

Ashwater with Black Torrington Benefice Bulletin

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

April 2021



As I write this, one of my favourite days of the year is coming very close. This year, in which our lives have been so constricted by the Corona Virus, it falls on 28 March (which, I have just recalled, happens to be my wedding anniversary – so double joy for me on this day!) It also happens to be the day when British Summer Time begins, and we come to the start of the longer evenings. These have been very special to me since I moved to Ashwater, for I discovered what some people refer to as ‘the Devon evening.’ So often, after a day of cloud or rain, the sun will come out and the evening light is glorious. The views from where I live are stunning in their clarity and brightness, and a thing of wonder to a man with defective colour vision.

I recall, too, the poem ‘*All in the April Evening*,’ by the Irish poet, Katharine Tynan (1861-1931). Born in Dublin, she was friendly both with Gerard Manley Hopkins and W.B. Yeats. More particularly, I remember singing it; for the poem was set to music by Sir Hugh Robertson (1874-1952) a distinguished Scottish composer, and founder of the renowned Glasgow Orpheus Choir. The choir in which I sang, as both man and boy, was that of my local parish church.

The voice in Tynan's poem (which you will easily find on the internet) starts off by painting a peaceful and pastoral scene. However, thoughts quickly turn from these earthly lambs to the Lamb of God.

But for the Lamb of God
Up on the hill-top green,
Only a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between.

On the cross, the Good Shepherd has become the Sacrificial Lamb. This mystery reveals to us the wonder of the love of God. As Mrs C.F. Alexander (another Dublin born poet, of *'All things Bright and Beautiful'* fame) put it in the carol, *'There is a green hill far away'*:

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

The Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God. We need to hold both of these images in our hearts and minds this Easter.

Wishing you all every blessing,
Trevor



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Readings for April 2021

For you to read or study for yourself or to prepare for one of
our services



<p>Maundy Thursday April 1st</p> <p>Exodus 12: 1 – 14 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26 John 13: 1 – 17, 31 – 35</p>	<p>Good Friday April 2nd</p> <p>Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: end Hebrews 10: 16 - 25 John 18: 1 – 19: end</p>	<p>Easter Day April 4th</p> <p>Acts 10: 34 – 43 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11 Mark 16: 1 – 8</p>
<p>Second Sunday of Easter – 11th April</p> <p>Acts 4: 32 – 35 1 John 1: 1 – 2: 2 John 20:19 – end</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Easter – 18th April</p> <p>Acts 3: 12 – 19 1 John 3: 1 – 7 Luke 24: 36 – 48</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday of Easter – 25th April</p> <p>Acts 4: 5 – 12 1 John 3: 16 – end John 10: 11 – 18</p>

Please note: If you have any messages or notices that you wish to feature in April's bulletin, please provide details to Kay Napier by emailing zena.napier@gmail.com or calling (01409) 221 321 **no later than 15th April** otherwise it may not be included.

Please do feel free to submit any comments, prayers, stories, meditations, images – anything at all will be considered. This Bulletin is for all in our Benefice, and is not simply for events.

“HOLY HUMOUR SUNDAY”

The Sunday after Easter is often labelled one of the “Low Sundays” of the year – when clergy took the day off after the hectic Holy week and Easter Day Services, and congregations were much diminished. One way of dispelling the ‘lows’ is to celebrate the second Sunday after Easter as “Holy Humour Sunday”. Believe it or not, this Sunday is a tradition dating back to the 1200s. It recognises that while worship is a serious business, it should never be without Easter laughter and joy. In some churches people come ready to share jokes – stressing the value of laughter for physical and mental health. Theologically it can be argued that the Resurrection is God’s ‘Last Laugh’ over the Devil, who thought he had won the spiritual battle on Good Friday!

I very much hope that the following Easter Prayer will lift your spirits and bring a holy smile to your face. We certainly need this, after such a tough Winter of ‘lockdown’. I will be using this prayer from the Iona Community (in “Fire and Bread”) at Services on 11th April:

“Imaginative God, you smiled and the sun burst
through the shadows of chaos.
You laughed, and all that is good and beautiful
was given shape by you.
You chuckled, and the platypus splashed
in creation’s fountain.

Laughing Jesus, deriding the feeble attempts of the Evil one:
you showed us how to resist temptation,
mocking sin’s desperate desire to entrap us.
You released us by your love – howling with laughter
at death’s foolish belief that the tomb could hold you.
You burst forth into the kingdom
as the stars pealed with joy.

