

Comment: In one way or another the church is important to Ashwater so please read the letter at the end of the newsletter and see if you can help.

Newsletter: Contributions for the next Newsletter by 26th March please to ibuxton16@btinternet.com

Events in the hall (unless otherwise stated)

1st March - Lunch at the Village Inn, 12.30pm

1st March - Ladies Skittles, 7.30pm

3rd March - Car wash, 9am Hall Carpark

6th, 13th and 27th March - Men's skittles 7.30pm

14th March - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

19th - Camera Club, 7.30pm

25th March - Circus Bezercus, 2pm

Advance Notice

Ashwater Hall – Bookings and enquiries
Email: lmynetman@btinternet.com
Tel: 01409 211131

Ashwater Shop (Opening Hours)

Hours: Mon – Frid: 8.30am to 5.00pm
Saturday: 8.30am to Noon
Sunday: 9am to 12 Noon

Tel: 01409 211192

Post Office

Hours: Mon – Frid: 9.00am to 4.00pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

PARISH HALL

CIRCUS BEZERCUS – 25TH MARCH 2018

Circus Bezercus is booked for Sunday 25th March at 2pm in the hall. It is a fun filled family circus show **free** to everyone (children need to be accompanied by an adult). The show - Komedý of Errors, stars Gerald the gentleman juggler and Wallace the circus trainee. The show is packed with visual comedy, dazzling juggling, unique unicycling, mindboggling magic and audience participation with a hint of danger! (Don't worry it's all under control). The show is suitable for ALL the family.

The performance is free as the hall is bearing the cost. This a 'thankyou' for the support given and recognises that there has been little organised for children by the trustees since the youth club discontinued.

There will be refreshments available (donations appreciated) and an Easter Egg raffle. The show will start at 2pm, **doors open at 1.30pm**. At 2.45 there will be half an hour break before the second half that runs from 3.15pm - 3.45pm.

HALL GROUNDS

The crocus and daffodils are starting to show and the grass will soon need mowing. The hall has acquired a motor mower and strimmer and would appreciate volunteers adding their names to the list on the board in the hall foyer so a rota can be devised to take turns in cutting the lawn and strimming the banks.

HALL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Accidental breakages and the occasional loss of items is inevitable, but recently we have noticed the number of metal tea spoons dramatically diminished and have had to be replaced.

The sound system has also suffered some damage with two microphones no longer working. Please remember if an incident occurs there is a book in the kitchen to report losses and breakages as with the best will in the world it is not possible to check all the equipment between uses, whereas a quick look in the book helps keep track of repairs and renewals required.

JAZZ LUNCH

The Jazz lunch held in conjunction with the Ashwater Railway Commemoration weekend was very popular. We will be having a return visit by the band on 10th June 2018 when lunch will also be served. More details nearer the time, but make a note in your diary please as it will be good value and entertaining.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets in the hall every month and if you wish to contact them or the Parish Clerk, Pip Selley, please email : parishcouncil@ashwaterparish.org.uk



Waste / Recycling Roadshows – Parishes Spring 2018

As you may be aware Torrige District Council propose to introduce new waste & recycling schemes from 1st June 2018.

The new schemes will include:

- **Weekly dry recycling (box/bags)**
- **Weekly food waste collections (food waste being taken out of the wheelie bin).**
- **Two-weekly refuse (black bag) collections.**
- **Two-weekly chargeable garden waste (green wheelie bin) collections.**

Between March and May the Council will host local roadshows across the District to engage with customers and explain the changes. These roadshows would take place between 10:30 am and 2:30pm. If you would like TDC to visit your area please complete the form below. Please note that whilst TDC will try to accommodate all requests, resources are finite and we will need to limit the number of roadshows, targeting the larger communities. A timetable will be published and distributed in February 2018.

_____TDC New Schemes Roadshow Request Form_____

Parish

Roadshow Town / Village

Site of Roadshow
(to host small transit connect and gazebo)

Preferred Day
(ie Market Day)

Any other information:
.....
.....

