

# Ruby Country Benefice

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

## Bulletin

### September 2023



---

*I promise that when any two of you on earth agree  
about something you are praying for, my Father in  
heaven will do it for you.*

*Whenever two or three of you come together in my  
name, I am there with you.*

**Matthew 18: 19-20**

---



## AUGUST

29<sup>th</sup>

Internment of ashes of  
**Mrs Monica Wonnacott**  
who died some time ago in Canada  
**(Tetcott)**

### CONTACTS

#### Rector

Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254 667

#### Contacts for Churches:

Ashwater	Diana Marriott	01409 211 146
Beaworthy	Richard Prior	01409 221 986
Black Torrington:	Sheila Grabham	07814 128 163
	Val Letheren*	01409 231 430
Clawton:	Irene Ellis	01409 271 371
Halwill:	John Lawlor	01409 221 987
Highampton	Mrs. M. Dayman	01837 810 435
	Mrs. A. Knight	07407 042 840
Tetcott:	Nikki Mitchell	01409 271 381

**Safeguarding Val Letheren 07484 880 770**

\* or as above

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 2) © Parish Pump,

Cover image: All Saints Church, Huntingdon from

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13880/>

Photo on pg. 11 taken by Kay Napier August 2023.

Photos on page 21 from Shirley Richmond.

Ukraine graphic on the back page from pixabay.com, by chiajo-18290215

Thanks to Revd Paul, Irene Ellis, John Lawlor, Nicki Mitchell, Shirley Richmond,

Elisabeth Swan and Sandra Ward for their contributions.



# SEPTEMBER

## *From the Rector's Desk*

Most of you will know now that Kay, our erstwhile editor, and worship leader, has been accepted for Anna Chaplaincy training. You may not all know what this means.

Anna Chaplaincy is a specialised ministry for those in fuller years, normally fourth agers. Originally developed by Debbie Thrower (A Reader as well as a TV presenter), Anna Chaplains are trained by the 'Bible Reading Fellowship' but selected and licensed by the diocese. The training is open to any Christian denomination but candidates will normally already have a role in the church and, frequently, specialist training as well.

There is a selection process with references and interviews and about a month's pre-reading before the course begins. The course runs for 10 Saturdays. My course had twenty people in the on-line training from all over the country and were a really diverse group. There are highly professional training packs and material, and plenty to do during the week to get ready for the formal training at the weekend.

Material covers the physiology of aging, specialist provision in Nursing Homes, end of life care, cultural attitudes to aging and plenty of theology, worship leading, specific risk assessment, safeguarding and wellbeing.

Once qualified, the candidate is licensed by either our Bishop or Archdeacon and then joins a support network of other chaplains in Devon with regular meetings, updates and Continuing Personal Development, although they always work in their own mission community under the

Minister in charge. Kay will be only the third chaplain to qualify in North Devon although there are large numbers in the south of the county.

Chaplains carry their own unique Identity Card and, as licensed Ministers, join the Clergy and Readers at Deanery Chapter meetings.

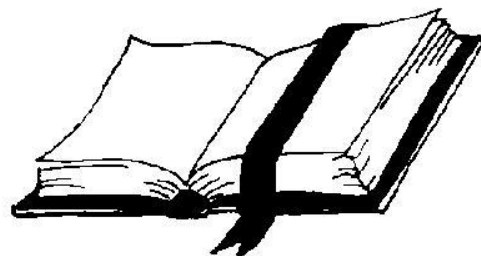
Kay's Licensing is set for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm St Peter & St James at Halwill, and will be conducted by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple; please do keep this date free to support Kay as she engages on this new stage of ministry.

If anyone is interested in learning more about this very specialised ministry, do please get in touch.

Paul.



# Lectionary Readings for September 2023



<p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b> (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Jeremiah 15: 15 – 21 Psalm 26: 1 – 8 Romans 12: 9 – end Matthew 16: 21 – end</p> <p><b>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> (14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Ezekiel 33: 7 – 11 Psalm 119: 33 – 40 Romans 13: 8 – end Matthew 18: 15 – 20</p> <p><b>Services at Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b> (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Genesis 50: 15 – 21 Psalm 103: 1 – 13 (or Psalm 103: 8 – 13) Romans 14: 1 – 12 Matthew 18: 21 – 35</p> <p><b>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Jonah 3: 20 – end of 4 Psalm 145: 1 – 8 Philippians 1: 21 – end Matthew 20: 1 – 16</p> <p><b>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton, Highampton</b></p>		

