

# Ruby Country Benefice

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

## Bulletin

December 2023 / January 2024



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*Our LORD, I will sing  
of your love forever.  
Everyone yet to be born  
will hear me praise  
your faithfulness.*

**Psalm 89:1**

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# NOVEMBER



4<sup>th</sup>

BAPTISM

(Clawton)

## CONTACTS

### Rector

Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick

01409 254 667

### Contacts for Churches:

Ashwater	Diana Marriott	01409 211 146
Beaworthy	Richard Prior	01409 221 986
Black Torrington:	Sheila Grabham	07814 128 163
	Val Letheren*	01409 231 430
Clawton:	Irene Ellis	01409 254 572
Halwill:	John Lawlor	01409 221 987
Highampton	Mrs. M. Dayman	01837 810 435
	Mrs. A. Knight	07407 042 840
Tetcott:	Nikki Mitchell	01409 271 381
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Val Letheren</b>	<b>07484 880 770</b>

\* or as above

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 2) © Parish Pump,

Cover image: from the facebook page of A La Ronde, National Trust

Image on pg. 8 with grateful thanks to Katharine Matthews

Image on pg. 9 – Gorle grave at Beaworthy Church taken by Kay Napier 2022.

Ukraine graphic on the back page from pixabay.com, by chiajo-18290215

Thanks to Revd. Paul Fitzpatrick, Cathie Bowness, Diana Cutler, Sheila Grabham, Alma Knight, Diana Marriott, Richard Prior and Sandra Ward for their contributions.

Also a massive thank you to Katharine Matthews for the kind use of the image of Mr. Reichel from Gerry Matthews' book *Black Torrington* \*\*\*\*\*

# DECEMBER

*From the Rector's Desk*

*Advent*

I sit here at my desk, with the icy rain lashing down outside in the grey/steel dusk, my Labrador lies gently snoring by the fire and a hot coffee sits at my elbow; reflection is in the air. Advent is the start of the new Christian year and therefore a good time to look back and look forward.

We have had 9 lovely harvest services, All Souls, and All Saints services, and five well attended remembrance services. Building plans either engaged or on-going in nearly all our churches. Mouse hunts are also happening as I write. Kay's licensing service is planned, and Revd Alison will also be shortly licensed at Holsworthy as well.

Looking forward is also exciting and positive. The Christmas program is absolutely (and happily) packed and that includes all our schools, Nursing Homes and house bound visits as well. The New Year will be just as busy as we focus on our mission priorities and our church building management. Watch out for some major developments with our children's and young families work as well.

But as we look to our new faith year and to Christmas, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for the work you do for Christ's people and churches here. I want particularly to thank you for my welcome here, your warmth and generosity shown for Sarah and me, and most of all your unstinting prayers.

May I wish you all the very best Christmas and blessed new year.

Paul & Sarah



## **Archbishop of Canterbury visits Holsworthy Market**

### **10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

On a chilly November evening, a surprising amount of people ventured out to the Harvest Service at Holsworthy Cattle Market. With 45 minutes to go before the service got underway, the car park was already showing signs of a struggle and the seating in the Dairy Ring was becoming few and far between.

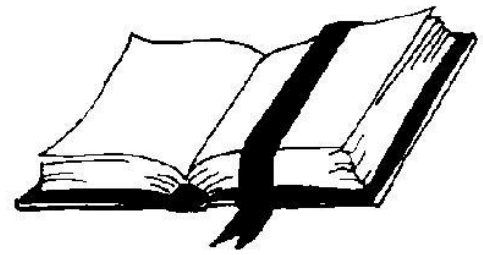
The service itself was a mix of hymns (including We Plough the Fields and Scatter), entertainment from the Devon Young Farmers Choir singing Bette Midler and Natasha Bedingfield and appropriate readings.

But the big crowd-puller was obviously the Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who entertained us with several anecdotes and a poignant sermon, giving us “ten of his minutes”.

Refreshments were served afterwards, however as Revd. Stuart Wilson alluded, it was a little like the loaves and the fishes!

We are used to seeing low numbers in our churches, but to see such a fantastic turn out couldn't help but give you a little glimmer of hope for our future as a benefice and Mission Community.

# Lectionary Readings for December 2023



<p align="center"><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>(First Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Isaiah 64: 1 – 9 Psalm 80: 1 – 8, 18 – 20 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9 Mark 13: 24 – end</p> <p align="center"><b>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Luffincott</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(Second Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 Psalm 84 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a Mark 1: 1 – 8</p> <p align="center"><b>Services at Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Highampton</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(Third Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – end Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24 John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28</p> <p align="center"><b>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(Fourth Sunday of Advent)</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p>2 Samuel 7: 1- 11, 16 Psalm 89: 1 – 4, 19 – 26 Romans 16: 25 – end Luke 1: 26 – 38</p> <p align="center"><b>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Clawton, Tetcott</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p align="center">To be confirmed</p> <p align="center"><b>Service at Beaworthy</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>Numbers 6: 22- end Psalm 8 Galatians 4: 4 – 7 Luke 2: 15 – 21</p> <p align="center"><b>Service at Halwill</b></p>

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

## Ruby Country Benefice Services for December 2023

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	5:30pm	Tetcott	Tea followed by Evening Service (6pm)
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church (Christingle)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	11am	Clawton	United Morning Worship
	3:30pm	Highampton	Carol Service
	5pm	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Halwill	Carol Service
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	11am	Black Torrington	Advent Service
	6pm	Ashwater	Carol Service
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	7pm	Beaworthy	Carol Service
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	7pm	Halwill Village Hall	Halwill Churches Together Carol Service
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	7pm	Black Torrington	Carol Service
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Clawton	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	2pm	Ashwater	Crib Service
	7pm	Tetcott	Carol Service
	7pm	Black Torrington	Christmas Holy Communion
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Day	10am	Beaworthy	Christmas Day Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	11am	Halwill	Benefice Holy Communion

# Lucius Hurlock REICHEL

22<sup>nd</sup> July 1842 – 27<sup>th</sup> January 1927



**Oswald and Lucius REICHEL**

© National Trust

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1312090>

Lucius Reichel was born to Samuel Rudolph REICHEL and his wife Matilda (nee HURLOCK). The middle name of Lucius' father is not the reason I am writing this article on him at Christmastime – it is purely coincidental!

