



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

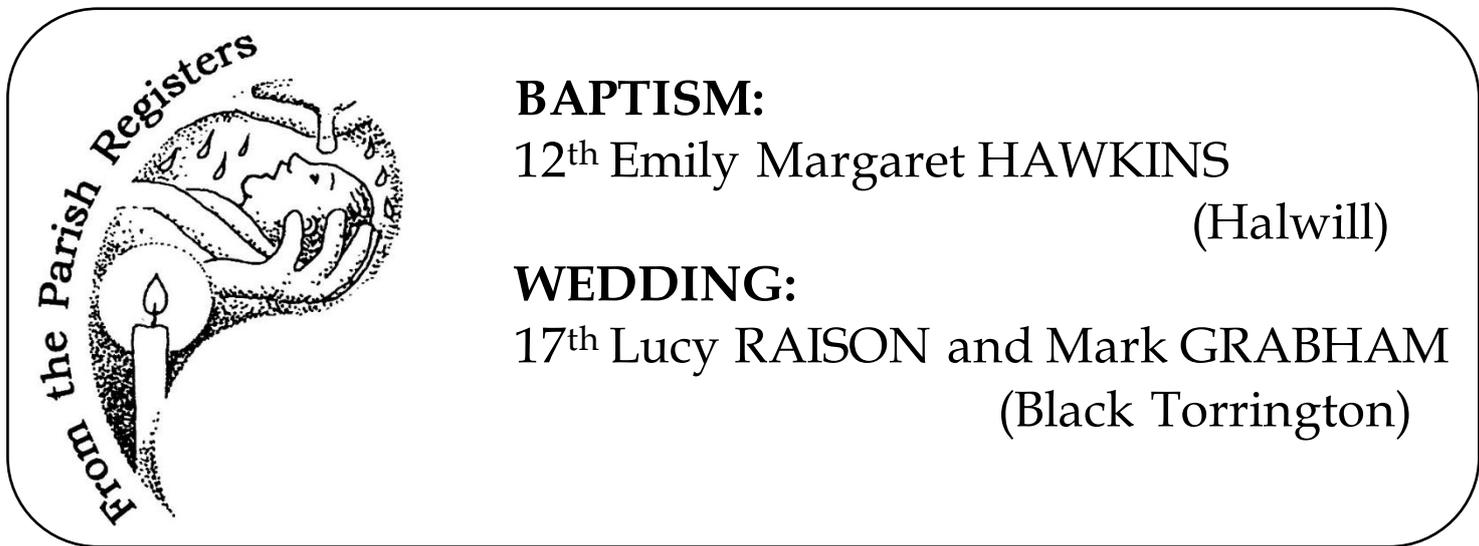
Benefice Bulletin

August 2021



“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”

Ephesians 5: 1 - 2



BAPTISM:

12th Emily Margaret HAWKINS

(Halwill)

WEDDING:

17th Lucy RAISON and Mark GRABHAM

(Black Torrington)

We were also sad to hear of the recent death of Jan Luckhurst – her husband Bob was Churchwarden of Highampton church, and both were heavily involved in both Highampton and Black Torrington churches. Our thoughts are with Bob and their family and friends.

CONTACTS

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August

Some Thoughts on the ‘Saints’

Well, we all know what a ‘Saint’ is; or do we? First of all, I quote from the Dictionary of Christian Lore and Legend which came into my possession as a retired library book many years ago!

The word Saint comes from the Latin *sanctus*, now there’s a holy word, and, it actually means ‘holy’. The name ‘Saint’ initially applied to all Christians, and we know that Paul used it in his letters.

However, later on, the title was restricted to men and women of outstanding holiness and the need to define who were to be thus dignified led to formalization of processes leading to ‘canonization’, or inclusion in the list of recognised saints. Traditionally in art, saints are identified by a halo, special robes or vestments and often an emblem which refers to some key event in their lives such as a miracle they have been deemed responsible for, or possibly their own martyrdom.

When our first zoom/online services started at the beginning of the first lock-down, a pattern emerged by which we used the Saint of the particular day as a subject for our compline or late evening service we hold on Thursday evenings at 8.00 o’clock.

There are not many days when one cannot find a saint’s life to celebrate, although actually praying to God via the saints is not an Anglican tradition but more of a catholic one. We can however be guided by their examples and there are many fascinating stories and legends that have grown around them.

