

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin April 2023



“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Colossians 3: 4

April

"THE GREATEST FAILURE OF ALL?"

This is the arresting title of the Holy Week series of Meditations in the Lent Course "Dust and Glory". I hope it's grabbed your attention, as it has mine. Emma Ineson begins the week with the following sentence: "Holy Week sounds like the greatest failure of all – a man who rode into a city as a king on Sunday is abandoned and left hanging on a tree by Friday!" Holy Week traces the apparently disastrous journey of Jesus from Palm Sunday through to Good Friday. What seemed to go so wrong during that week for Jesus and his revolutionary movement, according to the four Gospels?

~ Jesus was not buoyed up by the adulation of the crowds in Jerusalem – he knew there was trouble brewing from the religious leaders, and predicted his own death many times.

~ Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the 'Last Supper' as their servant, but near the end of their meal he predicted that Judas would betray him – the Devil entered him after he had eaten the bread.

~ Jesus was arrested, probably later that night. He was tied up and led before Annas and then Caiaphas, the High Priest. He was interrogated until the early hours of the following day.

~ Peter denied that he knew Jesus at all, a total of three times. He deserted Jesus out of fear of the authorities, as apparently did all the male disciples. So much for their camaraderie!

~ Jesus was then taken to face trial before Pilate, charged with being the "King of the Jews". Pilate was ready to acquit him but the crowds demanded his death rather than of the criminal Barabbas.

~ Jesus was tortured in various vicious ways in order to humiliate him. He was dragged to Golgotha, and crucified in utmost pain upon the Calvary Cross, with just a few female disciples looking on.

It seems to be a woeful catalogue of repeated failures by Jesus' disciples, supporters from Galilee, the Jewish religious leadership and the Roman

authorities. The hopes of so many ordinary people for a Messiah who would liberate them from not only the legalism of the Pharisees but the oppression of the Romans, seem to be dashed in Jesus' summary execution.

There were many then, and there are still many today who regard Jesus himself as a failure. If only he had chosen a different path through his powerful ministry of teaching, healing, deliverance and miracles then he might have built up a mighty movement of God's People to establish "The Kingdom of Heaven" on earth!

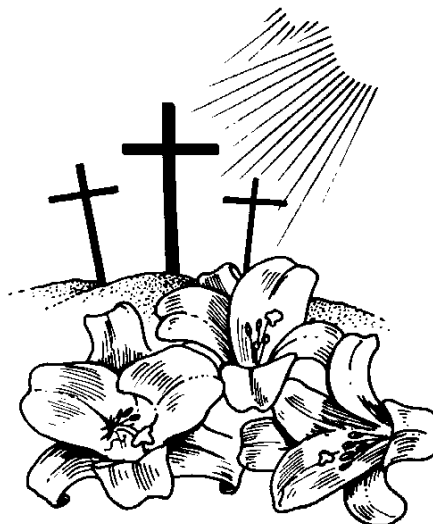
So why did Jesus opt for the route of multiple failures, apparently in obedience to God's longer term purposes? The story of Easter, Part Two, reveals a better plan – of Resurrection! Through God's resurrecting power Jesus defeated death and offers us all new life – the spiritual and moral power to overcome our failures and turn them to success, as Jesus did! This is the impact of the Holy Spirit's renewal.

Emma Ineson ends her Lent Course with the following encouragement: "If failure is when something doesn't go to plan, the cross was not failure, because the cross followed by resurrection was God's plan all along." God wanted to demonstrate true spiritual power to overcome all our human attempts to succeed in our own strength, and lead us closer to Himself – the source of true success.

