

Upcoming dates

Monday 1 December

2.30pm Clawton Church Council
meeting

St. Leonard's, Clawton

Tuesday 2 December

10.00am Holywell treasurer meeting
Paul Grafton's house

2.30pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 3 December

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

Sunday 6 December

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

5.30pm Tea and evening carol service
Holy Cross, Tetcott

Commentary

The readings today are beautifully crafted. Romans in particular paints a picture of what it means to be a Christian in Advent. I have just come from two days in Exeter where I overnighted. The night was icy cold. The pubs full of festive cheer, pop up wooden bars everywhere, Christmas lights that put Bond Street to shame and the wooden shed city outside the cathedral looks like Yorks medieval shambles. It might as well have been Christmas eve. You might feel I am being a grump but I love Advent, the 'not yet' space, the 'still to be' space, the emptiness and the time to rest. If we lose this, we lose something essential and Christmas will be just an indulgence and we will have lost the winter miracle of the Christ child. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Margaret Cherril and Jose Taylor, Ashwater, and their friends and families.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Stewart, Natalie, Helen, Abigail, Rene, Brian, Ian, Sandra and River Onyx.

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 and Congo and Syria.

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 30 November 2025

Advent Sunday

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 30 November

11.00am Benefice service
St. Alban, Beaworthy

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Isaiah 2: 1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plow shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord. (NIV)

Epistle

Romans 13: 11-end

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 armour 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 24: 36-44

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (NIV)