

# Beer Parish News

## February 2026



**St Michael's... ..and Village**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

[www.coastalchurch.org.uk](http://www.coastalchurch.org.uk)

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Local Pioneer Minister Rev Shuna George Pritchard [shuna.art@gmail.com](mailto:shuna.art@gmail.com)

## ST MICHAEL'S ...

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**Secretary:** Mrs Jean Smith 07412 010245



**Altar Guild:** Mrs P. Bewick 21954

Mrs Y. Hawker 22191

**Choir:** Dr G. Butler (Practice Tuesday 5-6pm) 21375

**Organist:** Dr G. Butler 21375

**Children's Society:** Ann Stott [seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk) 23656

**Families Worker:** Amy Dare [mrandmrsdare22@gmail.com](mailto:mrandmrsdare22@gmail.com)

**Children's Team:** Gayle Chapple, Amy Dare, Jenny Ross

**Worship Team:** Gayle Chapple, Lynne Bees, Penny Grant, Yvonne Hawker, Angela Ould, Jenny Ross

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Mrs Y. Hawker, Mrs P. Bewick,

Mrs E. Singleton,

Mrs S. Anderson



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Area code for all phone numbers above is 01297 unless shown otherwise

**In an emergency, parishioners should contact the Churchwarden (see above for phone number).**

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[www.coastalchurch.org.uk](http://www.coastalchurch.org.uk)



# St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

[f St Michael's Church, Beer](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelChurchBeer)

[www.coastalchurch.org.uk](http://www.coastalchurch.org.uk)

## Calendar for FEBRUARY 2026

<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<b>8:00am Holy Communion</b> <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i> <b>9:30am Morning Praise</b>
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THORNFIELD
<b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	5:00pm Choir Practice
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30am Open the Book at Beer School 10:00am Reflective Prayer 11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at CHECK HOUSE
<b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30am Holy Communion</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</i>
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup></b>	2:00pm~4:00pm Memory Church at SEATON 5:00pm Choir Practice
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion at BEER</b>
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup></b>	12noon Music Makers' Meeting
<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers
<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30am Morning Praise</b> <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>
<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup></b>	10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at NETHERHAYES
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00am Altar Guild meeting 10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at LYME BAY VIEW 5:00pm Choir Practice
<b>Ash Wed 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion</b> <i>with imposition of Ashes</i> <b>2:00pm Anna's Place</b> <i>Reflective Cafe style worship with Communion &amp; refreshments</i> 6:30pm Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes at SEATON NO Mickey's Music Makers (Half term)
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9:30am Family Communion</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THE MANOR
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup></b>	11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THE SEATON 5:00pm Choir Practice
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00am Holy Communion at SEATON</b>
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup></b>	10am~12noon Beer Community SOS Choir <i>(Seriously Occasional Singers)</i>
<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>8:00am Holy Communion</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> <b>9:30am Morning Praise</b>

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*Sunday services in Beer are often on Facebook. If you can't come to church, you can watch and hear them there, either live or later at a time convenient to you!*

## From Justin Rev's Ramblings

I still remember the weight of my bergen in the Royal Marines. A bergen is a large, robust backpack suitable for carrying all the essential load required for field operations. Fully loaded, it could feel as though you were carrying your mate on your back on top of your webbing (belt kit), your rifle, and anything else they could strap to you. It wasn't just heavy: it shaped how you moved, how you breathed and how long you could keep going.

When I began distance running, I was struck by the contrast. The mandatory race kit—waterproofs, map, water, foil blanket, headtorch—felt like air by comparison. Perfectly sensible, carefully chosen, necessary for safety, but nothing like the “two-tonne” packs of earlier days. The difference wasn't just the weight: it was intention. You carried only what you needed.

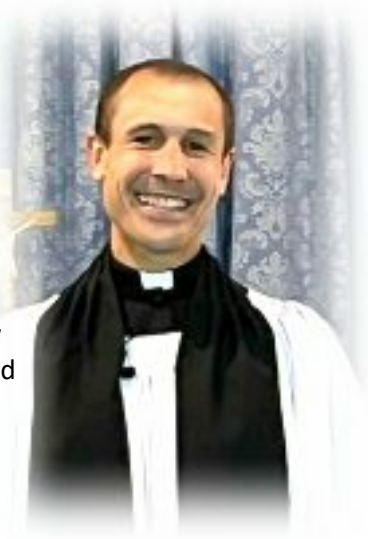
As we approach Lent, I find myself thinking about the weight I carry now, not on my back, but within. Emotional weight. Spiritual weight. The quiet physical tiredness that accumulates over time. Some of it is obvious; much of it I hardly notice until I really stop and pay attention.

