
Upcoming dates

Tuesday 28 April

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 29 April

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Friday 1 May

10.30am Chaplains' meeting

Sunday 3 May

9.30am Morning service

St. Peter ad Vincula

11.00am Holy communion

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Morning service

St. Peter & St. James, Halwill

5.30pm Service followed by tea

Holy Cross, Tetcott

Commentary

The shepherd metaphor is starkly clear today. My first school and church were called the 'Good Shepherd' which has strong Catholic connotations. This image of God leading his sheep into a fold, caring for them and nurturing them is a powerful one, but there is an additional point which is easy to miss; Shepherds in Jesus time were the lowest on the social ladder, so here is Jesus the Messiah, and his sheep, socially outcast, being led into heaven. How does this sit with the image presented in Acts today? Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Carole Moon and Michael Brown, both from Ashwater, and their friends and relatives.

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

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 19 April 2026

4th Sunday of Easter

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 26 April

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

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Genesis 7:

The Lord then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.” And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with

wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in. For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. (NIV)

Epistle

Acts 2:42-end

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour

of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (NIV)

Gospel

John 10: 1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (NIV)
