

## John 1:47-51

<sup>47</sup> As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”

<sup>48</sup> “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

<sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

<sup>50</sup> Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.”

<sup>51</sup> Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”

NLT



A group of people who pray privately  
(and in strict confidence)  
for specific situations.

If you, or anyone you know,  
is in need of prayer for any reason,  
please contact: **Co-ordinators**  
**Sheila Grabham—01409 231581**  
**s.grabham@btconnect.com OR**  
**Sue Brice—01409 231630**  
**bricesusan@yahoo.co.uk**



### SMILE LINES Apples

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apple tray, ‘Take only ONE. God is watching.’

At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child’s handwriting, was a sign, ‘Take all you want. God is watching the apples.’

## *The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott* **Sunday 3rd October 2021**

18th Sunday after Trinity  
Michaelmas Season

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

11.00 am Harvest Service and Lunch, Ashwater  
11.00 am Harvest Service, Beaworthy  
11.00 am Café Church, Black Torrington  
7.00 pm Harvest Service and Supper, Tetcott Village Hall



### Readings

Revelation 12: 7-12  
John 1: 47-51

### Collect

Everlasting God,  
you have ordained and constituted the ministries  
of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:  
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,  
so, at your command,  
they may help and defend us on earth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Interim Priest-in-Charge (part time)

Revd Stephen Skinner  
sjmskinners@btinternet.com  
07554 142264

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

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

**All who are mourning** the death of a loved one

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died



**Those who are ill** or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Bryan Hancock, Grace Spelman, Mavis Watson, Peter and Maureen Ellis, Malcolm and Judith Lusted, Jenny Hyslop, Brian Colebrook-Clark, Tim Kirk

**For our Schools,** Black Torrington, Halwill and Ashwater as they celebrate Harvest in the coming week.

**For all new priests** across the Diocese who were ordained recently.

**Dates for your diary**

<b>Monday 4th October</b>	10.30 am	Highampton PCC Meeting In the Church
<b>Tuesday 5th October</b>	11.00 am	ZOOM Bible Study
	2.30 pm	School Harvest Service Black Torrington Church
	4.15 pm	Hand Bell Ringing Black Torrington Church
<b>Wednesday 6th October</b>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer Black Torrington Church
	7.00 pm	Tetcott PCC Meeting At the home of Sir William
<b>Thursday 7th October</b>	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
<b>Sunday 10th October</b>	9.30 am	Morning Service Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion Black Torrington Church
	11.00 am	Café Style Service Clawton Church
	11.00 am	Morning Service Halwill Church
	6.30 pm	BCP Evensong Beaworthy Church



**ZOOM Meeting ID: 317 183 8102**  
**Passcode: 848984**

**Thought for Sunday 26th September 2021**

**Using the Readings for Michaelmas:**

**Revelation 12: 7 – 12    John 1: 47 – 51**  
**“Heaven is opened!”**

The Gospel story is about an encounter between Jesus and Nathanael. He shows remarkable insight when he spies Jesus under a fig tree, and announces that Jesus is a very special holy man of Israel. Jesus is very impressed that Nathanael speaks so highly of him without apparently having been properly introduced to him by Philip. It is very good that Jesus is deeply impressed by a number of people that he meets during his ministry. Can you think of others who impressed him by their faith, love or readiness to respond to him? This sets a high ‘bar’ for us! By the way, sad to say we don’t know much more about Nathanael, although it is very probable that he is one and the same person as Bartholomew – who is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible. Some more homework – visit Wikipedia and discover where Bartholomew might of travelled, and about his grizzly end!

Returning to the story in John, we hear Jesus saying: “You will see greater things than this – Heaven opened, and angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” What is this astonishing statement all about? There is a clear reference here to the story of Jacob in Genesis 28:12. Jacob had a vision of a heavenly ladder, with angels ascending and descending to heaven, just as Jesus describes. What were the angels doing on this ‘heavenly escalator’? Perhaps:

- Going UP to convey our needs and prayers to God, and
- Going DOWN to bring us help, comfort and messages from God.

They still do this today! I wonder if you have had experiences of angels coming to your aid in time of need? I have – and believe a lot more angelic activity goes on than we are generally aware of! Indeed, I think it good for our faith to become more aware of heaven’s ladder and heaven’s gate being open to us to experience in this life and for the next! Beautiful visions might be ours to enjoy of the heavenly country and heavenly city (I increasingly prefer the anticipation of the heavenly countryside!). So, at this season of Michaelmas I encourage you to raise your thoughts towards heaven, when days seem difficult or dark and you are feeling disheartened by the shortages around! Perhaps in your mind you could climb the heavenly ladder, which is in truth Jesus – the Son of Man!

**Stephen**