

Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30

¹⁶ "To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

¹⁷ 'We played wedding songs, and you didn't dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn't mourn.'



¹⁸ For John didn't spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, 'He's possessed by a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results."

²⁵ At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike." ²⁶ Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

²⁷ "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." NLT

Introduction to the Readings

Zechariah 9:9-12. Christians readily recognize this passage as the model for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Matthew actually quoted part of it in his record of that event. Undoubtedly, it originated as a hopeful prophetic oracle with messianic implications based on Israel's sacred covenant.

Romans 7:15-25A. Does anyone not feel the depth of moral conflict Paul described in this passage? He made perfectly plain how intense the conscious struggle of the will becomes when we face temptation, or unconsciously when we just want our own way. He made equally plain the only true resource for freedom from the guilt of our failure to resist temptation - the grace of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Jesus may have uttered these three quotations attributed to him at quite different times. The first saying not only describes a children's imitative game of biblical times, it also tells of the frustration of teaching without visible response. The prayer has some similarity to the prayer in John 17.

John Shearman



Christian Love in Action

Sunday 9th July 2017

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 9

Welcome to Worship

A warm welcome to Revd. Stuart Wilson

9.30am **Holy Communion**, All Saints', Bradford
11.00am **Family Holy Communion**, St Mary's, Black Torrington
6.30pm **Evening Prayer**, Holy Cross, Highampton



Readings

Zechariah 9: 9-12

Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 16-19; 25-30

Collect

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Rector: Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
Tel: 01409 231279 Mob: 07717 575554
email: rectory@black-torrington-benefice.org.uk

Reader: Mark Neave
Tel: 01409 231556 Mob: 07814 435440
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 Preb Kathy Roberts and Cookbury Church

St Mary's Electoral Roll: Mark and Snezzy Floyer, Margaret Grabham, Sheila Grabham, Anne Gray, Brian and Carole Harrington, Joyce Hursey

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

Jonathan Shnarr as he prepares to move on, and everyone who has benefitted from his time with Connect

Highampton and Bradford Preschools; all leaders, helpers, parents and children

All those worried about loved ones who are sick in mind or body

The farmers in our benefice whose working days are especially long and busy at this time of the year.

July Diary

Mon 10th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 11th	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast, Priestacott Barn, Bradford
Wed 12th	8.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington Study Group, Priestacott Barn, Bradford
Thurs 13th	8.15am 1.00pm 2.30pm	Morning and Silent Prayer, St Peter's, Thornbury Lunch Club, Black Torrington Village Hall Service, Burdon Grange, Highampton
Sat 15th	7.00pm	Compline, All Saints', Bradford
Sun 16th	9.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Service of the Word, All Saints, Bradford Service of the Word, St Mary's, Black Torrington Holy Communion, Holy Cross, Highampton

Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who supported the concert at St Mary's last week. It was an enjoyable evening and the very pleasing total of £200 was donated for the church.



Focus on Compassion—EMBRACE the Middle East contd.



Healthcare

We're proud to support a number of healthcare institutions across the Middle East. The testimonies below provide a snapshot of some of the work we're involved in.

Treating the most vulnerable in Cairo; a young Somali came to the Refuge Egypt clinic with swelling on the left side of his face, forcing his left eye to close. Investigations showed deep erosion of the bones in his face, extending to his optic nerve and meaning he could be in danger of losing his vision. We looked at his medical history and suspected extra pulmonary tuberculosis. Once the diagnosis was established, we immediately started treatment and, thanks to God, there was a dramatic response. Each time the young man visited, his left eye had opened more. He has now been discharged from our anti-tuberculosis programme and his face is completely back to normal. His vision is good and his eye has been saved.



Supporting children with disabilities in the West Bank: Ghaith is a five-year-old boy from the Nablus area, who was diagnosed with Freeman Sheldon Hall Syndrome at birth. His parents are cousins and the disease is genetic and runs in families. Ghaith has difficulty walking and balancing. He also has weakness in his arms and severe problems in his fingers, which makes it very difficult for him to perform any of his daily living activities. He also has a speech impediment and some mental disability. Ghaith was referred to the Princess Basma Centre after being assessed by an outreach team at one of the intermediate level clinics in Nablus. He took part in a comprehensive, 3-week rehabilitation programme at the centre, which aimed at improving his walking, his balance, his fine motor abilities and preventing further deformities to his upper and lower limbs. His mother was also admitted and participated actively in the mothers' empowerment project. This involved education about the disability and training to help her to cope at home – thus making her an equal partner in the rehabilitation process.