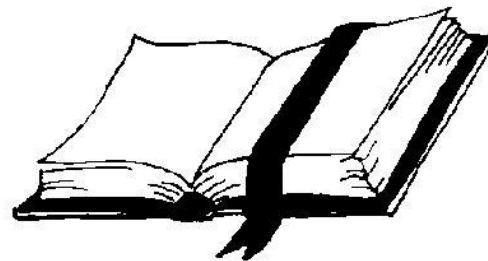
So, whenever you feel like a failure, remember Jesus' life of seeming failure, especially in Holy Week, and be encouraged that the divine path to overcoming failure is to 'hang on in there' with God's strength!

Join us for our series of Holy Week Services to experience how the journey of apparent failure in Jesus' last few days before death was ultimately transformed into success, and can be so for you! We'll try to relate Holy Week's story to this interplay of failure as a springboard to success.

Stephen



Lectionary Readings for April 2023



<p>Sunday 2nd (Palm Sunday)</p> <p>Isaiah 50: 4 – 9 Psalm 31: 9 – 16 Philippians 2: 5 – 11 Matthew 21: 1 – 11</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 9th (Easter Day)</p> <p>Acts 10: 34 – 43 Psalm 118: 14 – 24 Colossians 3: 1 – 4 Matthew 28: 1 – 10</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Clawton, Highampton, Beaworthy</p>	<p>Sunday 16th (Easter 2)</p> <p>Acts 2: 14, 22 – 32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9 John 20: 19 – end</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Halwill, Black Torrington</p>
<p>Sunday 23rd (Easter 3 / St. George)</p> <p>Acts 2: 14, 36 – 41 Psalm 116: 1 – 7 2 Peter 1: 17 – 23 Luke 24: 13 – 35</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Clawton, Highampton</p>	<p>Sunday 30th (Easter 4 / Christ the Good Shepherd)</p> <p>Acts 2: 42 – end Psalm 23 1 Peter 2: 19 – end John 10: 1 – 10</p> <p>Service at Black Torrington</p>	

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

Ruby Country Benefice Services for April 2023

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Ashwater	Communion
Palm Sunday	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Service
	11am	Halwill	Communion
	6pm	Tetcott	Evening Service
Wednesday 5th	10am	Black Torrington	Stations of the Cross
Thursday 6th	7pm	Clawton	Maundy Thursday Communion
Friday 7th	10am	Ashwater	Hour at the Cross
Good Friday	11am	Halwill Baptist Hall	Walk of Witness & light lunch
	2pm	Beaworthy	Hour at the Cross
Saturday 8th	7pm	Putford Church*	Lighting of the New Fire & Easter Liturgy
Sunday 9th	8am		Sunrise Service (Halwill Churches Together)
Easter Day	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
	11am	Black Torrington	Easter Café Church
	11am	Clawton	Communion
	6:30pm	Highampton	Easter Communion
	6:30pm	Beaworthy	Easter Service
Sunday 16th	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
Easter 2	11am	Black Torrington	Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
Sunday 23rd	11am	Beaworthy	Communion
Easter 3 / St. George	11am	Clawton	Methodist Service
	3pm	Highampton	Evening Service
Sunday 30th Easter 4 / Christ the Good Shepherd	11am	Black Torrington	Benefice Communion

* In Bradworthy benefice but all are welcome



Rev'd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick

The Bishop and patrons are pleased to announce that, subject to the completion of the statutory formalities, the Rev'd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick has been appointed as Vicar in the Ruby Country Benefice (Consisting of the parishes of Ashwater, Black Torrington, Beaworthy, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott).

Paul currently is licensed in the Holsworthy Benefice. Previously Paul served as 'Head of Chaplaincy and Cultural Inclusion' at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Induction by the Bishop of Crediton will take place on the 25th May 2023 Venue to be Confirmed.

