

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 10 February

2.00pm Handbells

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 11 February

10.00am Morning prayer

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 12 February

7.00pm Deanery Synod Zoom meeting

Sunday 15 February

9.30am Morning prayer

St Peter ad Vincula

11.00am Morning service

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

11.00am Holy communions

St. Peter & St. James, Halwill

Deadline for Benefice Bulletin

Commentary

Possibly because I am currently looking at memorials, the three readings today have been much on my mind. There is at the centre of our faith a settle-ness, a peace, an understanding that we do not need to be afraid. I have always found this though out my ministry. We, of course, do worry at time and we do know some fear, but at heart, where it matters, deep down, we know that all will be well. Love never dies and Christ never leaves us. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, and their friends and relatives, including Brenda Chantier of Clawton.

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 8 February 2026

2nd Sunday before Lent

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

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

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Genesis 1: 1-2:3

The Beginning

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (NIV)

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
vicar-rubycountrybenefice@outlook.com

Epistle

Romans 8: 18-25

Present Suffering and Future Glory

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.(NIV)

Gospel

Matthew 6: 25-end

Do Not Worry

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?
“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (NIV)