

Ruby Country Benefice

The parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton & Tetcott

Bulletin October 2022



HRH Queen Elizabeth II
21st April 1926 – 8th September 2022

MARRIAGE



**SEPTEMBER
2022**

- 3rd Sophie GERRY and Ben PARR
(Ashwater)
- 24th Camilla STEPHENS and Timothy TRATT
(Ashwater)

FUNERAL / MEMORIAL SERVICE

- 2nd Marion BARWELL
(Black Torrington)
- 14th Derrick HAYES
(Clawton)
- 21st Mark COLWILL
(Ashwater)
- 30th Margaret COLES
(Ashwater)

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

Safeguarding Val Letheren 07484 880 770

* or as above

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 2) © Parish Pump,
Cover image: Queen Elizabeth II during a visit to the Royal Dockyard
Chapel in Pembroke Dock, Wales - © Press Association
Thanks to Revd. Stephen for sending the poems on page 12,
taken from *Autumn*, Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications

**God of love,
We thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation,
and for her faith in you.
Be close to all of us who mourn,
that we may find comfort and hope in your love
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

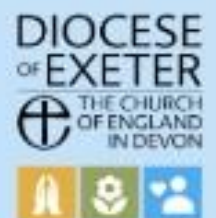
**Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

“The death of the Queen represents a huge watershed in the life of our nation. Like the majority of the population, I cannot remember a time when Queen Elizabeth was not on the throne.

She combined a strong sense of duty with a deep Christian faith. She had an extraordinary ability to generate goodwill by celebrating the work of ordinary people and charities, and by encouraging service to others. She was a very private person who was public property, someone whom the world over was held in great affection and esteem.

This nation - and the Church of which she was head - owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.”

The Right Reverend Robert Atwell,
Bishop of Exeter



October

“HOW VILLAGE CHURCHES THRIVE”

The title of this book seems to be very promising, and I think that it lives up to the expectations that it claims! The book was launched at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in late June, by the Bishop of Exeter, who wrote the introduction. Amazingly the Preface is by Hugh Dennis – the TV star who graced us with an After Dinner Talk at the aforesaid Conference. Many free copies of this book were made available – so I gradually amassed about 8 copies. One for each church in our Benefice, which I gave out and asked to be read by every PCC member. We then had a Benefice Group meeting in mid September, where I invited each church representative to ‘speak to’ a Chapter of their choice. We then discussed how the Case Studies could perhaps be adapted to meet their own particular situation. The discussions that ensued were very helpful, and we will follow up the ideas at our next meeting, on October 31st. Please talk to your PCC members regarding their views on the Book!

The books ten Chapters cover areas such as these:

“Extending a Warm Welcome” (e.g. improving our Noticeboards!)

“Using our buildings creatively” (e.g. for more Concerts and Exhibitions)

“Caring for God’s acre” (e.g. churchyards as more wildlife friendly).

“Celebrating our Heritage” (e.g. making more of the history of our church and village)

“Cultivating fruitful festivals” (e.g. making more of the Agricultural Festivals and Seasons).

“Welcoming more children” (e.g. Building much stronger links with our 5 local Schools).

I quote from our Bishop: “If the church in rural England is to flourish, then we need to release individual congregations from feeling they have to be everything and do everything. This Guide provides a menu of eminently practical things for local people to dip into and try out in their contexts.” The stories from around England of how rural churches have attempted and succeeded in new initiatives to bless

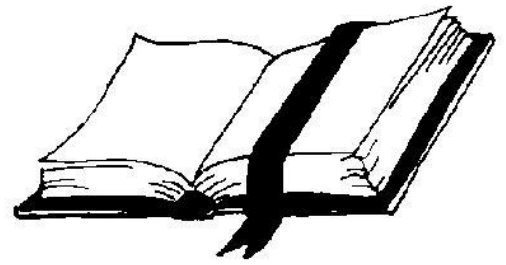
their local villages are very creative and inspiring. The book is worth the price (*normally about £9 through Amazon*) for the Case Study Stories alone.

