

## Gospel

### Mark 12:28-34

### The Most Important Commandment

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. <sup>30</sup> And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

<sup>32</sup> The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other.

<sup>33</sup> And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbour as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law."

<sup>34</sup> Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

*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*

**26th August 2018**

**13th Sunday after Trinity**

*Proper 16*

**Welcome to Worship**

10.30 am **Holy Communion**, St Peter's, Thornbury

6.30 pm **Holy Communion**, Holy Cross, Highampton



### Readings

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Mark 12: 28-34

### Collect

Almighty God,  
you search us and know us:  
may we rely on you in strength  
and rest on you in weakness,  
now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*"But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."*

*Joshua 24: 15b*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**



**The Mission Community:** Revd Preb Kathy Roberts and the Black Torrington Benefice; Revd Richard Freeman and Milton Damerel Church

**Bradford with Cookbury Electoral Roll:** Margaret and Martin Taylor, Janet and Michael Welch, Marion Westaway, Barbara Worth

**Those who are ill:** Iona Barrance, Margaret Grabham, Joan Thomas

**All our benefice teachers,** as they prepare for the coming school year

**All those who have lost lives,** homes and loved ones in the floods in Kerala

**Rest in Peace:** Avis Radford

**August and September Diary**

Tues 28th 8.00 am **Prayer Breakfast,** The Rectory, Black Torrington

Wed 29th 8.00 am **Morning Prayer,** St Mary's, Black Torrington

Thur 30th 8.00 am **Morning and Silent Prayer,** followed by  
8.45 am **Iona Holy Communion,** St John's, Cookbury \*  
7.30 pm **Communication Team Meeting,** Highampton

Sat 1st 10.30 am **Coffee Morning,** St Peter's, Thornbury  
6.30 pm **Iona Holy Communion,** followed by  
7.00 pm **Compline,** St Mary's, Black Torrington

Sun 2nd 10.30 am **Holy Communion,** All Saints, Bradford  
3.00 pm **Pudding Club,** St Peter's, Thornbury  
6.30 pm **Iona Holy Communion,** St Mary's,  
Black Torrington

\* *Please note change of time*

**Developing Lay Ministry in Holsworthy Mission Community**

Over the past 9 months, a number of people from our four benefices have been meeting to think about the future shape of ministry across our mission community. One area of focus has been lay ministry – how do we take the best of what's already going on and develop it for our future as a mission community? If you would like to hear some of our thinking and contribute to the discussion, please join us on **Tuesday 25 September, 6.30pm for 7pm at Ashwater Parish Hall, EX21 5EZ**

**Introduction to the Readings**

**Joshua 24:1-2A, 14-18.** Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to the holy place at Shechem to renew their covenant with God initially made by Abraham. He issued a compelling challenge that they should choose to serve the Lord as he and his family had chosen. They promised to do so although Joshua warned them of how difficult it would be and of the penalty if falling away from their commitment to worship the gods of their foreign neighbours.

**Ephesians 6:10-20.** The Issue for Christians in the first century, to whom this letter was written, was whether they would worship God as revealed in Jesus Christ or the Roman emperor who claimed to be a god. In those days too, the emperor's power was seen to represent cosmic forces. In this remarkable series of metaphors, the author encouraged his audience by identifying the spiritual equipment they would need for their struggle.

**Mark 12:38-34.** Having arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus confronts strong opposition to his teaching. In one sentence, Jesus offered his challenger the key to entering God's kingdom: to love God and neighbour as oneself. No one has ever devised a better way to live in the real world. As someone had rightly said, it isn't that we don't know how, it is rather a matter of doing it faithfully all the time in all our relationships.

*John Shearman*

**To Think About**

To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival.

*Wendell Berry*



**Sixty Days of Prayer**

During September and October, we will be participating in a programme of 'sixty days of prayer' for children and young people in our area, to coincide with the beginning of the new academic year. As part of this, we have prepared a daily prayer diary for those two months, and copies of the September diary are available at the back of the church. Please do take one, and use it as part of your daily devotions.