

# The Four Ways Mission Community

St James, Swimbridge | The Holy Name, Gunn | St Paul, Landkey | St Peter, West Buckland | St Michael, East Buckland

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**Revd Shaun O'Rourke, Priest-in-Charge. Tel. 01271 830950**  
**15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for 17<sup>th</sup> May – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to our weekly letter to all the churches in our Mission Community. We are still facing a lockdown and it seems that this may continue for quite some time to come.

I would like to take the time to say 'thank you' for all those who are carrying on doing their bit for the church. We have so many people who are using the lockdown to continue fundraising for our building projects, arranging for even some building work to be done on the outside - all with a view to returning to a healthy, prepared church. To those who are working so hard to maintain our church finances in this difficult time, I thank each and every one of you on behalf of myself and the congregations you are serving so faithfully.

As you all know our main funding comes from our events, coffee mornings and generous giving. We have not been able to do those, and our finances have suffered as a result. Many of you are still giving regularly to our churches and, for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart: you are making the job of those who are dealing with our finances a little easier. If you have not been able to contribute and would like to please get in touch with your wardens or treasurer to talk through how you could - they will all be pleased to assist you.

I have said on many occasions that the church is not a building: it is we, the people, who are the church, so church is not shut down or closed. We are the keepers of the gospel, not the building, but we must recognise that our buildings are important to us and the communities we serve. We share with our communities the joys of life at baptisms and weddings, we are central to our communities in sharing national events, our bells ring out for all to hear and people love this. Yes, our buildings are important and when we return, we must share that joy with everyone. We could, perhaps, hold special services to honour our NHS and carers. If you have any suggestions as to how we could do this, I would be pleased to receive them.

Circumstances may be a little harder for us as we move ahead but, by the grace God, we will in his name push ever forward.

May I thank everyone who is joining in on our Mission Prayer Programme morning service and full Eucharist service on Sunday mornings at 10am. It is so good to worship together: even if it is by live streaming on our laptops, iPads and mobile phones, we are still doing church.

The link to Mission Prayer is <https://www.facebook.com/mission.prayerprogramme>

Please remember that we are taking prayer and favourite hymn requests, so keep them coming in. We have had new and old - just beautiful hymns of praise to God.

I pray for each of our communities every day and I miss each and every one of you. I cannot wait for that day when we can stand together and worship our Lord together. I miss the smiles that we share together, I miss the cups of tea and coffee and the conversation. I miss the family who we have become. But we will endure, and we will be back worshipping together.

I hope that each and every one of you are safe and illness free of any kind. I am only a phone call away, so please let me know if you would like to chat or be added to our phone ministry.

May Our Lord bless and protect each of you and those you love and care for.

With prayers,

Revd Shaun.