

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin

December 2024 / January 2025



*Let the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
be pleasing to you,
LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

Psalm 19: 14 (CEB)

November



5th

Funeral of Diana NEWBY

(Ashwater)

CONTACTS

Rector

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From the Parish Registers image (pg. 2) © Parish Pump,

Cover image: Lost Souls service at St. Peter & St. James, Halwill, 1st November 2024.

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

Quiz from John Lawlor

Thanks to Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick, Catherine Bowness, Rose Colwill, Sheila Grabham, John Lawlor, Val Letheren, Nikki Mitchell, Shirley Richmond and Sandra Ward for their contributions.

DECEMBER

From the Rector's Desk

Steaming coffee on my desk having come back from a cold November Walk with Henry who is now snoring at my feet. Thinking about Christmas and feeling reflective. It's been an interesting Month. I led 13 Harvest services, four funerals, the magical 'Lost Souls' night at St Peter & James, four school's services, seven Remembrances services (three brilliantly lay led) with 1 in 5 people in our benefice attending. Looking at my 'services and engagement log' we are in great shape, except, as a somewhat grumpy priest said to me recently, 'it doesn't mean anything, they are not in church on Sunday'. He is wrong.

Many of our churches have held their congregations and most are growing, albeit slowly. We have major building issues to tackle and a generalised depopulation in most of our villages and we all know that young families are simply not in church on Sundays as this is now a children's sport day, or the only family day available to young over-worked families. None-the-less alongside our Methodist and Baptist friends, faith is real and strong here and Ministers are never short of work.

But the times and tides are changing. Climate change, war(s), politics, economic instability, land management changes, tourists, and population shifts have all impacted our benefice and its spiritual homes.

When I was made your Rector, you anticipated this and set out for me four clear priorities in the job descriptor: 3

- (a) Youth work and young families
- (b) Adult evangelism
- (c) Buildings
- (d) Parish organisation

You will all know these as they feature strongly in PCC meetings and sermons across the benefice. But, as we approach the end of the church year with the start of Advent, it is appropriate that we look at where we are with these four sharp targets.

My priorities were (a) & (b) then (c) & (d). On review, the Diocese SMT pushed for (c) & (d) to take the lead. This was due to concerns about acute Health and Safety issues as well as continuity. What I have actually done is to give all four equal weighting.

- (a) Young families have taken enormous investment with a slow return. I am working now in all five of our primary schools. This has resulted with children now happily saying hello when they are out with their parents. I am recognised in community groups and we have had a welcome increase with marriages, baptisms and faith engagement. What we have to acknowledge though is that despite the number of schools, with a Benefice population of under four thousand, and the growing pressures of farming families, Sunday worship may not show a significant increase. What we may need to look at is a dedicated, small children's group to work across the Benefice where 'church' looks different.
- (b) I (and my two clerical deanery colleagues) have been looking with urgency at how we can address not recovering the people that we lost during Covid, but reaching new unchristian adults. The 'off-the-shelf' packages (and we have look at lots!) are not suited to a deeply rural and scattered community. So, I have written a half day package where we explore telling our stories. This is a gentle and fun way to share

faith that avoids preaching and alienating. I would like to run this in each parish between Christmas and Easter with a 'invite a friend' event during Easter. I shall be talking to all PCC's soon.

(c) Buildings remain a major issue with St Mary, St Peter, Holy Cross St Alban and St Leonard all successfully engaging very serious issues in structure and maintenance. I recognise though that reserves have been seriously hit, fundraising has been urgent, and of course, we are sadly closing Highampton. None-the-less we are in a much better situation now than 18 months ago. Thank you all, I know that this has not been easy.

(d) Pastoral reorganisation is essential. Three of our churches will lose treasurers in the next 18 months and replacing volunteers in churches (across the whole of England) is proving increasingly difficult. The parishes of Clawton St Leonard, Halwill Peter & James, Black Torrington St Mary with Holy Cross Highampton have voted to work closer together whilst retaining their individual identity. This is genuinely positive and very welcome.

I will keep you all posted but I felt at the close of the Church year an update was due and there is so much good news here.