I carry concerns picked up from the news, worries for people I love, communities I serve, anxieties I don't always name. I carry old habits of self-reliance, the tendency to keep going rather than ask for help. I carry expectations—of myself, of others, of the Church. None of these are dramatic, but together they add up, like additional stones in my backpack.

Lent does not only begin by asking us what we will give up. Perhaps it also begins by asking us what we are already carrying. It can be a season of learning what we truly need to carry and what we can, at last, set down.

What are you carrying as we step into the second month of 2026? What are the rocks in your pack? What are the things that were once useful, or at least familiar, but now weigh you down? What do you need to unload, not because it is bad, but because it is no longer yours to carry alone? What do you need to share with someone you trust, rather than straining under it in silence? And what do you need to bring another in to help carry, as we once did on long ‘yomps’ (marches)?

And then there are the things that can only be laid down. At the foot of the cross, we are invited to set down what cannot be fixed by effort or endurance: regret,



grief, fear for the future, those things we cannot control. Not discarded, but entrusted.

To a crowd, weighed down by the impossible demands of the law makers, governors and leaders of the day (sound familiar?) Jesus Christ famously said:

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*  
(Matthew 11.28-29 NIV)

It is a message as applicable to us today, as it was for Jesus' first century audience.

A yoke is an agricultural tool, that would be strapped over an animal to enable them to carry or drag a load, as well for situations requiring one animal to be ‘yoked’ to another to share a load together. Instead of attempting to bear the load of our lives and experiences solely on our own shoulders - be that pain, worry, doubt, fear, guilt or anything else - Jesus bids us to come to him, to invite him into those matters that weigh us down and to lay those ‘heavy rocks’ at his feet. In doing so, I believe we begin to discover the deep soul rest that can only be found in him, and a peace in his sharing of the load as we learn from his gentle transformative leading in our lives.

Throughout Lenten seasons of the past I have abstained, I have exercised good deeds, I have picked things up and I have created space. This Lent, I am not interested in proving what I can carry, instead seeking to be more attentive to what I might carry differently or not at all. Lent is a journey, so this year I wish to discover its grace found not in what I might endure, but in what I am willing to set down, let go of, to share with Jesus and place into his care.

In doing so I am reminded of the words of my spiritual director back in 2022 as I prepared to come to Seaton and Beer. Knowing my military background, he said *“Justin, what does it mean for you to travel lightly?”*, and he wasn't talking about running or the Royal Marines.

So, this month, I am myself asking:

*What am I carrying into Lent this year?*

And what might become possible if I travelled a little lighter?

And what about you? What does it mean for you to ‘travel lightly’ this Lent?

Grace and peace.

*Revd Justin*

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Cover picture: *“Presentation of Christ in the Temple”*



## ANNA CHAPLAINCY FEBRUARY and early MARCH worship and

**events** – If you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, please consider joining us for our monthly worship. You would be most welcome. Kindly check with the care home prior to your visit in case anything changes at the last minute.



Diocese of Exeter  
CMC Seaton and Beer

Monday 2 February THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 4 February – CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

**Tuesday 10 February– MEMORY CHURCH 2-4 p.m. Church centre St Gregory's SEATON – For older people who find it difficult to worship in our church buildings. Worship, afternoon tea and making new friends. Interested? Phone 01297 23656**

Monday 16 February – NETHERHAYES 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 17 February - LYME BAY VIEW 10.45 a.m.

**ANNA'S PLACE at St Michael's Church BEER. Please join us on Wednesday 18 February 2.00 p.m. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments, everyone welcome. A space for carers and those cared for at home.**

Monday 23 February – THE MANOR 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 24 February – THE SEATON 11.00 a.m.

