

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin September 2024



*I love the LORD because he hears
my requests for mercy.
I'll call out to him as long as I live,
because he listens closely to me.*

Psalm 116: 1-2 (CEB)

August



- 29th MARRIAGE of Victoria MOORE and
Jamie WALKER
(Halwill)
- 24th BAPTISM of Lottie Lou
RAISON-GRABHAM
(Black Torrington)
- 29th INTERMENT OF ASHES of Richard NUTT
(Halwill)

CONTACTS

Rector

Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254 667

Contacts for Churches:

Ashwater	Diana Marriott	01409 211 146
Beaworthy	Richard Prior	01409 221 986
Black Torrington:	Sheila Grabham	07814 128 163
	Val Letheren	07484 880 770
Clawton:	Irene Ellis	01409 254 572
Halwill:	John Lawlor	01409 221 987
		07768 818 646
	Kay Napier	07814 237 243
Highampton	Paul Fitzpatrick	01409 254 667
Tetcott:	Nikki Mitchell	01409 271 381
Safeguarding	Val Letheren	07484 880 770
Ruby Ringers	Shirley Richmond	01409 231 764

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 2) © Parish Pump,
Cover image: Grave of Richard SOBY, taken by Kay Napier.

Clipart on pg. 4 from clipart-library.com

Ukraine graphic on the back page from pixabay.com, by chiajo-18290215 © 2024 Local World

Quiz from John Lawlor

Thanks to Revd. Paul Fitzpatrick, Janet Fisher, John Lawlor, Val Letheren, Nikki Mitchell, Shirley Richmond, Elisabeth Swan and Sandra Ward for their contributions.

SEPTEMBER

From the Rector's Desk

A half sunny and half windy-promise of rain day as I look out of my office window North, towards the Heartland, whilst Henry snores gently in his basket. I have been working today on the new storytelling training module and our Mission Action Plan, only stopping to take an interment at St Peter & James for a much-loved man. I have also been updating our Bereavement, Grief & Loss training program, by chance, and am reminded how much our life story is impacted by loss. Grief is a natural part of life but it is never easy. Psychologists have known for some time that grief is the biggest, single impact factors of how we tell our own stories, impact or neurological program, and form our old, and new identities: In short, Grief and loss are foundation drivers for who we are.

There were a lot of you who could not attend the fully booked Bereavement training day last year, and I have been asked if I would run it again. Having consulted, we are looking at a day with a lunch at a pub/conference centre on the 8th October 10am to 3pm. I intend to keep costs down so will seek funds to cover the cost of the course. Numbers will be restricted as last year so do book early.

This is not a counselling course, nor will you be asked to be part of a Benefice bereavement team. This is an evidenced-based course to explain what happens to us when we lose someone we love, and to help us help others who travel the same journey.

Paul.

God of harvest,
gardener supreme,
you place us at the centre,
feed us, equip us and,
having provided for us,
look to a different harvest,
a fruitfulness of lives
in service to you,
and others.
God of harvest,
feed us,
prune us,
harvest us,
that our lives
might bring glory to you.



©John Birch from the website
https://www.faithandworship.com/Harvest_Thanksgiving_Resources_and_Prayers

Ruby Country Benefice Services for September 2024

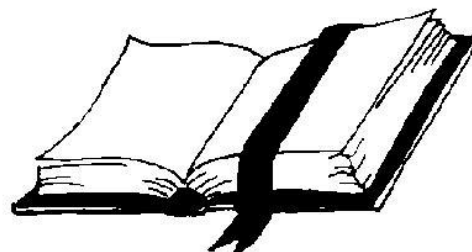
Sunday 1st 14 th after Trinity (Proper 17)	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	4pm	Tetcott	BBQ and Outdoor Evening Service
Sunday 8th 15 th after Trinity (Proper 18)	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	2pm	Ashwater (on the Green)	Village Service
	6.30pm	Beaworthy	BCP Evensong
Sunday 15th 16 th after Trinity (Proper 19)	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Harvest Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Service
Sunday 22nd 17 th after Trinity (Proper 20)	11am	Clawton	United Service
	11am	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Highampton	Harvest Service
Wednesday 25th	10am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th 18 th after Trinity (Proper 2)	11am	Clawton	Benefice Harvest Service
	4:30pm	Black Torrington	Harvest Service Café Church

Weekly - all welcome from the benefice

Wednesday	10am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
------------------	------	---------------------	----------------

* Highampton's Service will take place at the Village Hall.
Highampton's church building and churchyard are still closed to
all for your own safety.

