prohibited they now hand our meals and groceries by the door to an ever increasing number of people.

The recently developed Community Garden also gives folk a safe space to meet and work together.

Revd Kath Dean is central to this work and has seen it grow from the children’s clubs they started with - and still do supported by BiG Kids - to all that is going on now. We were delighted to hear that her efforts had been noticed when she was invited to meet Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, together with other charities, to tell him of their work. If you would like to watch the Zoom call, just click [HERE](#)

We are delighted for Kath and her team who work so hard and do so much good. It is the Church in action. We are also pleased that Kath, Vanessa and Frank from St Oswald’s & St Chad’s Parish in Middlesbrough regularly join us and contribute to Prayer for the Day. Keep up the good work.



Good News from the Methodist Church

A recent story on Facebook caught my eye of the presentation of a large cheque to Teesside Hospice from our friends at the Methodist Church. They had set themselves the challenge last year to raise £7,000, being the sum needed to run the Hospice for just one day. In good Blue Peter fashion their totaliser shot well beyond this as they handed over a cheque for £12,366. Well done to all for a super effort.



Steve Smith handing over a very large cheque

Teesside Hospice does great work in our area caring for those who are terminally ill, helping them still live and enjoy their lives, as well as taking in people nearing the end of their lives giving them and their families much needed support.

Like many charities they have seen their donations reduce over this year, and their fund raising shops have also been closed, so this donation will be especially welcome.

If you would like to make a donation to support the great work they do, visit <https://www.teessidehospice.org/donate>

Prayer for the Day at 8.45am weekdays

As well as our regular contributors, in March we also welcome some visitors.

4th March Archdeacon Amanda

10th March +Paul, Bishop of Whitby

16th March +Stephen, Archbishop of York

Why not join us?

THINGS THAT SOLOMON COULD HAVE SAID

Fancy a few wise sayings to brighten your day? Then try these.

1. The nicest thing about the future is . . . that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humour, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important, because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Scratch a cat . . . and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. - like, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print. . . . there's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? (And rap music will be the Golden Oldies!)
18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Rolls than it is in a Lada
19. After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind.. and the ones that mind don't matter.
21. Life isn't tied with a bow . . . but it's still a gift.

God Rocks!



Here's an idea to help get us ready for Easter. Try making a God Rock to tell part of the Easter story. You could get together with a friend and make some different ones that tell the story.

Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey on the Sunday;



The meal Jesus shared with his friends when he washed their feet and then ate bread and wine together;

The cockerel that crowed twice as Peter denied knowing Jesus.

The nails that fixed Jesus to the cross or the crown of thorns.



The three crosses reminding us that Jesus was killed between two thieves.

The tomb where they laid Jesus with the stone over the entrance.

The angel that appeared to the disciples to say Jesus is alive



The empty tomb with stone rolled away.

Jesus is Alive!!

You could make some or make all and tell the story. Put them by your door, gateway or window and people can spot them as they walk past and see if they can spot all of them in Great Ayton. Tell the story of Easter and discover ...



God Rocks!



NEWS



Lisa Opala Following her training at Cranmer Hall and Ordination this summer, Lisa will be serving at St Mary's Nunthorpe for Sundays and Mondays each week as well as continuing her role working for the Chaplaincy Team.

Lisa has been the Chaplain on the Covid Wards during the pandemic and has been doing great work.

She is married to Robert Opala, the Vicar of the Swainby - Hutton Rudby and all stops in between group of Parishes.

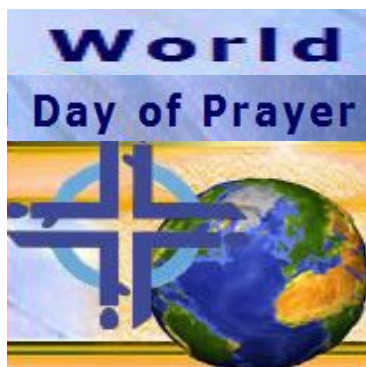
The World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 5th March. This year it is the turn of Christ Church to act as hosts. The theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation", taken from Matthew chapter 7 and the focus is on living wisely. The service has been devised by the women of Vanuatu, a group of eighty islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84517887818?pwd=aXQ0djhjdTUzeGUyaIKV2lUitwZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 1788 7818

Passcode: 440907



Angela Jaques 01642 722979

Thank You

The Vicar mentioned in a recent sermon that during this last year when people have been unable to meet in person and have just met on Zoom or Facebook, that their giving has taken a holiday even though the bills haven't. Thank you to those who not only heard the message but also responded positively to it. Several people used the Online Giving button on the website that day and a further larger donation was received by post. This is greatly appreciated as our Income has taken a large hit this year, but we still want to be able to support those who depend on us.