Monday 2 March THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 4 March – CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

*If you know someone living at home or a resident who would like a one-to-one visit in a care home, please contact either Mary or Sue on their mobile numbers. You will find Information leaflets about Anna Chaplaincy ministry displayed at St Gregory's and St Michael's churches. Thank you for your support and prayers.*

**Anna Chaplain Mary – 07805655335     Anna Chaplain Sue – 07802649155     The church office - CONTACT 01297 23656**

## ANNA'S PLACE

Special 30 minute  
worship for  
Older People  
Followed by Refreshments  
Music and Memories,  
Wednesdays from 2pm  
at St Michael's, Beer:



Diocese of Exeter  
CMC Seaton and Beer

**18th February  
18th March**

All are welcome!  
Dementia Supportive  
Come, receive  
God's Grace



Diocese of Exeter  
CMC Seaton and Beer

## Memory Church

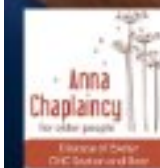
For Older People and their Carers:  
A Place to Meet, Relax & Worship  
together.

**10th February  
10th March**

2nd Tues of  
the month  
**2-4pm**

St Gregory's  
Church Centre,  
Colyford Rd,  
Seaton EX12 2DF

**Dementia Supportive  
Disabled Facilities**



Coastal Mission  
Community

Contact: Mary Casey caseymary13@gmail.com  
Anna Chaplain  
to book your place Church office: 01297 23656  
www.stmichaelsbeer.org.uk

2026 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inscription of our Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site – the “Jurassic Coast”. In those 25 years people from around the world have

come to visit the area, with many returning to discover more about our fantastic coastline. “Jurassic Coast” has been recognised as being somewhere very special and visitors as well as locals have learned to love its variety and individual places.

You will be able to join in with the celebrations at various activities along the coast, including some in Beer. One of the first dates to note is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February when you can enter the Charmouth Beach Cleaning Championships. The event starts at 1000 sharp and is being organised by Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and Clean Jurassic Coast. There will be prizes!!

Our own annual Beach Clean on New Year’s Day was very well attended and resulted in an impressive haul of very small bits of plastic and other rubbish. As usual, there was a cache of grommets from the Napoli, and there were several items which could have been put into the recycling bins rather than being abandoned on the beach. Changing public attitudes is a long-winded process!

The Jurassic Coast is the only place in the world where the rocks and fossils of the Geological era known as the Mesozoic can be traced in the order in which the rocks were laid down. The Mesozoic era consists of 3 periods, Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous and covers a time span from 250 million years ago to 66 million years ago. It showcases changes which took millions of years to happen. I am so used to thinking in these slow motion time-scales that I’m finding it difficult to appreciate that Beer’s Innes Fitzgerald ran the Exmouth Parkrun in 15 minutes and 27 seconds. In doing so, Innes became the fastest British female Parkrun runner – a fantastic achievement.

Being able to appreciate the Jurassic Coast doesn’t depend on a knowledge of geology. Just enjoy the landscape, watch the sunset, go for a walk and savour the views of the ever changing sea. Running, walking, swimming, paragliding, sketching, beach-combing and bird-watching are all ways of enjoying our very special coastline. What’s your favourite?

The Fine Foundation Centre is now closed until Easter. Some of our

members will be busy helping to raise money to support our various activities and will be out in force for the *Grizzly* on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March when we will, along with the RNLI, man the water station in Beer Head Caravan Park. Call out “hello” as you run by!

February’s Branscombe Project talk sees the return of Professor Mike Parker-Pearson to tell us about “Yet More Amazing Discoveries” at Stonehenge. It is on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 1930, in the Branoc Hall.

The Axe Valley Heritage Association are hosting a talk by Dr. Wendy O’Neill entitled “The Road to Seaton”. The talk is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 1400 and tickets, to be purchased in advance, are available from Paperchain in Beer Road.

We seem to be in a cycle of wet and very windy weather at the moment, and going out to work in the garden does not feel very appealing. Clearing and cleaning the greenhouse has made us feel very virtuous! Walks around the garden have confirmed that some of the snowdrops are earlier to flower than usual. The birds are appreciating everything on the bird-table, and the usual blue, long-tailed and great tits are being joined by goldfinches and a black-cap. Even the robins are attacking the peanuts, while the sparrows and wrens spend their time investigating piles of leaves or poking about in flower-pots. We are trying to ensure that work which needs to be done near nesting boxes is done in the next couple of weeks – it won’t be long before our feathered friends start building their nests. As I write this, the annual Big Garden Birdwatch is imminent, so hopefully some of you will have been able to take part.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on annual subscriptions and donations in order to run the Fine Foundation Centre and the Bomb Shelter.