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

## Ruby Country Benefice Services for September 2023

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	4pm	Tetcott	BBQ followed by Evening Service (6pm)
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
	11am	Halwill	Harvest with Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Baptism
16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	11am	Beaworthy	Morning Prayer
	11am	Clawton	Harvest Service with Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Highampton	Harvest Service

Weekly - all welcome from the benefice

<b>Wednesday</b>	10am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
------------------	------	---------------------	----------------



# Ruby Country Benefice

## Harvest Services 2023

### September

17<sup>th</sup> 11am Harvest and Holy Communion  
(Halwill)

---

24<sup>th</sup> 11am Clawton Harvest and Holy  
Communion (Clawton)

24<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm followed by Harvest Lunch  
(Clawton Village Hall)

24<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Harvest Evening Service (Highampton)

### October

1<sup>st</sup> 9:30am Harvest Service (Ashwater)

1<sup>st</sup> 11am Harvest & Holy Communion,  
followed by lunch  
(Black Torrington)

1<sup>st</sup> 6pm Harvest Service and Supper (Tetcott)

---

8<sup>th</sup> 11am Harvest and Holy Communion  
(Beaworthy)





## *Ruby Country Benefice*

The Ruby Country Benefice will be running a 'Bereavement, Grief and Loss' training day for Worship Leaders, Churchwardens and anyone else who might be interested on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1000-1500 at Ashwater Village, Devon.

The day will be led by Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick, who as well as being the Benefice Rector is a Doctoral Psychologist specialising in the area of loss.

This is a science and evidence-based presentation on how grief affects individuals and groups, it is not a therapeutic tool. This is the same package that the Welsh clergy and Prison Services engaged, although updated.



The morning session will look at current, psychological evidence-based grief structures.

The afternoon section is functioned upon 'narrative and story', and participants will be asked with them any books, stories, diaries, novels, that they are happy to share that deals with grief.

This event will include a 'bring and share' lunch.

The morning will be hosted by St Peter's church, Ashwater for the presentation 1000-1200. Then move to Ashwater Parish Hall for an hour's lunch, followed by two hours on narrating grief which will conclude at 1500.

This training is fully funded so there is no cost to individuals but there will be limited spaces so early booking is strongly advised.

**Booking: [vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com](mailto:vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com)**

Bereavement, Grief and Loss training day  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 10am – 3pm, beginning at  
St. Peter's Church, Ashwater.

# 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.

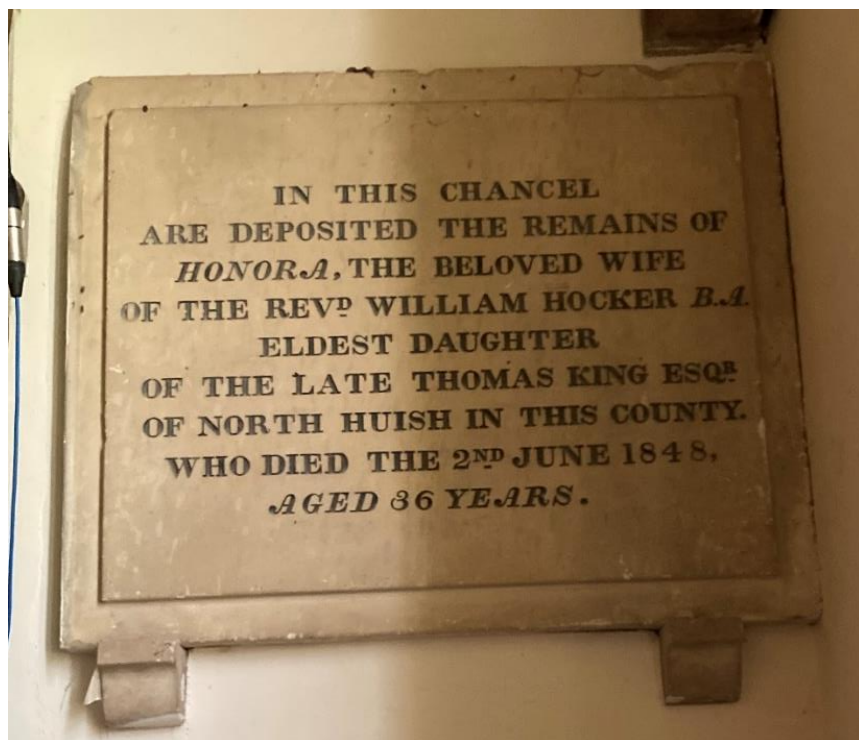
Signs to this effect will be displayed in affected churchyards to alert those attending memorials.

