



Knowing God's Joy

Welcome!

We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit. Please do join us for refreshments in the hall after the 10.30am service.

Today

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
6pm	Youth Led Service
6pm	Winter Night Shelter

During the Week

Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9-11.30am Open House parents and toddlers <i>in the Lounge</i>
	3.15pm Messy Church
Wed	9am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i>

Sunday 26 February

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Morning Worship <i>in the church</i>
10.30am	Prayzone <i>in the Hall</i>
6pm	Winter Night Shelter

Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen

LENT

- **Ash Wednesday** 1 March Holy Communion at 7pm
- **Lent Course with David Harley: "Jesus and his friends: His farewell message and prayer" (John chapters 14-17)**
 - Tuesdays at 7.30pm: 7, 14, 21, 28 March in the Hall

see posters for more info

Readings

Psalm 126: 1-6

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'

³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Nehemiah 7: 73b-8: 12

⁷³ When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, ¹ all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. ² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites – Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah – instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.' For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, 'Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.' ¹² Then all the people went

away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

John 20: 11-18

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' ¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher'). ¹⁷ Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

For your prayers and praise this week	
Sun	Praise God that our Church is growing in numbers. Pray that we may all help the staff to disciple newcomers.
Mon	Pray for the work of Rowcroft, Anode and Factory Row. Pray, too, for all who come to our church for Night Shelter and all who welcome them.
Tues	Pray for all children on half term and especially those of our church family.
Wed	Please pray for Alpha Courses taking place or being planned; for the Lent Course being planned and for Confirmation preparation.
Thurs	We remember all we know who are ill, housebound, or bereaved. All who are facing trouble in their marriages or families.
Fri	We pray for peace and unity in the world and for all peace initiatives.
Sat	Pray for John and Ruth Beckett on their free day, that God will refresh them for their leadership role in the church.
Sun	Pray for all leading and helping in our services today, may they be inspired and strengthened by God's Holy Spirit. Pray for the Youth led service.

WMSON and Notes

Do you receive bread and wine at our communion services? If not have you thought about confirmation which is the usual 'gateway' to doing this. Bishop Nick is coming to take a confirmation service here on **18 June**. To find out more please speak to one of the clergy.

Monday Buddy requiredto join the Open Church team who welcome visitors to the church each weekday morning. In particular we are looking for someone to join Jean on a Monday morning from 10-12.30pm each week. For more details please see Pere in the office.

Message from Avril, Malcolm & Cliff "Our first night shelter went off very well and was greatly appreciated by the seven folk we took in. It was a very cold night and a much better alternative to being on the streets. Our team of volunteers pulled out all the stops and a great meal and interesting conversations were shared by all. A big thank you to all involved and we look forward to next week with our other teams. What was so noticeable was the friendly way our guests were welcomed into our church family, and this is what made the evening so special. Thanks to all once again and God Bless."

Ladies' Pudding Evening - enjoy puddings, a glass of wine and coffee; a chance to chat and share some food for thought with speaker, Suzanne Dugmore. Friday 24th March at 7.30pm in the Hall. Tickets £5 from Ruth and other Social Core members or the Church Office.
Enquiries: jrmp@btinternet.com or 01803 293119

LiNX Elevate activities week at Upton Vale 31 July – 4 August – more info from Ruth Jones.

Events elsewhere...

Professor John Bryant "**Science and Faith in conversation**" stimulating talks on 9, 16, 23, 30 March at Exeter Cathedral and University. No cost but tickets required. For more info see <http://oncommonground.net>.

Ladies Day at Brunel Manor Sat 8 April 'Calling and Purpose' with speaker Louise Sibley. For more information please see www.brunelmanor.com.

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