You’ll find the Beer Village Heritage walks and I-Spy online via our website: <http://www.beervillageheritage.org.uk>. We apologise that some of the links on the site are not working.

If you would like to be involved with running the Fine Foundation Centre and our other activities, please talk to our Chairman, David Morling on 01297 625045. We would particularly love to hear from someone who would be prepared to help with the website.







We had a great time during our Tesco Seaton Christmas Collection on Friday 19th December. We collected an excellent £569.79 that included £60 in card payments on our PDQ. We thank everyone who donated on the day. After Christmas I presented a Certificate of Thanks to Rachel Ford of Tesco Seaton Team Support on behalf of Tesco Seaton.

At the time of writing my report we were looking forward to our RNLI SOS Table Top Sale on Saturday 31st January at the Mariners Hall, Beer from 9am to 12.30pm. We were preparing to have bacon baps, tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake. We were looking forward to having stall holders coming to our event selling a variety of items including some crafts.

We are looking forward to our Review of the Year and Open Morning on Tuesday 24th February from 10am to noon at the Congregational Hall. All are welcome to come and hear about our fundraising and shop at Jubilee Gardens through 2025 and looking forward through 2026. It will be a great way to meet the team and hear about this small branch of the RNLI that makes a difference. There will be volunteering information by our Shop Manager, Secretary Fundraising Events and Treasurer. It is sixty nine years since our former secretary Barbara Harding formed our branch of the RNLI and a selection of branch archives will be available to see. Additional volunteers are needed and welcome to join us. If you are unable to come to our morning for details about volunteering at our shop at Jubilee Gardens please contact our Shop Manager Richard Hare on 07752393640 and/or to be involved in fundraising that includes collections, coffee mornings, our events and events we go to please contact me for a Branch Information Letter at [wac500@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wac500@hotmail.co.uk) All help will be greatly appreciated. We will be serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake and we look forward to having an informative and enjoyable morning.

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we will be at Beer Sailing Club from 10am to noon for a Coffee Morning in conjunction with the Fisherman's Mission. Please come along for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake.

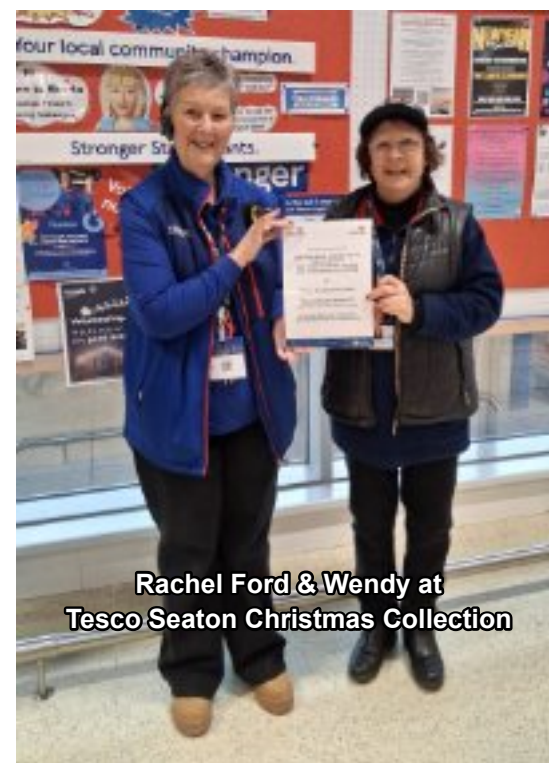
Our thanks go to Beer Sailing Club for hosting the Coffee Mornings throughout the winter for organisations from Beer.

On Sunday 8th March we will be at the Grizzly Race Day Drink Station at Beer Head Caravan Site in conjunction with Beer Village Heritage. We will be setting up at 9am and will be there until the last runner passes through at approximately 4pm. We will be providing much needed hydration and cheering on the runners as they pass by. Additional volunteers are most welcome and come and help for as long or short time as they wish. Wear suitable clothing as we have had everything, from sunshine, rain or even snow in 2018. Bring your own refreshments and most years we have bacon baps and cake to keep us going.

Our 2026 diary is filling fast and once again we will be taking part in the RNLI Mayday Appeal, and our Beer Lifeboat Weekend is to be on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July. We will also be going to the regular events we attend and will add some new ones as the year progresses. We hope to meet you and see you at Beer and around our Seaton Beer and District Branch area.