August 2023

# Honora Hocker

## (1811 - 1848)

Hidden behind the organ, tucked into a corner in Halwill Church is an often-overlooked memorial to a 36-year-old woman, seemingly buried beneath the Chancel – all that is apparently left to remind us of her.

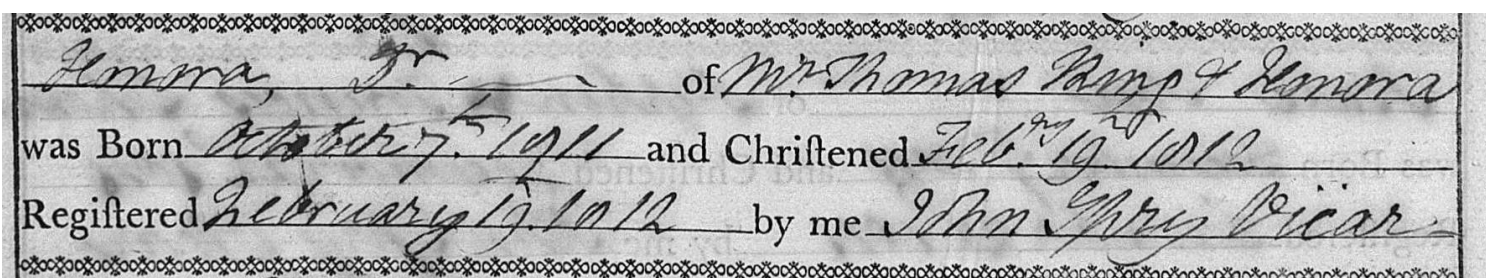


Honora was born to Thomas KING and Honora LUSCOMBE on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1811 and baptised 19<sup>th</sup> February 1812 at Ugborough in Devon.

Her parents were married at North Huish 11<sup>th</sup> July 1811 – the keen of eye will notice that this is only three months prior to her birth in the October!

Honora was the oldest of their children, with baptism records of Phillis (b. 1812), Julia (b. 1814), twins Anne and Mary (b. 1817),

Sarah Dorothea (b. 1819), Thomas (b. 1820) and Rose Matilda (b. 1826) following.



**Honora's entry in the baptism register 1812**  
© Find My Past (accessed via FamilySearch.org)

Their father Thomas (1794 – 1843) was listed as owner of the manor house in North Huish, and so one can assume this is where Honora and her family grew up. This unlisted Georgian manor house was recently listed for sale at auction for a guide price of £425,000 due to needing significant works.

Prior to this property coming up for sale, it had been owned by a Royal Navy man who once served as a lieutenant commander - he had lived there for 60 years.

An avid collector and eventual trader in antiquarian books, sadly by the time of his death aged 94 he had amassed so many books, newspapers and clutter that his





### **The Manor, North Huish, next to St. Mary's Church in 2023**

(from [https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/133954916#/?channel=RES\\_BUY](https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/133954916#/?channel=RES_BUY))

property had to be thoroughly cleared over the course of eight days, and 27 tonnes of waste were collected, including 17 tonnes of books which were separated for recycling.

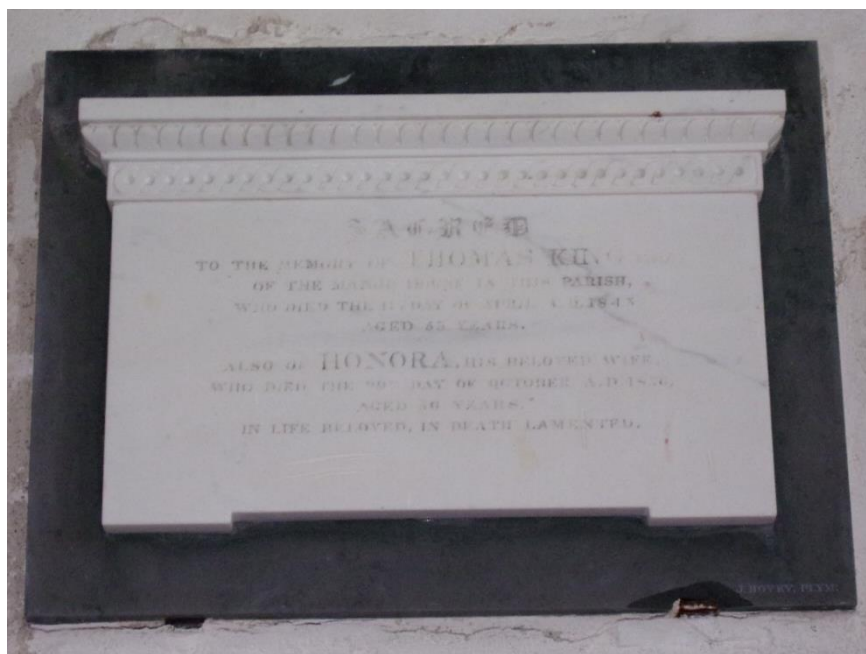
The KING family of North Huish and Ugborough owned several manor houses in the area. One relative owned Fowlescombe House which is one of the houses thought to have inspired Baskerville Hall in Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

