

Ashwater with Black Torrington Benefice Bulletin

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

May 2021



HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

10th June 1921 – 9th April 2021

The husband of our Sovereign and Defender of the Faith Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip passed away at Windsor Castle on April 9th, after 73 years of service to the Queen and our country.

Following a period of 8 days of national mourning, he was laid to rest in St George's Chapel, Windsor on 17th April.

The life of Prince Philip was commemorated by the ringing of muffled bells at churches across our Benefice, and by a service at Ashwater at noon on 16th April. There were no physical Books of Condolence due to Coronavirus restrictions, but there was an option to do this online.

Our thoughts and prayers are with HRH The Queen and the Royal Family at this time.

ROGATIONTIDE

The traditional Agricultural Festival of “Rogation” takes place on the Monday to Wednesday before Ascension Day. It therefore moves around from year to year depending upon the date of Easter. In my view there should be a “Rogation Sunday” to lead into Rogationtide – for city and town dwellers as well as country people, to celebrate the wonders of God’s Creation and pray for all who work ‘on the land’ – farmers especially. This year the dates are May 9th – 12th, with Ascension on the 13th . Our Sunday Services will hopefully have a ‘countryside feel’, with special hymns, poems, readings and prayers led by myself and our ministerial team!

The word “Rogation” derives from the Latin word “to ask”, and thus these are special mid Spring days when we God’s blessings are sought upon our crops, planted a few weeks earlier. But I like to widen this blessing to include farmer’s livestock, our pets and our own gardens. These are all precious creatures and plants who are cared for not only by God but also I trust by ourselves. It is fascinating to learn that many more people around our nation have discovered the pleasures of our natural environment, to find solace and hope through interacting with non-human life forms. Scientists are demonstrating that ‘nature bathing’ is very good for our mental and spiritual health. I have certainly found this to be so during the Covid19 pandemic.

Traditionally also, Rogationtide was marked by parishioners ‘beating the bounds’ of the parish! The walkers would pause in their perambulations as they passed certain trees, walls, hedges and streams that denoted the extent of the boundary to exclaim, pray, and ritually beat particular landmarks with sticks! These sticks were often made of willow, and the bark removed called ‘stripping the willow’. Some enterprising clergy led these processions, carrying a banner representing their church’s patronal saint, with food and drink provided along the way!

In my previous benefice, in west Dorset, we held special Rogation Services, travelling between certain farms, volunteered in advance! Quite a few parishioners turned up, including some younger generations! We gathered near the cows, chickens, ducks and sheep, and prayed for them and their curating farmers. We sang a Hymn or two, and then walked across fields to another farm

where we did the same, and then concluded with a nice farmhouse tea! We always had good weather – it was a hugely enjoyable and inspirational experience for us all! The farmers felt specially blessed and we hope that the crops and livestock grew the better for it!

I would love to try this again this year, on the afternoon of May 9th !! Would anyone like to volunteer their farm – no need to provide tea - we can bring our own to eat at a good picnic spot! Please let me know – and also if you would like to join me and Jane to do this. The walk needn't be long and you could utilise a car or bike to help get from A to B! The Ordinance Survey map indicates some good, level, walking in the Halwill area!

I conclude with some **Rogationtide Procession Prayers**, from “Times and Seasons”:
That it may please Thee to grant favourable weather, temperate rain and fruitful seasons; that there may be food and drink for all Thy creatures. **Hear us good Lord.**

That it may please Thee to bless the lands and waters, and all who work upon them; to bring forth food and all things needful for Thy people. **Hear us good Lord.**

That it may please Thee to look with favour upon all who care for the earth, the water and the air; that the riches of Thy creation may abound from age to age. **Hear us good Lord.**

Stephen

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 May** 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.

Readings for May 2021

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



<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 2nd May Easter 5</p> <p>Acts 8: 26 – end 1John 4: 7 – end John 15: 1 – 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 9th May Easter 6</p> <p>Acts 10: 44 – end 1 John 5: 1 – 6 John 15: 9 – 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR For Rogation Sunday (not Communion)</p> <p>Song of Solomon 4: 16 – 5: 2 , 8: 6 – 7 Revelation 3: 14 – end</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 13th May Ascension Day</p> <p>Acts 1: 1 – 11 Ephesians 1: 15 – end Luke 24: 44 – end</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 16th May Sunday after Ascension</p> <p>Acts 1: 15 – 17, 21 – end 1 John 5: 9 – 13 John 17: 6 – 19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 23rd May Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14 Acts 2: 1 – 21 John 15: 26 – 27, 16: 4b – 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 30th May Trinity Sunday</p> <p>Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 Romans 8: 12 – 17 John 3: 1 – 17</p>

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

CAR BOOT SALE

On Saturday 8th May there is a Car Boot Sale on the Playing Field, at Black Torrington. A 'car boot' has been booked for the church for 'Cake and Bake'.

