

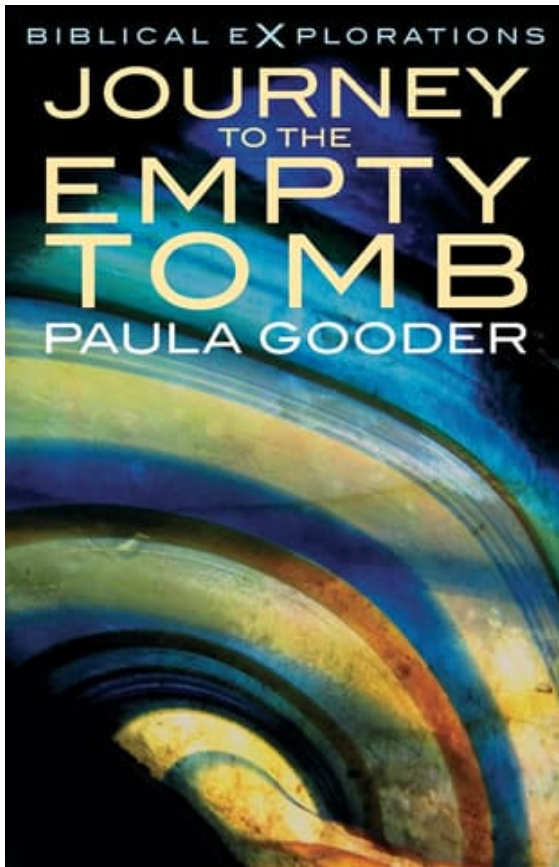
CONTACT EXTRA — No. 26: February 2024

Please send items to Lionel on 440113 or email LIONEL@HOMEBOUND.ORG.UK

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday before the LAST weekend of the month.

Sunday services

FULL DETAILS of these may be found at moretonbenefice.uk



Something special for Lent!

Explore the Journey to the Empty Tomb

**Every Tuesday morning during Lent
20 & 27 February, 5, 12 & 19 March**

Journey to the Empty Tomb focuses on the events leading up to the first Easter – the Gospel accounts of the death and resurrection of Jesus that are at the very heart of the Christian faith.

Beginning with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and ending at the empty tomb, Paula uses her extensive knowledge of the world of the New Testament, its language and culture, to reveal fresh and startling insights and to open up hidden depths in these familiar stories.

10.30–12.00 at the Community Club, Court Street, Moreton

Each session stands alone, so no need to come to each one

Refreshments. Further details: moretonbenefice@gmail.com

JOHN RANDALL

As most readers will probably know by now, John died peacefully at home on 17th December. **A service of celebration and thanksgiving** for his life will take place at St Andrew's at **2.30 pm on Saturday 3rd February**, to which all are welcome.

A word from Marie Randall:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases — Lamentations 3:22

Phil, James, Kirstie and Marie would like to say thank you to our many friends. We have had so much support, love, care and prayers.

We have had a very difficult year or more, and you have all been so helpful and understanding.

Personally, I have found my very brief times of prayer and Bible reading have kept me going. Every day I receive, free, by email, a short study from the United Reformed Church which I can highly recommend. The passages and comments have been so relevant and encouraging: devotions.urc.org.uk

See also the item further down ▼



Shh! It's a SILENT AUCTION!



The date is **Friday 23rd February in Moreton Parish Hall at 7.30 pm** for you to come and enjoy a fun evening and a **Cheese and Wine** supper, whilst making your secret bids for items on sale. We are looking for items to sell and it's time now to look in the attic or at the back of those cupboards for things you don't need any more or haven't used for years! Here are few ideas: small items of furniture, bric-à-brac, china, glassware, toys, games, books, sports equipment, household goods, etc. etc. – and electrical goods which must be in working order ... in the past, we have even had a caravan toilet! You could also donate a 'promise' such as help in the garden, cooking a meal or washing a car each week for a month. And perhaps, if you are a business in town, you could donate a Gift Voucher? Just ideas! And nearer the time, you could donate a home made cake, garden produce or groceries.

