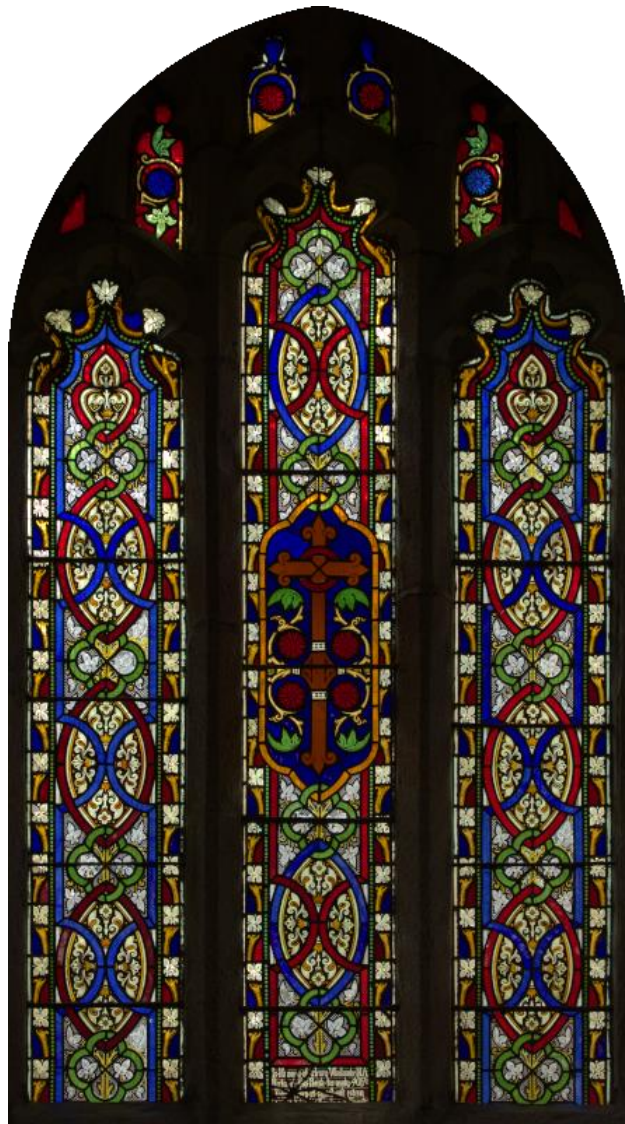


Ruby Country Benefice

The parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton & Tetcott

Bulletin October 2023



*Tell everyone of every nation,
"Praise the glorious power
of the LORD."*

Psalm 96:7

OCTOBER

From the Rector's Desk

There is so much going on that it is helpful to take a break, have a coffee and pull all this together at my desk.

Firstly, we lost the Revd Gerry Matthews last week. A packed church spoke of his service and the esteem in which he is held, indeed 'love' is not too strong a word. The eulogy that his family wrote is attached in this Bulletin and our prayers are with them all, especially Katharine.

It is the season of Harvest and my second and third celebrations are tomorrow at Clawton and Highampton. Baptisms are up in some churches and so are marriages and happily there are increases in attendances at many of our services as mission plans start to be implemented. What I do note is a sense of positivity, happiness, and real joy in our Benefice.

There is also an awful lot of work going on. We are currently managing four more funerals having conducted two last week, sadly this has resulted in several PCC's being moved at short notice for which I apologise. I am planning some new funeral guidelines for the Deanery to consider avoiding this in the future.

Three of our churches are looking at reordering or repairs, Ashwater, Tetcott and Beaworthy, we have three Quinquennials being undertaken, and Black Torrington is planning for a new boiler.

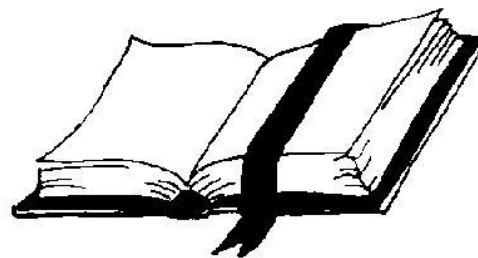
Sadly, Highampton and her churchyard have been closed for safety reasons whilst the Diocese consider the future of the church.

The three Mission priorities have all been addressed as well: (a) Our schools and young persons budget request has been approved and we have, happily, already spent it! I am to be a Governor at Halwill and Ashwater schools and there is a meeting set for next week to plan for engagement with Black Torrington school for this next term. Pancrasweek have a diocesan regional meeting for children and young families work due next month and I will be attending that meeting. (b) Worship leaders have had a really successful full day's training on bereavement, grief and loss at Ashwater with 19 attendees (much thanks is due to the Ashwater hospitality team!). There is also a training day on intercessions due in Bradworthy next month and Kay has started her Chaplaincy training. (c) Growth. I have asked all PCC's to add 'mission and growth' as a standing item for all meetings. The diocesan mission toolkit for evangelism and growth will be launched next month and I very much want to trial that to see if it is suitable for us.

