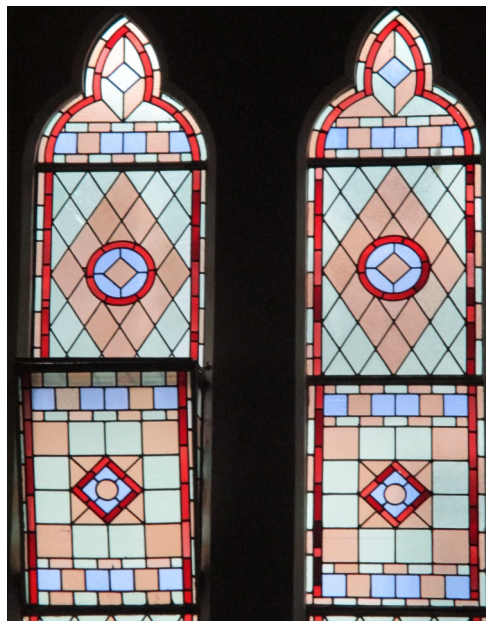




## THE REVIEW

February / March 2026



# BRIDGE BOOKS

*Connecting people to God*



**A Great Selection of Christian Resources for  
individuals, for the church, for schools,  
and for the minister**

Visit our shop or see our website:

[www.bridgebookshop.co.uk](http://www.bridgebookshop.co.uk)

(We offer Click & Collect or we post out to you.)

Tell us what you need.

If not in stock we will do the research  
for you and get it as quickly as we can.

Open 9.30am – 5pm Monday to Saturday

3 Okehampton Street, St Thomas, Exeter EX4 1DW

We are here to help you - 01392 427171

[sales@bridgebookshop.co.uk](mailto:sales@bridgebookshop.co.uk)

# The Review

## Contents

	Page
Worship in February / March ....	4
Minister's Reflection.....	5,6,7
News of the Church Family..	8,9
Chairacise.....	10
Lent Prayer, Catering.....	.11
Remembering people.....	12 to 15
Concerts.....	16
Eco Matters.....	17
Local Charities.....	18
Your story.....	19
Church Calendar.....	20,21,22
About our website.....	23

**Editor's note:** The next *Review* will be for April / May 2026. Items for inclusion need to be sent by **14th March** 2026 to the email address below. Please only use this address for *Review* items.

*Peter4Review@gmail.com*

## **Worship in February**

Sunday 1st	Revd Janine Atkinson	Communion
Sunday 8th	Revd Iain McDonald	
Sunday 15th	Revd Janine Atkinson	
Sunday 22nd	Revd Janine Atkinson	

## **Worship in March**

Sunday 1st	Revd Janine Atkinson	Communion
Sunday 8th	Revd Barbara Bennett	
Sunday 15th	Revd Janine Atkinson	
Sunday 22nd	Revd Janine Atkinson	
Sunday 29th	Revd Peter Brain	

### **Days Off**

Please remember that Revd Janine's days off are  
Mondays and Tuesdays.

Messages appropriate for the church secretary should be sent to the email address [secretary.glenorchyurc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.glenorchyurc@gmail.com)  
This email address is regularly monitored.

### **Website**

For advice about using the Church website [glenorchychurch.org.uk](http://glenorchychurch.org.uk) have a look at Page 23.

## **From the Minister...**

Dear Friends,

Read Matthew 4: 1 – 11 The Temptation of Jesus

At school, I was the one nobody picked to be on their team in games.

I was uncoordinated and disinterested. I tried to be out in rounders, preferring to sit and watch than play. That became my identity – the one on the side-lines. I've worked hard to overcome it, but there are still times I'd happily be on the side-lines. I was, however, the listener, the one people would find and confide in.

Perhaps you were the sporty one, or the clever one, or the kind one, or the joker, or the sensible one – or the disruptive one!

Whatever it is, we all have an identity – one we give ourselves, or one that others give us. For some, for better or worse, their 'identity' sticks throughout life: a blessing or a curse.

