

Upcoming Dates

Monday 30th September

9.00 am Black Torrington C of E
School Harvest Service
in the Church

Tuesday 1st October

9.00 am Clawton School Assembly
2.30 pm Hand Bell Ringing
St Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 2nd October

10.00 am Morning Prayer
St Mary's, Black Torrington
7.00 pm Holy Cross, Tetcott
PCC Meeting

Sunday 6th October

9.30 am Morning Prayer
St Peter Ad Vincula Ashwater
11.00 am Morning Prayer
St Peter & St James Halwill
11.00 am Holy Communion
St Mary's Black Torrington
5.30 pm Harvest Service
followed by Harvest Supper
Arscott Hall, Tetcott



Commentary

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.' (Today's Gospel).
What does this mean? Mark's gospel is the easiest to understand and yet Jesus words are disturbing and unclear. In essence Jesus is saying three things...(a) Salt is faith and yours will be tested with fire (b) The Gospel is not a light and gentle thing, it is a driving force filled with the spirit, half filled promises and lightly help faith is pointless (c) Every Sunday we share the peace because a house divided against itself will fall; the peace we share is not ours, but Gods.

Paul

Please pray for:

All who have recently died including Kenneth Mudle (Halwill) and **all who are mourning** the death of a loved one including the family and friends of Kenneth Mudle

Those who are ill or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions including Phil Beare and Ian

For our Benefice Schools, all teachers, pupils and parents

CONTACTS

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Please note: **RECTOR'S DAY OFF IS FRIDAY**

Ruby Country Benefice

Sunday 29th September 2024

18th Sunday after Trinity

Proper 21

GRAPEVINE

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



Welcome to Worship

11.00 am Harvest Service
St Leonard, Clawton

4.30 pm Harvest Café Church
St Mary's, Black Torrington

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The People Grumble about Being Hungry

⁴ One day some foreigners among the Israelites became greedy for food, and even the Israelites themselves began moaning, "We don't have any meat!" ⁵ In Egypt we could eat all the fish we wanted, and there were cucumbers, melons, all kinds of onions, and garlic. ⁶ But we're starving out here, and the only food we have is this manna."

¹⁰ The Israelites stood around their tents complaining. Moses heard them and was upset that they had made the LORD angry. ¹¹ He prayed:

I am your servant, LORD, so why are you doing this to me? What have I done to deserve this? You've made me responsible for all these people, ¹² but they're not my children. You told me to nurse them along and to carry them to the land you promised their ancestors. ¹³ They keep whining for meat, but where can I get meat for them? ¹⁴ This job is too much for me. How can I take care of all these people by myself? ¹⁵ If this is the way you're going to treat me, just kill me now and end my miserable life!

Seventy Leaders Are Chosen To Help Moses

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses:

Choose 70 of Israel's respected leaders and go with them to the sacred tent. ²⁴ Moses told the people what the LORD had said. Then he chose 70 respected leaders and went with them to the sacred tent. While the leaders stood in a circle around the tent, Moses went inside, ²⁵ and the LORD spoke with him. Then the LORD took some authority from Moses and gave it to the 70 leaders. And when the LORD's Spirit took control of them, they started shouting like prophets. But they did it only this one time.

²⁶ Eldad and Medad were two leaders who had not gone to the tent. But when the Spirit took control of them, they began shouting like prophets right there in camp. ²⁷ A boy ran to Moses and told him about Eldad and Medad.

²⁸ Joshua was there helping Moses, as he had done since he was young. And he said to Moses, "Sir, you must stop them!"

²⁹ But Moses replied, "Are you concerned what this might do to me? I wish the LORD would give his Spirit to all his people so everyone could be a prophet." ³⁰ Then Moses and the 70 leaders went back to camp. (CEV)

Epistle

James 5: 13-20

¹³ If you are having trouble, you should pray. And if you are feeling good, you should sing praises. ¹⁴ If you are sick, ask the church leaders to come and pray for you. Ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ If you have faith when you pray for sick people, they will get well. The Lord will heal them, and if they have sinned, he will forgive them.

¹⁶ If you have sinned, you should tell each other what you have done. Then you can pray for one another and be healed. The prayer of an innocent person is powerful, and it can help a lot. ¹⁷ Elijah was just as human as we are, and for three and a half years his prayers kept the rain from falling. ¹⁸ But when he did pray for rain, it fell from the skies and made the crops grow.

¹⁹ My friends, if any followers have wandered away from the truth, you should try to lead them back. ²⁰ If you turn sinners from the wrong way, you will save them from death, and many of their sins will be forgiven. (CEV)

Gospel

Mark 9: 38-50

For or against Jesus

³⁸ John said, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of people. But he wasn't one of us, and we told him to stop."

³⁹ Jesus said to his disciples:

Don't stop him! No one who works miracles in my name will soon turn and say something bad about me. ⁴⁰ Anyone who isn't against us is for us. ⁴¹ And anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name, just because you belong to me, will surely be rewarded.

Temptations To Sin

⁴² It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to sin. Those people would be better off thrown into the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks. ⁴³⁻⁴⁴ So if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! You would be better off to go into life paralyzed than to have two hands and be thrown into the fires of hell that never go out. ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ If your foot causes you to sin, chop it off. You would be better off to go into life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to sin, get rid of it. You would be better off to go into God's kingdom with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁸ The worms there never die, and the fire never stops burning.

⁴⁹ Everyone must be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ Salt is good. But if it no longer tastes like salt, how can it be made salty again? Have salt among you and live at peace with each other. (CEV)