

Ashwater with Black Torrington Benefice Bulletin

Ashwater
St. Peter
Ad Vincula

Beaworthy
St. Alban

Black Torrington
St. Mary

Clawton
St. Leonard

Halwill
St. Peter &
St. James

Highampton
Holy Cross

Tetcott
Holy Cross

June 2021



Photo by Toomas Tartes on Unsplash

Summer solstice

The fire is lit.

The longest day is here once more
and we are here again
to celebrate with all our kin
in fire and food and wine.

The longest day is here once more.
The fire once more alight.
Six months since the shortest day
inched slowly from our sight.

January brought the cold,
our gardens were asleep.
The downs sat sullen in the snow
with huddled chills of sheep.

February's flood and wind
tore across the land.
The sea roared in and flung its waves
up on the battered strand.

March saw shoots begin to thrive,
leaves and buds were rife
and in the woods the birds' new song
heralded new life.

April's sun warmed up the earth,
springing now with flowers,
squirrels danced along the hedge
oblivious to the showers.

Jack has danced, and Jack is dead
and yet he lives once more:
his seed is sown, his crops will grow
to fill our summer store.

Midsummer comes, the air is clear,
the roses are in bloom,
the earth shows off its riches
though they are gone too soon.

Another year, another fire,
no reason to be glum,
as we give thanks for what has been
and what is yet to come.

Another fire, another year,
another glass to raise
in thanks that we are who we are
as we turn another page.

The longest day is here again,
the solstice fire burns bright.
We revel in the warmth it brings
as we share love and light.

Living in Love and Faith is 'The Task of Our Generation'

(from the Exeter Diocese website)

"I really believe in what we are doing with Living in Love and Faith.

"This is our moment, this is the task of our generation in the Church, to be thinking about gender, identity, sexuality and marriage, and from the resources of our faith and spiritual life, to share in these important conversations."

The Bishop of Crediton, the Right Reverend Jackie Searle, is the Diocese of Exeter Advocate for the Living in Love and Faith process.

The project aims to help Christians think about issues of gender identity, relationships, sexuality, and faith through the 'Living in Love and Faith' book, online resources and a five-week course for churches and small groups.

It is the result of a three-year national working group and will culminate in discussions and decision-making at a national level in mid-2022.

Bishop Jackie said, "I'm really hoping that everyone in Devon who is part of the Church of England will get involved with one of the courses.

"The whole ethos of the course and the process is that we learn from one another within our diversity, not just in the church but in our culture."

Bishop Jackie and her fellow bishops in Devon are currently doing the LLF course together as part of an online group.

The teaching material is video-based and features a number of powerful testimonies from people sharing openly and honestly from their own experience.

Each session also includes factual information, Bible study and time for discussion.

Bishop Jackie says people have been hurt because of uncertainty over issues of identity and sexuality in the Church of England.

Some churches are choosing to run the course on Zoom, others are waiting to be able to run it in church buildings or homes. It is hoped that every Mission Community in Devon will have run it by December 2021.

"The approach of Living in Love and Faith is deliberately different from the debating style of the General Synod," added Bishop Jackie, "There is no outcome that is already conceived.

"We really want people to engage and to send their feedback as part of the LLF process."

Bishop Jackie says she is coming to the LLF process, "with a great desire to listen and to learn.

"I hope we will find a way to be a radically inclusive church but also hold together the Church of England with all its breadth of tradition"

"Personally, I'm someone who would like to see change, but I also really love the Church of England. I want us all to be able to find a way of remaining committed as sisters and brothers in Christ and as the family of God.

"That, to me, is what seems really important about this, that we really listen and learn from one another, for the glory of God and for the strengthening of the Church."

She says she feels now is the time to resolve some of the grey areas over sexuality and relationships in the Church once and for all.

"There are people living with a huge amount of uncertainty and anxiety because of the views of the Church as they are held at the moment.

"If I think of friends in the LGBTQI community, there have been questions that have been asked again and again. When these questions are about one's own identity and place in the Church, it can be exhausting. I believe there needs to be a resolution.

"On the other hand there are people saying, the Church's mind is clear, but we need to find a way of expressing the love of Christ for all people in a way that has listened and heard those who are hurting from this at the moment."

