

Upcoming dates

Monday 26 October

2.30pm Joint council meeting

Tuesday 27 October

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 28 October

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 29 October

12.00pm Funeral

St. Peter and St. James, Halwill

Saturday 31 October

6.00pm HCT light quest

Around Halwill

Sunday 1 November

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

Commentary

Paul's reference in today's Epistle to Phillipi relates to his removing a slave's prophetic powers. After Paul cast out the demon, the slave girl's owners lost their source of income and dragged Paul and Silas before the city magistrates, falsely accusing them of being Jews who disturbed the city and promoted unlawful customs. The magistrates ordered them to be severely beaten with rods in public, which was a deeply humiliating public spectacle and an illegal punishment to inflict on Roman citizens. I know that Paul sometimes comes across as intolerant or even arrogant, but his dedication, courage and determination to serve Christ, at any cost, leaves me ashamed at my own short-comings but deeply thankful for what he did. Paul.

Please pray for:

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

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

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 25 October 2026

Last Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 25 October

11.00am Holy communion

St. Peter and St. James, Beaworthy

11.00am United service - café
church

St. Leonard's, Clawton

6.00pm Informal bible study

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Leviticus 19 1-2, 15-18

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

“‘Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

“‘Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

“‘Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the Lord.

“‘Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart.

Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

“‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord. (NIV)

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 22: 34-end

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

“The son of David,” they replied.

He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’

If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions. (NIV)