

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin August 2026



*"Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.*

*You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me."*

Psalms 138:7 (NIV)

“From the Parish Registers” has moved to page 6.

CONTACT NUMBERS

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for safeguarding email addresses, see back cover

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 5) © Parish Pump,

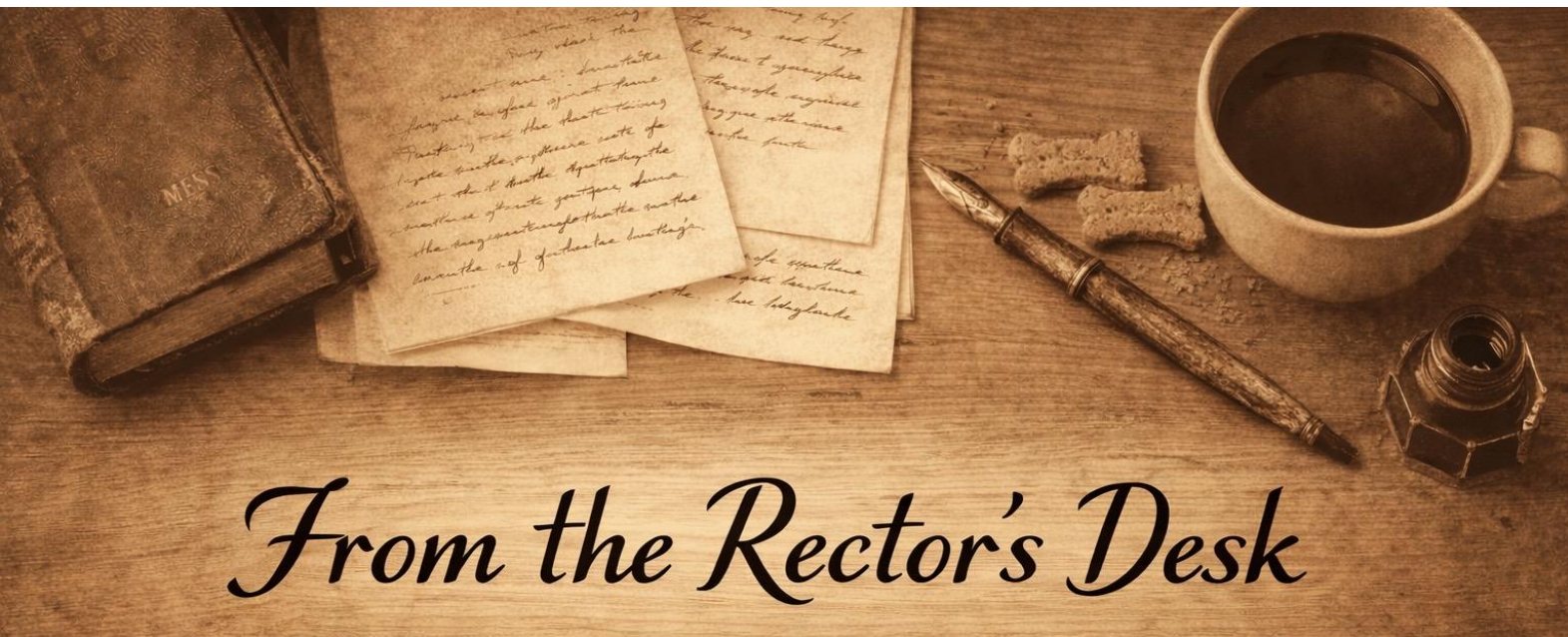
Cover image: view from Hawker's Hut, Morwenstow. 8/6/2019. August Schwerdfeger, CC BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Welcome Julie Howell images © Kay Napier

Coumbe grave, Halwill Church © Kay Napier, images from death records © Crown Copyright.

Thanks to those who have contributed this month





From the Rector's Desk

August

Long evening at my desk, two cups of coffee, two biscuits for Henry, long personal condolence letter written, and a last, longing look online at a potential new fountain pen, that will never be. I will write this, say evening prayer and gentle retire to bed.

What a week. Three interments, one wedding rehearsal, one wedding, one staff meeting, one benefice meeting, one letter to a Parish Council, one 1500-word report to Bishop Mike, Bishop Mike's bible study, Pastoral committee with Archdeacon Verena and Bishop Moira, one Chapter meeting, two pastoral visits, one end of term school assembly in church, two deanery returns for the diocese, one commentary for the Grapevine, one mission update, one broken car, one borrowed car, one governors meeting that I missed. That aside, nothing much happened. Apart from the heat exhaustion of course.

I suspect that many of you must have a much greater list than this, and whilst not all the content would be faith based, it would be necessary and compassion driven. This pulled me up short this

evening. I am always being told to do less, take a day off, relax, take my down time, and of course this is all good advice, until I look at you – all of you.

I work with people who do not just worship on Sunday, or just on the other days of the week. Most of you have full-time jobs, or are parents (often both), or sit on a hundred other community committees. Some write script or do parish research until half past-stupid three in the morning to meet a deadline. I watched this week someone having put in a full day's work in the blistering heat, turn out for an evening meeting fighting to stay awake and force herself to contribute, whilst a finance wizard reported on an incredibly hard worked achievement with all the other treasurers. Churchwardens, play leaders, editors, secretaries, ringers, worship leaders, musicians and the list goes on and on (don't even get me started on the endless work that Val does!!).