I am also Rural Dean as you will know so a lot of time is spent supporting the full 22 parishes of the Deanery/Mission Community. In all of this is the sense of a Benefice in action and moving in God's Holy Spirit. I know it is not always easy and a lot of times it can be frustrating. Losing our Diocesan Bishop has complicated this as well, but none-the-less, we are moving and growing and as our epistle readings this month have shown us, that all of this is a defining feature of God's love and guidance in our community; and that is to be celebrated.

Paul.

Lectionary Readings for October 2023



<p>Sunday 1st (17th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Ezekiel 18: 1 – 4, 25 – end Psalm 25: 1 – 8 Philippians 2: 1 – 13 Matthew 21: 23 – 32</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 8th (18th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 6: 1 – 7 Psalm 80: 9 – 17 Philippians 3: 4b – 14 Matthew 21: 33 – end</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</p>	<p>Sunday 15th (19th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 25: 1 – 9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4: 1 – 9 Matthew 22: 1 – 14</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd (20th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 45: 1 – 7 Psalm 96: 1 – 9 (10 – 13) 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10 Matthew 22: 15 – 22</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Clawton, Highampton</p>	<p>Sunday 29th (Last Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Leviticus 19: 1 – 2, 15 – 18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 8 Matthew 22: 34 – end</p> <p>Benefice Service at Ashwater</p>	

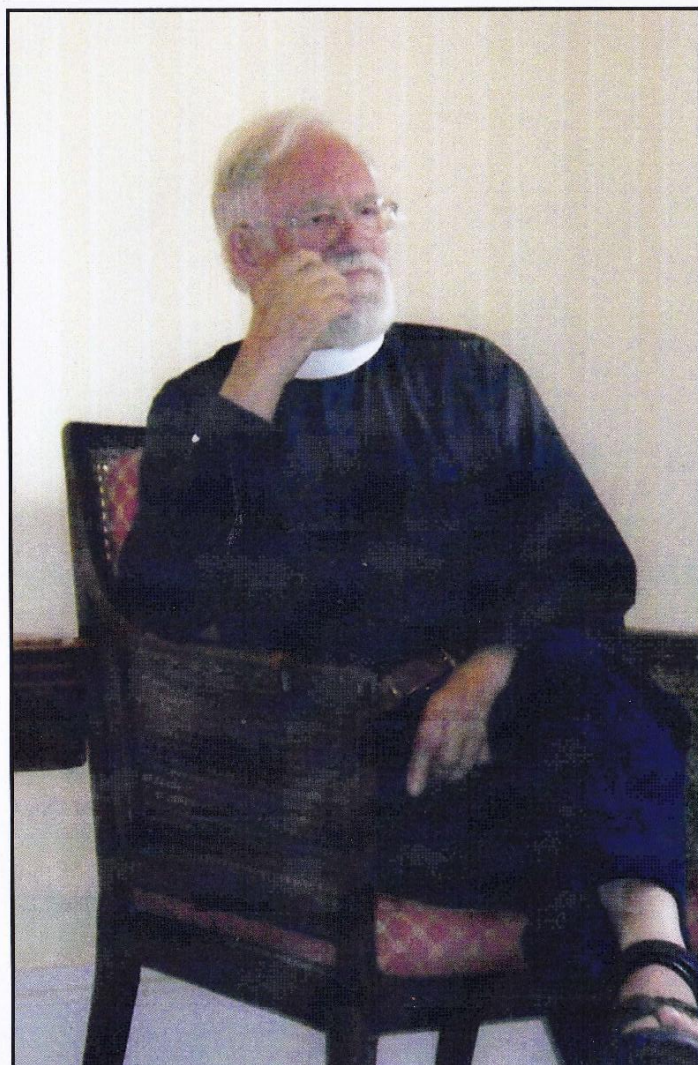
*To help you prepare for one of our services or to
read at home*

Ruby Country Benefice Services for October 2023

Sunday 1st	9.30am	Ashwater	Harvest Service
17 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Black Torrington	Harvest Holy Communion followed by lunch
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	5:30pm	Tetcott Village Hall	Harvest Service & Supper
Sunday 8th	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
18 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Clawton	United Service
	6:30pm	Beaworthy	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
19 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
	11am	Halwill	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	11am	Beaworthy	Morning Prayer
20 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	3:30pm	Highampton	Evening Service
Sunday 22nd Last Sunday after Trinity	11am	Ashwater	Benefice Holy Communion

Weekly - all welcome from the benefice

Wednesday	10am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
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The Revd.
GERALD LANCELOT MATTHEWS

1931-2023.

Known as Gerry to everyone, he was a West Countryman, born in Bridgwater, brought up in Bridport and settled in Black Torrington.

Educated at West Buckland School, he was a prefect and gained the rarely awarded Fortescue Medal for personal achievements & service to the School.

He later read law at Bristol University where he was an active member of the University Dramatic Society.

After National Service at Catterick, he was ordained as a priest, aged 27.

He married Elizabeth and they had three children: Veronica, Lucian & Aidan who tragically died in a road traffic accident, leaving a widow, Julie, with two young children.

Gerry returned to the West Country in 1963 as Vicar of Brentor.