Our identities are shaped by many factors and some people will wrestle with the search for their identity more than others.

Our human default position is to remember the one criticism, rather than the ten positive comments! Hey ho!

During his time in the wilderness, Jesus shared the human struggle for our 'identity'. He was tempted by three different identities. With his God given power he could be a magician, a daredevil or a tyrant.

But he wrestled with and rejected them all, accepting instead the difficult option of bearing good news for the poor and dispossessed, an identity and message at odds with the powers and principalities of the world. A square peg in the round hole of religious practice.

His identity was forged through the prism of his living relationship with God. Nourished and equipped by his knowledge of (Hebrew) Scripture, he batted those tempting proposals out of the park.

I wonder, what challenges your God-given identity, and how do you respond?

Rejecting the temptation to collude with earthly powers is easier if we are able to speak with confidence, as Jesus did, from a scriptural and experiential relationship with God that we are confident about and can draw on, just as Jesus was.

So, what do we need to do to be able to say that we live ‘not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’?

Perhaps a challenge for Lent, is to take something up rather than give something up – maybe some careful, thoughtful Bible reading, so that we too can challenge those voices that tempt us into self-interest.

We seem to live in a world of opinion: But the world is changed for the better by our *actions*, *not* our *opinions*. Jesus’ opinions were backed up with action: generous inclusivity in excluding religion and politics

This Lent, why not wrestle with the temptation to be worldly and embrace your God-given identity in your own, less risky, wilderness. Perhaps (if you don’t already) you could indulge in daily Bible reading.

Why not join our Lent Bible Book Group (see below).

Knowledge of Scripture is key to meeting the challenge of embracing our God-given identity – however topsy turvy that identity might seem.

Choosing which voices to listen to, and having a strong sense of our identity in Christ, being mentally and spiritually nourished by Scripture and drenched in God’s love will equip us to choose wisely.

Knowledge of Scripture is in decline. So, those of us who remember it and are prepared to study it have work to do. We have keys to unlock the good news about God, through all that Jesus said and did – and still does. The challenge to pass on the message that we received is urgent and entrusted to us.

Lent offers us a season to tend to the garden we may have neglected. A time to prepare the ground, to plant and prune for a flourishing of life to spring up in the wilderness of the world's spiritual thirst.

Rev. Janine



**Holy Week at Glenorchy  
Get the Easter  
Message in full**

Join us on:-

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am**

to celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 4pm**

to remember Jesus' Last Supper at a reflective Maundy  
Thursday Communion Service

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10.30am**

to reflect on and enter into the  
events of Good Friday

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30am**

for Easter Sunday thanks and praise!

## News of the Church Family

In December, sadly, after struggling with her illness throughout the year, Sheila Brain died. Her funeral was on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Among Sheila's numerous tasks in support of our church, she was the editor of *The Review* until last summer.

In the middle of January the Church Fellowship lost three more friends.

Mr Ron Peters was a member since March 1972 and served the Church as an Elder. He died in hospital on Sunday 11th. Please remember his son Ian and daughter-in-law Jean in your prayers.

Mary Grail, the widow of Revd Chris Grail minister from 1972 -1981, has died. Please remember her children Ian and Alison and grandchildren.

Ian McLauchlan died on Monday 12th. Ian and his wife Josephine attended Church and the Lunchtime Concerts for many years and regularly joined the Walking Group. Ian was also very involved in the Allotment Project. Please remember Josephine and their children Fiona, Annabelle and Alastair and their grandchildren in your prayers.

Other members of the fellowship have been unwell in recent weeks. It was good to see Pam Diffey able to walk without support, following a fall in August and breaking three bones near her ankle. Jean Curl has been unwell for several weeks and needs help when she is able to go out. Several members have been unwell with seasonal illnesses. We pray for their recovery.

### Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive to Michael and I during our recovery from our unfortunate accidents. I spent a very long time unable to move very much which left Michael having to be chief cook and bottle washer. Indeed for the first six weeks neither of us could do much at all. So the gifts of food and flowers, books and chocolates were much appreciated as was the company and the phone calls and e-mails that many of you provided. Fortunately friends still write letters and send cards so we felt very loved and cared for.

*Pam Diffey*

### Elders' Prayers

At each Elders' Meeting we pray for people on some of our oversight lists.

On February 10th, we will be praying for the people on Jenny 's list and on those on John's list.

On March 3rd, we will be praying for those on Lyn's, Angela's and Rose's lists.

### World Day of Prayer 2026

The Service this year has been written by Nigerian women.

The Exmouth service is being held at Holy Ghost Church, Raddenstile Lane, on Friday 6th March at 3.30pm (Please note the new time.)

All are welcome.



## Coming Soon to Chairs at Glenorchy Church **CHAIRACISE!**

Seated exercise is a fantastic way to stay active, improve your health, and boost your mood, all from the comfort of a chair! Whether you're recovering from an injury, have limited mobility, or simply want a gentle way to get moving, sitting exercises are a perfect solution.

Mary Bennett will be putting her former career to good use to lead even the most inflexible of us in Chair Exercise

**Starting on Friday 27th February  
and every Friday morning  
Exercise from  
10.30am to 11am  
followed by a sociable time for refreshments  
and chat**

Lord, teach me a new freedom.  
Freedom to reject comparison  
and to embrace uniqueness.

Freedom to cut ties with greed  
and to feast on love.

Freedom to abstain from over  
indulgence and feast on  
self-control.

Freedom to leave behind selfish  
thoughts

and to focus on the needs of others.

Freedom to fend off insecurity and to embrace grace.

Lord, at this time of Lent,

thank you for the freedom you bring. Amen



*(A Lenten prayer from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))*

## Funeral Catering

Sadly the time has come when we, as a church, are no longer able to provide a full range of refreshments for family and friends after funerals. We can still provide hot drinks and biscuits.

If savouries, sandwiches and cakes are required, the family or person organising the funeral will need to engage an 'outside' caterer. The caterer must liaise with Jenny Newman concerning access to the building, the use of the kitchen and furniture requirements.



### **Sheila Brain: 1943 - 2025**

Sheila was born in Wolverhampton and attended the local primary school, Woodfield Avenue, which I mention because two people known at Glenorchy, David Southern and Bob Austen, attended the same school! From Wolverhampton Girls' High School she went on a scholarship to Queen Mary College in London to read German. Having come to faith at school she joined the Christian Union at university. We met there in 1961, fell in love and married in 1965.

Our two children were still young when we moved to Liverpool in 1974. Sheila became a parent-governor of the local primary school and threw herself into starting and running a community holiday play scheme in our splendid large hall. She was invited onto the committee of Liverpool YWCA; she warmed to this and eventually became the chairperson. Then she was invited onto various YWCA committees and eventually and deservedly ended up as the President of the YWCA of Great Britain. This honour was a breakthrough back then for a woman with no privileged background.

It did mean that she was quite used to not taking church leaders too seriously when I became a Moderator and we moved to Manchester!

There at last we had a garden, an interest which she could develop and which has enriched our retirement since 2007. In Exmouth she served as Trust Officer at Point in View for 12 years and she was active as an Elder at Glenorchy.

Over these 60+ years I could see how Sheila gained and deserved the love and the respect of everyone she met and worked with. Thank God for her with me. *Peter Brain*

Peter Brain would like to thank everyone who sent kind and supportive messages and cards.

### Ian McLauchlan

Ian attended church services for a time, with Josephine but more often of recent years they were present in the audience of lunchtime concerts. Their daughter, Annabel, has performed as a cellist at a number of our concerts.

Ian was a plant scientist who had worked at the Wellesbourne vegetable research station in Warwickshire. He loved gardening and especially growing vegetables. He put this to good use in the Glenorchy Church Allotment Project on the Pound Lane site. He was very proud of the numerous varieties of tomatoes and peppers, which he grew every year in our polytunnel and was famous for his favourite 'purple podded climbing beans'. He also loved to sit down for a breaks with us there and "put the world to rights".



Ian's family would like to thank the Glenorchy community for their friendship over so many years, and their support at this time.

## Ron Peters

Police Sergeant and Mrs Peters lived at the Police Station at Saltash and it was there that their only child Ronald Henry was born on the 7th March 1927. On his birth certificate it showed the place of birth as the "Police Station, Saltash" and over the years this caused many eyebrows to be raised.

Ron's Father retired from the Police due to ill health in 1934 and the family settled in Saltash. Ron attended the local Primary School until he was 11 when he won a scholarship to Saltash Grammar School. On leaving school he began an apprenticeship at Devonport Naval Dockyard. Once this was completed it coincided with the post war period when the Police were very short of recruits. Ron applied and became P.C.292 on 18th October 1948. As he was unmarried at that time it was easy for him to be moved from station to station. He had a number of such moves, including to the Isles of Scilly where he became half of the establishment of two constables.

In 1962 he moved to Bude and it was there that he met Mary Elisabeth Sampson who was to become his wife. She was a Cashier in Barclays Bank which was next to the Police Station. and their frequent meeting led to their marriage on 5th September 1964. Their son Ian was born in 1965

The family moved to Camborne in 1966 and they lived happily there until 1971 when they moved to Exmouth. Ron retired from the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary in 1974. For the next five years he worked in the Legal Department of East Devon District Council.

Mary Peters was a devoted fundraiser for the Save the Children Fund. She and Ron were delighted when he was offered the position of Area Organiser for the Fund for Devon and Dorset. The Fund's policy was to have a retirement age of 60 so in 1987 Ron retired from full time employment.

Ron and Mary were committed Christians and over the years occupied many of the Church Offices, with Mary being the Auditor for many years and both served as Elders

Ron also had five happy years on an Open University course, obtaining a BA. He then studied on a two year course at Exeter University, resulting in him receiving an MA in Police and Criminal Law in 1990.

In 2011 it became clear that Mary had signs of early dementia which gradually became worse. With the help of carers she was able to remain at home with Ronald until sadly she passed away in 2021.

Ron's dad's police service number with the Cornwall Constabulary was number 98. Ron was adamant that he wanted to live to at least this number and so it is wonderful that he achieved this target. Right up to the end he was mentally alert and there was nothing he enjoyed more than reading "The Times" from cover to cover and making comments on it in red ink!

"University Challenge" was one of his favourite programmes and he always looked forward to Monday nights at 8.30 on BBC2 to see if he could get at least one question correct!

Anyone who knew him always commented on his dapper and smart appearance and it drew much humour that he used to cut the lawn in jacket, shirt and tie.

Ron made it quite clear that he intended to remain at his home in Halsdon Avenue for as long as he was able and he was able to stay there until December last year when he was admitted to hospital after a fall at home.



## Lunchtime Concerts

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Emilija Karaliute	<i>Kankles</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Hansford	<i>Baritone</i>
	Josephine Pickering	<i>Piano</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Roseland Wind Quintet	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Iain McDonald	<i>Baritone</i>
	Nicholas Brown	<i>Piano</i>
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Beacon Trio	<i>Violin, Cello and Piano</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Mehta	<i>Soprano</i>
	John Draisey	<i>Piano</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Clarke	<i>Piano</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Wind and Piano</i>	
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Phil Bonser	<i>Clarinet</i>
	Dorothy Raven	<i>Piano</i>
8 <sup>th</sup>	Willow Ensemble	<i>Oboe and Strings</i>
15 <sup>th</sup>	Iryna Ilnytska	<i>Soprano</i>
	John Draisey	<i>Piano</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Samantha Muir & Lara	<i>Guitars</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	Cantemos	<i>Choir</i>

Church Choir. There will be choir practices at 3.00 pm to prepare for Easter on Fridays 13th, 20th and 27th March. If you enjoy singing, come and join us.