I am not being self-demeaning, my role is important and ordination does place serious demands on the Priest, but I walk with Saints.

The key to this little refectio piece as I watch the reddish sun drop into dusk across the fields, and startled Brown Hares rush to cover, whilst Pipistrelles come out to hawk the pond, is not just to thank God for where I am, and more importantly, whom I work with; it is to remind you, his Saints, to be gentle and forgiving of yourselves.

So often I see those, whose calling humbles me, beat themselves up or feel inadequate for the task in hand, feel they are not good enough, when in reality they are absolute giants.

It is OK to be human, melt down sometimes, shed an occasional tear in frustration, dust ourselves off (frequently dust me off), and start to walk again.

God does not call Superman/woman/people; he has called you, just where you are, and just who you are; and you have responded, which is grace beyond words. You are the children of God.

Paul.

Ruby Mission prayer

You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you.

Wherever you are, God has put you there.

He has a purpose in your being there.

Christ, who indwells you, has something He wants to do through you where you are.

Believe this, and go in His grace and love and power. +

Mary Dayman

1933-2026

We are sad to hear of the passing of Mary Dayman. She lived a life dedicated to service at Highampton Church and in the village, having served as church treasurer for most of her life. She will be much missed and our thoughts and prayers are with Alma, her family and her friends.



July 2026

- 4th Interment of Ashes of
Elsie PEARCE and
Margaret HARDING
(St. Leonard, Clawton)
- 9th Interment of Ashes of
Kevin EATON
(St. Leonard, Clawton)
- 11th Marriage of Lucy BARNES and
Tristan ORCHARD
(St. Mary's, Black Torrington)
- 23rd Funeral of Mary DAYMAN
(Highampton Village Hall)
- 28th Funeral of Reginald OSBORNE
(North Devon Crematorium
& St. Leonard, Clawton)

A Parish Prayer

Loving God, we lift up our parish family to you.
Bless those newly baptised, that they may grow
in the light of Christ.
Strengthen those married in our churches,
that their love may reflect your faithfulness.
And grant eternal rest to those laid to rest,
bringing them into the joy of your kingdom.
Hold us all together in your love. **Amen**



August Services 2026

2ND
H

ASHWATER MORNING SERVICE
BLACK TORRINGTON HOLY COMMUNION
HALWILL MORNING SERVICE
TETCOTT SERVICE

9TH

BLACK TORRINGTON CAFE CHURCH
CLAWTON HOLY COMMUNION
5PM BEAWORTHY TEA AND LAMMAS

16TH

ASHWATER HOLY COMMUNION
BLACK TORRINGTON MORNING PRAYER
HALWILL HOLY COMMUNION

23RD

CLAWTON CAFE CHURCH
BEAWORTHY HOLY COMMUNION
6PM BENEFICE INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY AT
BLACK TORRINGTON

29TH

11AM BENEFICE
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
AT ASHWATER



Unless specified otherwise,

Services at

Ashwater begin 9:30am

Black Torrington,

Beaworthy, Clawton and

Halwill start at 11am

and Tetcott 5pm

Benefice Morning Prayer is

10am every WEDNESDAY

at St. Mary's Church,

Black Torrington

For more information on regular and occasional services,
contact the benefice administrator on 07484 880 770
or email: rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com

Ruby Country Benefice

Lectionary Readings

August 2026

Sun 2nd

Trinity 9

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalms 145:8-9,
15-22
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew
14:13-21

Services at:

Ashwater, Black
Torrington, Halwill,
Tetcott

Sun 9th

Trinity 10

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalms 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew
14:22-33

Services at:

Black Torrington,
Clawton, Beaworthy

Sun 16th

Trinity 11

Isaiah 56:1,6-8
Psalms 67
Romans 11:1-
2a, 29-32
Matthew
15:21-28

Services at:

Ashwater, Black
Torrington, Halwill

Sun 23rd

Trinity 12

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalms 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew
16:13-20

Services at:

Beaworthy, Clawton

Sun 29th

Trinity 13

Jeremiah
15:15-21
Psalms 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew
16:21-28

Services at:

Ashwater

Have you visited our Benefice's websites?

The Parish Church of St Peter ad Vincula Ashwater

www.ashwaterparishchurch.com



www.rubyholwellchurches.org.uk



www.tetcottchurch.org



facebook.com/rubybenefice

Welcome Rev. Julie Howell!

A lovely service was held at St. Mary's, Black Torrington on Sunday 28th June, welcoming Julie Howell to our Benefice, having, at long last, received her Permission to Officiate.

Members of Black Torrington Roaming Ringers rang before the service, which was well attended by members across the benefice. Chris March played the organ and the intercessions read by Daisy and Kay Napier.

The service itself was planned by Julie, and it was fabulous to hear her preach for us for the first time.

A fabulous spread of refreshments followed the service on a wonderful, sunny summer evening. A big thank you to all involved.



St Alban's Beaworthy

August Lammas service

We will be celebrating the Corn Harvest on Sunday 9th August - slightly late as Lammas falls on the 1st of the month. The service will follow a Harvest Tea at 5pm and the Lammas loaf will be honoured. Do let us know if you would like to join us so we can cater appropriately

Flowers, crafts, and garden plants

June and July saw two important Beaworthy events.

