

## Upcoming Dates

### Monday 15th July

**10.00 am** Ashwater PCC Meeting

**2.30 pm** Black Torrington C of E  
School Leavers Service,  
in the Church

### Tuesday 16th July

**2.30 pm** Hand Bell Ringing  
Black Torrington Church

### Wednesday 17th July

**10.00 am** Morning Prayer  
Black Torrington Church

### Thursday 18th July

**12.00 noon** Deanery Chaplaincy

### Sunday 21st July

**9.30 am** Holy Communion  
Ashwater Church

**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
Halwill Church

**11.00 am** Morning Prayer  
Black Torrington



## Please pray for:

**Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick** and our Benefice Churches.

**Revd Mark James** and the Bradworthy Benefice

**Revd Alison Hardy** and the Holsworthy Benefice

**All who live** and work in our Mission Community

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died including Colin Bowden (Highampton)

**All who are mourning** the death of a loved one including the family and friends of Iris Marsden and Colin Bowden

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

**Our Benefice Schools** all staff, pupils and parents in their last week of this term

**For Thomas David Arthur Clifford** to be baptised, his parents Shaun and Milly and all his family and friends

### CONTACTS

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

## Ruby Country Benefice

**Sunday 14th July 2024**

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

*Proper 10*

### GRAPEVINE

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



### Welcome to Worship

**11.00 am** Café Church  
Black Torrington

**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
Clawton

**2.30 pm** Baptism  
Halwill

**PLEASE NOTE** no Service at  
Beaworthy

*Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country*

## Commentary

Today's reading is a little odd. It is clearly an important event. Their hadn't been a recognised Jewish prophet for 400 years; John's outrageous murder then is all the more shocking, revealing a decadent and murderous ruling elite, for who the rules don't apply, and a religiously conservative majority, sickened by the event. Remember here that Jesus and John are cousins. The story is preceded by the disciples being sent out two by two into the towns and villages, whilst they are away, we have John's story, after John's story, they are back again: Storytelling at its finest. The use of narrative techniques and story is central to the Gospels and I intend in the summer months ahead, to use this sound Gospel technique, to form our outreach platform to evangelise in our parishes in the years ahead.

### Paul



## Epistle

### Ephesians 1: 3-14

#### Christ Brings Spiritual Blessings

<sup>3</sup> Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!

<sup>4</sup> Before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his holy and innocent and loving people.

<sup>5</sup> God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children. <sup>6</sup> God treated us with undeserved grace because of the Son he dearly loves, and so we should praise God.

<sup>7-8</sup> Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because of God's gift of undeserved grace to us. God has great wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> and by what Christ has done, God has shown us his own mysterious ways. <sup>10</sup> Then when the time is right, God will do all he has planned, and Christ will bring together everything in heaven and on earth.

<sup>11</sup> God always does what he plans, and this is why he appointed Christ to choose us.

<sup>12</sup> He did this so we Jews would bring honor to him and be the first ones to have hope because of him. <sup>13</sup> Christ also brought you the truth, which is the good news about how you can be saved. You put your faith in Christ and were given the promised Holy Spirit to show you belong to God. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit also makes us sure we will be given what God has stored up for his people. Then we will be set free, and God will be honored and praised. (CEV)

## Gospel

### Mark 6: 14-29

#### The Death of John the Baptist

<sup>14</sup> Jesus became so well-known that Herod the ruler heard about him. Some people thought he was John the Baptist, who had come back to life with the power to work miracles. <sup>15</sup> Others thought he was Elijah or some other prophet who had lived long ago. <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard about Jesus, he said, "This must be John! I had his head cut off, and now he has come back to life."

<sup>17-18</sup> Herod had earlier married Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. But John had told him, "It isn't right for you to take your brother's wife!" So, in order to please Herodias, Herod arrested John and put him in prison.

<sup>19</sup> Herodias had a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she could not do it <sup>20</sup> because Herod was afraid of John and protected him. He knew that John was a good and holy man. Even though Herod was confused by what John said, <sup>1</sup> he was glad to listen to him. And he often did.

<sup>21</sup> Finally, Herodias got her chance when Herod gave a great birthday celebration for himself and invited his officials, his army officers, and the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> The daughter of Herodias <sup>1</sup> came in and danced for Herod and his guests. She pleased them so much that Herod said, "Ask for anything, and it's yours!" <sup>23</sup> I swear that I will give you as much as half of my kingdom, if you want it."

<sup>24</sup> The girl left and asked her mother, "What do you think I should ask for?"

Her mother answered, "The head of John the Baptist!"

<sup>25</sup> The girl hurried back and told Herod, "Here and now on a serving plate I want the head of John the Baptist!"

<sup>26</sup> Herod was very sorry for what he had said. But he did not want to break the promise he had made in front of his guests. <sup>27</sup> At once he ordered a guard to cut off John's head there in prison.

<sup>28</sup> The guard put the head on a serving plate and took it to the girl. Then she gave it to her mother.

<sup>29</sup> When John's followers learned that he had been killed, they took his body and put it in a tomb. (CEV)