



Dear Friends,

This week has been 'Love your Yew week', those of you who know Bishops Tawton Church yard will be able to picture the 2 yew trees that tower over you as you enter the Churchyard.

I have been reading up on the information available on Caring for God's acre website as well as the Ancient Yew Group website and have found all sorts of interesting facts. A little bit of knowledge in this area is possibly a worry to any of you that are tree surgeons or real experts in this field!

From my reading I believe that our Yews are Common Yew *Taxus Baccata*, although they might be known as Fastigate yews as they are both more upright, rather than the yew in its natural form. There is always speculation about why Yews are popular in Churchyards, however I have read that Churchyards are now the main sanctuary for ancient yews. There are different categories of age for yew trees, with the ways of aging them being measuring their girth at a set point from the ground. Notable (below 4m), Veteran over 500 years old (4-7m) and Ancient over 800 years old (7+ m). By my attempts our trees will soon enter Veteran status. Just think of all the things and changes they will have seen. This reminded me of the passage in Acts 2 where Paul addresses the crowd at Pentecost, recounting the prophecy of Joel, 'Your old men will dream dreams'. Age brings with it a richness, built up of the experiences and dreams that have been lived through. It is the same with these old trees that deserve recognition as we ponder over all that they have seen and experienced. In Psalm 1 we read that those that draw nourishment from God's word are like a tree planted by streams of water, and that does prosper, yields fruit in season, and whose leaves do not wither.

I am looking at registering these trees on the Ancient Yew Group map so that we can ensure that they continue to thrive and be recognised for the life they have lived. May we too dwell on the richness of God's word so that we too thrive, though maybe not live to be over 500 years old!

Prayers for the week ahead of us all.

Jo
Church warden, Bishops Tawton and LLM

Diary Dates:

It's half term so no Mini Music or Toddlers

Wed 18th Feb: Pop-Up Café at Bishops Tawton

Wed 18th Feb: Ash Wednesday Communion 7.30pm at Newport

Further away

Wed 4th Mar: Coffee at Newport

Sat 7th Mar: Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12 noon at Bishops Tawton

Sat 7th Mar: Mission Shed – looking at Children and Young People's work

SUNDAY SERVICES 15th Feb

**9.30am Morning Praise
at Newport**

**11.00am Holy Communion at
Bishops Tawton**

Online service of Morning Prayer:
<https://youtu.be/eeR69j74sQw>

Readings: Exodus 24: 12 – end and
Matthew 17: 1 - 9

Collect for The Sunday next before Lent:

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**As we continue to pray for the
people of Ukraine and the Middle
East, please pray for...**

Sunday 15th: the Children's Hospice
South West

Monday 16th: everyone on half term
holiday

Tuesday 17th: Ally Hope, our new
vicar

Wednesday 18th: the work of prison
chaplains

Thursday 19th: the NHS, carers and
key workers

Friday 20th: the Freedom Centre

Saturday 21st: the signs of spring we
are seeing all around us

Churchwardens: Jo Pay (Bishops Tawton) 01271 323658

Sandra Jeffery (Newport) 01271 342297 and Janet Benson-Hoad (Newport) 01271 342976