

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 6 October

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 7 October

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 8 October

6.30pm Benefice meeting at Lorna's house

Saturday 10 October

9.00am Harvest big breakfast

Tetcott

10.30am Diocesan Sydon Exeter

3.30pm Interment of ashes for Doreen Ivey

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Sunday 11 October

11.00am Café church

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Holy communion

St. Leonards, Clawton

5.00pm Letting go and holding on

St. Peter and St. James, Halwill

Commentary

I am working with grief a lot at the moment. We have the service at Halwill on the 11th October 5pm for the lost children and babies, (Please, please do support this); I have been writing for a group of young mothers undergoing child loss in Cardiff and there is a pathos in today's gospel. Jesus is explaining patiently why he must die and, I think, preparing himself as well. It is a rare insight into Jesus, the man, and the Christ. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Bridget Balkwill from Halwill and her friends and relatives.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Sandra, Andrew, Wendy, Amy and Sarah.

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 4 October 2026

18th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 4 October

11.00am Holy communion

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Morning service

St. Peter & St. James, Halwill

11.00am Café church

St Leonard, Clawton

5.30pm Harvest festival service

Holy Cross, Tetcott

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Isaiah 5: 1-7

I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.
“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.” (NIV)

Second reading

Philippians 3: 4b-14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 21: 33-end

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes’? “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. (NIV)