

Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin May 2026



*“Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.”*

Psalm 66:16 (ESV)

April 2026



7th

Wedding of Hannah BARRIBALL
and Tom DREW

(St. Leonard's, Clawton)

8th

Baptism

(Holy Cross, Tetcott)

CONTACT NUMBERS

Rector

Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick

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Administrator

Val Letheren

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Highampton:

Clawton:

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Ashwater	Catherine Bowness and John Lowe	
Beaworthy	Caroline Hayes	
Tetcott	Sharon Wonnacott	07980 989 262
Holywell Joint Council	Val Letheren	07484 880 770

for safeguarding email addresses, see back cover

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

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From the Rector's Desk

May

Overcast with light drizzle and Henry is sleeping next to me having been walked and wolfed his dental stick then his post walk snuggle.

Over a hot black coffee, I look out over fields which are green now but somehow spring feels 'not yet'.

My desk is the easiest place for me to find God, just me and the dog, and the silence; prayer.

2nd week of Easter, all the APCM's done, record number of services during Holy Week with good numbers in all of our churches, so the annual recovery time now, where most ministers get away to rest, or do what they love doing, if only for a while.

I have been to Trinity College to Lecture the final year ministry students from Exeter and Truro Dioceses for two days, and I will be delivering an evening lecture to the training Anna Chaplains early next week and then speaking at another Benefice about Group Ministry to their PCCs.

Essays, programs, teaching, sermons, eulogies, articles and reports to write, visits and home communions and, of course, lots and lots of meetings; all before the all-important services and outreach programs..... but, and this is serious but, before all this, there is prayer.

What keeps us all going when the world seems to be spinning out of control is a sound and solid prayer life, opening the door and letting the light in.

Prayer can be many things; a liturgy, a place without noise or words, a place with words and noise. A conversation, tears, arguments, frustration, bible stories, a place of peace, stillness, a hand in the darkness and a sunrise.

Prayer is communion with God, hearing and feeling him in our life. Sometimes he can feel very far off, other times a warm feeling that is the best of us.

BBC Radio Four told me this morning that there is a new book describing how nearly all the great biblical leaders did, in fact, fail for the most part, and certainly would not have seen themselves as heroes or overachievers; but in the midst of their calling and work, they stopped and listened; they heard God's voice and call, they prayed and prayed and prayed, and kept on walking on the path set before them.

I guess sometimes, just listening to the BBC in the car can be a form of prayer as well.

Paul.

May Services 2026

3RD

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

10TH

BLACK TORRINGTON CAFE CHURCH
CLAWTON UNITED SERVICE
11AM CHURCHES TOGETHER AT
BEAWORTHY
3PM ROGATION AT ASHWATER

14TH

10 AM HOLY COMMUNION AT
BLACK TORRINGTON

ASCENSION DAY

17TH

ASHWATER HOLY COMMUNION
BLACK TORRINGTON MORNING PRAYER
HALWILL HOLY COMMUNION

24TH

CLAWTON HOLY COMMUNION
6:30PM EVENSONG AT BEAWORTHY
6PM BENEFICE INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY AT
BLACK TORRINGTON

PENTECOST

31ST

BENEFICE SERVICE AT HALWILL

TRINITY SUNDAY



Unless specified otherwise,

Services at
Ashwater begin 9:30am
Black Torrington,
Beaworthy, Clawton and
Halwill start at 11am
and Tetcott 5:30pm

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: rubbycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com

Ruby Country Benefice

Lectionary Readings

May 2026

Sun 3rd

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-

5,15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Services at:

Ashwater, Black
Torrington, Halwill,
Tetcott

Sun 10th

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Services at:

Ashwater, Beaworthy,
Black Torrington,
Clawton

Thurs 14th

Ascension Day

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Luke 24:44-end

Services at:

Black Torrington

Sun 17th

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10,

32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14,

5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Services at:

Beaworthy, Clawton

Sun 24th

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:26-

36, 37b

1 Corinthians

12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Services at:

Beaworthy, Clawton

Sun 31st

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40:12-17,

27-31

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians

13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-

20

Services at:

Halwill



Exeter Cathedral Festival Banner Service for the Mother's Union

On Friday 20th March, representatives of our churches were invited to Exeter Cathedral for a Festival Banner Service, celebrating 150 years of the Mother's Union, and welcoming and admitting new members – including Bishop Mike.