*Peter Johnstone*

# Eco Matters

The High Seas Treaty. 80 countries signed up to this U.N. treaty on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Its aim is to protect from damage all life in, and the geology, of all the parts of the oceans and seas, which are more than 200 miles from land.

Interestingly, the U.K. has not yet signed up but is expected to do so soon. It is “legally binding” for those countries which have signed up.

One of the main architects of this treaty was Professor Kristina Gjerde of Edinburgh University, who dedicated her life to persuading others to support the initiative. Some affectionately called her “mother of the High Seas”. Sadly, she died in December but she would have known that the treaty would be signed in January.

There will be regular meetings of the 80 countries to record the progress of the aims of the treaty. These meetings will be similar to the regular COP meetings, hosted in different countries, which take place for Climate Change.

The seas have a huge effect on the atmosphere that we breathe and the weather that we experience.

Let us pray that more countries will be persuaded to join in, so that the waters which cover 2/3 of our planet’s surface will have the protection that they, and we, need.

*Peter Johnstone*





The Warehouse will be open on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 10am -2pm and on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10am-1pm, to receive clothing and bedding in good condition. In March the Warehouse will be open on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm and on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10am-1pm. For other items please speak to Jenny. The charity sent 1,000 shoe boxes to Ukraine in September and 5,300 at the end of November to Moldova. Thank you for your continued support.



The Exmouth Fairtrade Group will be holding a Pancake Party along with the sale of Fairtrade goods on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February in All Saint's Church Hall, Exeter Road from 4.30pm. Vegan pancakes will be available. There will be a nominal charge to defray expenses. Please do support this Fairtrade event.



Exmouth Food Bank began in November 2012 to help people in Food crisis and provide them with food for their family or single people. They are provided with basic food: bread, cereals, tinned food and a tin opener for rough sleepers, and fresh fruit and vegetables if they are able to collect their bags of food. Toiletries are included. The bags contain a good selection of food. People need to register to obtain the food, with a reference from the C.A.B. or The Open Door Centre. The Food Bank is run by the Salvation Army and is based in their Hall in Sheppards Row, Exmouth. Thank you for your continued support for the Food Bank.

## 21st Century technology ?

It would be of interest for revising the details in the church directory and for other communications to know:

1. Who has changed from using a “landline” telephone at home to relying instead on a “mobile phone” only.
2. Who is using the church website regularly to listen to audio recordings of our church Sunday Services.

Please send a short email to the editor of *The Review* at the email address [peter4review@gmail.com](mailto:peter4review@gmail.com) (see page 3) if either of the above applies to you.

## Your story

Some people have requested a return of a type of article which appeared in *The Review* a few years ago.

Would you like to tell us the story of what you did or what happened to you earlier in your life ?

You could write something down yourself and send it to the editor (see the email address above, or on page 3) or you could volunteer to be interviewed.

