

Gospel

John 2:1-11

The Wedding at Cana

2 The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.³ The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

⁵ But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons.⁷ Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled,⁸ he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over.¹⁰ "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

¹¹ This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

NLT

If you focus too
narrowly on a single
path to God, all you
will ever find is the
path

Meister Eckhart

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 28th January - 3.30pm - Hope Chapel, Black Torrington
United Service Followed by Tea



Christian Love in Action

21st January 2018

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to Worship

9.30am

11.00am

Holy Communion, St Peter's, Thornbury

United Holy Communion, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St Mary's, Black Torrington



Readings

Genesis 14:17-20

Revelation 19:6-10

John 2:1-11

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen

"Praise the LORD! ... Let us be glad and rejoice
and let us give honour to him."

Revelation 19:6-7

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:



The Mission Community: Revd Elizabeth Burke and the Holsworthy Benefice; Revd Jane Lucas and Beaworthy Church

Black Torrington Electoral Roll: Ronda Mogridge; Mark and Rose Neave; Jackie Nutt; John Plummer; Terry and Elizabeth Plenty; Janet Portman

Those who are ill: Joan Thomas; Avis Radford

Black Torrington Primary School, primary lead, Lisa Paton and all staff and pupils

Those who are mourning the loss of loved ones; especially the families and friends of Maurice Thomas, Dorothy Chandler; Bill Smithers;

Rest in Peace: Maurice Thomas; Dorothy Chandler; Bill Smithers

JANUARY DIARY

Mon 22nd	8.00am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington
	10.00am	Highampton PCC Meeting; Croft End, Highampton
Tues 23rd	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast, The Rectory, Black Torrington
Wed 24th	8.00am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's Black Torrington
Thurs 25th	8.15am	Morning and Silent Prayer; St Mary's, Black Torrington
	7.45pm	Churchwardens and Ministry Team Meeting; Oakfield, Brandis Corner
Fri 26th	7.00pm	United Church and Chapel Meal, Half Moon, Sheepwash
Sat 27th	7.00pm	Compline, St Mary's Black Torrington
Sun 28th	9.30am	Holy Communion, All Saints', Bradford
	11.00am	Holy Communion, Holy Cross, Highampton
	6.30pm	Healing Service, St Mary's, Black Torrington

Under New Management!



Black Torrington Table Top Sale—Saturday 27th January
Village Hall Black Torrington



Stalls, Bacon Butties, Raffle, Tea and Coffee etc.



The Benefice has now taken over the running of this event so please come along and help make our first sale a success.



Introduction to the Gospel

John 2:1-11. John's Gospel takes its shape from a series of signs revealing Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Saviour of the world. This miracle story is the first of these signs. Some regard it as the moment of Jesus' revelation of himself to his own family and to those who knew him.

The marriage feast at Cana symbolized that the messianic age had begun. Behind it lays the whole panoply of purification rites so prominently described in the Torah. Wine too had liturgical significance included in the daily sacrifices offered as victuals for the deity, although never offered alone.

The changing of water for ritual purification to wine indicated that Jesus would reinterpret Jewish religious tradition for this new age he had inaugurated. For John, it was nothing less than an open declaration that Jesus is the Messiah. Hence his curious reluctance to follow his mother's anxiously informing him that the ordinary wine for the wedding feast had run out. Immediately, she told the servants standing-by to do whatever he told them. Was she concerned that she about to lose her control of her son?

This seemingly insignificant aside can be seen as the way for Jesus to differentiate himself from his closest human relationships. He appeared to reject his mother's counsel and yet also as indicated that she did believe in him. The steward supervising the serving of the feast and the bridegroom were quite ignorant of what had happened. This served to establish the pattern so obvious throughout of John's narrative that there would always be some who believed and would follow Jesus and some who would not.

John Shearman

Mission Community Prayer

Loving God, receive our love, refresh our vision, renew our lives, so that together our Mission Community may witness to the truth of your gospel, build up our fellowship and deepen our commitment to grow in prayer. May our lives of discipleship draw others to follow Jesus Christ. Lead us into creative ways to serve the people of Devon with joy, to the glory of your name. Amen