



Ashwater Beaworthy Black Torrington Clawton Halwill Highampton Tetcott

St. Peter Ad Vincula St. Alban St. Mary St. Leonard St. Peter & St. James Holy Cross Holy Cross

## Benefice Bulletin

# March 2022



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*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*

Colossians 3: 12



## CONTACTS

### Priest in Charge (part time)

Revd. Stephen Skinner

07554 142 264

### Contacts for Churches:

Ashwater	Terry Darby	01409 211 229
Beaworthy	Richard Prior	01409 221 986
Black Torrington:	Sheila Grabham	01409 231 581
	Val Letheren*	01409 231 430
Clawton:	Irene Ellis	01409 271 371
Halwill:	John Lawlor	01409 221 987
	Kay Napier	01409 221 321
Highampton		
Tetcott:	Nicki Mitchell	01409 271 381

**Safeguarding**

**Val Letheren**

**07484 880 770**

\* or as above

# March

## UPDATE FOLLOWING OUR “NEXT STEPS” PUDDING EVENING, LAST NOVEMBER.

At our wonderful ‘Pudding Evening’ last November we decided upon four priorities for our working together across the whole Benefice in areas of shared interest. These priority areas were very much a ‘grass roots’ decision by those present, and the four topic groups of our “Next steps” met immediately during that evening, to begin to plan a way ahead. The four identified areas are:

1. Formation of a **Benefice Choir**. Shirley Richmond has assumed leadership in this area. The Choir helped to lead worship at some of our Christmas Services, and are planning future such occasions – for example in our **Maundy Thursday Service at Halwill**. More members are very welcome, so please get in touch with Shirley! No auditions required!
2. Formation of a **Schools Support Team** to help in various ways according to people’s interests: Listening to younger children read, Running an ‘Open the Book’ Programme in which children work with team members to lead short drama vignettes in lessons and Assemblies, Offering to become School Governors, Assisting Stephen in School Assemblies. Stephen will be convening a meeting for those who are interested on the **evening of March 7<sup>TH</sup>, by Zoom**, so please get in touch if you are interested in this exciting work!
3. Running of **Benefice-wide Social events**, so we can have some fun together! Ideas in this area include: a Walking Group, Skittles &

Quiz Nights, Pub Get-togethers, Ladies Lunches, Men's Breakfasts. The range of possibilities is too wide for any one person to offer leadership, so we will be seeking leaders to organise specific events as the year progresses. Our next Social will be on **16<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at the "Bickford Arms"**, Brandis Corner, when we will have a buffet provided by the pub priced at £6 per head. Please see posters elsewhere.

4. Increasing the number of '**Café Churches**' around our churches. Again, this requires a team to help run these around our churches, drawing on the experience we are gaining at the monthly 11am Black Torrington Services, and the bimonthly Clawton Services (with Methodist expertise). Ashwater have expressed interest in running these, but we are currently rather short of volunteers to run these with Stephen. We are running a special **Benefice-wide Café Church at Black Torrington on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm**. We invite everyone who is interested to come and experience this wonderful, informal approach to worship for themselves. Thus inspired, we hope that more churches will run these – facilities permitting!

The Benefice Group are overseeing these exciting "Next Steps" – our way of fulfilling the suggestions made by the Exeter Diocese. But our greatest need is for more people to take on Leadership in one of these areas!! There are people who will help fulfil these objectives, but leadership needs to come from among YOU, not only by myself! I'm convinced that you have the energy and gifts needed, so please consider stepping out in faith and volunteering to take a lead! You'll get lots of 'back up'!

*Stephen*

## **Reflection by Prebendary Jacqueline Taylor – Dean of Women in Ministry**

You may have heard of the expedition that is taking place to the Weddell Sea in Antarctica to try and locate the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Ship – Endurance. She sailed from Millbay Dock Plymouth, in August 1914 and five months became trapped in pack ice in one of the most inhospitable places on Earth. A 144 foot long 25 foot wide speck – stuck in millions of square miles of ice. After months of pressure building from ice upon her hull, she had to be abandoned, the men now out on the ice. Finally her timbers crushed, she sank in November 1915.