Although we no longer have active Mother's Unions in our benefice, some churches still hold the banners, so the banners for Black Torrington and Halwill with Beaworthy Mothers Union were driven up to Exeter to participate in the service.

There were many banners from across the Exeter Diocese of varying

ages and sizes – Black Torrington being one of the oldest, and Halwill with Beaworthy one of the tallest – thanks to Val and her car for making it work!

The service commenced with the procession of the banners up through the cathedral itself before we took our seats. After, we participated in this photo opportunity before returning home.

A lovely day with some lovely weather – and I’m sure the banners appreciated a nice airing too!

And in case you didn’t spot us, we are on the right, 2nd and 3rd in from the end





**If you believe in a future free from
poverty, violence and injustice
– please join us!**

For 150 years, Mothers' Union has been putting faith into
action – transforming lives across
Britain, Ireland and around the world.

As the Mothers' Union celebrates its **150th anniversary** this year, we are delighted to invite you to a special **Picnic Lunch in the Gardens of the Bishop's Palace, Exeter** on **Saturday 27th June, 12 noon – 2.00pm**

Many of you will feel you already know what the Mothers' Union is about — but do you really? Behind our familiar name lies an extraordinary movement whose reach is **local, national, and truly global**.

This event is designed not only as a celebration, but also as an invitation to discover afresh what the Mothers' Union offers — and what working in partnership could bring to **your parish, your chaplaincy setting, your community, or the wider Diocese**. If this might be useful to you, do bring a guest.

- MU is a key voice in campaigns both nationally and internationally on **gender justice, literacy, parenting, social cohesion, and peacebuilding**.
- Here in the Diocese of Exeter, members serve through **prison visiting, emergency support for families, refugee outreach, campaigning against gender-based violence**, and much more.
- As one of the largest Christian movements in the world, MU works in **84 countries** supporting families, churches, and communities.

We hope you will join us for a relaxed and enjoyable lunch featuring **local Devon produce**, and explore how together we can work together in your Mission Community and more widely.

Please **RSVP by 25th May**, including any dietary requirements & lunch choice (ham & cheese; hummus & cucumber or egg), to MUExeter@outlook.com.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and sharing this milestone year with you.

With warmest wishes,

Nikki Sweatman
Diocesan President
Mothers' Union, Diocese of Exeter

Beaworthy

The Annual Parish Meeting

Nick Hayes was elected as our Churchwarden; Richard Prior remains our Treasurer; Caroline Hayes is our Safeguarding Officer; Sandra Ward continues as secretary and is now our Deanery Synod rep; Ian Sanders continues to serve on the PCC.

Events

Do put the 8th July in your diary. We are holding a third garden talk on that date in The Village Hall, Halwill Junction at 7.30pm. Details of the talk and ticket prices will soon be finalised – the talk will be given by Alan French – a true plantsman as his plant stall in the Okehampton Market demonstrates very well. We have moved the talk to Halwill as we need more space. The evening will finish with questions and a sale of all the plants used during the talk.

Sandra Ward,
PCC Secretary



**St Marys Church,
Black Torrington**



Rogation Cafe Church

***11am,
Sunday 10th May 2026***

St. Mary's
Black Torrington is
part of the Ruby,
Holywell Joint Council,
Charity No. 1216130



St. Peter & St. James

Parish Church

Benefice Service

*featuring
Stowford Meadow Singers,
christian music with
a country 'Twist & Style'*

Sunday 31st May 11.00am

Everyone very welcome

**TETCOTT CHURCH
FAMILY**

BINGO *Night*



Friday May 15th

Doors open 6pm

eyes down 6.30pm

At the Arscott Hall, Tetcott

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

Parson Jack Russell

Art, Craft & Photography Exhibition

June 12th - 15th
2026

St Mary's Church,
Black Torrington

For more details:

PJR Exhibition

Little Acorns, Burdon Lane,
Highampton, Beaworthy EX21 5LX
Phone: 07484880770

val.letheren@btinternet.com





Policy Corner is taking a break this month but will be back soon – with a (hopefully) more refreshed Administrator!

From the Bulletin Editor.

