

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin

August 2023



*Let God continue to bless us;
let the far ends of the earth honour him.*

Psalm 67: 7



JULY

- 22nd Wedding of Charlotte PHILLIPS and
 Elliott GERRARD (Tetcott)
- 27th Funeral of Mike Puckey
 (of Highampton Parish)

CONTACTS

Rector

Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254 667

Contacts for Churches:

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Beaworthy	Richard Prior	01409 221 986
Black Torrington:	Sheila Grabham	01409 231 581
	Val Letheren*	01409 231 430
Clawton:	Irene Ellis	01409 271 371
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	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: Design for an altarpiece, the Virgin and Christ holding the Cross appearing to St Francis kneeling at right, arched, attributed to Michel Corneille II, circa 1664-1695,
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Pg. 22 activity sheet from
https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/_files/ugd/921837_70d09e3753ca4bcf9770cc9154f4b3dc.pdf
Ukraine graphic on the back page from pixabay.com, by chiajo-18290215
Thanks to Revd Paul and Chris March for their contributions.

AUGUST

Notes from the Rector

Hi everyone,

You may remember that I wrote in the last edition of the Bulletin about our three core mission platforms;

Youth work and young families; through the schools primarily. Huge amount of diocesan support and training received for this, and a budget requested as well. **Worship Leaders Group:** Developing but the Deanery/Mission Community want to join us in this (thinking of some high-end training provision here) and **Outreach:** This is our platform for reaching into our communities and includes Rural Chaplaincy for Farmers and Anna Chaplains for our older communities: embryonic work ongoing in both areas.

However, the Diocese has a new package called 'Truth to Tell' which is about sharing our faith naturally and normally in storytelling: This would work well with our Anna and Rural Chaplains but also across Parish Ministry and Mission. I have offered to be an early adopter along with Appledore Benefice to test if this might work here. This will all take time to get right and is a two-three-year project, which our Benefice Council will oversee.

Alongside this all our Parishes have their own local Mission actions and plans; Clawton United Church have a new communion set and are completing a community based major restoration of their C19 organ. Tetcott have plans for a new Kitchen and building work and have just had a very special ecumenical event at Luffincott. Ashwater are fundraising for a student's clarinet for university, have evening music nights planned for the church and have found, and intend to restore two incredible rare

and valuable early C19 Prayer books as a community project. Halwill epitomise the best in ecumenical work with strong involvement in schools but are also beginning to think about outreach into the Nursing Homes. Beaworthy also have some special building plans as well as antique valuations days and historic events as well as a fabulous open Garden and tea day recently. Highampton have hosted continued services in their churchyard until we get the OK to go back into the building, including a really special Pet service and massive festival due soon. Black Torrington are the organisational and liturgy specialists, and their outreach platforms are community based and include the specialist care spaces, school leavers services and their handbells ringers carry the church with them into so many community events. St Mary's will be first of our churches to trial the new light projectors when we get them.

In short, everyone is doing something special in Christ's name; this is mission writ large. All of which can be summed up in one word: 'Growth.' Growth in our faith, our outreach, our Christian impact and in the numbers in our churches. I have asked that every church in the Benefice, at every service, include a prayer for the specific work for growth in that congregation but across the Benefice as well. May I ask you, in your private prayers, to do the same please *Paul*.



Find us on Facebook

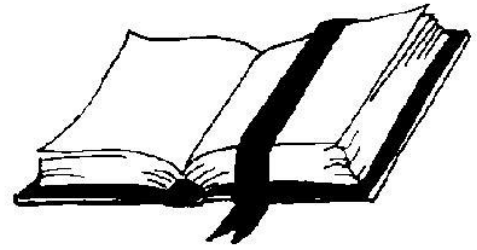
www.facebook.com/rubybenefice



On Sunday July 9th in the evening at St James Luffincott, a tiny redundant church with no power or water, in the middle of a farm, cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust, we had a wonderful ecumenical service with live musicians and the tiny church filled with well over thirty attendees. The service was based upon the people who lived and worshipped in that little church down the centuries, and their personal stories, oddities, and compassion. A special night.