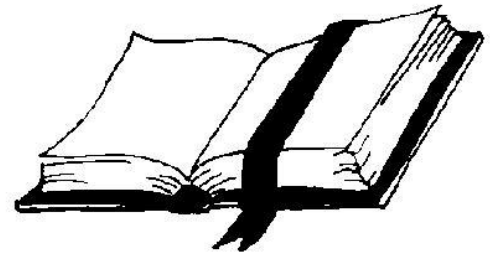
May I thank you for all you have done, are doing, and for your continued prayers which Sarah and I value greatly.

Paul.

Ruby Country Benefice Services for December 2024

Sunday 1st 1 st Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
	5:30pm 6pm	Tetcott	Tea Evening Service
Sunday 8th 2 nd Sunday of Advent	11am	Black Torrington	Christingle Café Church
	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Beaworthy	BCP Evensong
	6:30pm	Highampton Village Hall	Carol Service
Sunday 15th 3 rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Carol Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Service
Monday 16th	2:30pm	Black Torrington	School Carol Service
Tuesday 17th	9:15am		Halwill School
	5pm		Carol Service
Wednesday 18th	9:15am		Ashwater School
	5pm		Carol Service
	7pm	Beaworthy	Carol Service
Thursday 19th	7pm	Black Torrington	Carol Service
Sunday 22nd 4 th Sunday of Advent	11am	Clawton	Carol Service
	11am	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
	5pm	Ashwater	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve	2pm	Ashwater	Crib Service
	7pm	Tetcott	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day	10am	Black Torrington	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sunday 29th First Sunday after Christmas	11am	Halwill	Benefice Holy Communion

Lectionary Readings for December 2024



<p>Sunday 1st (1st Sunday of Advent)</p> <p>Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Psalm 25: 1-9 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Tetcott</p>	<p>Sunday 8th (2nd Sunday of Advent)</p> <p>Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Highampton Village Hall</p>	<p>Sunday 15th (3rd Sunday of Advent)</p> <p>Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Isaiah 12: 2-6 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd (4th Sunday of Advent)</p> <p>Micah 5: 2-5a Psalm 80: 1-8 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton</p>	<p>Sunday 29th (First Sunday after Christmas)</p> <p>Galatians 3: 23-25 John 1: 1-18, 4: 4-7</p> <p>Service at Halwill</p>	

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

Days of heavy clouds stifling the sunlight;
the world burdened by greyness and gloom

**Open our eyes, Lord, to the coming of your light
lifting the burden of darkness from our lives.**

Chillness that seeps deep into bones;
hearts and spirits rigid with frost-hardness;
souls wrapped up against coldness and loneliness.

**Open our souls, Lord, to the warmth of your coming
melting the hardness that keeps us from you and from
each other.**

Trees, branches bare against the steel skies;
Stems crumpled under weight of frost, weight of snow;
Last year's leaves, blackened and slippery underfoot;
Nature oppressed by wintriness, yet resting, awaiting
rebirth.

**Cherish our hearts, Lord, oppressed by wintriness -
assure us of your coming of your call to new life.**

From Celtic Advent Liturgy

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/---/advent-christmas-resources/advent-christmas-liturgy/celtic-liturgy-for-advent.php>

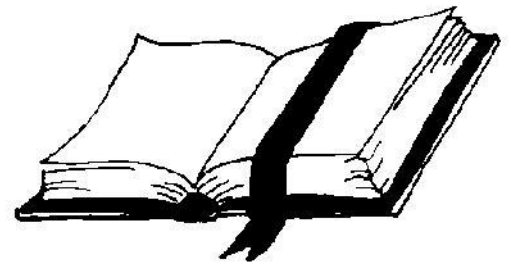
Ruby Country Benefice Services for January 2025

Sunday 6th Epiphany	9:30am	Ashwater	Morning Service
	11am	Black Torrington	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Morning Service
	5:30pm 6:30pm	Luffincott	Tea Evening Service
Sunday 13th Baptism of Christ	11am	Black Torrington	Café Church
	11am	Clawton	Holy Communion
	2:30pm	Ashwater	Plough Sunday Service
	5pm	Beaworthy	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Ashwater	Holy Communion
	11am	Halwill	Holy Communion
	11am	Black Torrington	Morning Service
Sunday 27th 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Clawton	United Service
	11am	Beaworthy	Morning Prayer