After his marriage ended, Gerry was appointed in 1978 as Rector of Black Torrington, Bradford with Cookbury, Thornbury & Highampton. Three years later he married Katharine.

Gerry was a thinker, a reader, an actor, historian & genealogist.

He made many lifelong friends in the acting world despite his alarming habit of "improving" the script with preposterous & often hilarious suggestions, thereby entirely wrong-footing his fellow actors expecting to come in on line!

His time-keeping was also slightly suspect. Whilst holidaying in Yorkshire, he discovered the day's date, saying, "Great heavens - the Bishop's coming tomorrow", thus requiring a non-stop 300 mile drive home through the night.

His grandchildren marvelled at the amount of puddings he was able to consume at a single sitting - and were somewhat offended when he berated them for attempting to compete.

He found in village life a contentment - and often an amusement - recounting how, on a rare visit to The Torridge Inn, he was greeted by the somewhat surly publican of the time with the words, "Don't see you in here very often", to which he replied, "Come to think of it, I don't see you in Church very often".

In 2003 Gerry published a history of Black Torrington on which he had worked and researched for many years.

His flair for genealogy enabled him to help innumerable people who came searching for their ancestors in the Churchyard - and this he saw as a part of his Ministry.

He did much to encourage the unity of Anglicanism & Methodism.

Gerry had a profound belief in God - and his whole life was one of service.



Image of St Mary's, Black Torrington
from <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9045/>

Ernest Arthur Stirling WOOLLCOMBE

(1873 - 1874)

I know what you're all thinking – how can I possibly fill an entire article about a poor lad who only lived for nine months!

Having never been, I thought it was about time I visited Highampton Church having never been, and I decided to take my little 5-year-old co-explorer out and about with me. I was looking for inspiration for an article and I think young Daisy found it. She pointed out little Ernest's stone, very small, just to the right of the church entrance. I took a photo, and carried on wandering about the churchyard looking for more inspiration, myself thinking "I'll never fill an article for such a young boy."

Unfortunately, on the day I was exploring, the wind was high, and Daisy was bored – not the sunny August day we had hoped for – so we called it a day pretty early, having only taken a handful of photos, and I didn't stray from the paths.

Undefeated, I thought I would at least have a quick search for young Ernest before going back to the drawing board. And what I found made me change my mind – there was an article here after all.

Ernest Arthur Stirling WOOLLCOMBE was born at Highampton Rectory on 27th August 1873, the son of Revd. George WOOLLCOMBE, rector of Highampton and his wife Emily Rose (nee STIRLING). He was the fourth of five children, the others being: Mary Elizabeth Stirling WOOLLCOMBE, born 1867 in Newton Abbot, Henry St. John Stirling WOOLLCOMBE, born 27th December 1869 at Highampton, Louis Charles Stirling WOOLLCOMBE, born 1872 at Highampton, and Eleanor Jaquette Stirling WOOLLCOMBE, born 1882 in Clifton, Bristol.

410	Twenty seventh August 1873 The Rectory Highampton	Ernest Arthur Stirling	Boy	George Woolcombe	Emily Rose Woolcombe formerly Stirling
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From the birth record of Ernest Arthur Stirling WOOLLCOMBE 1873

© Crown Copyright

The WOOLLCOMBE family were no strangers to Highampton – George WOOLLCOMBE's father was Henry WOOLLCOMBE, born c.1785 at Ashbury, Devon, who served as Rector of Highampton for 40 years – prior to George's marriage,

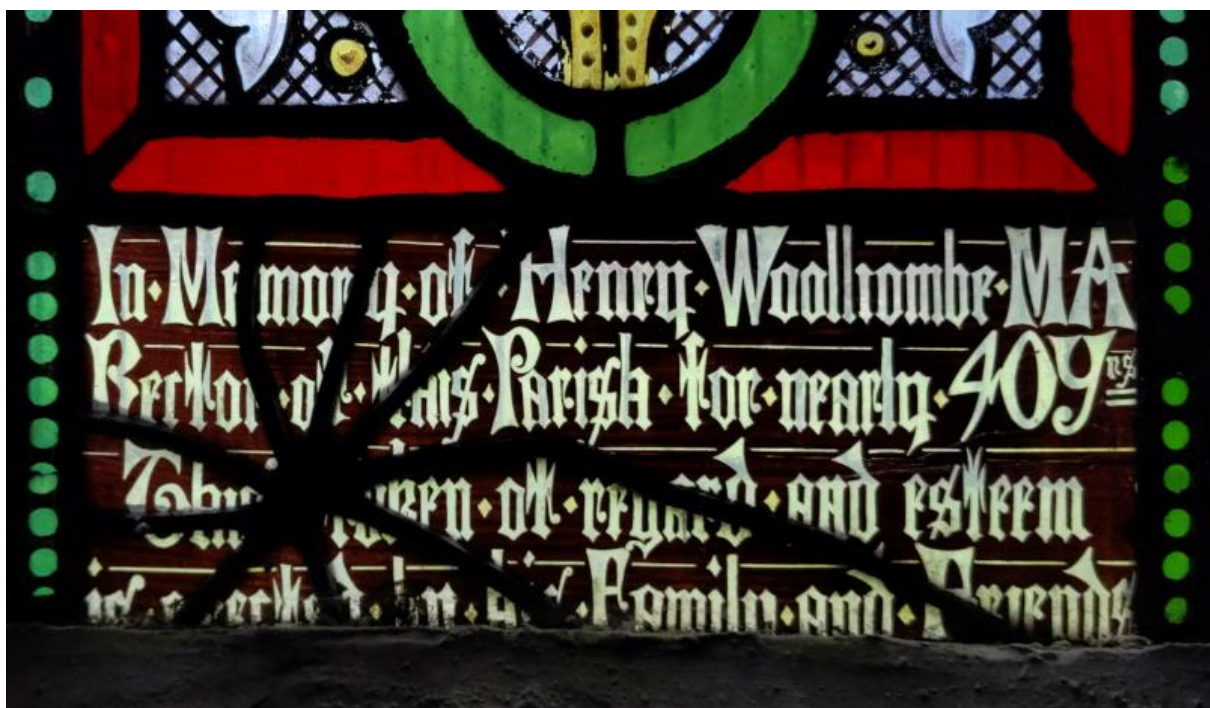
he was curate at Highampton, under his father as Rector, and there are very strong links between the Woollcombes and Ashbury (near Northlew), whose own church, St. Mary the Virgin – now closed for worship – contain several memorials to the WOOLLCOMBE family.

