

Gospel

Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ "Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. ²⁵ Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

²⁶ "But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. ²⁷ What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

²⁸ "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

³² "Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ 'I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ Your enemies will be right in your own household!'

³⁷ "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

NLT

Reminder!

Showing Compassion through responding to Loneliness

The questionnaires on loneliness are still available at the back of the churches. If you have not yet completed one please take a few moments to do so as soon as possible.

Bishop Sarah said "Loneliness is a reality for many in our communities. Churches working in partnership with others can reduce the loneliness that many experience and in turn promote wellbeing. I would encourage churches to participate with *Healthwatch Devon* in the campaign to end loneliness."



Christian Love in Action

Sunday 25th June 2017

Second Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to Worship

Patronal Holy Communion, St Peter's, Thornbury

Holy Communion, Holy Cross, Highampton

Informal Service, St Mary's, Black Torrington

9.30 am

11.00am

6.30pm



Readings

Jeremiah 20: 7-13

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Collect

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord .
Amen

"Even the hairs on your head are counted. So don't be afraid!"

Matthew 10:30-31

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:



The Mission Community Revd Jane Lucas and the Ashwater Benefice;

Revd Richard Freeman and Abbots Bickingham Church

Holy Cross Electoral Roll: Margaret Baker, Gillian Bowden, Mary Dayman, Jan Luckhurst, Bob Luckhurst ; Dudley Ody, Jackie Ody, Michelle Ody, Wendy Rose, Mary Richards, Joan Thomas, Maurice Thomas

Those who are ill: Jenny Searle, Peter Evans, Dorothy Chandler, Avis Radford, Lorna Harris, Renate Egelstaff, Maurice and Joan Thomas, Mary Richards

A new Connect youth worker in Holsworthy when Jonathan finishes in July

Black Torrington Primary School, head teacher Caroline Tothill, lead teacher Lesley Osman and all staff and children

All victims of violence and disaster in our country and throughout the world

The Brexit Negotiations - that these might be approached by all concerned in a wise and thoughtful manner.

June/July Diary

Mon 26th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer , St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 27th	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast , The Rectory. Black Torrington
	8.00pm	FCMG Meeting , Priestacott Barn, Bradford
Wed 28th	8.00am	Morning Prayer , St Mary's, Black Torrington
	7.30pm	Study Group , The Rectory, Black Torrington
Thurs 29th	8.15am	Morning and Silent Prayer , St John's, Cookbury
	
Sat 1st	7.30pm	Music at St Mary's, Accordion Band (see below)
Sun 2nd	9.30am	Service of the Word , St Peter's, Thornbury
	11.00am	Iona Holy Communion , St Mary's, Black Torrington
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer , All Saints', Bradford



Music at St. Mary's Free Concert

North Devon Accordion Band
Saturday 1st July at 7.30 p.m.

Free concert - with donations gratefully received.

If you are coming, or can help with food please contact
Sheila Grabham: 231581or Val Letheren: 231430.

We hope to see you there!



Focus on Compassion—EMBRACE the Middle East

EMBRACE the Middle East is a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths and none to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice. Together with local Christian communities we're bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.

Our vision: Lives and communities in the Middle East transformed by the compassion of Christ.

Our mission: To partner with Middle East Christians as they bring healing and hope to all who face poverty and injustice

Faith in Action is our strategy that outlines how we will build stronger relationships with our Christian partners, expand into new countries, help more disadvantaged people, challenge poverty and injustice and inspire churches, volunteers and supporters to join us to:

- Transform the lives of vulnerable and marginalised people across the Middle East, enabling them to live life in all its fullness
- Strengthen and encourage Middle East Christians as they bring about positive change in their communities
- Challenge injustice, poverty and exclusion in the Middle East through targeted advocacy and campaigning.



Introduction to the Readings

JEREMIAH 20: 7-13. This exquisite poetry describes how Jeremiah felt when his fellow countrymen rejected his prophetic message from God. Though he was mocked and derided for preaching the doom soon to befall the nation, he could not keep quiet. He trusted that God would vindicate him and bring about the fateful end he predicted.

ROMANS 6:1b-11. The passage presents Paul's definition of the benefits of baptism based on faith in God's free gift of forgiveness. One of the problems raised by this new relationship has to do with its ethical implications. Paul's answer is that all Christians obviously should not continue to sin. God's grace has freed us to live new, holy lives with the risen Christ. To put it in traditional terms, our justification has been accomplished, but however incomplete, our sanctification must still go on.

MATTHEW 10:24-39 The disciples' success was not guaranteed; nor is it for any of us who would follow Christ now. As discomfiting as this may seem to us, discipleship is always costly to those who remain true to their commitment. The remaining segment of the reading, however, does offer encouragement and a promise of reward for those who are faithful. The essential element is loyalty to Christ who gave his all for us.

John Shearman