If you are able to make a couple of cakes or something savoury or have any jam or marmalade we could sell, all donations would be appreciated.

We will be on the field from 10.30 am to receive any cakes etc.



COVID RULES PERMITTING the following to take place in the Church

Wednesday 19th May

Tea Afternoon

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm in the Church



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 17th/Saturday 18th/Sunday 19th/Monday 20th September

Harvest Flower Festival with Harvest Service in the Church at 11.00 am on the Sunday followed by a Ploughman's Lunch.



If you feel able to help with any decorating of the Church, please let the Churchwardens know. Val Letheren 01409 231430 val.letheren@btinternet.com
or Sheila Grabham 01409 231581 s.grabham@btconnect.com



zoom

Zoom Services

Although we are hoping that we are on the road back to 'normality', and going back to having more regular services in person across our Benefice's churches, we are also continuing to hold online services via Zoom. Trevor, John, Shirley and Letitia are co-ordinating this effort which is hoped to continue at least once a month.

The next meeting will be led by Trevor on

Sunday 16th May 2021 at 11am.

This time and date has been specially chosen to not coincide with any in-person services, so nobody has to choose which they would prefer.

We hope you will be able to continue supporting our technological venture, alongside returning to our Churches, or at least continue to provide worship to those of you who do not feel ready to return (or are just enjoying something a bit different!)

To join the meeting, enter the Meeting ID: 677 027 7192 and the Pass Code is: Services

PLEASE NOTE – Zoom Compline and Bible Study are continuing as normal with their usual Meeting ID and Password. For more information on these, please contact Stephen or consult information in the weekly Pew Sheet.

ROOTS & SHOOTS

Weekly e-newsletter from the Diocese of Exeter

Packed full of resources for churches, news stories, messages from Senior Clergy, future events and much more!

To sign up visit www.exeter.anglican.org and go to the bottom of the homepage

DIOCESE
OF EXETER

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



ASHWATER AND BLACK TORRINGTON BENEFICE

Services

May 2021

Sunday May 2nd

11am Communion by Extension Halwill Church

Sunday May 9th – Rogation

11am Holy Communion Black Torrington Church

3:30pm Rogation Walk Homelea Farm, Highampton
(approx 2 miles) EX21 5JZ

6:30pm Evensong Beaworthy Church

Thursday 13th – Ascension Day

8pm Zoom Compline Zoom Service (online)

Sunday May 16th

9:30am Holy Communion Ashwater Church

11am Zoom Service (online)

6:30pm Evening Service Highampton Church

Sunday May 23rd – Pentecost

11:00am Holy Communion Clawton Church

11:00am Morning Service Beaworthy Church

4:30pm Evening Service and APCM
Black Torrington Church

Sunday May 30th – Trinity Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion Ashwater Church

11am Morning Service and APCM
Halwill Church

Did you know?

This bulletin is actually made to be printed as a booklet! As such, material is added in chunks of four pages at a time (to ensure there are no blank pages!) Sometimes it fits in nicely, but other times there are an odd number of pages – knowing my luck, usually 5 or 9! This means sometimes I have to find three pages of “filler” – hopefully, you haven’t noticed too much. But it would be lovely if there was less filler for me to find. If you have taken a photo you want to share with us, or have written something or even thought of a poem, reading or quote that might fit in nicely, please do send it in! Even if you’ve found a picture in a newspaper or on the internet, send it through (and let me know where you found it so we can adhere to all the copyright laws!) and it’s likely to be featured – and would make my job a lot easier too. Seriously, anything and everything will be considered. Also, please do let me know of any events you have coming up, and be sure to share your posters. The Bulletin is for us all, so please do use it!

Kay (zena.napier@gmail.com or call 01409 221 321)

Introducing the next Archdeacon of Barnstaple



The Reverend Canon Verena Breed is to be the next Archdeacon of Barnstaple, the Church of England’s most senior member of the clergy in North Devon.

