

BENEFICE OF ASHWATER BULLETIN



ASHWATER * BEAWORTHY * CLAWTON * HALWILL * TETCOTT



Dear friends,

April, 2015

April and the first quarter of the year is gone! This first week we are in Holy week when we remember the events that lead up to the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, then move to the celebration of the resurrection of Easter Day. Having just returned from an assembly at school, I am horrified that children do not know why we have Easter, or know the significance of Jesus, who died for each one of us and was risen to new life by the power of God, freed from death and the tomb forever. Easter is the most important Christian festival of our year. Easter is about the transformation from our old humanity, from the things we get wrong, to have all that is said and done wrong, set aside and be given the gift to begin again on a new page, a new life in Jesus. We invite and welcome you to spend some time in services in and around our Benefice. You will find times & places inside this Bulletin.

The Lent courses at Halwill and Ashwater have been a joy. It is so good to delve more deeply into our bible texts and discover that they really do speak into our souls. If you have never tried a bible study because you fear that you are going to be asked something you don't know, do not worry, we look and learn together. We would love you to join us; speak to me if you are interested. We do have fun too! If you thought Jesus didn't have a sense of humour then you are missing something; he chose me for a start!

Our Church buildings are a great drain on our resources, but it has ever been thus. However, we have put in two applications for grants to the Heritage Lottery Fund for roof and rainwater goods, for Beaworthy and Tetcott Churches and we await the outcome which will be very soon. It was encouraging that the Chancellor has added another £40 million to that HLF fund. Just out of interest there were 2000 applications filed at the end of January from England of which 60 were from the Exeter Diocese, a sure sign that some of our rural church buildings are in trouble in the West Country. Ashwater Church is going forward to apply for their second round of funding and you will notice that there are activities and fundraising going on towards their target of £10K this year. If you can help in any way we would love to hear from you.

The other side of our church life is the day to day running of services, outreach, mission and serving the parishes in their needs. We rely totally on volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus, be it cleaning and flower arranging, bell ringing, mowing, taking part in services, doing rotas, being church officers, such as Church Wardens, sidesmen, secretary, treasurer, and Parochial Church Council members. We need people to fill in the gaps that have appeared from people leaving the parishes and moving to pastures new. If you can volunteer for any of these important jobs, I am at the end of the telephone or email. I would encourage all our parishioners to come to the APCM's. These are your Churches and your Church buildings.

Easter Blessing Jane.

Dates for the Diary

30th March Messy Church: Halwill Baptist Hall, 10-30 'till 12-30

31st March Last Lent Bible Study: Halwill Baptist Hall, 2pm & 7-30pm

4th April Musical Feast Ashwater Parish Hall, Book tickets now! 01409 211452 only £10 (with meal)

7th April Soup & Sweet: Halwill Baptist Hall, £2-50 12-2pm

8th April United Churches in Halwill meeting at Madworthy Chapel 7-30pm

14th April Connect 2 Youth Meeting at Halwill Baptist Hall 7-30pm

15th April Clawton Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St. Leonard's, all are welcome

18th April Ignite/Stowford Camp re-union & promotion Trethorne Leisure 6-15pm 'till 9pm (please bring a packed tea)

22nd April Tetcott Parish Hall 7-30pm informal meeting with Church/Chapel community

28th April Ashwater PCC at Cherrytree Cottage, Ashwater

29th April Halwill Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church 10-45am, all are welcome

30th April Good Companions outing to Buckfastleigh leave Halwill Baptist Hall 10-30am

Future dates

June 26th-28th Stowford Camp

12 July Ashwater Tractor Run

15th July Joint Parishes meeting for Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton Halwill & Tetcott with Katie Roscorla 7-30pm. Venue to be announced

Stop Press!

Tetcott church has been awarded a grant to repair its tower roof. Well done them!

SERVICES

29 March

Palm Sunday

Halwill Church (Benefice Service) 11am start, with a walk of witness with palm crosses and a donkey. Then into church. Coffee served afterwards.

3 April

Good Friday

Ashwater 10am Vigil with accompanying music
Beaworthy 12 noon
Halwill 11.30am. Walk of witness. Lunch 12.15pm in Baptist Hall. 2.00pm. Vigil in Church

4 April

Easter Eve

Beaworthy 8.30pm. Vigil and Communion.
'Lighting the Fire'.

SUNDAY SERVICES in APRIL

5 April

Easter Day

The Winsford Centre, Halwill.

8am Easter Sunrise reflection (with breakfast afterwards)
Ashwater 9.30am Family Communion
Clawton 10.30am Communion (by extension)
Halwill 11.00am Family Communion
Tetcott 5.30pm Tea, followed by Communion

12th April

Ashwater 9.30am Holy Communion
Beaworthy 11a.m Morning Worship
Clawton 10.30am Morning Worship
Halwill 11.00am Holy Communion

19 April

Ashwater 9.30am Holy Communion (said)
Beaworthy 6.30pm Holy Communion
Clawton 10.30am Holy Communion
Halwill 11.00am Holy Communion

26 April

Ashwater 9.30am Holy Communion
Beaworthy 11.00am Morning Worship
Clawton 10.30am Let's Get Together
Halwill 11.00am Holy Communion

You may not know that several of our Churches have "Friends." Members support the fabric and upkeep of the church building.

Clawton has 'Friends of St. Leonard's' or 'Fosl's' Suggested membership is £10 or more, details from: Mrs. Irene Ellis, Higher Hoslett, Clawton. Holsworthy EX22 6PZ

Halwill has 'KEYS' (Keen, Enthusiastic, Yearly Support) Suggested membership £10 or more, details from: Mr. John Lawler, The Old School, Halwill, Beaworthy. EX 21 5UH

Tetcott hopes to launch a "Friends" scheme this summer.

Ashwater runs a St. Peter's Draw, membership £5 a year, due in January each year. Details from:

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Drowne, 1, Manor park, Ashwater, Beaworthy EX21 5EQ

Beaworthy St. Alban's 100 Club Draw, membership £10 due in April, details from:

Mr. Mike Bolitho, Stables Cottage, Patchacott, Beaworthy. EX21 5AR

God Almighty, we praise your holy name in this joyful Eastertide. We thank you, Lord, because through your death and resurrection we have won the victory and your redeeming grace and love. Loving Father God, fill us with new life so that we may love one another and do what you want is to do in sharing your love with those who don't know you. In Jesus' name we pray.

Thank You

I want to say THANK YOU to everyone who supports the Christian faith in our parishes and beyond. For those who go the extra mile to give, work, move tables and chairs, make coffee, cakes, ring bells, do flowers, fetch and carry people and things, organise events and publicise them, play music and communicate the love for others in whatever you do. Jane