The St Alban's and Madworthy Flower Festivals and a Garden talk in Halwill Village hall.

The PR for this event and the flower festival had been well distributed – the Post Office. Local Notice Boards and several in Okehampton including Waitrose's staff tearoom. Thanks to Nick and Caroline for all their hard work in leaflet distribution.

The Flower Festival held on the 20th and 21st June to coincide with St Alban's Day turned out to be a wonderful weekend with no rain. The theme was Glorious Devon so hedgerows, ferns, the seaside and fishing, cream teas, plus cows and sheep featured in the amazingly varied displays. Every window ledge and corner of the church and the font were filled with brilliant arrangements as was the porch. The church looked absolutely beautiful. And the craft displays included cards, notelets and fabulous knitted flowers plus a plant stall outside the church and a Portaloo as well. Sarah Balsdon's sunflower folding game was enjoyed by adults too as well

The celebration service was held in the church on Sunday and it was great to have Kath Brimacombe on the organ again.

A steady trickle of visitors kept the church buzzing and we were delighted to welcome folk who'd never visited the church or Beaworthy before as well as many old friends. One of the best aspects was the community spirit that kept so many guests sitting and chatting till 5pm enjoying coffee, tea, cakes and cold drinks.

Thank you to all who helped and visited the church all, especially our friends from Madworthy and Halwill who joined us to create a real community event! Thanks to our many arrangers. The profits from the festival amounted to £800 which will be shared between Beaworthy and Madworthy churches .

Garden talk- New Colours for Summer,8th July

We were delighted to welcome well over 20 garden enthusiasts to Halwill Village Hall

Luckily the Hall was cool and a fresh breeze from the open doors helped.

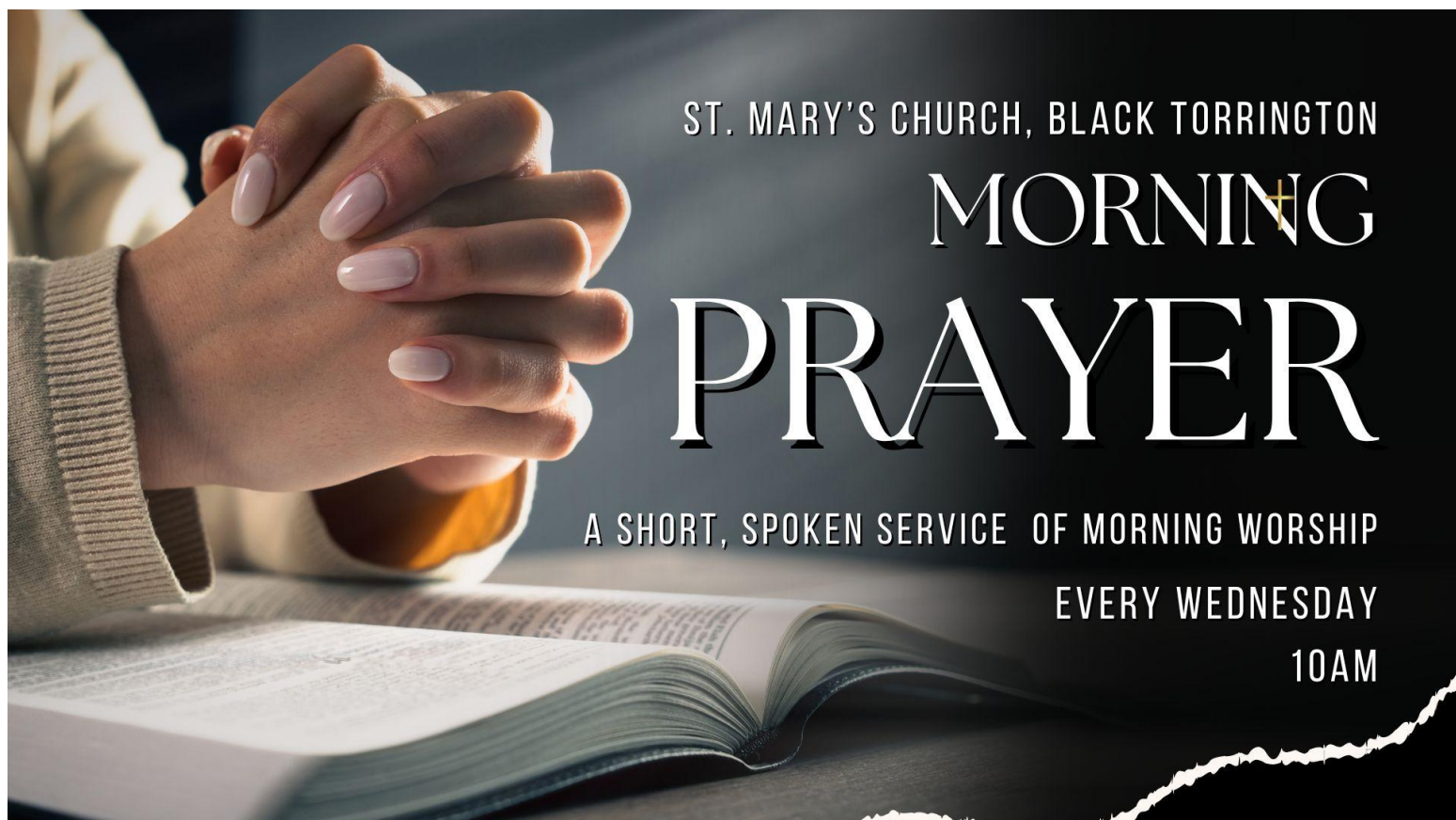
This event was the third talk delivered by Alan French and attracted a good crowd of garden enthusiasts – at least two from Halwill Town, several from Halwill, one from Northlew, and a crowd from Beaworthy. Alan, a well-known plantsman from the Cullompton area brings a host of plants and shrubs to illustrate his talk. So his expertise informs his audience on their role ,position and the factors needed to grow each successfully. Questions were many and varied throughout the talk and ensured a very positive atmosphere.

