

Luke 1:46-55

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

NIV

Prayer Chain



A group of people who pray privately
(and in strict confidence)
for specific situations.

If you, or anyone you know,
is in need of prayer for any reason,
please contact: **Co-ordinators**
Sheila Grabham—01409 231581
s.grabham@btconnect.com OR
Sue Brice—01409 23163
bricesusan@yahoo.co.uk

***The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott
Blessed Virgin Mary
WELCOME TO WORSHIP***

9.30 am Holy Communion, Ashwater
11.00 am Baptism, Clawton
11.00 am Morning Service, Halwill
6.30 pm Patronal Service, Black Torrington



Readings
Isaiah 61: 10-11
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 1: 46-55

Collect
Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Interim Priest-in-Charge (part time)
Revd Stephen Skinner
sjmskinners@btinternet.com
07554 142264

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Community of Keyham, Plymouth: for all who have died, are injured and everyone affected.

All who are mourning the death of a loved one including the family of Philip Taylor (*Ashwater*), Jan Luckhurst (*Highampton*), Les Friend (*Beaworthy*) and John Plummer (*Black Torrington*)

Rest in peace all who have recently died including Jan Luckhurst, Les Friend and John Plummer

Those who are ill or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Trevor May, Bryan Hancock, Grace Spelman, Mavis Watson, Peter and Maureen Ellis, Malcolm and Judith Lusted, Jenny Hyslop, Brian Colebrook-Clark, Tim Kirk.

All those who organise and support food banks, that they would continue to have the resources they need to service our communities at this time.

We pray that those going on holiday over the next few weeks may travel safely and return refreshed

Dates for your diary

Monday 16th August	10.30am	PCC meeting Beaworthy
Thursday 19th August	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
Sunday 22nd August	9.30 am	Morning Service Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Communion by Extension Beaworthy Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion Clawton Church
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion Black Torrington Church

Meeting ID: 677 027 7192 Pass code: Services



Pudd-ring (Pudding evening and hand bell ringing)

Thursday 26th August, 6pm—8pm, St Mary’s Church, Black Torrington
Do put this date in your diary. Donations for hand bell repairs

Thought for Sunday 15th August 2021

“MARY’S SONG”

Our Gospel Reading for today contains the wonderful words of what has traditionally been entitled “The Magnificat”. I wonder if you know why it is called this? The word comes from the Latin and relates to our lovely English word “Magnificent”! Thus Mary sings her most famous song, in which she celebrates the magnificent things that God has done in the past, and anticipates that He’ll do in the future. She ‘magnifies’ the events which enable our salvation and ‘magnifies’ the author of them, God Himself. Whenever we join in repeating the Magnificat we’ve the opportunity to do the same!

Commentators split the Song into two sections:

Verses 46 – 49; where Mary specifically praises God that He has deigned to choose her to be the mother of Jesus, the God bearer. She feels elated that God would do this for her, lowly as she was in the social ‘pecking order’. In response she offers herself as a sign of God’s salvation – His compassionate action towards the ordinary and often poor people of the world.

Verses 50 – 55: where Mary expands her vision of God’s deliverance of the poor, hungry and oppressed from all their troubles. Her words are both prophetic and revolutionary – nothing less than an overturning of the present political, social and economic order of the world! Here we discover Mary as a true prophet, a heroic protagonist for both God and the underdog!

I think it is really important that when we say, sing or chant the words of the “Magnificat” that we say them with real understanding and intent! They are not to be repeated in flat tones, but with exuberance. This will enable us to join with her in celebrating the way in which God will, in Christ, reverse the normally experienced pattern of domination by the powerful elites. And to celebrate the coming Kingdom of God where justice, righteousness and freedom will prevail; once the oppressors are removed from power. To be honest it would seem that many of the ‘power structures’ of control are still in place – so we must pray that God will ‘have His way’ and that we will have the moral courage and spiritual power to play our part, by challenging those who oppress the vulnerable. Thus the Magnificat is a stirring ‘call to arms’, as well as a Song of real rejoicing and celebration of God!

Stephen

Benefice Service 29th August

6.30pm at Highampton. B.Y.O. Tea from 5.30pm.
Outside if weather allows. Theme is “Holidays”
– so bring souvenirs and stories!