Samuel REICHEL was Born in Nazareth, Pennsylvania in the United States in 1788, just 12 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The family – and the surname originated from Saxony. His first wife, Sophia had 5 children in America before she died in 1834. One assumes he

left these behind for a new life in the UK. His second wife Matilda was born in London, and they married in Bloomsbury, London on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1836.

The son of a Moravian minister, and great grandson of Lutheran clergy, Lucius was the third and last child of his parents – he had an older sister, Stella Matilda Parminter REICHEL, born 24<sup>th</sup> October 1837 and an older brother, Oswald Joseph REICHEL, born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1840.

All three of the REICHEL children were born in Ockbrook in Derbyshire.

Lucius is first mentioned in the 1851 census at Ockbrook alongside his family.

His father Samuel (63) is listed as having the occupation of “Provincial of the Congregations of the United Brethren in Gt Briton and Ireland Commonly called Moravi”.

Also living at the address are

Matilda (52), Samuel’s wife

The three children, Stella M (13), Oswald (11) and Lucius (8) and two members of staff; Gane HAWKES (32) from Stow on the Wold, a house servant and Mary A DICKINS (15), their Nursemaid from Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.

In 1857, Samuel attended a conference for the Moravian Church in Germany. He did not return; he died whilst away leaving Matilda a widow and the 14-year-old Lucius fatherless.

In the 1861 census, the family are now at Harrow, Middlesex.

Matilda (62) is widowed

Stella (22) is living with them, as is Lucius (18) who is listed as being a “Pupil to Civil Engineer”.

They have one servant living with them; 18-year-old Mary E BANKS from Pimlico.

Moving to the 1871 census, we find The family now living in Sparsholt in Berkshire.



**Samuel Rudolph REICHEL**

© National Trust

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1313490>



Stella M C REICHELL [sic] (33) is listed as a Landowner.

She is living here with her mother Matilda (71), brother Oswald J (31) who is now listed as being a Vicar, and a new REICHEL has appeared – seven-year-old Margaret REICHEL (7) who is listed as a cousin.

They have two members of staff: Amelia DENNIS (19) their Domestic Cook, native of Sparsholt, and Mary A ALLEN (22) from Kingston Lisle, Berkshire, the REICHEL family's housemaid.

Lucius' mother Matilda dies the day after the census is taken on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1871.

You will have noticed that Lucius is missing from this entry. I cannot find him in a census for the year 1871, however there is a marriage record for him in 1871, where he marries 20-year-old Eliza Harriet PARR from Newbury, Berkshire. They marry in Kensington, London.

By the time of the 1881 census, you would expect to see Lucius living a happy married life in London.

Lucius is in Ilfracombe, listed as a visitor to the home of Fanny SELIC (24), born in Halberton, Devon.

Also on the census at Kinsham Terrace are George V SELIC (1), Fanny's son, born in London, and Rosina HOSGOOD (22), originally from Exeter who is a dressmaker by trade and a boarder at the SELIC house.

Lucius is 38, and an architect.

Lucius's wife is presumably still in London – just two months after the census, she dies of heart disease in Kensington aged just 30. Lucius was present at the death, but his place of residence is, by this time, Black Torrington.

Remember where we are in the life of Lucius as we are about to take a slight detour for the sake of context!

In September 1880, Lucius' sister marries the Rev. John Lechmere TUDOR in Sparsholt – but doing this would remove her from an amazing inheritance...

In the 1700s, two cousins built themselves a house.

Described as an “eccentric 16-sided property”, A La Ronde, near Exmouth is truly a one- off place.

After a 10-year grand tour of Europe Jane and Mary PARMINTER made this more than their home, it was their project where they experimented with art and architecture, and collected nicknacks and trinkets and books... they even made a frieze entirely of feathers. They created somewhere truly beautiful and truly unique.



**Mary PARMINTER**

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3d/Mary\\_Parminter.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3d/Mary_Parminter.png)

Jane died in 1811 (aged 61) and Mary was made the sole owner. Mary herself died in 1849 (aged 82), but in her will she stipulated that the property must pass to the nearest unmarried woman in her family. First it passed to Jane HURLOCK and her sister Ann Sophia, daughters of Jane and Mary PARMINTER’s cousin Joseph HURLOCK.

From 1849 – 1870, Jane HURLOCK owned A La Ronde, and her sister Ann Sophia from 1870-1879. A La Ronde would now pass on to the next unmarried woman; Jane and Ann’s sister Matilda’s daughter, Stella REICHEL.

By the time Stella was to inherit A La Ronde, she was to be married to Rev TUDOR. Because of the law at the time, married women could not own any property – it would all pass to her husband.

There were three other women in line to inherit the property behind her – one who had already married, one who had died and the last – Louisa BLACK – met the conditions. However, Louisa decided she did not want to take on A La Ronde, so the property was Stella's.

Stella sold A La Ronde to her brother Oswald REICHEL days before her wedding. A La Ronde now belonged to the REICHELS.

Under Oswald, A La Ronde underwent huge changes including the installation of central heating and the removal of thatched roofing in favour of tile. And although he was a vicar, scandal was close behind him.