And it is at the manor house in North Huish that we find a census record of Honora in 1841. By this time, under her married name of HOCKER, she is recorded as being there alongside her widowed father Thomas, siblings Phillis, Julia, Anne, Mary, Thomas, Rose Matilda – plus an additional sister, Emma. Honora has with her two of her children; "Honor" and Frances.

Honora's mother (also Honora) died 29<sup>th</sup> October 1836, and her father died 11<sup>th</sup> April 1843. Both are commemorated in St Mary's Church, North Huish on a wall tablet; the writing and the quality of photo do not tell me the location of the burial but one assumes it is within the Church building like their daughter.

The young Honora KING married William HOCKER North Huish on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 1837, the day before Queen Victoria's coronation.

William was born 14<sup>th</sup> March 1809 at St Mewan, Cornwall, the son of Revd. William HOCKER and his wife Maria (nee WREFORD). His father died in 1842, and his mother



**Photo of the memorial of Thomas and Honora KING, St. Mary's Church, North Huish**  
(Photo by Janice Dennis, from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/202869959/honora-king#view-photo=192229816>)

in 1857. Both were buried in the parish churchyard of St. Mewan in Cornwall – William junior would himself be buried alongside them following his death on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1875. One of Honora's in-laws would be Susan Wreford HOCKER who married a St. Austell solicitor Thomas COODE in 1838 – I think that's a surname most of us recognise in the field of law!

William became the vicar of Halwill in around 1839 – the exact date I am unsure of as he does not appear on the list of Halwill Rectors and didn't stay much after the death of his wife; it is very likely that the pain of losing his wife influenced his decision to leave.

Honora was only visiting her father and family in 1841 as she also appears at the Rectory in Halwill alongside her husband and the same two children born at Halwill - Honora Maria (born 1839) and Frances Dorothea (born 1841).

Between the 1841 and 1851 censuses there were several happy and several sad events. As you will have already read, Honora lost her father and father-in-law within a year of each other, and, tragically, Honora herself would lose her life at the age of just 36, dying at the Vicarage in Halwill on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1848, according to her death certificate, of phlebitis. Her death was registered by Ann ABBOT who was present at the death. One would assume Ann to be someone who worked for the HOCKERS.

Honora's death was noted in the Western Times and the Exeter and Plymouth Herald. Her obituary read:

*June 2, at Halwill Parsonage, near Holsworthy, after a short but fatal attack of erysipelas, borne with the most pious resignation, in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of age, leaving behind her a husband, five small children, and every other relative most deeply afflicted at her loss, Honora, the beloved wife of the Rev. W. Hocker. Though*

permitted by the all-powerful and unfathomable decree of Providence to sojourn on earth but a few years more than half the period usually allotted to mankind, she has left behind her, as a wife, mother, daughter, and sister, a character worthy of imitation. Nor is sincere regret for her confined to her kindred, it is felt by all with whom she was acquainted, for it may be truly said, her acquaintances were her friends. She made them such by temper, which was always pleasing; by a disposition, that was always lively; and by a heart that was uniformly feeling; this latter virtue can be testified by the poor of the parish, in which she lived and died, and she has left a name justly endeared to all who knew her. This humble and feeble tribute of respect is paid to the memory of much departed worth, by one who hath for some years known her real goodness and great virtues, and who most sincerely feels the loss he has himself sustained in her as a friend and acquaintance. E.S.M

I can find no solid proof – or even speculation – as to who E.S.M was.

397	June 1845	Honora Hocker	Femal	Year	Wife of William Hocker	Atterine Philbrick
	Halwill				Wife of William Hocker	Wife of William Hocker

From the death record of Honora HOCKER

© Crown Copyright

Prior to Honora's death, more happily, three additional children were born at Halwill – a daughter Marian (b. 1842) and two sons – William (b. 1844) and Edward (b. 1846) – Edward was just 17 months old when his mother died.

