

Gospel

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Parable of the Mustard Seed

31 Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."



Parable of the Yeast

33 Jesus also used this illustration: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough."

Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

45 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"



Parable of the Fishing Net

47 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. 48 When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. 49 That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, 50 throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 Do you understand all these things?"

"Yes," they said, "we do."

52 Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

NLT

To Think About the Kingdom of Heaven

You are at home both here and forever. What else could salvation be? Heaven is first of all now—and therefore surely later. If God loves and accepts us now in our broken state, why would the divine policy change after death? It is the same God before and after our death. Why not jump on this wonderful bandwagon and enjoy heaven now—without fear? Salvation for me, and for many of the early Eastern Fathers of the Church, was not a question of if—but only a question of when—and how much you want it.

Richard Rohr



Christian Love in Action

Sunday 30th July 2017

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Proper 12

Welcome to Worship

11.00am

Benefice Holy Communion, Holy Cross, Highampton



Readings

1 Kings 3: 5-12

Romans 8: 26-39

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Collect

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:39b

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Mission Community: The Holsworthy Benefice during the interregnum; Revd Richard Freeman and Bulkworthy Church



St Mary's Electoral Roll: Janet Portman, Russell and Wendy Taylor Luxton, Joan Trengove, Peter Roberts, Sue White

Those who are ill: Benjie Inniss, Jenny Searle, Peter Evans, Dorothy Chandler, Avis Radford, Lorna Harris, Renate Egelstaff, Maurice and Joan Thomas, Ernie Luxton (knee operation)

The family and friends of Todd Riggs, tragically killed in an accident recently

All the children and young people in our benefice, for a safe and enjoyable summer break

Heather Sharp and John Wilcock as they are married at St Peter's, Thornbury on Friday

July and August Diary

Mon 31st	8.00am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 1st	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast, The Rectory, Black Torrington
Wed 2nd	8.00am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington
	8.00pm	Study Group, The Rectory, Black Torrington - <i>Please note change of time</i>
Thurs 3rd	8.15am	Iona Holy Communion, All Saint's, Bradford - <i>Please note change of time</i>
Fri 4th	11.00am	Wedding of Heather Sharp and John Wilcock , St Peter's, Thornbury
Sat 5th	10.30 am	Coffee Morning, St Peter's, Thornbury
	7.00pm	Compline, St Peter's, Thornbury
Sun 6th	9.30am	Holy Communion, St Peter's, Thornbury
	11.00am	Iona Holy Communion, St Mary's, Black Torrington
	6.30pm	Celtic Service, All Saints, Bradford

THE HOLIDAY CLUB NEEDS YOU!

On Tuesday 8th August ,Saturday Church is holding its annual Holiday Club.



Would you be willing to come along and help between 9.30 and 12.30?

We will be making volcanoes and can promise fun and refreshments as well as the chance to make a difference.

If you are free and would like to help, please let Gina, Liz or Morag know.

Focus on Compassion—Christian Aid

Africa and HIV: Securing a better life for the most vulnerable

HIV Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, HIV has orphaned more than 14 million children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Christian Aid has worked with local organisations in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia since 2005 to support more than 33,000 children and young people orphaned or made vulnerable by virus.

Funding provided by USAID has now ended and Christian Aid is urgently looking for other sources of support to enable this critical work to continue.

Over five years the programme has provided children and their carers with support for education, health and nutrition. And for parents living with HIV and other carers, Savings and Loans Associations have helped them to earn an income and provide for their children's needs.



In Kenya this work is carried out by BIDII - which takes its name from a Swahili word meaning 'effort' - and Inter-Diocesan Christian Community Services. From ensuring Joseph Nwangangi can go to school and further his dream of attending university to enabling orphan Mbithe Nzako to hold her head up high again, they are bringing real change in the lives of vulnerable children across Kenya.



Introduction to the Readings

1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon's prayer comes from the tradition that he possessed wisdom above all other virtues. The king's response to the divine offer to request anything he desired took the form of a model prayer for anyone assuming a position of power and responsibility. A tone of humility stands out in the words of the prayer yet that is in stark contrast to what we know of Solomon from the scriptural record of his reign.

Romans 8:26-39 Paul dealt in very succinct, even lyrical, sentences with several subjects of utmost significance: prayer, the assurance of salvation, predestination, the sovereignty of divine love, the unbreakable spiritual bond between the believer and God. The whole reading should be approached not as systematic theology but as the experience of profound faith by one who knew whereof he spoke.

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 More parables of the kingdom, obviously gathered from many occasions point out various characteristics of God's reign in human affairs. Many scholars look at these isolated instances as presaging the time when all humanity will be governed by God's love. Heaven" refers not so much as a place to which the faithful go beyond death but to a future experience of the whole universe.

John Shearman