According to a national trust publication:

*“In 1885 a “Mr. and Mrs. RICE” stayed at a Bristol lodging house owned by a Miss NIBLETT, who somehow found out that the couple were under assumed names and not married, the man was the Reverend REICHEL whom she accused of being guilty of immorality in her house. He denied this and the couple left. Miss NIBLETT wrote to him twice and then visited him at Sparsholt Vicarage where he accused her of blackmail.”*

“Mrs. RICE” transpired to be Caroline KING, a servant at Oswald's Vicarage, and it was rumoured that they had a 13-year relationship which resulted in two children – which Oswald flatly denied.

Such was the scandal, the Bishop of Oxford told Oswald REICHEL he should either resign or face ecclesiastical court. Oswald resigned, however the terms of this resignation became quite complicated, with Oswald taking the Bishop to court, and when he lost, he took the matter to the High Court and even petitioned the House of Lords – all without success.

Oswald married Julia ASHENDEN in London in 1887, and, after trying to fight the Bishop of Oxford's ultimatum, retired to A La Ronde where he would tell people – wrongly – that he inherited the house from his

he would tell people – wrongly – that he inherited the house from his mother, and would encourage people to pronounce his surname “Ray-shel” instead of “Reikel”.

Context trip over. Back to Lucius – we last saw him widowed and living as a visitor to Ilfracombe.

In 1888, Lucius REICHEL marries his second wife, Elizabeth Sarah Bertha ELLERY, aged 26 from Millbrook, Hampshire. Lucius and Elizabeth marry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1888 at St. Pancras, London.

They are first seen together in the 1891 census at Black Torrington:  
Lucius REICHEL (48) Architect and farmer  
Elizabeth S B REICHEL (29) wife  
Bessie MARTIN (22) General Servant Domestic.  
No children.

The 1901 Census offers much of the same  
Beara Court, Black Torrington  
Lucius REICHEL (58), architect and living on means  
Bertha S E Reichel (39), wife.  
No servants. No children.

1911 Census  
Black Torrington  
Lucius REICHEL (68) architect  
Bertha Elizabeth Sarah REICHEL (49) wife.  
No servants. No children. It looks very much that REICHEL had no issue.

So why did I pick Lucius REICHEL to write an article about? In the church of St Marys, Black Torrington, there is a large shiny plaque. On it, it tells us that the church was largely renovated and rebuilt by two churchwardens – one of these is Lucius REICHEL. There is a photograph of him next to this plaque inside the church near the entrance, and also in Gerry MATTHEWS’ wonderful book on the history of Black Torrington – Gerry’s wife Katharine kindly has allowed me to reproduce this photograph in this bulletin.



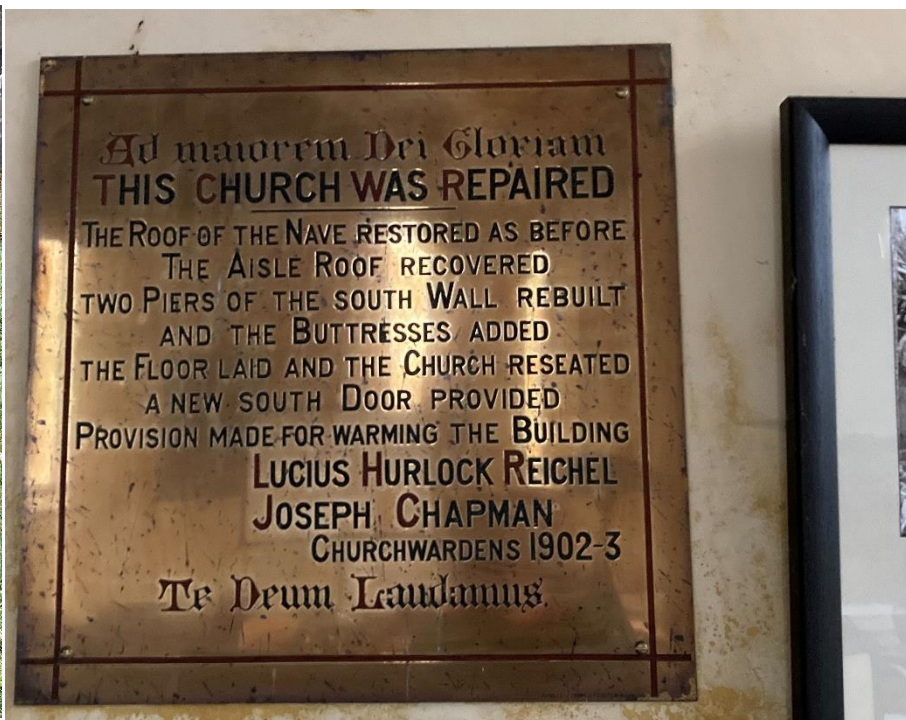
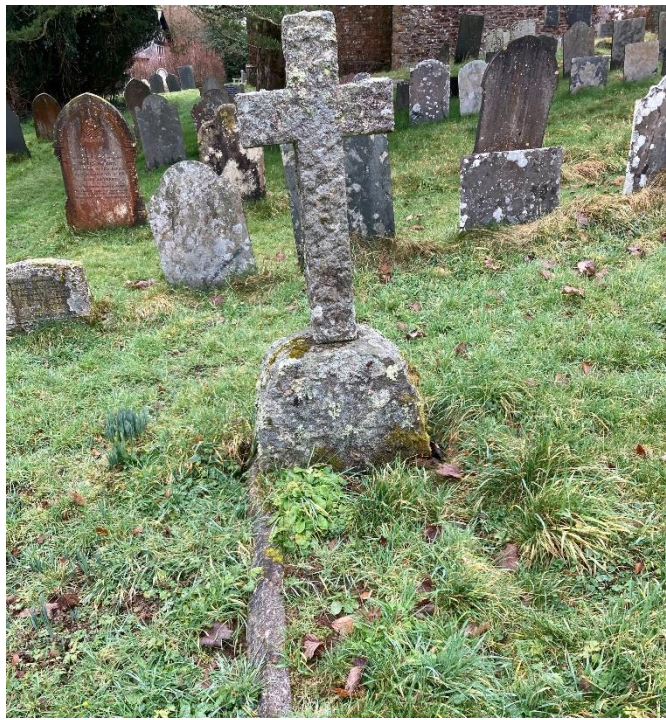
**Image of Lucius REICHEL (R) restoring Black Torrington church in 1900**