*Wendy Cummins*  
Secretary Fundraising/Events  
Seaton Beer and District  
Branch RNLI

Rachel Ford and me



Rachel Ford & Wendy at  
Tesco Seaton Christmas Collection



## The Meeting Place

Come and meet up with your friends and make some new ones at  
**St Gregory's Church Centre every last Wednesday of the month  
starting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 2pm – 5pm**

Enjoy tea / coffee and cake

Sit and chat or play a board game - some provided or bring your own

Bring your craft and relax

Jigsaw puzzles, books and magazines to be enjoyed at your leisure

Donations only –

all funds go towards the upkeep of St Gregory's Church

For further information please contact:

Helen Knight at the Church Office Tel: 01297 23656

Email: [seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk)

or Julie Newbery Tel: 07812 685897



## Julian Group

We are a small group who meet regularly in order to grow in the practice of Contemplative Prayer in the Christian tradition.

Julian Meetings welcome people of ALL denominations or none. Meetings usually take place on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.20pm for 7.35pm at St Gregory's

For more information contact: The Church Office on 01297 23656

## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Hoping everyone had a peaceful and enjoyable start to the New Year as we enter into 2026.

We did not hold a meeting in January and to be honest not much to report but we are looking forward to moving into the next few months with hopefully better weather, lighter evenings and adding events for St Michael's to our diaries.

Please watch out for posters, Face Book, Beer information posts for any up and coming St Michael's Church plans & events.

Please come and join us, your support is always very much appreciated

**Date of next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 @ 10am**

## Christingle 2025

Thank you to everyone who joined us at St Michael's for our Christingle Service last December. We heard the Nativity story with assistance from a very Grumpy Owl and young members of the congregation, who dressed up and took on the roles of the traditional Nativity characters. Each family received a Christingle and Gayle helped us learn about what the different parts of the 'Christingle' represented. After the service we enjoyed tea, coffee and mulled wine kindly provided by the ladies of the Altar Guild. A big thank you to everyone who made a donation – a grand sum of £190.47 was raised and has been sent off to the Children's Society. This money will help to provide support for young people in our communities. If you would like to find out more about the work of The Children's Society please visit [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk) or phone 0300 303 7000.

# Beer Film Society

SO how do you follow a film about the World Porridge Making Championships in the Scottish Highlands?

The Golden Spurtle was the Beer Film Society opener for the year last month so for February we have changed tack and will be showing the French comedy heist thriller ***The Innocent* (2023, 1hr 38mins, 15)** at the Mariners' Hall, Thursday February 19th.

Several of our committee had the pleasure of seeing this film and it made such an impression that they felt it deserved to be on our list.

Set in modern day Lyon concerned son Abel is alarmed when he learns that his impulsive mother Sylvie is once again re-marrying - this time to an inmate she met whilst teaching theatre in prison.

Doubting that convicted burglar Michel is capable of becoming a changed man Abel begins following his new step-dad with help of best pal Clemence, setting in play a sequence of events that will lead to a dramatic finale.

For those whose French is a little rusty sub-titles will be provided!

## What the critics said:

*The film gathers a madcap momentum, in the way that really bad life choices are apt to go.*

**Wendy Ide. The Observer. 4\***

*A frothy heist movie with an unexpectedly tender heart.* **Kevin Maher. The Times. 4\***

*This film has enchanting performances and greater depths and fewer cliches than it could have easily slipped into.* **Dulcie Pearce. The Sun 4\***

*It's a broad, enjoyable, lighthearted movie with a fair few not-insignificant plot holes but a genuinely surprisingly storyline that keeps you guessing to the end.* **Cath Clarke. Guardian.**

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7pm. Card payment preferred please. The bar will be open and Baboo Gelato ice creams will be available.

Finally, for your diaries, a reminder of the films we have for the opening months of 2026.

March 19: I Swear

April 16: The Ballad of Wallis Island

May 21: The Colour Room

June 18: Nuremberg

A big thanks to everyone who braved the weather to attend the Golden Spurtle last month and those who did come seemed to enjoy the experience with our audience reaction slips producing the following results: Excellent 40%; Very Good 20%; Good 40%.

And among the comments were:

'A quirky look at village traditions and events - not unlike Beer.'