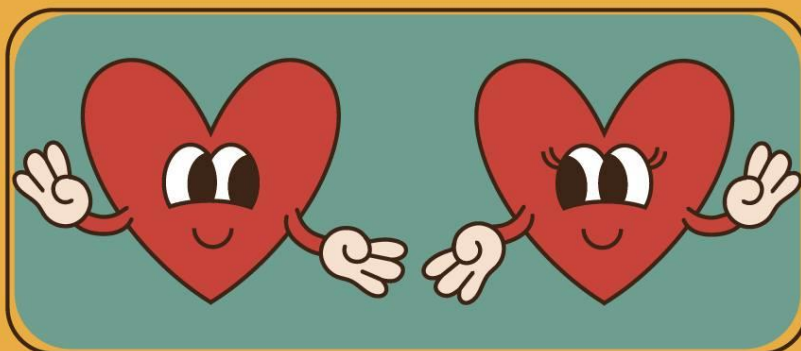
We look forward to welcoming him to our benefice.

If we are saying hello, that also means that we will be saying goodbye too.

Following the Benefice Service at Black Torrington on April 30th, you are all welcome to join us at a Bring and Share lunch at Black Torrington Village Hall.

Although Stephen will be leading a handful of services after around the time of the King's Coronation, this service on the 30th will be his proper "farewell", so please come and support it.

What marks the Church out as different - as God's Church - is our willingness to **love** those with whom we differ, disagree and whom perhaps we even dislike.



The background features several colorful Easter eggs: a red one with white circles, a blue one with white polka dots, a yellow one with white stripes, a pink one with white stars, and a green one with white zig-zags. There are also five red flowers with yellow spiral centers scattered around the text.

EASTER EGG HUNT
AT TETCOTT
CHURCH

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL

10AM TILL 12PM

ALL WELCOME

**ST. PETER & ST. JAMES
PARISH CHURCH**

MAY

MADNESS

GIG

FRIDAY MAY 12TH

7.30PM ONWARDS

LOCAL BANDS

SIXTIES/EIGHTIES

STYLE MUSIC

Bar/Snacks

Local Brewery

Senior Clergy Reflection from Rev'd Preb. Samantha Stayte,
Dean of Women in Ministry
and Priest in Charge of Lyn Valley Mission Community

“Early in the morning, on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb”: words that take us quietly from travelling through Holy Week to the cross with Jesus into the mystery of Easter.

Mary has been present from the earliest days of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, has travelled with the disciples to Jerusalem, has walked the way of the cross with Jesus and stood near as he suffered crucifixion. She has seen his body tenderly placed in the tomb. She has stayed close all the way. She has walked the path we now try to follow each year through our Lent and Holy Week observance. Perhaps, all that she has seen and felt she brings with her to the tomb, walking into the light while it is still dark. Even the empty tomb, the first sign of resurrection, is first for her the place of deepest loss, a place for deep sorrow and the confusion of grief. There it is his turn to come close to her. Jesus draws her into his risen presence and speaks her name. There is dawning, light, the emerging of a new, greater reality as he tells her we are all drawn into his relationship with the Father. In him we are all the beloved sons and daughters of God. The others need to hear this from her. “I have seen the Lord” is her joyful message to friends. In coming days, they too will experience slowly dawning recognition, encountering him for themselves in the dimpsy evening, and recognising him at daybreak on the beach before each is given their own way to share his resurrection life with others.

I wonder if Mary’s story shows us that to walk with her in the early morning on the first day of the week while it is still dark is an important for our journey in faith. May it show us the deep grace in allowing Easter to dawn slowly in us, allowing Jesus to draw us as we are, carrying the pain and confusion of our world, into his risen presence to know the love of God as his brothers, sisters, companions; there to discover the deep and particular way he has for each of us to share his resurrection life and joy in the world.

Rev'd Preb. Samantha Stayte

Conversation with a gardener

No, Mary Magdalene wasn't asking for the gardener.

No one expects you to be at work before sunrise.

Yes, that would certainly be most unreasonable.

I know you've always put in a fair day's work for a fair day's
pay

and you've worked here man and boy for over fifty years.

You've told me so,

many times.

Mary actually mistook Jesus for the gardener.

No, he isn't after your job.

Yes, he is a carpenter.

