

# Big Ted Hits 100

*Big Ted*

Hello again dear readers!

I've been away again on my summer holiday and to do my Roving Ambassador stuff. This time I packed my sunhat and sunglasses and went to Devon and Cornwall (actually, I didn't need the sunhat and sunglasses, I would have been better with my warm cardigan and a sou'wester). Cornwall has hardly any St Mary's churches, which is a shame, but Devon (and the next-door counties) seem to have lots.

While in Devon, I visited my 100<sup>th</sup> St Mary's church. Isn't that fantastic!

The church took a long time to get to, and we fell off the edge of the map which was a bit tricky, but the SatNav lady knew where we were going (for a change). My 100<sup>th</sup> St Mary's church was in a village called **TEDburn St Mary**. Can you believe they even named the village after **me** in honour of my visit?! [*I certainly can't believe that, Big Ted; it used to be an ancient hamlet called "Tettburne"*].



Anyway, it was a very nice church and I had my photo taken on the notice board. Then I went inside and looked around; I also had a celebratory photo taken on the font.

Other St Mary's I visited on my holiday included Bridport (where I met three other church bears and we had a long chat about bear-related things) and Offwell (where I met a really nice man who showed us around and told us all about the church).



I visited the seaside lots of times and I also went on a tram ride which was really exciting. The first journey was really good and I enjoyed looking out the window. But coming back I got to sit on the top deck of the tram, it was very high up and wobbly and so I was rather nervous; I stayed in my carrying bag instead of looking out (there was some interesting shopping in it so I explored that instead).

Some people have asked me why I visit all these St Mary's churches. One answer is: part of my role as Roving Ambassador (with splendid fur) is to let other people know about **our** St Mary's, and how wonderful it is. So, I meet people at other St Mary's churches and say "Hello", and I leave my calling card which says "Thank You for letting me visit your church" and has my website address so they can find out more. Then I put pictures of me at the churches I've visited on my web page, and a flag on my map.

Another answer is: I like looking at other churches, seeing what they are doing and remembering how special St Mary's Plumtree is.

And another answer is: I'm nose-y!

And another other answer is: it gets me away from Little (Grumpy) Ted for a while!

*[That's quite enough answers, Big Ted]*

Anyway, I'm back from my holidays now and getting ready for more special events. I'll be at the Animal Service, of course, and then there's Harvest with all the lovely decorations (plus the Barn Dance and Harvest Lunch), and Uncle Paul's September fellowship event. What a busy time I'll have; I hope to see you there.

Love, **Big Ted**

P.S. I've now visited over 105 different St Mary's churches! They will all be described on my web pages ([www.bigtedplumtree.uk](http://www.bigtedplumtree.uk)) where you can also see a map of where I've been.