Lectionary Readings for August 2023



<p>Sunday 6th (9th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 55: 1 – 5 Psalm 145: 8 – 9, 15 – end Romans 9: 1 – 5 Matthew 14: 13 – 21</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 13th (10th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>1 Kings 19: 9 – 18 Psalm 85: 8 – 13 Romans 10: 5 – 15 Matthew 14: 22 – 33</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</p>	<p>Sunday 20th (11th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 56: 1, 6 – 8 Psalm 67 Romans 11: 1 – 2a, 29 – 32 Matthew 15: (10 – 20), 21 – 28</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 27th (12th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 51: 1 – 6 Psalm 138 Romans 12: 1 – 8 Matthew 16: 13 – 20</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 August 2023

Sunday 6th	9.30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
9 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	5:30pm	Tetcott	Tea followed by Evening Service (6pm)
Sunday 13th	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
10 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Beaworthy	BCP Evensong
Tuesday 15th	7pm	Black Torrington	Patronal Service Followed by cheese & wine
Sunday 20th	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
11 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
	11am	Halwill	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	11am	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
12 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Clawton	United Service
	6:30pm	Highampton	Evening Service

Weekly - all welcome from the benefice

Wednesday	10am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
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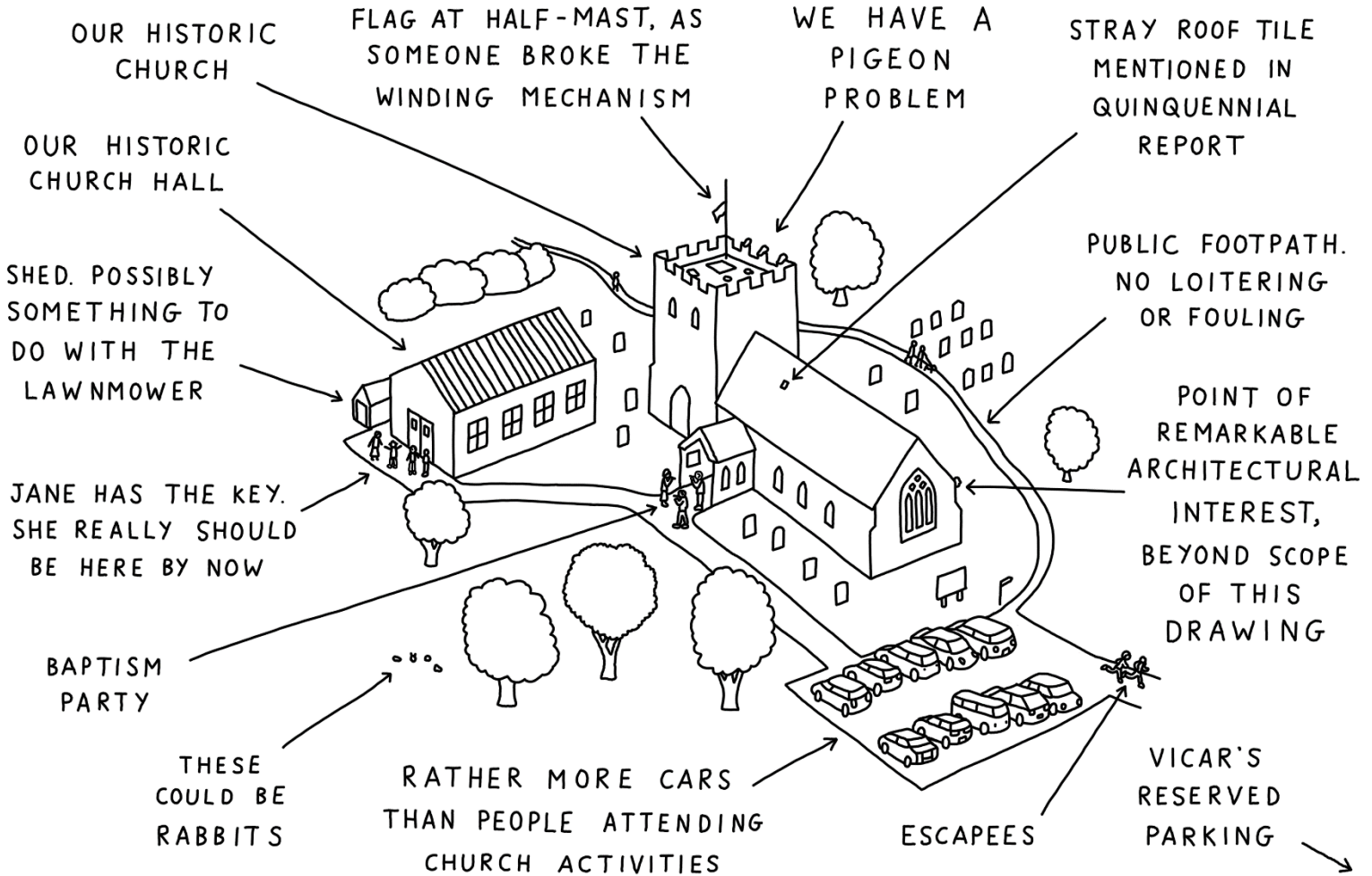
Revd. Richard Freeman's Retirement

