

Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21 – 22

The Baptism of Jesus

¹⁵ Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

²¹ One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”



NLT

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



Christian Love in Action

13th January 2019

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to Worship

10.30 am **United Holy Communion, St Mary's, Black Torrington**

3.30 pm **Informal Service, Holy Cross, Highampton**



Readings

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Collect

Heavenly Father,

at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

“You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

Luke 3:22

Rector: Revd Preb Kathy Roberts

Tel: 01409 231279 Mob: 07717 575554

email: rectory@black-torrington-benefice.org.uk

Reader: Mark Neave

Tel: 01409 231556

Email: mark.neave@live.co.uk

www.black-torrington-benefice.org.uk

e-mail: enquiries@black-torrington-benefice.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



The Mission Community: Revd Richard Freeman and the Bradworthy Benefice; Revd Jane Lucas and Halwill Church

Black Torrington Electoral Roll: Sue Brice, Cyd Churchill, Barbara and Mike Clark, Davina Dimmock-Wright, Richard Dimmock

Those who are ill: David Arney, Iona Barrance, Margaret Grabham, Joan Thomas and those who love and care for them

Black Torrington Primary School, primary head Lisa Paton and all staff and children

Burdon Grange: for all who live and work there, and their families and friends

All who are mourning the death of a loved one, including the family and friends of Kate Inniss

Rest in Peace: Kate Inniss

January Diary

Mon 14th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington
	9.30 am	Rota Planning Meeting, The Rectory
Tues 15th	8.00 am	Prayer Breakfast, The Rectory
Wed 16th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington
	10.00 am	Thornbury PCC, at the home of Sarah Lawes
Thur 17th	8.15 am	Morning and Silent Prayer, followed by
	9.00 am	Iona Holy Communion, St Mary's, Black Torrington
Fri 18th	6.30 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Meal, Half
	for 7.00 pm	Moon, Sheepwash (Val Letheren - 01409 231430)
Sat 19th	6.30 pm	Iona Holy Communion, followed by
	7.00 pm	Compline, St Mary's, Black Torrington
Sun 20th	10.30 am	Holy Communion, All Saints', Bradford
	11.00 am	United Covenant Service, Hope Chapel, Black Torrington

Introduction to the Readings

ISAIAH 43:1-7. The prophet of Israel's Babylonian exile gave this poetic promise of the return of the exiles to their homeland. He speaks for God, assuring those dwelling in foreign lands that, in spite of their great difficulties, they would be brought home. The basis for this beautifully expressed faith is God's ancient covenant with Israel as God's chosen people.

ACTS 8:14-17. This brief note points to a subtle development in the early church's understanding of baptism and the special role of the apostles. For some reason, baptism by Philip "in the name of Jesus" had not been sufficient to bring upon some new converts the blessing of the Spirit.

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22. Luke gives a much briefer account of Jesus' baptism than the other gospels. It seems little more than an ending to his narrative about the ministry of John the Baptist. The essential details are the same, however. Luke records the actual baptism, the descent of the Spirit as a dove, and the divine blessing.

John Shearman

Benefice Coffee Morning

The Benefice Coffee Morning is being held at the Holsworthy Memorial Hall on Wednesday 6th February from 9am – 12noon. Help will be needed during the morning and cakes and tombola prizes would be very much appreciated!

To Think About ... Universal Grace

"Grace is not a late arrival in history, an occasional add-on for a handful of humans. God's grace and life did not just appear a couple thousand years ago when Jesus came and his story was told through the Gospels. God's grace cannot be a random solution doled out to the few and the virtuous—or it would hardly be grace at all!"

Richard Rohr