**February**

**Sunday 1st**

10.30am Family Service  
and Holy Communion  
Revd Janine Atkinson

**Wednesday 4th**

9.45am Art Group  
12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

**Thursday 5th**

9.15am Job Café

**Friday 6th**

7.00pm Table Tennis

**Saturday 7th**

9.45am Coffee Morning

**Sunday 8th**

10.30am Family Service  
Revd Iain McDonald

**Tuesday 10th**

2.00pm Elders Meeting

**Wednesday 11th**

9.45am Art Group  
12.30 pm Lunchtime Concert

**Thursday 12th**

9.15am Job Café

**Friday 13th**

7.00pm Table Tennis

**Saturday 14th**

9.45am Coffee Morning

**Sunday 15th**

10.30am Family Service  
Revd Janine Atkinson

**Tuesday 17th**

4.30 Fairtrade Pancake Tea  
Party (at All Saints Church)

**Wednesday 18th**

9.45am Art Group  
12.30am Lunchtime Concert

**Thursday 19th**

9.15am Job Café

**Friday 20th**

7.00pm Table Tennis

**Saturday 21st**

9.45am Coffee Morning

**Sunday 22nd** 10.30 Family Service  
Revd Janine Atkinson

## February

### **Sunday 22nd**

10.30am Family Service

Revd Janine Atkinson

### **Tuesday 24th**

2.00pm Glenorchy Crafters

### **Wednesday 25th**

9.45 Art Group

12.30 Lunchtime Concert

### **Thursday 26th**

9.15 Job Café

### **Friday 27th**

10.15 Chairacise

7.00 Table Tennis

### **Saturday 28th**

9.45am Coffee Morning

## March

### **Sunday 1st**

10.30 Family Service  
and Holy Communion

Revd Janine Atkinson

## March

### **Tuesday 3rd**

2.00pm Elders meeting

### **Wednesday 4th**

9.45am Art Group

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

### **Thursday 5th**

9.15am Job Cafe

### **Friday 6th**

10.15 Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

### **Saturday 7th**

9.45am Coffee Morning

### **Sunday 8th**

10.30am Family Service

Revd Barbara Bennett

### **Wednesday 11th**

9.45am Art Group

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

### **Thursday 12th**

9.15 Job Café

## March

### **Friday 13th**

10.15 Chairacise

3.00 Choir Practice

7.00pm Table Tennis

### **Saturday 14th**

9.45am Coffee Morning

### **Sunday 15th Mothers Day**

10.30am Family Service

Revd Janine Atkinson

### **Wednesday 18th**

9.45am Art Group

12.30 pm Lunchtime Concert

### **Thursday 19th**

9.15am Job Café

### **Friday 20th**

10.15am Chairacise

3.00pm Choir Practice

7.00 Table Tennis

### **Saturday 21st**

9.45am Coffee Morning

### **Sunday 22nd**

10.30am Family Service

Revd Janine Atkinson

11.30am Church Meeting

### **Tuesday 24th**

2.00pm Glenorchy Crafters

### **Wednesday 25th**

9.45am Art Group

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

### **Thursday 26th**

9.15 Job Café

### **Friday 27th**

10.15 Chairacise

3.00 Choir Practice

7.00pm Table Tennis

### **Saturday 28th**

9.45am Coffee Morning

### **Palm Sunday 29th**

Summer Time begins.

10.30am Family Service

Revd Peter Brain

### **Easter Sunday 5th April**

How to download the Sunday Service:

1. Find the website [glenorchychurch.org.uk](http://glenorchychurch.org.uk)
2. Scroll down to “Service Recordings and Reflections”.  
Look below for “Audio recording” and the date of the service you want to listen to.  
Click on “here”.
3. You can listen online by clicking the play button—but it is better to first download the service by clicking the download button at the top of the screen.
4. In “Downloads” you can find the service labelled with its date.  
Open it and click the play button.
5. After listening to the service you may want to delete it to clear computer memory.

*Peter Johnstone*

What else you can find on the website : [glenorchychurch.org.uk](http://glenorchychurch.org.uk)

The ‘Home’ page is displayed first. There you will see pictures and general information about our church. Below are details of the next Lunchtime Concert and, next down, the current *Review* magazine.

There are also audio recordings of recent Sunday services.

Clicking on one of the five titles at the top of the page will take you to other information, for example the 2024 Book of Reports (the most recent produced) is accessed through the title “Church Life”.

# **Glenorchy United Reformed Church**

Exeter Road, Exmouth EX8 1PL

## **Minister**

Revd Janine Atkinson

Her days off are Mondays and Tuesdays.

## **Church Secretary**

secretary.glenorchyurc@gmail.com

## **Church website**

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

*contact: [info@glenorchychurch.org.uk](mailto:info@glenorchychurch.org.uk)*