By the 1851 census, the HOCKER family are at Hill Street in Plymouth. All 5 children are listed as homeschooled, and are living with their grandmother Martha HOCKER (aged 67), Honora's sister Mary KING and four members of staff – governess Mary HEALE (aged 37) of Plymouth, cook Grace TICKLE (aged 42) of Lewannick, Cornwall, House Maud Sarah DRUN (aged 23) of Churchstow, Devon and House Maid Ann ANTHONY (aged 24) of Devonport.

In the 1861 census, Revd. William HOCKER is living in Plympton St. Mary with his daughters Honora, Frances and Marion, and his wife Agnes aged 49 of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. In 1855, William married Agnes MARGETTS in Huntingdon.

William's daughter Frances would marry Agnes's nephew, Charles Berkley MARGETTS of Huntingdon 12 years later.

Living with the HOCKERS are servants Mary GOWINGS their cook (aged 47), their parlourmaid Jane LANGDON (aged 31) of Stonehouse, Plymouth, and their housemaid Ellen RUNDLE (aged 27) of Charlestown, Cornwall.

By the 1871, Revd. HOCKER is at his final placement as vicar at Buckerell – this is where he will live out the rest of his days, passing away aged 66 in 1875.





**Photo of the grave of William HOCKER, St. Mewan, Cornwall**

(Photo by kernowmaid, from

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/227558070/william-hocker>)

At Buckerell Vicarage, he is living with his wife Agnes(57), daughters Honora (31) and Marion (28) and three domestic servants with the same surname - Eliza HARRIS (26) from Tavistock and sisters Maria (24) and Susan (23) HARRIS from Ashreigney.

Following Revd. William's death, his widow Agnes HOCKER returned to Huntingdon where her death is recorded in 1894. In the 1881 and 1891 censuses she is living with her unmarried sister Margaret MARGETTS.

We know little about the short life of Honora – so what do we know of her legacy; her five children?

The oldest, Honora Maria HOCKER died unmarried in 1918 at the age of 78 in the Newton Abbot Registration district.

Daughter Marian married in Charles Henry TURNER in Kensington, London

in 1879. Charles was some 38 years her senior and is listed in the 1881 census as the District Registrar for the High Court of Justice for the, Exeter Registry. Marian was widowed only three years after her marriage and lived in Dawlish until her death in 1932.

Honora's oldest son William was a bank clerk. He married Sarah Louisa PHILLIPS of Dorchester in 1882 at Brentford, and together had three children; Montague William (1884), Ethel Mary Louise (1885), and Reginald Frank Penrose (1888). By the time of the 1911 census, William and Louisa were hotel proprietors of the Westward Ho! Hotel in Prittlewell, Essex. William died in Essex in 1923 aged 79.

Twenty first January 1862 384 Royal Hospital	Edward Hocker	Male	14 Years	Naval Cadet H M Ship Britannia	Febris 7 days Pleuro-Pneumonia 131 days
---	------------------	------	-------------	--------------------------------------	--

**From the death record of Edward HOCKER**

© Crown Copyright

Honora's youngest son Edward appears to have had a more tragic life than his mother. As you will have seen from the previous page, he died very young. Never able to recall his mother, nor his time at Halwill, aged just 14 he was a naval cadet aboard the ship Britannia, docked at Portsmouth. While there, he became very poorly and after suffering from pleuro-pneumonia for over four months and febris (fever) for a week, he succumbed to his illness on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1862 at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth. He was buried at the Clayhall Naval Cemetery at Gosport three days later.



**Photo of William and Honora's youngest child, Edward HOCKER  
29<sup>th</sup> Dec 1846 – 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1862**

(photo uploaded by Steve Ellis

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/177185958/edward-hocker>)

Honora and William's second child, daughter Frances – as mentioned earlier – married solicitor Charles Berkley MARGETTS in 1867. The reason I did not put her in 'in order' is because I didn't want to end the HOCKER story on such a sad note as Edward's short life.

Charles and Frances had four children – daughters Honora Dorothea (b. 1867), Constance Emily (b. 1868) and Agnes Penrose (b. 1875), and a son Francis Burroughs Hocker (b. 1881)

Honora died aged 17 in Huntingdon. Constance married Philip Charles BEVAN in 1919. Agnes married James Edmund Hardy VERNON in 1899. Francis married three times in total; firstly to Nora REYNOLDS in 1912, to Elizabeth WEBSTER in 1917 and to Jessie BATES in 1924. The first two marriages ended in divorce – Nora petitioned for divorce in 1915 and Elizabeth petitioned for divorce in 1923; the type of these divorces is listed as "Wife's petition for restitution of conjugal rights" – from a quick 'google' of what that means, it's come up that its what wives did when their husbands and deserted them – restitution literally meaning returning something lost or stolen to its proper owner; appealing to the courts to divorce, based on the fact their husbands were no longer with their 'proper owner'! As I cannot find any divorce for the third wife, one hopes finally Francis was happy with his choice!