**The man to the (L) is Jim SMALE**

From page 88 of *Black Torrington – the Second Millennium* by Gerry MATTHEWS

Such an amazing feat as rebuilding a church required an architect and Lucius was the man for the job.

Lucius died in 1927 and is buried in the churchyard at St Mary's, Black Torrington. When the grass is short, you can read his inscription but when its long, you have to know who you are looking for.



That feels like a nice ending to the story, doesn't it. But wait – there's more!

Remember in 1885, Oswald got in trouble for “having relations outside of marriage” – and the rumoured two children?  
What if... it wasn't Oswald after all...?

In my research I discovered REICHEL children.

The first I discovered was, Mabel Ursula REICHEL, born in 1882, the second Lucius Gordon REICHEL, born 12<sup>th</sup> June 1885. They were born at 1 Winsham Terrace, Ilfracombe. Their mother, Fanny REICHEL, formerly BARRETT, the father – Lucius Hurlock REICHEL. (for those tired, confused or not buying into the whole Sherlock schtick, I don't think Lucius was a house guest in Ilfracombe...)

And unless they married in Scotland or abroad, there's no record of a marriage for Lucius and Fanny in England and Wales.

Not just that, but I have found an Arthur Vivian REICHEL born to Lucius and an unmarried Fanny Barrett in Exeter in January 1877 – three years before the death of Lucius' wife...

Where Born	Name, if any.	Sex.	of Father.	of Mother.	of Father.	Residence
Twelfth June 1885, 1. Winsham Terrace Withycombe U.S.D.	Lucius Gordon	Boy	Lucius Reichel	Fanny Reichel formerly Barrett	Architect	Fanny 1. Winsham Terrace

### Birth record of Lucius Gordon REICHEL

© Crown Copyright

On the topic of records, there's no trace of the REICHEL children or Fanny's other child George SELIC either (who may have not been a SELIC after all...!) Like the children from Lucius's father's first marriage, his children disappear into history.

Perhaps the scandal was all Lucius's - or, if not, Lucius and his brother Oswald had a very similar life in the 1880s!

Potential scandal aside, Lucius REICHEL did great work for Black Torrington and its church, both as architect and churchwarden, and hopefully he will be remembered – not just for the bit I've just pointed out to everyone! And do visit A La Ronde – they have a fabulous collection of ... well, everything. Especially photos and documents relating to the REICHELs. Oswald, Stella and their spouses are buried in unmarked graves in the churchyard of St. John in the Wilderness, Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, so we are lucky at Black Torrington to have a "findable REICHEL".

If you're wandering about Black Torrington, do stop and say hello to Lucius.



**Lucius Hurlock REICHEL**  
**A La Ronde © National**  
**Trust / Simon Harris**  
<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1312022>

Sources:

*Black Torrington* by Gerry MATTHEWS

*The A La Ronde Story – It's People*, National Trust 2011

<https://www.familysearch.org>

<https://www.freebmd.org.uk>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/a-la-ronde/history-of-a-la-ronde>

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1312021>

<https://victorianclericalerrors.blogspot.com/2018/03/you-should-be-found-out-rev-oswald.html>

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/national-trust/a-la-ronde>

<https://www.thedevondaily.co.uk/news/local-news/findmypast-and-national-trust-shed-light-scandalous-life-la-ronde-resident-reverend>

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1312022>

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1312087>

a la ronde image <https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1313480>

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1312090>

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1313497>

<https://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1313490>

<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/things-to-do/20307049.church-links-la-ronde-exhibition/>

<http://www.highampton-lhg.co.uk/2014.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2012/nov/16/feminist-eccentric-home-devon>





All around the Benefice, Armistice Day was commemorated through various services and acts of remembrance in each of our parishes.

Above is a photograph of the altar at St Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater, taken early in the morning on Armistice Day.

It shows the fourteen poppies for the 14 men from Ashwater who gave their lives in service, and is a beautiful way to remember them.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. We will remember them.

**ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, BEAWORTHY**  
is launching its 2023 Christmas  
Hamper Draw on Saturday,  
**NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**



We'll be standing  
outside the Halwill  
Junction Village Shop  
in the morning from  
9am-ish to 12 noon or  
until the cold and wet  
drive us home.

Draw Tickets can be bought for £1 each on  
Saturday mornings 26<sup>th</sup> November, and 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> December from outside the  
Halwill Junction Village Shop.

The winning ticket will be drawn after our  
Carol Service with the Stowford Singers, 18<sup>th</sup>  
December in St Alban's church. Mince pies and  
Mulled wine will be available.