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

Or if you are not in email contact, please you're your submission onto your churchwarden in good time for passing along. A reminder, as several things are coming in to the wrong address and if it's here, it's more by luck than judgement: **Anything not sent to the above email will not get into the publication.**

Work begins on the bulletin on the 15th of each month, so please get submissions in **BY THE FIFTEENTH.**

Black Torrington Roaming Ringers

Once more the Ringers went A-Roaming

The Easter celebrations had just finished, there was no sign of chocolate! that had been consumed some days previously so it must be time for the Black Torrington Roaming Ringers Spring Mini-Outing.

It was Saturday the 11th April and 10 of our Roaming Ringers were off to experience the bells in 3 other towers. We met at St James, Iddesleigh where they have 6 bells (9-1-21) and a ground floor ring. It took time to (wake up) get used to these new bells, but we did not disgrace ourselves. We had 5 young ringers, between the ages of 11 & 17, with us on this outing. One of the highlights at this tower was that they all rang together as a Youth Team and rang one 'touch' together superbly. (A 'touch' in bell ringing is a structured sequence of changes to the order that the bells are rung in.) This is a six bell tower, so the next youngest ringer present was elected to ring with them – his age equalling the combined total of the 5 youngsters – but well done Graham you managed to keep up with them.

We moved onto All Saint's Winkleigh, where they have eight bells (19-0-27). We do not often ring at eight bell towers, for some this was in fact their first time, So this was an experience for us all. We had been warned that the Tenor

was heavy and awkward weighing nearly 1 ton, needing two people to raise it ready for ringing. We learnt that often the local ringers only ring on the six lighter bells, but we had gone there to ring on 8, so up it went – well done Graham, obviously encouraged by his youthful ring at Iddesleigh. We kept the ringing simple – rounds and queens, and managed to keep the bells under control and making ‘music’.

We had booked lunch at the Kings Arms near the church. They provided us with a really good lunch, highly recommended if you are in that area. This allowed us to gather our breath and prepare for the last tower of the day All Saints, Broadwoodkelly which has 6 bells (9-3-14).

This was perhaps the biggest challenge of the day, not that our 14 year old had been appointed as Tower Captain to run the ringing, but that the smaller bells were the lightest on this outing. Light bells are as hard, if not harder to control than the heavy ones. We started with six bells, but due to a technical failure (a stay broke) we were limited to just five bells for much of our visit. This did not stop the enthusiasm and once again our ringers did not disgrace themselves.

We would like to thank the PCC's, Tower Captains and ringers at these three churches that allowed us to ring and made us very welcome. Every bell is different and by ringing new bells ringers build their experience and technique, bringing these back to their home tower – in our case Black

Torrington.

For the technically minded the numbers in the brackets after each church indicate the weight of the largest bell in each tower using the old fashioned Hundredweight, quarters and pounds (cwt-qtr-pds)

Now to start planning our next outing.....

David French



St James Iddesleigh and our Youth Team in Action

St Mary's Ruby Ringers

National Skills Weekend 10th to 13th April 2026

A weekend rally for handbell ringers organised by the Southwest region of HRGB [Handbell Ringers of Great Britain] held at the Fire Service College, Moreton-in -Marsh.

Linda and Shirley, two members of St Mary's Ruby Ringers attended this event. The M5 was busy, but we travelled there and back with no delays or diversions. This year marked our third rally, and for the first time we were 'on the flat', although there was the inevitable walking from the accommodation block to restaurant and workshop rooms.

Although neither of us are on the south west committee, Linda organises the SW sales [gloves etc] and I was asked to sell raffle tickets for the William Hartley Memorial Fund. This fund loans bells, and in our case, Belleplates™, to groups, so I was pleased we raised £400.

We had a small insight into the vast amount of planning, effort and organisation that goes into presenting such an event.

100 ringers arrived on Friday and were joined by about another 50 on Saturday. We had three workshops plus the national AGM in the afternoon. The workshops were fun and

we learnt a lot, but the time allotted was, for Linda and me, not long enough; we would rather spend more time ringing than having tea/coffee breaks.

Our first workshop was Techniques and Sticks [when you use a mallet to make the bell sound] and we were in the same group. Some of you may know that Linda has always wanted to ring 'those BIG bells' and she had an opportunity twice over the weekend. She may be cured! Mostly she needed both hands to lift them.



Linda at Techniques and Sticks with mallets and chimes + Ted

The evening entertainment was a ceilidh, with an accordion accompaniment and a SW member as the caller. It was hilarious and livened everyone as we danced The Dashing White Sergeant, The Gay Gordons and many others – no doubt the bar helped!



