

Luke 15:1-10**The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.
 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." NIV

Dates for your diary

Monday 12th September	10.00 am	PCC Meeting, Ashwater
Tuesday 13th September	4.00 pm	Handbell Ringing Black Torrington Church
Wednesday 14th September	10.00 am	Iona Holy Communion Black Torrington Church
	12.00 noon	Funeral, Derrick Hayes Clawton Church
	3.00 pm til 5.00 pm	Tea Afternoon & Handbells in aid of Ride & Stride Black Torrington Church
Thursday 15th September	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
Saturday 17th September	10.30 am	Walk in aid of Ride & Stride departing Halwill Church.
	<i>Please bring a packed lunch. Returning about 1.30 pm</i>	
Sunday 18th September	9.30 am	Service of Commemoration Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion during mourning Black Torrington Church
	11.00 am	Service of Commemoration Halwill Church



ZOOM MEETING
 Meeting ID: 317 183 8102
 Passcode: 848984

Ruby Country Benefice

*The Parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,
 Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott*

Sunday 11th September 2022
13th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 am Café Church, Black Torrington

11.00 am Holy Communion, Clawton

6.30 pm Commemoration Service Beaworthy

**Readings**

Exodus 32: 7-14

Psalms 51: 1-11

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Luke 15: 1-10

Collect

O God, the maker and redeemer of all mankind
 grant us, with thy servant **QUEEN ELIZABETH**
 and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of thy Son's
 saving passion and glorious resurrection;
 that in the last day, when all things are gathered up in Christ,
 we may with them enjoy the fullness of thy promises;
 through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
 who liveth and reigneth with thee,
 in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one
 God, world without end. Amen.

Interim Vicar (part time)

Revd Stephen Skinner
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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

For our nation as we mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II

The Mission Community: for all who live and work in our Mission Community

Rest in peace all who have recently died including Her Majesty the Queen Mark Colwill (Ashwater) and Derrick Hayes (Clawton)

All who are mourning the death of a loved one including the family and friends of Mark Colwill, Marion Barwell and Derrick Hayes

Those who are ill or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Mavis Watson, Jenny Hyslop, Stephen Bowness

For all those suffering with Covid and the long term effects of the virus

Prayers for personal use following the death of our Queen



Gracious God, we give thanks
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,
for her faith and her dedication to duty.
Bless our nation as we mourn her death
and may her example continue to inspire us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of love,
we thank you for the life of The Queen,
for the service to our nation,
and for her faith in you.
Be close to all of us who mourn,
that we may find comfort and hope in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for use with young children
Loving God,
our Queen has died and people are sad.
Thank you for her long life
and her care for her people.
We pray for our new King.
Bless and guide him as his reign begins. Amen.



Thought for Sunday 11th September 2022

“COUNTING SHEEP!”

The Farmer in today’s Gospel counted all his sheep – a big flock of 100! To his horror he discovered that one had gone missing. Many shepherds would undertake a cursory search for it but prefer to look after his ninety-nine. He would prioritise keeping them safe from theft, predators or of course from also wandering off. So, many listeners to the Parable might scoff at the foolishness of the shepherd for ‘wasting time’ searching over hill and dale for the one that had gone “AWOL”. Especially as it might already be dead from an accident or predation or theft.

I have a “Farming Joke Book”. Here is one about counting sheep:

“Adam, my Accountant, came out to the farm to see me go through the ‘books’. “How are you?” I asked. “Quite good, thank you” said Adam, “but I can’t get to sleep at night very easily”. “Have you tried counting sheep?” I asked. “Yes, that’s my problem. I make a mistake and then I am awake for three hours trying to find it.”

Here’s a better one:

“What do you call a sheep that is covered from head to toe in chocolate?” A chocolate baa!

Here’s a worse one:

“Mary had a little lamb – she tied it to a pylon.

Ten thousand volts shot up its tail – and turned its wool to nylon!”

In the Parable the Shepherd is of course God. In the Old Testament we learn about God as the great protector of His beloved and precious people – the flock of Israel. See for example Psalm 23 and 79. See also Isaiah 40:11, Jeremiah 31: 10, Ezekiel 34: 12, where we learn of the huge responsibilities placed upon the human shepherds of Israel to care for God’s People. In the New Testament Jesus describes himself as the “Good Shepherd” appointed by God to lead and guide His People. Jesus looks out for any who are ‘lost’ to his sheepfold and ceaselessly cajoles them to return, so that the Christian community can become fully complete. There will be huge rejoicing whenever even a single person ‘lost’ in perilous or wayward circumstances returns to our heavenly Father.

We are called to share in this work of seeking the ‘lost’ who might be in poor mental, spiritual or physical health through bereavement, sickness, loss of faith. In a real sense we are **all** shepherds!

Stephen