

Upcoming Dates

Monday 25th September
Quinquennial , Ashwater
2.00 pm PCC Meeting, Halwill

Tuesday 26th September
pm PCC Meeting, Beaworthy (tbc)
4.00 pm—5.30 pm
Handbell Ringing
Black Torrington Church

Wednesday 27th September
10.00 am Morning Prayer
Black Torrington Church
2.00 pm Clergy Chaplaincy

Thursday 28th September
3.30 pm Benefice Council Meeting
Black Torrington Church
5.00 pm Visiting Bell Ringers
Black Torrington Church

Sunday 1st October
9.30 am Harvest Service
Ashwater Church

11.00 am Harvest Service
with Holy Communion,
followed by lunch,
Black Torrington Church

11.00 am Morning Service
Halwill Church

6.00 pm Harvest Service
and Supper,
Arscott Hall, Tetcott

Diary Dates

Please pray for:

For Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick and our
Benefice Churches

For all who live and work in our Mission
Community

Rest in peace all who have recently died
including Michael Luxton

All who are mourning the death of a loved
one including the family and friends of
Revd Gerry Matthews and Michael Luxton

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, Bryan Hancock, Pat
Williams, Doug and Sue, Gill ,Margaret, Cathy
and Pansy

For our Benefice Schools all staff, pupils and
parents

For Olivia Veale as she is baptized and for her
parents and godparents

CONTACTS

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Please note:

RECTOR'S DAY OFF IS FRIDAY

Ruby Country Benefice

24th September 2023

16th Sunday after Trinity

Proper 19

GRAPEVINE

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



Welcome to Worship

9.30 am Baptism
Ashwater

11.00 am Morning Prayer
Beaworthy

11.00 am Harvest Service with
Holy Communion followed by lunch,
Clawton

6.30 pm Harvest Service
followed by auction of produce and Bring
and Share Harvest Supper,
Highampton Village Hall

Ruby people; Worshipping in God's country

Commentary

Paul's letter to the Philippians today is an answer to a set of questions they had sent him about specific issues. Written from Rome, where Paul is a prisoner, the letter affirms the very close bond he has for them; indeed, the closest relationship Paul has with any of the churches he founded and mentored. Written whilst Paul is under house arrest and shortly before he is executed, he is clearly expecting to die. Does this knowledge change the way we read and understand this extract?

Paul.



Stowford Meadow Chapel
Sunday 1st October
Harvest Festival 2.30 pm
Items by the Stowford
Meadow Singers
followed by tea

Epistle

Philippians 1: 21-30

²¹ If I live, it will be for Christ, and if I die, I will gain even more. ²² I don't know what to choose. I could keep on living and doing something useful. ²³ It is a hard choice to make. I want to die and be with Christ, because this would be much better. ²⁴⁻²⁵ But I know that all of you still need me. This is why I am sure I will stay on to help you grow and be happy in your faith. ²⁶ Then, when I visit you again, you will have good reason to take great pride in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Above all else, you must live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ. Then, whether I visit you or not, I will hear that all of you think alike. I will know that you are working together and are struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news.

²⁸ Be brave when you face your enemies. Your courage will show them that they are going to be destroyed, and it will show you that you will be saved. God will make all of this happen, ²⁹ and he has blessed you. Not only do you have faith in Christ, but you suffer for him. ³⁰ You saw me suffer, and you still hear about my troubles. Now you must suffer in the same way. (CEV)

Gospel

Matthew 20: 1-16 Workers in a Vineyard

²⁰ As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said: Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. ² After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day's work, he sent them off to his vineyard.

³ About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. ⁴ He promised to pay them what was fair, if they would work in his vineyard. ⁵ So they went.

At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.

⁶ Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

⁷ "Because no one has hired us," they answered. Then he told them to go work in his vineyard.

⁸ That evening the owner of the vineyard told the man in charge of the workers to call them in and give them their money. He also told the man to begin with the ones who were hired last. ⁹ When the workers arrived, the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon were given a full day's pay.

¹⁰ The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, ¹¹ they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard. ¹² They said, "The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!"

¹³ The owner answered one of them, "Friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. ¹⁴ Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?"

¹⁶ Jesus then said, "So it is. Everyone who is now last will be first, and everyone who is first will be last." (CEV)