

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin September 2022



“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”

1 Timothy 6: 17-18



**AUGUST
2022**

BAPTISMS

14 th	Mabel Rose Lock SLUGGETT (Black Torrington)
27 th	Megan TANCOCK (Highampton)

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

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 2) © Parish Pump,
Cover image: Photo by Elaine Casap on Unsplash
Ukraine graphic on the back page from pixabay.com, by
chiajo-18290215
Thanks to Revd. Stephen for sending the poems on page 12



September

MODERN COMMUNICATION

In all the parishes where I have served over the past 42 years, the subject of “Communication” has cropped up on a regular basis. It has reared its head in a variety of ways, through the changing nature of how we communicate and how we respond to communications over our lifetimes. In the early days of ministry, I communicated mainly by telephone, letters and notes, and face to face meetings. Then came the (dreaded) fax machine which enabled documents to be sent electronically. It was a while before I started to use the internet, and it took a lot of setting up on my various computers. But now it is one of my principal means of communication – speedy and normally instant. How could I manage as leader of a multi-parish benefice without it? It enables documents to be sent simultaneously across churches, although I’m not sure that it saves paper printing! Now of course we all need mobile phones – and I’m very grateful that the benefice pays my monthly subscription for it. But I have to admit that although I take it with me on all my journeys around the Benefice it often seems to ring at inconvenient moments! But I do try my best to respond as quickly as possible.

“Zoom” has been a recent innovation, which I started to get the hang of in early 2020 once the pandemic ‘lockdown’ began. I realise that there are many who feel very uncomfortable with using this form of on screen gathering, but there are still some who enjoy our weekly Compline and roughly fortnightly Bible Study, using it. Any of you are of course welcome to join in with our genuine fellowship, by using the Zoom links on the weekly Pew Sheet. I am aware that there are many who love to communicate through the “Social Media” of ‘Facebook,’ ‘WhatsApp,’ ‘Twitter,’ ‘TikTok’ etc. I see the value of them, but personally don’t have the time to engage with them all. But I do see the great value of ‘posting’ information about our special church events and Services on ‘Facebook’, so encourage you to do ‘post’ interesting stories and news on it regularly.

But there can be various ‘downsides’ to all our current methods of communication:

~ The probable loss of face to face ‘in person’ meetings. It’s really important to

gain the full experience of meeting with others, to fully experience their body language and 'aura'. I love meeting people to chat after church and simply enjoy being in their company (outside the 'business'). This is the time and place for some deep listening and responding in deepening fellowship over coffee!

~ The exclusion some people feel because, for various reasons, they cannot use the internet or mobile phone technology. There are practical reasons: cost, poor technological coverage. Despite the help of children or grandchildren the technology can be very hard to understand at times! But I do plea that if you can readily respond to communications from me then please do so!

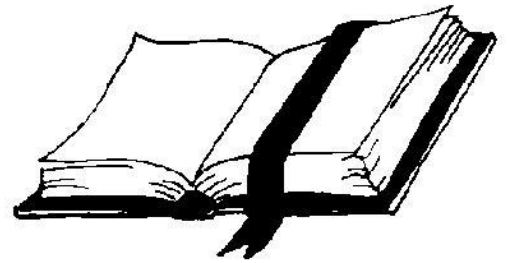
~ Although modern technology has the advantage of speed and efficiency, there are real dangers in travelling at 'warp speed,' as they say on Star Trek! It is good for our minds and souls to slow down and not respond immediately to the incessant flow of e mails! Difficult e mails should not be replied to straight away – I often draft a response and then come back to it later, before a redraft!

~ Use of electronic media also runs the risk of dehumanizing us. I think we can begin to lose our sense of our human fallibility, mystery, and soul if we only communicate in the ways I've just described. Some say that the very 'wiring' of our brains are being reconfigured through these media. Wrong use can of course lead to very aggressive behaviour that damages others psyche.

