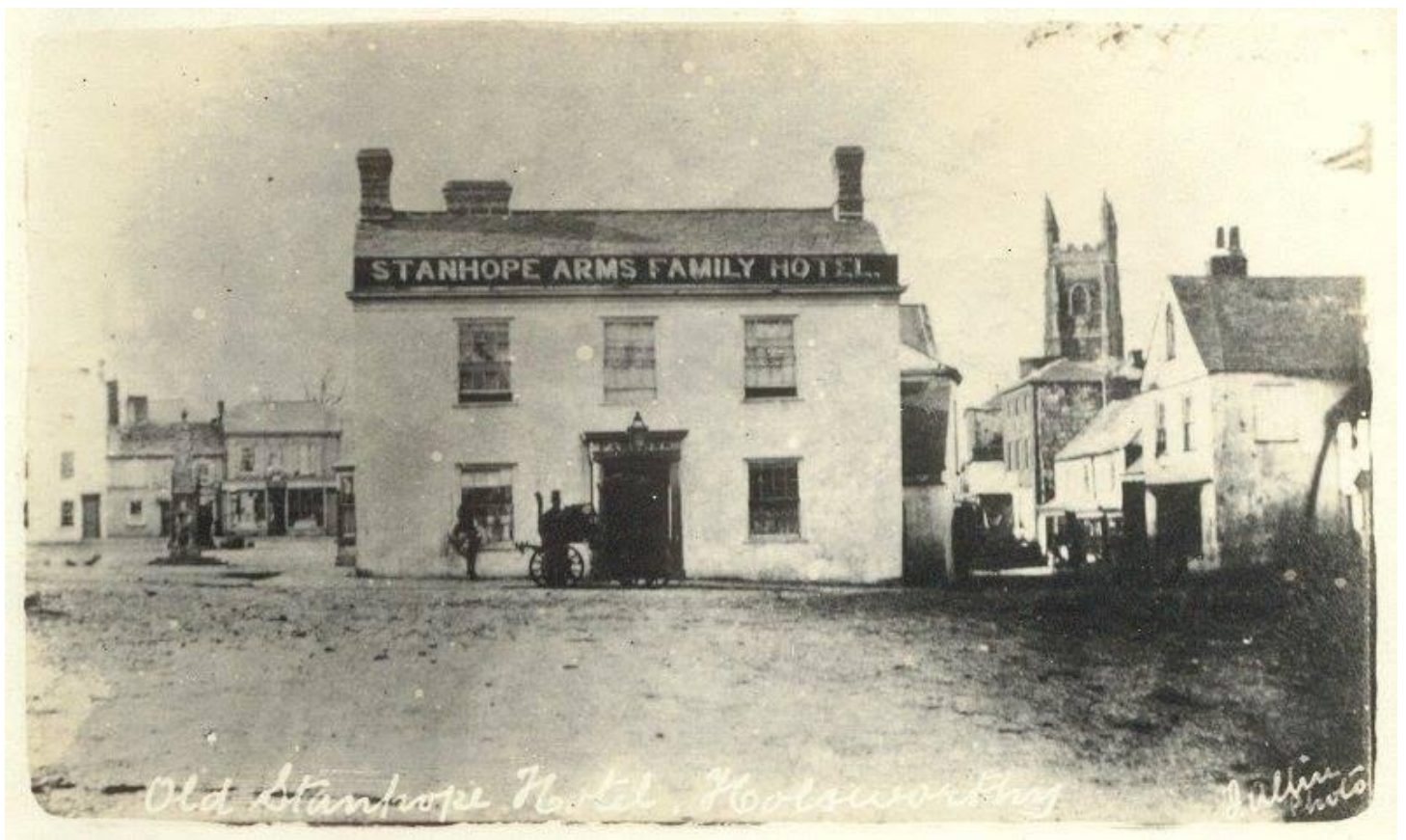


Ruby Country Benefice

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

Bulletin July 2026



*"Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name."*

Psalm 86:11 (ESV)