We have enjoyed finding out or being reminded who or what some of the saints are patrons of, whether it be someone like Peter who is often depicted holding a large bunch of keys to symbolize the keys of the

kingdom. Unsurprisingly, he is one of the patron saints of locksmiths, and, of course, fishermen. Or for instance, on a rather grim note we have Apollonia, patron saint of dentists ---- largely because she had all her teeth pulled out as part of her martyrdom.

Yes, there are some grim facts as well as moving stories, such as that of St. Martin of Tours in France who, when as a Roman soldier, saw a beggar along the road and split his own cloak in half with a sword to give one half to the poor naked man who Martin saw in a vision as Christ himself. Martin went on to serve God for the rest of his life.

Remaining full of humility, he eventually became a bishop.

These are but three examples but there are many, many more to learn about.

Unfortunately, nowadays, the title 'saint' is often trivialized, how often do we hear phrases such as 'He's no saint' or 'They should be made a saint'- Gareth Southgate's name comes to mind, when the football was going well that was!

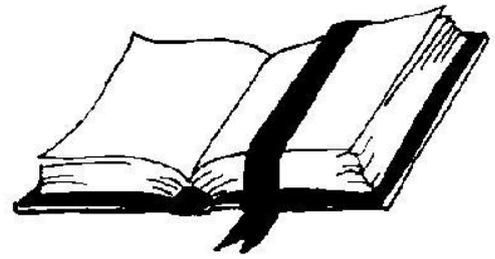
The true saints were those who put their God before everything else, even to the point of martyrdom.

We ourselves may not be expected to go quite that far, however we are invited to make God, and our faith in Jesus, a top priority in our own lives and to trustingly see where that leads us.

Many Blessings

Jim Williams

Lectionary Readings for August 2021



<p>Sunday 1st Trinity 9</p> <p>Exodus 16: 2 – 4, 9 – 15 Psalm 78 Ephesians 4: 1 – 16 John 6: 24 – 35</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Stanhope Park Holsworthy, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 8th Transfiguration</p> <p>1 Kings 19: 4 – 8 Psalm 34: Ephesians 4: 25 – 5: 2 John 6: 35, 41 – 51</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</p>	<p>Sunday 15th Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>Isaiah 61: 10 – end Psalm 45 Galatians 4: 4 – 7 Luke 1: 46 – 55</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd Trinity 12</p> <p>Joshua 24: 1 – 2, 14 – 18 Psalm 34 Ephesians 6: 10 – 20 John 6: 56 - 69</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Zoom</p>	<p>Sunday 29th Trinity 13</p> <p>Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 2, 6 – 9 Psalm 15 James 1: 17 – end Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Halwill, Highampton</p>	

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

A very British summer

Excitement as someone is the first to see the sea
and dad grumpy cos there's nowhere near it
to park the overloaded car.

Feeling the softness of sand
under our feet and between our toes,
and its crunch in our sandwiches munched on the beach.

Sheltering from sudden summer rain
under the shade that we thought we'd bought
to protect us from the sun.

Enjoying an outdoor lunch,
but keeping a watchful eye
on the gull that wants to nick your chips.

Savouring an ice cream out the seafront
with mint choc chip, raspberry ripple
and a pesky wasp that wants to share the treat.

So here we are out together in God's good earth,
experiencing a very British summer.

It's character-building and memory-making,
the source of many a story on a winter's night

Simon Taylor

Pg. 289, *Summer* by Ruth Burgess

Ashwater with Black Torrington Benefice Services for August 2021

Sunday 1st	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
Trinity 9	11am	Stanhope Park, Holsworthy	Mission Community Service
	6pm	Tetcott	Evening Service
Sunday 8th	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
Transfiguration	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
	11am	Clawton	Communion
	6:30pm	Beaworthy	Evensong
Sunday 15th	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
Blessed Virgin Mary	11am	Clawton	Baptism
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Black Torrington	Patronal Service
Sunday 22nd	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
Trinity 12	11am	Beaworthy	Communion by Extension
	11am	Clawton	Communion
	11am	Zoom	Morning Service
	6:30pm	Black Torrington	Communion
Sunday 29th	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
Trinity 13	11am	Halwill	Communion
	6:30pm	Highampton	Benefice Festival Service



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Revd. Stephen is looking to run this course weekly on a Wednesday afternoon in September. There will be 5 x 90-minute sessions, looking at important issues such as identity and what makes us who we are, and looks to be a very interesting course.

The course is open to anyone who would like to attend. If you are interested in join, please do let Revd. Stephen know. His details are on the back page of the Bulletin.