Ashbury seems to have been the family “seat”, with generations living at the house going back several hundred years. As such, they were a moneyed family, and their money seems to have gone towards rebuilding or renovating several churches in the Devon area – including Highampton and Ashbury.

Back to the Highampton WOOLLCOMBEs, not only were George and his father Henry rectors, but several of Henry’s children followed him into holy orders; his oldest son Henry was Lord of the Manor for Highampton and would become Archdeacon of Barnstaple from 1865 to his death in 1885, and his second son Louis would become rector of Petrockstowe. (Unrelated, Petrockstowe has just closed its church building and now worship ecumenically with the Methodists – the church of St. Petrock is “handed over” 1st Oct 2023.)

The third son, Belfield WOOLLCOMBE did not follow his brothers into a religious life, but instead enlisted in the Royal Navy, and would go on to become one of the early settlers in New Zealand and first magistrate of Timaru, southern Canterbury, NZ.

The respect for the Woollcombes, especially amongst their family is especially evident at St Odulph’s Church in Pillaton where Henry senior also was the incumbent; his memorial window installed by his family following his death in 1861 can be seen on the front page, and the detail on this is below.



Henry WOOLLCOMBE senior memorial window at Pillaton Church, from <https://www.cornishstainedglass.org.uk/mgsdb/window.xhtml?churchid=173&locid=17>



A photograph of Archdeacon of Barnstaple Henry WOOLLCOMBE

Available for sale from <https://www.abebooks.com/photographs/Hart-Exeter-Archdeacon-Henry-Woollcombe-Photographie/31523461405/bd>

From a glance at the lives of his uncles alone, one can see that Ernest was robbed of what would likely be a spectacular life – each of these people could fill an article easily themselves.

Aged just nine months old, Ernest would suffer a nine-day bout of dysentery which ended his little life on 15th June 1874 at Highampton Rectory.

His death was not registered by his parents, but instead by a resident of the village, Christopher AYRE, who was present at the death.

Ernest Arthur Stirling Woollcombe	12 Female Male	9 Months	Son of George Woollcombe Clerk in Holy Orders	Dysentery (9 days) Certified	Christopher Ayre in attendance Forridge Cottage Highampton
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From the death record of Ernest Arthur Stirling WOOLLCOMBE 1874

© Crown Copyright

Having died at such a young age, and not featuring in any censuses, this is pretty much the end of the line of documents on poor young Ernest. But there is a little more on Highampton during the time of the WOOLLCOMBES.

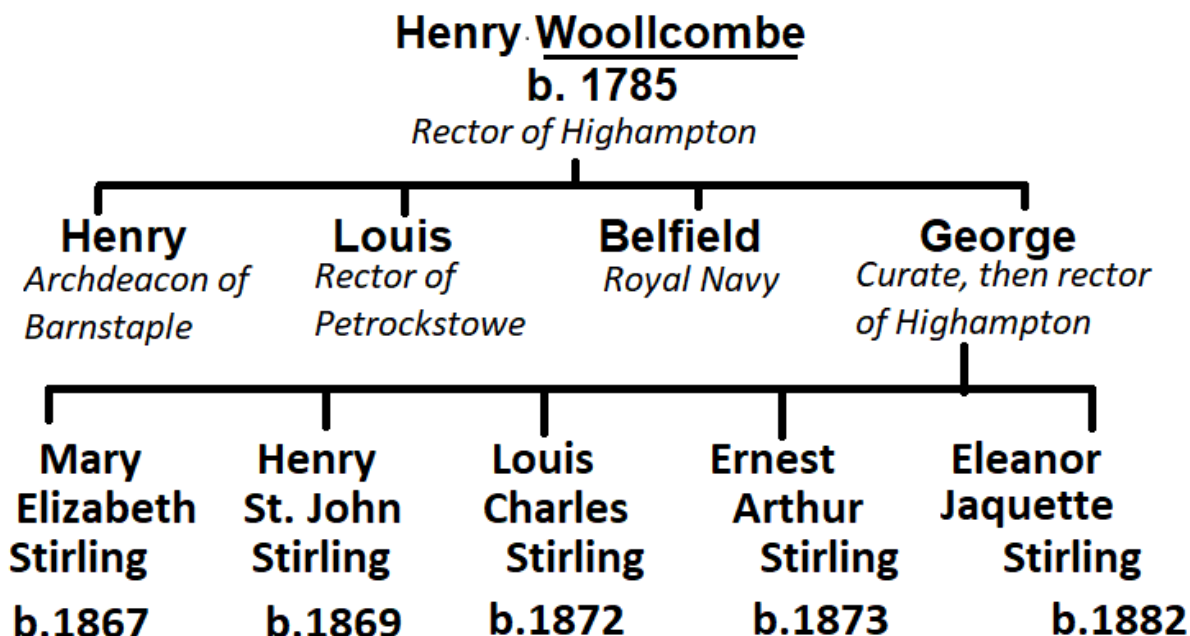
Under George and his father Henry, Highampton church saw two substantial rebuilds/renovations, the first in 1833 where “all but the Norman Porch” was rebuilt. The second was also a substantial renovation which required the church to be closed.

Just two years after young Ernest’s death, the North Devon Journal (6th July 1876) tells us proudly of this restoration;

“The nave roof is enriched with the ancient carved black oak principals, the only timbers perhaps found to be presentable, and the chancel roof is of open timbers with oak panels. The east window, a modern work of perpendicular treatment, is filled with painted glass by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, of London, representing in the three several openings the Nativity, Crucifixion and Ascension of our Lord. The high pews on an inclined floor, which formerly disfigured the interior, have been removed, and low open pine benches on an even area have been substituted, thereby adding to the accommodation and to the graceful appearance of the building. The passage floors are laid with tiles, as is also the floor of the chancel; and the reredos consists of a tile treatment, a happy conception of the rector’s, made up of a dado surmounted by a moulding, over which are panels containing the emblems of the four Evangelists, and in the centre that of the “Lamb that was slain.””

George would not stay at Highampton long, he retired, with his family to Clifton in Bristol, where his last child, a daughter, would be born in 1882, and George would die four years later on 7th May 1886.

There are so many strands left to this story, and none explored as thoroughly as I might like for time and space reasons – I apologise if this all seems disjointed. I will provide a very basic family tree below for reference.



Before moving on to what became of Ernest's brothers, it's only right to have a quick look at their time at Highampton.

The 1871 census shows George (51) as the Rector, living with his wife Emily (32), daughter Mary (3) and son Henry (1). There are two visitors – Agnes (31) and Eleanor (28) GRESWELL from Kilve, Somerset, listed as Clergyman's daughters. I have not been able to ascertain which Clergyman exactly as yet! There are four members of staff living at the rectory, Abigail BEADFORD (26) from Upton Pyne who is their domestic cook, nurse Sarah COVAM (26) of Wellington, Somerset, Grace ANDREWS (19) of Northlew who was their housemaid, and Lucy PERCEY (20) from Highampton who held the position of Under Nurse.

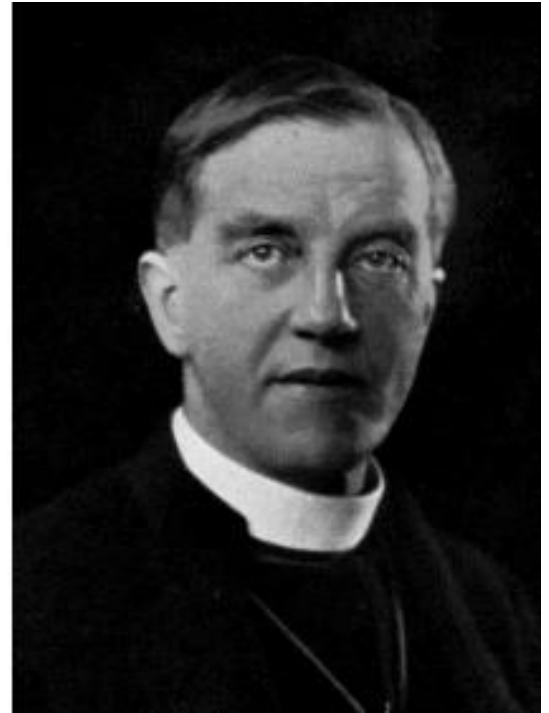
By the 1881 census, the family were living at Richmond Hill, Clifton, Bristol. George was now listed as a Clergyman (without Cure of Souls), having retired, and he is living with his wife Emily, children Mary, Harry and Louis, servants Sarah and Grace have come with them from Highampton, and have been joined by a house and parlour maid; 17-year-old Lavinia Sampson of Cornwall.

