Upcoming dates

Tuesday 17 November

2.00pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 18 November

10.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
11.00am Puzzles, tea and chat
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Sunday 22 November

11.00am Holy communion
St. Alban, Beaworthy
6.00pm Informal bible study
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Commentary

I love the word 'talents'. Money in the bible reading today but a wider meaning for us. We all have talents, things that we have learned and developed and things that God gave us at birth. Jesus talks about this and so does Paul in different ways. What all these narratives agree on is that not to use these in God's service is incredible sinful and incredibly dangerous. Today's gospel in uncompromising; this is a salvation issue. Paul.

Please pray for:
All who have died recently, including Bridget Barkwill from Halwill, Monica Southwell and their friends and relatives.

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

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 15 November 2026

2nd Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 15 November
Deadline for benefice bulletin

9.30am Holy communion
St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater
11.00am Holy communion
St. Peter & St. James, Halwill
11.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com
Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord,
for the day of the Lord is near.
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated those he has invited.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who are complacent, who are like
wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do
nothing, either good or bad.' Their wealth will be
plundered, their houses demolished. Though they
build houses, they will not live in them; though they
plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."
The great day of the Lord is near— near and coming
quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter;
the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. That day
will be a day of wrath— a day of distress and
anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness
and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness— a day of
trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the corner towers. "I will bring such
distress on all people that they will grope about like
those who are blind, because they have sinned
against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like
dust and their entrails like dung. Neither their silver
nor their gold will be able to save them on the day
of the Lord's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy
the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make
a sudden end of all who live on the earth. (NIV)

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates
we do not need to write to you, for you know very
well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in
the night. While people are saying, "Peace and
safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as
labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will
not escape.
But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so
that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are
all children of the light and children of the day. We
do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So
then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but
let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep,
sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk
at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate,
and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did
not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for
us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may
live together with him. Therefore encourage one
another and build each other up, just as in fact you
are doing. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 25: 14-30

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who
called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To
one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and
to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he
went on his journey. The man who had received five bags
of gold went at once and put his money to work and
gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of
gold gained two more. But the man who had received
one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. "After a long time the master of those
servants returned and settled accounts with them. The
man who had received five bags of gold brought the
other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five
bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master
replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have
been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of
many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'
"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he
said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have
gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good
and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and
share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had
received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew
that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not
sown and gathering where you have not scattered
seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in
the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His
master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew
that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I
have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put
my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I
returned I would have received it back with interest.
"'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one
who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more,
and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not
have, even what they have will be taken from them. And
throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (NIV)