Holy Spirit of Easter, as you fill us with new life,
may we delight in sharing the story with others.
As you inspire us with the good news
which can never be taken from us,
may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely.
As you delight us with grace, may we give it away
– with laughter on our lips and joy in our hearts.

God in joyful community, Holy and One,
our hearts overflow with wonder, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

To conclude – an Easter Joke: “Someone said to Joseph of Arimathea:
“That was such a beautiful, costly and spacious tomb. Why did you give it
for someone else to be buried in?”
“Oh”, said Joseph “All’s well, he only needed it for the weekend!”.

Stephen

From The Right Revd Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton.

We had hoped ... to sing our Alleluias in Church on Easter Day, to gather with our friends and families, to be 'back to normal'.

We had hoped ... some of the most poignant words of scripture, words of grief and longing, that were spoken on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). Two travellers, walking away from Jerusalem, entrust their sadness to a stranger.

We had hoped, they said, that Jesus would be the one to save us. Unknown to them, he is the very person to whom they are speaking. The one in whom they had hoped, the one they had witnessed dying on a cross. He was here now walking beside them, and they didn't recognise him. But at his invitation they are telling their story.

This is still the invitation of the risen Lord Jesus – tell me how it is, let me hear your story. As we look back over the past year, we have had hopes that have risen and fallen. The risen Lord Jesus is interested in our hopes and our disappointments. He invites us to share them with him.

As the three draw near to the village of Emmaus the couple invite Jesus in to eat and stay. 'When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened.' Like those disciples, may our eyes be opened and hearts set on fire by the risen Jesus giving us new hope and faith. For whether in sadness or joy the truth is this – that Christ is risen from the dead, and the way to life stands open. So let us shout and sing our Alleluias however and wherever we are. For we are Easter people and Alleluia is our song.



ROOTS & SHOOTS

Weekly e-newsletter from the Diocese of Exeter

Packed full of resources for churches, news stories, messages from Senior Clergy, future events and much more!

To sign up visit www.exeter.anglican.org and go to the bottom of the homepage

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OF EXETER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



ASHWATER AND BLACK TORRINGTON BENEFICE

Services

April 2021

Maundy Thursday - 1st April

8pm Zoom Service Online

Good Friday - 2nd April

2pm "Hour at the Cross" Beaworthy Church

Easter Day - Sunday 4th April

9:30am Holy Communion Ashwater Church

11:00am Holy Communion Halwill Church

4:00pm Easter Service Black Torrington Church

6:00pm Easter Service Tetcott Church

Sunday April 11th

11:00am Holy Communion Clawton Church

6:30pm Evensong Beaworthy Church

Sunday April 18th

11:00am Holy Communion Black Torrington Church

Sunday April 25th

9:30am Holy Communion Ashwater Church



As agreed by PCCs of our seven Benefice churches

Introducing your Safeguarding Officer



Some of you will already know me as Val Letheren; I live in Highampton, attending St. Mary's Church, Black Torrington (Church Warden). I have popped up in the Benefice Choir and attend service across the Benefice.

I am your **Benefice Safeguarding officer**. A position I took up after the APCMs in autumn 2020.

I have many years experience to bring to this post. Over the years I have worked with children, young adults and those of more senior years. I have lost count of the training courses I have attended. They have ranged from basic knowledge, Child/Adult protection, working between police and social service, investigating process and even through to court proceedings.

I am here to support your PCCs and Revd Stephen Skinner with reviewing the safeguarding policies and procedures that are have in place. Help with promoting a safer environment and culture within activities, involving children, young people or vulnerable adults, and help with the information that the Diocese requires each church have on matters of Safeguarding, Data protection etc.

In all the churches you will find a copy of a "Parish safeguarding handbook", which is available for you to read. There are posters displayed with my contact details and those of the diocesan safeguarding team.