Some BIG bells ready for massed ringing

The highlight of the weekend was the massed ringing on Sunday morning. We had prepared three pieces of music, all arranged and then conducted by SW members. After lunch we helped clear away and set off for home.

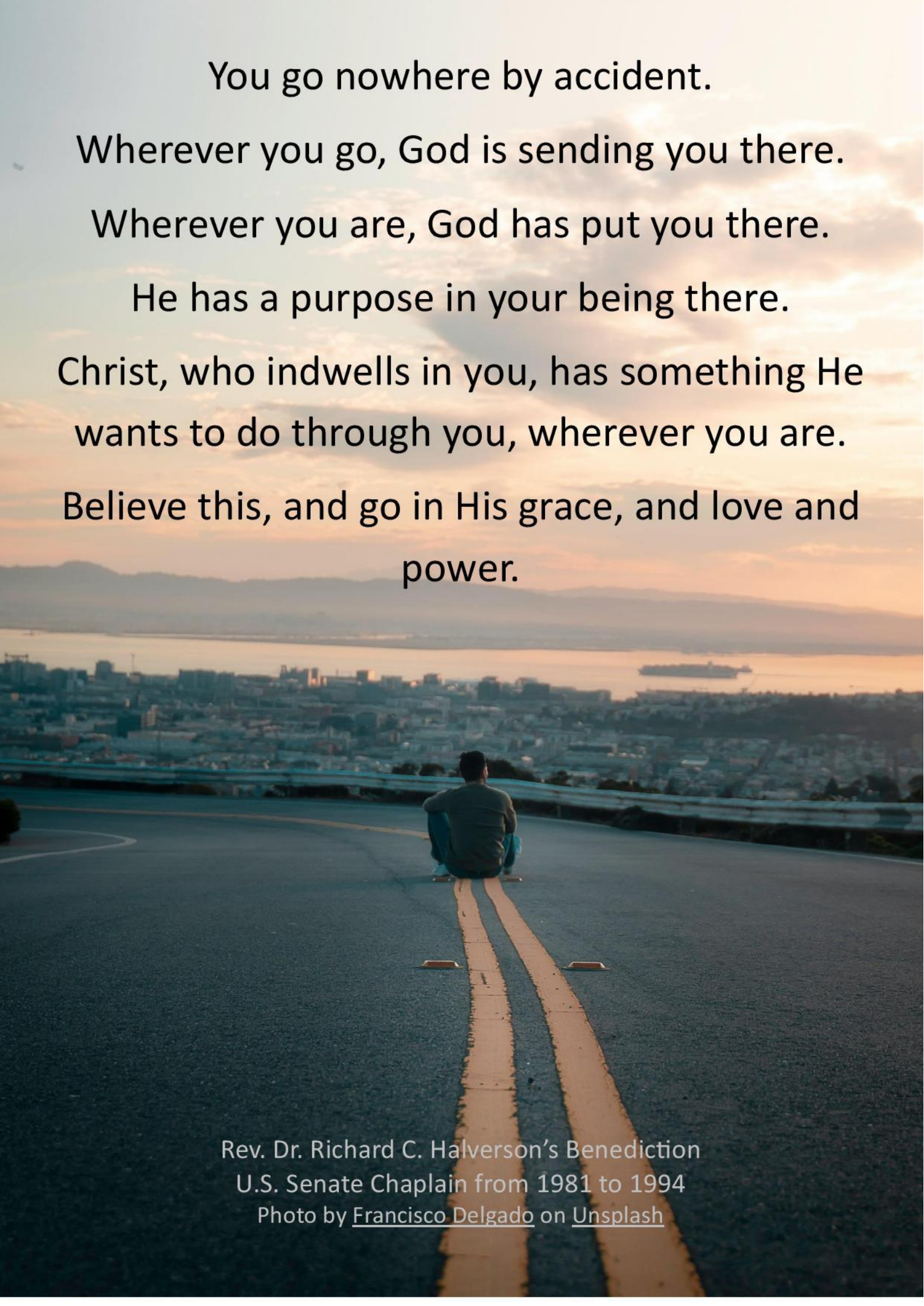
Shirley Richmond



**The room set ready for massed ringing
Anyone in Hi-Viz is from the SW Team**



**Ringers begin to arrive.
Linda and Shirley are on the front row!**

A person is sitting on a road, looking out over a city at sunset. The road has a double yellow line. The city is visible in the distance, with a large body of water and mountains in the background. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun.