The Chapter that excites me the most is Number Five: “Being the Heartbeat of the Community”! This sounds a very ambitious topic, given that many of our churches are located on the edge of their village! It used to be the case that most churches were central to the life of their local community, but my hunch is that many of us don’t feel this to be the case, perhaps exacerbated by Covid. The Book describes single projects that can help to re-establish the local church as significant in the community, even if becoming the ‘heartbeat’ sounds rather grandiose! The important thing is that your church identifies where its strengths lie, and the needs of the community that the church can seek to address practically. When manpower resources are low it is even more important to ‘partner’ with individuals or organisations locally who might work in collaboration to achieve shared aims. Perhaps some humility will be required in this – but it’s the service to the community that counts! Also it might well be best to partner with other local churches such as our Methodist friends. Perhaps the church can collaborate with the Parish Council rather more than often seems to be the case, in undertaking a Community Audit (pages 92 – 94) and the Neighbourhood Plan”.

I’ll share a good example from my home village of Woolsery. The Methodist and Anglican churches started a weekly Coffee Morning after the end of the pandemic. Half the year in Church and half a year in Chapel. Profits shared equally. You get a generous slice of cake and a good cuppa for £2.50! Numbers at this have grown to around 50 per week. It’s organised by a Rota of ladies so that each only serves once a month (many don’t attend church regularly but that doesn’t matter). Everyone knows it is on each week without fail, and this it’s become by far the best supported gathering in the village. Many fairly isolated people find it a lifeline and event to look forward to each week. I recommend you seek for simple plans like this and strengthen your ‘heartbeat’ from there onwards!

Stephen

Lectionary Readings for October 2022



<p>Sunday 2nd Trinity 16</p> <p>Habakkuk 1: 1 – 4, 2: 1 – 4 Psalm 37: 1 – 9 2 Timothy 1: 1 – 14 Luke 17: 5 – 10</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott Village Hall</p>	<p>Sunday 9th Trinity 17</p> <p>2 Kings 5: 1 – 3, 7 – 15 Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2: 8 – 15 Luke 17: 11 – 19</p> <p>Services at Black Torrington, Clawton, Beaworthy</p>	<p>Sunday 16th Trinity 18</p> <p>Genesis 32: 22 – 31 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5 Luke 16: 1 – 13</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 23rd Bible Sunday</p> <p>Isaiah 45: 22 – end Psalm 119: 129 – 136 Romans 15: 1 – 6 Luke 4: 16 – 24</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Clawton, Highampton</p>	<p>Sunday 30th For All Saints</p> <p>Daniel 7: 1 – 3, 15 – 18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1: 11 – end Luke 6: 20 – 31</p> <p>Benefice Service at Ashwater</p>	

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

Ruby Country Benefice Services for October 2022

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Ashwater	Harvest Service
Trinity 16	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Service
	11am	Halwill	Harvest Service
	6pm	Tetcott Village Hall	Harvest & Supper
Sunday 9th	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
Trinity 17	11am	Clawton	Communion
	5pm 6.30pm	Beaworthy	Tea followed by Harvest Evensong
Sunday 16th	9:30am	Ashwater	Communion
Trinity 18	11am	Black Torrington	Harvest Festival & Lunch
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
Sunday 23rd	11am	Beaworthy	Communion
Bible Sunday	11am	Clawton	Methodist Service
	3pm	Highampton	Evening Service
Sunday 30th for All Saints	11am	Ashwater	All Saints Memorial Service Benefice Service (with coffee and cake after)

Senior Clergy Reflection from The Venerable Nick Shutt,
Archdeacon of Plymouth

“...there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns — the ones we don't know we don't know.”

– Donald Rumsfeld

By the time you read this piece some of my known unknowns will be known. For example, I am nervously waiting to know what the latest energy cap increase will be. I am also waiting to know who the next prime minister will be.

In the last few years, we have faced several unknown unknowns too. The biggest of those has been the COVID-19 Pandemic. No one saw that coming! And can the same be said about the war in Ukraine? St Paul talked poetically of known unknowns when writing to the Corinthian Church:

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

So, whilst there are many things I only see in a mirror, dimly, there are other things that I know, the chief of which is this: “I know that my redeemer liveth” (Job 19:25). I hope those words have created an earworm so you can hum along to Handel's Messiah all day as a reminder that Emmanuel, God is with us is someone we all need to know.

Ven. Nick Shutt, Archdeacon of Plymouth

WHATS ON AT..



TETCOTT
CHURCH

Sunday 4th September- BBQ at the Church from **4pm** with bring and buy stalls followed by an open air service.

Sunday 2nd October-Harvest Festival from **6pm** in the Hall, service and supper. Adults £10, Children £5, under 5 free.

Sunday 13th November- Remembrance Sunday outside at **10:50am**. Gathering by the war memorial.

