

# BENEFICE OF ASHWATER BULLETIN

ASHWATER \* BEAWORTHY \* CLAWTON \* HALWILL \* TETCOTT

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Dear Friends

Spring has really sprung, April showers have brought the countryside to life, the birds are singing and the swallows have returned safely to nest in their favourite haunts. How good it is, how wonderful and how amazing is the growth of the vegetation in the garden and the fields. Already silage has been taken from some fields; soon the tractors and trailers will be flying around the country lanes. Devon is a beautiful county; we are so fortunate that we have dark skies at night to see the universe in all its glory of stars and constellations. It reminds me of a verse in Psalm 8 'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place.... O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.' In the beauty of nature we can thank and give glory to God for all that he has made.



Beauty is, of course, subjective but because of the talents and work of local artists, musicians and craft workers, we look forward to show-casing their talents in Ashwater Church 13-15th June. If you are able to contribute your artistry to this event I would love to hear from you.

The Annual Meetings are nearly done, and so I would like to thank all who contribute or have contributed to the inner workings of Church life. To Church Wardens who hold this ancient office title and are generally responsible for the day to day functioning of the parish church and churchyard, and are responsible for the maintenance of the church building. The office of Sidesmen and women, is also an ancient office in the Church of England and so thanks go to them in their help in coming into Church early to help prepare for services and clearing up afterwards, also to those who make and serve coffee. In other areas such as PCC's, bell ringing, flower arranging, cleaning of church and brasses, musicians and organists, readers and intercessors, mowers of grass and those keeping an eye on the fabric, thank you and again to all who support our churches in terms of money, time and talents, you are all vital to the church and to the community in which we serve. Lastly I want to thank our Readers and worship leaders for their support and help to me personally and to the Ashwater Benefice in which they serve. Finally, we are always glad of more volunteers, if you have a gift to share in the community, don't be shy or hide your talents, do tell me, I would love to hear from you!

Easter Blessings,

Jane.

## Sunday Services in MAY

4 May Third Sunday of Easter

Ashwater	9.30am	Morning Worship
Beaworthy	6.30pm	Evensong
Clawton	10.30am	Holy Communion
Halwill	11.00am	Morning Worship

Tetcott	5.30pm.	Tea and informal worship
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*First* Acts 2: 14a, 36-41  
*Second* 1 Peter 1: 17-23  
*Gospel* Luke 14: 13-35

11 May Fourth Sunday of Easter

Ashwater	9.30am	Holy Communion
Beaworthy	11.00am	Morning Worship
Clawton	10.30am	Morning Worship
Halwill	11.00am	Holy Communion

*First* Acts 2: 42-end  
*Second* 1 Peter 2: 19-end  
*Gospel* John 10: 1-10

18 May Fifth Sunday of Easter

Ashwater	9.30am	Family Praise
Beaworthy	6.30pm	
Clawton	10.30am	Holy Communion
Halwill:	11.00am	Morning Worship

*First* Acts 7: 55-end  
*Second* 1 Peter 2: 2-10  
*Gospel* John 14: 1-14

25 May Rogation Sunday

Ashwater	9.30am	Holy Communion
Beaworthy	11.00am	Madworthy Anniversary
Clawton	10.30am	Let's Get Together
Halwill	11.00	Holy Communion

*First* Acts 17: 22-31  
*Second* 1 Peter 3: 13-22  
*Gospel* John 14: 15-21

**Monday 16 May**  
**Rogation Service at Uphill Farm,**  
**Ashwater, at 7.00pm**

**Thursday 29 May**  
**Ascension Day Service**  
**Ashwater 6.30pm**

# agape, n.

a. The communal religious meal believed to have been held in the early Church in close relation to the Eucharist; = [love-feast n.](#)

## What does Agape mean and why did we have an Agape service this year?

I know that we always do Easter well, but somehow it seemed even more special across the Benefice this year. In particular the Agape service held in Ashwater church on Maundy Thursday evening seemed especially moving. Agape (in Christian theology) has come to mean the love of God for humankind, as well as our reciprocal love for God. Agape services are usually about sharing – in particular the sharing of bread and wine, as Christ did with his disciples.

At our service we poured wine for each other, and passed each other bread, and it was very moving to do this on the evening when we were celebrating Christ's final meal on earth. Our Agape service felt to me not so much a re-enactment of the Last Supper, but more a tribute – a suitable way of remembering that Christ spent his final night with his disciples sharing with them and demonstrating his humility by washing their feet – and we did this too!

For those of you who were unable to make it to the evening, I should tell you that Rev'd Jane washed some of our feet (those of us who wished her to do so). I found myself incredibly moved by the thought that this is what our Lord had done, and it was being done to me.

I hope those who came felt as moved as me – and if you were unable to come this year, I hope that you might be able to join us at other Agape services. Perhaps as the person who developed and led this service, it should not be me that says it, but if you can join us another time, you are in for a very spiritual, yet informal and friendly experience.

Ali Rowe



# Bluebell Walk

(Only if weather permitting)

Sunday May 11th at  
2.30pm

From the Hall car park

Cream tea and soft drinks

available on return

on return

Donations in aid of Ashwater  
Church Tower & North Devon  
Hospice

Strong boots or wellingtons recommended

Any enquiries please tel.

Sue Shute 01409 211 452



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**Saturday May 17th. Wine and Wisdom** 7.30pm Maximum of 6 in each team - £4.00 a head. Glass of wine and nibbles included in the price. To book a table contact Chris Long 221 577 or Diana Cutler 220 702. Please encourage friends and family to support this event. Proceeds for Halwill Church funds.

**Saturday May 31st. 7.30pm Tuning in – Your Inheritance Tracks.** Bring your favourite music tracks to Beaworthy Church to share with others. Light refreshments will be provided.