Weekly - all welcome from the benefice

Wednesday	10am	Black Torrington	Morning Prayer
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Lectionary Readings for January 2025



<p>Sunday 6th (Epiphany)</p> <p>Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 10-15 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Luffincott</p>	<p>Sunday 13th (Baptism of Christ)</p> <p>Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton</p>	<p>Sunday 20th (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)</p> <p>Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11</p> <p>Services at Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill</p>
<p>Sunday 27th (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)</p> <p>Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21</p> <p>Services at Beaworthy, Clawton</p>		

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

Lost Souls



When I was first made Churchwarden over at Halwill, my first big question was, ‘why are there no burials over in the top corner by the old school?’ And the answer was a rough one with the words, “plague pit” mentioned.

Time moved on and I thought no more of it.

Last year, Paul asked all PCCs to look into their burial records and check that records were up to date, and this kickstarted my research that ultimately cumulated in the Lost Souls service at St. Peter and St. James at Halwill on 1st November, where the above cross was dedicated to the memory of those “known and unknown”.

My first port of call was Holsworthy Museum where one of their fabulous volunteers told me that people were buried in that corner from the workhouse at Holsworthy.

I then asked one of my old school friends whose grandparents (and many more ancestors) are interred at Halwill if she, or any of her family had any idea as to the locations of older burials, and this supposed pit. And the answer to this is the real crux of my answer here.

I was told “that’s where they buried the navvies.”

The burial area at the rear of the church seems to be a pauper’s corner, where the young, the old, the poor and penniless, those who died in the workhouse and the navvies were interred. Paul spoke in detail about these during the service, so I need not repeat it.

So, who were the navvies?

According to the Railway Museum website, “the word ‘navvy’ [comes] from the ‘navigators’ who built the first navigation canals in the 19th century, at the very dawn of the Industrial Revolution.”

Obviously, there aren’t great swathes of canals in our part of the world, our navvies came to build the railways and – as Halwill Junction was quite the transport hub in its day – most of the navvies were situated around Halwill.

They were equipped with gunpowder, picks and shovels and were expected to build the railways quickly, efficiently and safely. And once they finished one stretch, they would move onto the next job, taking their families with them. They were armies of workers from across Britain, Ireland and sometimes Europe.

They lived in “timber and turf huts alongside the bridges, tunnels and cuttings that they built.” The conditions were cramped and terrible, and they gained themselves a reputation of fighting and drinking. They would even change names between jobs to avoid their reputation following them from job to job. They were thought poorly of, and once their job was done, they were forgotten.

However, our church records prove they were here, and a handful of newspaper articles demonstrate what they did and what happened to some of them.

The earliest mention of navvies in our parish registers is the in the baptism records at St. Peter and St. James, Halwill for 1877, when on Sunday July 15th,

Revd. Samuel ANDREW baptised three people – Mary Anne TUCKER, daughter of Nicholas and Annie of Cookbury Moor, Mary Anne TUCKER, daughter of William and Mary Anne of Okehampton, Melinda Jane MATHLIN, daughter of George and Mary of Summers Town (this might be Halwill or Beaworthy) – all listed as children of navvies. These people would not have lived in neat houses, but huts along the railway line from Okehampton through to Holsworthy.

July 15 No. 412.	Mary Anne	Nicholas & Annie	Tucker	Cookbury Moor	Navy	S. Andrew
July 15 No. 413.	Mary Anne	William & Mary Anne	Tucker	Okehampton	Navy	S. Andrew Rector.
July 15 No. 414.	Melinda Jane	George & Mary	Mathlin	Summers Town	Navy	S. Andrew Rector.
Aug. 26 No. 415.	William James	Samuel & Elizabeth Mary	Eade	The Hut. Halwill Cross.	Navy	S. Andrew
Aug. 26 No. 416.	Marian Jessie	William James & Catherine Anne	Harris	Manor House	Land- owner.	S. Andrew.

From the baptism records at Halwill 1877

Six weeks later, another navy is baptised – William James EADE, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Mary EADE. They are listed as being resident at “The Hut, Halwill Cross” – a definite link to the horrible conditions mentioned before. But there was another baptism that day; Marian Jessie HARRIS of Halwill Manor, daughter of William James HARRIS who was the squire at the time. She had been born in London ten years previously, and this was apparently the date chosen to join the congregation. This placing side-by-side the lowest classes of the Benefice against the higher ones can not be anything other than deliberate.