At the end of the talk all plants were available for sale and no-one left without a plant or two or more. With the sales of tea and coffee and a prize raffle the takings from the evening came to £181. And very few plants remained for Alan to take home.

August 1st sees Patchfest- a country music festival organised by Beaworthy Village Hall, Patchacott. From 1.30 pm to 11.30pm. .

What is currently a peaceful corner of our community will soon become a vibrant festival site, ready to welcome friends, families, neighbours and visitors for a fantastic day filled with live music, local beers, great food, local businesses and even better company. From staging and marquees to vendor pitches and festival spaces, every detail is being carefully put together to create a day that celebrates everything that makes our community special.

For tickets, go to [HTTPS://FIENTA.COM/PATCHFEST](https://fienta.com/patchfest)



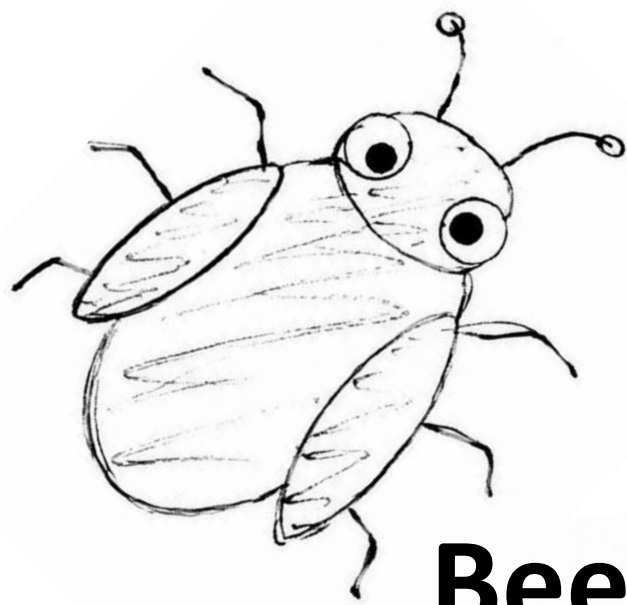


St. Mary's Black Tarrington Patronal Festival

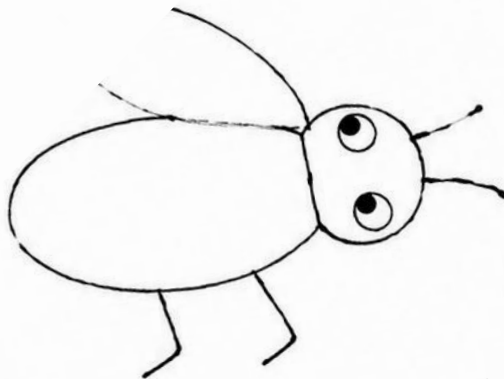
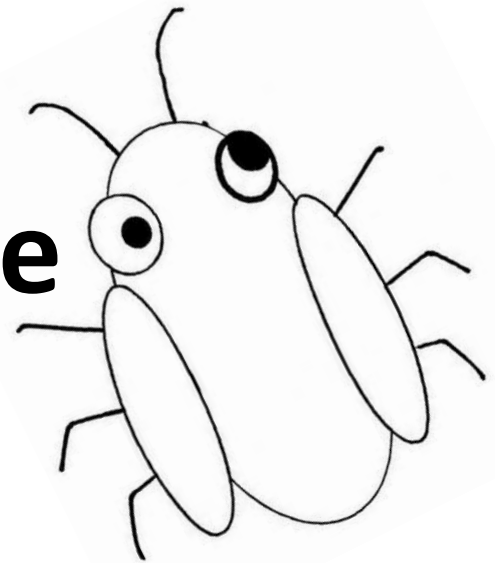
9th August 2026
11:00 am

A chance to say Thank You to everyone who helps at St. Mary's. Coffee served with the service and a salad lunch from 12 noon. Everyone welcome to the service and/or lunch.





Beetle Drive



St. Mary's, Black Torrington had a fun evening of frantic dice-rolling and some very artistic (and some not so artistic...) beetle sketches at the Village Hall on 26th June.

Play was competitive with at least three church wardens facing down Rev'd. Paul!