So, let's learn to see our various means of communication in the twenty first century as a God-given gift to us if we will use it well! I like to think that my communications are a means of God's blessing to other people, in a pastoral and missional sense. I suggest you test your communications with these Questions: "Have I communicated clearly, succinctly, and courteously?" "Will people's day be enhanced by the things I communicate?" "Will people look forward to seeing that a communication has come from me (or dread it)?" "Have I accurately received the communication and had the courtesy to respond?" "Does my communication aid the advance of the Kingdom of God?" and "How would Jesus communicate if alive in our modern age?"

STEPHEN

Lectionary Readings for September 2022



<p>Sunday 4th Trinity 12</p> <p>Deuteronomy 30: 15 – end Psalm 1 Philemon 1 – 21 Luke 14: 25 – 33</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 11th Trinity 13</p> <p>Exodus 32: 7 – 14 Psalm 51: 1 – 11 1 Timothy 1: 12 – 17 Luke 15: 1 – 10</p> <p>Services at Black Torrington, Clawton, Holsworthy (Mission Community Service), Beaworthy</p>	<p>Sunday 18th Trinity 14</p> <p>Amos 8: 4 – 7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2: 1 – 7 Luke 16: 1 – 13</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 25th Trinity 15</p> <p>Amos 6: 1a, 4 – 7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6: 6 – 19 Luke 16: 19 – end</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Clawton, Highampton</p>		

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

Ruby Country Benefice

Services for September 2022

Sunday 4th	9.30am	Ashwater	Communion
Trinity 12	11am	Black Torrington	Communion
	11am	Halwill	Communion
	6pm	Tetcott	BBQ & Evening Service
Friday 9th		Halwill Baptist Hall	Halwill Churches Harvest Festival
Sunday 11th	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
Trinity 13	11am	Clawton	Communion
	4pm	Holsworthy	Mission Community Service
	6.30pm	Beaworthy	Evensong
Sunday 18th	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
Trinity 14	11am	Black Torrington	Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
Sunday 25th	11am	Beaworthy	Communion
Trinity 15	11am	Clawton	Harvest & Lunch
	6:30pm	Highampton	Harvest Festival

Our New Benefice Name!

We will always be legally known as the Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott with Luffincott.

What a mouth full, to use for advertising what we are up to as a Benefice.

Since becoming a new Benefice, we have been trying to come up with a much shorter, user friendly name.

As we now start to advertise for our new Vicar, it has been decided by all the PCC's to call us "The Ruby Country Benefice".

This fits in with our area and the lovely ruby red cattle found in our fields.

As the Administrator for the benefice, I have set up an email address –

rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com this has been put on the "A Church Near You" web site for each church and in a couple of months it will be used to send out the weekly Pew Sheet and monthly Bulletin.

I have spent a few hours, putting all the email address on to this email account in readiness. Some of them have no name, that I can personally call you (That is your choice, but I would love to know who I am emailing and which church you mainly support) and a lot of them are out of GDPR time scale. It is a legal requirement for you to opt in to receiving information from the church every three years. Yes, some of you have given both Sheila and I permission to hold your email address, since Pam moved out of the area.

It would be lovely to keep you up to date with what is going on within the whole Benefice, just a quick reply to the pew sheet or Bulletin ever now and then, will keep you on the list.

We do not pass your email on to any third parties. It is used only for Benefice purposes.

Please feel free to use this one or my personal email, which can be found on the safeguarding poster/ information in this Bulletin.

Val Letheren

Benefice Administrator

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

MISSION COMMUNITY NEWS: *The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen is pleased to announce that the Revd Elizabeth Mary Ann Burke at present Rector of the Benefice of Holsworthy, Hollacombe, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek and Bridgerule in the Diocese of Exeter is to be Chaplain to the Isles of Scilly in the Diocese of Truro. This is conditional on legal formalities being completed. She will be licensed by the Bishop of St Germans on 9th November 2022.*

Mother Elizabeth states on her Twitter account (15th August 2022): "Yesterday it was announced that I shall be moving to the position of Chaplain to the Isles of Scilly @DioTruro. I'm very excited, but also sad to be leaving such a wonderful community in Holsworthy and @CofEDevon". We wish Mother Elizabeth well in her new adventure.

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

Tea Afternoon

in the Church

Wednesday 14th September,
3pm – 5pm



In aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust and
St Mary's Ruby Ringers (Handbells)

Come along and join in with the handbells!!!

