

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 8 September

10.00am Rural deans' meeting

Stage Cross

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 9 September

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Friday 11 September

7.00pm Quiz and harvest supper

Halwill village hall

Sunday 13 September

11.00am Harvest café church

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Harvest holy communion

St. Leonard's, Clawton

6.00pm Evensong

St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

This is an odd reading, where is the 7x7 forgiveness, or the middle section of the Lord's prayer? Here Jesus does what is normally found on in the epistles or the Acts of the apostles, Jesus is talking about the formation of his people into church; and here's the rub, he knew there would be conflict. Why in a place where God exists are there arguments and disagreements? Well, just because God does live there. The dark forces (and yes, they are real) attack us because they want to bring Christ's work down. They are relentless and live in the shadows biting with cynicism and resentment. We need to be aware and watchful. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Dorren Ivey and their friends and relatives.

Those who are ill, including Helen, Steve, Cathy, Ian, Sandra, Andrew, Judy, Richard, 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 6 September 2026

14th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 6 September

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

4.00pm Barbecue and service

Holy Cross, Tetcott

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Ezekial 33: 7-11

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’ (NIV)

Second reading

Romans 13: 8-end

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 18: 15-20

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (NIV)