Saturday 26th November- Craft morning **10am** til **noon**. Drop in to a free family Christmas crafts for the church and at home (refreshments available).

Saturday 3rd December- Making mince pies in the hall **10am** til **noon**.

Sunday 4th December- **5:30pm** tea and biscuits, **6pm** service.

Sunday 24th December- Christmas Eve Carols with Rev Peter Ingram at **7pm**. Drinks and mince pies.

The advert for our new permanent Vicar is now live in the Church Times, and the application process is underway.

**God our Father,
help us to put our trust in you
to send your chosen person
to lead us on
to where you would have us to be
Amen**

St. Mary's Ruby Ringers

Playing the restored church handbells

Meeting on Tuesdays

4:15 – 5:30pm

St. Mary's Church,
Black Torrington

All who would like to have a go are welcome!



Autumn Haiku

Michaelmas daisies
campion and thistles shine
purple profusion

Rosehip burgeoning
nature ready to harvest
brambles plump red beads.

Early woodland walk
facemasks lie on fallen leaves
earth struggles to breathe.

Amid the glory
one red maple leaf astounds

Mary Hanrahan

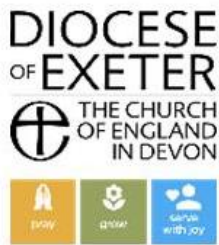
A gardener prepares for winter

The cacti have been moved from their sun-drenched,
south-facing wall to the warmth of windowsill and greenhouse.
Geraniums now sheltered from winter winds and frost.
Potted olive, orange and pomegranate trees
hauled into the conservatory.
Butterfly feeder dismantled.
No more nightly visits from the hedgehog.

Time for sweeping and clearing.
Time to get out the seed catalogues,
preparing for next spring,
trusting in the ancient promise
that seed time and harvest
shall not fail

Brian Ford





Vicar for the Ruby Country Benefice
**(Consisting of the parishes of Ashwater, Black Torrington,
Beaworthy, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott)**
in Stunning Northwest Devon

Based in wonderful countryside between the beaches of the northwest Devon/Cornwall coast and the Dartmoor national park the Ruby Country Benefice is a wonderful place to live and work. The people are open and welcoming, the lifestyle is safe and relaxing; the Ruby Country is definitely God's Country.

We are looking and praying for:

A vicar who has a heart for rural life and ministry and will work alongside us as we seek to grow and serve our communities

He or she will

- Lead and enable a variety of worship
- Be visible in the wider community
- Actively work with our Methodist and Baptist friends
- Encourage and develop our lay ministry

We offer in return

- Our full support
- Administrative assistance.
- A willingness to explore fresh ideas
- A team of worship leaders
- Devon hospitality

We want to work with you!

Closing date for applications: October 17th 2022

Orientation Day: November 9th & Interviews: November 10th 2022

For a conversation about the post, please contact:

Verena Breed, Archdeacon of Barnstaple tel: 01271 375475 or email ADB@exeter.anglican.org

Application form and profile available on the diocesan website www.exeter.anglican.org/vacancies

This post requires a DBS enhanced check

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and particularly welcome applications from women and minority ethnic groups.



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

October	2nd	9.30am Harvest Festival	Ashwater
	2nd	11am Harvest Festival	Halwill
	2nd	6pm Harvest Festival and Supper	Tetcott Village Hall
	8th	Big Breakfast	Clawton
	9th	5pm Tea and Harvest Festival	Beaworthy
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	16th	Advertise the Post for new Priest	
	16th	11am Harvest Festival and Lunch	Black Torrington
	30th	11am All Saints Benefice Service and Lunch	Ashwater
November	9th	Orientation day	All Parishes
	10th	Interview Day for new Priest	
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	25th	Wine and Wisdom	Clawton
December	11th	5pm Carol Service	Highampton
15th Deadline for newsletter			
	18th	4pm Carol Service	Ashwater
	18th	7pm Carol Service	Clawton
	19th	Churches Together Carol Service	Halwill?
	21st	7pm Carol Service	Beaworthy
	22nd	7pm Carol Service and Mulled wine	Black Torrington
Feb/March 2023		Institution Service for new Priest	

NOVEMBER BULLETIN DEADLINE: 15TH OCTOBER

Please send any details of services, events, or fundraisers you want publicised, or any contributions – articles, images, poems etc. to Kay by this date. ANYTHING NOT RECEIVED **BY** THE 15TH **WILL NOT BE IN** THE NOVEMBER BULLETIN

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

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