Bishop Jackie recognised that some church leaders might be anxious about running the course for fear of opening conflict, but said they shouldn't shy away from doing it.

"I think for too long we have been worried about causing division, but in that people have got really hurt.

The LLF course looks at all kinds of relationships, including marriage

"I don't think we can do that any more, we need to be much more open and listen to the experience of others where they have felt hurt or excluded from church.

"I realise that there is a lot of anxiety around at the moment from all sorts of people and for all sorts of reasons. But the answer is not to brush things under the carpet but to go forward in trust, seeking God's grace and guidance."

The Diocese of Exeter is offering facilitator training for people running the course, as well as having a small team of LLF Chaplains who can be contacted confidentially by anyone who has been affected by the issues raised.

Bishop Jackie said, "My deepest hope is that we can find a way, both to be a radically inclusive Church and to hold together as the Church of England, with all its breadth and diversity of church tradition and within our understanding of life experience, gender and sexuality."

Readings for June 2021

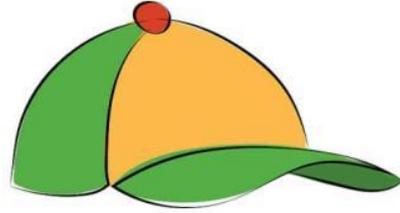
For you to read or study for yourself or to prepare for one
of our services



<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 6th June Trinity 1</p> <p>Genesis 3: 8 – 15 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5: 1 Mark 3: 20 – end</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Halwill, Black Torrington & Tetcott</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 13th June Trinity 2</p> <p>Ezekiel 17: 22 – end Psalm 92 2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 17 Mark 4: 26 – 34</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington & Beaworthy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 20th June Trinity 3</p> <p>Job 38: 1 – 11 Psalm 107: 23 – 32 2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 13 Mark 4: 35 – end</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Zoom, Beaworthy & Highampton</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 27th June Trinity 4</p> <p>2 Samuel 1: 1, 17 – end Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8: 7 – end Mark 5: 21 – end</p> <p>Services at Clawton, Madworthy & Black Torrington</p>		

Please note: If you have any messages or notices that you wish to feature in June's bulletin, please provide details to Kay Napier by emailing zena.napier@gmail.com or calling (01409) 221 321 **no later than 15th June** otherwise it may not be included.

Please do feel free to submit any comments, prayers, stories, meditations, images – anything at all will be considered. This Bulletin is for all in our Benefice, and is not simply for events.



General Data Protection Regulation(GDPR)

This comes under Safeguarding, but also Administration.

So I have put both hats on!

The General data Protection Regulation came into effect in the Uk in May 2018 and gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations.

Churches must comply with its requirements, just like any other charity or organisation.

Underlying Principles . The law is complex, but there are a number of underlying principles. Including that personal data:

- Will be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently.
- Is only used for the specific processing propose that the data subjet has been made aware of and no other, without consent.
- Collected on a data subject should be “adequate, relevant and Limited”i.e. only the minimum amount of data should be kept for specific processing.
- Must be “accurate and where necessary kept up to date”
- Shoud not be stored for longer than is necessary, and that storage is safe and secure.

We as a **New Benefice** are in the process of up dating our data. We need your help. Each church have a consent form which they would like you to fill in, with your upto date data, so that we can keep sending you information about the church, Benefice, Deanery and wider circles within the Diocese (If you wish).

I have added a Benefice consent form with this months newsletter, which you can use and let me have, so we can keep intouch with you.

If you have any concerns or questions about GDPR then please do contact me.

Val Letheren

Benefice Administrator and Safeguarding Officer

Benefice Consent Form

Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington

Clawton, Halwill, Highampton

and

Tetcott with Luffincott

Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with church members in a way which has their consent, and which is in line with UK law on data protection. As a result of a change in UK law, we now need your consent to how we contact you. Please fill in the contact details you want us to use to communicate with you:

Name _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

By signing this form you are confirming that you are consenting to the PCC of St Mary's, Black Torrington holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes (please tick the boxes where you grant consent):-

I consent to the church contacting me by post phone or email.

To keep me informed about news, events, activities and services at St Mary's. *(note you can unsubscribe from the church e-bulletin at any time);*

To keep me informed about news, events, activities and services at other churches in the benefice. *(note you can unsubscribe from the Benefice church e-bulletin at any time);*

To including my details in the 'Benefice Church Directory' which is circulated to Church Members.