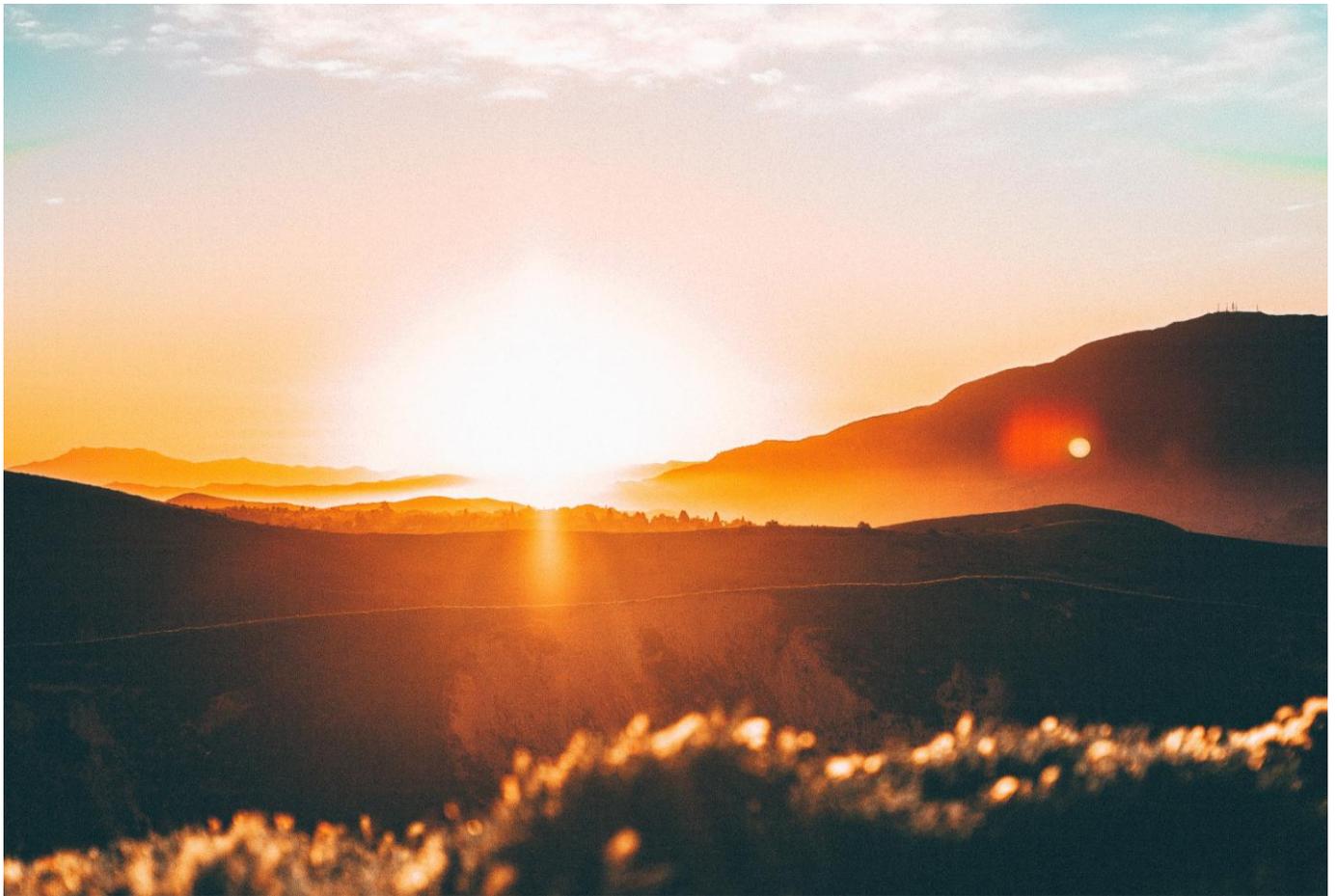
I hope in the future to put on some **"basic awareness"** information mornings/ afternoons with coffee and cake, for anyone who would like learn a little more. **If you have any questions or concerns, at any time, I am always available, please contact me.**

Val

Safeguarding Officer.

val.letheren@btinternet.com

01409231430 or 07484880770



As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that you conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the chocolate is all eaten and on with life we go, let us not forget.

The celebration of your resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring, beyond the lily, beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.

Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear; man's greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young our old our unborn. Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.

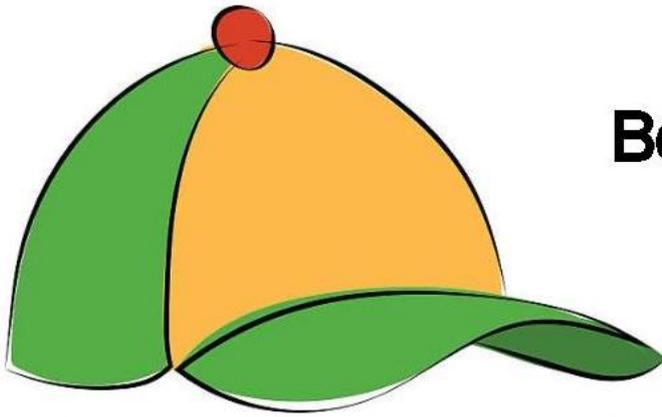
This alone, the most touching and profound of your signs that fear is dead and belief in you brings, not just hope but life.

