



In case you don't get to see the Blue Bells

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From the Registers

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 - 17 MAY

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65p

DIARY FOR MAY

- 3 Sun Easter 4 9.30am Sunday Worship on FacebookLive & Zoom:

 1 Iam Sunday Worship for Saint Oswald's Zoom only
- 4 Mon 7pm Newton PCC Meet on Zoom
- 10 Sun Easter 5 9.30am Sunday Worship on FacebookLive & Zoom:
 I lam Sunday Worship for Saint Oswald's Zoom only
- 17 Sun Easter 4 9.30am Sunday Worship on FacebookLive & Zoom:
 I lam Sunday Worship for Saint Oswald's Zoom only
- 21 Thurs Ascension Day
- 24 Sun Sunday after Ascension 9.30am Sunday Worship on FacebookLive & Zoom: Ham Sunday Worship for Saint Oswald's - Zoom only
- 31 Sun PENTECOST 9.30am Sunday Worship on FacebookLive & Zoom: Ham Sunday Worship for Saint Oswald's Zoom only

Prayer for the Day - Monday to Saturday at 8.45am

You can join either by Zoom or watching Live on Christ Church's Facebook Page. Please email the Vicar for an Invite to Zoom as a Password is needed for security

Imagine the Chance of a New Beginning

"What is this thing that has happened to us? It's a virus, yes. In and of itself it holds no moral brief. But it is definitely more than a virus... It has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to normality, trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world, and ready to fight for it."

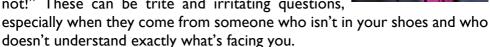
This arrived just as I finished. I don't know who wrote it, but its too good to leave out.

Our Archbishop Writes

Dearly beloved in Christ

If you are reading this with furrowed brow or heavy heart, may I ask you: what are you so worried about? And also: what's the worst that can happen?

Well, I imagine you might be thinking, "No, you may not!" These can be trite and irritating questions,



I have had my fair share of suffering, but you are right – I don't know what you're going through.

The message of Easter, though, is that Jesus Christ does know. He endured the worst that could happen – betrayal, abandonment, ridicule, injustice, shame, humiliation, torture and death. Whatever is making you afraid or anxious, Jesus understands; he has walked the path through the valley of the shadow of death.

But even when someone understands, that doesn't mean they can be any help – being understood doesn't deal with being scared. I can't fight your battles or fix your problems.

My brothers and sisters - we have a Saviour who is risen, and a God who has shown by raising his Son from death that there is now no reason to fear.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. The risen Christ comes this Easter to stand among us and declare peace. The man whom his disciples mistook for a failure comes with power to show us how wrong they were and all his people rejoice. The man whom Mary mistook for the gardener comes to help us bring healing to the earth, and all creation strains forward to reach the day when fires will be quenched, floods will recede, famines will be overtaken by feasts and wars by peace.

Whatever the worst is, the best is yet to come, and so, let us not be anxious and let us not be afraid. +Sentamu Ebor

Saying a Proper Good-Bye

How are you coping with being confined to barracks? For some it will be very hard if they live alone and have no-one to talk to, and for others it could be even worse if they live in a house full of others and have nowhere to find some space to themselves. The folk I feel especially sorry for are the



recently bereaved for all the traditional comforts are being denied them at this most difficult time of their lives. The funerals we are allowed to give with only a few people present are not the ones we want to give. Our custom has always been to have services that people feel better from having attended, yet this is so hard when it is only a few people gathered at crematorium or graveside instead of being in Church with music, slideshows and a talk celebrating the person's life with friends joining in the funeral tea afterwards. The hugs and handshakes are now gone and we don't get the comfort from seeing all those who thought well of our loved ones, or hear all the kind words they want to say.

We have been advised to offer Services of Thanksgiving afterwards, and that is of course an option for anyone, but when is "afterwards" going to be safe to gather again? If it is over six months from now will we really want to go back to these feelings again?

