

Beer Parish News

2025 May

VE DAY Thursday 8th May

11:00am Act of Remembrance

and Village Celebrations

on 10th & 11th



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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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ST MICHAEL'S ...

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& Head Server: Mrs P. Bewick 21954

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Families Worker: Amy Dare mrmandmrsdare22@gmail.com

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

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Mrs E. Singleton,

Mrs S. Anderson

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

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St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

[f St Michaels Church Beer](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsChurchBeer)

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

Calendar for MAY 2025

Fri 2nd May	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 4th	9:30am Morning Praise	3 rd Sunday of Easter
Tues 6th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 7th	10:00am Prayer Group	
Thurs 8th	11:00am VE Day Act of Remembrance	
Fri 9th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sat 10th	Beer VE Day Celebrations	
Sun 11th	8:00am VE Day Celebration Breakfast 9:30am Family Communion	4 th Sunday of Easter
Tues 13th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 14th	8:30am Open the Book at School 10:00am Holy Communion at BEER 12:30pm Worship Team meeting 1:00pm PCC Meeting	
Fri 16th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers 3:30pm Messy Church	
Sun 18th	9:30am Family Communion	5 th Sunday of Easter
Tues 20th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 21st	2:00pm "Anna's Place"	
Fri 23rd	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sun 25th	10:00am Rogation Service <i>beginning in Church and processing to Beach</i>	6 th Sunday of Easter
Tues 27th	6:00pm Choir Practice	
Wed 28th	10:00am Holy Communion at SEATON	
Fri 30th	NO Mickey's (Half Term)	
Sun 1st June	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Morning Praise	7 th Sunday of Easter

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 -

This month marks a deeply significant milestone in our shared history: the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day — VE Day — on 8th May. It was on this day in 1945 that the guns finally fell silent across Europe, bringing an end to nearly six years of war on the continent. It was a moment of joy, relief, and sombre remembrance for countless families across Britain and beyond.

Eighty years may seem a long time, yet there will be those in our communities, in whom the memories of that day remain vivid. And for others, memories passed down through children and children's children. Streets across the UK came together in celebration. Church bells rang out, bunting was strung between lampposts, and strangers embraced in the streets. For a brief moment, the nation breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Yet even amid the rejoicing, the cost of that hard-won peace could not be forgotten. The war had touched every family. The faces missing from the celebrations were keenly felt — those who had given their lives, those who had returned forever changed, and those still serving in distant lands. The war in Europe was over, but the long road of rebuilding and recovery of lives, communities and nations had yet to begin.

You might be forgiven for thinking history has gone full circle. We live today at a time of great upheaval in our world where stories of violence and death are commonplace, war is routine and political and international stability and security is in the grip of real fragility. Our prayer is for the people of those lands, for peace, reconciliation and an end to the violence.

We reflect on VE Day not only as a historical event, but as a powerful reminder of the need for peace, reconciliation, and hope. Jesus said,



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). On VE Day, we honour those who strove for peace, both in battle and on the home front. And we recommit ourselves to being peacemakers in our own time.

Many churches held services of thanksgiving in 1945, just as we shall this May and our communities of Seaton and Beer shall once again raise the bunting, come together to commemorate and celebrate that historical day: the sacrifices of yesterday for our liberty and livelihood today. May we never take this for granted.

These services of remembrance and commemoration remind us of God's faithfulness even in the darkest of times, and they encourage us to pray for a world still scarred by conflict. Let us use this anniversary not only to remember the past, but to shape the future — to build communities rooted in compassion, justice, and love, which do not simply look inward but also look outward to our neighbours around us for the flourishing of all.

As we mark VE80, may I personally invite you to join me at 7pm on the 8th May to take a moment to pause and reflect: to light a candle, say a prayer, share a story, or simply give thanks. Let us never forget the sacrifices made. And let us never stop working and praying for peace.

Grace and Peace.

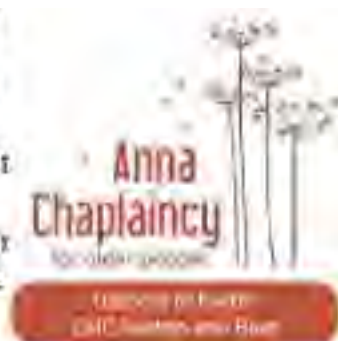
Revd Justin



A small local group who meet regularly in order to grow in the practice of Contemplative Prayer in the Christian tradition. We welcome people of ALL denominations, or none. We usually meet on the second Monday of each month at 7.20pm for 7.35pm. For more information contact: The Church Office on 01297 23656

ANNA CHAPLAINCY

ANNA CHAPLAINCY – MAY worship and events – If you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, you might like to join us for our monthly activity and worship? Please check with the care home prior to your visit in case anything has to be changed.