You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you there.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
He has a purpose in your being there.
Christ, who indwells in you, has something He
wants to do through you, wherever you are.
Believe this, and go in His grace, and love and
power.

Rev. Dr. Richard C. Halverson's Benediction
U.S. Senate Chaplain from 1981 to 1994
Photo by [Francisco Delgado](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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!



Charlotte SLEEMAN (nee DAW)

1793 – 24th May 1877

In a sparsely populated corner of St. Alban's churchyard in Beaworthy, to the rear of Tumbledown Cottage is the stone dedicated to, and marking the resting place of, Charlotte SLEEMAN and her husband John.

Their epitaph is quite beautiful (despite the spelling error which made my inner English student twitch); "In Life United. In peace with all here we lived. In peace with all here we lie, Hoping for peace Eternally."

So who was Charlotte?

Born almost half a century before the censuses kick in, there is a lot we don't know about her – but there's a lot we can work out.

Charlotte DAW was born in the Beaworthy area in around 1793. She was baptised at St. Albans church on 31st March 1793, the illegitimate daughter of Margaret DAW. She had at least five illegitimate siblings also; due to the spacing of the births I'd say it was likely that they were half-siblings, born to different fathers. The oldest of the children was John Stanning DAW, baptised at Beaworthy on Christmas day 1784. Next came Mary four years later, baptised on Christmas day 1788. Charlotte was the third baptised at Beaworthy another four years on. Two years later, the family were joined by a sister – Jenny, baptised 24th May 1795 and lastly Ann on 7th April 1799.

Instead of another child in 1805 (the right sort of pacing of births), mother Margaret died and was buried on 11th November 1805, leaving the young family behind her. Being before the age of death certificates, I cannot say whether her death was due to illness, childbirth or an impoverished life of bringing up several children without a man on the scene.

Charlotte was the first of the children to marry, at Beaworthy on 3rd July 1815. Brother John married Joanna BAYLEY on 6th March 1817 at Beaworthy but she died just six years later in 1823. John would go on to marry Maria BREYLEY in 1829.

Joanna DAW (nee BAYLEY) is buried at Beaworthy in a marked grave. Her husband and his second wife are also interred at Beaworthy,

unmarked. It is of my opinion that the area isn't as unpopulated as the lack of gravestones suggest, but perhaps there are several members of the DAW family surrounding the graves of Joanna and the SLEEMANs (as two of Charlotte's children are buried nearby also – a third and his wife lie elsewhere in the churchyard.)



The 202-year-old grave of Joanna DAW (nee BAYLEY) 1796-1823 at Beaworthy.

But backtracking slightly, Charlotte DAW married John SLEEMAN on Monday 3rd July 1815. Elsewhere in the world,

The Battle of Waterloo had just taken place and the Napoleonic Wars were still raging. The Battle of Issy was unfolding south west of Paris. But in Beaworthy, it was wedding day.

With no father or mother, one would hope Charlotte would have had at least siblings in attendance when she married Blacksmith John SLEEMAN, oldest son of John and Margaret (nee COLE) of Ashwater, only two years her senior.

John was one of at least seven children born to John senior and Margaret and baptised at St. Peter's Ashwater. John was baptised 9th Jan 1791, arriving seven months after his parents' marriage. Next was William in Jan 1793, Thomas in Mar 1785, Samuel in Feb 1797, twin girls Mary and Dorothy being baptised 6th Jan 1799, and after

a well-earned, post-twin gap, entering the new century is their last child Richard SLEEMAN baptised 5th Dec 1802.

As far as I can see, the family settled in Beaworthy and made it their family home.

The first recorded child of Charlotte and William is Mary, baptised on 2nd May 1816. Their second child is John, baptised 18th October 1818, and their third, another Mary on 29th October 1820.

I cannot find a record of burial for the older Mary. This could be due to poor record keeping – especially following the death of an infant. It could be a second baptism if they had forgotten the first, or there was a different rector that they preferred! Or it could be that this older Mary was interred elsewhere.

