

Upcoming dates

Monday 15 September
Deadline for Benefice Bulletin

Tuesday 16 September
2.30pm Handbells
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Wednesday 17 September
10.00am Morning prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Thursday 18 September
12.00pm Gerrie Smithers' memorial
service
St. Mary's, Black Torrington

Sunday 21 September
9.30am Holy Communion
St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater
11.00am Holy Communion Harvest
Service
St. Peter & St. James, Halwill
11.00am Morning Prayer
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
2.00pm Visiting bell ringers
St. Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater

Commentary

Ever been lost? Lost for words, lost in wonder, lost in the moment, lost in silence, lost in Prayer? Perhaps you have also been lost in grief, lost in silent pain, lost in bewilderment, Lost to God, lost love? Luke's gospel today addresses both types of loss. The tax collectors and sinners are utterly lost and reach to Jesus to be found, and those who hold faith scorn them and Jesus, and thus, lose something of their own souls. I have often thought that it is when we are utterly lost, or at a loss, that Jesus most commonly, and most frequently finds us. There is nowhere so dark, that his lamp, and his love won't be able to find us...nowhere. Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently and their friends and families, including Gerrie Smithers, Black Torrington and Patricia Eileen Brown, Ashwater.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve, Cathy, Peter, Stewart, Natalie, Helen, Abigail, Rene 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 14 September 2025
13th Sunday after Trinity

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 14 September

11.00am Holy Communion
with Harvest Festival
St. Leonard's, Clawton
3.00pm Harvest café church
St. Mary's, Black Torrington
6.30pm Evensong
St. Alban, Beaworthy

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Exodus 32: 7-14

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' " "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." But Moses sought the favour of the Lord his God. " Lord ," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' " Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. (NIV)

Revd. Dr Paul Fitzpatrick. Rector:
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Epistle

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners— of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)



Gospel

Luke 15: 1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (NIV)