

## **Colossians 1:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup>so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup>and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **John 18:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

<sup>34</sup>"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

<sup>35</sup>"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

<sup>36</sup>Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

<sup>37</sup>"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

<sup>38</sup>"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him.

<sup>39</sup>But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews?'"

<sup>40</sup>They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

(NIV)

## **Ruby Country Benefice**

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

**Sunday 20th November 2022**

## **CHRIST THE KING**

### **Welcome to Worship**

9.30 am Morning Service & Baptism, Ashwater

11.00 am Holy Communion, Black Torrington

11.00 am Morning Service, Halwill



### **Readings**

Colossians 1: 9-14

John 18: 33-40

### **Collect**

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory. Amen.

### **Interim Vicar (part time)**

Revd Stephen Skinner

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**The Mission Community:** for all who live and work in our Mission Community

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died including Peter Gay (Ashwater)

**All who are mourning** the death of a loved one especially the family of Peter Gay

**Those who are ill** or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Jenny Hyslop, Stephen Bowness, Doug Genini and his wife Sue

**Beatrix Ogborne** being baptized at Ashwater, her parents, family and friends

**Foodbank,** for all those who give so generously on a regular basis

**For all who** are isolated or lonely

**For our Benefice Schools,** all staff, pupils and parents

**For Ukraine,** we pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred, peace will conquer war, hope will replace despair

**For peacemakers** and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free

**Dates for your diary**

<b>Tuesday 22nd November</b>	2.30 pm	Funeral of Peter Gay, Ashwater Church
	4.00 pm	Handbell Ringing Black Torrington Church
<b>Wednesday 23rd November</b>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Thursday 24th November</b>	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline <i>Helen Young to lead</i>
<b>Sunday 27th November</b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion Beaworthy Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion Clawton Church
	3.00 pm	Advent Carol Service Highampton Church



Meeting ID: 452 376 1606  
Passcode: Compline

**Thought for Sunday 20th November 2022**

**“WHO IS YOUR KING?”**

The churches festival of “Christ the King” crowns the liturgical year on what is supposedly a high note. But as we know, this new addition to our calendar is almost completely overshadowed by Advent Sunday. The chosen readings exalt the divine status of Jesus and are intended to lead us into devoted worship. We’ll be singing hymns such as: “At the name of Jesus”, “Crown him with many crowns”, and “O Worship the King all glorious above”.

But all this encouragement to pay homage inevitably raises the question about our attitude to both our earthly king, and our heavenly king. Perhaps we should start with our new King, Charles 3<sup>rd</sup>, as his taking on the role of our sovereign is still fresh in our minds. What position does our new King hold in our consciousness? Is he anything more than a somewhat distant figurehead who appears in the media on state occasions such as at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, laying a royal wreath? It is interesting that so far, King Charles has been saying less in public than he did when he was the Prince of Wales. We have little idea about his thoughts on the pressing political, social, economic or environmental situations of our day. I suspect that he would like to share some of his thoughts but is well aware that in his new status he has to be much more reticent. Personally, I think this is a shame, but I understand the protocols of high office. I certainly don’t envy his position or his workload! He will have to work hard to obtain the high level of affection that most of us held for our late Queen Elizabeth, as well as proving himself relevant to our modern lives!

This leads me on to a consideration of the place that “Christ the King” holds in our consciousness! I suspect that in these days many relate far more to the notion of the earthly Jesus – our friend, companion and teacher in life’s daily grind! This is the human Jesus that we can more easily relate than the “Cosmic Christ” of Colossians Chapter 1, who holds the cosmos together! It is not easy to relate to such an ethereal energy! Our Gospel reading (in John 18) does assist us a lot more to understand and relate to Jesus as our King. He had the disputed title of “King of the Jews” – that is as a founder of a covenant people, a restoration movement. I hope we can identify with Jesus as a charismatic leader who wants to enlist us into the just causes of the Kingdom he constantly taught about. So, I suggest that this Sunday we reaffirm our commitment as citizens of Christ’s Kingdom, and in our Hymns celebrate the accession of our spiritual King to inspire us in our daily life!

**Stephen**