“From the Parish Registers” has moved to page 5.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Rector

Revd. Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick 01409 254 667

Administrator

Val Letheren 07484 880 770

Contacts for Churches:

Ashwater	Catherine Bowness	07348 443 490
Beaworthy	Nick Hayes	
Black Torrington with Highampton:	David French	07502 115 303
	Val Letheren	07484 880 770
Clawton:	Lorna Bowden	01409 271 384
Halwill:	John Lawlor	01409 221 987
		07768 818 646
	Kay Napier	07814 237 243
Tetcott:	Nikki Mitchell	01409 271 381
	--	
Ruby Ringers (handbells)	Shirley Richmond	01409 231 764
BT Roaming Ringers	David French	07502 115 303

Safeguarding

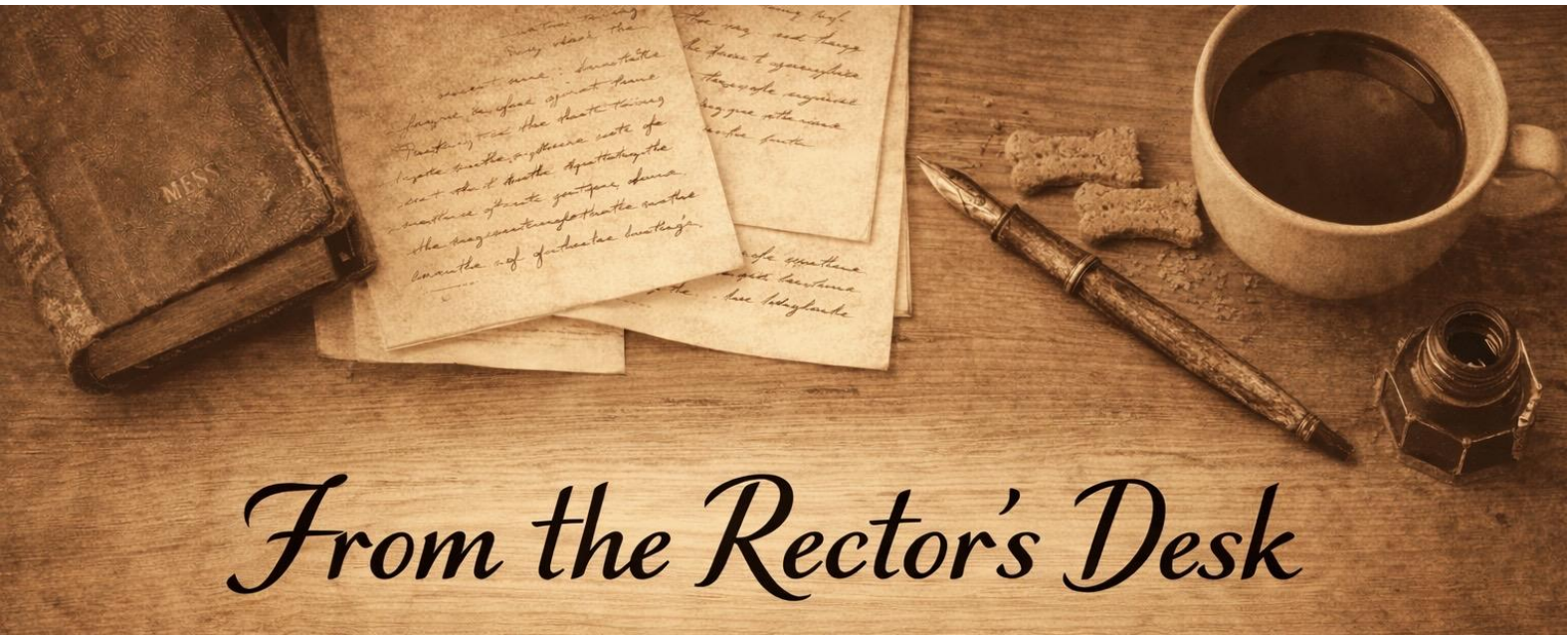
Ashwater	Catherine Bowness and John Lowe	07348 443 490
Beaworthy	Caroline Hayes	
Tetcott	Sharon Wonnacott	07980 989 262
Holywell Joint Council	Val Letheren	07484 880 770

