

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 6 January
2.30pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 7 January
10.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 8 January
11.00am Halwill council meeting
Pat's house

Sunday 11 January
11.00am Holy communion
St. Leonard, Clawton
11.00am Café chuch
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
4.30pm Evensong
St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

. Ephesians (70AD) was written late in Paul's life whilst he was a prisoner in Rome. Its main theme, like that of the Corinthians letter, is the holiness of Christ and the holiness of the growing church (the people of God). This is the theme that I have chosen to guide us through the next year; 'Being the people of God and his church, in this place'. May I wish you all the very best, and happiest of New Years. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Stuart Marwood, Ashwater, and Sue Marwood, friends and family and Elisabeth Clare England.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, 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 4 January 2026
Epiphany

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 4 January

9.30am Morning service
St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater

11.00am Holy communion
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Morning service
St. Peter & St. James, Halwill

5.30pm Mulled wine and evening service
Luffincott

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Jeremiah 60: 1-6

The Glory of Zion

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. (NIV)

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
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Epistle

Ephesians 3: 1-12

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 2: 1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV)