



Ashwater Beaworthy Black Torrington Clawton Halwill Highampton Tetcott

St. Peter Ad Vincula St. Alban St. Mary St. Leonard St. Peter & St. James Holy Cross Holy Cross

## Benefice Bulletin

# February 2022



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*Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.*

Genesis 2:8

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## FUNERALS

10<sup>th</sup> January

Cissey Orchard  
(Halwill)

18<sup>th</sup> January

Michael Simpson  
(Halwill)

## CONTACTS

### Priest in Charge (part time)

Revd. Stephen Skinner

07554 142 264

### Contacts for Churches:

Ashwater	Terry Darby	01409 211 229
Beaworthy	Richard Prior	01409 221 986
Black Torrington:	Sheila Grabham	01409 231 581
	Val Letheren*	01409 231 430
Clawton:	Irene Ellis	01409 271 371
Halwill:	John Lawlor	01409 221 987
	Kay Napier	01409 221 321
Highampton	---	---
Tetcott:	Nicki 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 by [Roman Datsiuk](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Thanks to Sheila Grabham, Val Letheren, Revd. Stephen Skinner and  
Jim Williams for their contributions this month



# February

## A TRANSITIONAL MONTH

Dear Friends,

When I was asked to put together an article for this February bulletin, I began initially by thinking of writing on a Lenten theme, however when looking at the Church calendar I soon became aware that Lent doesn't commence until March this year, thus teaching me once again not to rush into things without checking the facts first of all! In fact, Epiphany five falls on the sixth of February which also happens to be the fourth Sunday before Lent.

February, our shortest month, is an interesting one, its name coming from the Latin 'Februa' which means to cleanse.

The Romans had a four-week festival called 'Februlia' which was a time for purification and atonement.

The Roman Empire (well, Ancient Rome anyway) apparently often attempted to focus upon righteous living and festivals such as this one where an ideal time to do just this.

February has been called a 'transitional month;' there is a change in the air, the days become noticeably longer and, although winter will still surely have a lot of unwelcome things to bring us, hints of Spring and signs of better things to come will be beginning to appear.

I wonder what signs each one of us will notice first of all that we may attribute to the coming of Spring.

Perhaps it will be the cheerful snowdrops that are already bravely appearing in our gardens and hedgerows, maybe the busy blackbirds pairing up and beginning their early nesting or the timid thrushes, such

choosy eaters, patiently searching in their earnest quest for those hidden snails. They, themselves, of course, are often called the very ‘Harbingers of Spring’.

God’s wonderful creation is certainly an amazing thing.

I am so often moved by the words of the psalmists who were stirred to record their thoughts and feelings to be used by countless generations of faithful Christians (and Jews of course) to aid them in their worship of Almighty God.

To choose one psalm from the one hundred and fifty in the book is almost impossible. However, I choose these words from Psalm 95, a psalm that so often over many centuries been sung or said at the beginning of public worship so we can focus our minds on the wonders our God has made.

*‘For the Lord is a great God, the great King above all gods  
In his hand are the depths of the earth and the mountain  
peaks belong to him.*

*The sea is his, for he made it and his hands formed the dry  
land*

*Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the  
Lord our Maker,*

*for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and  
the flock under his care’*

February blessings to you all.

Jim

## **Reflection from The Rev'd Canon James Mustard, Canon Precentor, Exeter Cathedral**

By 2030, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, there will be more people alive in the world over the age of 60 than under the age of 10. International Development Aid, largely driven by the USA, UK and Germany, has been a remarkable success story, leading to improved life expectancy across the world.

However, many developing nations have never had to consider the needs of older people, of pension provision or care for chronic, non-communicable diseases. Additionally, much census information does not break down populations by generation or age group. So the contribution of the older population, whether as childcare providers, economic providers or otherwise, is not known. An older generation has been taken for granted but is not well understood.