God of holidays

For rest and relaxation,
switching off phones and e-mail,
the release from the demands of diaries and calendars,
the blissful luxury of solitude.

**God who rests with us,
for holiday joys, we praise you.**

For travel and exploration,
adventuring to new places,
discovering beauty and strangeness,
exploring new food and ways of life.

**God who travels with us,
for holiday joys, we praise you.**

For play and leisure,
games on beach or field,
delighting in fun and laughter,
sharing time with friends.

**God who plays with us,
for holiday joys, we praise you.**

For making and creating,
forming shapes in clay, wood or stone,
splashing colour with paint or thread,
words or music echoing in our souls.

**God who creates with us,
for holiday joys, we praise you.**

Jan Berry

Freedom in Christ by Revd. Preb. Deborah Parsons (Totnes)

Last week, I attended an outdoor music event in the grounds of the Dartington Estate. It was a beautiful Summer's evening. Smatterings of people in socially distanced bubbles. Picnics on the lawn. The buzz of convivial conversation. The clink of glasses. Ribbons of music wafting on the breeze. My first taste of freedom in months and a hint of life to come. It felt delicious.

Recently, The Prime Minister has set out plans to remove the remaining Covid restrictions in England. He said the Government was looking to "move away from legal restrictions" and instead would allow people "to make their own informed decisions about how to manage the virus."

The prospect of communal singing fills my soul with joy but I'm also aware that there are many people, particularly those with underlying health conditions, who will feel that the government's proposals are, at best, too generous, and at worst, foolhardy and risk returning us to further restrictions in the Autumn with more pressure on an already overstretched and exhausted NHS.....not to mention the other key workers.

There's a fine line between risk and safety; we have to find a balance.

And so it is in our spiritual life. Some boundaries help us and others to feel safe; others feel oppressive but being too safe or risk averse isn't helpful either.

Jesus crossed many boundaries: Physical, emotional and religious. He wasn't afraid to draw close to people who were terminally ill or socially excluded or had mental health issues. Nor was he afraid to challenge the religious institution of his day. He did all

that he could to encourage human flourishing and abundant life but he also knew when to withdraw and exercise self-care too.

Being a child of the Beloved doesn't guarantee us a safe or an easy life. Finding equipoise is a lifetime's work but it does bring freedom when we discover: "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

---oOo---

Have your say on the Bulletin!

What do you want to see featured here?

Are there too many pages? Too few?

Too much colour ink to print or is black and white far too dull and you could do with some more pictures?

Would you like to see recipes? Cartoons? Crosswords?

Whatever your thoughts WE NEED YOU to let us know what you think (and even send some things in!)

We want to make sure we are doing the best for YOU.

Please do let Kay know (zena.napier@gmail.com or 01409 221321) or if not Kay, then Revd. Stephen or your church warden or representative so it can be fed back and we can make the Bulletin representative of you, the people of the Benefice.

Beaworthy Coffee Morning



Saturday 14th August

From 10:30am

At the new Beaworthy Parish
Hall in Patchacott

There will be cakes
and savouries for sale

*Come and have a look around the
new hall which has been
rebuilt/refurbished recently*

As the Covid-related legislation is dropped across the country, Revd. Stephen has suggested, in the interests of maximum safety that:

- a. We still have 'Track & Trace' book at the entrance for people to sign in if they wish. Churches can be open as much as you like – I much prefer them to be unlocked in daylight hours in case of visitors – there may be more over the Summer!
- b. We keep plenty of Sanitiser bottles by the entrance, and strongly encourage usage by worshippers and visitors. Please also have sanitiser on the Communion Table for the Minister to use.
- c. Hymn Books, Service Orders no longer need to be quarantined after use for a few days. Other literature can be freely available.
- d. A small box of masks is kept by the door. People won't need to wear them any longer. But I suggest we can encourage people to wear them, especially if they feel at all vulnerable or nervous.
- e. Social Distancing is no longer needed. But again I think it good that people not in 'bubbles' are encouraged to sit at a 'safe' distance. This is easy for normal Sunday Services!
- f. Sharing of the Peace: We are now allowed to shake one another's hands again! My preference is that we do mingle briefly around the building to share the peace more closely, but that we do so by spoken word, smiles, a nod and a bow of respect, rather than shaking hands – for the time being! But that is not forbidden, now!
- g. We are allowed unlimited numbers for Funerals, Weddings and Christenings. But I think we should use our Risk Assessments on safe capacity (including for normal physical safety and comfort)

to discourage large congregations from gathering. It is up to each church to determine their 'safe' maximum number, in consultation with the PCC, for health, safety and insurance purposes. I will do my best to reduce expectations on numbers, if necessary, for health and safety.