Lectionary Readings for September 2024



<p>Sunday 1st (14th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Deuteronomy 4:1 – 2, 6 – 9 Psalm 15 James 1:17 – 27 Mark 7:1 – 8, 14, 15, 21 – 23</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 8th (15th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 35:4 – 7a Psalm 146 James 2:1 – 10, [11 – 13], 14 – 17 Mark 7:24 – 37</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</p>	<p>Sunday 15th (16th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Isaiah 50:4 – 9a Psalm 116:1 – 8 James 3:1 – 12 Mark 8:27 – 38</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd (17th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Jeremiah 11:18 – 20 Psalm 54 James 3:13 – 4.3, 7 – 8a Mark 9:30 – 37</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Clawton, Highampton</p>	<p>Sunday 29th (18th Sunday after Trinity)</p> <p>Numbers 11:4 – 6, 10 – 16, 24 – 29 Psalm 19:7 – 14 James 5:13 – 20 Mark 9:38 – 50</p> <p>Services at Clawton and Black Torrington</p>	

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

Solving Burial Mysteries

It's a genealogist's dream to be able to walk into a churchyard and find a distant relative, or a common surname stretching across the generations. At the same time, it's the clergy's nightmare to walk into a church and find missing or incomplete records!

This month, I haven't had the time to do a detailed look into the life of someone in the benefice who may only be remembered by their gravestone. I have had the time, though, to wander through my local churchyard at Halwill, enjoying the calm and solace there.

Walking into the churchyard, there is an oft-hidden-by-grass simple cube with flower holder; a monument simply to to ERJ from the people of Halwill. Further up is a gravestone which has been sliced in half – no remnants of the name at all. Next to it is a grave whose face has peeled off over the years. Further up again is a stone, laid flat, only has a date of Jan 19, 1876, aged 67 years. And next to the church was a mossy stone, which, upon peeling back the moss, revealed the letters R.L.D, 16, 1847. The family of these people wanted to remember them, and for them to be remembered, and here they are, reduced to unknown letters and numbers.

Whether I'm determined or just plain nosey (up to you to decide!) I wanted to find out who these people were.

The first I investigated was Jan 19 1876 aged 67. With a decent set of burial records, I could look up the year and the age and find out he is Richard SOBY, born 1809, died 19th Jan 1876. A bit of further research showed him being buried near his parents Josias and Charity SOBY, and just across from his brothers Josias and Thomas Durrant SOBY, all buried at Halwill.

Having worked out that mystery, I thought I was unstoppable. Records in hand again, I peered at what I had from the half-a-grave. This one was going to be a bit trickier. Right at the slice, is a round-bottomed number which had to be 8. Then two incomplete circles, so 5's or 3's. They died in 1833, 1835, 1853 or 1855. I needed more information. Again, right on the splice line, it read something-5 or something-3 years. The only one that

fitted the bill was 15-year-old John TALLAMY (recorded as GALLAMY) who died January 1856; he was the nephew of the Black Torrington TALLAMY family I wrote about a few months back.

Unfortunately, I have no chance with the one with the peeled off frontage; there just isn't enough to guess. But looking at the burial log again, RLD fits 16-year old Richard Lane DOWN, gone almost 180 years and his memory almost lost to a patch of moss.



I needed to consult the old newspaper archives for ERJ. Searching for Halwill deaths, I stumbled upon news of the death of Mrs. Ethel Rose JACOBS (ERJ) in the Western Times in August 1938. She had suffered a fatal fall from her bicycle and died at Winsford Hospital about a week later. Her cause of death was provided by Doctor Craddock of Holsworthy as “a fractured skull and laceration of the brain.” At the time of her fall, she was cycling with her daughter Rhoda, who is buried to the rear of the church in Halwill.



I think the moral to this story is all mysteries can be investigated, and can often be solved. And a good set of reports and records are utterly invaluable!

Kay Napier
August 2024

Image of John TALLAMY grave (top) and Ethel Rose JACOBS grave below, St. Peter & St. James, Halwill. Taken by Kay Napier.

Bell News

Black Torrington Primary school children come into church for assembly once a month, and they always ring 'peals' on the Belleplates to make the beginning and end of the service more special.

The last assembly of the summer term was even more special as the tower bells were ringing to welcome them into church. We all watched the ringers ringing for us and then they rang the bells down from their 'up' position to their resting position hanging down.

After Revd Paul had told a Bible story and led the prayers, the real excitement began! The children were shown a table-top working model of how the bells are rung as of course you cannot see the bells from the floor.

