

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 23 June

10.00am Rural deans' meeting
Stage Cross

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington
7.00pm Visitation, Bradworthy

Wednesday 24 June

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

Friday 26 June

7.00pm Beetle drive
Village hall, Black Torrington

Saturday 27 June

10.00am North Dartmoor Community Choir
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Sunday 28 June

11.00am Holy communion
St. Alban, Beaworthy
11.00am United service café church
St. Leonard, Clawton
6.00pm Welcome service for Revd. Julie
Howell
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Commentary

One of my sermons today will deal with 'what are the attributes of a hero?' These are not difficult: Courage, tenacity, Integrity, boldness, resilience, self-sacrifice, holding to something greater to ourselves, truthfulness, I am sure you can add a few more: But what about patience, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, values? To be counter-cultural, to stand alone for what is right? Do these also mark out a hero? All are found in abundance in the bible; all are attributes of the Christ. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including June Yendall, Kevin Eaton and Mary Dayton and their friends and relatives.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Brian, Ian, Sandra, Andrew, Judy, Richard, Emma, Sandra and Catherine.

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, Congo and Syria and the whole of the Middle East.

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

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
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Ruby Country Benefice

Sunday 21 June 2026

3rd Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 21 June

9.30am Holy Communion
St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater
9.30am Visiting bell ringers
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
11.00am Holy communion
St. Peter & St. James, Halwill
11.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
2.00pm Patronal festival
St. Alban's Beaworthy

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Genesis 21: 8-21

Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it." So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. (NIV)

Second reading

Romans 6: 1b-11

Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 10: 24-39

"The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. (NIV)