for safeguarding email addresses, see back cover

From the Parish Registers image (pg. 5) © Parish Pump,
Cover image: Stanhope Arms postcard, sourced from [Holsworthy Museum Facebook page](#) ©
Beaworthy St. Albans image sent in from Sandra Ward
HAYMAN images: grave of Thirza © Kay Napier, grave of William © Janice Dennis via
findagrave.com, certificates © Crown Copyright

Thanks to those who have contributed this month





From the Rector's Desk

July

Again, as I look out of my shed office across the fields, high summer is marked by a dull, wet and cold day.

Henry is asleep next to me as an expression of his disgust with the weather, and Sarah is out peddling her cakes for the Bude sea pool. Coffee, steaming and strong, I managed to spill on my trousers: A grumpy day.

I look at my diary and a lot happening at the moment; Clergy Conference at the Royal Agricultural College from the 15th (good luck finding a vicar in Devon that week!), our adult evangelism program is in full swing (see the article in this Bulletin), We have a new website for the Holywell Council (thank you Dee), I am on a post grad course looking at Tudor witchcraft trials; later today I will be blessing a toilet but this morning I joyfully watched an eight year old ringing a full tower bell.

Life in a deeply rural benefice is never dull.

Another major event is that the Revd Julie Howell has gained permission to officiate in the Ruby Country Benefice; this is, of course,

very good news indeed. Julie comes to us from Winchester and brings a wealth of experience, professionalism and solid academic practice; we are extremely blessed. I have asked Julie to write a short piece about herself for this Bulletin. I hope that she may wish to join our chaplaincy team at some point as well.

Finally, we have the wonderful Jack Russell Fine Art exhibition next week in St Mary's. This has rapidly become a highlight of the year for me; the organisation is flawless and the quality and quantity of the original work on display is simply awesome. I know of no other benefice which hosts anything as good.

This 'Rector's desk' has become something of a 'what's on' this month, but I want to finish by saying a 'thank you'.

There have been an unprecedented number of baptisms, weddings, blessings, sick calls, funerals and internments in recent weeks. An increase in admin load and some evolving legal work in relation to the diocese and some local councils, has come along at an inopportune time as well.

I have been massively supported during this by a set of colleagues, who are as hard pressed with work and commitments as I am but whom, none-the-less, have found the time to support me; you know who you are, **thank you**.

Paul.



June 2026

12th

Funeral of Kevin EATON
(Barnstaple Crematorium)

20th

Baptism of Leny Jean DEE
(St. Peter & St. James, Halwill)

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**



July Services 2026

5TH

ASHWATER MORNING SERVICE
BLACK TORRINGTON HOLY COMMUNION
HALWILL MORNING SERVICE
LUFFINCOTT WALK TO TETCOTT

12TH

BLACK TORRINGTON CAFE CHURCH
CLAWTON HOLY COMMUNION
6:30PM BEAWORTHY BCP EVENSONG

19TH

ASHWATER HOLY COMMUNION
BLACK TORRINGTON MORNING PRAYER
HALWILL HOLY COMMUNION

26TH

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



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

June 2026

Sun 5th

Trinity 5

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-15

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Services at:

Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Luffincott

Sun 12th

Trinity 6

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65: 1-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Services at:

Beaworthy, Clawton

Sun 19th

Trinity 7

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Services at:

Ashwater, Black Torrington, Halwill, Beaworthy

Sun 26th

Trinity 8

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Services at:

Beaworthy, Clawton

trypraying.

... an invitation to experience the kindness of God.

Is anyone there?

Does anyone listen when we pray? Is there anyone there who cares about our lives? Most people pray at some time in their life. Things can happen when we pray and so often people discover there's someone who listens. But it's not just religious people. Millions of people who are **not** religious also pray. If that's you, then we have a resource to help.

