

BENEFICE OF ASHWATER BULLETIN



ASHWATER * BEAWORTHY * CLAWTON * HALWILL * TETCOTT

Dear Friends

March 2016



The beautiful listed church buildings in the Ashwater Benefice stand as a testament to the faith and work of the generations of Christians who have gone before us. We are very grateful to everyone - believers and non-believers - who give their time and resources to make the buildings as cared for as they can be. Church buildings are just that, buildings with prayer-soaked walls and a history that tells of those who have worshipped, knelt, sung and prayed there. They tell of baptisms, weddings and funerals over the centuries. How will the Church of the future look when there are no people to do the worshipping, praying and singing? For 'the Church' is the people who faithfully come, week by week, to be a testament to others; to show by the lives that they lead that they believe in Jesus. We are followers, and disciples of a living God: Jesus, who lived, was crucified, died and was resurrected by the power of God to live and reign forever. This is His-Story – the Easter story of which we are a part through our relationship with the living Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ of all creation and everyone in it.



There is an opportunity to come and see for yourselves this Good Friday at Ashwater Church, **His-Story**, told through the eyes of disciples, bystanders and witnesses of Jesus. (Friday 25th March at 7-30pm) All are welcome.

The question is: are you living to make a better, fairer world; living by the gift of grace that is yours for the asking; or are you living for today's glory, a glory that will fade faster than yesterday's newspaper headlines?

The Christian faith is yours, mine and our communities' relationship with God. It is how we relate with compassion to the people around us. How well do you know the nature of God as Father, Son and Spirit? Did you know that you have a spiritual dimension or in today's language that you have 'mindfulness'? Christians have been practising it for centuries!



God is calling you to be part of the Easter story, to be His Easter People. He is calling you. Will you respond?

Blessings to all,

Jane.

Sunday Services March

6th March 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

9-30am Ashwater Morning Family Worship
10-30am Clawton Holy Communion
11am Halwill Morning Family Worship
5-30pm Tetcott Tea & informal family service
6-30pm Beaworthy BCP Evensong

13th March 5th Sunday of Lent Passiontide begins

9-30am Ashwater Holy Communion
10-30am Clawton Morning Worship
11am Halwill Holy Communion
11am Beaworthy Morning Worship
6-30pm Ashwater BCP Evensong *of 2016*

20th March Palm Sunday

11am Benefice Walk of Witness around Ashwater with Donkey
Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in Church

Good Friday 25th March

11-30am United Churches Walk of Witness in Halwill, starting at the Baptist Hall
Lunch at the Baptist Hall
2pm Vigil at Beaworthy Church

7-30pm His-Story, Ashwater Church 7-30pm. Free entry

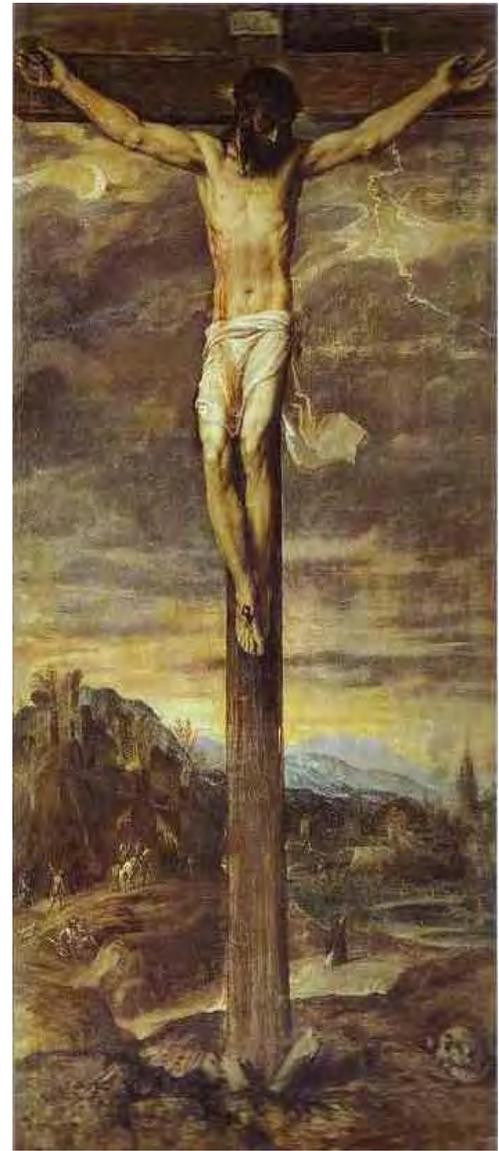
Easter Eve 26th March

8pm Beaworthy Easter Vigil & Holy Communion

Easter Day 27th March

9-30am Ashwater Holy Communion
10-30am Clawton Holy Communion by extension
11am Halwill Holy Communion
6-30pm Tetcott Holy Communion

All Communicants are obliged to receive the Sacrament on Easter Eve/Day.



BEYOND EASTER

Beyond Easter
We go singing.

Having been grabbed
By resurrection
We are full of tears and laughter.

The way ahead is unknown.
It will always be like that.

But having danced in the light
We will look for glory everywhere

Ruth Burgess



Give Her a Break!

Do people still think that the clergy only work on Sunday?

Perhaps we did when we were five, but now that we are adult we know that it is not true. But sometimes we still behave as though it is. Like all of us, the clergy

need a day of rest. Jane's day off is Tuesday, so let's give her a break. If it involves her, organise a meeting for another

day. Only make essential telephone calls or, better still, send an e-mail which she can respond to when appropriate. If we do that she can spend more time with John, doing the things that they enjoy doing together.

Dates for the diary

Monday 29th February 3rd session of the Lent Course at Ashgreen 7pm Ashwater

Tuesday March 1st Soup & Sweet Halwill Baptist Hall 12-2pm only £2

Wednesday 2nd March Ashwater PCC at Hampton House 7-30pm

Monday 7th March 4th session of the Lent Course (as above)

Thursday 10th March Good Companions at Halwill 2-45pm- 4-30pm

Good Companions at Tetcott Arscott Hall 2-30pm -4-30pm

Saturday March 12th Diocesan Synod

Monday 14th March 5th session of Lent Course

Thursday 17th March Forget-me-not Cafe, 3pm – 5pm Baptist Hall

Friday 18th March Clawton OPCC at Higher Horslett 7-30pm

Saturday 19th March Beaworthy Coffee Morning 10-30 -12noon in aid of Farm Community Network

Also Halwill Ploughman's Lunch

And Ashwater Tower Launch 10-30am

Monday 21st March Quiet Day at Haddiport House, Shebbear. Theme: *Homecoming. . . Coming Home to God*. Spaces still available £10 for the day

Includes talks, time for reflection, lunch, teas & coffees. Contact Jane.

24th March Maundy Thursday Passover meal in Ashwater Parish Hall, 6-15pm for 6-30pm sharp £8 Taste and see!

Good Friday. His-Story 7-30pm Ashwater Church

Tuesday 29th March Tetcott PCC Manor 7-30pm

Thursday 31st March Good Companions Outing from the Baptist Chapel



INDIA 2016 AN APPEAL FOR HELP

THERE ARE MANY MORE CHRISTIANS IN INDIA THAN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. MOST OF THEM ARE DESPERATELY POOR, AND MANY SUFFER PERSECUTION. THE PASTORS THAT I HAVE MET SHARE THAT POVERTY. PERHAPS THIS IS WHY THEY BRING SO MANY PEOPLE TO FAITH . BUT THEY NEED OUR HELP.



I first went to India in 1999. At that time I had no idea that I would go back so frequently. In January I made my tenth visit. I spend most of my time in the small town of Bhongir and the villages around it. This is thirty miles or so from the major city of Hyderabad. I spend my time with the family of Joseph Vallori, who is a couple of years older than me. His two sons and three daughters (and their husbands) are all engaged in Christian ministry. The younger son, Revd. John Prasad Vallori, is unmarried, and is the driving force behind this remarkable family. His vision led to the founding of the Grace Orphan Home, and I was proud to attend its opening in 2013. Although it is not yet finished, a dozen boys and girls live there, and are brought up in the middle of a loving Christian family. It was my good fortune to stay there this year, and I had such an inspirational, uplifting, fun-packed time there.

John and another friend, Satish Kumar (who lives in the city of Vishakhapatnam) have an all round Christian ministry - church planting, leading worship and teaching, helping the poor (including medical help) and supporting poor widows. Like other pastors I have met they live by faith. None of them has a settled income. They depend upon the Lord to meet their needs. And He, of course, relies on us to act as his agents.

Over the years Ashwater Benefice has been very generous to John Prasad, and I know that he appreciates it enormously. We have also given support of Satish Kumar. There have been all sorts of fund-raising activities, including the *Taste of India* lunch and a successful Book Sale. A number of people have also made individual donations. But what these and other pastors really need is regular support - the kind of support that enables them to calculate what will be coming in each month, so that they can budget wisely. In that respect they are no different from any of us. Windfalls are wonderful, but you know where you are when regular sums, however small, are coming. In view of this, I am looking to individuals, couples or families within the Benefice who are willing to make a regular contribution. I have no 'suggested amount.' That is entirely up to you. A small sum given regularly is more effective than a larger sum given occasionally. There may be some people reading this who are comfortable with the idea of responding to poverty and its consequences, but feel unsure about actively supporting the Christian faith. Don't let that stop you giving. I can arrange with John and Satish that sums donated in this way are to be used for relief work only (which, incidentally, is offered on the basis of need rather than faith). I know that they will follow your wishes. Many of you have met John Prasad and Satish Kumar when they have visited me in England. They are the most open-hearted and trustworthy people that you could ever hope to meet. If you would like to make a regular contribution, however small, please contact me by e-mail (trevorfmay@hotmail.com) or telephone (01409 211523). I have a bank account through which I can transfer funds speedily and cheaply. I would be happy to discuss the issues with you.

Trevor May

Pictures (from the top) A poor, elderly woman from one of the villages; baptism of new believers in the Bay of Bengal; a sufferer from leprosy, deep in prayer; years of working as a stone-cutter have given this man severe respiratory problems - he needs help to feed his family and to deal with his medical needs.