1st Great Ayton Brownies

Brownies started 2020 working on our Live Smart Challenge.

We held a sponsored silence to raise some funds to repair the District Storage Garage.

We braved hammer and nails in February to do some nail art hearts, one of the topics we were working on was 'Girls can do Anything!' we managed with no injuries.



As with everything, guiding stopped in March so with a couple of weeks break for Easter, we then started Zooming.

Lexie and her rainbow sister Sophia pictured doing their own egg rolling.



Most of the girls join us on a weekly basis, similar to the Rainbows – trying Scavenger hunts, baking and challenges. Especially for the mums- many of the girls did the Home Sweet Home Challenge which involved lots of tidying up and doing household jobs.



Katie used lockdown to earn every one of the Brownie Interest Badges – lots & lots of really hard work had gone into each badge.

We returned to meeting face to face at the end of September and began work on our First Aid badge – fortunately we managed to complete this before the November lockdown.

As we couldn't attend the Harvest Parade service, all the girls contributed a fantastic amount for the Foodbank collection



Paloma at the War Memorial with her purple poppy for Remembrance Day.



During the November lockdown, the girls made lots of Christmas crafts on zoom and then we held a Christmas party in the hall to end the term in December.

We had planned a pack holiday, but like everything this has been postponed.



Thanks to our leaders and parents for all their support this year – it has certainly been challenging but in true guiding spirit we have adapted and kept guiding going.

Christine, Tracey, Lucy & Neave

FAREWELL TO SARAH

In January we said our fond Farewells to Sarah Botez before she moved to live in Romania.

Sarah has been our Church Hall Secretary and admin support for the Vicar for 7 years and her warmth, humour and care for people has shone out from all she did and made the Church Hall a very happy place to be.



Sarah has always had a heart for the Community, and as well as working for us has been a Parish Councillor, organised the village Christmas Fayres, worked at Yatton House, helped Santa plan his sleigh route around the village and has trod the boards in the Hall with GADS. We will miss her hugely, but wish her every happiness living in Romania nearer to Dorin's family.

The Hall Committee presented her with a James Gairy painting of the village.

CHARITABLE GIVING 2020

Charity	£	Charity	£
Christian Aid	828	Dementia UK	419
United Society (restored as USPG)	1000	Alzheimers Society	70
Church Mission Society	1000	Prostate Cancer UK	411
A Rocha International	1000	Epilepsy Research UK	120
Childrens Society	1566	Zoe's Place	161
Children in Distress	358	Teesside Hospice Care Foundation	870
Christians Against Poverty	1000	Heriot Hospice Homecare	133
Message Trust	1000	Headway Darlington	138
Barnabas Fund (Zimbabwe)	3287	JCUH - Renal Unit Fund	196
Samaritans Northallerton & The Dales	2818	CLIC Sargent	77
Tear Fund	1000	School Aid India	1164
St Oswald's (Middlesbrough) PCC	1305	Green Howards Trust	414
Emergency Childcare S Bank	320	Middlesbrough Food Bank	3310
UCCF	1000	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	331
VersusArthritis	255	Norton Primary Academy	50
NHS Charities Together	155	Capt Cook Schoolroom Museum Trust	100
Yorkshire Cancer Research	1334	RNLI Treadurr Bay Branch	485
Big Kids	1000	Great Ayton Health Centre	296
Great North Air Ambulance	278		
Macmillan Cancer Support	111	TOTAL	29173
My Sisters Place	110		

The sun comes up and the sun goes down
The hands of the clock keep turning around
No sooner get up than it's time to lay down
Life gets tedious, don't it."