I have suggested to several families that we can do services via Zoom and/or Facebook Live for well known folk in the communities. We could even simply record a Zoom Service for those who could join in, and send a link to the service for others to view. We can involve family and friends in contributing to this, and the beauty of Zoom is that you can see people. This would enable people to grieve and acknowledge the death when it happens and help to inform others and also comfort the departed. (As you will read elsewhere, I am learning fast with Zoom!)

It would even be possible to still have a collection for a Charity in their memory, for as you will also read in Spire, the charity sector is suffering huge losses in revenues that will endanger their work.

I am still working, and still taking Funeral services for anyone in the Parish who wants my involvement, so don't be afraid to ask me if you find yourself in the situation of having to organise one.

You can help too, by making a call to anyone you know who has been bereaved. I am still mentioning the Funerals in our Website Calendar, but not where they are taking place as only immediate family are now allowed.

Keep strong and keep well.

Paul

THY KINGDOM COME

Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we say "Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven."

For the days between Ascension Day, Thursday 21st May, and Pentecost Sunday 30th May, our Archbishops call us specifically to pray for God's Kingdom come into the lives of those around us. In a world facing such challenges as now, this is even more important.



We were planning services and similar to last year, but it looks like gathering in any numbers will not be allowed, so we are looking to new ways. This is still in the planning stage at the moment as we are all still coming to terms with a new reality, but it is likely things will happen virtually on the Internet or in homes as families.

Provisional Ideas talked about may be

- 8.45am Prayer for the Day on Zoom/Facebook Live
- 12 noon Video/ Podcast & Prayer (Maybe Facebook or YouTube)
- 4pm ish Children's Story and Craft
- 9pm The end of the day reflection
- Tying a Prayer Ribbon to your gate or door.
- Following the Interactive Family Adventure Map by clicking on the image.
 You will need to download the special App available nearer the time to work with it, and it looks great fun
- Pray for 5 friends a day.

As details are still being decided, some things may change, but details will be available on the village Churches websites and Facebook Pages



194 Years of Wisdom

One of the great lessons from the present time of lockdown is how inspiring the older generation have been. Drawing on their experience of the war years they



have seen how important it is to have hope and draw communities together.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, now 94, gave an excellent address to the nation hitting just the right notes of concern, encouragement and hope. She could draw on her own time as a young girl doing her bit to encourage others during WW2.

At Easter she also gave another address that touched people of all faiths and none using the image of light. Our Queen has a firm faith behind all she does and we should all be rightly proud of her. She has given a wonderful example and if the future generations of Royals were to follow it, they won't go far wrong.

Also hitting the news with an incredible story of inspiration was Captain Tom Moore, who set himself a target to walk 100 lengths of his garden before his 100^{th} Birthday on 30^{th} April to raise £1,000 for the NHS in appreciation for all they had done for him, and to support them at this difficult time.



To say he achieved his goal is the biggest understatement, for at the time of writing he has so far raised over £28 million and also got to the top of the charts with a Charity single with Michael Ball - You'll never walk alone. His story hasn't stayed here, but travelled all around the world.

So self-effacing and humble, he is taken by surprise by it all and the fuss it has generated, but for us he has also become an icon for this time.

Two people in their 90s and yet still able to give so much in different ways. Two people who still remember what service and community are all about. Two people who remember well the difference hope can make when adversity strikes, and they have both given it in abundance.

Thank you both from a grateful nation.

Paul

ZOOM & FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES



One thing about the present situation is that most people are learning a lot of new skills. In early March I had never heard of Zoom, and now I am using it every day.

Zoom is a Video Conferencing application, a bit like Skype, but you can have up to 100 people on it. This has enabled us to have Live services, PCC Meetings, Chapter Meetings and a Quiz all on Zoom.

We run it alongside Live broadcasts via Facebook to enable more people to take part. I prop my iPad in front of the computer screen, so the folks on Facebook see just what I am seeing - warts and all! Each week I learn something new about it, and we are so fortunate in having modern technology to bring us together.

