

Upcoming dates

Monday 2 February

2.30pm Clawton church council meeting
St. Leonard's, Clawton

Tuesday 3 February

10.00am Rural dean's meeting
Stage Cross

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 4 February

10.00am Morning Prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

10.30am Black Torrington church team
meeting

Saturday 7 February

9.00am Tetcott big breakfast

Sunday 8 February

11.00am Café church

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Holy Communion

St. Leonards, Clawton

4.30pm Evensong

St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

Candlemas is about awakenings. It sits between Christmas and Lent, Winter & Spring and Darkness and light (hence the candle). It is a service of stillness and contemplation. It serves as a period of reflection but significantly of change. When you reflect on today's readings, think about Anna and Simion, what awakening are they seeing, what awakening are we seeing? Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently including Jadel the much loved companion of Elisabeth Swan. He will be sadly missed at all of our Churches.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Helen, Abigail, Rene, Brian, Ian, Sandra, Catherine 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 1 February 2026

Candlemas

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 1 February

9.30am Morning service
St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

11.00am Holy Communion
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

5.30pm Tea and evening service
Holy Cross, Tetcott

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Malachi 3: 1-5

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," say the Lord Almighty." (NIV)

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
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Epistle

Hebrews 2: 14-end

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (NIV)

Gospel

Luke 2: 22-40

Jesus Presented in the Temple

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or

two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. (NIV)