I have a particular interest in this expedition to locate the ship because my great uncle was on board Endurance and indeed, along with the other members, endured the long months of raw survival until their rescue on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1917.

As Endurance left Plymouth, Lionel knew his destination. He was First Officer on a journey to take Shackleton and his men to undertake the land crossing of Antarctica. And yet he unexpectedly found himself in a very different type of wilderness to that of the terrain that Jesus encountered in his 40 days of testing and temptation that we mark in the season of Lent. Antarctica is both the coldest continent, - 89°C recorded in 1983 and the driest, with an average annual snowfall of just 125mm.

As the search for Endurance takes place and we enter our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, I wonder where you think the journey of reflection, prayer and preparation that you are embarking on this year, is going to take you? What will you look to as a map or a chart to guide you and give you direction? What will you take with you to help you on your way, that you'll spend time looking at – reflecting on, reading or studying to help you make the most of the weeks of this precious Lenten journey. In this time when we invite God's Spirit to clear away the clutter, sweep away the dust and wash us clean. When we, his pilgrim people, are invited to prepare ourselves heart, soul, mind and body for the new beginnings – the life of Easter.

As he set out, did Lionel expect to be the same person at the end of his journey as he was when he set out, a young man of twenty five, full of the sense of adventure?

Do we expect that the person we are at the start of our Lenten journey and the person we are at the end of it will be the same or different? Are we open to say - I will learn from this journey whatever it may bring?

Our journey as disciples is one that will continue long after our Lenten journey is done. There will undoubtedly be times when we face challenges - icebergs that come our way; stepping out into unknown places; following unmarked paths and encountering new terrain. But - it is an adventure, in faith, with the one who is Lord

of all creation and yet nearer to us than breathing. Calling us ever out of our comfort zones – out with him on the adventure that he has set before us – ever moving forward to the destination that he has promised.



Prayer of Sir Frances Drake  
*Disturb us, Lord, when  
We are too pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.  
Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.  
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wilder seas  
Where storms will show Your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.*

I would like to pay tribute to Jim Williams as he retires from being Reader in our Benefice.

At Beaworthy we have benefited greatly from Jim's ministry. Especially so since Rev.Jane Lucas retired, but also during the whole period that he has served in Beaworthy (11 years). As a tiny rural Church we have struggled with a small congregation of committed worshippers. However, having a licensed Lay Readers has hugely benefited us. Jim's dedication, commitment, faith and abiding loyalty has marked out his ministry to us as well as his humility and kindness.

Jim is a "people" person who has made good relationships with those living in the area and the Benefice as a whole. He is ably and well supported by Pam, who has also contributed in many ways, such as Parish Secretary, sending out the Pew Sheet and Bulletin, serving on the P.C.C etc.

I recall how welcome Richard and I felt when we moved here 6 years ago as Jim and Pam remembered us from our first viewing of the property and it's environs, to our second visit and then moving in and becoming part of the church community and neighbourhood. They introduced us to everyone and have been so helpful and supportive. They have become good friends as well as good neighbours. Their special ministry and commitment to the Parish and Benefice have been so appreciated.

We wish them all the best in the future months as they consider their next steps.

Kath Prior, Beaworthy Parish





## Enconium for Jim Williams

Jim and Pam's arrival in Beaworthy was nothing less than a godsend. Two new neighbours from Guernsey, active churchgoers, and Jim a seasoned lay reader, planning and hoping to be licensed in the Church of England. Warm and lovely people too. Riches indeed!

We recall that as Jim and Pam arrived, Beaworthy was on its knees, struggling with low attendance and lack of leadership. Their addition to our small congregation gave us some hope that we could grow and even invigorate our church community. It was impossible not to become very fond of them both. Even on a first meeting with Jim you knew that you had met someone who was bound to become a real friend. Pam too.