## **ASHWATER CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**2023**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO FILL THE CHURCH WITH BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TREES FROM OUR COMMUNITY AGAIN THIS YEAR FROM FAMILIES, CLUBS, BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS, SCHOOLS, ETC., ETC.**

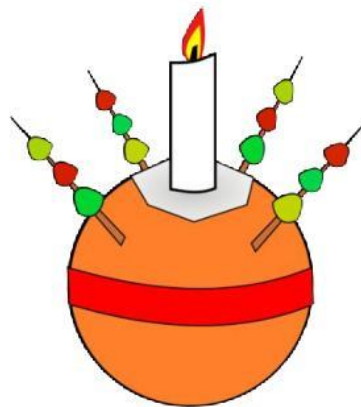
**PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT ONE IN THE CHURCH.**

**LIZ MARTIN. 07854491307 OR MESSAGE ME ON FB MESSENGER.**

**St Mary's Church  
Black Torrington  
CAFÉ CHURCH  
CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**

*Come and share in making our Christingles together*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
11.00 am**



**We would love to see you, your friends and your family for a different style of  
worship!**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



**Highampton Village**

**Play Park Christmas**

**Bingo**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Highampton Village Hall**

**Doors Open 7.30pm Eyes down at**

**8pm**

**1&2 lines  
Christmas  
Fayre**

**Cash  
Flyer**

**Full  
House  
Meat  
Dinners**

**Raffle**

**Christmas  
Cake  
Flyer**

**Admission  
£1 Includes  
a ticket for  
Door Draw**



# Christmas Crafts

At Halwill Church

Drop in for

Card & Decoration making



Christmas Songs singalong



Refreshments

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

From 6pm



St. Peter & St. James Church, Halwill  
EX21 5UH

Free, suitable for all ages and  
everyone welcome

\*Please note we do not have toilet facilities nearby so "go before you go!"

Seasons Greetings



St. Peter & St. James  
Parish Church

*A service of*

Lessons & Carols

Sunday

17th December

11.00am



followed by mulled wine & mince pies....do join us



**St Mary's Church  
Black Torrington**  
*invite you to the*  
**Village Carol  
Service**

*To be held in the Church*

**On Thursday 21st December  
At 7.00 p.m.**

Mulled wine and light refreshments  
will be served after the Service

**ALL WELCOME**





*Ruby Country Benefice*

# Crib Service

St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

2pm

*All welcome*

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

**Christmas Eve  
Holy Communion**

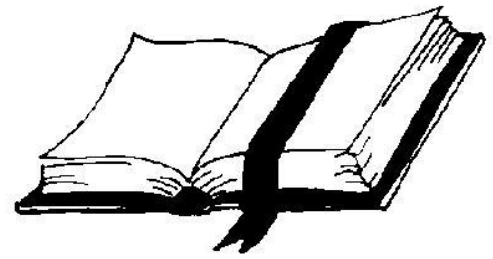
**7.00 pm**

In the Church



**All Welcome**

# Lectionary Readings for January 2024



<p><b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b> (First Sunday after the Epiphany)</p> <p>Genesis 1: 1 – 5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1 – 7 Mark 1: 4 – 11</p> <p>Services at Black Torrington, Halwill, Luffincott</p>	<p><b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b> (Second Sunday of Epiphany)</p> <p>1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 Psalm 139: 1 – 5, 12 – 18 Revelation 5: 1 – 10 John 1: 43 – end</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</p>	<p><b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b> (Third Sunday of Epiphany)</p> <p>Genesis 14: 17 – 20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19: 6 – 10 John 2: 1 – 11</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p><b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b> (Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)</p> <p>Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 20 Psalm 111 Revelation 12: 1 – 5a Mark 1: 21 – 28</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton</p>		

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

## Ruby Country Benefice Services for January 2024

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	5:30pm 6pm	Luffincott Church	Mulled wine & nibbles Candlelight Service
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	5pm	Beaworthy	BCP Evening Prayer
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
	11am	Halwill	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Holy Communion with Halwill Churches Together
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	11am	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Clawton	United Service
	6pm	Ashwater	Holocaust Memorial Service

Weekly - all welcome from the benefice

<b>Wednesday</b>	10am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
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# Saints Alive

At the start of his first letter to the Corinthians Paul puts the call to be saints into true perspective:

*'Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters' not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world's eyes to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world's eyes to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised.'*

We need a shift of focus to do justice to Paul's observation on who are saints of God.

Take the woman abandoned by her husband who takes on ill-paid bits of jobs, exhausting herself to feed and clothe her children. She may have to work in church time and think she is no great shakes as a Christian.

Take the man with a history of drink and drugs who goes successfully into rehab: who fights the temptation, again and again, to give in to bodily cravings, and overcomes at cost the temptation to give in. Attested miracles are called for? Neighbours all around will affirm these miracles.

Take the village where I live, where, without any fuss or publicity, that child is cared for, the lonely one visited, the one who thinks of himself/herself as useless is invited to lend a hand; where cheerful, social events call on the gifts of many. My second eye joins the first in a haemorrhage.

There is a knock on my back door.

It is my neighbour across the way who calls himself a secularist:

'I've heard about the damage which stops you reading and writing. When you need to go to hospital, I'll take you, and I'll wait as long as need be to take you back. If you need someone to read to you, I'm available.' Just that. An offer, detailed and put on the table.

No fuss, just natural kindness.

A programme on TV detailed the disaster, sometimes heart-rending, suffered in the recent floods. But it could not end there.

It dealt with emergency organisations taking people to safety from inundated homes, with neighbours taking up mops to help clear up.

Halls were made into reception centres with beds for the night and hot meals provided.

The saints of God are not on calendars.

They are all around our doors.

*Ian M Fraser - taken from 'Winter' Ruth Burgess*

# Oliver Veale

## 1737 – 24<sup>th</sup> March 1807

As it is Christmas and a double issue, I am spoiling you with a second article! This one will differ from the first as it needs to be heavily based in church records as his life ended before the first publicly available census, so I anticipate it will be shorter.