Monday 28 April – THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 6 May – THE MANOR 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 7 May CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

Monday 12 May – NETHERHAYES 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 13 May – 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 19 May – THE SEATON 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 20 May – LYME BAY VIEW 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 27 May – THORNFIELD – 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 21 May ANNA'S PLACE 2.00 p.m. St Michael's Church BEER. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We really appreciate your prayers and support.

Anna Chaplain Mary – 07805665335

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:

**May 21st
June 18th**

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



Memory Church

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

Tuesday 13th May
Tuesday 10th June

St Gregory's Church
Centre 2-4pm

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

No meeting held in April

The Altar Guild team prepared Lent Lunch on 10th April held in the Congregational hall and thank you for all those who attended and made it special. Also a big thank you to the congregational members for the use of the hall and all their support, greatly appreciated and donations given totalled £200.00 in aid of Shelter Box charity.

Soup for the Soul in the church during Holy week went well and it was lovely to have members of St Gregory's church come over to join us and thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Part of our Easter planning weekend was to include a coffee morning, Easter Sunday service ending with an Easter Monday evening quiz which hopefully would have been successful and will be reported on in the next news.

Everyone is always very welcome at St Michael's church, please come and join us.

Date of next meeting: May 6th 2025 @10.00am

BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

May 4th - 10am Special Service to Commemorate 80th Anniversary of VE Day - Revd Nigel Freathy

May 11th - 10am Service - Mr Alan Blake

**May 18th - 10am Service with Holy Communion - Revd Nigel Freathy
(Service to be followed by Annual Church Meeting)**

May 25th - 10am Rogation Service - Mrs Annette Freathy

June 1st - 10am Service - Revd Nigel Freathy

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OTHER DATES

**May 1st, 15th and 29th - Coffee Mornings in the Hall -
10-30am to 12 noon**

May 2nd - Study Group at Southleigh, Barline - 2-30pm - 4pm

BEER REGATTA 2025 – 'Giving Back' Grant Application Process

Following the Regatta AGM earlier this year, plans are underway for Beer Regatta 2025. As part of the AGM we paused to recognise the dedication and support of the many volunteers who help make Regatta both successful and enjoyable, whilst also acknowledging the generous contributions from our local businesses and organisations.

Regatta 2024 was one to remember with high attendance figures for each event and great sales of Prize Draw tickets, Programmes and sustainable Regatta cups. As a result, we are delighted to report that we have a small surplus of funds to GIVE BACK to Beer organisations/committees that either support Regatta or consistently improve the village for us all to enjoy.

Last year we were able to support;

- The restoration work on our village clock at St Michael's Church
- Beer Primary School
- Puffins
- A new minibus for the Scouts and wider community
- Beer Horticultural Society
- Beer Forum Christmas Committee
- Beer WI
- Busy Bees

Due to the significant donations made in 2024, we have less funds to share this year and we ask that requests for grants, to fund or part-fund projects, be limited to approximately £300.

If you would like to nominate your organisation for funding. Requests should be made via email to our Finance Sub Committee Chair, Andy Weston-Webb, andywestonwebb@gmail.com. Please ensure that you state the name of your organisation, the amount requested and a description of how the money will be utilised. The deadline for this round of applications is **09 May 2025**.

Nette Hamnett & Ollie Harrison, Co-Chairs Beer Regatta

Easter has been and gone and the Fine Foundation Centre is still closed. Unfortunately the work to replace the fish tanks has taken longer than expected, but we will

open to the public as soon as possible. In the meantime, do let us know if you would like one of the old fish tanks – free to a good home!

You may have noticed one significant change at the centre already. The dolphin is now on the balustrade, keeping an eye on activities on the beach. As part of the refurbishment, the Trustees are continuing with our policy of having some of our exhibits outside of the building. Have you completed the I Spy challenge which is on the Beer Village Heritage website?

April showers will hopefully bring forth May's flowers! The gardens have been a blaze of colour over the past month, and those early spring flowers are now over, to be replaced with new ones. A house on the Somerset Levels is lit up with a jumble of Clematis montana, Wisteria, and Ceanothus, and gardens in Sidmouth have magnificent displays of rhododendron and azaleas. Seeing these different shrubs and plants are a reminder of the geology of this area as the underlying rock strata has a direct affect on the type of soil.