What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. Even in the garden, You took on our fear if for only moments, it was as real as our fears can be real and You knew then that this single enemy must be destroyed.

And, You sacrificed your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear. I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me. Peace and thanksgiving lifted unto you.

Amen.

— *Author Unknown*



Benefice Administrator

A different hat for each Job.—Administrator's Cap—How did I come to get this Job?

We as a benefice had been advised by the Diocese, that the job of our "New Priest in charge", may look more inviting if we employed an Administrator.

With the Covid-19 hitting all our finances hard, it was decided to advertise the position as voluntary for now and one or two half days.

After some considerable thought and prayer, I asked Stephen what he saw the post to include. The job description came with about 10 elements. Then a zoom meeting with Stephen, where we talked at length.

At the Benefice Reps meeting in February, the Job description was considered and revised and adjusted. Then Stephen introduced a possible candidate for the post —Me.

So here I am with my Administrator cap on.(You will find me sometimes with my Safety hat on or Black Torrington Churchwardens hat).

I see the role of Benefice Administrator, as helping Stephen and the whole Benefice were ever I can. Having attended the last round of PCC meetings, the list of information I have been asked to find, is building up a nice portfolio.

One of my first Jobs is to collate a Benefice Directory, with who's who and contact details. This will be done over the next couple of months , as the APCM are held and will compile with the requirement of GDPR (data protection).

I am also getting "A Church near You" websites up to date. Adding services and events for all the churches, so please have a look.

If you would like to see a copy of the Job description, please ask. val.letheren@btinternet.com

Val Letheren.

Benefice Administrator.

01409231430 or 07484880770



Sallywags Pre-School

Jubilee Suite, Parish Hall, Halwill Junction, Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5XR

07552 238793 | sallywagspreschool@outlook.com | www.sallywagspreschoolhalwill.co.uk

Ofsted Registration Number 106369 | Registered Charity Number 1033643

March 2021

We thought we'd drop you a line to inform you of our fundraising events. As you're aware it has been very hard trying to find different yet fun ways to fundraise in the last year. We have decided to host a **Virtual Balloon Race**.

It takes only minutes to buy and decorate your balloon which will be VIRTUALLY racing for 7 days from April 4th-11th (all online so no animals will be harmed by balloon rubber.) Each balloon is £3 and we have prizes for the first 3 adults and 3 children which are listed on the below page along with further race details.

- To get your balloon visit ecoracing.co/user/page/1498
- Click on the teal box 'Buy balloons for you/ Activation code/ Activate a code'
- Create an account by entering your email and a password so you can be contacted if you win!
- Select how many balloons you'd like and click 'Go to cart'
- Enter payment details
- When payment is completed find the 'click [here](#) to decorate balloon(s)' and click on the 'here' link
- This will take you to Race Information and your personal Dashboard. Click on your balloon to decorate it.

We thank you for your continued support and hope to see you in person when the time is right at one of our future fundraisers.

Please keep an eye out for further information on our upcoming events-

24th March – Bags for school will be collecting from outside Sallywags at 9am. They collect any good condition clothing, bedding, bags a full list of items can be found on the Sallywags door

April – We will be hosting an easter colouring competition for adults and children with the chance to win a chocolate egg.

May – We plan to hold another car wash in the village hall car park adhering to any Covid guidelines.

We hope the postponed Fashion Show will be returning later this year with lots of lovely items to browse and purchase.

Virtual Balloon Race prizes

For the furthest travelled local balloons: Alpaca Trekking Experience, Emily Fleur Photograph, Harpers Voucher. Toy shop vouchers for top 3 children

National prizes: iPad, £500, book tokens



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

Stephen Edgeley, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer - 01392 345910 -

Stephen.Edgeley@exeter.anglican.org

Phill Parker, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01392 294969 -

DBS@exeter.anglican.org

For general enquiries - 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

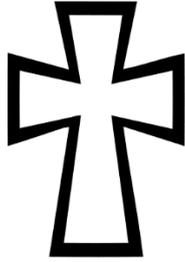
Devon - Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

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