

### **John 6:24-35**

<sup>24</sup> Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

### **Jesus the Bread of Life**

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

NIV



### **Afternoon Tea**

at Highampton Church  
Friday 6th August  
from 2pm—4pm

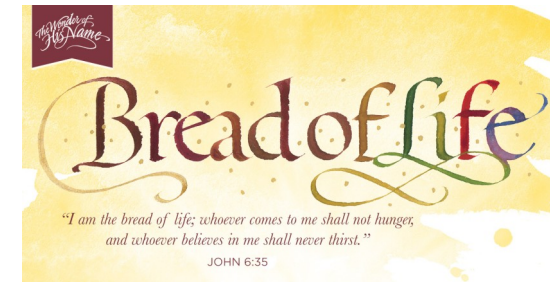
*Savouries, Cream Tea and Cakes*

**ALL WELCOME**

*The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,  
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott*  
**Sunday 1st August 2021**  
**9th Sunday after Sunday**

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

9.30 am Holy Communion, Ashwater  
11.00 am Mission Community Service, Stanhope Park, Holsworthy



### **Readings**

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

Ephesians 4: 1-16

John 6: 24-35

### **Collect**

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 including the family of Philip Taylor (*Ashwater*) and Jan Luckhurst (*Highampton*)

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died including and Jan Luckhurst

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

**Kindness and understanding** as we adjust to the new rhythms of life. Lord help us to be empathetic and loving towards one another.

**All those who organise** and support food banks, that they would continue to have the resources they need to service our communities at this time.

**We pray that** those going on holiday over the next few weeks may travel safely and return refreshed

**Dates for your diary**

|                          |          |   |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>Friday 6th August</b> | 2pm-4pm  | Afternoon Tea,<br>Highampton Church     |
| <b>Sunday 8th August</b> | 9.30 am  | Morning Service<br>Ashwater Church      |
|                          | 11.00 am | Café Church,<br>Black Torrington Church |
|                          | 11.00 am | Holy Communion<br>Clawton Church        |
|                          | 6.30 pm  | BCP Evensong<br>Beaworthy Church        |

**Please note:**

**Sunday 1st August**—no Service at Tetcott Church

**During August**—Morning Prayer on a Wednesday at Black Torrington will not be taking place.

**Thursday 5th August**—no ZOOM Compline

A BIG thank you to all who supported the Tea/Bells at Black Torrington. £400 was raised towards the repair of the handbells!!

**Thought for Sunday 1st August 2021**

**“OUR SPECIAL GIFT.”**

I love the verse from our Epistle for this coming Sunday where Paul writes: “God has given each of us a special gift!” (Ephesians 4 Verse 7). St Paul has a lot to say about Gifts, and writes extensively about them, not only in Ephesians 4, but also in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. He rightly believes that everyone has at least one special gift given by God – and that the Holy Spirit will help us to locate it and then use it! These gifts are spiritual (eg wise discernment), or practical (eg administration or helping serve). Be honest with yourself – what is your special gift that God has given you, to serve and bless others? It is important not to underplay or depreciate what God has given you, to use for the benefit of building the Kingdom of God.

In the Church of England it has been our mistake to think that the clergy have most of the spiritual gifts and the ‘laity’ have most of the practical gifts. But in Paul’s thinking there should not be a distinction between clergy and laity, for we share in the common ‘priesthood of all believers’ with access to the same Spirit. This is why I regard an important part of my job as encouraging everyone to discover and use their gifts for the growth of the Christian community! It is why I want to urge more of us to be bold and look to developing with God’s help more gifts – for example in leading or participating in our Worship Services, and in exercising entrepreneurial leadership.

St Paul goes on to say in Ephesians 4 that as we exercise the gifts God offers us, then these can grow to become ‘ministries’ such as the Pastor, Teacher or Evangelist. Would that there were more such ministries among us in our benefice! We especially need more ‘lay’ ministers for the future because Trevor has decided to step down from his leadership in our Services because of his declining health. The Benefice Group recently discussed the Diocesan strategy of encouraging “Focal Ministers” to be the ‘go to’ lay minister in each Parish – especially important when there is no clergyperson living in the Parish. If you want to know more about this then I will very gladly tell you more! Let us be a gift to each other as we use our Godly gifts and personalities to bless all that we meet each day!

Stephen