Charles Berkeley MARGETTS was a rector at the parish church of All Saints, Huntingdon; Frances had been the daughter of a rector, the granddaughter of a rector and now a wife of one.

His church has several interesting historical facts; it was long associated with the CROMWELL family, being the place of Oliver CROMWELL's baptism – still holding the font used to baptise him, and is also the location of his father Robert's burial.

Additionally, Mary Queen of Scots rested on a catafalque upon the chancel steps on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1612; having been buried at Peterborough Cathedral initially, King James I ordered his mother be buried in a grander tomb at Westminster Abbey and the church found itself being a stopping-point of the funeral procession overnight.

Although there appears to be a great deal about the history of All Saints, Huntingdon, there is little information about the time the MARGETTS' spent there. Charles died in 1916 and his wife Frances died the following year in 1917.

Following the death of Frances and Charles, their surviving children left one parting gift to their father's church; "a silver gilt chalice, Flemish, circa 1750, inscribed:- 'To the Glory of God – In loving Memory of their Parents Charles Berkeley and Frances Dorothea Margetts. This chalice is given by Frances Burroughes Margetts, Constance Emily Bevan and Agnes Penrose Vernon. Easter 1920.'" (from <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hunts/vol2/pp139-148>)

The church and the love of family are apparent throughout all I have found.

We know from her obituary that Honora was so loved by the people of the parish that she was permitted to seemingly be the only one buried within their church. But whereabouts is Honora? Halwill Church does not have any sort of crypt, so it should be assumed that Honora is exactly where she says she is. Buried beneath the floor of the chancel of the church, most likely beneath the organ her plaque stands next to. Although, one must remember that the church was restored by Squire HARRIS in the mid-late 1800s, and perhaps the plaque was re-sited. However, although the plaque may have moved, the chancel would not have!

Wherever her remains lay within the Church, the plaque lets us know that she's there someplace, and this article acknowledges that she is definitely not forgotten.

Kay Napier  
August 2023

#### Sources:

[https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/133954916#/?channel=RES\\_BUY](https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/133954916#/?channel=RES_BUY)

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/property/gallery/iconic-devon-property-market-first-8385285>

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/lovely-royal-navy-devon-hoarder-8410352>

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hunts/vol2/pp139-148>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All\\_Saints%27\\_Church,\\_Huntingdon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Church,_Huntingdon)

<https://www.britainexpress.com/attractions.htm?attraction=4491>

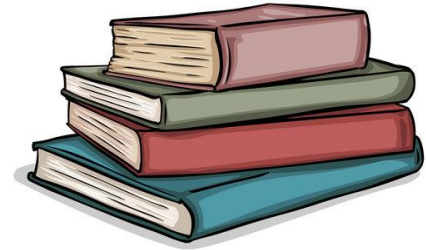
<https://www.findagrave.com>

<https://www.familysearch.org>



Later this month, I will be taking a road trip to the Bayntuns Bookbinders in Bath.

Ashwater have two very valuable early C19 Prayer books and Beaworthy some wonderful books that need a quote for restoration or rebinding; this will eventually form the basis for a community project.



If anyone has anything else that they would like assessed please let me know. Paul.



## Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

10am

*All welcome*

## NRRW - a [light-hearted] Reflection from two Ruby Ringers

National Residential Ringing Week (NRRW) is organised by the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain. This was held from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in Sheffield, but we went on July 30<sup>th</sup> as it was a long drive.

Linda and I signed up for the week last October having read:



### **A Fun Handbell Holiday**

One of the most fun weeks you will have ringing. Join ~70 others for a handbell ringing holiday; ring under and learn from internationally acclaimed handbell conductors.

Music at mixed levels to challenge all experience levels. Come as an individual. The aim is to have fun, learn new things, and make new friends!

Once our final payment was made back in May, we saw a new post:

...NRRW is a week-long extravaganza of ringing intended for the more experienced ringers (you need to be able to read music fairly well although you can mark it in advance.

St. Mary's Ruby Ringers are not experienced: our second anniversary is in September. And Linda was convinced she couldn't read music; our ringers mostly play by numbers - but much musicianship has been filtered in by me during these two years.

The music arrived in advance in June (awesome and very difficult) and we marked it up; red circle for right hand bell, green for left,

with two other colours if we had to play sharps or flats - and Linda set about learning more musical terms and different rhythms.

