

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 18 August

2.00pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 19 August

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

Saturday 22 August

11.00am Wedding of Melissa Sutcliffe and
Michael Drowne
St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

Sunday 23 August

11.00am Holy communion
St. Alban, Beaworthy
11.00am Café church
St. Leonards, Clawton
6.00pm Informal bible study
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Commentary

Today's reading opens one of the most profound of Jesus' parables. The meaning is plain and needs no explanation, however the warning does. We, as a benefice, have worked hard undertaking courses, bible study, prayer and worship and now our adult mission based upon the 'try praying booklets'. But sometimes it is attractive to live a simple life, be respectful and not upset anyone with our faith or outreach. This negates a simple fact. People need Jesus. We do no one any favours by not sharing this wonderful blessing. Paul..

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Reginald Osborne and Carole Ward 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 16 August 2026

11th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Sunday 16 August

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

Rev. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:

vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

First reading

Isaiah 56: 1 6-8

This is what the Lord says:

“Maintain justice
and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord
to minister to him,
to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”
The Sovereign Lord declares—
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.” (NIV)

Second reading

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I
am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham,
from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his
people, whom he foreknew.
for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as
you who were at one time disobedient to God have
now received mercy as a result of their
disobedience, so they too have now become
disobedient in order that they too may now receive
mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. For God
has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he
may have mercy on them all. (NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 15: 21-28

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of
Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that
vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David,
have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-
possessed and suffering terribly.”
Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came
to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she
keeps crying out after us.”
He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of
Israel.”
The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help
me!” she said.
He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s
bread and toss it to the dogs.”
“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the
crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”
Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great
faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter
was healed at that moment. (NIV)