Thomas (bap. 21 Sept. 1823) and Emanuel (bap. 2 Mar 1828) are the next two children to be baptised at Beaworthy, and the two who are buried alongside their parents in the churchyard. You may also notice there is a larger than expected gap between the children, so it may be that there were miscarriages or stillbirths between the two boys. Interestingly, there are records of a boy called Marwood SLEEMAN born around this time at Beaworthy, but there are no records which can prove he is a child of the marriage, but date-wise, it would fit quite well.

Daughter Sophia is next, being baptised on 25th July 1830, Then Eliza on 6th May 1832.

Samuel is the penultimate child of the marriage, being baptised on 22nd June 1834, and lastly James, baptised 10th July 1836.

Five years later, we get the family's first appearance in a census. Living at "Beaworthy Village", we find 45-year-old Blacksmith John SLEEMAN, living with his wife Charlotte (also listed as 45), and children Mary (15), Thomas (15), Emanuel (13), Sophia (10), Eliza (9), Samuel (6) and James (4). Eldest son John has already left the family home.

By 1851, the children have really started to fly the nest. Still at Beaworthy, Charlotte (58) is living alongside John (60) who is still a blacksmith, as are her unmarried sons Emanuel (22) and Samuel (17). The other children are elsewhere.

The 1861 census paints a similar picture.

Still at Beaworthy, Charlotte is 69, living with 71-year-old John – still the blacksmith, working alongside son Samuel (25). Emanuel had died in 1854, aged only 26, and was buried in the churchyard. But now daughter Eliza had returned to live with the family (27) and she was working as a dressmaker.

The children had moved out to the surrounding areas. Thomas was living over at Stowford in Halwill. And it was here that father John SLEEMAN passed away in 1864, aged 78. The death was not certified and the cause of death unknown – we wouldn't get away with putting that on a death certificate these days!

Sixty first January 1864 Stowford Halwill	John Sleeman	male	78 years	agricultural Labourer	Unknown not Certified	Jan pr
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From the death record of John SLEEMAN 1864

© Crown Copyright

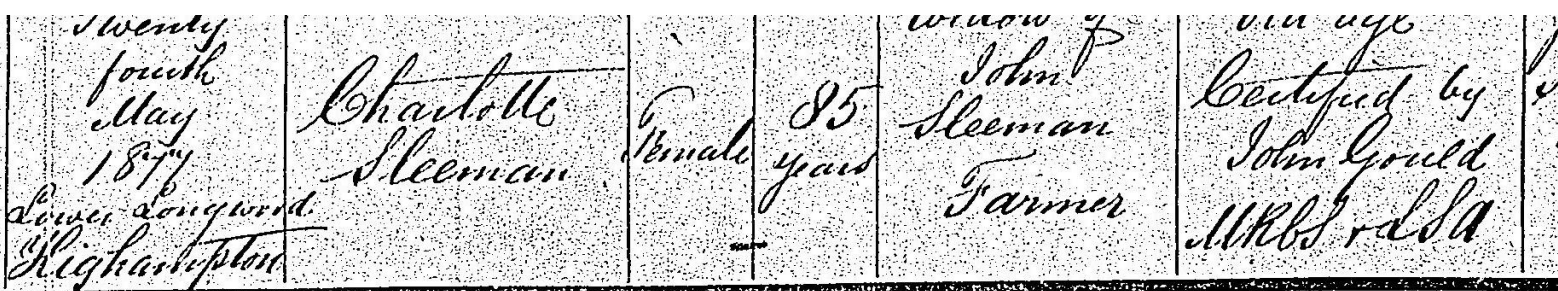
Widower Charlotte went to live with her children after the death of her husband. She moved to Berry Farm at Petrockstowe to live with her son John who was farming there, alongside his wife Priscilla (nee ISAAC of Highampton; she was the daughter of John ISAAC and Grace GLASS – their memorial is the one that hangs on the porch of Highampton Church; now the property is under offer, one does wonder what will happen to their monument.)

In the 1871 Census at Berry Farm, widowed Charlotte is living alongside John and Priscilla and their children John (6) and Clara Grace (0) and her children Thomas (32) who is listed as Head Servant and Eliza (34) who is still a dressmaker.

There are also four more servants in employ – Elizabeth PARISH, a 16-year-old domestic servant from Petrockstowe, and three farm servants; 16-year-old Thomas COCKWILL from Petrockstowe, 13-year-old John PALMER from Petrockstowe and 11-year-old John BRIGHT from Dolton.