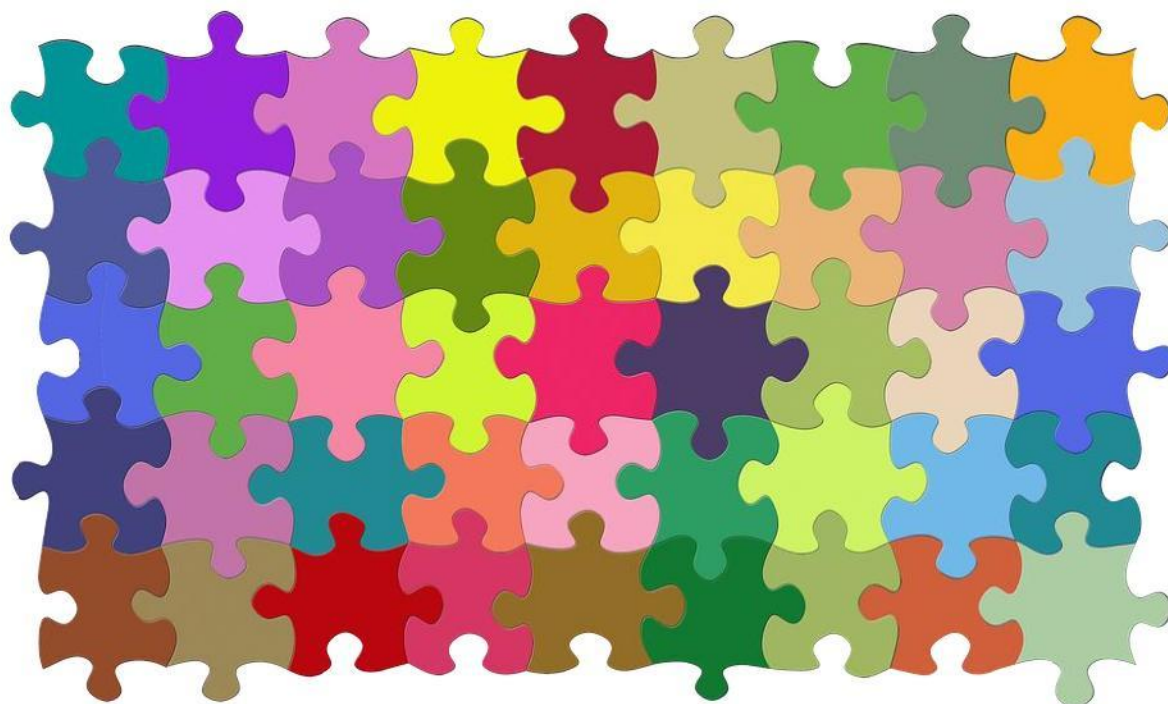
With a range of ages taking part, a lovely spread of refreshments and a generous raffle where barely anyone left empty-handed, it genuinely was an exciting evening for all who attended.

Monies raised by the evening are for the repair of the roof and tower of St. Mary's, a very valuable cause and some very needed maintenance and repair work. Thanks to all who came out to support, and those who organised it and generously provided food and prizes.

St. Mary's Church, Black Torrington

GRAND JIGSAW FESTIVAL

2027



We can make it happen

IF YOU HELP US!

We need 500 jigsaws by next March

- Donate
- Make up
- Come puzzling @ our monthly puzzle and natter

MARTIN REDWOOD MEMORIAL

TRACTOR RUN



NEW DATE!

Sunday 4th October

**9am at Clawton Village Hall
for 10.15 start**

£10 per tractor £5 per passenger

in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and Clawton Churchyard

Refreshments available before and after run

To book, text or call 07967 525769

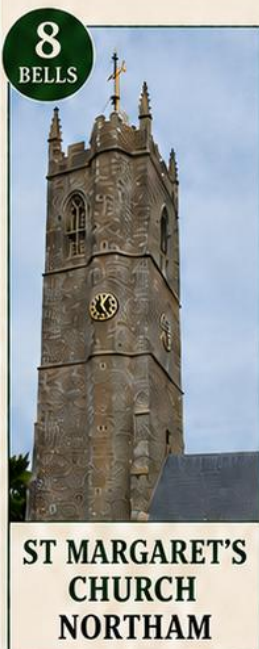
BLACK TORRINGTON



ROAMING RINGERS

SUMMER OUTING

5TH SEPTEMBER 2026



**LUNCH AT
THE BELL INN
PARKHAM**

★ WHERE THEY ARE HOLDING
A BEER FESTIVAL! ★



**HEAVIEST BELLS
ST NECTANS CHURCH
STOKE, HARTLAND
17-2-8**



**LIGHTEST BELLS
ST JAMES CHURCH
PARKHAM
7-3-22**



∞ Good Ringing • Great Company • Wonderful Churches ∞

Any bell ringer within our Benefice is welcome to join us on this outing. Please contact David French 07502 115303 for more details or to confirm attendance. Fuller details will be sent to those attending nearer the day.

ST. MARY'S RUBY PUZZLERS

Meet fellow puzzlers, puzzle,
chat, donate, loan and borrow!

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY

11AM-12:30PM



Tea and  coffee available

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BLACK TORRINGTON

Ruby Country Benefice

Letting Go, Holding On

remembering our children

Photo by Laura Ohlman on Unsplash

11th October 2026

5pm

**The church of St. Peter & St. James, Halwill
EX21 5UH**

With an introduction from The Right Rev'd Moira Astin, Bishop of Crediton



A service to remember for those of any religion or none - all are welcome.