Please return by email to elaine.lester@torridge.gov.uk Thank you

VILLAGE INN MONTHLY LUNCH & DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY – 1st March 2018

Please book in advance or by 10.30am on the day at the latest on 01409 211200. The two-course meal is priced very reasonably by Phil and Dee and is great value – join us from 12.30pm.

LADIES AND MEN’S SKITTLES

The next Ladies Skittles evening is 1st March at 7.30pm in the hall and we welcome new players. The men have three home games this month on 6th, 13th and 27th March and are still in need of points. The Arthur Palmer Memorial Competition will close the season in the hall at 7.30pm on 3rd April.

ASHWATER CAMERA CLUB

Many thanks to all who attended the exhibition on 17th February. We like to think it was the standard and variation of the exhibits that brought in the crowds and not just the quality of the cream teas. Don’t forget if you would like to join come along to the next meeting on 19th March when we will be undertaking ‘portraits in the studio’. On 21st April we will visit Dartmoor Zoo. We also have speakers lined up for later in the year. Contact Caroline Gill, Secretary (email doodlewiz@gmail.com) for full details.

ART GROUP

The group meets most Tuesdays in the Village hall from 1.30 – 4.00. We have a varied programme including tutored sessions of drawing, painting and print making. We also take sketchbooks outside, sometimes despite the weather and visit galleries and exhibitions. New members always welcome, regardless of ability.

Email or telephone for details. Kate 211241 katestroud@hotmail.com or Sue 211419 sueluxton@mac.com

ASHWATER FOOTBALL CLUB

Football club car wash Saturday March 3rd 9am-11am at Ashwater parish hall car park £5 per car, bacon rolls, teas & coffee for sale. Hamper draw will take place on March 3rd anyone wishing to purchase a £1 ticket they are available from the shop or at the car wash thank you to everyone for your support.

DOG FOULING – AGAIN!

Once more there have been reports of a rise in dog fouling along the footpath between the Old Rectory and Church. Please remember this path is in frequent use and may be used after dark when it is difficult to avoid stepping onto an undesirable mess. Most local dog owners pick up after their dog and they don't want to have to pick up after someone else's animal as well and as has been said, "there is no dog-poo fairy to do the job".

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I wish to notify you of a consultation on a proposed Public Space Protection Order for Torridge starting this week and running until the 25th March. As part of this process I would like to invite comments on the proposals, and ask that you promote this consultation with your residents to seek their views.

In 2013 TDC introduced a series of Dog Control Orders (DCOs) under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This designated As offences: failing to pick up faeces, failure to put a dog on a lead (by location or by direction) and exclusion of dogs from specified areas. The DCO provisions have been superseded by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The new provisions available under this Act to tackle dog related issues is by the designation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Before these provisions can be enacted, the proposals must be subject to consultation.

The Council has launched a six-week consultation on the proposals, which can be accessed via our website: <http://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/16950/Torridge---Dog-Control-Public-Consultation---until-25th-March-2018>

Alternatively, hard copies are available at Council reception points.

The consultation consists of the draft wording of the order, along with a plans/ a schedule of the areas it will cover. Comments are invited on both. The consultation runs until the 25th March, following which the feedback will be considered as part of the determination process for the adoption of the provisions.

It is envisaged that this process may lead to requests for further designations of dog exclusion areas. These can be included in the consultation response for further, more localised consideration at a later date.

We are currently reviewing signage, and further information and support for Town and Parish Councils on dog related issues is being prepared.

We would welcome any comments on the proposals through the above means, and would be grateful if you could assist us in advertising this consultation in order that we to get as many views possible on the proposals. Kind regards

Janet Williams Environmental Health and Community Safety Manager
Torridge District Council Riverbank House, Bideford EX39 2QG
Tel 01237 428857 Email janet.williams@torridge.gov.uk Web: www.torridge.gov.uk

ROAD WORKS

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14

THE COUNTY OF DEVON (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) (ROAD FROM MORECOMBE CROSS TO LAKE END CROSS, HALWILL JUNCTION) (NO. 2) NOTICE 2018. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that:

THURSDAY 8 MARCH 2018 (for a maximum of 5 days) until FRIDAY 9 MARCH 2018 (both dates inclusive) AND from MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018 (for a maximum of 5 days) until WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2018 (both dates

inclusive) no person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads except for access to land or premises on or adjacent to those length of roads.