Jim has given us spiritual strength. He is a good man of considerable talents. Both as an individual and a lay reader he has exemplified (and still does) Christian values for real, reaching out to neighbours and the wider parish. Whenever he's around, his sense of warmth and support is palpable and he manages not to lose his calm demeanour, even when under great strain. At PCC meetings, his common sense and profound faith have helped resolve difficult issues, for which fellow members are extremely grateful. His dry sense of humour helps too.

Importantly for us, he's managed to sustained his



commitment to Beaworthy throughout the last eleven years whilst faithfully fulfilling his duties to Ashwater, Halwill, Clawton and Tetcott and, latterly to the enlarged benefice. He's managed to undertake a range of services throughout these churches and still support St Alban's. Thankfully he has ensured that St Alban's has retained a Book of Common Prayer 1662 Evensong amongst other services. Although, sparsely attended his introduction of Morning Prayer on the first Friday of each month provided an opportunity to reflect quietly on plans for a few weeks ahead. Likewise, his introduction of a Service of Light at the boundary of October and November has enabled both remembrance of friends and relatives and a rededication to the Christian Faith

Jim's lay readership has been all about faithful service, responsibility, and example. He obviously takes considerable care in preparing for services. His sermons reflect deep thinking, reading, and his Christian experience. They have always left us thinking, provided insight, and reinforced the messages of scripture following his careful reflection. As Jane Wonnacott remarked recently "I've loved his sermons and his lovely calm voice". And so say all of us!

We fully understand his retirement decision but will miss him tremendously. Pam, of course too. Her contributions to St Alban's as PCC secretary and her major part in our

fund -raising events will leave a large hole in church life. Heartfelt thanks to you both. You've been a great team.

Ian Sanders, Sandra Ward and Jane Wonnacott



Dear Pam & Jim

To you both  
This lovely hymn springs to mind

'One more step along the world I go  
One more step along the world I go  
From the old things to the new  
Keep me travelling along with you  
And it's from the old I travel to the new  
Keep me travelling along with you'

Thank you 🙏  
Special thoughts and good wishes  
Diana & Michael x

From Diana and Michael Cutler

We at Clawton are very sorry to lose Jim in such a way and wish him all the very best for the future. I personally am very grateful for all the help he has given me in trying to keep St. Leonard's afloat following the retirement of Rev Jane Lucas.

Jim was a real help in giving me help and advice and for taking turns in coming to Clawton many times to take our Service.

We appreciate all that he did to help us at Clawton and really wish him and Pam all the very best for the future – they will both be missed by many.

Good Luck Jim and Pam!

From Irene Ellis



Jim likes to be prepared!

I knew he was coming to Beaworthy long before he had arrived as he had been in touch with Archdeacon David to tell him that he was a Reader in Guernsey and would be coming to Beaworthy to live and was offering his service to the Ashwater Benefice.

I was delighted to have Jim on the Leadership team with Avril, Ali and Trevor, Christina, Jacquie and Nigel, & Elizabeth.

Jim was a willing worker for the Lord, taking services across the Benefice although he found Tetcott a long way from Beaworthy. Jim was always ready to step in as he kept and recycled his sermons adapting as needed.

One memory I am very grateful for was for the memorial service he and Trevor took for my husband John in Ashwater church. They were both a blessing at a very difficult time for my family and I.

Pam too was a great friend to both of us, she and John had "poking sessions" !! Keeping John amused and happy.

Every blessing in your retirement Jim and Pam. I love and miss you.

