



Dear Friends,

As Verena reminded us last week, this period of the Church year called Ordinary Time is our time for growth, our time for the focus to be on God, to be challenged as we work our way through the Gospel readings, and to discover and develop spiritual disciplines that will

strengthen our Daily walk and relationship with God.

I have just had a week's holiday. It started with a camping trip in the dry and warm, or rather hot actually – which is quite unusual for Jayne and I. We then took the train up to London, in possibly the hottest week ever, to go and see Jesus Christ Superstar, with Sam Ryder as Jesus.

With the heat these activities were challenges in themselves, but watching the musical also felt a challenge. There was the story that we are all so familiar with, but seeing it danced and sung, in a slightly more edgy style and energy than when I sang in it as a child, I was struck by how hounded Jesus was by the crowds asking for miracles or healings. How retreating to a quiet place to pray was so necessary and essential for Jesus to begin again each day.

We sometimes feel that the passages of the Bible are so familiar we can miss those things that God wants us to see, hear and then act upon. Let's use this period of Ordinary Time to allow God's written word to speak to us afresh, to challenge and stretch us anew.

Prayers for the week ahead of us all.

Jo
Church warden, Bishops Tawton and LLM

Diary Dates:

Mon 20th: weekday 8am Morning Prayer resumes at Bishops Tawton

Mon 20th: Mini Music at Newport

Mon 20th: weekday 6pm Evening Prayer resumes at Newport

Tues 21st: Toddlers at Bishops Tawton

Tues 21st: Dynamix Concert 7.30pm at Bishops Tawton Church, fund raising for North Devon Against Domestic Abuse and the Church

Wed 22nd: Pop-Up Café at Bishops Tawton

Fri 24th: Bible Study Group, Newport, 11am

SUNDAY SERVICES 19th Jul

**9.30am Morning Praise
at Newport**

**11.00am Holy Communion at
Bishops Tawton**

Online service of Morning Prayer:

<https://youtu.be/T7ARH-zMUag>

Readings: Romans 8: 12 – 25 and
Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 - 43

Collect for the 7th Sunday after Trinity:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 19th: Ally and her family, returning home from their holiday

Monday 20th: our work with young people, children and families

Tuesday 21st: all those affected by this summer's heat waves **Wednesday 22nd:** the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Thursday 23rd: the NHS, carers and key workers

Friday 24th: everyone at school looking forward to the end of term

Saturday 25th: couples getting married this summer