In the 1891 Census, Ernest WOOLLCOMBE's oldest brother and nine-year-old youngest sister have returned to Devon. They are living at Ashbury, where Henry, now known as Harry WOOLLCOMBE has followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and is a curate. Wonderfully, Sarah CORAM and Grace ANDREW have come with them joined by Ada Kate DAY (21) of Corsham, Wiltshire, who is their domestic parlourmaid and Elizabeth A WATTERS (16) of Devon as their domestic housemaid.

In 1911, Harry was a single clergyman, living at Northlew, still living with his sister Eleanor.

In 1913, Harry married Florence Hilda Argles, and they would have four children; Richard, Joan, Mary and Rosamond.

Ernest's oldest brother, Harry John Stirling WOOLLCOMBE would attend Oxford and Wells Theological College, graduate as a Doctor of Divinity and "work up through the ranks", eventually becoming the Bishop of Whitby and Selby, before dying on 1st December 1941, aged 71.



**Harry WOOLLCOMBE,
Bishop of Whitby & Selby**

Both sisters would die unmarried; Mary died 2nd August 1946 at Plymouth in her 79th year. Eleanor died 10th January 1948 in Bickley Cleeve, Somerset in her 66th year.



CAPT. L. C. S. WOOLLCOMBE, M.V.O.

Brother Louis WOOLLCOMBE was only 17 months old when Ernest was born, and just over 2 years old when he died.

It's fast becoming apparent that in the WOOLLCOMBE family, you either became a rector or served in the military – Louis did the latter. He would serve as an admiral in the Royal Navy, fighting at the Battle of Jutland as part of the First World War. He was the Captain aboard the Boadicea from Jul 1913 – Sept 1916, aboard the Chatham from Sept 1916 – Jan 1918, and aboard the dreadnought Malaya from Jan 1918 – May 1919. By the time he retired, he had achieved the rank of Vice-Admiral. He died 26th October 1951, aged 79.

Had he lived, who knows what Ernest would have achieved, but it was not meant to be.

His 293 days are marked by this small stone, sunk into the concrete outside Highampton Church's entrance, where generations of his family would have walked before. His family may have moved away and gone onto bigger and better things, however if his little stone can make an impression on a five year old in a churchyard, the memory of this little nine-month-old Ernest will live on that little bit longer.



Kay Napier
September 2023

IMPORTANT NOTE: Since this article was researched at the end of August, there has been consultation regarding the safety of Highampton Church, and, at time of writing, the Churchyard has been closed for safety reasons.

As such, please do not undertake a visit to this memorial yourself without consultation with Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick to ascertain whether it is safe to do so.

Please adhere to any closures, advice and notices for your own safety.

Sources:

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/woollcombe.htm>

<https://www.cornishstainedglass.org.uk/mgsdb/window.xhtml?churchid=173&locid=17>

<https://www.abebooks.com/photographs/Hart-Exeter-Archdeacon-Henry-Woollcombe-Photographie/31523461405/bd>

<https://www.woollcombe.co.uk/pdf/A%20Tale%20of%20Two%20Bishops.pdf>

<http://highampton-lhg.co.uk/>

<https://www.woollcombe.co.uk/>

<https://www.gravestonephotos.com/public/gravedetails.php?grave=855590>

<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/church-heritage-record-ashbury-st-mary-the-virgin-615333#Interior>

<https://www.findagrave.com>

<https://www.familysearch.org>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Woollcombe

http://www.dreadnoughtproject.org/tfs/index.php/Louis_Charles_Stirling_Woollcombe

https://battleofjutlandcrewlists.miraheze.org/wiki/Woollcombe,_Louis_Charles_Stirling

<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/lifestory/6901330>

<https://www.naval-history.net/WW1NavyBritishAdmiraltyCaptains.htm>



Philip the disciple did not have all the answers about God and faith, but he still encouraged his friend Nathaniel to 'Come and See' for himself what it was all about (John 1:46). Will you come and join our weekend of mission, supported by Archbishop Justin Welby?

The 'Come and See' weekend will run from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 November 2023 (Remembrance weekend).

This November the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting Devon to join us for a weekend of mission. Archbishop Justin will be taking part in several themed events across Devon, telling the people he meets about Jesus and why rural life, children and young people, bereavement and loss, and creation care really matter to Christians. And most of all he'll be saying to those he meets 'come and see' what God is doing, in and through our mission communities.



Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

10am

All welcome

On a cold rainy day that marked the changing of the season, eighteen people, including the hospitality team from the church, attended the bereavement, grief and loss day at Ashwater. There were representatives from all three benefices from the deanery, two rural chaplains and one Anna Chaplain, 3 Christian traditions, and representative from four of our own churches.

The day was long and the subject obviously difficult but the course members formed a tight supportive dynamic and the feedback from the day was all extremely positive. There have been requests for repeat dates from two parishes and a chaplaincy group already.

Funding for this was event came from a diocesan grant for the equipment, C-Met outreach team for venue costs, but it would not have been possible without the dedicated hospitality team at Ashwater and I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to them, and all who gave up their Saturday to attend.