No, he probably couldn't tell an aquilegia from an artichoke,
although he was interested in flowers.

Yes, I am absolutely satisfied with your work.

I wouldn't dream of replacing you.

Yes, I am sorry the guards abused your geraniums,

and picked your best pansies,

and Peter trampled all over your petunias,

and that stone crushed some of your best sweet peas when
it moved.

You see, something very remarkable happened in the

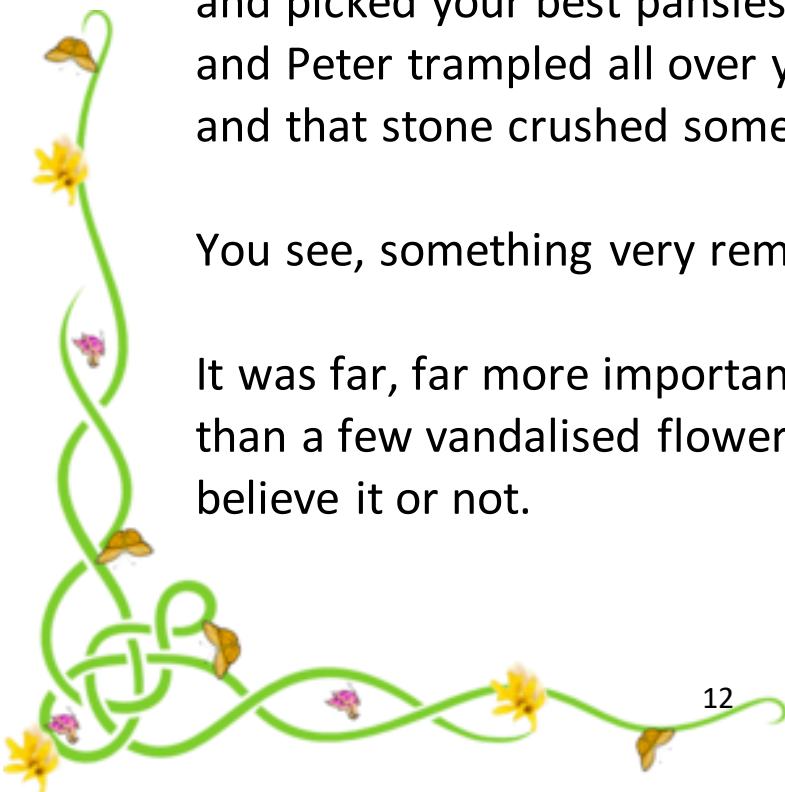
garden last night.

It was far, far more important

than a few vandalised flowers and wrecked plants,

believe it or not.

Brian Ford





Come and hear the bells of Halwill church being rung
by members of the Tamar Valley Guild of Ringers

Wednesday 19th April 2023 starting at 7pm

Refreshments available



TAMAR VALLEY GUILD OF RINGERS

Local Contact: 01409 220049

The TVGR is keen to hear from any lapsed ringers who would like
to ring again or anybody who is interested in learning to ring



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/rubybenefice

MAY BULLETIN DEADLINE: 15TH APRIL

Please send any details of services, events, or fundraisers you want publicised, or any contributions – articles, images, poems etc. to Kay by this date, with any emails containing the word “Bulletin” in the subject. ANYTHING NOT RECEIVED **BY** THE 15TH **WILL NOT** BE IN NEXT MONTH’S BULLETIN

St. Mary's Ruby Ringers

Plaving the restored church handbells



Meeting on Tuesdays

4:15 – 5:30pm

St. Mary's Church,

Black Torrington

All who would like to have a go are welcome!

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 – rbycountry.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

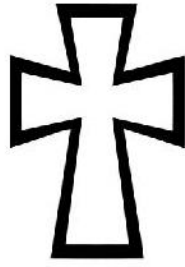
Devon Help Line for professionals and individuals: **0345 155 1074**

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.



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