June 1878 sees a further two children of navvies baptised – Emma and Katie PEARCE, daughters of John and Rhoda of Croft Moor, and then things go quiet. Reading up on railway history, on 20th January 1879, Halwill station was opened by the London and South Western Railway, so the navvies' work was done and they moved on.

This was not the end of the navvies though. The railway was to undergo an extension, and Halwill was to become Halwill Junction. The navvies were called upon once again.

On 30th June 1884, the first sod of the North Cornwall Railway was cut at Halwill, extending the existing line to London and south to Launceston and Padstow. Revd. ANDREW of Halwill offered a prayer, and then it was time for the ceremonial first cut by John TREMAYNE, chairman of the company, using a spade, "the handle of which had been sheathed with velvet." Squire HARRIS made the second cut, and then the company went for a ceremonial luncheon. This extension would further benefit Tetcott, Luffincott and Ashwater – among others – due to the placing of a station at Tower Hill (following petition in March 1885.)

This extension was not as easy work as it was the first time – the workers were expected to work harder, faster, better. And there are definite signs of problems, and no velvet handled spades. More men were called in to get the job done.

This time around, there weren't sufficient huts so the navvies and their families were looking for other places to stay. And where there was loft or cottage availability, they piled in.

In The Landmark Trust's publication *Winsford Cottage Hospital History Album*, it lists that the local medical officer of the time Dr. Thomas Linnington ASH described the rural living conditions as "literally hovels of mud" – if this was what the local people were accustomed to, one can only imagine the state of their outbuildings. With the work hard and the living conditions dire, deaths were bound to start occurring.

By January 1885, navy John THOMAS, aged 23 and resident at No. 7 Hut, Ash Mill, Ashwater, died of pneumonia, likely exacerbated or caused by his poor living conditions. He is buried at St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater.

The next navy death was in Halwill in March 1885; 38-year-old George Warren died as a result of an accident and is buried at St. Peter and St. James, Halwill. His cause of death was “concussion of the brain caused by a wheelbarrow falling on him.”

Eighteenth March 1885 Halwill R. S. D.	George Warren	Male	38 Years	Railway Laborer	Concussion of the Brain caused by a wheelbarrow falling on him
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From the death certificate for George WARREN 1885

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By now, news of the poor living conditions of the navvies in our area were beginning to be reported.

At an inquest in Holsworthy, they heard of the death of 30-year-old William PRICE, an Ashwater-based navy who had died at Holsworthy Union Workhouse.

At the inquest, William JENKINS [son in law of Esther SAMBELLS from the August 2024 bulletin for any avid readers!], landlord of the Manor Inn in Ashwater said that people sometimes slept in his loft over the stable, and that it had been used for the past 4-5 months (so from November to March). This accommodation was for free, and they were able to use the back kitchen to cook, and buy cider at the pub. The sleeping conditions were hay and some sacks. Some ten men would be living in this loft, measuring 27ft by 15ft (8.23m x 4.57m in “new money.”)

PRICE had complained of being ill, and received a doctor’s certificate to be removed to Holsworthy Workhouse. The landlord lent a horse rug and greatcoat, and something to eat for the journey, and permitted him to use his trap. The cause of death was given as inflammation of the lungs, aggravated by exposure. Apparently, the railway gangers were aware of the squalid conditions, but did nothing about it – whether they were able to or not is a different story.

Meanwhile, in Halwill in two cottages adjoining the old Blacksmith’s shop there were no less than thirty people living and sleeping. They asked for more space, but none was given. Until all at once, it was...

The headlines read, “THE OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN NORTH DEVON. OVERCROWDING: MORE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES”. By this time, three men were dead, and they were buried at Halwill – 34-year-old Thomas AITKIN, 60-year-old Thomas FREEMAN and 17-year-old Charles MALLETT. The sanitation boards recommended a hospital and it was built within a week, and the

outbreak contained. As quick as this seemed, it took two weeks for them to take action, and much suffering could have been prevented if such overcrowding wasn't required in the first place...

