



THE REVIEW

October / November 2026



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The Review

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Editor's note: The next *Review* will be for December 2026 and January 2027. Items for inclusion need to be sent by 15th November 2026 to the email address below. Please only use this address for *Review* items.

peter4review@gmail.com

Worship in October

Sunday 4th	Revd Peter Brain	Elders Ordination , Communion
Sunday 11th	Revd Ruth Dillon	
Sunday 18th	Revd Barbara Bennett	
Sunday 25th	Revds Barbara Bennett, Peter Brain	Missions

Worship in November

Sunday 1st	Revd Robert Weston (tbc)	Communion
Sunday 8th	Revd Michael Diffey	Remembrance
Sunday 15th	Revd Barbara Bennett	
Sunday 22nd	Revd Michael Diffey	
Sunday 29th	Revd Peter Brain	

The Ecumenical Service on Monday 31st August

On Bank Holiday Monday, the Mayor, the Town Cryer , 4 Glenorchy people and over 100 others, mostly from other Exmouth churches attended a “Songs of Praise” service in The Strand. Each church had chosen a hymn to sing. Glenorchy’s choice was “Great is Thy faithfulness”, which we had chosen during our July church meeting.

Peter Johnstone

Messages appropriate for the church secretary should be sent to the email address secretary.glenorchyurc@gmail.com

This email address is regularly monitored.

News of the Church Family.

Linda Meikle is in hospital in Exeter following two falls at the Care Home in Exeter. Janet Phillips has moved to a Care Home in the Cheltenham area to be nearer to her sons. Margaret Cumming is living at home with support from her family and carers. Eve Conner is at home and has daily visit from Carers. Mary McFarlane had a fall recently and broke her wrist, so is unable to drive the car.

Please remember our elderly congregation in your prayers.

The Reverend Janine Atkinson, our Minister.

The following message from Janine was read out in church in August and was also included in the bulletin.

Dear Friends

I have been signed off work sick until **30th October**.

You all continue to be held in my love and prayers in what is such a difficult time for you all, and for Mike, Gwen and I.

I miss you and love being your Minister. I pray that, given time, I will be able to return to you.

Janine

Let us continue to pray for Janine's recovery and for Mike and Gwen.

Dear Friends,

In the past few days I have been watching two very different events on my television. The first, twenty-five years on, was about the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Centre in 2001. The second was the mud slides in China, Nepal and Tibet that happened last weekend. The thing that struck me was how quickly we become involved in international events that once would not have reached us for many days.

On 11th September 2001 I was sitting at my desk in Wales when the phone rang. My son in law said “Go and put the tv on. Something dreadful is unfolding in New York.” I did – and suddenly the screen was filled with sirens and fire trucks; with people running and looking up; and as I watched the first of the towers collapsed, with dust, rubble, paper engulfed by a huge cloud. It was like watching a disaster movie in real time. How could humanity do this to people unknown?

Last Saturday I watched again in horror as a wall of mud, ice and rocks broke through the barriers at the crossing into China and swept everything before it down the valley. Homes, bridges and families went with it. So far 1050 people are dead; 4000 are still missing. This disaster was not the work of terrorists, but of nature, responding to the stress that the glaciers on the slopes were under. Glaciers melting because we are still overheating the world we live in.

And yet, in the panic and fear of both events there were people behaving with calm and courage. The staff and pupils in the school opposite the World Trade Centre were evacuated safely by walking away from the scene. In Nepal children and staff, guided by the calm voice of their head teacher were saved as he telephoned the school buses bringing the children in and sent them back; he put a young girl on the back of a motor-cycle as she was having a panic attack; then he sent all the other children and adults up the hill behind the school, thus saving their lives.

Two very different catastrophes a quarter of a century apart. As I watched them both unfold before my eyes, the miracle was that in both places the emergency services were running towards the problems, whilst others were fighting to get away. I remember the Chaplain of the FSNY kneeling on the pavements comforting the dying, until he too lost his life as the world collapsed around him. And in the Himalayas too, the troops and fire personal were there, digging in the mud, hauling people to safety.

Isaiah wrote “Have no fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name – you are mine. When you pass through the waters I’ll be with you; nor will the rivers engulf you; walk through fire and you will not be burned, through flames and they will not harm you.”