To share my contact details with the Diocese of Exeter so they can keep me informed about news, events, activities and services that will be occurring in the diocese and which are directly relevant to the role I am undertaking;

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

You can grant consent to all the purposes; one of the purposes or none of the purposes. Where you do not grant consent we will not be able to use your personal data; (so for example we may not be able to let you know about forthcoming services and events); except in certain limited situations, such as where required to do so by law or to protect members of the public from serious harm. You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy Notice" which is available from our website or from the Parish Office.

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Parish Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Val Letheren, Little Acorns, Burdon Lane, Highampton, Beaworthy. EX21 5LX or val.letheren@btinternet.com Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than Where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.

Ashwater and Black Torrington Benefice

Services June 2021

Sunday 6th June

9:30am	Holy Communion	Ashwater Church
11am	Holy Communion	Halwill Church
11am	Morning Service	Black Torrington Church
6pm	Evening Service	Tetcott

Sunday 13th June

9:30am	Morning Service	Ashwater Church
11am	Holy Communion	Black Torrington Church
6:30pm	Evensong	Beaworthy Church

Sunday 20th June

9:30am	Holy Communion	Ashwater Church
11am	Zoom Service (TBC)	
4pm	St. Albans Day Service & Picnic	Beaworthy Church
6:30pm	Evening Service	Highampton Church

Sunday 27th June

11am	Holy Communion	Clawton Church
3pm	Picnic Service (Ecumenical)	Madworthy Church
6:30pm	Evening Service (informal)	Black Torrington Church

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS MAY 2021

INCUMBENT'S REPORT (see also previous APCM Report for October 2020 A.P.C.M.s).

1. I remain half time Interim Priest in Charge of the Benefice for the foreseeable future, through much or all of 2021. I anticipate that the new Archdeacon will begin to review my job and our benefice situation once she commences her post in the Autumn of 2021. I continue to be glad to undertake this ministry in the seven churches of the Ashwater & Black Torrington Benefice. Although the hours I work are considerably more than 'half time', I find the privilege of this ministry very fulfilling, and will remain here for as long as you want me!.
2. My 'Task Description' has been considerably revised, in extensive consultation with the Benefice group. This was decided on my own initiative because the original one which formed the basis of my appointment in January 2021 was clearly no longer 'fit for purpose', especially following the hiatus of the pandemic 'lockdowns'. The revision has also been approved by the Acting Archdeacon and Bishop of Crediton. The three key features are:
 - a) Construct an appropriate organisational structure for the seven churches of the benefice, to enable them to work together effectively and harmoniously, building upon the evident successes of the 'Benefice Group' of churchwardens and other lay representatives.
 - b) Plan with the PCCs a coherent and sustainable pattern of Sunday Services, and special Festival Services, and to develop new forms of Service that will attract those who currently rarely or never attend worship. This will include the development of 'on line' Services.
 - c) Collaborate with Church treasurers so that each produces a Fundraising Plan that will enable all the churches to return to a sustainable financial basis, including to recommence paying "Common Fund" requests to the Diocese, in full. Special Fund Raising events to be a crucial.
3. The "Benefice Group" has continued to meet every four to six weeks, either by Zoom, or 'in person'. These have been very useful and interesting meetings that have attracted a committed core, although some have struggled to join in with the Zoom Meetings. Thanks to Kay Napier for being the Minutes Secretary. The main topics discussed have been: the Worship Plan, Appointment of Administrator, my Task Description, Joint Councils, Safeguarding, 'Covenant for Clergy & Pastoral Care', Finances, Marriage & Banns Regulations. There should be regular Reports on these Meetings at every PCC.
4. A major achievement in the past 'Year' has been the appointment of a Benefice Administrator, to support myself and the parishes in the huge amount of administration required in running our parishes legally. We are so grateful to Val Letheren for offering to undertake this major role, and that she is doing so without payment. Val has already shown huge enthusiasm for this task, and I have found her help invaluable.
5. Our Worship Services have of course been badly affected by the ongoing Covid19 Pandemic. Services 'in person' were held in the Autumn of 2020, but were suspended from Christmas until Easter 2021. We obtained the 'Bishops Dispensation' to enable us to do this legally. However we were able to hold 'in person' Services for Harvest and through to Christmas around all our churches. Many were not particularly well attended due to people's fears of catching the virus, and because we weren't allowed to sing (except in small choirs)! We have held many Services by Zoom – notably on Thursday Evenings and Sunday Services. Also a fortnightly Bible Study and Coffee Mornings have been successfully run by Zoom technology.
6. As in my previous Report, there are so many people to thank – most notably our wonderful Lay readers Jim Williams and Trevor May. I will thank others at the APCMs.