BOOKLET.

The try praying booklet is a 7-day prayer guide for those who are not religious. It's been used by hundreds of thousands of people. It is often read and then passed on to friends, colleagues and neighbours. Get one for yourself and then pass it on to others.

We in Ruby, as part of our adult outreach (a central tenant of our Mission Action Plan), have been given a seed planting

grant from the Diocese of Exeter to fund these booklets.

It is my intention to give one to every member of our congregations, bless them, one church at a time, ask for all of you to read it, and then pass it on to someone who does not have faith, but might be helped by it.

I will also ensure that there are cleared areas for displaying the booklets in every church as well. The Methodist Church has used these with a great deal of success and I really feel the time is right here now as well.

Please Pray, pray, pray for there us and for the people who will receive them. Miracles happen when we pray, but when we stop, they stop.

Paul.



St Alban's Beaworthy: July news

St Alban's Church is holding a Garden talk on the 8th July. The theme is 'New colours for Summer' and the speaker is Alan French, a plantsman of long experience in the area. To give us enough space for the audience and parking, Alan's talk is being held in Halwill Village Hall, EX21 5XU, beginning at 7.30pm. Alan will bring lots of plants with him as illustrations for the talk. There will be plenty of time for questions and to end the evening all plants will be for sale. In his previous talks for St Alban's, the majority of plants have been sold – so competition for them is likely to be strong but not unfriendly!

Tickets will be available on the door at £5.00. Tea, coffee and cake will be available at the interval, and there will be a gardening themed raffle.

For those of you who haven't heard of Alan, he and Linda have an extensive plant stall in Okehampton each Saturday throughout the year with shrubs, herbaceous plants such as osteospermums and salvias, small trees and, at the moment, bedding plants including geraniums. All the planting in Red Lion yard is designed and regularly refreshed by Alan and Linda. He gives talks from Somerset to Cornwall, and their stall at the Okehampton show was awarded the first prize in horticulture last year.

A poster is attached and we do hope you can find room for it in your parish notice boards. Just right hand click on the picture and then print. If you need more copies, then let me know-s.e.ward@btinternet.com

And what about June?

By the time you read this our Flower Festival being held jointly with Madworthy Methodist Church on 20th and 21st June to celebrate our Patronal Festival with the theme of Glorious Devon for the floral displays will have been and gone. Flower will have been taken down; craft, tea, coffee, cake and plant stalls will have been removed and our annual celebratory service honouring St Alban, Britain's first saint, will have taken place.

Over too will be the 2026 St Albans Cathedral Patronal Festival in Hertfordshire, also known as Alban Day or the Alban Pilgrimage. St Albans Cathedral is the oldest site of continual Christian worship in these Isles, from small pilgrim church to huge Abbey and Monastery, to parish church and Cathedral. It is the resting place of St Alban still with his shrine in its special chapel.

Saint Alban is venerated as the first-recorded British Christian martyr, a Roman, who in AD 304 sheltered a cleric being hunted and after some days, moved by his example, himself received baptism. Later when the governor's emissaries came to search the house, Alban disguised himself in the cloak of his guest and gave himself up in his place. He was dragged before the judge, scourged, and, when he would not deny his faith condemned to death. His executioner was converted and would not kill him, and the man who replaced him, after striking the fatal blow, was punished with blindness.

St Alban's day on the 22nd June is a city-wide celebration, featuring a giant puppet procession, Roman re-enactments – the trial and beheading of Alban depicted as an 8ft tall figure being marched with Roman soldiers to his execution outside the cathedral. A red rose bush grew on the site where Alban's blood stained the ground. And a red rose is worn by many on the day. Their weekend aimed to be a mix of faith, culture, and entertainment.



And the celebration of St Alban stretches over many countries in the world. Currently 86 parishes are linked to the cathedral in a Link Parishes Prayer Cycle which ensures that throughout each month each is prayed for by the Cathedral clergy. Beaworthy's turn is on the 8th day of each month.