Richard, our Rural Dean retired at the beginning of July. This is his final "Pew News" article for his Bradworthy Benefice.

Well, finally my last Pew News—well not really, I've already given the next six months' worth to Churchwardens who will be sending them out—but this is the last I shall write. I cannot believe how quickly the years have passed since we moved into Bradworthy—and they have been such good years. Can I take this final opportunity to remind you of the great treasure you have in this part of the world. I spent my first 28 years living in an urban environment, I had a couple of years in rural Oxfordshire and then back to urban life for the next 11 years. Even when I first served in a so-called rural parish, it was twenty miles from Piccadilly! Shoreham in Kent—another so-called rural parish—was just five minutes away from the M25—we could hear it from the Vicarage! I have discovered more about rural ministry and rural living in the last eight and a half years than in all the years I spent in Eynsford and Shoreham; and this is what I have discovered. Village life is, because it has to be, the most tolerant way of living in our world. I don't mean that everyone is a tolerant person, far from it, but somehow or another, even though arguments happen and relationships are made and broken—there is a place for the good, the bad and those who make terrible mistakes. Somehow or another, people are accepted for who they are. This isn't always easy, and there are very few hiding places—in urban areas you can hide and be anonymous—you can't be in a village. You have to learn to live with your triumphs and your mistakes; you have to find ways of living with those you find difficult as well as those who make your days easier. Most people make allowances for the people who live in their villages— and children grow up learning to do the same. That it such a treasure—growing up in a place where you are accepted for who you are and you learn to accept others—even the intolerant ones. There are lots of changes happening to all our villages at the moment—I just hope you can hang on to this treasure of tolerance and acceptance. I pray that you will change those who come to live with you in your village, rather than you being changed by them—I shall miss you all. God bless, Richard

THE PARISH CHURCH

SEEN FROM ABOVE



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IN DEVON



Revd Franke Parker (1803 – 1883) Rector of Luffincott

Following the service at St James, Luffincott, some photos were uploaded to the Ruby Benefice Facebook page – including the gravestone of former rector Franke Parker. Being an amateur genealogist – and not hearing much about Luffincott in our benefice - I wanted to know more of his story.

As can be seen from his gravestone, he was born 23rd February 1803, and died 3rd April 1883, aged 80.

Turning to the old records, he was baptised 16th September 1803 in Newton St. Cyres, Devon – presumably at the church of St. Cyr and St. Julietta – the son of Franke Parker senior and his wife Gertrude. Frank Senior had married Gertrude Battishill of Spreyton on 11th October 1800.

Franke had at least three younger brothers; John Battishill Parker was born on Christmas Day 1804 (baptised 13th June 1805), William Parker, born around 1807 (baptised 8th October 1807) and George Parker born around 1809 (baptised 19th October 1809) and one older sister Mary born around 1801 (baptised 5th August 1801) - all in Newton St. Cyres.



Newton St. Cyres Church (from [achurchnearyou](#) website)

His parents are both buried at St. Cyr and St. Julietta, his father having died 29th June 1812 aged 46 (when Franke junior was just 9 years old) and his mother died October 29th 1856 aged 80.



Luffincott Rectory (from <https://launcestonthen.co.uk/index.php/the-parishes/luffincott/>)

In the 1841 Census, Rev. Franke is already living at the Rectory at Luffincott. The familysearch website does not make it particularly clear who he was living with.