Such was the concern over this outbreak, it was mentioned not just locally but in papers as far away as Aberdeenshire in Scotland, and Antrim, Northern Ireland.

No. 259.	George Warren	Laur End	March 22	29 yrs	Saml. Andrew Rector	} Navvy. Killed by accident.
No. 260.	William Knight	Folley	March 31	59 years	Saml. Andrew Rector.	
No. 261.	Thomas Atkin	Halwill Moor in Mission Room.	April 3	34	S. Andrew Rector.	} Navvies. Died from Small Pox.
No. 262.	Charles Mallett	Halwill Moor in Holloway's Hut	April 30.	17.	J. Willis D.D. Rector of Beaworthy	
No. 263.	Thomas Freeman	Halwill Moor in Mission Room.	May 2.	60	J. Field Rector of Ashwater	
No. 264.						

From the burial records at St. Peter and St. James, Halwill

Twice now, the sanitation and conditions of the navvies had been brought to the attention of the press. Was this enough to stop the terrible conditions?

Solomon HOCKADAY. Aged 29, of No. 5 Hut, Ash Mill, Ashwater, dies of "congestion of brain", 3rd October 1885, buried at St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater.

Modern research indicates this is likely untreated hypertension or an ischemic attack (stroke) - it is up to history to decide whether this was a result of working and living conditions.

There are a couple more baptisms at Halwill of navy children – William James HANDCOCK, son of Thomas and Mary Ann, baptised 3rd May 1885, the day after the burial of one of Halwill's smallpox victims – perhaps a hasty baptism of an ill child?

The last explicit “navvy” baptism was of John EASTMAN, son of John and Fanny of Halwill Moor Hut on July 16th 1886. Halwill Junction (as it became) opened on 21st July 1886, taking the last of the navvies away with it.

One cannot mention the navvies of the Halwill line without paying tribute to Revd. Samuel ANDREW of Halwill though.

When the Baptist Chapel in Halwill Junction was opened, Squire HARRIS delivered a speech, and in it, he made reference to the smallpox outbreak and the way the community resiliently dealt with it and minimised the risk. But he paid particular tribute to Revd. ANDREW. The body of 34-year-old Thomas AITKEN, the first victim of the outbreak was apparently so afflicted and disfigured that nobody would prepare him for burial.

Revd. ANDREW, by this point a man in his late 60s, took it upon himself to prepare him for burial, lay him out in his coffin and undertake his funeral at the Church of St. Peter and St. James with only the help of his wife Emily.

As can be seen above, Revd. ANDREW only took that one smallpox funeral – the other two were outsourced to the priests at Beaworthy and Ashwater; perhaps because he was so affected, or because he too was not in the best of health. Within two years of this, Revd. ANDREW had to retire following a stroke, and within four years he was dead.

He was so respected that following his death, a memorial window was placed in his honour at Halwill Church in the bell tower, and a plaque to his wife Emily above the door to the Vestry.

May his utter devotion to humankind and the suffering and achievements of the navvies in our area never be forgotten.

Kay Napier
December 2024

Sources

Parish Registers: Halwill, Ashwater

<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/navvies-workers-who-built-railways>

www.findmypast.co.uk

<https://sremg.org.uk/location/halwill.shtml>

The Western Times, Wednesday July 2 1884

Cornish and Devon Post March 28 1885.

Western Times May 8 1885.

Exeter and Plymouth gazette 14 Mach 1885

Winsford Cottage Hospital History Album (The Landmark Trust), C. Stanford 2019

Household Support Fund



Funded by
UK Government



ARE YOU STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY THIS WINTER?

If you are struggling to afford heating, utility bills, food, essential clothing or appliances or any other major cost, please call

01271 371 499

This is the number for Encompass who are a locally based charity, and are partnered with Torridge District Council to process applications and administer the government's Household Support Fund to those in need.

Please don't feel ashamed to ask – the money is there to be spent where it needs to be spent – the worst answer you can get is 'no!'

St Mary's Handbells

Don't worry, the Ruby Ringers are still ringing away, practising carols, but I want to write about the bells themselves.

Following our trip to the Record office, Kay our Benefice sleuth, found some newspaper cuttings, two dating from the 1930s, which gave four names [therefore possibly they rang two bells each] but most interestingly two cuttings from **1877!**

LANGTREE.