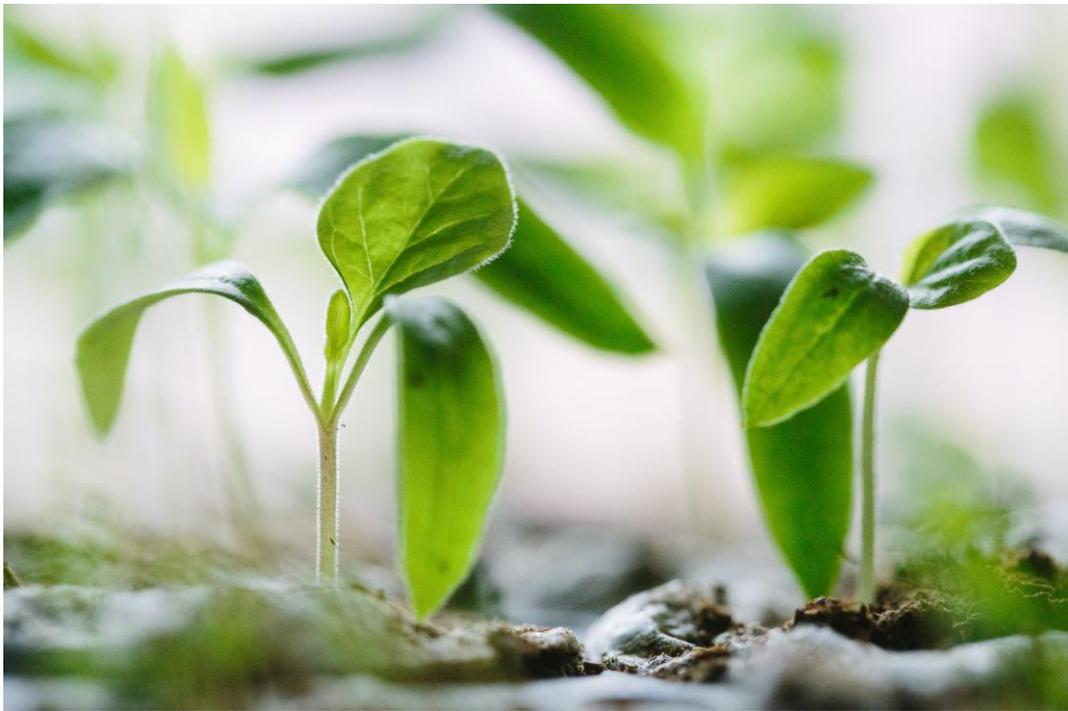
Canon Breed is currently Team Rector of Bicester in the Diocese of Oxford.

She will begin her new role in September at a service led by the Bishop of Exeter on 15/9.

Verena is originally from Germany and met her British husband at college while studying for a year in Oxford in 1993.

Verena said she was drawn to the archdeacon’s role because many of North Devon’s churches are in villages: “I have experienced that amazing things can happen in small parishes, yet they so often feel overlooked and insignificant and lack the confidence to feel that they are relevant.”

Information from Diocese of Exeter Press Release 11th April 2021



A few years ago I had a memorable Sabbatical in New Zealand. Whilst there I met an Anglican priest called Bill Bennett. He has written some beautiful and unusual Prayers for country and farming life. As we come to Rogationtide in early May, here is one of his more unusual Prayers!

Country Aromas

God of all the senses, to whom the incense of prayer is daily offered.
You bless us by the rich mingling of aromas of the countryside,
smells that are uniquely rural:
cut hay and spread silage
ploughed earth and ripened crops,
cows herded for milking,
yarded sheep on a hot summer's day,
the greasy smell of the implement shed,
the mixture of wool and droppings in the woolshed,
and the human odours of gumboots, coats and oilskins at the back door,
from work in all weathers.

These are the aromas of fruitful life and activity.

We know the odours of decay and death as well:

freshly killed meat
a decomposing carcass
felled trees, natural or wasteful
ash and burnt wood after forest fire
land cleared for excess profit.

Forgive us, lord, for those times we don't steward your creation well.

But thank you, God, that our senses accumulate deep memories,
which later stir us to gratitude for the privilege of our partnership with you on the Land.

PS: I've learned to love the smells of country so much more than the smells of city!

Stephen



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

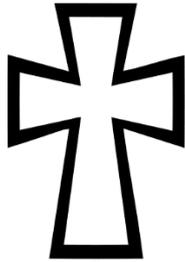
Devon - Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

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