

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 7 October

2.30pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 8 October

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Saturday 11 October

2.30pm Visiting bell ringers

St. Peter's ad Vincula, Ashwater

Sunday 12 October

11.00am Café church

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Holy Communion

St. Leonard's, Clawton

6.30pm Evensong

St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

Lamentations is a difficult book. It carries the screams of pain in a lost generation and we hear in the words Jeremiah's tears. It is yet, profoundly painful reading but important. Life doesn't always take us down sunlit valleys to misty hill tops. Sometimes our journey is dangerous and dark; this is as true for our community life as it is for our personal. There are perhaps two truths Lamentations points to, the first is that we are often the authors of our own misfortune, and that is a very hard thing. the second is that Christian life, living well, is not simply a quantum of happiness, it is far more important than that. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently and their friends and families, including Helen Young and her family, Roger and Bex.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Stewart, Natalie, Helen, Abigail, Rene 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 5 October 2025

16th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 5 October

9.30am Harvest Service

St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

11.00am Holy Communion

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

5.30pm Harvest Festival service
and supper
Tetcott Hall

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Lamentations 1: 1-6

How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave. Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are on her cheeks. Among all her lovers there is no one to comfort her. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies. After affliction and harsh labour, Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her young women grieve, and she is in bitter anguish. Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe. All the splendour has departed from Daughter Zion. Her princes are like deer that find no pasture; in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.

(NIV)

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
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Epistle

2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Gospel

Luke 17: 5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. “Suppose one of you has a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

(NIV)