In 1851, again, he is in Luffincott. His household consisted of house servants Ann Skinner, 27 from Thornbury, Fanny Martain, 23 from Poughill, 34-year-old farm labourer George Ellacott from Hatherleigh, general servant Thomas Parsons from aged 23 from St Giles on the Heath and George Orlando George, farm servant from Luffincott, aged 14.

1861, he is in Luffincott and now is M A Rector of Luffincott and JP for Devon. He is joined by two members of staff that appear to stick with him for over 20 years – 32-year-old William Morrish of Thornbury, his servant, and 47-year-old Mary Hatherleigh (later as Hasherly), his widowed cook from Northcott Hamlet, Devon. They are joined by 23-year-old housemaid Mary G Chubb from St Giles on the Heath.

By 1871, still at Luffincott, still referred to as a Justice of the Peace, he is at the Rectory with William Morrish and Mary Hasherly, and they are joined by Martha Jones, a 17-year-old housemaid from Pancrasweek.

His final appearance in the Census is in 1881, unsurprisingly, at Luffincott. He still has William Morrish and Mary Hasherley living with him, and they are accompanied by 15-year-old Mary Jane Oxenham from neighbouring Tetcott. Morrish is now listed as a servant, gardener and groom, Hasherley as his cook, and Oxenham is his housemaid.

Revd. Parker died at the Luffincott Rectory on April 3rd 1883 of “natural decay” and “prostatic disease (one year)”, and his death was registered by his nephew Henry Hainworth of Blackheath in London, who was present at the death.

When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.
Third April 1883 Rectory Luffincott	Franke Parker	Male	80 Years

From Revd. Parker's death certificate © 2023 Crown Copyright

As his gravestone states he was rector of Luffincott for 45 years, one can assume Revd. Franke Parker was rector at Luffincott from 1838 – 1883.

From my limited research (all conducted online – I'm sure there's a wealth of information out there if only I bothered to go outside and look!) I found that “Rev. Franke Parker was said to have been an eccentric in his habits, those that remembered him said that there was ‘beneath his peculiarity a certain kindness of heart.’ Before his death he declared he would appear at frequent intervals in some kind of animal form, and a dog, rat, and white rabbit were mentioned above his selections. In an attempt to frustrate his attention at reappearing, it was said that on his death in 1883 he was buried, at Luffincott, some 17 feet deep.” (Shawn Diamond, launcestonthen website).

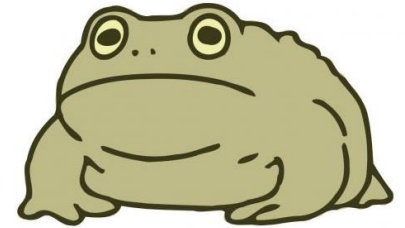
The website goes on to state that the Rectory at Luffincott was frequented by a ghostly presence – possibly the ghost of Revd. Parker...

Following the death of Revd. Parker, was Revd T W Morris who stayed in post for nine years and restored the church. Then was Revd. Samuel Haines who only stayed in post for a year. After, was a Mr. Collins who only stayed a matter of months. By 1895, it was the turn of Revd. Thomas Ward Brown to be the incumbent, and moved into the rectory.

According to the visitchurches website, “After eight apparently uneventful years in the Rectory, he arrived at Clawton Town [farm] at 2 o'clock in the morning, asking to be taken in and saying that he was never going back to the Rectory – and he never did,” instead staying in nearby Clawton, and only travelling into Luffincott on foot or by trap until the end of his time there – even alleging to have seen the ghost of Revd. Parker at the Rectory.

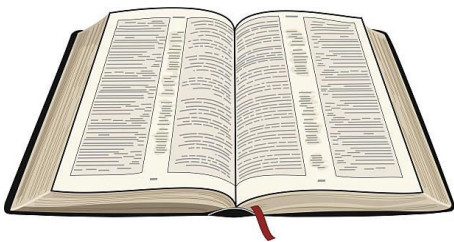
The launcestonthen article finishes with the words, “In March of 1911 the Rectory burnt to the ground in unknown circumstances,” and by 1914 the parish was united with Tetcott – later joining with the other churches in the Benefice.

