
Upcoming dates

Tuesday 23 December

7.00pm Beaworthy carol service

St. Alban, Beaworthy

Wednesday 24 December

Christmas Eve

2.00pm Crib service

St. Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater

3.00pm Nativity service

St. Mary's, Black Torrington

7.00pm Crib service

Holy Cross, Tetcott

Thursday 25 December

Christmas Day

9.00am Said Christmas Holy

Communion

St. Alban, Beaworthy

10.30am Ecumenical service for

Christmas Day

Halwill Baptist Church

Sunday 28 December

11.00am Holy communion

St. Alban, Beaworthy

Commentary

*Christmas hath a darkness Brighter than the blazing
noon,*

*Christmas hath a chillness Warmer than the heat of
June,*

*Christmas hath a beauty Lovelier than the world can
show:*

For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so low.

*Earth, strike up your music, Birds that sing and bells
that ring;*

*Heaven hath answering music For all Angels soon to
sing:*

*Earth, put on your whitest Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, Brought for us so
low. Christina Rossetti.*

Happy Christmas, Paul.

Please pray for:

All who have died recently, including Stuart
Marwood, Ashwater, and Sue Marwood, friends and
family.

Those who are ill, including Ian, Helen, Steve,
Cathy, Peter, Helen, Abigail, Rene, Brian, Ian,
Sandra 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 21 December 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

GRAPEVINE

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

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 21 December

11.00am Carol service
St. Peter and St. James,
Halwill

2.00pm Carol service
St. Leonard's, Clawton

6.00pm Carol service
St. Peter ad Vincula,
Ashwater

Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country

Old Testament

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. (NIV)



Epistle

Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

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Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-end

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”(which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (NIV)