Tickets are £5 each, which covers the cost of the Cheese and Wine and room hire etc. and the number on your ticket will be your identity for the bidding. Tickets are available from the Post Office, PCC members of St Andrew's Church, from Gill Rhodes (440317), Christine Walton (440717) or at any church service. Funds raised are towards the Church expenses. Thank you! **Don't miss this fun event!**

World Day of Prayer

Palestine

*I beg you,
bear with one another in love*

A service for everyone

**Friday
1 March 2024**



On the first Friday in March the Day of Prayer begins on the international dateline, in Samoa. Early in the morning, Christian women begin praying for our world...as the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps across the Pacific, touching Fiji and New Zealand, rolling on through Asia - Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Bangladesh...The countries of Africa are next, and then the Middle East. The wave reaches the shores of Europe as the day dawns there. Across the Atlantic, it moves onwards - the Caribbean, the Americas, and on to the Pacific again...until the sun finally sets over American Samoa, where the final service takes place...a worldwide circle of prayer is complete.

Join us to become part of the great wave of prayer!

This year, the World Day of Prayer will be held in Lustleigh at 2.30 on the above date, and be followed by refreshments



Sad farewell to longstanding Lustleigh choir member

In December, Lustleigh lost choir member Val Harris. We thank her for her twenty years of service, and trust she will find her place in another choir where she now lives.

Photo

(L-R) Cynthia Sedgman, Rob Harris – and Val

John William Randall: 30th November 1944 – 17th December 2023



John was born in Wimbledon in 1944. He was an only child but had a happy childhood, marred only by rarely seeing his father, Bill, who was in the Royal Navy and often away.

Sadly, Bill died unexpectedly, aged 49, just as John was about to take his O levels. While arranging the funeral, John's mum decided that they should both be confirmed. John subsequently became involved with Crusaders, the school Christian Union, and the church in New Malden.

Sport was also an extremely important to John; hockey, cricket and squash took much of his time at Oxford. The Christian Union also continued to play a large part in his life along with the student life at St Ebbe's and St Aldate's.

While still a student, John met Marie, and when John decided to go to Nigeria as a teacher after finishing university, they got married so they could go together – the beginning, as Marie says, of a very long adventure.

The two years in Nigeria were a huge learning experience for the young couple. Their eldest child, Phil, was born there. Back in England John did various jobs including working at a wood yard in Bexhill and teaching French and hockey at a public school.

In 1971, John and Marie moved to Moretonhampstead and John worked with those with mental health issues at Starcross Hospital, beginning his calling to social work.

Phil gained a brother, James and then a sister, Kirstie. John, a natural Dad, was extremely proud of his children and grandchildren. He loved playing cricket and football on the lawn and beach with all of them.

John had a variety of jobs in social work with Devon County Council – child guidance, a policy advisor at County Hall, and research posts, but his 'retirement' job of post-adoption work with Families for Children was probably the one that meant the most to him. He was also a trustee of the Children's Hospice South West for some years.

John and Marie travelled far and wide including to Eastern Canada, New Zealand and Madagascar, but perhaps the most influential chapter for them began with their journey to Syria in 2009. This was followed by many trips to Palestine and Nicaragua, where John saw and experienced much which challenged and shaped his faith.

Church was a continuing activity, first in Chudleigh where the Rev'd Christopher Pidsley was a good friend and huge influence. After Marie and John started worshipping in Moretonhampstead, the encouragement of Rev'd Preb Simon Franklin led to John's decision to train with the South West Ministry Training Course as a Licensed Lay Minister. John loved taking services in all the Moreton Group churches – when ill, he even admitted to missing writing sermons! Latterly, John joined the staff of the course he had trained on

and really enjoyed encouraging future lay ministers to embrace their roles. He was a much-loved tutor and colleague. Continuing learning and reading as much as possible were John's priorities throughout his life. Book-buying continued to the end!

John was emphatic in not wanting people to remember him as a plaster saint – he was very human, fallible and frustrated with many things. But those who knew and loved him know that his life was one of constant service. Running through it like a golden thread was his huge heart and love for others. He would get very angry at injustice – some of his many poems, are evidence of this. A quiet man who generally preferred to remain in the background, John would nevertheless stand up for those who didn't have a voice. Above all, his love of God shone through and his ability to share that love with all who met him was very special. There can be no doubt that, at the end of his last journey, he heard those words we all hope to hear – 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

News and events in our villages – mainly in date order

Information Centre Coffee Morning, 10-12, Saturday 27th January at the Community Club, Court Street, Moreton. Contributions for the cake stall welcome – please bring items to the Information Centre the day before or to the Community Club by 10 am on the day. Further information: Margaret (440624).

The Way of the Tree – an exhibition of multi-media artworks by Lucy Patrick at Moreton Health Centre. Supported by Green Hill Arts, this explores what the trees in Moretonhampstead mean to us and invites visitors to the exhibition to designate their favourite tree on a map of the town. All artworks will be for sale.