At best, Revd Parker seems to be eccentric, however his name crops up in several publications and online forums surrounding witchcraft. It is very evident that had a massive collection of varying books – even now, you can find several appearing in online auction catalogues, many 200+ years old and each demanding a hefty sum. It has been suggested by some that, amidst his collection lay some of a more unnatural nature. “Old Parson Parker” was thought to have had the ability to shapeshift – it is even suggested in the book *Silent as the Trees* that Parker was once found by the policeman sat in his chair, barking like a dog, and another visitor to the rectory found him “laying in his bed surrounded by the bodies of dead toads.”



Leaving the toads aside and looking further into his books, I found an article from 14th December 2006 from the Church Times which tells of a “63-volume Bible, thought to be one of the largest in the world [...] sold at auction for £47,000”.

This is an 1800 Macklin Bible – an ambitious project to publish the Bible serially, with illustration. From reading the article, the bible for sale was even more impressive due to the fact over 9,000 old Master prints and engravings had been added in – by Revd. Franke Parker. Revd. Parker had, “completed his project in 1883, rebinding the work into 63 volumes, each 20 inches tall, taking up 20 feet of shelf space.”



The bible was bequeathed on Revd. Parker’s deathbed to the Bishopric of Truro, and it made its way to the Philpotts library within the diocese of Truro.

In 2006, it was sold to a book dealer, and the dealer passed it onto an auctioneer. It was purchased by an anonymous buyer who extracted the prints and drawings he wanted and he hoped the rest of the bible could be sold on to an American institution (as they were also interested buyers at the time of sale.)

That is the last reference I can find to this fantastic Bible – perhaps one day it, or part of it, will surface again.

Some pages from the collection, however, have made their way to the British Library's collection – one can be found reproduced on the front of this bulletin (depicting Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and St. Francis of Assisi) and another here, having been purchased from Walter Howard Frere, Bishop of Truro in 1930.

This image is a drawing in red chalk by Giovanni Biliverti, produced between 1588-1644, depicting The Virgin and Child appearing in a vision to a kneeling female saint



(© The Trustees of the British Museum)

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1930-0414-12

Quite fantastically, these original images were at one time, in Luffincott Rectory, and now safely secured in the British Museum archives.

The British Museum details briefly that the Bishop of Truro decided to dispose of

the Macklin's Bible in 1930. Popham examined it in Cornwall and "it proved to contain an enormous amount of very little value."

Nevertheless, the collection was sent to London and the museum selected a very small selection and agreed to pay a price of £100 for the lot (£5,372 in today's money.)

So, next time you pass the granite tomb of Franke Parker upon visiting Luffincott church, or look up at the memorial window when seated inside, whether you think him a shapeshifter, an eccentric, a fabulous curator of books and art or just a very learned man, you know a little more of the man whose mortal remains you pass.

Kay Napier
July 2023

Sources:

<https://www.familysearch.org>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211695795/franke-parker>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211695801/gertrude-parker>

Death certificate of Franke Parker (80): Jun qtr 1883, Holsworthy District Vol 5b, pg 369

<https://www.launcestonthen.co.uk/index.php/the-parishes/luffincott>

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/static/upload/e34efd66-d8cd=46a1-8aa96954d9882695.pdf>

Silent as the Trees, by Gemma Gary (Troy Books, 2017)

<https://issuu.com/llewellyn/docs/9780738765792>

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2006/15-december/news/uk/parson-s-20-feet-of-bible-is-bought-for-its-illustrations>

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1930-0414-10



Picture of Revd. Franke Parker's grave from The Ruby Benefice Facebook group

From my diary at my desk

Currently I am sat at my desk organising four weddings, and six funerals (which all came in on the same day!), I am then going to review the Holsworthy post interview this week, and write a working agreement for a Priest elsewhere; The emails are all stored for this evening plus, the daily review of joys, sorrows, and general happy mayhem of a large Benefice. Nearly two months in and I am gradually finding my feet. Being Rector here is different from anything else I have done before, I thought that I might share some images from my Monday.

Today, after morning prayer, I pulled over to allow a rainstorm to pass and watched a Red Kite spinning in the wind, before striking.

Late morning, I watched two women gently hold each other by a graveside.

I had a lovely meeting with a couple hopelessly in love.

Lunch was in one of our churches where the light of the returning sun, after the rain, danced across the empty, silent stone floor.

I listened intently as someone very young tried to tell me something.

I sat praying for people as I had promised to, then I got lost in the book of Esther and found myself in the Psalms.

