

Upcoming dates

Monday 3 August

4.30pm Holy well joint council meeting
Little Acorns, Burdon Lane

Tuesday 4 August

2.00pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 5 August

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

Sunday 9 August

11.00am Café church
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
11.00am Holy communion
St. Leonards, Clawton
5.00pm Tea and Lamas
St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

There is much to be said for retreating, getting away, finding time to think, breathe, reflect and pray. Such time is precious and all too often the pressures of work, life and the day-to-day demands cut in, and before we know it, the space and the time has gone. It is comforting that even Jesus felt it. That said there is a single phase in today's gospel which struck me with some force; 'Jesus had compassion on them'. This really rocked me in two ways; firstly, that we are called to give and heal and live lives marked by compassion and service, and the second, that in our need, Jesus gives exactly the same to us. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including June Yendall, Reginald Osborne and Carole Ward and their friends and relatives.

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

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, Venezuela 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

Ruby Country Benefice

Sunday 2 August 2026

9th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 2 August

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
5.00pm Service followed by tea
Holy Cross, Tetcott

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

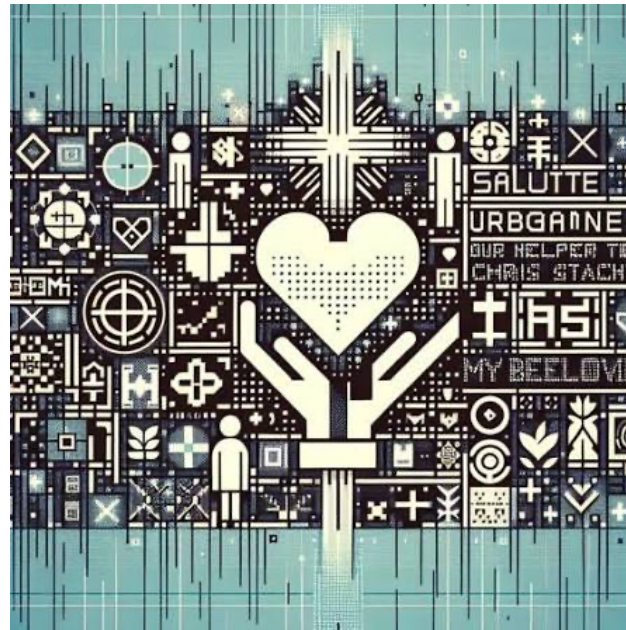
Isaiah 55: 1-5

"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.
Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour." (NIV)

Second reading

Romans 9: 1-5

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. (NIV)



Gospel

Matthew 14: 13-21

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."
"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.
"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. (NIV)