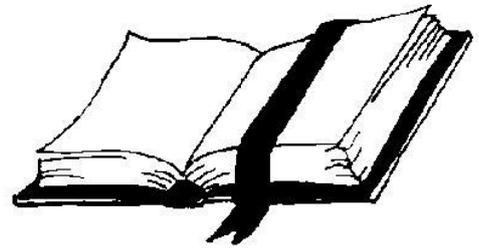
Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrated on 2 February, bucks this trend. According to St Luke, the two who recognise Jesus as the infant Messiah, are older people. Simeon is regarded as old, not seeing death before he recognises the Messiah, and Anna, a prophet, is aged eighty-four, having devoted herself to the Temple as a widow for many decades. Scruffy shepherds, foreigners, and now two “old faithfuls” of the Temple have seen God present, and at work, in the baby Jesus.

I'm sure that all of us who have experience of parish or church community life have leaned heavily upon older congregants for their wisdom, their “long view,” and for a sense of stability in ever-changing times. For me, the meeting of Simeon and Anna with the baby Jesus is one of the most relatable episodes in the Gospels: an older generation embracing and offering a profound insight into a younger generation is instantly recognisable.

That's why I really appreciate Candlemas. After a Christmas season aimed so squarely at children, it's an important reminder of the importance, and prophetic ministry, of so many of our older people. Around 30% of Church of England congregants are aged over 69, so there are a great many Annas and Simeons in our midst! By 2030, along with the global population, that proportion will likely be higher.

St Matthew reminds us, “...can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?”. One of the values that older people can bring into the Church is, I think, very similar to the value that infants bring, a challenge to our preoccupations with busyness, growth and productivity, all of which can, I suspect, be something of an idol. The life-experiences, loves and losses of our older population can be remarkably grounding within a community, and can offer a lesson for all of us, helping us to focus upon more sustainable ways of living and loving in faith.

# Lectionary Readings for February 2022



<p><b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b> 4 Before Lent</p> <p>Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11 Luke 5: 1 – 11</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p><b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b> 3 Before Lent</p> <p>Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 20 Luke 6: 17 – 26</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Clawton, Beaworthy</p>	<p><b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b> 2 Before Lent</p> <p>Genesis 2: 4b – 9, 15 - end Psalm 65 Revelation 4 Luke 8: 22 – 25</p> <p>Services at, Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Highampton</p>
<p><b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b> 1 Before Lent</p> <p>Exodus 34: 29 – end Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2 Luke 9: 28 – 36</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton, Black Torrington</p>		

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

## Ashwater with Black Torrington Benefice Services for February 2022

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
4 Before Lent	11am	Halwill	Communion
	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
	6pm	Tetcott	Evening Service
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
3 Before Lent	11am	Black Torrington	Communion
	11am	Clawton	Morning Service
	5pm	Beaworthy	1662 Evensong
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
2 Before Lent	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Service
	3pm	Highampton	Evening Service
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am	Ashwater	Breakfast Church
1 Before Lent	11am	Beaworthy	Communion
	11am	Clawton	Methodist Morning Service
	6:30pm	Black Torrington	Informal Communion

## St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

A big thank you to all who donated at the Christingle Service.

We sent a donation of £74.00 for the work of The Children's Society.

In the letter received from The Children's Society, they say:

It's thanks to the money raised in churches and congregations like St Mary's Church that we are able to transform the hopes and happiness of thousands of children in this country who face abuse, exploitation and neglect and bring the full light of Christingle into their lives. Please extend our thanks to every who contributed towards this.

The impact we can have on a young person's life is all driven by you - our volunteers, supporters and campaigners. When you attend a Christingle and support The Children's Society you are helping us to fight for the hope that is within all children.

Thank you once again for helping to make sure that children in this country can look forward to a hope filled, brighter future.