These are the words of a very old song. Life may seem tedious at present, but it doesn't have to be.

Optimism by Sheila Wray

I love to write and receive a letter.
The Postman is now a good friend.
A bunch of flowers is even better
Or a note a neighbour may send.

My friend bakes me some fruits scones
And leaves them by my door.
Very soon she'll be able to come
And have tea with me once more.

Another friend, "my bubble"
Takes me shopping and much more.
I knit, do jigsaws, read and walk
And have blessings galore.

So don't let life be tedious
Wake up, get dressed and say
"I'll feed the birds, I'll phone a friend"
And sing! Enjoy each day.

With gratitude to Dorina T and Barbara M

From the Registers

Christian Burial and Cremation

4 February	Margaret Dawson
8 February	Charles Ackworth
8 February	Veronica Turner
10 February	Jill Farman
19 February	Jeanne Crombie
19 February	Philip Horrocks-Taylor
23 February	Dennis Hardy
24 February	Mike Acornley

Entries in Black from Great Ayton

Entries in Magenta from Newton under Roseberry

Entries in Blue from Stokesley



A fantastic romantic shot of a couple kissing on Roseberry by the full moon taken by Steve McDonald, one of our favourite wedding photographers. We hope this means love is in the air and weddings will soon return.

Parish website	www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk
Church Office e-mail	gapo1876@outlook.com
Diocese of York	www.dioceseofyork.org.uk
Stokesley Deanery	www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk
A Church Near You	www.acny.org.uk

Malcolm's Musings



Entry in a church visitors' book: "A nice church to prey in." And another, from a small girl: "This church is wicked..."

From a cathedral magazine some years ago: "The editor regrets that in a previous edition there was a reference to 'the education committee's nudity play' This should have read 'the education committee's new display.'"

During the war a badly wounded Australian airman recovered consciousness in a London hospital and asked his Cockney nurse: *Have I come here to die ?* Her answer: *"No dearie, you came here yesterday."*

"Eye witnesses were on the scene within minutes" - *newspaper report*

"Mr ===== was elected to the office of churchwarden. We could not get a better man." - *from a parish magazine*

A convicted murderer appeared before the late Judge Pickles for sentencing. He was given 30 years imprisonment, with a recommendation that he serve the full 30 years. The convicted man appealed to the judge: "I am 60 years old and will not be able to serve 30 years." Responded the judge: "That's all right. Just do as much as you possibly can."

"Adomah was terrific, in the first half especially, and was even better in the second half" - *Sports report*

From a restaurant advert "Two adults eating will have two children to eat free."

Reporting the marriage of two former colleagues, now retired, a staff magazine added: "We wish them good luck and hope they will be spared many years together."

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 Jean Goat on 01642 723274.

The Parishes of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry

Services

Christ Church, Great Ayton

Sunday 9.30am Morning Worship 1st & 3rd Sundays of month in Christ Church
and Live on Zoom & Facebook Live: 2nd & 4th Sundays in
Stokesley Parish Church and Live on Zoom & Facebook Live.

4.00pm Come & Praise (2nd Sunday of month on Zoom)

5.00pm Holy Communion in Church that doesn't have Morning Service

At St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry

Sunday 11.00am Services on 1st, 3rd Sundays of the month only
Check website or Facebook Page for confirmation

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Paul Peverell	The Vicarage	01642 722333
Curate	Rev'd Jane Robson		revjanerob@gmail.com
	Rev'd Geoff Jaques		01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean		01642 722649
Readers	Margaret Lewis		01642 722628
	Peter Titchmarsh		01642 724153
	Nick Land		01642 778076
Organist			
Pastoral Ass't	Rosemary Wheway		01642 722451
Churchwardens	Helen Land		01642 778076
	Jonathan Winterschladen		01642 723576
PCC Treasurer	Ken Taylor		01642 722400
Safeguarding	David Fox		07595 898844
Gift Aid Sec.	Ynez Clarke		01642 723181

Church Hall Office

For **Church Hall bookings**, please contact the Church Office

Email. gabo1876@outlook.com (For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar)