

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 21 July

2.00pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 23 July

2.00pm Funeral for Mary Dayman
Highhampton village hall

Sunday 26 July

11.00am Holy communion
St. Alban, Beaworthy

11.00am United service – café church
St. Leonard, Clawton

6.00pm Informal bible study
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Commentary

The Matthew gospel reading this morning is in many ways self-explanatory. It explains why bad things happen to good people but also why bad people sometimes seem to prosper. There is another aspect to this though; talking to the children at St Mary's church school this week, we explored what heroes looked like and what real heroes are (hint, not footballers!). We finished by deciding that good people, even when they have a rough time, tend to be happy and loving people, whilst bad people generally do not, or to put it another way; 'wheat and weeds'. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including June Yendall, Mary Dayman and Reginald Osborne and their friends and relatives.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Brian, Ian, Sandra, Andrew, Judy, Richard, Emma, Sandra, Catherine, 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 19 July 2026

7th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 19 July

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

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Isaiah 44: 6-8

"This is what the Lord says—
Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty:
I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God.
Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and lay out before me
what has happened since I established my
ancient people,
and what is yet to come—
yes, let them foretell what will come.
Do not tremble, do not be afraid.
Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?
You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides
me?
No, there is no other Rock; I know not one." (NIV)

**SO DO NOT FEAR,
FOR I AM WITH YOU;
DO NOT BE DISMAYED,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD.
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU
AND HELP YOU;
ISAIAH 41:10
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
WITH MY RIGHTEOUS
RIGHT HAND.** ©AMEN Designs

Second reading

Romans 8: 12-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.
For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba*, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' " "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' " "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear. (NIV)