Here

Lies the Body of Oliver Veale of this

Parish Yeoman Who departed this

life the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 1807

Aged 80 years

My wife most dear and children forbear

For me to mourn or grieve;

For in great pain I did complain

Till God did me relieve.

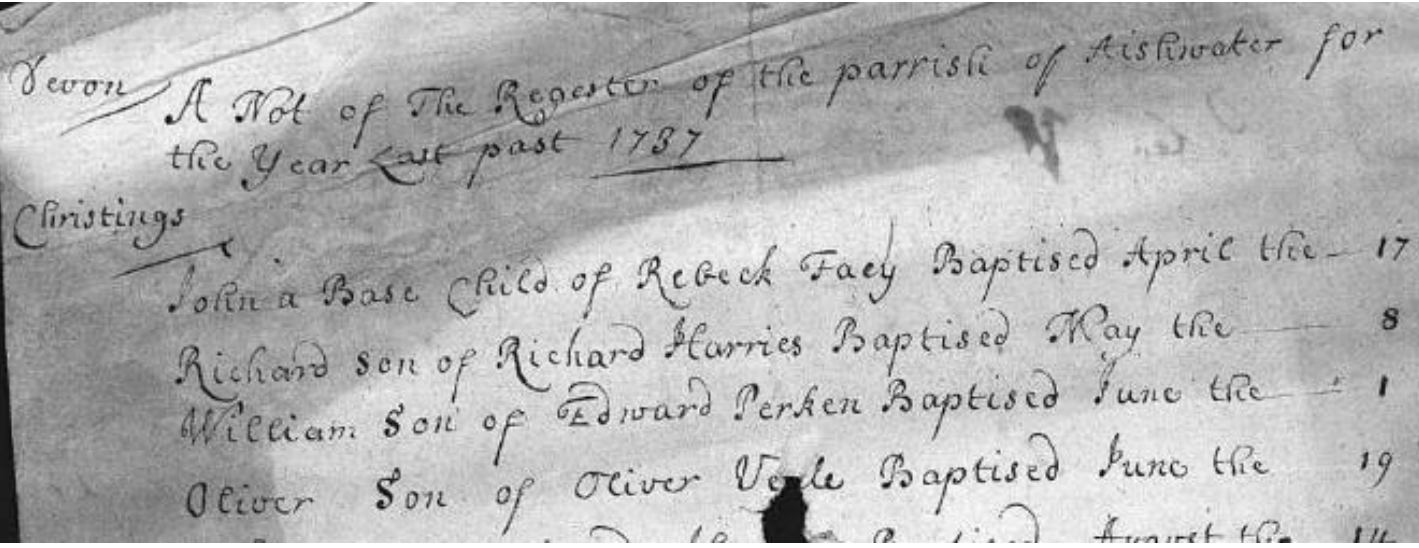
Pray be conte[n]t, do not lament

All must submit you see

[Wh]en God doth please your life to seize

Come here and sleep by me.

This gentleman, Oliver VEALE lived in Clawton and is buried someplace within the churchyard. His gravestone is hung on the side wall of St Leonard's Church – you can't fail to miss it as you walk around the building. But who was he?



The image shows a handwritten church register entry from Ashwater. The text is written in cursive and includes the following information:

Devon A Not of The Register of the parrishi of Ashwater for  
the Year last past 1737

Christings

John a Base Child of Rebeck Faey Baptised April the 17  
Richard son of Richard Harries Baptised May the 8  
William Son of Edward Perken Baptised June the 1  
Oliver Son of Oliver Veale Baptised June the 19

"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *FamilySearch*  
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J36N-14Q> : 4 February 2023), Oliver Veale, 1737.

Oliver was the son of Oliver VEAL senior and his wife Mary nee DAVEY who were married at Ashwater Church 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1730. The VEALE family resided at Ashwater for some time. Oliver Junior was baptised at Ashwater on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1737.

From the records I can find, Oliver was the third child, but oldest son. His siblings, all baptised at Ashwater were Mary (1731), Joan (1733), Margrett (1740), Elizabeth (1745), Edith (1746) and John (1748).

Edith married a Clawton chap – "Humphry BROUND", son of Lewis and Dorothy BRAUND at Clawton, 17<sup>th</sup> June 1772. Lewis and Dorothy's grave is the table tomb nearest you if you look straight out of the door at Clawton Church, and Edith's brother-in-law George BRAUND (another of Lewis and Dorothy's sons) is commemorated on the wall of St. Mary's Church at Black Torrington.