- i. Good cleaning regimes are still important, especially after a large Service or event. Please call on your cleaning team!
- j. Food and drink can be served without restriction, say after Services or at Coffee Mornings etc. It is good to go outside where possible! I suggest that tables and chairs remain well spaced, and a preference for table service to avoid too much mingling. It would be great if more churches do offer coffee after Morning Services, even if say once a month!
- k. Singing hymns is now permitted!! There is no limit on choir numbers or performance. Masks can be worn during singing, or not, according to personal preference.! Maybe those who wish to sing without masks could be asked to be considerate, and sit at a safe distance from others who are wearing masks. I think it still good to sing the opening and closing hymns outdoors if the weather allows – because its been so enjoyable to do so!
- l. HOLY COMMUNION: We are now allowed by the Bishops to offer the wine / chalice to any communicants who wish to receive it alongside the bread / wafer. But there is certainly no obligation to receive both. I propose people are given the choice;
Either (1) – to come up the altar rail and receive just the communion wafer and then depart at once. This decision will be absolutely respected!
Or (2) – Remain at the altar rail after receiving the Communion wafer and then also wait to receive the communion wine. The chalice must be well wiped by the Minister with a sanitised purificator after each has received! The communion 'hardware' must be thoroughly

cleaned by the Minister. No Servers are needed at this time. Cleaning cloths to be well washed afterwards also.

- n. Please make these new arrangements known. It might encourage more to attend our Services! On the other hand those who are clinically vulnerable might in the light of all this choose to not attend Services. Home, pastoral visits and Home Communions are available if I'm asked!!

In all these considerations let us set the best possible Christian example, following the advice of St Paul in Philippians 2: 4 "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take due concern for the welfare of others, too." Let's pray that we don't have to rescind any of these when we get into next Autumn and Winter!

Thanks for all your cooperation!

Revd. Stephen

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

pray grow serve with joy

KEEP SMILING

Let's all make a little vow starting from today
To find the very best in life whate'er may come our way.
Learning to be patient when we're oft inclined to snap,
Keeping cool and calm instead of whirling in a flap!
Showing off a chirpy smile to banish that old frown,
Making sure we really won't let upsets get us down!
Kindliness spreads far and wide,
Brings happiness each day;
The cost is small, the value great,
the thought in hearts will stay.