We had a practice evening with the Ockment Valley Ringers in Okehampton and we watched videos on YouTube.

Then the great day came. We set off from Black Torrington at 7:30am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July and journeyed to Tedburn St. Mary, where we changed cars, drove to Pinhoe [I have some Pinhoe bricks and saw where the quarry had been - and the Brickworks - now both covered with houses] and finally to Taunton; six of us to join the 18-strong contingent from the South West.

What really surprised me about Sheffield and the University residential campus was the number of trees; there was a Botanical Gardens complete with a bear pit, which Linda explored on our 'free' afternoon, while I went on the coach tour to Chatsworth; a short distance from the city and we were in the Peak District.

The student accommodation single room (called a cell by Linda) was basic, but adequate; each floor level had a kitchen and we sat on my level each evening, drinking tea and doing our 'homework.'

It was very hard work, for example on Tuesday and Thursday we rang for eight hours both days, but the food was excellent and ringing time was interspersed with breaks and delicious meals.



I was in row 7 from the front and had two very experienced players beside me from Dunblane and Glasgow. I learnt so much from my two neighbours, including how to change-ring on handbells. Our row had the bells from the disbanded Braunton Ladies group which are now with ringers from Manningtree in Essex. Linda fell in love with the big bells and devised many ways she could possibly smuggle one home in her holdall!



The twelve young people from the Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble, aged 12-18, were amazing. They start learning at playgroup and continue throughout their school life. They wore masks most of the time and were quite apprehensive about removing them. They were only allowed away for a week.



There were so many new techniques to learn including: 'brush damping', 'malletting', 'gyro bells', 'singing bell' and 'martellato' and we played hand chimes for the first time.

Our three conductors came from Hong Kong, the USA and the UK. As the week progressed it became apparent to me that all three are dedicated Christians, which was clear both from their rehearsal comments and through their choice of music. One piece was based on the hymn tune 'Aurelia' ("The Church's One Foundation"), and another very moving one, 'Prayer for the Innocents', was dedicated: *In memory of the 49 people killed in Orlando, Florida, and for the families and loved ones of all those who have lost their lives because of hate, intolerance and violence.*

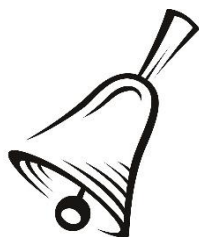
Conductor Emily Li asked us to spread love wherever we went, which I shared with Black Torrington's congregation and I now share with you.

One last thought about handbell ringing:

Reading music while playing in a group is now recognised to be the 'Rolls Royce' musical activity when it comes to optimising continuing brain development. This is obviously great news for bellringers!

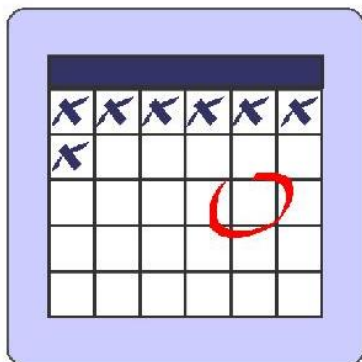
Everyone is welcome to come and join St. Mary's Ruby Ringers, we really do play by numbers - well, mostly.

**Shirley Richmond**



The Bishop and patrons are pleased to announce that, subject to the completion of the statutory formalities, the Rev'd Alison Hardy has been appointed as Rector of the Holsworthy Benefice (Consisting of the Parishes of Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek), Holsworthy Deanery, Diocese of Exeter.

Alison is currently rector of the Moorland & Egloskerry Benefice & team vicar of the Launceston Benefice in the Diocese of Truro. Previously Alison served as interim associate priest of Launceston following her curacy in Bude.



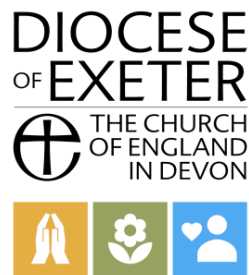
## Benefice Calendar

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](http://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.

[rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com)





The Bishop is pleased to announce that, subject to the completion of the statutory formalities, the Rev'd Stephen Skinner has been appointed as interim Assistant Curate of the Bradworthy Benefice (Consisting of the Parishes of Bradworthy, Sutcombe, Putford, Abbots Bickington, Bulkworthy, Milton Damerel, Bradford with Cookbury and Thornbury), Holsworthy Deanery, Diocese of Exeter.

This is an interim appointment – the vacancy process will proceed without delay.

The date for the licensing by the Bishop of Crediton [took] place on August 9th 2023.