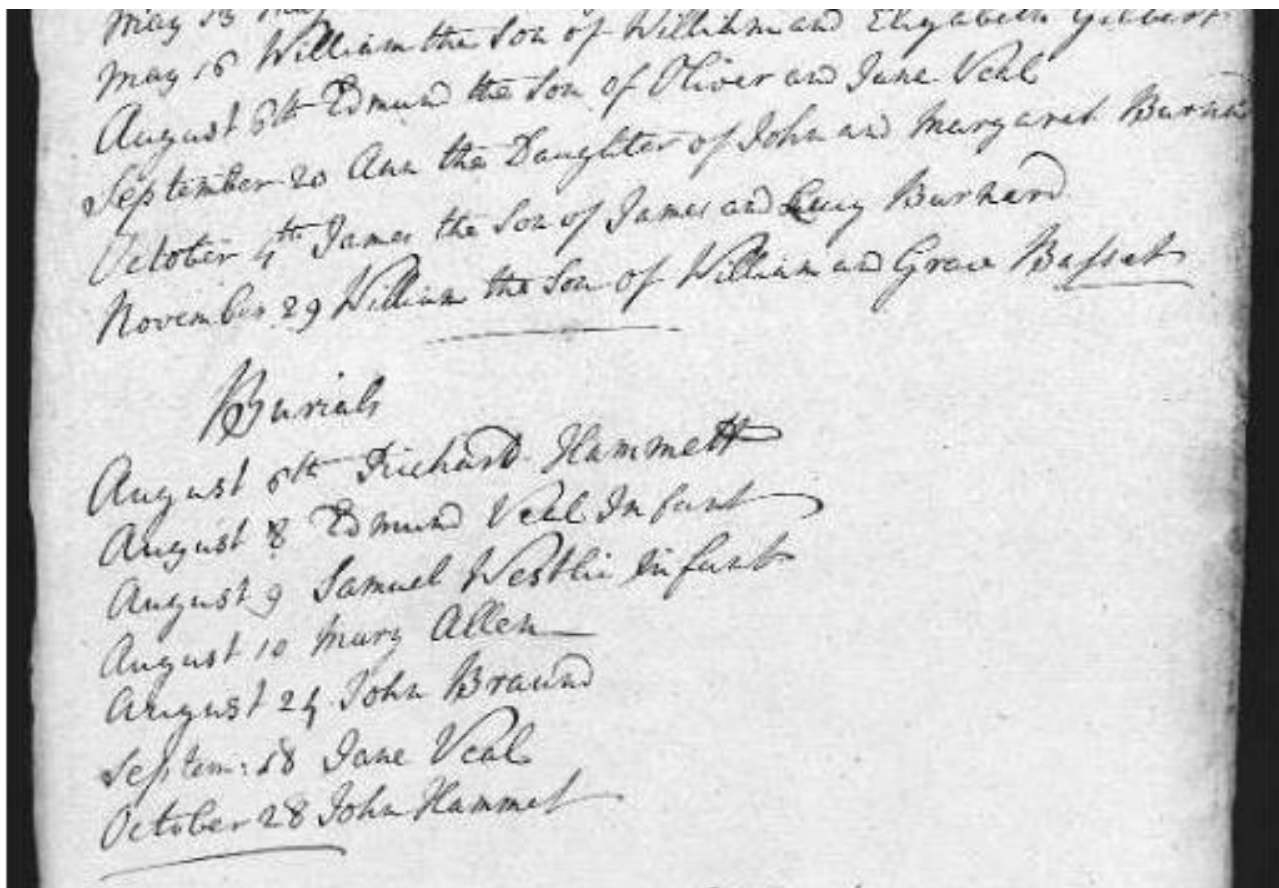
But back to Oliver. We don't know much about his occupation or his life, but we do know he marries Joan LANE on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1762 at Ashwater. In the baptism records of their children, 'Joan' becomes 'Jane' – the marriage is the only record of her being a Joan!



Oliver and Joan/Jane had at least seven children:

- Thomas, baptised 16<sup>th</sup> January 1763 at Clawton
- Oliver, baptised 24<sup>th</sup> February 1764 at Clawton
- John, baptised 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1765 at Clawton
- Mary, baptised 28<sup>th</sup> November 1766 at Clawton
- Mary, baptised 31<sup>st</sup> December 1767 at Clawton (so one assumes the older Mary died in infancy)
- Edith, baptised 17<sup>th</sup> October 1769 at Clawton
- Edmund, baptised 6<sup>th</sup> August 1771 at Clawton.

This happy family life was not to last long. Two days after Edmund's baptism came Edmund's burial on 8<sup>th</sup> August. 41 days later, they were burying his mother. Oliver's wife Joan/Jane was buried at Clawton on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1771.



**Showing the Baptism and later the burial of Edmund VEAL, and also Jane VEAL  
From the Clawton Church records 1771 – Devon Bishops Transcripts**

"England, Devon Bishop's Transcripts, 1558-1887," database with images, *FamilySearch*  
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLKP-Z2FM : 11 September 2019>), Edmund Veal, Clawton, Devon,  
England, United Kingdom; citing Burial, The Devon Record Office, Exeter.

Aged 34, Oliver was now a widower with at least five mouths to feed.

According to various family trees scattered across the internet, Oliver VEALE, at some time before 1785 marries Ann CUTTIN, daughter of Steven CUTTIN. Ann was born in 1755 in Clawton, and baptised there on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1755. I cannot find an entry for a marriage in the Bishops Transcripts – if they did marry, I cannot find where...

Regardless of whether they married or not, more children were born.

Elizabeth, baptised 13<sup>th</sup> May 1785 at Clawton

John, baptised 5<sup>th</sup> October 1786 at Clawton

Jenifer, baptised 14<sup>th</sup> January 1789 at Clawton

Ann, baptised 18<sup>th</sup> May 1791 at Clawton

William, baptised 29<sup>th</sup> July 1798 at Clawton

Harriet baptised 10<sup>th</sup> May 1801 at Clawton (she died in July 1815.)

Oliver died in March 1807. As you saw from the inscription on his gravestone, his wife and children were of great importance to him. His wife Ann died in January 1831. I have not been able to find a burial record for her.

In St. Leonard's Church, you will see several gravestones with the name "BANBURY" on it. These are descendants of Oliver VEALE and their wives who have come to "sleep by me". Oliver's daughter Mary married Richard BANBURY at Clawton on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1789. Richard and Mary themselves are buried at North Petherwin, but their son Richard (1790-1834) is buried in Clawton, commemorated alongside his wife Mary and their daughters Ann and Elizabeth.

I haven't delved too deeply into the family of Oliver for reasons of both space and time. However, a quick google of the name threw up one very interesting fact about Oliver and Ann VEALE's son John. He married a young lady from North Tamerton called Hannah FURZE and together, they had nine children: Ann, Oliver, Elizabeth, John, Harriet, Hannah, Thomas,

Prudence and Jane. The children grew up in Clawton, but their lives would all change; they became some of the earliest settlers in New Zealand.

