

## Upcoming Dates

### Monday 13th January

**9.00 am** Black Torrington School  
Assembly, in the School  
**2.30 pm** Halwill PCC meeting

### Tuesday 14th January

**2.30 pm** Handbells  
St Mary's, Black Torrington  
**3.40 pm** Barnstaple Crematorium  
funeral for Maggie Breese

### Wednesday 15th January

**Deadline for Benefice Bulletin**  
**10.00 am** Morning Prayer  
St Mary's, Black Torrington  
**7.00 pm** Tetcott PCC Meeting

### Thursday 16th January

**2.00 pm** Benefice Council  
Meeting, Beaworthy

### Saturday 18th January

**3.00 pm** Bishop Jackie's  
Farewell Eucharist Service at  
Exeter Cathedral

### Sunday 19th January

**9.30 am** Holy Communion  
St Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater  
**11.00 am** Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity Service, Halwill  
Baptist Church  
**11.00 am** Morning Prayer  
St Mary's, Black Torrington



## Commentary

*Will John be the Messiah? How many Messiah hopes have we seen recently? How many self-justified wars or land grabs, how many innocents destroyed just to satisfied someone's greed or ego? They always claim divine intervention or support – and they are all liars. In this morning's gospel we see John doing the opposite; calling out injustice, power, evil and hate, empowered by his humility but with the courage of lions – and the Holy Spirit. We are called to be like John; If we have the courage. Paul.*

### Please pray for:

**All who have recently died** including Georgina Brock (Halwill) and **all who are mourning** the death of a loved one including the families of Maggie Breese and Georgina Brock.

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

**Our Benefice Schools**, all staff, pupils and parents

**For all who** give generously to the Foodbank on a regular basis and for those who receive food

**For Bishop Jackie** as she prepares for her retirement

### CONTACTS

**Rector:** Revd Dr Paul Fitzpatrick  
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Please note: **RECTOR'S DAY OFF IS FRIDAY**

## Ruby Country Benefice

**Sunday 12th January 2025**

**Baptism of Christ**

**1st Sunday of Epiphany**

### GRAPEVINE

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



### Welcome to Worship

**11.00 am** Christingle Café Church  
St Mary's, Black Torrington

**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
St Leonard, Clawton

**2.30 pm** Plough Sunday Service  
St Peter Ad Vincula, Ashwater

**5.00 pm** Holy Communion  
St Alban, Beaworthy

*Ruby people: Worshipping in God's country*

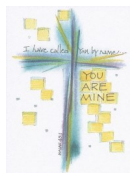
## Old Testament

### Isaiah 43: 1-7

#### The LORD Has Rescued His People

43 Descendants of Jacob, I, the LORD, created you and formed your nation. Israel, don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called you by name; now you belong to me.  
<sup>2</sup>When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you, and you won't drown. When you walk through fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames.

<sup>3</sup>I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, the God who saves you. I gave up Egypt, Ethiopia and the region of Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>To me, you are very dear, and I love you. That's why I gave up nations and people to rescue you.  
<sup>5</sup>Don't be afraid! I am with you. From both east and west I will bring you together. <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north and to the south, "Free my sons and daughters! Let them return from distant lands. <sup>7</sup>They are my people—I created each of them to bring honor to me." (CEV)



## Epistle

### Acts 8: 14-17

<sup>14</sup>The apostles in Jerusalem heard that some people in Samaria had accepted God's message, and they sent Peter and John. <sup>15</sup>When the two apostles arrived, they prayed that these people would be given the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>Before this, the Holy Spirit had not been given to any of them, though some of them had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Peter and John then placed their hands on everyone who had faith in the Lord, and they were given the Holy Spirit. (CEV)

#### May God salt the path before you

May God bless your winter days  
with warm sunshine and clear  
skies,  
may God bless your winter nights  
with shining stars and a bright  
moon,  
may God salt the path before you  
and light your way,  
may Gd wrap you in his presence  
and warm you against winter cold.

*Simon Taylor*

*Taken from 'Winter' Ruth Burgess*

## Gospel

### Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

<sup>15</sup>Everyone became excited and wondered, "Could John be the Messiah?"

<sup>16</sup>John said, "I am just baptizing with water. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

<sup>17</sup>His threshing fork is in his hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the wheat in his barn and burn the husks with a fire that never goes out."

#### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>21</sup>While everyone else was being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. Then as he prayed, the sky opened up, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." (CEV)

