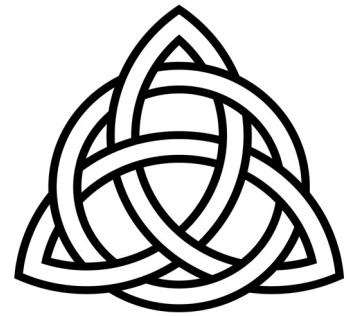


HOLSWORTHY MISSION COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE 96

AUGUST 2019



AROUND THE BENEFICES:

ASHWATER:

August 11th 10.30am Halwill Church Holy Communion led by Archdeacon Mark

Dance to the music from Elaine.

Saturday August 24th. 8.00pm- mid-night in Halwill Parish Hall. Bring & Share Supper, raffle.

BLACK TORRINGTON:

Friday 2nd August - 10.00am - 12 noon Cake and Coffee, Black Torrington Chapel

Wednesday 7th August - 3.00pm - 5.00pm Cream Tea and Cakes, Black Torrington Church

Saturday 10th August - 10.00am Saturday Church - Bradford Village Hall

"Jesus's Holiday" and we meet our new Bishop - **Bishop Jackie**.

We have songs, stories, prayers, crafts, games, a lending library and good things to eat. Come and join us, to share an hour where all these things happen and more.

A short informal Holy Communion service takes place after Saturday Church at about 11.15 am in the committee room. **All are welcome.**

Wednesday 15th August - 7.00pm Celebrating St Mary's, Patronal Service Black Torrington Church - You are warmly invited to St Mary's Church for a short informal service followed by Cheese and Wine.

Saturday 17th August - 10.30am Coffee Morning and Jumble Sale, Thornbury Church

BRADWORTHY:

Monday 29th July Woolsery Show - **ALL WELCOME**

Saturday 3rd August - Summer Fayre - 2.30pm - Home Baking, Preserves, White Elephant, Books, Games, Competitions, REFRESHMENTS - **ALL WELCOME**

Tuesday 13th August Bradworthy Church - Coffee Morning and Jumble Sale from 10.00am

HOLSWORTHY:

Thursday, 22nd August Holsworthy and Stratton Agricultural show - Mother Elizabeth blessing the show at its opening. Christians Together hosting a refreshments tent.

Every Friday: St Peter & St Paul's Church Holsworthy **10.00am** Said Holy Communion, **10.30am** Café for All

Ashwater and Black Torrington vacancy update

Bishop Jackie and I met with the parish representatives and churchwardens of the Ashwater and Black Torrington benefices on July 5. Even though it is still just two months or so into the vacancy, we were all disappointed to have advertised twice and not had any applicants for the post of Vicar. This is a reflection of the current national shortage of stipendiary clergy compared to the number of posts.

We decided to re-advertise at the end of August, and a new interview date has been arranged for the afternoon of Thursday 17th October. In the meantime, Bishop Jackie and I will continue to encourage people we know to consider applying.

We also discussed where the new priest would live. An offer had been made and accepted on a house in Halwill Junction, but subsequent legal complications led the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance to withdraw the offer. In the short term therefore, the new priest will live in Black Torrington Rectory, but Diocesan Property Services will continue to look for a suitable house in Halwill Junction. Given the fairly strict requirements for a clergy house, finding somewhere suitable may not be quick or easy.

Questions were also raised about the level of stipendiary clergy provision in Holsworthy Deanery, with the reduction from 4 to 3 posts. The number of posts is reducing across the Diocese from about 180 to 165 by the end of 2024, and this is being done as fairly as possible. Even with the reduction from 4 to 3 posts in the Holsworthy Deanery, the Board of Finance will still be subsidising the Deanery by £104,000 per annum (cost of 3 clergy at £192,000 less the Deanery Common Fund contribution of £88,000 = £104,000). As further support, the Board of Finance has also committed an extra £30,000 over 3 years to help fund a Families Worker. Revd Richard Freeman (as Rural Dean) and Revd Mike Clark (the Barnstaple Archdeaconry Mission Community Development Adviser) will continue to meet with the Ashwater and Black Torrington churchwardens/representatives during the vacancy to offer practical support and guidance. I too will offer the support I can and have a number of Sundays in the diary when I'm coming to take services in the benefices, something I very much enjoy.

Finally, Bishop Jackie and I want to thank everyone who is working extra hard in the churches during the vacancy. All you are doing is greatly appreciated.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Archdeacon Mark