In 1841 (before the first publicly available census!) John and Hannah VEALE emigrated aboard the ship the “Amelia Thompson” to Taranaki, a volcanic area on the west coast of North Island. According to the website

<https://winsomegriffin.com/Newsham/VealeFamily.html>,

VEALE purchased “one town section (one acre) and a section of rural land (fifty acres) for each of his nine children.”

John VEALE died in 1851, and is buried in the Te Henui Cemetery, New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand – as the crow flies, 11,623 miles away from his father.



Image by HEG

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/197119529/john-veale>

While we don't have a photograph of Oliver VEALE whose gravestone you pass every time you enter St. Leonard's at Clawton, the descendants of his son John are well documented – especially if you click through from John VEALE's page on findagrave -

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/197119529/john-veale>



Three of Oliver VEALE's grandchildren through his son John. All three of these children were born at Clawton.

L-R

Oliver VEALE born 4<sup>th</sup> Marcy 1810, died 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1888 at Durham, Ontario (Buried at Malta Cemetery, DeKalb, Illinois, United States)

<https://winsomegriffin.com/Newsham/VealeFamily.html>

John VEALE born 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1814, died 6<sup>th</sup> May 1907, Taranaki NZ

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192194442/john-veale>

Prudence VEALE born 4<sup>th</sup> June 1826, died 24<sup>th</sup> July 1919, New Plymouth NZ (dies as Prudence SKINNER)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194121166/prudence-skinner>

There is enough information on the children for several Bulletins over.

I hope that gives some background to a man whose grave location may be lost, but his stone is preserved forever, as is his legacy through his children.



Kay Napier  
November 2023

Sources:

<https://www.findagrave.co.uk>

<https://www.familysearch.org>

[https://www.braundsociety.org/\\_files/ugd/d63e92\\_21908055a2254e2391abe4474214b533.pdf](https://www.braundsociety.org/_files/ugd/d63e92_21908055a2254e2391abe4474214b533.pdf)

<https://winsomegriffin.com/Newsham/VealeFamily.html>

<https://collection.pukeariki.com/persons/3424/john-veale>



**DEADLINE**



The next Bulletin will be for FEBRUARY 2024

Please get your posters, news, pictures, articles,  
details of services, fundraisers or any other  
submissions in **by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January**

to feature in the next Bulletin

email [rubbybulletin@gmail.com](mailto:rubbybulletin@gmail.com) or call 01409 221 321



## Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

10am

*All welcome*



**Find us on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/rubybenefice](http://www.facebook.com/rubybenefice)



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*Service to be held at....*

***ST. PETER & ST. JAMES  
PARISH CHURCH  
HALWILL TOWN***

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***SUNDAY  
21ST JANUARY 2024  
11.00AM***

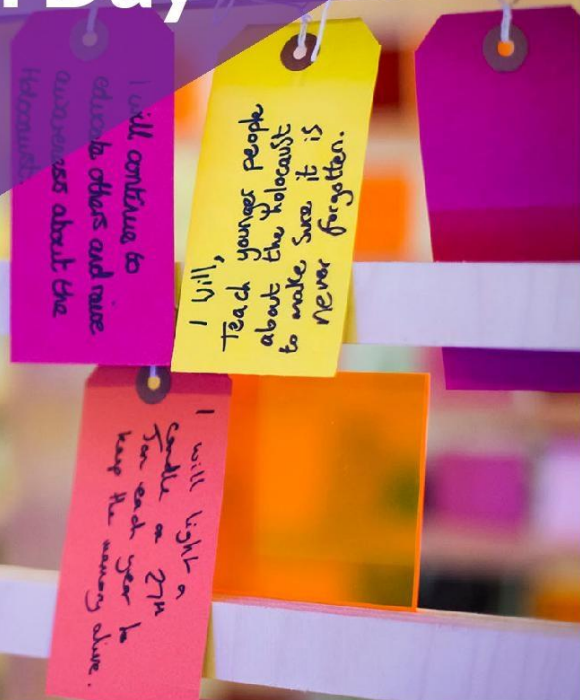
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*Week of prayer for  
Christian Unity*



# Join us to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is the international day to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, and the millions of people murdered under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.



**An evening service of reflection, stories and poems on the Holocaust and more recent genocides**

**Organised by Ashwater Church**

**Sunday 28th January 2023 at St. Peter's Church, Ashwater**

**6pm.**

**All welcome**

**To find out more, please contact Catherine Bowness  
[ladyandfool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ladyandfool@yahoo.co.uk)**



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1**



## Taizé Service - St Alban's

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February – the church will celebrate Candlemas, a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple recalled in Evensong services in the Nunc Dimittis, a brief hymn of praise sung by the aged Simeon, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

The Evensong service will follow the Taizé Tradition, a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us with songs, music and short readings.

We'll announce the time of the service before the end of December.





## Licensing of Kay Napier as Anna Chaplain for the Ruby Country Benefice

At St. Peter and St. James, Halwill on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, Kay was licenced by Revd. Paul Fitzpatrick as an Anna Chaplain for the Benefice following completion of her training. Thank you to all who attended and those who stayed and provided refreshments at the Baptist Hall afterwards.



## 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](mailto:costa.nassaris@exeter.anglican.org)

**James May** – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – 01392 345910 – 07889 543646  
[james.may@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:james.may@exeter.anglican.org)

**Rebecca Lane** – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser- 01392 294975 - 07889542640  
[Rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:Rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org)

For general enquiries – [SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org](mailto: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