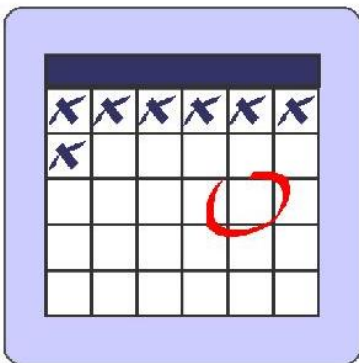
Paul.





Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/rubybenefice



Benefice Calendar

There is now a Benefice Calendar which lists the events and services within our benefice. It is a Google Calendar which means you need a gmail email address to access it – these are free to set up at www.gmail.com if you want one.

If you would like access to this calendar, please email Val Letheren and she will send you an invite to the calendar.

rubicountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com



DEADLINE



Please get your posters, news, pictures, articles, details of services, fundraisers or any other submissions in **by the 15th of each month** to feature in the next month's Bulletin

email rubicbulletin@gmail.com or call 01409 221 321

Evensong: A compelling service in the St Alban's Calendar of Worship.

My first encounter with Evensong was as a teenager in Gloucestershire on a summer Sunday evening. Sunlight and music filled the church, and I was bowled over by the language of the 1662 prayer book, the Book of Common Prayer.

St Alban's Beaworthy continues to be faithful to the BCP Evensong. For us it's an important interlude at the boundary of one week and the next. Time to reflect and to prepare for the week ahead. Time to keep faith with one of the traditional services of the Church of England.

In the last few years I've need to visit the city of Durham regularly and always aim to fit in Evensong on Saturday – the organist and choir are always inspiring. Last year I noted they'd produced a new order of service and asked for permission to use its preamble – a brilliant explanation of the importance of this service.

“Evensong is a tiny fragment of something else: it is part of the worship offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night in every part of the world.

When you come to Evening Prayer it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress – a conversation between God and his people which began long before you were born and which will continue long after your death. So do not be surprised or disturbed if there are some things which you do not understand straight away.

For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time. You are one with those who worship here on earth and in heaven.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer, and obedience.

*Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned but its meaning is **not** out of date”.*

That's why at 6.30pm on the Second Sunday of the month, we celebrate Evensong at Beaworthy. Our next Service is on Sunday November 26th and we intend to continue in 2024.

Do come and join us and experience Evensong for yourself. It's the one service when we nearly always have an organist too and a very good way to start the next week.

Sandra Ward

St Mary's Church
Black Torrington

Harvest Service

with Holy Communion



Sunday 1st October
11.00 am

Followed by Ploughmans Lunch
(Donations welcome)



All Welcome



**HARVEST
SERVICE &
SUPPER
OCTOBER 1ST**

Start at 6pm in the Arscott

Hall Tetcott

Adults £10

Children £5

Draw for the new church
kitchen and Toilet fund

**St Alban's Church, Beaworthy
Harvest Festival Service**



**11am, Sunday 8th October
2023**

**followed by Harvest Lunch 1pm
Beaworthy Parish Hall, Patchacott
and Auction of Produce in aid of North Devon Food
Bank and North Dartmoor Search and Rescue**

Tickets £10.00

**Fresh produce and non- perishable foods can be
left in the church on Friday 6th October**

Booking Essential – Ring 01409 221 501

St Alban's Beaworthy -Harvest Festival Sunday 8th
October

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNFORTUNATELY
DUE TO LACK OF BOOKINGS ,THE HARVEST LUNCH WHICH
WAS DUE TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Dear Colleagues

Regretfully. I have to tell you that our Harvest lunch is not going ahead due to lack of bookings.

On a brighter note the Harvest service – always a joyous occasion will happen! So we look forward seeing you on the 8th at 11am.

We plan to decorate the church on Friday afternoon – non -perishables especially welcome as are flowers and berries and help! . As we'll no longer be having an auction, all supplies will go to the Okehampton or the Holsworthy Food banks,. Your gifts can be left with Ian and I at Beaworthy House back porch or in the church on the day.

And on an even more brighter note we have some good plans for events in 2024 which we'll share as soon as we can – as well as the St Alban's Christmas Draw and our Christingle .

Best wishes
Sandra Ward .



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE



COME AND JOIN US AT...

PANCRASWEEK CHURCH
Pancrasweek,
(near Holsworthy & Bude)
EX22 7JS

WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER
7:15pm for a 7:30pm start

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE



[SU.ORG.UK/TOUR](https://su.org.uk/tour)

Envisioned. Equipped. Encouraged.



A concert with

Gregory Stewart

Performing songs from
the musicals



Thursday 26th October 2023

7:30pm

St Leonard's Church, Clawton

Admission £10

(includes light refreshments)

everyone welcome

GREGORY STEWART

Graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music

Winner of the Taunton Young Singers Competition

Semi-finalist in the prestigious Somerset Song Prize for singers up to the age of 25

Semi finalist in the Two Moors Young Musician competition



Halwill Good Companions

A chance to get together to socialize, all washed down with afternoon tea.