'A lovely enchanting film about the art of porridge making.'

'Such a change from some films - great characters just enjoying life.'

'Great. Lovely, gentle, quirky film. Loved it.'

'Amusing, lovely music, educational, lovely scenery.'

'Charming but a bit slow, especially towards the end. Too much about Carrbridge and not enough about porridge - and recipes.'

'Delightful escape.'

**Beer Film Society**

UN BRAQUAGE FAMILIAL HILARANT !

FESTIVAL DE CANNES

BOUCHY ZEM ANOUK GRINBERG NOËME MERLANT LOUIS GARREL

**L'INNOCENT**

UN FILM DE LOUIS GARREL

Thursday February 19th 15

**Mariners' Hall**

Doors open 6.30pm start time - 7.00 pm

Members £5.00 non members £7.00

numbers limited - to book tickets email [beerfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:beerfilmsociety@gmail.com)





[Beer@devon.WI.org.uk](mailto:Beer@devon.WI.org.uk)

Beer WI is a friendly active group of people who meet on the first Wednesday of the month for a couple of hours to listen to a speaker (on a variety of topics), to join in some of the creative ones and to have a drink and a chat.

The group is made up of people from Beer, Seaton and other villages. We get together for a group meeting regularly which encompasses the surrounding area. The next talk is about willow weaving on Feb 4th at 7.30 pm.

We have regular coffee mornings to fundraise for the local charities we support.

We go to The Hind, in Musbury, to play skittles, and have lunch and sometimes compete with other WIs.

Trips are arranged to visit places, venues etc throughout the year which are always popular.

Eating and drinking out for a celebratory event is a popular activity too!

There are other groups who meet. The bookclub meets once a month to read a variety of books, mainly novels by authors old and new. The books are borrowed for the club from Seaton Library.

The card group meet every Thursday afternoon to play Canasta at Barbara's or Penny's.

The creative writing group meets once a month in the village to write about different topics.

Group walks are organised around the area too.

If you are interested in giving us a try then do phone Chris Paul 07710520055 who will be happy to welcome you. We meet in the Congregational Hall next to the fish and chip shop on the first Wednesday of every month.

# Mickey's & Greg's Music Makers



Thursdays (Term- time)

10-11am

St Gregory's Church Centre,  
Seaton EX12 2DF

Fridays (Term- time)

10-11am

St Michael's Church, Beer  
EX12 3JB

Bring your little one for songs, stories, snacks & more  
and meet other parents/carers. The sessions are FREE  
but donations welcome to fund our families work

For babies,  
toddlers  
and their  
carers



info from Church Office:

Tel. 01297 23656

Email: [seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk)

or Rev Shunaa at [shunaa.art@gmail.com](mailto:shunaa.art@gmail.com)

07971 759997



C  
A  
B



## CHAPEL ASSOCIATION BEER

Situated by the sea on the Jurassic Coast  
in the Old Cemetery, Clapps Lane, Beer, LA9 3HE

*~ By, with, and for the Community*

### Chapel Update: Progress and Plans February 2026

We are pleased to share an update on the ongoing work to secure the future of the Chapel and develop it as a community asset.

The establishment of a new Community Interest Organisation (CIO) is now well underway. Trustees have been appointed, including three members from the local community and two representatives from St Michael's Church, and the application is currently with the Charity Commission. Alongside this, a wider Chapel Association Beer (CAB) working group has been formed, bringing together additional members of both the church and the wider community to help shape the project.

Following the submission of many thoughtful suggestions, it was agreed that Chapel Association Beer (CAB) is a positive and fitting name for both the group and the CIO. A new logo has also been designed (see above), symbolising the Chapel's Christian foundations alongside one of its exciting potential community uses as a Champing™ venue. Champing™ is the unique experience of camping overnight in historic churches; more information can be found at [champing.co.uk](http://champing.co.uk).

You may have noticed scaffolding around the Chapel during November and December. This allowed for essential roof works, including significant slate repairs to the ridge line, replacement of a large number of slates, and repairs to the rear elevation. These works, costing £4,000 plus VAT, were made possible by an extremely generous donation and have ensured the building is now watertight. While this is a short- to medium-term solution, longer-term plans involve a full roof replacement, which will require a bat survey, faculty approval and substantial fundraising. Nonetheless, CAB is delighted that progress can now be made on plans to bring the Chapel back into community use in the meantime.