Any age welcome!!!

Senior Clergy Reflection from The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter Cathedral

I love the story of Zacchaeus. You remember the tax collector from Jericho who clambers up into a tree, so he can catch a glimpse of Jesus. We used to sing about him as children: “Zacchaeus was a very little man...” People have grumbled for years about his cheating ways and nothing’s changed. But Jesus simply raises his eyes, and that one loving look is transformational - as Andrew Lloyd Webber reminds us, love changes everything. For Zacchaeus a wholly fresh start. Life will never be the same again.

My other favourite Gospel story is the parable of the Prodigal Son. I remember as a child watching a filmstrip in which Hippity Dog, the father, lives with his two sons Groover and Grafter. Groover goes off to spend half the family fortune on wild living, while Grafter stays at home with his father and works the land. The two of them have to downsize to a bungalow - though still one with turrets. And every day Hippity is on the castellated roof with his telescope, longing for Groover’s return. Hippity has forgiven his son, even before he thinks about coming home. And when Groover appears apprehensively on the horizon wondering what kind of reception he’s likely to be given, Hippity hurries down to welcome him with open paws.

Jesus’ teaching is multi-layered, and I don’t want to short-change him. But for me, those two stories encapsulate the Good News he proclaims. A Gospel of forgiveness and fresh starts. Don’t start your day with the broken pieces of yesterday. Each day is a new beginning. Every morning we wake up is the first day of our new life. I have a sign above my desk which says exactly that.

Today I am free to start afresh. That’s God’s promise. But how can I play a part in ensuring that’s true also for the people around me? It’s one thing for us to know that God loves us and forgives us, but for it to be really Good News, these new beginnings have to be embraced and proclaimed by the communities to which we belong: our families, our friendship groups, our work places, our churches. And often the churches lag a little behind. But when these start to become places of acceptance, forgiveness and encouragement, with petty grudges set aside, then the love of God flows in new and beautiful ways, and the kingdom of heaven becomes a little more real here on earth.

The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener



**The Church of St Peter and St James,
Halwill, EX21 5UH**

Presents

A MUSIC EVENING

Friday 23rd Sept

Commencing 7pm

Popular Music from the 70s onwards

Performed by Local Musicians

JOINED AT THE HIP

A Vocal & Guitar Duo from Northlew

THE LOST MARBLES

A three-piece band from Mid Devon

Keyboard, guitar, drums & vocals

FOLD

**A Harmony and Guitars duo from Halwill
and Bratton Clovelly**

**This will be a FREE 'Drop In' Event,
but donations to the church will be appreciated**

There will also be a BAR

**The more delicate amongst you might want to bring a cushion ...
pew seating**

OCTOBER BULLETIN DEADLINE: 15TH SEPTEMBER

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 15TH WILL NOT BE IN THE OCTOBER BULLETIN**

zena.napier@gmail.com or 01409 221321



Sponsored walk Sat. Sept. 17th. Meet at St. Peter & St. James church, Halwill Town 10:30am. Back by popular demand: Wonderful Woodland Wander.

Walking for approx. 2hrs 40mins in total with a midway stop for a picnic (please bring your own packed lunch). We will be taking in Cookworthy Forest via the bridlepath from Halwill Town. Stout footwear & precautions against ticks recommended.

Sponsorship forms available from Elisabeth Swan (Halwill) 01409 221 423 or Sandra Ward (Beaworthy) 01409 221 501 or can be downloaded from

www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk

If you cannot participate in the walk please be generous in your sponsorship.

Dogs & unsponsored walkers welcome. Raising money for DHCT & Local Churches.

St. Mary's Ruby Ringers

Playing 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!



Autumn's bounty (Luke 12: 13 – 21)

Provider of Life, Creator of the earth and all that is in it,
we lift our prayers of thanks to you –
for the beauty of the earth that surrounds us,
for autumn's bounty that sustains us
and prepares us for winter's hibernation.