“APPRECIATING THE LIGHT”

*A Prayer for the days of maximum light,
lightness and enlightenment:*

Gracious and merciful God,
you have given us so many
precious gifts. The clarity of day
gladdens us from dawn to dusk.
The lights of the night enable us
to see our world differently.
set as it is among the stars
and the planets of space

Holy and life-giving Creator
of so much variety and so many dimensions,
continue to guide us towards
that enlightenment which only you
can give us to value the great and the small,
the immensity of your vision for us,
the limitations of our human views
and the ability to appreciate difference.

God of light, foresight and insight,
you have revealed to us your gift
of a perfect humanity in Christ
and invite us by your grace
to be completed by him,
the light of your Word given to us
to be reflected in us and through us.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

(Terry Garley, in “Summer” Sourcebook – Iona Community)



Up Coming Dates for your Diary

May	9th	3.30pm	Rogation Walk(approx 2 miles)	Homelea Farm (Sheila and Kens)
	15th		Deadline for newsletter	
	19th	3pm-5pm	Tea afternoon	Black Torrington
	19th	7.30pm	APCM	Tetcott
	23rd	4.30pm	APCM	Black Torrington
	24th	10.30am	APCM	Highampton
	26th	10.30am	APCM	Beaworthy
	28th	11am	APCM	Ashwater
	28th	3pm	APCM	Clawton
	30th	12noon	APCM	Halwill
June.	4th	2.30pm	Benefice Reps Meeting	Halwill
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
	20th	4pm	St Albans Day service and Picnic	Beaworthy
	26th	3pm—5pm	Cream Teas	Ashwater
July	3rd	7pm	Wine and Wisdom	Clawton
	4th	4pm	BBQ and Service	Tetcott
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
	22nd	7.30pm	Visitation	Holsworthy
	24th	10am	Big Breakfast	Clawton
August	6th	2pm—4pm	Tea and Cake	Highampton
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
	21st		Outside event	Clawton
September	5th		Benefice Sponsored Walk with Picnic	
	12th	11am	Harvest Service and Buffet Lunch	Halwill
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
	15th	7pm	Installation of New Archdeacon	Bideford
	17th—20th	11am—7pm	Harvest Flower Festival	Black Torrington
	26th	11am	Harvest Service and Lunch	Clawton
October	3rd	11am	Harvest Service	Beaworthy
	3rd	11am	Harvest Service with bring and Share lunch	Ashwater
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	

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:

Name: **Val Letheren**

Contact: **val.letheren@btinternet.com** or **07484880770**

If you cannot reach your Parish Safeguarding Representative, please contact your parish clergy or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

Charlie Pitman, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01392 345909

Charles.Pitman@exeter.anglican.org

Stephen Edgeley, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer - 01392 345910 -

Stephen.Edgeley@exeter.anglican.org

Phill Parker, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01392 294969 -

DBS@exeter.anglican.org

For general enquiries - SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org

IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM?

If you believe somebody 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**

Please notify your Parish Safeguarding Representative and/or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team after contacting any of these agencies.

Concerns about adults

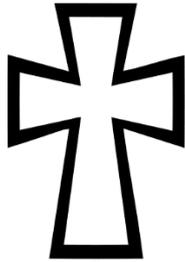
Devon - Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

Domestic Abuse

Devon helpline for professionals and individuals: **0345 155 1074**

Rape Crisis

National: **0808 802 9999** Devon & Torbay: **01392 20417**



St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater EX21 5EY

St. Alban, Beaworthy EX21 5AB

St. Mary, 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

The Priest in Charge of our churches Revd. Stephen Skinner can be contacted by telephoning 07554 142 264 or emailing sjmskinners@btinternet.com