

Romans 13:11-14

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires..

NRSV

Matthew 24:36-44

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

NRSV



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 231630
bricesusan@yahoo.co.uk

Any prayer requests received are emailed out as soon as possible.
If you would like to join the prayer chain in praying for any needs that are requested, please contact Sheila Grabham for inclusion on the list.
Please note all prayer requests are confidential.

Ruby Country Benefice

The Parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott

Sunday 27th November 2022

ADVENT SUNDAY

Welcome to Worship

11.00 am Holy Communion, Beaworthy

11.00 am Holy Communion, Clawton

3.00 pm Advent Carol Service, Highampton



Readings

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13: 11-14

Matthew 24: 36-44

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Interim Vicar (part time)

Revd Stephen Skinner

sjmskinners@btinternet.com

07554 142264

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Mission Community: for all who live and work in our Mission Community

Rest in peace all who have recently died

All who are mourning the death of a loved one especially the family of Pter Gay

Those who are ill or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Jenny Hyslop, Stephen Bowness, Doug Genini and his wife Sue

For our Benefice Schools, all staff, pupils and parents

Dates for your diary

All are Welcome to the Benefice Advent Carol Service at Highampton, Sunday 27th

Monday 28th November	2.00 pm	Lightening the Load Part Two—Expectations Black Torrington Chapel Tetcott PCC Meeting
	7.00 pm	
Tuesday 29th November	4.00 pm	Handbell Ringing Black Torrington Church
Wednesday 30th November	10.00 am	Morning Prayer Black Torrington Church
	12.00 noon	School Assembly Black Torrington Church
	2.30 pm	BENEFICE Churchwardens/ Reps meeting Black Torrington Church
Thursday 1st December	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
Sunday 4th December	9.30 am	Holy Communion Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion Halwill Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion Black Torrington Church
	6.00 pm	Evening Service Tetcott Church



ZOOM MEETING
Meeting ID:317 183 8102
Passcode: 848984

Thought for Sunday 27th November 2022

“WAKE UP!”

Our New Testament Epistle today features a dramatic phrase that I wish to respond to this weekend. Romans 13: 11: “The hour has come for you to **wake up** from your slumber. Because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed!” This is one of the three Advent slogans that I will be focusing upon in my Sermons for this Advent Sunday. The other two phrases are in the Gospel in Matthew Chapter 24: “Keep Watch!”, and “Be Ready!”.

These are exhortations that we need to hear in late November, when it is very hard for most of us to rouse ourselves from our nice warm and cosy beds! Especially if we have been saving money by turning down the heating systems, as Jane and myself have been doing. Faced by life’s many challenges, not least the impacts of our aging bodies and minds, it is so tempting to succumb to lethargy and inaction. It is instinctively natural for everyone to become more dormant as Winter proceeds. But if it is possible for us, it will be good for our souls to “Wake Up!” and face both the challenges and the pleasure of the new day. Every day of the life God has given us is precious, and there are special opportunities ahead for us and those that we will meet to make the day worthwhile. But life can be very tiring (for me, too), as the following Iona Prayer Meditation says:

**“God of new creation, when we are sleeping,
exhausted by activity, and the demands upon us,
wake us up with a burst of light
to lead us with joy into your new day.”**

However both St Paul and Jesus are making a deeper point in our readings, about being sufficiently awake that we are not caught out by things that could damage our longer term future. The Parables of Advent in Matthew 24 & 25 are urging us to not be found by the Lord when he returns to be ‘sleeping in sin and sloth’ but active in Christ’s service and living lives of purity and holiness. It’s in our best interests to wake up, get up and use well the talents and opportunities God grants us!

**“God of all life, wake us up” re-create us, surprise us, challenge us.
That we may be ready to greet your light and walk with joy through
the day.”**

Stephen