"No Mow May" is an excellent way of encouraging insects in your garden, and I know that a lot of gardeners in Beer have adopted the policy for several years. We have only just cut the grass for the first time this year, partly because we have planted anemones in an attempt to emulate the fantastic show in Beer Road, Seaton. Our slow worms are beginning to come out of hibernation and probably appreciate the additional insects. We've seen bats flying on warm evenings. Hopefully they will eat some of the clouds of midges which appear as dusk falls, taking advantage of the conditions to stock up on food! We haven't been out with the bat detector so haven't identified any particular species.

Axe Valley Heritage Society's second talk, on Thursday 1st May, is on Churchill's Secret Army in East Devon. My apologies for not having been able to advertise this earlier. I hope that the secret bunkers near Blackberry Camp will form part of the talk, by Andrew Charterton.

I understand that the Dinosaur Day in Exmouth was a huge success in spite of the weather with over a thousand people visiting the stands. Andy Smith's exhibition in the Bomb Shelter was well received with visitors enjoying the humour in his paintings. The Branscombe Project season of talks ended with Mel Giles talking about Bog Bodies, another fascinating subject introduced by an excellent speaker.

The Devonshire Association has organised the first of their Discovery Days which will be based in Budleigh Salterton on the 7th June from 1030 to 1630. You will be able to find posters at the heritage centre and on our notice board at the Mariners' Hall. Malcolm Hart is always an interesting speaker and is one of the foremost experts on chalk and microfossils. He was a consultant on the Channel Tunnel project, and guided the boring machines under the Channel using a particular layer of microfossils. Please note that you need to book for the Discovery Day, via Ticketsource, even though there is no charge. For more information contact: www.devonassoc.org.uk/wch or telephone 07742 148865.

East Devon's National Landscape's nature recovery team has an exciting programme of events coming up. May 16th sees Bats and Bluebells at Blackberry Camp when bat expert Sarah Butcher will lead a moonlit walk at Blackberry Camp. For more information contact: savingspecialspecies@gmail.com or ring 01297 489741.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on 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.

BEER FILM SOCIETY

WE have some very exciting news for film fans – and it is not just the next four films being offered by Beer Film Society!

Thanks to the support of the Mariners' Hall management committee and chair Mandy Graham a new, state-of-the-art sound system was installed at the end of April – and it sounds stunning!

The two old speakers at the front of the hall have now been retired and been replaced by four speakers; two at the front and two mid-way down the hall.

“The sound quality is truly amazing and it will really enhance the experience of everyone coming to see our films not to mention other functions in the hall,” said chairman Kevin Fahey.

“On behalf of our committee, our members and regular film fans I'd like to give huge vote of thanks to the Mariners' Hall. We really do appreciate your support.”

Our first film with this new sound system is on Thursday May 15th, 'The Mountain Within Me', a powerful, emotional documentary that focuses on former professional rugby player Ed Jackson.

A former captain of both the England U16s and U18s sides when he was at Somerset's Millfield School, the 6ft 4ins 17 stone Jackson launched his professional career at Bath and also had spells at London Welsh and Wasps.

But his world collapsed when he suffered an horrific accident in 2017 leaving him paralysed with experts warning him that he may never walk again, let alone play rugby.

But the tenacious Jackson refused to accept that gloomy prognosis and this uplifting documentary shows how he fought back through taking on incredible physical challenges, including mountain climbing.

Fitness guru Joe Wicks said: 'So inspiring . . . a must-watch.'

If you are interested in reserving a ticket then please email:

beerfilmsociety@gmail.com

As for other three films, here they are: Thursday June 19th: The Conversation (a tribute to Gene Hackman); Thursday July 17th: September 5th & Saturday August 9th our Regatta week film: Paddington in Peru.

* Finally we're looking for some new people to join the BFS team following the recent departure of two of our members from the village so if you like films, would like to get involved and have an input in what we show then please contact chairman Kevin Fahey for a chat on 07887 870323.



Beer Film Society

THE
MOUNTAIN
WITHIN
ME

Card payment preferred

Bring your own cushions!

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Thursday May 15th

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

Beer Arts Group
Presents

Finding the Fun in
Fibonacci



nature

art & architecture

music

maths

Thursday 1st May

Congregational Hall Beer

7pm for 7.30pm

Free entry - donations appreciated

Refreshments available
bring your own drinks

rabbits?

Beer Arts Group
Presents

**Colours, Moods
& Imagination**

in Music

Thursday 8th May

Congregational Hall Beer

7pm for 7.30pm

Free entry - donations appreciated

Refreshments available
bring your own drinks