

Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

The Faith of a Gentile Woman

²⁴ Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. ²⁵ Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, ²⁶ and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, ²⁷ Jesus told her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸ She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

³¹ Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. ³² A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

³³ Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha*," which means, "Be opened!" ³⁵ Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

³⁶ Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. ³⁷ They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

NLT

Food Bank Urgently Needs. . . .

Tea	Pasta Sauce	Toiletries
Dried Milk	Instant Coffee	Toilet Rolls
Fruit Juice (not refrigerated)	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Vegetables
Soup	Tinned Tomatoes	Instant Mashed Potato



Christian Love in Action

9th September 2018

15th Sunday after Trinity

Proper 18

Welcome to Worship

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

6.30 pm Patronal Service, Holy Cross, Highampton



Readings

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Collect

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

"So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."

James 2:17

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:



The Mission Community: Revd Richard Freeman and the Bradworthy Benefice; Revd Preb Kathy Roberts and Highampton Church

Thornbury Electoral Roll: Michele Groves, Joan and Raymond Smith, Wendy Green, Arthur Sillifant, Paul Taylor, Lindsey Hutchings

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

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

All people suffering oppression and violence throughout the world; that we may do all we can to help bring about justice and rehabilitation

We thank God for water, the source of life, and pray that we may use it wisely, remembering those who suffer from lack of it.

September Diary

Mon 10th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer , St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 11th	8.00 am	Prayer Breakfast , The Rectory, Black Torrington
Wed 12th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer , St Mary's, Black Torrington
Thur 13th	8.15 am	Morning Prayer , All Saints', Bradford
	8.30 pm	Silent Prayer , All Saints', Bradford
	1.00 pm	Lunch Club , Village Hall, Black Torrington
Sat 15th	7.30 pm	Music at St Mary's , Black Torrington - followed by refreshments (<i>see below</i>)
Sun 16th	10.30 am	Holy Communion , All Saint's, Bradford
	6.30 pm	Taize Service , St Mary's, Black Torrington



Music at St Mary's

A Celebration of Flanders and Swann
By Roger and Christine Cleverdon
Saturday 15th September - 7.30 pm

*Free Admission - donations gratefully received
Refreshments available*



A Brief Introduction to the Readings

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23. The emphasis on social justice found in Israel's great prophets, especially Isaiah and Amos, stands out clearly in these selected doublets.

James 2:1-10, 14-17. Faith that does not produce good works is a false faith. An intellectual religious commitment without corresponding changes to one's moral life cannot be a saving faith.

Mark 7:24-37. The narrative reveals a particular aspect of Jesus' humanity: his willingness to be convinced, even by a Gentile woman, that God's saving love extended beyond the covenanted people of Israel. This could well have been another significant issue for Mark's audience, particularly if it was a mix of Jews and Gentiles.

John Shearman

Food bank volunteers needed

Christians Together in Holsworthy run a small Foodbank that opens on Wednesdays from 2 pm until 4 pm.

We have a shortage of volunteers and are seeking people who could give us one afternoon a month so that we can continue to provide this facility. If you feel you could help us, please contact Sarah Gainsbury on 01409 259227 or by email mj.sd.gainsbury@btinternet.com.

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**

60 Days of Prayer for Children and Young People

*God of mercy, help us to better understand
the needs of children and young people;
to follow Jesus' example of service and love to all people,
and to be willing to learn from others,
so that we may better share your Gospel message
of love and salvation. Amen.*