Thank you

Sheila Grabham and Val Letheren

# Parson Jack Russell Art & Photography Exhibition

**“Life in the Country”**

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

**10<sup>th</sup> June - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Start creating now!**

**Open exhibition**

**All welcome**

**Send for details**

**Exhibition Secretary**

Parson Jack Russell Animal Art & Photography Exhibition

Little Acorns, Burdon Lane, Highampton, Beaworthy EX21 5LX

Telephone: 01409 231430 [val.letheren@btinternet.com](mailto:val.letheren@btinternet.com)



## Small Gestures

Thank you, God,  
for small gestures:  
for an acorn squash left on the doorstep,  
for an unexpected card in the mail,  
for encouraging email,  
for cats that sneak in with a smug look,  
for music that touches the soul,  
for cups of tea,  
for ladybirds on the windowsill,  
for wind chimes.

Thank you, God,  
that, when life gets overwhelming,  
you send kindness through friend, stranger and nature;  
that when life feels like it's swirling out of control,  
you have us held in the palm of your hand.

*Katrina Crosby*  
(*Acorns and Archangels, Ruth Burgess*)

The poem in the pew sheet on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January, caused a discussion during coffee at St Mary's, as to what was an 'acorn squash'. As I typed the poem I thought it meant that there was a squashed acorn left on the doorstep.

Thanks to research from Janet Portman, we all now know that there is an 'Acorn Squash'.

Sheila Grabham

## Acorn squash

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Origin** North America and Central America

**Acorn squash** (*Cucurbita pepo* var. *turbinata*), also called **pepper squash** or **Des Moines squash**, is a winter squash with distinctive longitudinal ridges on its exterior and sweet, yellow-orange flesh inside. Although considered a winter squash, acorn squash belongs to the same species (*Cucurbita pepo*) as all summer squashes (including zucchini and crookneck squash).

Indigenous to North and Central America, the squash was introduced to early European settlers by Native Americans.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Appearance

The most common variety is dark green on the outside, often with a single splotch of orange on the side or top, however newer varieties have arisen, including *golden acorn*, so named for its glowing yellow color; as well as varieties that are white. Acorn squash can also be variegated.<sup>[3]</sup> As the name suggests, its shape resembles an acorn. Acorn squashes typically weigh one to two pounds and are between four and seven inches long.<sup>[2]</sup> Acorn squash is one of the most perishable winter squashes, lasting only a few weeks in storage. The stem has a prickly feel.





# Upcoming Dates for your Diary

## February 15th Deadline for newsletter

19th Wine and Wisdom Clawton

March 12th 7pm Shanty and Quiz Ashwater

## 15th Deadline for newsletter

## April

## May 15th Deadline for newsletter

21st Big Breakfast Clawton

21st Tithe Map and Afternoon Tea Black Torrington

June 10th–13th Parson Jack Russell Art Exhibition Black Torrington

## 15th Deadline for newsletter

## July 15th Deadline for newsletter

31st Summer Event Clawton

## August 15th Deadline for newsletter

## September 15th Deadline for newsletter

25th Harvest Festival and Lunch Clawton

## October 15th Deadline for newsletter

15th Big Breakfast Clawton

## November 15th Deadline for newsletter

26th Wine and Wisdom Clawton

## December 15th Deadline for newsletter

18th Carol Service Clawton

PLEASE LET VAL HAVE DATES OF ANY EVENTS UP AND COMING.

## MARCH BULLETIN DEADLINE: 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Please send any details of services, events or fundraisers you want publicised, or any contributions – articles, images, poems etc. to Kay by this date

zena.napier@gmail.com or 01409 221321

## **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](mailto:Charles.Pitman@exeter.anglican.org)

Stephen Edgeley, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer - 01392 345910 -

[Stephen.Edgeley@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:Stephen.Edgeley@exeter.anglican.org)

Phill Parker, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01392 294969 -

[DBS@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:DBS@exeter.anglican.org)

For general enquiries - [SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org](mailto: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](mailto:sjmskinners@btinternet.com)