Safety is very important when bell ringing, so it was explained that now the bells were hanging down they would just be tolled when the ropes were pulled. Each child had several turns guided by the five tower bell ringers and looked so happy and made such a joyful noise - it must have sounded quite strange outside for all the village to hear! Perhaps we have encouraged some potential tower bell ringers. Then the 'spider' was lowered and the bell ropes secured safely out of reach [only six legs on this spider as we only have six bells].

The children played some rounds and tower bell patterns on the Belleplates in the same pitch as the tower bells to show the ringers how they ring. The ringers' captain, Mr David French, then worked with them playing rounds; it was good to see how well they followed his instruction.



Linda and Shirley, two members of St Mary's Ruby Ringers handbell team also had an exciting day recently, when they attended a 'four-in-hand' event run by the south western region of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain at Clyst St Mary. This involved holding two bells in each hand and learning how to ring them!

After learning how to hold them, we were presented with music, interestingly all arrangements of hymn tunes.

The photograph shows Robert, Jane and John Willis ringing four in hand. They came to introduce us to handbell ringing at our 'Tea and Ring' fundraiser, way back in 2021.



Tetcott church
Barbecue and outdoor
service

Sunday September 1st
Barbecue and bring and buy
stall start at 4pm followed
with an informal service at
5.30pm in Manor garage
opposite Church



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/rubybenefice

A REMINDER: Please send anything for the Bulletin through to rbycbulletin@gmail.com – the following submissions almost didn't make it in due to being sent elsewhere.

On occasion (like in the Summer Holidays when I have children to juggle, on top of my usual responsibilities!) I find it difficult to pull the bulletin together in time, and need a "failsafe" – if I can't get it done in time, I need to be able to hand over access to the Benefice Bulletin email to someone else to compile it, and if everything is in my personal email account, that will obviously get missed! Kay

Worship Leaders' Training

There will be a fourth Worship Leaders' Training Session on Saturday 5th October at Bradford and Cookbury Village Hall, from 9.30-12.30. The Revd Alison Hardy will be leading this session on 'Special Services' such as Remembrance Sunday, Harvest, Carol Services, Rogation etc.

Please would you let me know at the email address below if you would like to attend. All are welcome – you do not have to attend before!

Janet Fisher janetcfisher@btinternet.com
07970831510



CELEBRATE
HISTORIC ASHWATER CHURCH
HELP US CREATE A
“SNAPSHOT IN TIME 2024”

A community exhibition of ‘your’ photos
of our Church taken in 2024 from
inside, outside, near and far!

SATURDAY 7TH SEPT
BE CREATIVE!

Open to all ages, clubs and individuals

For details of how to get involved, see our website
www.ashwaterparishchurch.com or

contact Derek on 07850 279376.

Any funds raised in aid of repairs to the Church roof
damaged during winter storms

Image © Jon Tidball 2024



**DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
(DHCT)**

DHCT *Sponsored* Walk and picnic: St Albans Beaworthy
and St Peter and St James, Halwill, Saturday 21st
September

A worthwhile cause and DHCT returns 50% of your fund-
raising proceeds to your parish.

Meet at Beaworthy Church for a 10.30am start. Coffee/Tea
available beforehand. Park in Beaworthy House yard.

Walk to Higher Whiddon via Lower Whiddon then to Polehayes
where you have a choice.

A Half circuit takes you back to Beaworthy past Trew Farm
ca. 3miles

A Full circuit takes you up the hill to Patchacott then down
through the Village to Madworthy Chapel and then to
Beaworthy. Evidence of Southern railway en route and good
views but poor road surface in places. Ca. 5 miles

Picnic stop at St Alban's Church, Beaworthy. Tea/Coffee
provided – plus Loo

Bring your own packed lunch.

All welcome – sponsored or not.

Dogs welcome too, whether sponsored or not.



Halwill Churches Together

HARVEST SUPPER & QUIZ

13TH SEPTEMBER 2024

7PM

HALWILL PARISH HALL

All Ages Welcome

Come as a team
or join others when you arrive

Money Donations for Holsworthy
Foodbank if desired

Free Buffet Supper



Ruby Country Benefice.

Bereavement, Grief & Loss

Limited Numbers for this course.

To book email:

rubicountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com

training.

Tuesday 8th October
10am - 3pm

Evidenced-based course to explain what happens to us when we lose someone we love and to help us help others who travel the same journey.

Book by 1st October

The menu for the Bickford Arms will be emailed to confirm your booking.