Sandra Ward

Calling All Gardeners

A date for your Diaries

"New Colours for Summer"

St Albans Beaworthy invites you to
a talk by Plantsman Alan French

Wednesday 8th July 7.30pm at
Halwill Village Hall EX215XU

Tea and Coffee will be available, Alan
will have plants for sale, there will also be a
prize draw. It will be a stimulating evening!

Tickets on the door £5.00

St Marys Church, Black Torrington

Cafe Church

SEA SUNDAY

Sunday 12th July 2026

Ilam

St Marys Black Torrington is part of the Ruby Holywell Joint Council
Charity No. 1216130

PJR 2026



The Parson Jack Russell Art Exhibition once again proved to be a wonderful celebration of creativity, community and local talent.

The event began on Thursday evening with an intimate nibbles and wine preview, providing a relaxed and enjoyable start to the exhibition and an opportunity for visitors to view the artwork before the main event.

From Friday through to Monday, visitors enjoyed a fantastic selection of food alongside an inspiring range of artwork available to browse and purchase. The exhibition showcased a diverse

collection of creative work, including photography, paintings, felt art and sculpture, offering something to appeal to every taste.

A huge thank you goes to all the artists, supporters and volunteers whose time, dedication and hard work made the exhibition such a success. Their efforts continue to make this event a highlight of the local calendar, and their contribution is greatly appreciated.



MARTIN REDWOOD MEMORIAL

TRACTOR RUN



Sunday 6th September

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 or
call 01409 253566**

Sunday July 5th

Enjoy a 2 church's walk

A service will be held at 5pm at Luffincott church

then you are invited to walk the Ruby footpath

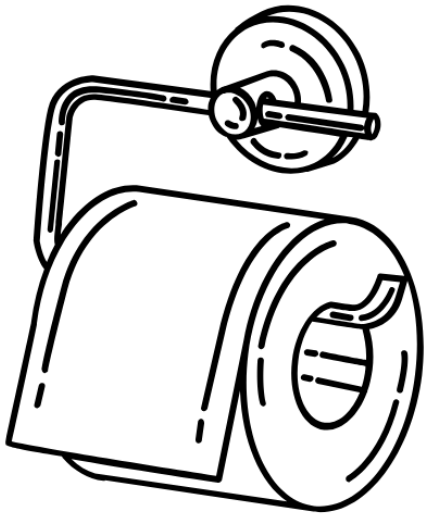
to Tetcott church

where coffee and cakes will be available for a donation for Tetcott church



The Blessing of a Toilet

HOMILY: HOLY CROSS, TETCOTT (7TH JUNE)



There are 40 separate references to toilets in the bible, who knew? Leviticus was my favourite which recommends purging with hyssop and using the same to cleanse oneself, and the site being used. Blessing ablutions and toilets would have been common in Medieval times, not so much now (none of my many books of prayers mentions toilets).

Getty images have 332 images of slum toilet.

India has a twenty-year full-on commitment for

a toilet in every house. Mother Teresa built them. Nigerian churches regularly build and bless them.

In Argentina, there are dedicated Roman Catholic Slum Priests (Pope Francis was one) since the 1960's, who have built centres for slum dwellers.

These centres offer hot showers, counselling, sports activities and job training for people living on the margins of society in a country perennially in crisis, and of course clean toilets and clean water.

The Bishop of Lancaster Steven Pedley, had to defend his ceremonial sprinkling of water on a block of children's toilets by saying loos are 'worthy of blessing; even the most humble things in life are worthy of being blessed, because we believe all things belong to God.' he was much derided by the local press.

Archbishop Hélder Câmara of Brazil, hated by the government, unsupported by a then conservative Vatican, marched a line of his clergy to a new single toilet in a Brazilian slum to serve over a thousand people. He was fully robed standing among the filthy shanty sheds and stinking lanes, surrounded by thousands of local people. The toilet stood alone on top of a small hillock of rubbish. The full service took an hour. He said 'this is not important, this is

vital, what we bless this day is a fight against disease, marginalization, invisibility, indifference to human suffering and indignity;

Christ died naked and rejected, upon a cross; he stands with these people today; my clergy will build toilets and teach the gospel with their hands as well as their voices'.