THE Festival of Harvest Home was kept in this parish on Wednesday last with great goodwill and success. From early morning the Church bells sounded forth, and many willing hands were at work in erecting arches and decorating the Church, and right well and heartily they did their work. The Church was neatly and prettily done—the pulpit and chancel shewing much care and taste. At three o'clock the children of the schools were assembled by the Rector, and marched round the village, the Langtree band in front. A public tea was held at 3.30 in the schoolroom; Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Hackwill, Mrs. Huxtable, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Ward, Miss Copp, the Misses Newcombes, and Mrs. Clements, kindly undertaking the trays. About 600 of the parishioners and their friends took tea. The rectory grounds were open to all, where the Black Torrington hand-bell ringers attracted much attention in their skilful work. Various amusements were also provided for the young.—The Thanksgiving Service was at 7.15 p.m. Hymns well rendered by a good choir, and an excellent sermon on “True Prayer and Thanksgiving” was preached by Rev. Prebendary Barnes, of Heavitree. The day was a most pleasant one, and most heartily entered into by all, and we trust the results will be satisfactory to the active secretary. The proceeds of the tea are to be given to the school fund, and the collection after the sermon to the North Devon Infirmary.—The Indian Famine collection reached to £5 3s. 6½d., after an eloquent and impressive sermon from the Rev. T. Russell.

The North Devon Journal, October 8 1877

Immediate thoughts from our ringers were: Where did 600 people come from? Did they really serve 600 teas? Think of the washing up! How did they get to Langtree?

My thought was: WERE THEY THE SAME BELLS THAT WE PLAY? We know from Chris Lock and Ralph Chapman that as teenagers they played eight bells. Of those eight, two are stamped MEARS, the mark of the Whitechapel foundry. I enquired, but that stamp has been used on many bells for a very long time and no records have been kept. The two upper bells are stamped JT. This is the mark of the John Taylor bell foundry, the last remaining bell founders in England. At some point the mark changed from **JT** to **JT**, but when? Hopefully before 1877!

The firm now has an archive department and I hope soon to have a response.

We have always known that our bells [now 25 bells in two chromatic octaves] are in fact a 'job lot' and it is down to the expertise of Geoff Hill and Ian Hayes that they have been tuned to ring together so well. We know that apart from Whitechapel and John Taylor bells, we have one from Henry Symondson [**H+S**] the firm ceased in 1863; one by John Shaw of Bradford [**JS**] manufacture ceased after a disastrous foundry fire in 1911, and one from Warners of London. [They never marked the bells but the handle is stamped 'Warners London'. Of course, the bell may not really be made by them, but the shape looks right. They ceased production in 1924, so possibly one of our newer bells!]

Another article perhaps when we learn about the four named ringers.

Shirley Richmond



Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington

10am

All welcome

St Alban's Beaworthy will be holding its Annual Christmas Carol Service on 18th December at 7 pm followed by Mince pies and mulled wine and apple juice.

The festive merriment will include the celebrated drawing of winning tickets for the Christmas hampers.

Draw tickets will be available from our parishioners and outside the Village shop in Halwill Junction on Saturdays from the end of November till 14th December.

Ring 01409 221 501 if you'd like to place an order now.

Sandra Ward, PCC secretary.

St Mary's Church Black Torrington

Grand Jigsaw Festival

on

17th & 18th October 2025

SAVE THE DATE

We need your help ...

Can you donate a jigsaw? Can you make up a jigsaw?

**Jigsaws & baseboards are ready for you to
begin to make up.**

Collect or donate your jigsaw at the Church

For help, collection or delivery: Shirley 01409 231764

Val 0748 4880770, Linda 07717 536970

Enjoy the winter evenings with a Jigsaw.