There will always be natural disasters and man-made horrors. But God is with us always, only a prayer away. God’s love will never let us go. We are never alone. Have faith in God, my heart; trust, and be unafraid. God is very close.

Pray for the people of Tibet and Nepal and China; pray for those who this week will remember 9/11 with sorrow and regret. God knows when we need God’s love, and it is there in abundance. God bless you all.

Barbara

Church Choir.

There will be a choir practice at 3.00 pm on Friday 27th November to prepare a piece for the Carol Service on Sunday 20th December.

If you enjoy singing, please come to this practice. Please also let me know soon whether you would like to come to this and the other practices in December.

Peter Johnstone

Harvest



Harvest Sunday

On this Sunday we thank God for his continuing goodness to us in enabling the food we eat to be grown, wherever in the world that happens.

Elders

Sunday 4th October

During today's service, the new Elders will be inducted and we will celebrate Holy Communion.

Let us continue to pray for our Elders and give them our support in the work that they do for us all. We all have a part to play to ensure the future of Glenorchy Church.

Decorating our Church for Christmas

Dear Friends,

This year we are again dividing the tasks of decorating the church into two mornings to make it less tiring for everyone. It also means that there are two opportunities to come and help, joining friends to dress our lovely church for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Free coffee or tea will be available.

Please note it will be on Friday and Saturday this year, 27th and 28th of November, from 9.30 a.m.

Friday, 27th November, help is needed to unpack and erect the trees we will be using, also the decorations ready for Saturday. Batteries and lights will need to be checked too.

On Saturday 28th November from 9.30 a.m., help is needed to decorate the trees and also to set up the nativity scenes and decorate the window sills. I will decorate the 'Big Window' but would value some help too.

Please make this an enjoyable and rewarding team effort by coming on either of the mornings or both. It cannot be done without you and everyone can help in some way. *Angela*

Chairacise

Chairacise will take place regularly at 10.15 am on Fridays except that

there will be no Chairacise on Friday 27th November, the day the church is being decorated for Christmas.

Eco Matters

We have had a hot summer, which should leave no-one in doubt about global warming.

Despite a U.S. President who denies climate change, the rest of the world is still discussing ways to reduce it. Watch out for news in November of the next U.N. climate conference, COP 31, which will begin on Monday 9th in Antalya, Southern Turkey, and last for two weeks.

An event called the “Salmon Run” took place on Saturday 19th September to publicise the polluted condition of the river Exe.

A group of runners ran from Side Shore, Exmouth, the 43 miles to Dulverton near Exmoor, following the course of the river. Salmon are not completely extinct in the river but it is thought that they soon will be. Our river needs a clean up. It’s not only our seafront which is being polluted by run-off.

Peter Johnstone

Water Saving Tips

Our reservoirs are not full. As I write, we still have a “hosepipe ban”.

What are your tips for saving water in your home and garden ?

Please send your ideas to the editor peter4review@gmail.com

He will print your ideas in a future issue.



Exeter Road, Exmouth

Lunchtime Concerts

- October 7th Nigel and Tina Guthrie
Organ, Piano & Flute
- 14th Simeon Walker *Piano*
- 21st Chris Bundy *Flute, Saxophone & Piano*
- 28th Annabel Rooney and Jane Greenwood
'Cello for Two'
- November 4th Joyce Clarke *Piano*
- 11th Chris Gradwell *Clarinet*
- Walter Brewster *Piano*
- 18th Robert Stephenson *Flute*
- Roger Stephenson *Piano*
- Amye Farrell *Cello*
- 25th The Beacon Trio: Joyce Clarke *Piano*
Anna Cockroft *Violin* Ruth Lass *Cello*
- December 2nd 'Singing for Fun Exmouth' *Choir*

Wednesdays at 12.30 pm

Sue Densham has recalled for us some memorable experiences:

When I was 9, In 1946, my mother, brother and I were told by my father, who was an army officer serving in Singapore, that we would be travelling out, by sea, to join him. We had 4 vaccinations, 2 of which made us very poorly. We packed as much as we could fit in the trunks provided before setting off to Southampton to embark on the ship awaiting us. This was originally a German ship named the SS Rosa, which had been captured by the Royal Navy and then been used as a troop ship named The Empire Windrush. I had no idea then how famous it would turn out to be or what our journey would be like.