By 1877, Charlotte finds herself at Lower Longwood, Highampton – I am unsure whether this is through visiting or moving – but it at Lower Longwood that she dies of old age at 85. (Between her and her husband's death certificates, I don't think I've got my money's worth on causes of death!)

She is then taken to Beaworthy for burial alongside her husband.



From the death record of Charlotte SLEEMAN 1877

© Crown Copyright

Research-wise, I've not done too deep a delve into her children but I've had a little look.

The youngest son James married Frances FRY and went to live at Pyworthy. They had a family and James, Frances and several of their descendants are buried in marked graves in St. Swithun's Church, Pyworthy.

Samuel SLEEMAN married Ann MAYNARD, and Sophia SLEEMAN married Samuel COLE in 1861. They are recorded in the same marriage register volume and same page, so its quite possible that they married on the same day at a register office. I've not been able to track Sophia, but Samuel and Ann are buried near the path in Beaworthy Churchyard. Samuel was a blacksmith for most of his life, remaining in Beaworthy and was listed as a cow keeper in one of his last censuses. Samuel and Ann died within a month of each other.

Daughter Mary married William DOWN (and as a result, became very difficult to definitively track!) They had at least two sons, Samuel and Marwood Thomas DOWN – which adds fuel to the idea that the Marwood SLEEMAN was a member of the immediate family, and a family name was being reused.

Eliza remained unmarried for a while. In the 1881 census, she was the housemaid to widowed Beaworthy vicar Frederick Augustus WILLS, however WILLS would remarry and she would change jobs – we can speculate why Eliza left all we want!

By the 1891 census, she is a 46-year-old domestic servant to widowed 60-year-old Thomas HUTCHINGS at Lower Gortleigh, Sheepwash. And whether for love or convenience, she would marry him in 1893. The marriage would not last long, as Thomas died at Sheepwash in 1898.

Also widowed by the 1901 census is Priscilla, John SLEEMAN of Petrockstowe having died previously.

We find Priscilla, Eliza and Thomas SLEEMAN (brother/brother-in-law) at his home at Croft Farm in Halwill in the 1901 Census; Priscilla living with Thomas and her two children John and Priscilla Ann, and Eliza just visiting.

I am unsure where John III, son of Charlotte and wife of Priscilla is buried, but I would assume Priscilla is buried there also. She died on 25th March 1908 at Eworthy.

In the intervening years, Thomas SLEEMAN also died, being buried with his brother Emanuel at Beaworthy.

Eliza HUTCHINGS nee SLEEMAN moves to South Street in Sheepwash where we find her in the 1911 census. She dies in 1916 and her burial details are currently unknown.

Priscilla and John III SLEEMAN's children are last seen in the 1911 census at Rectory Cottage in Beaworthy; Priscilla Ann is listed as a farmer and her brother John H SLEEMAN (IV) is working as a farm bailiff.

So a handful of scattered stones in a corner of a churchyard has opened up a whole unmarked family, with links to Pyworthy, Petrockstowe and Highampton and demonstrated that something seemingly small is always part of something so much bigger than we realise.

Kay Napier
April 2026



CHRISTENINGS



WEDDINGS



FUNERALS

*For all life's
big moments*
**YOUR
CHURCH IS
HERE FOR YOU**

DIOCESE
OF EXETER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



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:

Ruby Country Benefice	Val Letheren	07484 880 770	rbycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com
Ashwater	Catherine Bowness John Lowe	none	churchwardens@ashwaterparishchurch.com safeguarding@ashwaterparishchurch.com
Beaworthy	Caroline Hayes		
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

Rebecca Lane—Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

t: 01392 294975 / 07889542640 or email: rebecca.lane@exeter.anglican.org

James May—Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

t: 07889 542646 or email: james.may@exeter.anglican.org

David Cross—Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

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Ruth Putnam—Safeguarding and DBS Coordinator

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Ruby Country Benefice

RUBY PEOPLE WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S COUNTRY

St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater EX21 5EY
St. Alban, Beaworthy EX21 5AB
Holy Cross, Tetcott EX22 6QZ

Ruby Holywell

Charity Number: 1216130

St. Mary's, Black Torrington EX21 5PU
St. Leonard, Clawton EX22 6PS
St. Peter & St. James, Halwill EX21 5UH