

Gospel

Matthew 18: 15-20

Correcting Another Believer

¹⁵ "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offence. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

¹⁹ "I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."

NLT

Introduction to the Readings

EZEKIEL 33:7-11. The prophet Ezekiel had been summoned to be a sentinel to warn the Israelites in exile in Babylon of the life and death issue of repenting and once again being obedient to their ancient covenant with God. He must be faithful to this mission on pain of death himself.

ROMANS 13:8-14. This brief excerpt continues the theme of personal moral conduct expected of Christians which had been interrupted by what appears to be an aside about accepting the established imperial government of Rome (13:1-7). Yet the two segments are closely connected by obligations: taxes and respect in the one instance; love in the other.

MATTHEW 18:15-20. How do Christians settle their conflicts? Was this really a concern of Jesus? Did he really have a fractious set of followers who engaged in 'no holds barred' confrontations that bordered on physical combat? Or was this little excerpt put into Matthew's Gospel because Matthew needed to say something to the members of his own faith community who from time to time engaged in open conflict?

John Shearman

To Think About

Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.

- Martin Luther King



Christian Love in Action
Sunday 10th September 2017
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Proper 18

Welcome to Worship

9.30am

Morning Prayer, All Saints', Bradford

11.00am

Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington

6.30pm

Patronal Holy Communion, Holy Cross, Highampton



Readings

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20

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.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18: 20

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:



The Mission Community: Revd Preb Kathy Roberts and the Black Torrington Benefice; Revd Richard Fremman and Abbots Bickington Church

Holy Cross Electoral Roll: 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, Maurice and Joan Thomas, Brian Ough

Black Torrington Primary School; Miss Lisa Paton, Head Teacher, and all staff and pupils

Ryan Davies and Jo Cockwill who are to be married at St Mary's on Saturday.

All those affected by natural disasters in so many parts of the world

The tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims fleeing from violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state

Rest in Peace: Muriel Inniss

September Diary

Mon 11th	8.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer, St Mary's, Black Torrington Rota Meeting, The Rectory
Tues 12th	8.00am 7.30pm	Prayer Breakfast, The Rectory Highampton PCC meeting, Croft End, Highampton
Wed 13th	8.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer, St Mary's Black Torrington Benefice Discussion Group, The Rectory
Thurs 14th	8.15am 9.00am 2.30pm	Morning and Silent Prayer; Iona Holy Communion, St Peter's Thornbury Holy Communion, Burdon Grange
Sat 16th	12.00 noon 7.00pm	Wedding, St Mary's , Black Torrington Compline, All Saints', Bradford
Sun 17th	9.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion, All Saints, Bradford Holy Communion, St Mary's, Black Torrington

**Celebrating Holy Cross Highampton
Patronal Holy Communion Service,**

Sunday 10th September at 6.30 pm
followed by
Cheese and Wine
Do come along and join us!



Benefice Discussion Group

The Right to Live - The Right to Die

The next discussion will be held on

**Wednesday 13th September, at 7.30pm
at the Rectory**

Come along to have your say,
listen to others
and enjoy the Fairtrade refreshments.



Benefice Harvest Services

Bradford and Thornbury Harvest Festival Supper

22 September at 6.00 pm in Bradford and Cookbury Village Hall.
A short informal service followed by a sit down pasty and pudding supper

Black Torrington Harvest Service

24 September at 6.30 pm in St Mary's Church, Black Torrington
followed by a Bring and Share Supper

Highampton Harvest Service

8 October at 6.30 pm in Holy Cross Church, Highampton
(Further details to be confirmed)

Everyone is welcome to any or all of these events!

Focus on Compassion



World Vision is the world's largest international children's charity. Every day we bring real hope to millions of children in the world's hardest places as a sign of God's unconditional love.

Every Minute 12 Children Die

In the two minutes you take to read this page, more than 24 children under the age of five will die. In 24 hours, the total will exceed 17,000. Most of them will be victims of diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria or complications before, during and after birth. Nearly half of these deaths are linked to under-nutrition.



Our vision is of a world in which every child has the chance to live life to the full; where they are loved, protected and cared for, and enjoy good health and an education. Where they can live free from fear.

For this to become a reality, we work alongside communities in close to 100 countries to bring about long-term change; we give children a voice in the places where decisions are made and we respond quickly to the emergencies that affect more than 250 million people around the world each year. As we do this, we focus on three key areas: child protection, child health and emergency response.

To be continued.