On Summer Break!

No policy corner this month, but the policies and safeguarding are still there in place for you and your protection!

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your Churchwarden, Safeguarding Rep, Administrator or Paul as necessary.

trypraying.

Try praying for a week and see what happens.

Try Praying booklets are available, free of charge, in your local church.
Please take one, use one and pass it along

Common Fund

Full Review

The Bishop's Diocesan Council has approved a full review of the Common Fund system to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our diverse Diocese. A consultation will take place with every Deanery Synod from this autumn through to Spring 2027, and individuals will also have the opportunity to share their views. Everyone is encouraged to take part, with any agreed changes expected to come into effect from 1 January 2028.

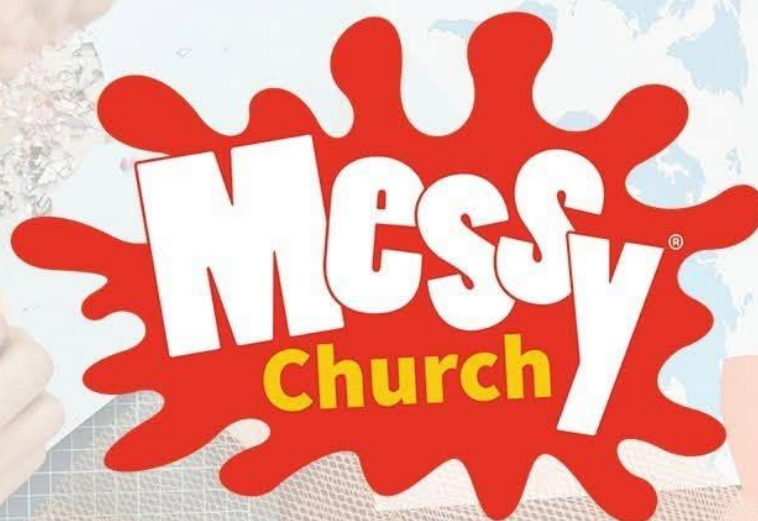
From the Bulletin Editor.

Firstly, thank you for your contributions, which always shape our Bulletin. **Please make sure you send submissions to rubycbulletin@gmail.com**

Or if you are not in email contact, please send your submission onto your churchwarden in good time for passing along.

Anything not sent to the above email will not get into the publication.

There has been some confusion regarding the absolute deadline for the Bulletin each month, so, for clarity, unless explicitly agreed in advance, please ensure contributions are in by 01:00 on the 15th of each month.



- Hatherleigh -

3:30 - 6:00pm

Hatherleigh Methodist Church

Meeting once a month (nearly every 2nd Friday)

2026 Dates

Fri 24th Apr

Fri 8th May

Fri 12th Jun

~~Fri 10th Jul~~

Fri 14th Aug

Fri 11th Sep

Fri 9th Oct

Fri 13th Nov

Fri 11th Dec

Join us after-school for crafts, games
and activities based around a bible story.

Sessions will end with a simple meal, before tidy-up time.

Suitable for all ages.

All children to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Donations welcome.

Ideally, register to help with catering numbers via
westdevonmethodists.org.uk/youth/activities

INFUSION



West Devon
Methodist Circuit



**YOU GO NOWHERE
BY ACCIDENT**

**WHEREVER YOU GO, GOD IS
SENDING YOU THERE.**

**WHEREVER YOU GO, GOD HAS
PUT YOU THERE.**

**HE HAS A PURPOSE IN
YOUR BEING THERE.**

**CHRIST, WHO
INDWELLS YOU**

**HAS SOMETHING HE
WANTS TO DO**

**THROUGH YOU,
WHERE YOU ARE.**

**BELIEVE THIS, AND GO IN HIS
GRACE, AND LOVE AND POWER.**



St. Mary's Weekly Schedule

Mon	Tue	Wed
	14:15 Ruby Ringers Handbells	10am Benefice Morning Prayer 6:30pm Roaming Ringers
Thu	Fri	Sat

Black Torrington

Spoken morning Prayer, 10am on Wednesdays, all welcome.

Weekly Handbell Ringing, Tuesday afternoons at St. Mary's, Black Torrington - 2:15pm setup, practise 2:30pm – 4:30pm



Church Tower Bell Ringing

Wednesday evenings 6:30pm – 8:30pm

1st Wednesday – Langtree

2nd Wed. – Black Torrington

3rd Wed. – Shebbear

4th Wed. – Black Torrington

5th Wed. – Roaming!



Emma sat on a bus. She had spent her evening visiting her father in hospital, had to get her child ready for school in the morning for the minder, had just received an abusive call from her ex, and just to make her day perfect, had been told she needs to find new accommodation for her and her child.

Emma is at the end. She has given all her life, not taken, she is empty and hurting and there is no one there; just more need, more demands, more pain, and less and less of Emma.

Then she saw the sign on the bus as she got off. Try Praying. In tears, next to a bus stop, she did. Things started to change.

(Emma is a real person and this is her story)



COUNBE

Richard (1798 – 1884) and Jane (1813-1882)

This stone, not far from the path in the church of St. Peter and St. James, Halwill, has been lying down as long as I can remember. (This seems grand, but my memory doesn't stretch much beyond my PCC tenure, so "anywhere upward of 6 years.")