Our first encounter was the Bay of Biscay, where a frightening storm tossed us up and down and from side to side. That over, the weather improved and we visited Gibraltar, where we enjoyed the spectacular views from the top of the Rock and met those famous monkeys.

From there we sailed to Port Said, a place I hadn't even heard of. How different the people's white clothes were to ours and how fast they spoke in their native language. We had a Gillie Gillie man come on board with a snake in a basket, which he charmed in and out with an instrument similar to a recorder. Then small children came out for us to throw coins into the deep water for them to dive down to retrieve, and then proudly show us before harbouring them in their mouths before their next dive.

We then travelled to Aden through the Suez Canal, where we saw pyramids and much sandy terrain. We stopped at the Bitter Lake, which was wide enough for two ship to pass each other and, excitedly, we saw our first shark.

We tied up at the port of Aden and then travelled by car to look around Aden, built in a crater of an old volcano.

We were fascinated to see markets selling beautiful hand woven carpets and colourful materials and unusual fish not seen in our cold waters and, finally, a huge variety of fruit and veg., so good to see after our wartime rations !

In the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, we had seen many dolphins, porpoises and sparkling flying fish delightfully swimming beside us. Our last port of call was Columbo in Ceylon, now called Sri Lanka. That, at first was a sad experience, with many children and adults sitting on the streets begging, sometimes pulling at my dress, hoping I could spare them some money. However, there were also many craftsmen making gifts to tempt us, especially beautiful filigree jewellery.

After 29 days, we joyfully arrived in Singapore, a place I shall never forget, nor the amazing journey it had been for a 9 year old, who, so far, had only memories of World War II.

We were met by my father, who took us to the Mountbatten Hotel on Bras Bassa Road, where we would stay for 6 months until the new houses were built at Island View, Passir Panjang, 15 miles along the coast from the city, with absolutely wonderful views of atap huts, which were built on stilts at the water's edge, where the fishermen lived with their families.

Adjacent to the narrow main road, there were taps where women did their washing, bathed their children and collected their drinking water. I was a pupil at a Convent with 400 Singaporean, Chinese and 2 English girls. If my father couldn't take us by car for our 8 a.m. start, we went by bus at 6 a.m. on the most rickety bus, along narrow muddy lanes, picking up other passengers, chickens and pigs for market. The scenery was outstanding, with coconuts dangling from palm trees, bananas and pineapples growing and beautiful, colourful orchids.

School was from 8.00 am until 1.00 pm because of the afternoon heat. On Wednesday afternoon and all day Saturday and Sunday, we went to the Singapore Olympic Swimming Club, where my love of swimming started and where we enjoyed the tasty, spicy food of the far East. I was engrossed seeing the wonderful craftsmen engraving beautiful furniture in dark mahogany wood. I have a coffee table with a triangular stool fitting underneath, which I was able to watch being engraved. Hand bags and shoes were made out of snake skins. There were street vendors noisily selling food from dishes held on yokes on their shoulders. We visited the famous Raffles Hotel for Tiffin, where we experienced the largest variety of wonderful food I have ever seen. The river, then, was filled with colourful house boats all selling a huge variety of fruits, veg. and locally caught fish. The thunder and lightning storms were amazing to watch, with monsoon rains, when one had to avoid being outside.

There was a square of British shops but I so enjoyed visiting the Singaporian, Chinese and Indian shops. Change Alley was a joyful experience where Dad told us to barter for what we wanted and never pay the asking price !

We attended the beautiful white Cathedral for Sunday service.

We visited the wonderful botanical gardens with a huge variety of amazing colourful plants and trees to wander through. Another delight was to have smaller varieties of orchids, which grew everywhere, like our daisies and dandelions. What a wonderful, never to be forgotten education this was for me.

I hope you can understand why I thank God for the memories of those 3 amazing years of sights and experiences, after being a child in World War II.

Sue Densham



A picture painted in Singapore during Sue's time there.

Change of telephone number.