So today, we come bless our own loo, the fact that it is needed marks the importance of this church in this community. It marks that we are all human and have human needs. It marks a commitment to faith and common endeavor.

It marks a stage in this churches wonderful History and it marks who we are, the people of God, in this place.

Matthew writes: 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me'.

Prayer

Our Father, we come before You seeking strength and wisdom to embrace the cleanliness that nurture our bodies and minds. Guide us in making choices that promote health and well-being, for our community, and for ourselves, and help us to honour the gift of life You have bestowed upon us.

Amen.

Now, let's go out and bless our new Loo 😊

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.



The Legal Body of the Church

PCCs or Joint Councils are the Legal Body of the Church

Each Church has a PCC (Ashwater, Beaworthy, Tetcott with Luffincott) or are part of a Joint Council (Black Torrington with Highampton, Clawton, Halwill)

PCCs/Joint Councils are a legal entity and are governed by **two** pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures.

These are the **Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956**, which defines its principal functions, and the **Church Representation Rules**.

This second document is particularly useful in understanding the operational rules that govern the PCC (or Joint Council) and includes information on how often it meets, its members, how elections are held, and the responsibilities of its officers.

Everyone who joins the PCC/Joint Council has to complete the declaration that Parish Officers comply with the 'Fit and Proper Persons' legislation.

This is not a policy, but just as important.

It is in place to check and give reassurance to you, as members of the church that "Fit and Proper" people are taking good care of the church.

This is not just in terms of the building, but in the whole management of its life and what is done, is done with care and due diligence.

The form is signed by all members of the PCC/Joint Council on their election to Office.

Each person declares that:

- I am not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee.
- I have not knowingly been involved in tax fraud.
- (Those responsible for spending money) I will at all times seek to ensure the PCC's funds, and charity tax relief received by the PCC, for which I am responsible are used only for charitable purposes.
- (Those responsible for claiming Gift Aid relief on behalf of the PCC) I will seek to ensure that the PCC claims only the Gift Aid relief to which it is entitled.

To keep the church open legally, it needs to have a PCC or be part of a Joint Council and have Churchwardens.

Each PCC/Joint Council must have a Secretary, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer.

There are other roles held within the PCC/Joint Council.

Without these main officers the PCC/Joint council would be illegal and not able to function.

Members of a Parochial Church Council (PCC) are **Charity Trustees** and have legal responsibilities for the management and administration of the church.

PCCs are recognised as charities under UK law, established by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. As a result, all PCC members automatically become charity trustees when they serve on the council. This status means that PCC members are legally accountable for the governance, finances, and overall management of the church's charitable activities.

Due to the structuring of our Joint Council, Ruby, Holywell members are also Charity Trustees and legally accountable in exactly the same manner.

As trustees, PCC and Joint Council members have several key duties:

- ◆ Ensure the charity fulfils its purposes for public benefit:

PCC/Joint Council members must ensure that church resources are used solely for the mission of the church and not for unrelated purposes.

◆ Comply with governing documents and the law: Trustees must follow the PCC's governing documents, including the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules, as well as wider laws such as health and safety, safeguarding, employment, and data protection.

◆ Act in the charity's best interests: Decisions must be made solely for the benefit of the church, avoiding conflicts of interest

◆ Financial oversight: Trustees are responsible for ensuring the PCC is financially solvent, preparing annual accounts, and reporting to the diocese and, if registered, to the Charity Commission
(The Joint Council is registered with the Charity Commission, PCCs will need to register individually in the near future)

◆ Asset management: Trustees oversee the care of church property, including buildings, moveable items, and any staff employed by the PCC

Being a trustee means PCC members are accountable not only to the church community but also under charity law.

This includes ensuring good governance, prudent financial management, and compliance with legal obligations. While

this responsibility is significant, it is intended to support the effective mission and stewardship of the church.

In summary, all PCC and Joint Council members are trustees, and this role carries both legal and moral responsibilities to manage the church's affairs responsibly and in accordance with charity law.

As part of this, all PCC members or Joint Council members need to have an Enhanced DBS, which is paid for through the Diocese of Exeter.

From the Bulletin Editor.

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

**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!



Thirza HAYMAN

1839-1857

In the churchyard at Clawton is the ornate but simple grave of Thirza HAYMAN. All the space on the cross are taken with the inscription, with every space occupied. The top of the cross reads simply 'in memory of', with her name THIRZA HAYMAN stretching across the arms of the cross. Then going downwards, again one word on each line, 'who died,' then the date which has been eroded by time. Finally, the simple 'aged 17 years.' The scars on the cross shows time taking over, the memory fading, so much life being

squashed into one tiny epitaph, and even that tiny reminder is succumbing to eternity.

Even what I have been able to research is limited. But even a little is something.

Thirza was born at Launcells, in Cornwall in 1839, the seventh, and penultimate child of William HAYMAN – born at Launcells himself in 1802, and his wife Ann SLEEMAN, who we can assume had links with Clawton.

William and Ann were married at Clawton on Thursday 22nd September 1825, and were joined by their first child, daughter Mary Sleeman HAYMAN a year later in 1826.

All eight children are baptised at Launcells, and, sadly, three of them were buried there in their infancy; sons Samuel Sleeman HAYMAN (born 1833) and Matthew Wayford HAYMAN (born March 1836) were buried a fortnight apart in March 1836 – Samuel being 3 years and Matthew only a month. Later, the last child, Agnes Sleeman HAYMAN (born 1841) died aged 3.

But let's begin at the beginning. In the 1841 census, the family are living at "Butspeer Farm" [sic] (also referred to in records pertaining to the family as "Batsbeer" but after consulting with a map is Buttsbear, located down the Launceston-headed road when one gets to the Red Post crossroads, and is technically Bridgerule.)

Father William (aged 39) is living with his 37-year-old wife Ann, and their daughters Mary (14), Maria (12), Frances (10), Betsey (4) and, of course, Thirza (2).

By the time of the 1851 census, there has been an absolute shift in

the life of the family.

Thirza and Maria are living in Holsworthy in the household of the IRELAND family, comprising of 47-year-old William IRELAND and his wife Elizabeth, aged 49. William's trade is a Nurseryman but he is working also as an Innkeeper here.

With them is Richard MILLMAN, aged 16 who is working as a saddlers apprentice. He is the nephew of William or Elizabeth.

Being an Inn, they need staff, which comes in the form of 23-year-old Mary A PYNE from St. Teath in Cornwall who is their house servant.

And there are two lodgers at the Inn; married men Elias JOHNSON, a 53-year-old jeweller from Shoreditch in London and William ALLIN, a 46-year-old landed proprietor from neighbouring parish Sutcombe.

Curiously, though, the girls are listed as stepdaughters to William and Elizabeth IRELAND. If you recall, were William HAYMAN and his wife Ann – so how are they stepdaughters?!

Only two years after the 1841 census, on 24th May 1843, at Buttsbear, mother Ann HAYMAN died aged only 39. She had been suffering from a “disease of the liver”, and had left her husband with six daughters aged between 2 and 16.

Less than a year later, on 5th March 1844, William had remarried. His wife was Holsworthy woman Elizabeth MEDLAND, of the MEDLAND family who owned and ran the Stanhope Arms. And from the records remaining of William HAYMAN, upon marrying Elizabeth, he became an innkeeper himself, running the Stanhope Arms in Holsworthy as the next generation of a family business.

