Upcoming dates

Monday 9 November

9.15am School assembly
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Tuesday 10 November

2.00pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 11 November

10.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

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

Commentary

Remembrance.
Not my favourite time of the year; I do however love the quiet respect shown across our Benefice villages for those who fount evil and left us lives worth living. I am very close to that sacrifice, I have seen it, as I know some of you have. Last year I was challenged when I thanked someone wearing a white poppy for attending a service. Pacifists serving in the medial teams in the first and second would wars won as many medals for bravery as any line regiment: Dozens fought the fires in London, Plymouth, Coventry and Birmingham, frequently at the cost of their own lives. The right to say no, is precisely what I fought for as did those whom I knew that died in service. Freedom of conscience is the bedrock of a free society, and of our faith. 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, 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 8 November 2026

3rd Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 8 November
10.45am Remembrance service
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
10.45am Remembrance service
St. Peter & St. James, Halwill
10.45am Remembrance service
Holy Cross, Tetcott
2.30pm Remembrance service
St. Leonard's, Clawton
5.00pm Remembrance service
St. Alban, Beaworthy

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

First reading

Amos 5: 18-24

Woe to you who long
for the day of the Lord!
Why do you long for the day of the Lord?
That day will be darkness, not light.
It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.
Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?
"I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream! (NIV)

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in
him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the
Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 25: 1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'
"'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.
"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'
"But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'
"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (NIV)