Richard and Jane COUNBE are not "Halwill natives" by name, so I thought it was time to work out how they came to be in our churchyard, and who they were. We will start with Jane, and bring Richard into the story at the appropriate moment.

Jane Mary GOULD was the daughter of mason James GOULD and his wife Jane. She was baptised on Christmas Day 1813 at St. Andrew's Church in Plymouth. No GOULD siblings were baptised at St. Andrews which indicate she could have been an only child, one of her parents passed away and remarried, or the family was travelling through the area.

I have not pursued the research into the family as it is very tricky to; the name has several possible variants, James and Jane are common names and there is too much uncertainty to form any conclusions pre-census with only internet research at my disposal.

I could not find Jane in the 1841 nor 1851 censuses, first finding her in the 1861 Census in Menheniot, Cornwall. The first 46 years of her life are likely lost to history.

Jane GOULD is a 47-year-old, unmarried cook, working for the HAWKER family.

The head of the house is widowed Mary P HAWKER, aged 71 from Altarnun. Living alongside her is her son John HAWKER, aged 26, a Captain born at Plymouth, and house servant Ellen MOYSE, aged 21 from Cornwall.

My immediate thought upon seeing the name HAWKER was, "is there any connection to Rev. HAWKER of Morwenstow?" (Robert HAWKER wrote the song, "The Song of the Western Men", known for its chorus, "And shall Trelawny die?" and is famous for being the eccentric Parson Hawker who built a hut of driftwood near Morwenstow – "Hawker's Hut", now owned by the National Trust.)

So I went off on a tangent.

The first stage was establishing who Mary P HAWKER was married to, before becoming widowed. Surely the answer would be in the

previous census!

So I looked Mary HAWKER up in the 1851 census.

1851: Menheniot Village. Mary P HAWKER, 62, widow.

Drat - I'd have to go back further. But while I had the record up, I thought I'd look further – and it got more interesting.

Mary P HAWKER, 62, widow. Annuitant. Niece. She's 62, and her aunt is still about!

Mary POLLARD (87), born at Menheniot. Farmer of 41 acres.

Unmarried. Employing two labourers.

Ann TYETH (86), widow. Annuitant. Sister.

I had found Mary's mother and aunt. Mary P HAWKER was born Mary Pollard TYETH, daughter of Ann TYETH, nee POLLARD and Rev. Isaac TYETH, reverend of Michaelstow and Perpetual Curate of St. Stephens by Launceston.

The sisters died within five years of the 1851 census and are buried in a Listed Chest Tomb at the church of St. Lalluw, Menheniot.

But the 1851 census was not done in revealing its secrets.

After the aunts and Mary HAWKER came Mary's two children, Mary T HAWKER, aged 17 and John S HAWKER, aged 16. And then the staff.

Richard COOMBE (sic), 53 of Linkinhorne, Cornwall. Married. Servant. Agricultural labourer.

Mary COOMBE, 56, wife, of Lezant, Cornwall. House Servant.

Mary HADDY, 32, of Liskeard, Cornwall, unmarried. House Servant.

John A SOMMERS, 17, of Devon. Single. Agricultural Labourer.

This shows Richard here with his first wife Mary, and it demonstrates that it is very likely that Richard and Jane were long-time servants of the HAWKER family.

I'm going to "park" the HAWKER research and fill in Richard's back story, in the hope it can all be drawn together neatly at the end.

Richard COOMBE/COUMBE was born around 1798 in Linkinhorne, Cornwall, the son of John COMBE (sic) and his wife Elizabeth, and he was baptised at the church of St. Melor on 2nd September 1798. On 26th March 1822 at Stoke Climsland he marries Mary WESTLAKE, the daughter of Walter WESTLAKE and Mary BOND.

It does not appear that there were any children of the marriage.

We first find Richard and Mary COOMBE in the 1841 census at East Upham, St Ive by Liskeard, Cornwall. It doesn't provide us with a lot of information, only that Mary is 46 and Richard 43.

They are then found in the 1851 census with the HAWKER family, and by 1861 they are in their own home again, but still in Menheniot Village, a very active mining community.

Richard is employed as a farm bailiff, living with wife Mary and her unmarried cousin Jane WESTLAKE, aged 50 from Lamerton.

The next information we receive is from *The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser* of 23rd May 1862:

"At Mrs. Hawkers' Farm, Menheniot, on the 10th inst., Mary Coombe, aged 62, wife of Richard Coombe, old and valued servants, of great respectability."

This confirms that the COUMBEs were "valued servants," and that Richard is now a widower. But this would only last seven months.

On Christmas Day 1862, the widowed Richard COUMBE married spinster Jane GOULD, (Jane having also been baptised on Christmas Day would have made a great candidate for the Christmas issue, but here we are!) Interestingly, Jane could sign her name but her husband Richard could only leave a mark of X. And as they were marrying aged 64 and 49, it can be assumed there were no children of this marriage either.

The couple are first seen in the census together in 1871, still at Menheniot. Jane is 57, her husband 72, and they are living next door to John HAWKER, the son of Mary Pollard HAWKER, so evidently still very much part of HAWKER family life. Richard is a labourer by trade, however exactly *what* labour was not listed.