Power and drainage remain key facilities that would significantly enhance the range and sustainability of future community uses for the Chapel. Following meetings with National Grid and local contractors, CAB now has quotations and a clear pathway for providing an electricity supply to the building. Drainage and water present a more complex challenge. CAB representatives have met with a local water company and are actively exploring a range of options for toilet facilities, including environmentally friendly waterless alternatives, such as those available from specialist providers of waterless toilets (e.g. [www.waterlesstoilets.co.uk](http://www.waterlesstoilets.co.uk)), particularly those specialising in needs for churches in rural locations, where access can be very difficult.

A meeting is being arranged with the Exeter Diocesan Buildings Advisor to discuss future permissions, options for the internal fabric, potential community uses, and the churchyard itself. CAB also understands that East Devon District Council is aware of, and has a plan to address, the trees along the rear of Barline, with work expected to be imminent if not already underway. The next CAB meeting will take place at the end of January which will begin in the Chapel itself.

Looking ahead, CAB hopes to open the Chapel for viewing in early spring for our wider community. It will be some time since we last gathered there as a community in 2025, and this will be a valuable opportunity to visualise the future, ask questions and share ideas.

Finally, a huge thank-you to everyone who has supported this community venture so far, including Beer Quarry Caves, The Pumpkin Show, St Michael's Church, the CAB working group and trustees, and the many individuals who have contributed time, expertise and encouragement.

Best Wishes

CAB



Grade II  
Listed Building

## **BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SERVICES & NOTICES**



**FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> - 10am Candlemas Service with Holy Communion**

**FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> - 10am Morning Service**

**FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup> - 10am Morning Service**

**FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10am Service to mark the beginning of Lent**

**MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> - 10am Morning Service with Holy Communion**

**THURSDAY MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> - 12noon - LENT LUNCH (donations in aid of Charity) - Everyone welcome**

**FRIDAYS MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - LENT COURSE ON PHILIPPIANS  
- Beer Congregational Hall - 2-30pm - 4pm - Everyone welcome**

**COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE HALL - FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> -  
10-30am to 12 noon**

- What moves you? What touches the deepest part of you? What lifts you? What arouses your compassion? What takes you into deep feelings?
- These moments transform you for the time being. You see something new clearly. Your heart goes out to someone. Some event touches you deeply. You move for the moment into some new level of consciousness. You experience a new reality. You acquire new intelligence.
- This is how emotions motivate intelligence. We see and understand more clearly by being moved.  
“Compassion,” one teacher once said, “is the highest form of intelligence.”
- The story of your life is a story of growing awareness. How much more of life and the world and other people you understand now than you did as a child. There are levels of consciousness. You now help yourself through difficult times, and you help others too because your awareness has expanded.
- At any point in your life it is valuable to ask yourself: Does the deepest part of me, the part that is transformed and lifted by emotion, move me to become the person I aspire to be?
- Are you in alignment with the highest purpose you can sense for yourself?



## YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

### Parish Council

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Internal Auditor: Jacqui Peskett - Aalgaard Renshaw Business Solutions Ltd.

### East Devon District Councillor

John Heath 07966 089257

### Devon County Councillor

Paul Arnott [paul.arnott@devon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.arnott@devon.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament Richard Foord

Email: [Richard.Foord.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:Richard.Foord.MP@parliament.uk)

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It is with great sadness and after much soul-searching we have decided to close Pecorama, our well-loved family attraction, for the 2026 season.

With the challenging economic climate and costs continuing to rise, the PECO parent company cannot continue to support the financial losses of Pecorama. There is sincere hope that Pecorama can reopen in future in a new format which will continue to give lots of inspiration, fun and pleasure to our visitors. But, for the moment PECO will be focusing on growing the core businesses of manufacturing and publishing.

Our sincere thanks go out to all our staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making Pecorama a wonderful, friendly place to visit.

If you hold a Gold Card membership with us, we are happy to offer a refund for any months that cannot be used. Please email us at [info@pecorama.co.uk](mailto:info@pecorama.co.uk) for details.

Finally, we want to thank our lovely visitors for bringing the site to life and we look forward to welcoming you all again in some form in the future.

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# Beer Parish News

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Service

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**Copy for March 2026 to be with the Editor  
by Saturday 21st February, at very latest please.**

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