Anne and Keith Empson can no longer be contacted at the phone number printed in the current Glenorchy Directory.

They can now be contacted using the following numbers:

Anne Empson 07976 834153 Keith Empson 07790 951492



The Christian Response 2 Eastern Europe warehouse will be open in October on Wednesday 7th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday 17th for the donation of clothing, bedding, sheets, duvets (synthetic only), curtains, footwear (if they look brand new) and toiletries for adults and children. If you would like to donate a shoe box for children or adults, please speak to Jenny for a list of contents and a shoebox, which will need to be covered with Christmas paper. Please place label giving age, boy, girl or adult on the lid. Boxes will be blessed on Sunday 1st November.



The Christian Aid Rainbow Fair will be held in the Glenorchy Hall on Saturday 10th October.

Glenorchy Church colour is yellow /orange. Donations of items in these colours will be welcome. There is a Rainbow box in the Vestibule for your donations. We will need 2 people to help on the stall. Please speak to Jenny if you are able to help. Wendy & Jenny will be in the kitchen as usual.

Christian Charity Christmas Cards

Christian charity Christmas Cards will be on sale at the Saturday Coffee Mornings during October and November. Buy what you need - not the whole pack. Christmas stickers will also be available.

Phone Number. Several people are giving up their Land line phone and relying on their mobile phone. Please let Peter Johnstone know your mobile number, so the Church Directory can be up-dated.

CALENDAR

October

Thursday 1st

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 2nd

10.15am Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 3rd

9.45am Coffee Morning

Sunday 4th

10.30am Family Service

Ordination of Elders, Holy Communion

Revd Peter Brain

Tuesday 6th

2.00 Elders Meeting

Wednesday 7th

9.45am Art Group

12.30 Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 8th

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 9th

10.15am Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 10th

10.00 am Christian Aid

Rainbow Fair with stalls

Sunday 11th

10.30am Family Service

Revd Ruth Dillon

Wednesday 14th

9.45am Art Group

12.30 Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 15th

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 16th

10.15am Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 17th

9.45am Coffee Morning

Sunday 18th

10.30am Family Service

Revd Barbara Bennett

Wednesday 21st

9.45am Art Group

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

October

Thursday 22nd

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 23rd

10.15am Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 24th

9.45am Coffee Morning for
Missions with Stalls

Sunday 25th

10.30am Mission Service
Revd Barbara Bennett

Tuesday 27th

2.00pm Glenorchy Crafters

Wednesday 28th

9.45am Art Group
12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 29th

9.15am Job Café

Friday 30th

10.15am Characise
7.00 pm Table Tennis

Saturday 31st

9.45 Coffee Morning

November

Sunday 1st

10.30am Family Service
Blessing of Shoeboxes
and Holy Communion
Revd Robert Weston (tbc)

Tuesday 3rd

2.99 Elders Meeting

Wednesday 4th

9.45am Art Group
12.30 pm Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 5th

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 6th

10.15am Chairacise
7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 7th

9.45am Coffee Morning

Sunday 8th

10.30am Remembrance
Service
Collection for Combat Stress
Revd Michael Diffey

November

Wednesday 11th

9.45 Art Group

12.30 pm Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 12th

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 13th

10.15am Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 14th

9.45am Coffee Morning

Sunday 15th

10.30am Family Service

Revd Barbara Bennett

Wednesday 18th

9.45am Art Group

12.30 pm Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 19th

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 20th

10.15am Chairacise

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 21st

9.45am Bible Society

Christmas Fayre with Stalls

Sunday 22nd

10.30am Family Service

Revd Michael Diffey

Tuesday 24th

Glenorchy Crafters

Wednesday 25th

9.45am Art Group

12.30 Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 26th

9.15am Job Cafe

Friday 27th

3.00pm Choir Practice

7.00pm Table Tennis

Saturday 28th

9.45am Coffee Morning

Sunday 29th

10.30am Gift Service

Revd Peter Brain

Glenorchy United Reformed Church

Exeter Road, Exmouth EX8 1PL

Minister

Revd Janine Atkinson

Church Secretary

secretary.glenorchyurc@gmail.com

Church website

www.glenorchychurch.org.uk

contact: info@glenorchychurch.org.uk