By the 1881 census, they have made the move to Halwill, and are listed as living at the Manor House.

One would assume that the HARRIS family were living at the home at the time, but they are not mentioned in the census.

Although Halwill Manor was the HARRIS family home, they had other houses elsewhere, so perhaps, with Richard's farm bailiff background and very strong references from the HAWKERS, they made good house sitters.

As the local landowner, I'm sure Squire HARRIS would have found them adequate alternative accommodation on their return from upcountry. The COUMBE's address is subsequently given as Halwill Green. At the time of this 1881 census, Jane's age is given as 67 and Richard's 83. No occupation is given.

In November 1882, Jane suffered an acute bout of bronchopneumonia and, after suffering for five days, succumbed to her illness on Wednesday 29th November, aged 69. She was buried at Halwill on Saturday 2nd December.

<i>secondy runsh</i> November 1882 Halwill R. S. D.	Jane Coombe	Female	69 Years	Wife of Richard Coombe Labourer	Unknown Acute Broncho Pneumonia 5 days Certified by Edward V. Grace Physician & Surgeon
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From the death certificate of Jane COOMBE 1882 © Crown Copyright

Note: Some information has been cut off unintentionally by the General Records Office so the exact cause of death cannot be determined.

At some stage over the next year or two, Richard was admitted to the Union Workhouse at Holsworthy. He suffered from senile decay, dying of it on the Monday 22nd December 1884. His death was registered by Mr. Turner, the master of the Workhouse.

His second wife was baptised on Christmas Day 1813, married on Christmas Day in 1862, 49 years on, and then 24 years on from that again, her late husband was awaiting burial with her.

Christmas Day fell on the Thursday, Boxing Day was the Friday and he was finally interred with her on Saturday the 27th December 1884.

Their resting place is alongside prominent HARRIS family members, and I strongly suspect it was the HARRIS family that paid for the memorial, erected only after the death of Richard (you can tell as he is listed above his wife who predeceased him) as a valued tenant and perhaps even friend.

<i>Tuesday</i> <i>second</i> December 1884 Union House Holsworthy R. S. D.	Richard Coombe of Halwill	Male	85 Years	Farm Laborer	Senile Decay Certified by Linnington Ash M. R. E. S.
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From the death certificate of Richard CUMBE 1884 © Crown Copyright

But circling back to my tangent: Who were the HAWKERS?

Using Bishop's transcripts to identify the marriage, we finally find out who Mary Pollard HAWKER nee TYETH was married to: John Granville HAWKER.

From research (well... using Google) John was the son of "Star of the West," Revd. Robert HAWKER of Plymouth and his wife Ann RAINS— and John was a character in his own right.

One of J G HAWKER's notebooks is actually held as an artifact at Exeter Cathedral – including a charming little note to his daughter Mary, and this was reported on in December 2024 by Emma LAWS, the Cathedral librarian – for those reading this article digitally, the article can be read by clicking **here** should you wish.

John HAWKER, born in 1773, was a curate of Stoke Damerel until the age of 57 when in 1830, "he left the Church of England in protest over Catholic Emancipation." He set up his own church, Eldad Church, which I understand is now St. Peter's Church, Plymouth.

Mary TYETH was his second wife; he already had thirteen children with his first wife Susannah SADLER.

Mary and John were married on 21st July 1832, and, while residing in Plymouth, she bore him two children; John (Samuel) and Mary – as found in the 1851 census alongside Richard COUMBE. John HAWKER died on 30th October 1846, and, presumably, his widow Mary and two children returned to Menheniot to live with Mary's family.

So where does "Hawker's Hut" Rev. Robert HAWKER come into all this? Well, he was actually a nephew of John Granville HAWKER (eldest son of John's younger brother Jacob) and cousin of the two

HAWKER children the COUMBE family would have known and lived with. Therefore, it's not too much of a stretch to assume that Richard, Mary and Jane COUMBE would have known of, or even met, the eccentric Parson, famed for the 'Cornish anthem,' given that they cared for the home, land and household of his cousins.

You can almost hear Mary HAWKER and her mother Ann TYETH, both wives of respected vicars saying of Parson HAWKER, "he's only gone and built a hut out of shipwrecked driftwood, and now he's inviting Alfred Lord TENNYSON and Charles KINGSLEY to it!"

Everyone who has visited Halwill church will have seen the grave of the COUMBEs. And less than 1% will have given them a second thought.

I think this article is a reminder that we are all within touching distance of remembered history. And it's always a coin toss as to whether we are the ones remembered or the ones on the periphery. But today, Richard and Jane are brought back into focus.

Kay Napier
July 2026

Sources:

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Findmypast.co.uk

Familysearch.org

Findagrave.com

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<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/latest-news/john-glandville-hawker-of-eldad-buildings/>

Burial records of St. Peter & St. James, Halwill

The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser, 23rd May 1862

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Beaworthy	Caroline Hayes	07342 740 862	
Tetcott:	Sharon Wonnacott	07980 989 262	sharonwonnacott@hotmail.co.uk

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

Costa Nassaris—Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

t: 07809 339501 or email: costa.nassaris@exeter.anglican.org

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