

ST LUKE'S NEWS *April 2024*

St Luke's website:

www.stlukeschurchbuckfastleigh.org.uk

St Luke's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StLukesBuckfastleigh

Dart & Avon Mission Community website:

www.dartandavonmissioncommunity.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL	
Sunday April 7 th	<i>No service at St Luke's</i> 9.30am <i>Holy Communion at Staverton & Family Service at S Brent</i>
Sunday April 14 th	11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday April 21 st	11.00am Morning Worship
Sunday April 28 th	11.00am Holy Communion

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on Saturday April 13th, starting at 10.00am, (or come at 9.45 for coffee). We elect our churchwarden(s). This year there are no retirements due from the PCC, though there are vacancies. We shall receive the annual report and the accounts. These will be circulated by email to those who are on our distribution list, and a small number of paper copies will be available in church as well.

This meeting is more than just a legal requirement – it gives the whole body of church members the opportunity to think together about all aspects of the life of our church – worship, service in the local community, pastoral care, witness to our faith in Jesus, etc. So do please make this a priority. It should not be a long meeting, and definitely should not be boring!

COMPLINE

We shall be pausing Compline on the first Sunday of the month for the time being.

THANKS FROM THE DIOCESE

Bishop Jackie has sent a letter of thanks for our full paying of the 2023 Common Share. In turn it is appropriate for us to say, thank you, and well done, to all who contribute to the finances of our church. The letter says:

Dear Friends in Christ

In 2023 the parish of Buckfastleigh contributed £23,672.00 to the common fund.

I am writing to thank you very much for your continuing generosity to the Common Fund. The Common Fund finances the mission and ministry of the Church of England in Devon, it goes towards the provision of clergy, housing, resources for mission and ministry, training and support. The Diocese could not function without the great generosity of our parishes. We are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ across all of Devon - your Common Fund contribution enables this and is to be celebrated.

Thank you for your generosity and for your partnership in the gospel.

With every blessing,

+ Jackie

The Right Reverend Jackie Searle, Acting Bishop of Exeter.

BUCKFASTLEIGH MOTHERS' UNION

At our last meeting Reverend Caroline Luff gave us a very interesting talk on 'Bit players in the Passion drama'. Our next meeting will be led by Elaine Day with an Easter meditation. This will be on Thursday 4 April at 2.30 pm.

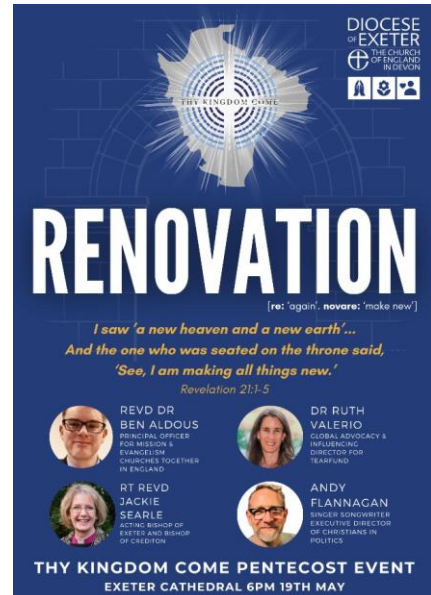
Committee members will be deciding our July trip at our Committee meeting shortly.

THY KINGDOM COME 2024 *(From the Diocese of Exeter 'Roots and Shoots')*

Thy Kingdom Come is a global wave of prayer which takes place every year between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Christians around the world are encouraged to pray for people they know to come to faith. It is a movement that unites Christians across traditions, denominations and nations. And this year the theme is RENOVATION (*to make new again*) inspired by Revelation 21:5 and the love and hope we have for our communities, churches, workplaces, households, schools and the land in which we live. Renovation honours the prayer that Jesus himself taught us to say, 'Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done...'

[Find info and 2024 resources for churches, individuals and families here.](#)

As a church and mission community we are not running any special events for this, but individual church members may like to make use of the resources and information on the Diocese of Exeter website – via the link above.



THE DIOCESAN VISION

It's always important for us as Christians to have a sense of vision. And it's good that our diocese has a positive and realistic vision statement that can encourage us all.

'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.'
John 15.5

As God's pilgrim people, we seek to share in the mission of God as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ by:

Growing in prayer We want to abide in Christ and live our lives close to God. This means taking risks as we become more honest with ourselves and more honest with God. Prayer opens up deep places within us to God's grace, which is why it is such a life-giving activity. Going deeper in prayer is essential if we are to witness to God's Kingdom and grow into the people God is calling us to be.

Making new disciples A disciple is someone who follows Jesus Christ. With Christ as our companion and guide, we can travel through life differently and invite others to share in the adventure. We want to be more faithful in our discipleship and allow God to shape our priorities and values. The gospel is good news but, if we are to bring more people to Christ, we need to find new ways of telling the story, explaining our faith and giving a reason for the hope that is in us.

Serving the people of Devon with joy We want to be ambassadors for Christ, making a difference in the world and witnessing to God's love and justice, especially in the communities where we live and in our schools and workplaces. Working in partnership with others who are transforming lives, we seek to address the global issues confronting our generation so that all may flourish.