We started with the weekday Prayer for the Day at 8.45am Monday to Saturday. It's just 15 minutes with prayers, a psalm, short reading and a thought for the day, ending with the Lord's Prayer. As different folk speak, so it Zooms in on the loudest voice giving an idea of all the folks there. As well as the 8 Zoom regulars we attract over 100 people each day on Facebook. Some may just dip in, other catch up later in the day, but there are many regulars including former Aytonians now in other parts of the country

Sunday worship is at 9.30am, again with Zoom and Facebook Live combined, and have managed to incorporate Ewan and the choir leading the songs. As we are now looking after Stokesley Parish I am getting folk from there to take part too, so a

chance to make new friends. It looks like Celebrity Squares, and the folk enjoy a good chat on arrival, as I open the "doors" at least 15 minutes beforehand.

We tried services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and with the latter the Parish Staff took turns to talk about a different character in the Passion story.

Our Easter Day Service was viewed by 464 people on Facebook with around another 50 on Zoom.



It has taken a bit of getting used to, but we are learning fast and try out something new every week.

Saint Oswald's have a later Zoom Service at I I am as a chance for them to get-together, and the Easter highlight was in Isaac, one of our youngest members, making his first steps during the service. Whilst we didn't actually see him do it, we did see mum and dad glowing with pride and delight.

Little Fishes are also meeting on Facebook in a closed group for Safeguarding reasons, and they are also having a fortnightly Sunday Service at I Iam, and the Discipleship Groups are also meeting, so Church life is continuing in a new and different way.

What is absolutely obvious now is that when eventually we can move back into Church we need to combine the new congregations with the old. Thankfully Christ Church already has Internet, projectors and screens, but we will have to look to doing something at Stokesley and Newton too. This will be for both the new people who have joined us, and some of the older folk who wont feel confidant in coming out to big gatherings.

We need to start thinking now as to how we can approach such things at Remembrance, Christmas, Christingles etc, as the likelihood is that normality will be different in the future

- 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.

CHARITY NEWS

The present lockdown due to Coronavirus has many victims, and amongst them are many Charitable Organizations that rely on donations and fundraising to continue their good work. Because of the lockdown everything from Coffee Mornings to Concerts have been cancelled; Charity Shops have been closed;, The London Marathon that raises millions has been called off; and all the collections from Funerals, Weddings and Christening are not being collected, either because they are not taking place, or only a the immediate family are present at Funerals. (In February Spire we featured a big table as to which charities collections went to. Now nothing is going as even funerals are no longer in Church.)

Hospices like Teesside Hospice, Zoe's Place and Butterwick have all seen their income drop sharply; the Unicorn Centre for Riding for the Disabled are struggling to get funds to feed and care for their horses; funding for Cancer Research, Marie Curie, Macmillan and virtually every charity you can think of is down.

Remember those raffle tickets you bought and won nothing? That was really a donation and you could still make it. For many people not going out to social occasions will have saved them a lot of money, so why not put some aside and make a donation each month to a good cause. Don't let Coronavirus claim our Charities as well.

A Lovely Gesture

Michael Rea, our village Funeral Director, was called by the NHS to ask how many people worked for him. Minutes after the phone call, Laura & Steph

from South Tees NHS Hospital Trust arrived with goody bags for him and his staff to show their



appreciation for all the work they are doing at this time. The present situation is putting new pressures on a lot of people and it is lovely to see this acknowledged and recognised.

A Thankyou to Archbishop Sentamu

In 2005 a new Archbishop was appointed to York Diocese who brought lots of life, colour and passion into our Diocese, together with a great love for people and reaching out to others in the community. As his retirement approaches Spire looks back and remember some of his times with us.

We visited the Minster in 2007 and 2008 for Jon's ordinations as deacon & priest, both taken by Archbishop Sentamu. His services are always memorable and personal. Through his time in the Diocese he helped bring the Parishes more into the life of York Minster through various services that had previously been in the Archdeaconries, like Maundy Thursday and the Churchwardens Visitation.

His first visit to Great Ayton, and the first of any Archbishop

in my time, was to take our Confirmation in 2011. He has a wonderful way of connecting with all ages and for making the formal less formal.