Find Your Word for 2024, 10 am-1.30 pm on Saturday 27th January – an invitation to take a more focused and inspired approach to the New Year. *Further details of this and other workshops from Green Hill Arts (440775).*

Information Fair for Unpaid Carers, 1.30-3.30 on Tuesday 30th January will be run by Wellmoor – a one-stop shop with lots of support and advice. A warm welcome, including refreshments without charge.

The Lustleigh Society meets in the Village Hall at **7.30 pm on Wednesday 31st January** with the topic *Devon Air Ambulance*; and on **Wednesday 28th February** with the topic *The Building of Exeter Cathedral* with John Allen. You are invited to come for a glass of wine from 7.15. Non-members very welcome. Further information: Lynn (07852 998153).

Lustleigh prayer meeting is 9.30 every Tuesday in February, and Lustleigh discussion group on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm; it will revert to the evening when winter is over.

U3A meets on the first Wednesday of most months – **10-12** at the rear of the Union Inn. Visitors always welcome (£2). The next meeting is on **7th February** when Ian Willens will speak on *The Cheese Shed*.

North Bovey Belles WI meets at **7.30 pm on Thursday 8th February** at **7.30 pm** in North Bovey Parish Hall when Debbie Jenkin will speak on *Myths and Legends of Dartmoor*. New members and visitors very welcome (£5 for guests), and refreshments available.

Morecare Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 on Monday 12th February.

Manaton Discussion Group meets **Thursday 15th February at 2.00 pm.**

Moretonhampstead Film Club is showing films at **7.30 pm on the third Friday of each month** upstairs at Green Hill. Membership: £20 p/a.

Manaton Monthly Market takes place on **Tuesday 20th February 10.30-12.30**. All the usual stalls.

Moreton History Society meets at **7.30 pm** on **Wednesday 21st February** at The Union, when Dr Chris Smart from Exeter University will speak on *Conquering the Dumnonii: new light on the Roman military deployment in South-West Britain*.

Moretonhampstead Memory Café meets **2-4 pm** on the **last Thursday** of the month at the Community Club, Court Street, Moreton.

The next **St Andrew's Charity Market Coffee Morning** is on **Saturday 2nd March, 10-11.30** in the Community Club, Court Street, Moreton. Items of produce welcome!

FRIENDLY FRIDAYS continue at **Moreton Community Club, Court Street, Moreton** between 10 am and 11.30 am with a warm welcome to all.

Please note that there will be a charge for beverages.

Each Friday has also an optional focus:

2nd Feb – Art with Caroline White

9th Feb – Massage taster session with Louise Webb

16th Feb – Exeter Community Energy – Free home energy advice and surveys

23rd Feb – Visit from Quell/Kooth – Free mental health advice and support

It is a great joy (and no small help) to hear St Andrew's clock working AND striking the hours once again. Our thanks to the churchwardens and to Cumbria Clocks for seeing this through to such a satisfactory conclusion.



Prayers for Peace and Hope

Bishop Jackie, our Acting Bishop of Exeter, writes: I have been asked a few times recently how to pray for the world and for the church in these troubled times.

Our theme for the Diocesan Day of Prayer in December was Philippians 4:6: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything present your requests to God.*

We can present our requests in different ways – in silence, in our own words, in pictures or poems. Sometimes it helps to have words that others have written that enable us to pray. These are prayers that I find helpful at the moment:

Prayers for peace and hope in the midst of the Israel-Gaza conflict and the ongoing war in Ukraine

O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.

We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.

Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief

in Ukraine.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

For those caught up in tragedy and disaster

O Lord our God,

source of all goodness and love,

accept the fervent prayers of your people;

in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion

upon all who turn to you for help;

for you are gracious, O lover of souls,

and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

Amen.

In troubled times

God of love,

turn our hearts to your ways;

and give us peace.

Amen.

For justice

Living God,

deliver us from a world without justice

and a future without mercy;

in your mercy, establish justice,

and in your justice, remember the mercy

revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For international unrest

Almighty Father,

whose will is to restore all things

in your beloved Son, the King of all:

govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,

and bring the families of the nations,

divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,

to be subject to his just and gentle rule;

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For the cold and homeless

*God of compassion,
your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:
we hold before you those who are homeless and cold.
Draw near and comfort them in spirit
and bless those who work to provide them
with shelter, food and friendship.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.*