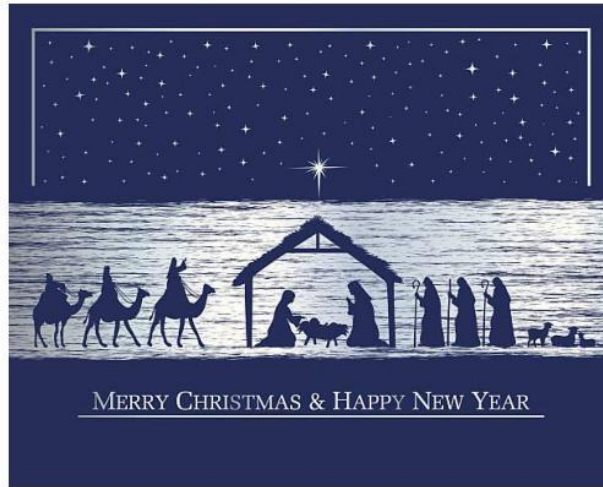
As this is a double edition, submissions for the next bulletin will be due by 15th January 2025 for the February bulletin. Please send any submissions to rubbybulletin@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/rubybenefice

St Mary's Church, Black Torrington



The PCC of Black Torrington discussed Christmas Cards at their last meeting.

A Christmas Card will be in the Church from Sunday 1st December for anyone to sign with their Christmas wishes for everyone instead of sending cards to each other.

If you wish to give a donation towards a charity, to be chosen, a box will be available.

(Suggestions for a charity welcome – there will be a list available to add to in the Church)



***Saturday Church celebrates Christmas
on 14th December 2024***

10.00 –11.00am at Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall
***Enjoy, sing & take part in a thought-provoking
re-telling of the Nativity story.***

Dress as your favourite character

Suitable for all ages.

Seasonal refreshments follow.

All are welcome!

