
Upcoming dates

Monday 24 November

1.00pm Funeral

St. Leonard's, Clawton

Tuesday 25 November

2.30pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 26 November

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Saturday 29 November

11.00am Interment of ashes

Sheila Hancock

Holy Cross, Tetcott

1.00pm Wedding

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Christmas crafts, Tetcott

Sunday 30 November

11.00am Benefice service

St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

Christ the King and 'Stir up' Sunday. Under the Book of common Prayer this Sunday is called 'Stir up Sunday' reflecting the need to stir up our faith and be fortified by the Holy Spirit before moving into Advent. Inevitable it became the Sunday when Christmas puddings were stirred up and set aside for great day. Under our current lectionary, the Feast of 'Christ the King', is set at the very end of the Christian year, it focuses upon the true kingship of Christ, Christ the beginning, centre and end, of all things. Established after the upheavals resulting from the First World War and the massive instability that followed. It was meant to respond to the rise of atheism and secularization. Now it is a time to reflect before Advent on our Christian journey through the year and the kingship of lord and saviour in our church and personal lives. Paul.

Please pray for:

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

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Stewart, Natalie, Helen, Abigail, Rene, 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 23 November 2025

Sunday next before Advent

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 23 November

11.00am United service café
church

St. Leonard, Clawton

11.00am Holy Communion
St. Alban, Beaworthy

2.30pm Baptism
St. Alban, Beaworthy

6.30pm Informal bible study
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the Lord. “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord.

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior. (NIV)

Epistle

Colossians 1: 11-20

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (NIV)

Gospel

Luke 23: 33-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (NIV)