I am unsure whether William took his children with him during this courtship, and this is evidenced by the death certificate of youngest

Launceells	Twenty-fourth May 1863 at Brompton Launceells	Ann Hayman	Female 36 Years	Wife of William Hayman Farmer	Disease of Liver
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From the death certificate of Ann HAYMAN 1843 © Crown Copyright

daughter Agnes. She died, a fortnight before her father's second marriage, of convulsions aged just two years old. Her death wasn't registered by her father as one would expect, but by a man named James HORN (or possibly HAM). It raises many questions such as where was William? Did he participate in the care of his children following his wife's death? Was the marriage about setting up the best situation for his children and he was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Agnes Hayman	Female Two Years	Daughter of William Hayman Farmer	Convulsions	James Ham in attendance Launceells
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From the death certificate of Agnes HAYMAN 1844 © Crown Copyright

According to the Western Times of the 11th December 1847, on 3rd December, Elizabeth bore William a son. However, I can find no record of him, his name, nor what became of him but from his absence at the 1851 census, one can conclude he died; the single line in the Western Times is the only acknowledgement of his existence.

Although birth and death registration began in 1837, it was not compulsory until the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1874, so people could appear or disappear more easily.

This new baby wasn't the happy second start for William HAYMAN – just over a month later on 29th January 1848, William died aged 46 years of cirrhosis – another liver-related death in the family - and typhoid fever.

Typhoid exists in unsanitary environments, spread by food or water contaminated with faeces. And if William was exposed to it, there is every chance so was his infant son.

William was laid to rest in the burial ground of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Holsworthy where his grave is marked.

Within the next year, another daughter of the initial marriage would pass away too; Betsey Anne would die at Holsworthy aged just thirteen.

Only three daughters remained: Mary, Maria and Thirza.

William's widow Elizabeth married William IRELAND in 1849, and, as seen in the 1851 census, Maria and Thirza are being cared for by the IRELANDs, while 25-year-old Mary would go on to marry John Rundle CORY of Clawton at St. Leonards, Clawton in 1852.

It is apparent that the girls remained close, as, by the time of Thirza's death on 11th July 1857, she is at the home of Mary and



The grave of William HAYMAN (1847) at St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Holsworthy.
© Janice Dennis via Findagrave.com

John CORY at Herdicott Cross, Clawton, and the death is recorded by the same John Rundle CORY, her brother-in-law, who was present at the death.

Her cause of death was listed as “Decline, 9 months”, and not certified by a doctor.

She was buried in Clawton, beneath that functional cross on ***** , perhaps nearby to where their mother was laid to rest – although this is just wishful speculation, coupled with the practical possibility of the grave space having already been purchased.

<i>Cleventh July 1857 Herdicott Cross Clawton</i>	<i>Thirza Hayman</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>17 Years</i>	<i>Daughter of William Hayman Shrolooper</i>	<i>Decline 9 Months Not Certified</i>
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From the death certificate of Thirza HAYMAN 1857 © Crown Copyright

And the others? The IRELAND family relocate to Pilton near Barnstaple by 1861, where William returns to his initial occupation of Nurseryman. He predeceases Elizabeth by some years. Mary and John move to Milton Damerel. Thirza’s sister died on the 22nd April 1901 and was buried at Milton Damerel – her stone is still visible. And Maria married, firstly, Richard ELLIOTT, a farmer at North Tamerton, and secondly John BENNETT, a farmer at Bradworthy, however I cannot reliably source her death or burial.

So from a little cross in Clawton, we have found a tale of compound losses, and remembering people who weren’t even afforded documentation in an age of recorded history.

Kay Napier
June 2026

Sources: General Records Office births and deaths, Findmypast.co.uk, Familysearch.org, Findagrave.com

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:

Holywell Joint Council	Val Letheren	07484 880 770	rubbycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com
Ashwater	Catherine Bowness John Lowe	07348 443 490	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

t: 07572 923242 or email: david.cross@exeter.anglican.org

Alex Pugh—Safeguarding and DBS Coordinator

t: 01392 294929 or email: safeguardingenquiry@exeter.anglican.org



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

Ruby Holywell

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