
Upcoming dates

Tuesday 19 May

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 20 May

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 21 May

2.00pm Rural deans' meeting

Zoom

Saturday 23 May

10.00am The North Dartmoor Community

Choir

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.30am Baptism

St. Peter & St. James, Halwill

Sunday 24 May

1.00am Holy communion

St. Leonards, Clawton

11.00am Morning prayer

St. Alban's, Beaworthy

6.00pm Informal bible study

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Commentary

John's gospel today is deeply moving and powerful. Jesus is praying for his disciples, his commission is passed, and their mission begins. It is just them at the beginning and they build the church that we inhabit today. I cannot imagine how that must have felt. Perhaps it is useful in the quiet of a morning, or the stillness of the night, when we are troubled, to remember this 'tipping' point in the Gospel. We now walk in their footsteps. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Carole Moon, Michael Brown, both from Ashwater, Joan Trengrove, Martin Peter Redwood, June Yendall and Zyg Gregorek their friends and relatives.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Brian, Ian, Sandra, Andrew, Judy and Catherine.

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 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

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

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Ruby Country Benefice

Sunday 17 May 2026

7th Sunday of Easter

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 17 May

9.30am Holy communion

St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

11.00am Holy communion

St. Peter and St. James, Halwill

11.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

New Testament

Acts 1: 6-14

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (NIV)

Epistle

1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5:6-11

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

Gospel

John 17: 1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. (NIV)
