

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 4 November

10.30am Benefice meeting
Little Acorns, Highampton

2.00pm Funeral for Margaret Barker,
Highampton Village Hall

2.30pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 5 November

10.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

10.30am Church team meeting,
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Friday 7 November

11.00am Funeral for Jose Taylor
St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

Sunday 9 November

Rememberance services

10.50am Halwill Junction

10.50am St. Alban, Beaworthy

10.50am St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater

10.50am Holy Cross, Tetcott

10.50am St. Mary's, Black Torrington

2.30pm St. Leonard, Clawton

Commentary

Today is the celebration of All saints. It marks a turning point in the year for me. Deliberately set as the season turns and the darkness begins to deepen, it might seem a depressing or sorrowful time, and in some ways it is. In other ways it is decidedly more hopeful. An Autumn walk through any of our churchyards reveals, russet colours, deeply held yellow and re-purples beautiful enough to break a heart. As the world prepares to slowly enter it's slumber, embracing morning frost, before the wintry blast of sudden cold, I see a sea of saint's resting; whose souls are safe and whose journeys and meanings are all recorded, safe in sacred ground. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Margaret Cherrill, Margaret Baker, Highampton, and Jose Taylor, Ashwater, and their friends and families.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Stewart, Natalie, Helen, Abigail, Rene, Maureen, Brian, Ian, Sandra and River Onyx.

Our Benefice schools.

All those who give generously to the Foodbank on a regular basis and those who receive food.

All who are living under conditions of conflict, including those in Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, Yemen, Iran and Congo and Syria.

Mission prayer

You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there. He has a purpose in your being there. Christ, who indwells you, has something He wants to do through you where you are. Believe this and go in His grace and love and power.

Ruby Country Benefice

Sunday 2 November 2025

4th Sunday before Advent

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 2 November

9.30am Morning Service
S. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

11.00am Holy Communion
All Souls' Service
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

At the All Souls' service there will be a list of names; loved ones to be remembered. The list will not be read aloud but will be blessed and dedicated to God. If you would like a name added and you cannot be at the service, please email Val or Paul and we will be happy to add to those we remember, and honour, this day'.

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Isaiah 56: 3-8

Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say,
“The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.”
And let no eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.”
For this is what the Lord says:
“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my
covenant— to them I will give within my temple and its
walls a memorial and a name better than sons and
daughters; I will give them an everlasting name
that will endure forever. And foreigners who bind
themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the
name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep
the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to
my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt
offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called a house of prayer for all
nations.” The Sovereign Lord declares— he who gathers
the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
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Epistle

Hebrews 12: 18-24

You have not come to a mountain that can be
touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness,
gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a
voice speaking words that those who heard it
begged that no further word be spoken to
them, because they could not bear what was
commanded: “If even an animal touches the
mountain, it must be stoned to death.” The sight
was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling
with fear.”
But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the
living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come
to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful
assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose
names are written in heaven. You have come to
God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous
made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new
covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a
better word than the blood of Abel. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a
mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to
him, and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute
you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you
because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great
is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.
(NIV)