**DEADLINE**




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

email [rubbybulletin@gmail.com](mailto:rubbybulletin@gmail.com) or call 01409 221 321



**Find us on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/rubybenefice](http://www.facebook.com/rubybenefice)

A photograph of a barbecue grill with food cooking on it. Bright orange and yellow flames are rising from the grill, and blue and white smoke is drifting upwards. A hand is visible on the left side, holding a metal tool. The background is dark, making the fire and smoke stand out.

Tetcott church  
Barbecue and outdoor  
service

Sunday September 3rd  
Barbecue and bring and buy  
stall start at 4pm followed  
with an informal service at  
6pm in the Manor garage  
opposite Church



*Ruby Country Benefice*



## **Sponsored/Social Walk and Picnic Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

10:30am Start: St Peter & St. James Church Halwill

11:15am Start: Beaworthy turning off the A3079  
(by industrial estate) if you want a shorter walk

Noon Picnic at St. Albans  
all welcome – even non-walkers.

Return together to Halwill Junction  
(shorter distance walkers leave us here). Full circuit walkers continue back for a Halwill Town finish.

Full circuit approx. 3 ¼ hours of walking, half circuit 1 hr 40mins of walking.

Participants from all churches and denominations welcome.

Tea and coffee provided, but bring your own packed lunch.

Route includes moderate hills, roadways, bridle and footpaths with mud, puddles and uneven surfaces – come prepared!

Toilets available at Beaworthy and Halwill Junction (on return)

Dogs welcome

50% of sponsorship to DHCT, 50% to your chosen parish church in the benefice.

Sponsor forms available from <https://www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk>

Contact: Elisabeth Swan 01409 221 423 or Sandra Ward (Beaworthy)



In aid of the

**DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

Charity Registration Number 1189807





## **You Are Invited to a Farewell Service for Bishop Robert**

***3pm on 17 September, at Exeter Cathedral***

With Bishop Robert's retirement fast-approaching, there will be a Farewell Service at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday 17th September at 3pm. Anyone is welcome to attend, but this will be a ticketed event as space at the Cathedral is limited due to the restoration work currently taking place. The link for booking tickets will go live on Wednesday 26th July at 12 noon. If you'd like to come, please [click here to book](#). Refreshments will be served on the Green after the service. The service will be livestreamed for anyone who is unable to come to Exeter.



**Mission**

**Possible**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**7pm – 9pm (approx.)**

**St Pancras, Pancrasweek EX22 7JS**

*includes refreshments*

**Alongside Holsworthy Benefice, we will have an opportunity to explore resources, available support and ways to work missionally with children and young people, with input from the diocese.**

**All welcome!**



*A concert with*

# *Gregory Stewart*

Performing songs from  
the musicals



***Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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



## **Senior Clergy Reflection from The Very Rev'd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter Cathedral**

Exeter Cathedral is a building site - with a new Cloister slowly taking shape in the garden, and a big white protective tent in the quire, while they're laying underfloor heating and a new floor incorporating a variety of colourful Devon marbles with romantic names: Dove Happaway, Kitley Green, Radford Rose Red and Ipplepen Yellow. The archaeologists have been hard at work, and to our delight have uncovered the floor of the Norman cathedral with its high altar, the outline of the cathedral apse, some bishops' tombs and a crypt no one really knew was there. You may be aware that before the current cathedral, there was a great Norman building on the site, and we still benefit from its immense towers and some internal walls. Following the dig, I've been surprisingly moved to walk on the Norman floor and picture our predecessors standing at their altar 800 years ago, celebrating the eucharist, with pilgrims coming to reverence the relics in the crypt below - none of them having the slightest idea about the exquisite Gothic edifice that would soon come and replace their monumental cathedral.

Building on what's gone before: the story of the Church over the past 2000 years. Seeking to bring the Gospel to life for each successive generation. Taking all that's been good and true, and with those solid foundations, telling the Good News afresh for today. A similar story too for those of us involved with the Vacancy in See Committee, considering what's been good during Bishop Robert's episcopate over the past nine and a half years (of which there's been much), and seeking to discern what is needed for this next stage of our diocesan journey together. Please pray for all those involved in the appointments process for our new bishop: it feels like a weighty responsibility, but at least there's a great deal of good on which to build.

**Very Rev'd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter Cathedral**

## 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](mailto:costa.nassaris@exeter.anglican.org)

**James May** – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – 01392 345910 – 07889 543646  
[james.may@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:james.may@exeter.anglican.org)

**Rebecca Lane** – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser- 01392 294975 - 07889542640  
[Rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:Rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org)

For general enquiries – [SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org](mailto: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](mailto:vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com)**