As mentioned, our Churchwardens also met him in some great services in York Minster as they were sworn in.

Rosemary & Martin pictured in 2013.

Later that year he returned to Christ Church to take a service for Stokesley Deanery to affirm

and encourage us, as he led us in procession from the Church into the Hall for drinks and tea afterwards.





In 2015 the Archbishop started a series of Deanery Pilgrimages and Stokesley Deanery were allocated 21 - 24 December, so on Christmas Eve Great Ayton High Street was treated to a visit from our Archbishop, where he was also given a complementary Petch's pie. He brought cheer to the people on a fairly wet and cold morning.



After visiting other places during the day, our

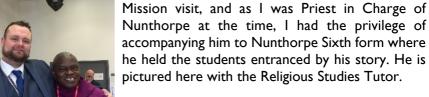
Archbishop returned to Christ Church to lead our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, reminding us all of how big a crowd we used to get in years past. It was great to see people join us from other Churches in the village.

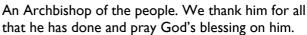


We attended the Annual Readers Meetings in York Minster to see Margaret presented with her 25 years a Reader Certificate in 2016 and in 2018 supported Peter as he was awarded his certificate marking 50 years.



In 2017 he once again came to Stokesley Deanery on a







Working on the Front Line



Lisa, ready to go onto the Wards

In our Churches and communities we have many people that we will know who are working on the front line in the battle against Coronaviris. We know of doctors, nurses and other staff who are now based on the Covid Wards of James Cook Hospital. The hospital has been split into two parts,. The original hospital with the 4 floor tower block is dealing with Covid 19 patients, and the more recent build accessible from the South entrance is dealing with more usual conditions.

I talked to Lisa Opala (Wife of Robert Opala, Vicar of the Hutton Rudby Group) who is working with the Chaplaincy Team at James Cook as they have to find new ways to deal with this new situation that changes all the time.

The Wards are very busy and the number of deaths the Chaplains encounter are very much up. Because of the contagious nature of Covid 19, it may be just the chaplain armed with a phone who is by the bedside helping loved ones say their goodbyes, or enabling the priest to say final prayers.

Nothing can be taken into the units that you can't leave behind afterwards, so no service books to read prayers from, they all have to be carried in your head together with some psalms or short passages of scripture.

Lisa spoke as to how people who have previously been unresponsive joined in when she said the Lord's Prayer with them, or recited the 23rd Psalm. What we learn by heart in our childhood is a gift that stays with us to the end, so please school, all make sure we pass on this precious gift.

Lisa talked of the strength of camaraderie between staff. All are supporting one another from Consultant to cleaner, trying to keep spirits up. The visits of the chaplains is very much welcomed and gives reassurance to all on the Ward, and the prayers bring comfort to all.

Dealing with this level of bereavement is very hard for emotions tend to build up without you realising it, until one day the dam breaks. Please remember the Hospital Chaplains in your prayers, and all the brave workers of the NHS who are on the front line fighting this disease. Many of them have families who depend on them as well. May they be protected and kept safe at this time



Only Essential Journeys.

Don't let this happen to you!

Sadly the present crisis doesn't keep ne'er-do-wells at home. Reports have come in of people receiving messages claiming folk have broken rules in going out and are to be fined. Links are given for payment - and then they take your money. Never do anything in a rush and check if you feel uneasy.

CAN YOU HELP?

With the current lockdown many more people will be experiencing hardship of one sort or another.

For some it will be the lack of human contact, or having someone able to get some urgent shopping or prescriptions. Neighbours are being particularly brilliant at this time.

Other people will be struggling financially and unable to buy food. We are continuing our support for Middlesbrough Foodbank and you can donate by clicking HERE

If you want to help local families in Great Ayton, you can take donations to Great Ayton Workingmen's Club anytime between Ipm and 2pm where local people are forming a local group to help residents in need.



How Mission Aviation Fellowship is coping during the Coronavirus pandemic

MAF Pilot. Richard Axon. reflects upon the national public address of Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister. lames Marape. calling for the people of PNG to "join together in praying for God's mercy.