Held In Halwill Baptist Church Hall from 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Next dates:

September 21st

October 12th

November 9th

December 14th Christmas trip to Homeleigh Garden Centre

Contact Barbara for more information or if you need
transport 01409 221328 / 07974 109505





With Tuesday 31st October 2023, just over a month away, our attention is now turning to the message of light that we, as Christians in our communities, can share.

We are aiming to run light:quest again this year. light:quest aims to:

- go out into the community and provide an alternative activity to trick n treating for families, that has the potential to engage those who intend to go trick n treating that weekend.
- get volunteers to talk and get to know the families in their communities.
- reach and love families on their terms.
- avoid disruptive behaviour on the evening itself.
- offer an alternative to families who don't want to trick n treat but be present in their community and encourage the engagement of their friends.
- share an alternative message of light and hope in an optional, accessible non-threatening manner.
- allow further exploration of the message of the gospel through conversation, resources (activity sheet and booklet) and directions to other events and social media.

The event itself is held on the evening of Halloween, Tuesday 31st October 2023. It is a treasure hunt style event set up within the communities, where families can collect different items for their party bags at the different stations as well as a British Sign Language code for their Treasure Hunt Card throughout the evening. If they collect all of the codes, they can claim a prize.

Ruby Country Benefice

Polite request on behalf of all the Benefice's Parochial Church Councils

The Diocese of Exeter has recently asked all Parochial Church Councils to address plastics in their churchyards. When plastic or artificial flowers start to degrade, discolour, and break down, they release toxic chemicals into the ground which kills flora and invertebrates, and can cause significant harm to birds and other wildlife. This is not an issue for fresh, or new, tributes, and only affects older, broken, or decomposing material.

The Benefice therefore requests that for the safety of our churchyard environments, older plastic and artificial material is removed, at the end of its life, from the churchyard. Any degraded material left will be safely removed and recycled during normal churchyard maintenance.

Signs to this effect will be displayed in affected churchyards to alert those attending memorials.

August 2023

Senior Clergy Reflection from the Ven. Jane Bakker, Archdeacon of Plymouth

We are in a period of change as a diocese. We have said our farewells to Bishop Robert and the process to find his replacement is well underway. We are grateful to the many people involved in this process and for Bishop Jackie who will lead us in this time of transition.

The church often has an uncomfortable relationship with change. I meet people regularly who dislike change and want to resist it at all costs. This has always baffled me because change is all around us.

Our lives are a catalogue of changes. As we grow up, the pace of change is incredibly fast and it barely slows down during our adolescence and adulthood. Growing older also brings significant change to our lifestyle, our health and our outlook. Change cannot be avoided at any stage of life. Our bodies, our families and our photo albums record the hundreds and thousands of changes we have lived through. Change is everywhere. The Bible is shot through with change. From the nomadic tribes of the Old Testament to the formation of the church in the New, change is found on every page. Jesus' conception, birth, ministry, death and resurrection all disrupt the status quo. His teaching confronts those who are comfortable; challenges the religiously secure and gives a home to the marginalised. His interactions were surprising and were all a departure from expectation. Nothing stays the same around Jesus.

So, why do we find change so difficult?

Change creates uncertainty. At this time, we don't know what our new bishop will be like. Nor do we know what her/his ministry will mean for us. We don't know what further changes will inevitably lie ahead.

But God does.

The Bible teaches us that we can face the future with confidence because God will be with us. Whatever we face, we do not face it alone. We can confidently face uncertainty knowing that Jesus has promised to be with his followers 'until the end of the age' (Matt 28.20) When it comes to life's changes, whether big or small, we can be assured that we God will be with us, through it all.

Ven. Jane Bakker, Archdeacon of Plymouth

Worried about a Child or Vulnerable Adult?

Please speak to your Parish Safeguarding Representative if you have any concerns for the well-being of a child or adult, or about the behaviour of someone towards a child or adult.

Your Parish Safeguarding Representative is:

Val Letheren – [rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:rubbycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com) – 07484 880 770

If you cannot reach your Parish Safeguarding Representative, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

Costa Nassaris - Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – 01392 294969 – 07809 339502
costa.nassaris@exeter.anglican.org

James May – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – 01392 345910 – 07889 543646
james.may@exeter.anglican.org

Rebecca Lane – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser- 01392 294975 - 07889542640
Rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org

For general enquiries – SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org

IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM

If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm or that a crime has been committed, dial **999**

If you have serious concerns about an individual's well-being, you should contact the relevant agencies:

Concerns about Children

Devon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): **0345 155 1071**

Concerns about Adults

Devon – Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

Domestic Abuse

Devon Help Line for professionals and individuals: **0345 155 1074**

Rape Crisis

National: **0808 802 9999** Devon and Torbay: **01392 204174**

Please notify your safeguarding Representative and/or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team after contacting any of these agencies.

Ruby Country Benefice

RUBY PEOPLE WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S COUNTRY

St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater EX21 5EY

St. Alban, Beaworthy EX21 5AB

St. Mary's, Black Torrington EX21 5PU

St. Leonard, Clawton EX22 6PS

St. Peter & St. James, Halwill EX21 5UH

Holy Cross, Highampton EX21 5LE

Holy Cross, Tetcott EX22 6QZ



Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick, Rector

vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com