Janexx

From Jane Lucas

## A prayer for a happy retirement

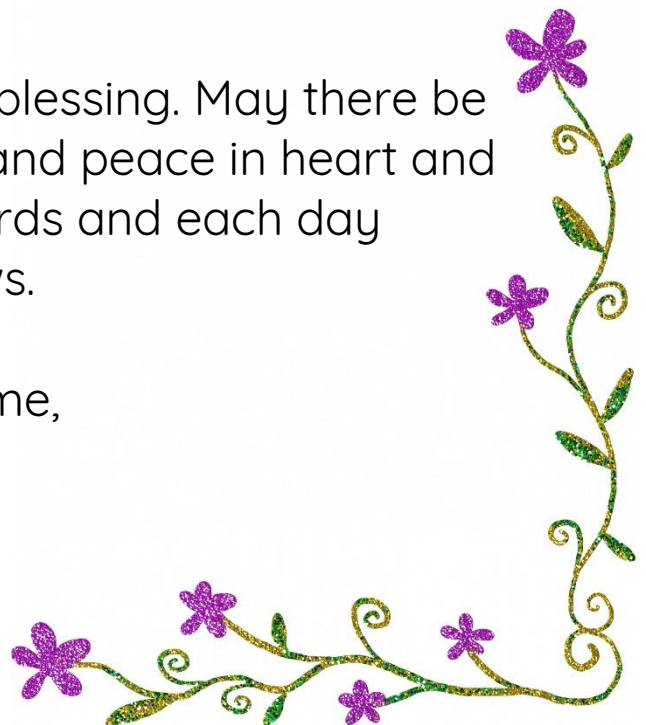
Dear Father God,

Thank you for the seasons of life, for the joy of childhood, the excitement of youth, and the stability of maturity. Thank you for the blessings that come with age, for all the happy memories to enjoy, for the wisdom that comes through experience, and for the freedom that is given with retirement.

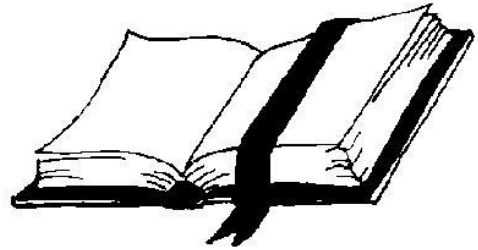
Lord, we give thanks for the tremendous blessing that has come from the work of many years, and thank you that you still anoint and use us always, in all seasons. We pray that this would be a new beginning, may your hope arise, and your vision be the guide. May a new rhythm emerge, one that forms a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life.

And now Lord, we ask for your blessing. May there be Good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forwards and each day that follows.

In Jesus name,  
Amen



# Lectionary Readings for March 2022



<p><b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11 Psalm 91 Romans 10: 8 – 13 Luke 4: 1 – 13</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p><b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 – 18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Luke 13: 31 – end</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill Baptist Church, Beaworthy</p>	<p><b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Isaiah 55: 1 – 9 Psalm 63 1 – 9 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13 Luke 13: 1 – 9</p> <p>Services at, Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p><b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b> Mothering Sunday</p> <p>Exodus 2: 1 – 10 Psalm 127: 1 – 4 Colossians 3: 12 – 17 John 19: 25 – 27</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton, Black Torrington, Highampton</p>		

# Ashwater with Black Torrington Benefice

## Services for March 2022

<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Ash Wednesday	7pm	Black Torrington	Ash Wednesday Service
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
Lent 1	11am	Halwill	Communion
	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
	6pm	Tetcott	Evening Service
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	All Age Service
Lent 2	11am	Black Torrington	Communion
	11am	Clawton	Methodist Communion Service
	11am	Halwill Baptist Church	Christian Aid Service
	5pm	Beaworthy	Communion
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion & Baptism
Lent 3	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Communion
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
Mothering Sun.	11am	Beaworthy	Morning Service
	11am	Clawton	Communion
	6:30pm	Highampton	Evening Service
	6:30pm	Black Torrington	Benefice Café Church for Mothering Sunday



**Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,  
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott**

# **Benefice Social Evening**

**Wednesday 16th March**

**7pm**

**Bickford Arms**

**Brandis Corner**

**Come and enjoy an evening with  
others across the Benefice**

**Buffet Supper @ £6 per person**

**Bar available.**

**Please let Val know for catering numbers**

**By Friday 11th March. 07484880770**

# SHANTY NIGHT

AN EVENING OF ORIGINAL ENTERTAINMENT

BY

## MARINERS AWAY



**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**7pm AT**

**ASHWATER CHURCH**

**TICKETS £3.00 ON SALE IN THE SHOP**

**And on the door**

**THERE WILL ALSO BE A PRIZE QUIZ AND LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS**

# connect

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Chilsworthy Quiz now on 16th April



Chilsworthy Village Hall - Sat 15th Jan  
Halwill Parish Hall - Sat 19th Feb  
Ashwater Parish Hall - Sat 19th March

As a COVID precaution please bring your own refreshments, glasses, mugs etc

7.00pm  
quiz start

Teams of up  
to 6

Doors open  
at 6.45pm

£3 per person per quiz

To book a table  
please ring

**07779560083**

or email

**Gillian.bray@btinternet.com**



**Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,**

**Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott**

# **Open Meeting**

## **Tuesday 8th March**



**Your chance to  
come and help  
build the  
Vision for our  
new Vicar**

**7pm Baptist Hall  
Halwill Junction**

**Parson Jack Russell  
Art & Photography Exhibition  
“Life in the Country”**

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

**10<sup>th</sup> June - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Start creating now!**

**Open exhibition**

**All welcome**

**Send for details**

**Exhibition Secretary**

Parson Jack Russell Animal Art & Photography Exhibition

Little Acorns, Burdon Lane, Highampton, Beaworthy EX21 5LX

Telephone: 01409 231430 [val.letcheren@btinternet.com](mailto:val.letcheren@btinternet.com)



**APRIL BULLETIN DEADLINE: 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Please send any details of services, events or fundraisers  
you want publicised, or any contributions – articles,  
images, poems etc. to Kay by this date

**ANYTHING NOT RECEIVED BY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> WILL NOT BE IN  
THE APRIL BULLETIN**

# A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

**Archbishop Justin Welby**  
**Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**





# Upcoming Dates for your Diary

**March** 8th 7pm Open Meeting for All **Baptist Hall Halwill Junction**

12th 7pm Shanty and Quiz **Ashwater**

**15th Deadline for newsletter**

**April**

**May** **15th Deadline for newsletter**

21st Big Breakfast **Clawton**

21st Tithe Map and Afternoon Tea **Black Torrington**

**June** 10th–13th Parson Jack Russell Art Exhibition **Black Torrington**

**15th Deadline for newsletter**

**July** **15th Deadline for newsletter**

31st Summer Event **Clawton**

**August** **15th Deadline for newsletter**

**September** **15th Deadline for newsletter**

25th Harvest Festival and Lunch **Clawton**

**October** **15th Deadline for newsletter**

15th Big Breakfast **Clawton**

16th Advertise the Post for new Priest

**November** 9th Orientation day **All Parishes**

10th **Interview Day for new Priest**

**15th Deadline for newsletter**

26th Wine and Wisdom **Clawton**

**December** **15th Deadline for newsletter**

18th Carol Service **Clawton**

**Feb/March 2023** **Institution Service for new Priest**

PLEASE LET VAL HAVE DATES OF ANY EVENTS UP AND COMING.



## **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:

Name: **Val Letheren**

Contact: **val.letheren@btinternet.com** or **07484880770**

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

Charlie Pitman, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01392 345909

[Charles.Pitman@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:Charles.Pitman@exeter.anglican.org)

Stephen Edgeley, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer - 01392 345910 -

[Stephen.Edgeley@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:Stephen.Edgeley@exeter.anglican.org)

Phill Parker, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01392 294969 -

[DBS@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:DBS@exeter.anglican.org)

For general enquiries - [SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org)

## **IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM?**

If you believe somebody 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**

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

### **Concerns about adults**

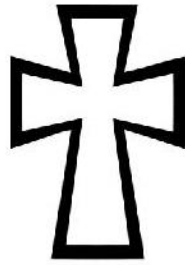
Devon - Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

### **Domestic Abuse**

Devon helpline for professionals and individuals: **0345 155 1074**

### **Rape Crisis**

National: **0808 802 9999** Devon & Torbay: **01392 20417**



St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater EX21 5EY

St. Alban, Beaworthy EX21 5AB

St. Mary, 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

The Priest in Charge of our churches Revd. Stephen Skinner can be contacted by telephoning 07554 142 264 or emailing [sjmskinners@btinternet.com](mailto:sjmskinners@btinternet.com)