Tel: Sandra 01409 281128

Donation to charity accepted



St Mary's Church, Black Torrington



Sunday 8th December

11.00 am

Café Church—Christingle Service



Monday 16th December

2.30 pm

Black Torrington C of E Primary School

Carol Service in the Church

*Please do come along and support
our village school*

Thursday 19th December

7.00 pm

Village Carol Service

*followed by mulled wine
and light refreshments*



Wednesday 25th December

10.00 am

Christmas Day

Holy Communion

LUFFINCOTT CHURCH
SUNDAY 5TH
JANUARY
5.30PM MULLED WINE
6PM SERVICE

CANDLELIT
SERVICE



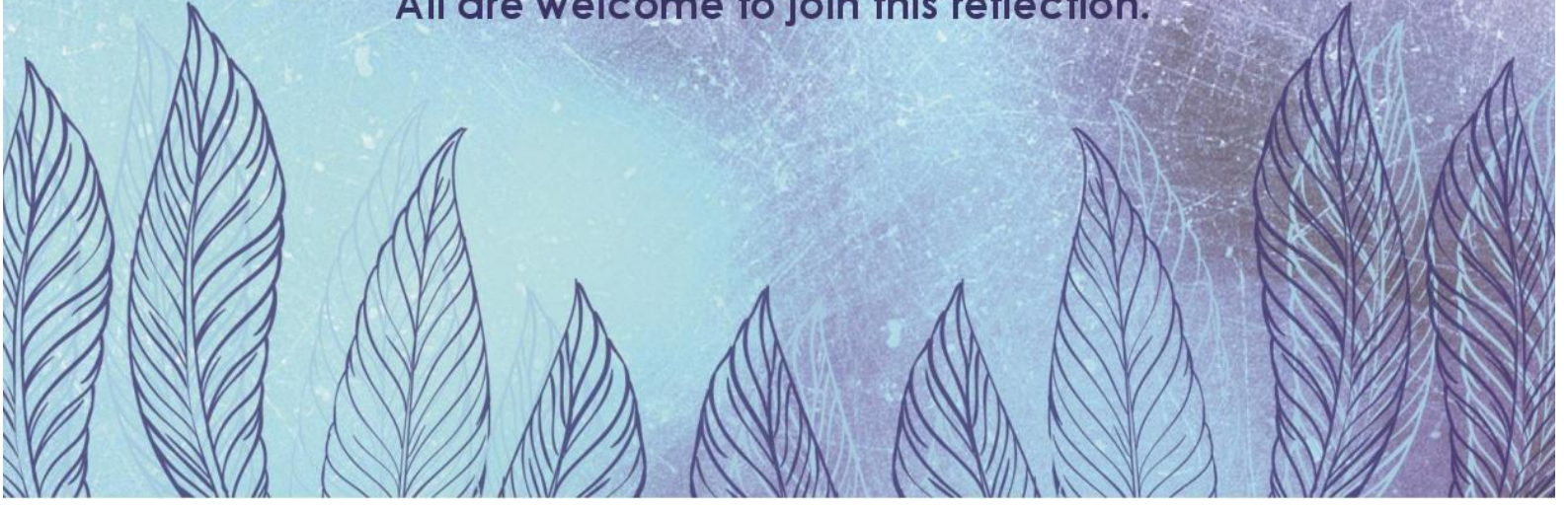


AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER

St Peter ad Vincula church, Ashwater is holding a reflective evening of words and music to remember the victims of the Holocaust, of more recent genocides and of crimes against humanity.

Holocaust Memorial Day is an international day commemorating lives lost or changed through deliberate action against them.

**26th January 2025 at 6.00pm
All are welcome to join this reflection.**



Bingo Quiz

Which number would the following bingo calls represent?

- 1) One little duck.
- 2) Jump and Jive.
- 3) Sunset Strip.
- 4) Doctor's Orders.
- 5) Bang on the Drum.
- 6) Was she worth it?
- 7) Duck and Dive.
- 8) Garden Gate.
- 9) Clickety Click.
- 10) Droopy Drawers.
- 11) Key of the Door.
- 12) Two fat ladies.
- 13) Man Alive.
- 14) Top of the Shop.
- 15) Danny LaRue.
- 16) Heinz Varieties.
- 17) The lawnmower.
- 18) Kelly's eye.
- 19) Unlucky for some.
- 20) Dirty Gertie.

The answers will be in February's Bulletin.

Answers to November's One Letter Quiz

1 C. 2 K. 3 J. 4 O. 5 C. 6 J. 7 Q. 8 W. 9 L.
10 i and j. 11 V. 12 B. 13 E. 14 K.



Date: Friday 13th December
Time: 12:30pm-2:00pm
Place: Holsworthy Food Hub, Bodmin
Street Methodist Church, The Manse
North Road, Holsworthy, Devon EX22
6HF

FREE Energy Advice

Drop In and Open Access

You're welcome to join us for a FREE advice session on how to reduce your household heating and manage your budget during the cost of living crisis.

Accessing financial support
Understanding fuel poverty
The energy market and energy costs
How to use energy at home
Supplier services for vulnerable customers
Smart meters
Devon Oil Collective

FREE fleece blankets while stocks last!

No need to book, just drop in!
For more information, contact:

01392 248919

anderson.jones@devoncommunities.org.uk

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/energy-outreach-project



Monthly Reflection from the Rt. Rev'd Dr. Mike Harrison, The Bishop of Exeter

What time is it? The world says this time is a run up to Christmas and the season we are now in, advent, is simply a prelude, the first act of Christmas. But the Christian season of Advent tells us it's a different time.

In fact, Advent tells us it's midnight, in at least 3 ways.

First midnight in the moral order, in the spiritual order, in the environmental order. That might sound a bit bleak, but Advent is partly about taking an inventory of the darkness we find in the human condition. We assume our advances in society, whether technological, scientific or medical, mean that we are improving as human beings. But are we? Advent reminds us that we are not nearly so upstanding as we would like to believe, and the message of Mr Advent himself, John the Baptist, is a message for any and every age, repent, change, turn, to the light of Christ.

Second, Advent tells us its midnight meaning it's dark, **but** dawn is coming. So, it also tells us that it's a time to hope. Maybe that's why in some Christian traditions it's only on Christmas Eve that decorations are put up - so Christmas comes in a burst - the explosion of festive decorating reflecting the bursting of God's grace into our world in Jesus. Advent is a time to anticipate how God comes to us out of nowhere, utterly without our deserving or merit.

Third, advent tells us its midnight in that it is the *middle* of night, between two daylights, the day before and the day after – e.g. the daylight of our Lord's first coming and the daylight of his final coming. This midnight is, as W.H. Auden put it, the time being, this time, our time – a time and space to conform us to Jesus and His way.

Advent tells us what the time is – it is midnight – a time of darkness, a time of hope, a time of preparation. A good time to be alive. Lord, help us to learn how to tell the time.

Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, The Bishop of Exeter

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