Bickford Arms
Brandis Corner



Quiz

- 1) What nationality is pop superstar Justin Bieber?
- 2) How many episodes of Game of Thrones are there?
- 3) Name the film which boasts the famous line: "You can't handle the truth!"
- 4) In tennis, who has won more Women's Singles Grand Slam titles – Martina Navratilova or Serena Williams?
- 5) Which US state was Joe Exotic a.k.a. the Tiger King's G.W. Zoo based?
- 6) In Monsters Inc. what is Sulley's full name?
- 7) How many countries are there in the region of Europe? (Recognised by the United Nations)
- 8) How many actors have played the role of James Bond?
- 9) Which year did the Vietnam War start?
- 10) In Star Trek: The Original Series, who was Captain in the pilot episode before Captain Kirk?
- 11) Name Ron Weasley's parents.
- 12) The six main stars of Friends appeared in all 236 episodes. Who is the next most regular character to appear in the show?
- 13) Which Stephen King novel takes place mostly in the fictional Overlook Hotel?
- 14) How many elements are in the periodic table?
- 15) Which soft drink is commonly associated with Scotland?
- 16) In which year was the Nintendo 64 released in Europe?
- 17) Originally Amazon only sold which product?
- 18) What are the names of all 7 dwarves in Snow White?
- 19) What is the currency of Sweden?
- 20) How many US states begin with the letter A? (Extra point if you name them!)

Answers to August Quiz

1 ET. 2 Kang and Kodos. 3 Marvin the Martian (or Elmer Fudd). 4 Yoda.
5 The Coneheads. 6 Spock. 7 Mork. 8 Clark Kent (Superman). 9 Davros.
10 Gordon Shumway (ALF for half a point). 11 Ford Prefect.
12 Predators. 13 Ming the Merciless. 14 Klaatu. 15 John Bigboote.
16 Edgar. 17 Jabba the Hutt. 18 Worf. 19 TMA-1. 20 Solaris.



Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

10am

All welcome



DEADLINE



Please get your posters, news, pictures, articles,
details of services, fundraisers or any other
submissions in **by the 15th of each month** to
feature in the next month's Bulletin

email rubbybulletin@gmail.com or call 01409 221 321



SEASON OF CREATION

The theme for Season of Creation 2024 is 'hope and act with creation'. In Romans 8, Paul writes *"²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time"*

As people of faith, the state of our world should grieve us. In the UK we live in one of the most [nature depleted countries on earth](#), and currently the decline continues. Across the world extreme weather is increasing frequency and intensity. The Climate Crisis isn't a future issue, it's here now.

But there is reason to hope. In 2015 the [emissions gap report](#) predicted warming of over 4°C with the policies of the time. Since then, progress has been made, the 2023 report now predicts (if current policies remain) that we are expecting around 3°C. It's not good enough but it shows that change is possible.

Recently I met the Archbishop of Melanesia, he shared powerfully that Melanesian communities don't need reminding of the climate crisis, they are living with the effects daily. In our privileged world we don't feel the effects as often. We need reminding; we need to remember that as one of the world's wealthiest nations we are responsible for the effects our consumerism has had and is having on some of the poorest people in the world.

In Matthew 25 Jesus says, *"I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me."*

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' ⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' When we see record breaking storms, sea level rises, drought and desertification do we stop and think, Jesus is there. Do we stop and ask, in what small way have we contributed to this chaos?

We can do better; we are called to do better. The faithful servant was told *"You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."* Let's start by being faithful with what we have.

Let's act together in hope for creation.

Action for churches - [Eco Church](#)

Action for individuals/families - [Creation Care - Households](#)

Sarah Charker – Creation Care Engagement Officer

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:

Val Letheren – [rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:rubbycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com) – 07484 880 770

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

Costa Nassaris - Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – 01392 294969 – 07809 339502
costa.nassaris@exeter.anglican.org

James May – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – 01392 345910 – 07889 543646
james.may@exeter.anglican.org

Rebecca Lane – Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser- 01392 294975 - 07889542640
Rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org

For general enquiries – SafeguardingEnquiry@exeter.anglican.org

IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM

If you believe someone 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**

Concerns about Adults

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

Domestic Abuse

Devon Help Line for professionals and individuals: **0345 155 1074**

Rape Crisis

National: **0808 802 9999** Devon and Torbay: **01392 204174**

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

Ruby Country Benefice

RUBY PEOPLE WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S COUNTRY

St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater EX21 5EY

St. Alban, Beaworthy EX21 5AB

St. Mary's, 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



Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick, Rector

vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com