Upcoming Dates

Monday 15th July

10.00 am Ashwater PCC Meeting2.30 pm Black Torrington C of ESchool 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

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

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Please note: RECTOR'S DAY OFF IS FRIDAY

Ruby Country Benefice

Sunday 14th July 2024

7th 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

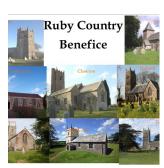
PLEASE NOTE no Service at Beaworthy

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 shocking, revealing more 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 vears ahead.

Paul



Epistle

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Christ Brings Spiritual Blessings

³ Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven! ⁴ Before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his holy and innocent and loving people. ⁵ God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children. ⁶ God treated us with undeserved grace because of the Son he dearly loves, and so we should praise God.

⁷⁻⁸ 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, ⁹ and by what Christ has done, God has shown us his own mysterious ways. ¹⁰ Then when the time is right, God will do all he has planned, and Christ will bring together everything in heaven and on earth.

¹¹ God always does what he plans, and this is why he appointed Christ to choose us. ¹² He did this so we Jews would bring honor to him and be the first ones to have hope because of him. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Others thought he was Elijah or some other prophet who had lived long ago. ¹⁶ 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."

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Herodias had a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she could not do it ²⁰ 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, ¹ he was glad to listen to him. And he often did.

²¹ 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. ²² The daughter of Herodias ¹came in and danced for Herod and his guests. She pleased them so much that Herod said, "Ask for anything, and it's yours! ²³ I swear that I will give you as much as half of my kingdom, if you want it."

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

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

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

²⁶ 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. ²⁷ At once he ordered a guard to cut off John's head there in prison. ²⁸ The guard put the head on a serving plate and took it to the girl. Then she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When the head of the same that the s

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