E.G. Berkhamsted

Mission Community Service

with Bishop Robert

11am

Sunday 1st August

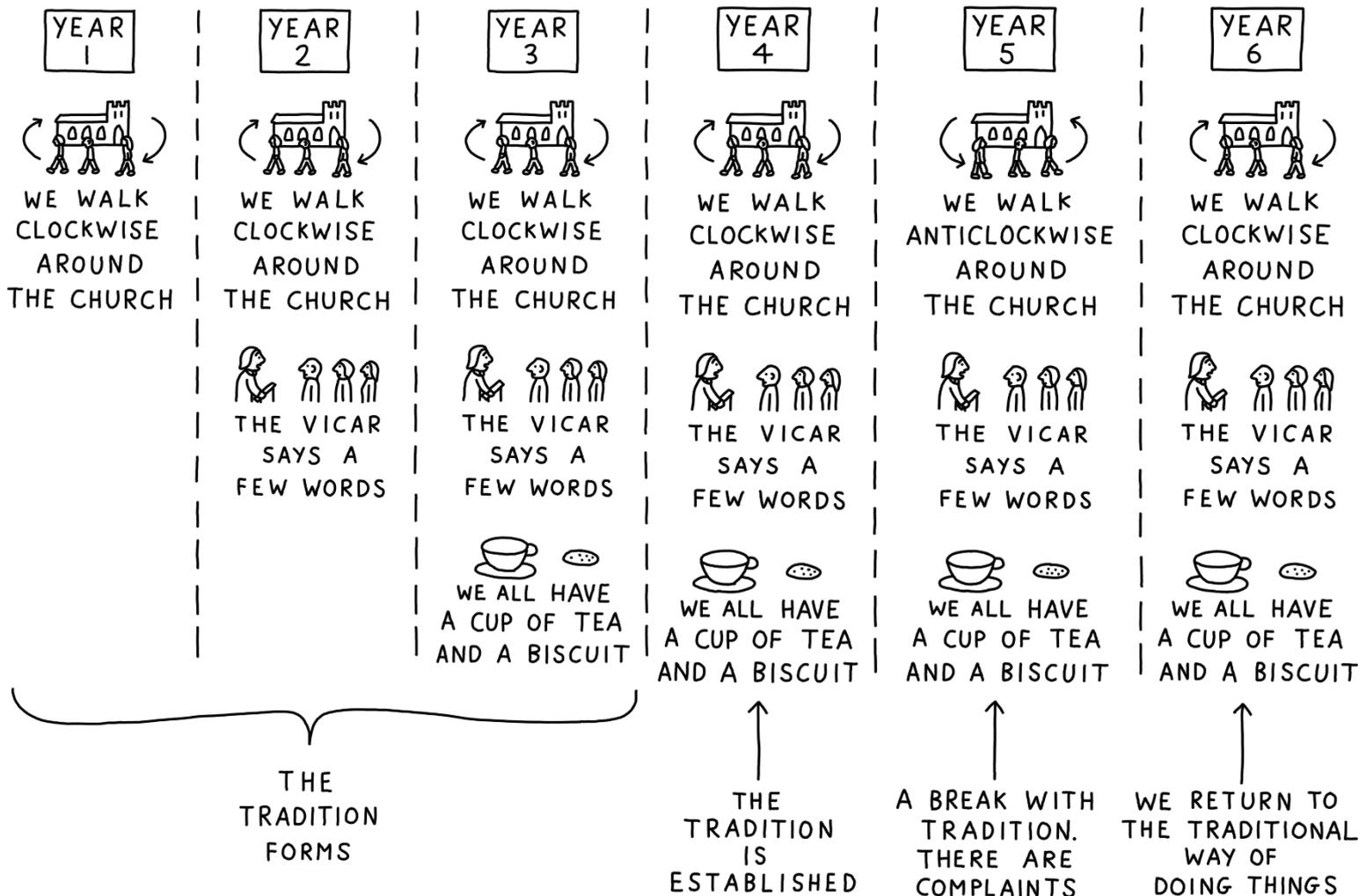
Holsworthy Park

Please do join us if you can, several of our services have been cancelled or moved so you may be able to attend.

Bring a picnic and hope for good weather!

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS



CartoonChurch.com

A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive – only God doesn't yell at you all the time."

A vicar I know has a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalise each service, he uses the Find and Replace command on his computer to replace the name of the deceased from the previous funeral with the new name.

The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the Apostle's Creed. "Jesus Christ," the congregation read from the order of service, "born of the Virgin Edna..."



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

August	1st	11am	Mission Community Service	Holsworthy Park
	6th	2pm—4pm	Tea and Cake	Highampton
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
	15th	6.30pm	St Mary's Celebration	Black Torrington
September	1st			
	8th	2.30pm—4pm	Living in Love and Faith Course	Black Torrington Chapel
	11th	DHC Ride and Stride	Benefice Sponsored Walk with Picnic	
	12th	11am	Harvest Service and Buffet Lunch	Halwill
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
	15th	2.30pm—4pm	Living in Love and Faith Course	Black Torrington Chapel
	15th	7pm	Installation of New Archdeacon	Bideford
	17th—20th	11am—7pm	Harvest Flower Festival	Black Torrington
	19th	11am	Harvest Service and lunch	Black Torrington
	22nd	2.30pm—4pm	Living in Love and Faith Course	Black Torrington Chapel
	26th	11am	Harvest Service and Lunch	Clawton
	26th	6.30pm	Harvest Service and Auction of produce	Highampton
	29th	2.30pm—4pm	Living in Love and Faith Course	Black Torrington Chapel
October	3rd	11am	Harvest Service followed by lunch	Beaworthy
	3rd	11am	Harvest Service with bring and Share lunch	Ashwater
	3rd	7pm	Harvest Service and supper	Tetcott Hall
	10th	12.30pm	Harvest Lunch	Highampton
	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
November	15th		Deadline for Newsletter	
December	15th		Deadline for the Newsletter	
	19th	7.30pm	Carol Service	Clawton

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

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

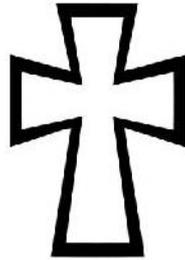
Devon - Care Direct: **0345 155 1007**

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