Roads affected -

ROAD FROM MORECOMBE CROSS TO LAKE END CROSS, HALWILL JUNCTION , SOUTHCOTT TO MORECOMBE CROSS. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - DIVERSION 1 - A3079, A3072, A386, A3079, AND VICE VERSA. DIVERSION 2 - HALWILL, MILL CROSS, HALWILL BRIDGE, HUNSACOTT COTTAGE, MUCKWORTHY, NORTH PARK, MORECOMBE CROSS, AND VICE VERSA. DIVERSION 3 - HILL SIDE CROSS, HOLLACOMBE, A3072, DUNSLAND CROSS, A3079, AND VICE VERSA.

This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - DEVON HIGHWAYS - RESURFACING WORKS WITH LINING AND PLOUGHING/HEDGE CUTTING

For additional information contact:

SKANSKA UK Telephone: 0330 105 2701

FAREWELL

"After 22 very happy years Eric and Dilys Burnill are leaving Ashwater to head for fresh fields and perhaps new adventures. We would like to thank all our friends in Ashwater for their kindness and best wishes for our future. Good luck Ashwater in all your efforts to keep the village a fantastic place to live."

Eric and Dilys

We wish them every good fortune with thanks for everything they have contributed to the Ashwater Community with their support of the Parish Council, Hall, Shop, Church, Agricultural/Horticultural Shows and School to mention just some of the myriad things they have done for us all.

.....And Finally

From Letitia Yetman Holsworthy Deanery Treasurer

Ashwater Church – its future in our Community

To all residents of Ashwater Parish and adjoining areas

Ashwater is a very well-located village with a good community spirit and is most fortunate to have an extensive range of local facilities. Many other villages in the area are not lucky enough to have a pub, village shop, school, parish hall and a church all together in one place, as we have in Ashwater.

It is easy for us to take these lovely facilities for granted. Their continued existence owes a great deal to the dedication of a limited number of people, many of whom are volunteers, spending long hours in the service of our local Ashwater community.

Ashwater Parish Church has been an important place of worship and a focal point in the village for centuries. The Methodist Church became established in the nineteenth century, was very popular, but Ashwater Chapel sadly closed in 2013.

Generations of Ashwater residents have been baptised, married and said their final goodbyes in Ashwater Church. Many are buried in the churchyard. It is hard to imagine that anything could change in the future. It is just how it has been for centuries.

Mercifully, the future of the church building has now been secured, thanks to the considerable hard work of volunteers and grant funding, which has made the church tower water-tight and safe for many years to come. There are still some further improvements in the pipeline which will also be grant-aided when resources allow.

Ashwater is also blessed to have a Rector living in the village. These days, Ashwater is not a single parish but part of the Ashwater Benefice, which comprises the parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Clawton, Halwill, and Tetcott with Luffincott. It is one of four Benefices within the Holsworthy Mission Community Deanery, in the Diocese of Exeter.

Our Rector, Jane Lucas is Rector of the Ashwater Benefice, and also Rural Dean of the Holsworthy Deanery, overseeing more than 20 parishes.

Due to financial pressures, diminishing and ageing congregations, and a general lack of people coming into ministry, the Diocese of Exeter is beginning a review of its clergy, services and parishes, and this is likely to see a reduction in the number of priests in the Holsworthy area.

At the moment we are very lucky to have Jane Lucas living in and serving the parish, but Jane is due to retire in the summer of 2019, and this is fast approaching. Jane has lived amongst us and served the parish of Ashwater and the Ashwater Benefice well since November 2008.

We all know Jane as a popular person who joins in with as many local events as possible. She has been with countless people in times of celebration and of great sadness, offering heartfelt support to everyone, churchgoers or not, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Anglican or non-believer.

When Jane retires she will be sorely missed, all the more so as there is a possibility that she will not be replaced by a priest, living and serving in Ashwater, or even the Ashwater Benefice as we know it.

This does not mean that Ashwater Church will close.

The church and churchyard will continue to remain open but the arrangements for worship and services may be very different in the future.

Revd Prebendary Kathy Roberts, Rector of the Black Torrington Benefice, is also retiring in 2019. This means there may be two Benefices, ten Churches, without a priest from next year, as the process of appointment can be lengthy and can only begin once a number of criteria have been fully satisfied.

The principal reason for this letter to you all, is to tell you that, as Ashwater has been unable to pay its 2017 Common Fund in full, the appointment of a new priest, once Jane retires in 2019 will not be able to begin.

This is because, in December 2017, the Bishop of Exeter decreed that parishes without a 100% Common Fund payment record in the preceding two years will not be allowed to start seeking a new priest.

The Common Fund is the money that parishes pay to the Diocesan Board of Finance to help towards each priest's salary and employment costs. Church collections are meant to cover the Common Fund but in rural churches like Ashwater this is rarely the case.

The priests in the Holsworthy Mission Community Deanery are all partly subsidised by the much better - off parishes of South and East Devon.

Luckily, the unfortunate position that Ashwater Church finds itself in is not completely hopeless. The amount owed for 2017 is £3125. If this and the £4847 due for 2018 is somehow paid, the problem will be partly solved.

Sadly, this would not completely guarantee a new priest for Ashwater, but it would at least mean that a new priest would not be automatically ruled out, as looks likely at the moment.

So, what can be done to help avoid this very disheartening scenario?

- Money is the obvious answer, but this is not the only thing that this letter is about.
- Willing hands and friendly support are almost as important as actual cash and there are so many ways in which this can make a real difference. It is as much the shortage of people to undertake key tasks as the lack of money, that is the problem.

- A very little help from lots of people could turn this situation around.
- The life of Ashwater Church is not just about Sunday services, festivals, baptisms, weddings and funerals although, what is often termed as 'bums on seats', does inevitably boost church income.
- There are other enjoyable activities and tasks to be done and take part in, such as bell-ringing, flower arranging, providing coffee after services, brass cleaning, churchyard grass-cutting and maintenance, organising fundraising activities, to name but a few, for which extra people are needed. All these things can help to radically improve the financial health of Ashwater Church.
- Help with these also would reduce the burden on a very small number of stalwart folk, who would really welcome the extra support and fellowship.
- Various fundraising events such as a couple of Big Breakfasts, and a Johnny Cowling Concert are planned along with a Church Gift Day at the end of June. Do come along and support these.
- Please do consider offering to help in some way..... everyone is always most welcome.
- Alternatively, perhaps you could join the Parish Giving Scheme which involves giving by Direct Debit, monthly, quarterly or annually where the Gift Aid is automatically claimed back.
- Or there is the **St Peter's Draw** which takes place quarterly – numbers are £5 each and you can have as many as you like. Please contact Christine Drowne 01409 211428
- A **Friends of St Peter's Church** has recently been set up to ensure the future of the heritage and fabric of our ancient building, rather than paying towards church running costs. Details from Jane 01409 211205 or therev.rectory62@gmail.com
- If you have an queries about any of the financial issues raised here please contact me – details below.

Jane and John Lucas are frequently at the Parish Hall Coffee Morning on Fridays 10.30 – Noon. Do join us there for Coffee Cake and a Chat!

Together let's try and make a real difference for Ashwater Church.

Best wishes

Letitia M. Yetman

01409 211131 or lmyetman@btinternet.com (all lower case)

Advertising in the Newsletter

Small adverts cost £25 per issue and help to cover the cost of paper and printing, which are otherwise donated or paid from parish council funds raised through the local precept.

Distribution of Newsletters

My thanks to those who provide articles for and distribute the newsletters. If you know of anybody who did not receive a copy please let me know: copies will always be available at the Village Shop, Parish Hall and in the Village Inn. Any information for inclusion in or offers to help please contact Ivan Buxton on 01409 221073, e-mail ibuxton16@btinternet.com. Don't forget to visit the Ashwater Website: www.ashwaterparish.org.uk

Printed by: Parish Magazine Printing, Northmoor, Whitstone, Holsworthy EX22 6TD Tel: 01288 341617 Email: phillip.tucker@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk