

Upcoming dates

Monday 24 August

12.00pm Chaplain's meeting
Paul's house

Tuesday 25 August

2.00pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 26 August

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

Friday 28 August

12.30pm Wedding of Graham Andrews and
Wendy Le Noury
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Sunday 30 August

11.00am Benefice Holy communion
St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

Commentary

There comes that time in everyone's life, when we are faced with making a decision, do I become a Christian, do I believe, do I want to be all that I am meant to be? It is comforting that this deeper and real commitment took the disciples sometime. Three of them at least, did look back to be sure, but all of them (except John), died in the faith they were given, none of them every gave up. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Reginald Osborne, Carole Ward and Doreen Ivey 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 23 August 2026

12th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 23 August

11.00am Holy communion

St. Alban, Beaworthy

11.00am Café church

St. Leonards, Clawton

6.00pm Informal bible study

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Rev'd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Isaiah 51: 1-6

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness
and who seek the Lord:

Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;
look to Abraham, your father,
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man,
and I blessed him and made him many.
The Lord will surely comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her deserts like Eden,
her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

“Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:
Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the nations.
My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.
The islands will look to me
and wait in hope for my arm.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail. (NIV)

Second reading

Romans 12: 1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view
of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true
and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern
of this world, but be transformed by the renewing
of your mind. Then you will be able to test and
approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and
perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you:
Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,
but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in
accordance with the faith God has distributed to
each of you. For just as each of us has one body with
many members, and these members do not all have
the same function, so in Christ we, though many,
form one body, and each member belongs to all the
others. We have different gifts, according to the
grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying,
then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is
serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it
is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is
giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it
diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
(NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 16: 13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son
of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say
Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the
prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I
am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the
Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,
for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood,
but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you
are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will
give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;
whatever you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be
loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not
to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. (NIV)