Regardless of limited health facilities, hope can always be found in God.

MAF Pilot, Chad Tilley, joins forces with **Bangladeshi** authorities and the Swiss Embassy to rescue a teacher and charity worker who are stranded by the lockdown in a remote area of the Sundarbans. Chad flies them to the capital, Dhaka, just 90 minutes before their embassy flight departs for Germany.

MAF Pilot, Steven Biggs, was enjoying a cup of coffee one Saturday morning, when he was asked to help **Liberia**'s Ministry of Health with a suspected case of coronavirus in the remote town of Zwedru. In MAF's first ever Covid-19 case, Steven flew to the rescue.

According to MAF Pilot, Phil Henderson, **Chad** is doing a 'really good job' in the face of this pandemic. Phil explains how MAF - in the absence of public transport - has been able to fly partners around the country so they are able to continue with their life-changing work.

As Britain enters into lockdown during unprecedented circumstances, MAF UK's CEO, Ruth Whitaker, reminds us of the comforting, yet powerful words in Psalm 46: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.'

"With 75 years of pioneering mission to the remotest places on earth, we know so well how isolation can threaten human development, physical health and spiritual freedom. It

is strange to think that many of us in the UK will be experiencing the isolation MAF has been trying to overcome across the developing world for decades.

As an organisation, we are remaining connected to one another, and our vision to help the most isolated is driving us through this storm. We are in uncharted territory, but our MAF UK team will still be on hand to answer your questions, send you regular updates and process any of your kind donations in the coming weeks.



Internationally, MAF is experiencing changes to flying across many of our operations. Each programme is compiling input from MAF's Immediate Response Teams, who are very experienced at tackling crisis situations. Tailored actions are being crafted for each country where we work to make sure our staff are protected and the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

The effects of coronavirus on our mission and our world are pronounced. MAF will continue to adjust to changing realities both on a local and global scale, reminding ourselves daily that the King is on the Throne"

Ken Taylor

Mission Aviation Fellowship if one of the Charities we supported with PCC giving last year. It was nominated by Ken Taylor and who has kindly brought us this report.

PCC JOTTINGS

New PCC Secretary at the Meeting of the PCC on Thursday 16th April, Frances Brown was officially appointed to that role, and Ken Taylor and Rosemary Wheway reappointed to Treasurer and Vice Chairman accordingly.

Staff - The PCC ratified the Standing Committee's decision that we keep the 4 members of staff on full pay, and review after 3 months. We will apply for the Furlough leave scheme for 80% of their wages. The staff involved are the Office Secretary and Church Hall cleaners. Our Organist is due to leave us in July in any case and has now taken on organising music for the Sunday services via Zoom, so wont be applicable for the scheme.

Pastoral Care & Worship This was going on as best we can through the Internet, telephones and with the Easter Day service sent on paper to those without Internet. We wont do this often in case of inadvertently transmitting the virus through contact. Worship is going well. See the Zoom article elsewhere in Spire.

Finance We have received a letter from the Bishops of the Diocese warning of a shortfall in Diocesan income as the value of shares held have plummeted. They encouraged Parishes to pay their Parish share so there were funds available to pay the clergy. Other salaried employees have been furloughed where possible. The PCC have agreed that we will maintain our Freewill offer at the present level and review in September.

We have now got a Justgiving Charity Button on the website for any donations for Church as well as the Donation Button for Facebook. For Easter we collected for the Foodbank primarily using this and raised \pounds

Parish Giving Scheme It was decided to postpone this for the time being as this wasn't the time to do this. Many people will be affected, and they won't know now how this will be.

Curate - Jane Robson is coming in July to be our Curate, but it is unlikely the Ordinations will take place then in York Minster. It is possible these may be rearranged to September IF things improve.

The date for **Nick Land's Licensing** as a Reader, Saturday 26th September, is also provisional upon the current situation.

Revd Geoff Jaques Now over 70 years of age, Geoff now has Permission to Officiate rather than a Licence, and this has now been granted for a further three years.

The spread of Covid-19
is based on two factors
1. How dense the
population is
2. How dense the
population is



You have already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours.

Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus.

Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness.

Your love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. Let's stand together with our neighbours near and far.

You can donate to our village page by clicking on the link below

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/great-ayton-village

Thank you for your support.

From the Registers

Christian Burial and Cremation

I April John Featherstone Peter Atkinson I April 3 April Joan Sheffield 3 April Peter Cowen 8 April lean Marley 17 April Noreen Brundall 17 April Margaret Bell 23 April Sheila Dale 27 April Valerie Rodgers

Entries in Magenta took place at Saint Oswald's Church, Newton Entries in Blue from Stokesley Parish taken by the Vicar

Canon Tom Thompson RIP



We were sorry to read of the death of Tom Thompson who died on 4th March aged 81.

Tom came across from his native Lancashire to be Vicar of Saint Mary's Nunthorpe in 1996. His gentle manner and warmth endeared him to many in the area and Saint Mary's continued to flourish under his gentle but firm leadership, ably assisted by his wife Mary. His gifts were soon recognised and he was made a Canon of York Minster (quite something for a Lancastrian!) and

also served a period as Rural Dean of Stokesley, before retiring in 2003. Sadly Mary died of cancer in 2007 depriving them of a well earned retirement together. We are thankful for his ministry in this area and for knowing such a lovely, gentle and caring Christian man. May he rest in peace.

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

www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk gapo l 876@outlook.com www.dioceseofyork.org.uk www.stokesleydeanery.org.uk www.acny.org.uk

Malcolm's Musings

On holiday in Ireland, a visitor enjoyed a coffee in a hostelry and asked for the pub's wi-fi password. It was *tipthebarman*.

A hairdresser, just before the current lockdown, put up a notice saying "One haircut per person."



"They never grow up - they just get bigger" - housewife in a Tesco commercial dealing with a boisterous teenage family

Seeking on the Internet for a possible holiday destination, a woman came across a place in Italy described as "a romantic hideaway... sleeps three."

In 1840 Lord Cardigan dressed his regiment, the 11th Hussars, in very bright (and tight) red trousers for the occasion of Queen Victoria's marriage to Prince Albert. They became known as *cherrybums*.

An old undertaker used to sign off his letters "Yours eventually."

Asked "What are Grannies for?" one response was: "For loving, spoiling and making scraped knees better - and encouraging their grandchildren to eat their greens."

Visiting a patient on a council estate, a doctor was confronted by a large dog, paws on gate, barking loudly. His master emerged saying "down, down," and explaining: "Sorry about that doctor. It's your black bag, you see. He thinks you're the rent Man."

In wartime Britain a woman joined a queue - "just in case" - and asked what they were queuing for. "Tales of Hoffman" she was told. "Don't know how to cook them," she replied.

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

Parish Communion with Sur

Tuesday

Wednesday

All Public Worship Suspended during Coronavirus Outbreak. See Page 2 for Online services. Baptisms, Bar Vestry on

ust Church

Sunday

sent. Or make an pev@btinternet.com

Sund

on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month only A Holy Communion; 3rd All Age Worship

Contacts

Vicar	Rev'd Paul Peverell	The Vicarage	01642 722333
	Rev'd Geoff Jaques	•	01642 722979
	Rev'd Jon Dean		01642 722649
Readers	Margaret Lewis		01642 722628
	Peter Titchmarsh		01642 724153
Organist	Ewan Murray	ewanmurray451@gmail.com	
Pastoral Ass't	Rosemary Wheway		01642 722451
Churchwardens	Helen Land		01642 778076
	Jonathan Winterschladen		01642 723576
PCC Secretary	Frances Brown	pccsec@christchu	rchgreatayton.org.uk
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 Tel 01642 722 665 on Monday, Thursday or Friday 9 am - 12 noon, or leave a message.

Email. gapo 1876@outlook.com (For services or pastoral matters, please contact the vicar as this bhone isn't manned every day)

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