I have a review due shortly with our Archdeacon and I know that she will ask me then how things are going in the new role; I will tell her about the work and the fact that I spend too much time tapping on my computer and not enough with people for whom I serve. I will tell her that my time management needs improving, and she will tell me not to try to do everything. I will tell her that nearly every farmer I pass smiles, that the people here are competent, sensible, gentile, sometimes stubborn, and often incredibly fun. I will tell her that I genuinely love it here, the people, the churches, the demands, and the joys, and that it is a privilege to be your Rector. Paul.



Celebrating St Mary's Black Torrington

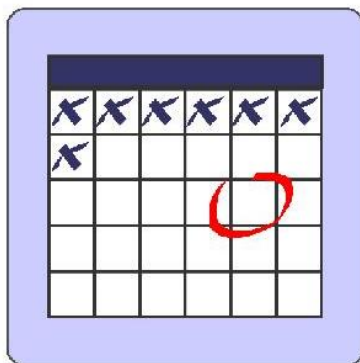
You are warmly invited to St Mary's Church on
Tuesday 15th August
at 7.00 pm

for a short informal service
followed by Cheese and Wine

We are grateful to the many people who contribute in so many different ways to the life and work of our church and community. We would like to use this opportunity to say thank you.

We hope that you can join us for this special occasion!

Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick - Rector
Sheila Grabham and Val Letheren – Churchwardens



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 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.

rubbycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com



Mission

Possible

Wednesday 18th 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!

ROWFEST 2023



- *Jazz*
- *Rock & Roll*
- *Classical Music*
- *Tudor Dance*
- *Accordion*
- *Folk Music*
- *Organ*

and much more!

Sunday 27 August 2023
11.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.

St Peter ad Vincula Church Ashwater

- **11.a.m. - 7.00 p.m.**
Performances by visiting musicians
- **7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.**
Rowan and friends in concert

For more information please phone
01409 211340

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Rowan Tidball

Who has been accepted to study music at the prestigious

**Royal Birmingham
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- **Free Refreshments**

Morning Prayer of Gratitude

Heavenly Father, your faithfulness shines through the sun every single day. As the sun rises today, I am reminded of your goodness and care for all things. I praise you, Lord! With a grateful heart, may I see your fingerprints all over my day. Prompt me to see you in the details. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

<https://raiseyoursword.com/prayers-of-gratitude-in-the-bible/>



DEADLINE



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

email rubbybulletin@gmail.com or call 01409 221 321

Senior Clergy Reflection from Rt. Rev'd Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton

Holy Island

Some years ago, when I was the vicar of a busy parish in Derby, I was granted the wonderful gift of a sabbatical at a time when I was personally in need of rest and spiritual nourishment. I knew I needed to find space with God. With three friends, we made a plan – to walk the Cuthbert Way. It is 60 miles and traces the journey of St Cuthbert from his early life at Melrose Abbey, where he began his missionary work, to his becoming Abbot of Lindisfarne, and later Bishop in the year 685. He died in the year 687.

To undertake the pilgrimage requires knowing the tides. To cross the pilgrim's way to the island in bare feet across the sand, the tide must be fully out, or we would run the risk of being caught out by the rising tide. Once the time of low tide was established, we worked backwards to when the journey would need to start. We were walking 15 miles each day, stopping for food and rest each night, and having two days of retreat on the Island. Each day we started with prayer:

'Bless to us O Lord, the earth beneath our feet, Bless to us O Lord, the people we will meet. Travel with us on our journey today.'

Some of the paths are ancient, trodden down by the Romans, and expanded by the Celtic Saints. The walking at times was hard, but I am blessed by the memories of God's presence, of the rich conversation with soul friends, and of the resonance in our pilgrimage of the journey we take through life, and that at the end we come home to God.

As we stood on the final day of pilgrimage on the shore, shoes off and ready to walk the last part of the journey, we could see people on the other side, waving to us. We were reminded of those who have gone before us in life, and who await us with joy, the 'great cloud of witnesses.' And as we crossed the wet sand, we were so aware of the sea and the tides, the rhythms of our lives, the blessings of activity and rest, the need for space and time with God.

