

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 19th September

11.00 am Funeral

Revd Gerry Matthews
Black Torrington Church

4.00 pm—5.30 pm

Handbell Ringing
Black Torrington Church

Wednesday 20th September

10.00 am Morning Prayer

Black Torrington Church

2.00 pm Funeral

Holsworthy

Thursday 21st September

7.30 pm Deanery Synod

Standing Committee Meeting

Sunday 24th September

9.30 am Baptism

Ashwater Church

11.00 am Morning Prayer

Beaworthy Church

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

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

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 Revd Gerry Matthews and Michael
Luxton

All who are mourning the death of a loved
one including the family and friends of
Revd Gerry Matthews, Graham Colwill,
Margaret Brock 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

For our Benefice Schools all staff, pupils and
parents

For all who give so generously to the Food
Bank

CONTACTS

Rector: Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick
vicar-rubycountry@outlook.com
01409 254667

Benefice Administrator: Val Letheren
rubycountry.beneficeadmin@btinternet.com
07484 880770

Grapevine: Sheila Grabham
sheilagrabham55@gmail.com

Please note:

RECTOR'S DAY OFF IS FRIDAY

Ruby Country Benefice

17th September 2023

15th Sunday after Trinity

Proper 18

GRAPEVINE

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



Welcome to Worship

9.30 am Holy Communion
Ashwater

11.00 am Morning Prayer
Black Torrington

11.00 am Harvest with
Holy Communion
Halwill

Ruby people; Worshipping in God's country

Commentary

The central theme this week is 'judgement'. Purists might say it's actually judgement and forgiveness. Judging is one of the central curses of the Christian church, we love to judge, we judge sinners, none-church goers, other faiths, other churches, each other, even what prayers we use. Peter gets repeatedly told off by Jesus for it – ever were it so.

The Gospel today though offers us forgiveness, God knows our weakness and insecurity, but, as is common with recent readings, it comes with a warning; we are loved and we are forgiven, but God help us if we don't forgive others.

Paul.

Clawton Harvest

Sunday 24th September 11.00 am
in the Church followed by Soup &
Sweet lunch in the hall at £8.00 per
ticket. If anyone wishes to go to the
lunch, can they please let Lorna
Bowden know by 20th September on
01409 271384 or email
landsbowden@hotmail.com

Epistle

Romans 14: 1-12 Don't Criticize Others

14 Welcome all the Lord's followers, even those whose faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having beliefs that are different from yours. ²Some think it is all right to eat anything, while those whose faith is weak will eat only vegetables. ³But you should not criticize others for eating or for not eating. After all, God welcomes everyone. ⁴What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right.

⁵Some of the Lord's followers think one day is more important than another. Others think all days are the same. But each of you should make up your own mind. ⁶Any followers who count one day more important than another day do it to honor their Lord. And any followers who eat meat give thanks to God, just like the ones who don't eat meat.

⁷Whether we live or die, it must be for God, rather than for ourselves. ⁸Whether we live or die, it must be for the Lord. Alive or dead, we still belong to the Lord. ⁹This is because Christ died and rose to life, so that he would be the Lord of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you criticize other followers of the Lord? Why do you look down on them? The day is coming when God will judge all of us.

¹¹In the Scriptures God says,

"I swear by my very life
that everyone will kneel down
and praise my name!"

¹²And so, each of us must give an account to God for what we do. (CEV)

Gospel

Matthew 18: 21-35

An Official Who Refused To Forgive

²¹Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?"

²²Jesus answered: Not just 7 times, but 77 times! ²³This story will show you what the kingdom of heaven is like:

One day a king decided to call in his officials and ask them to give an account of what they owed him. ²⁴As he was doing this, one official was brought in who owed him 50,000,000 silver coins. ²⁵But he didn't have any money to pay what he owed. The king ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all he owned, in order to pay the debt.

²⁶The official got down on his knees and began begging, "Have pity on me, and I will pay you every cent I owe!" ²⁷The king felt sorry for him and let him go free. He even told the official that he did not have to pay back the money.

²⁸But as this official was leaving, he happened to meet another official, who owed him 100 silver coins. So he grabbed the man by the throat. He started choking him and said, "Pay me what you owe!"

²⁹The man got down on his knees and began begging, "Have pity on me, and I will pay you back." ³⁰But the first official refused to have pity. Instead, he went and had the other official put in jail until he could pay what he owed.

³¹When some other officials found out what had happened, they felt sorry for the man who had been put in jail. Then they told the king what had happened. ³²The king called the first official back in and said, "You're an evil man! When you begged for mercy, I said you did not have to pay back a cent. ³³Don't you think you should show pity to someone else, as I did to you?" ³⁴The king was so angry that he ordered the official to be tortured until he could pay back everything he owed. ³⁵That is how my Father in heaven will treat you, if you don't forgive each of my followers with all your heart.

(CEV)