**Thanks be to you, Creator of the heavens and the earth,
to whom all things belong.**

We enjoy your abundance, yet are seduced by accumulation.
The mantra 'More is better' lulls us.
We seek ever-greater harvests, fuller silos and brimming larders.
We claim to enjoy your peace, yet we persist in worry.
We fear the harvest will not see us through the dark days of winter.
We despair, feeling our lives standing empty.

God, let us not be possessed by our possessions.

We sing of your 'blessed assurance',
yet crave promises from our banks and pensions.
We fear our future finances.
We store up more and more riches for our earthly security.
Yet we despair, discovering we are not rich towards you.

God, let us not be possessed by our possessions.

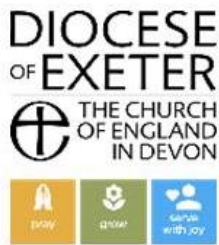
We commit ourselves to care for others,
yet we hoard the harvest, overstocking our pantries for tomorrow,
while millions suffer empty bellies today.
We focus on our shoe collection while millions go barefooted.
We lament our fashion follies while others lament
that their children go named and cold.
We deposit ever more into our bank accounts
while millions survive day-to-day.

God, our lives are short, at any moment they can be taken from us.
Free us from fear, and fill us with your ample harvest of hope.
Release us from insecurity and restore us to contentment
with the abundance of your kingdom.

**Thanks be to you, Creator of the heavens and the earth,
to whom all things belong.**

Ana and Tod Gobledale





Vicar for the Ruby Country Benefice
**(Consisting of the parishes of Ashwater, Black Torrington,
Beaworthy, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott)**
in Stunning Northwest Devon

Based in wonderful countryside between the beaches of the northwest Devon/Cornwall coast and the Dartmoor national park the Ruby Country Benefice is a wonderful place to live and work. The people are open and welcoming, the lifestyle is safe and relaxing; the Ruby Country is definitely God's Country.

We are looking and praying for:

A vicar who has a heart for rural life and ministry and will work alongside us as we seek to grow and serve our communities

He or she will

- Lead and enable a variety of worship
- Be visible in the wider community
- Actively work with our Methodist and Baptist friends
- Encourage and develop our lay ministry

We offer in return

- Our full support
- Administrative assistance.
- A willingness to explore fresh ideas
- A team of worship leaders
- Devon hospitality

We want to work with you!

Closing date for applications: October 17th 2022

Orientation Day: November 9th & Interviews: November 10th 2022

For a conversation about the post, please contact:

Verena Breed, Archdeacon of Barnstaple tel: 01271 375475 or email ADB@exeter.anglican.org

Application form and profile available on the diocesan website www.exeter.anglican.org/vacancies

This post requires a DBS enhanced check

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and particularly welcome applications from women and minority ethnic groups.



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

September	4th	4pm BBQ and Service	Tetcott
	11th	4pm Mission Community Songs Of Praise	Holsworthy
	14th	3pm—5pm Tea and Bells for DHC	Black Torrington
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	25th	11am Harvest Festival and Lunch	Clawton
	25th	6.30pm Harvest Festival	Highampton
October	2nd	9.30am Harvest Festival	Ashwater
	2nd	11am Harvest Festival	Halwill
	2nd	6pm Harvest Festival and Supper	Tetcott Village Hall
	8th	Big Breakfast	Clawton
	9th	5pm Tea and Harvest Festival	Beaworthy
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	16th	Advertise the Post for new Priest	
	16th	11am Harvest Festival and Lunch	Black Torrington
	30th	11am All Saints Benefice Service and Lunch	Ashwater
November	9th	Orientation day	All Parishes
	10th	Interview Day for new Priest	
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	25th	Wine and Wisdom	Clawton
December	11th	5pm Carol Service	Highampton
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	18th	4pm Carol Service	Ashwater
	18th	7pm Carol Service	Clawton
	19th	Churches Together Carol Service	Halwill?
	21st	7pm Carol Service	Beaworthy
	22nd	7pm Carol Service and Mulled wine	Black Torrington
Feb/March 2023		Institution Service for new Priest	

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

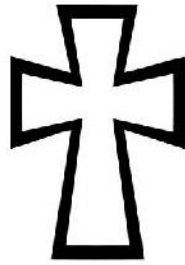
Devon - Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

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