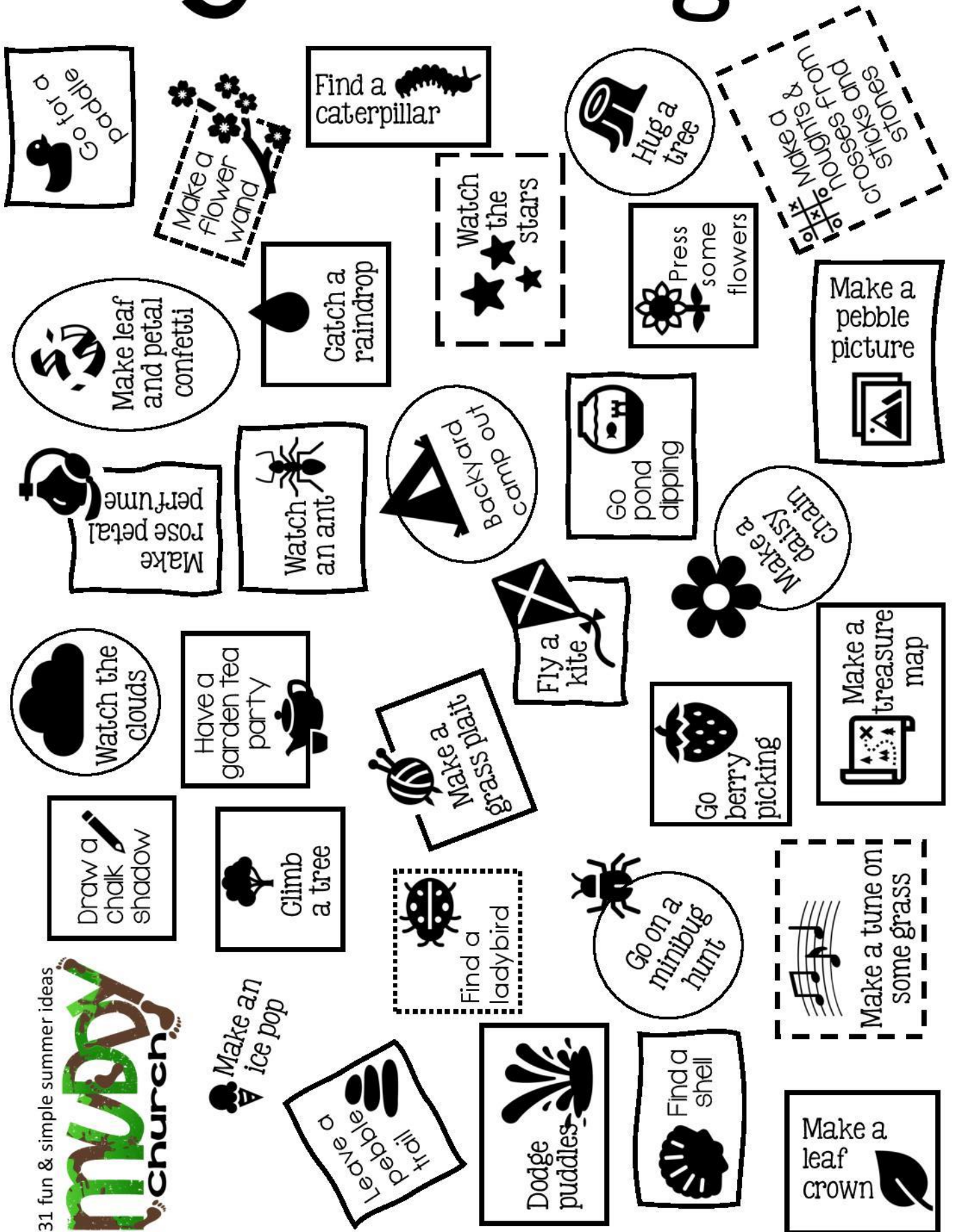
Just off Holy Island is another smaller island, that is also only accessible when the tide is out. This is called Cuthbert's Island. And apparently when life in the monastery was too much, and he had been giving out to all the people who sought his wisdom and healing, he would retreat there, and as the tide came in, no-one could reach him.

May God bless each of us in our pilgrimage through life. May we find a rhythm of activity and rest, and the gifts of time and space with God.

Rt. Rev'd. Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton

As the school summer holidays are now upon us, why not try some of these – for all the young or young at heart!

August delights



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

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.

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

