

## Gospel

### Matthew 21:33-46

### Parable of the Evil Farmers

<sup>33</sup> "Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. <sup>34</sup> At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. <sup>35</sup> But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same.

<sup>37</sup> "Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, 'Surely they will respect my son.'

<sup>38</sup> "But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, 'Here comes the heir to this estate. Come on, let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!' <sup>39</sup> So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him.

<sup>40</sup> "When the owner of the vineyard returns," Jesus asked, "what do you think he will do to those farmers?"

<sup>41</sup> The religious leaders replied, "He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest."

<sup>42</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures?"

The stone that the builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing,  
and it is wonderful to see.'



<sup>43</sup> I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. <sup>44</sup> Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on."

<sup>45</sup> When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them - they were the wicked farmers. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus to be a prophet.

NLT

### To Think About Forgiveness

If someone has wronged you, and you get revenge, you will be pleased for a minute, If you forgive him, you will be happy forever.

*Anonymous*

Forgiveness doesn't make the other person right, it makes you free.

*Stormie Omartian*



Christian Love in Action

**Sunday 8th October 2017**

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

*Proper 22*

### Welcome to Worship

9.30 am

**Holy Communion**, All Saints, Bradford

11.00 am

**Family Holy Communion**, St Mary's, Black Torrington

6.30 pm

**Harvest Service**, Holy Cross, Highampton



### Readings

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

### Collect

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:  
deliver us from unbelief  
and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

"Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

*Philippians 3:8*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**



**The Mission Community:** Revd Jane Lucas and the Ashwater Benefice;  
Revd Richard Freeman and Milton Damerel Church

**St Mary's Electoral Roll:** Ronda Mogridge, Mark and Rose Neave, Jackie Nutt, John Plummer, Elizabeth and Terry Plenty

**Those who are ill:** Jenny Searle, Dorothy Chandler, Avis Radford, Lorna Harris, Maurice and Joan Thomas, Brian Ough

**Black Torrington C of E Primary School;** Primary Lead, Lisa Paton, Lead Teacher, Lesley Osman and all the staff and children

**The Family and Friends** of Peter Evans

**The Victims of the Las Vegas Gun Massacre** which left 58 people dead and another 500 people with gunshot wounds or stampede injuries

**Rest in Peace:** Peter Evans

**October Diary**

Mon 9th	8.00am 7.30pm	<b>Morning Prayer,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington <b>Singing Practice,</b> Bradford Village Hall
Tues 10th	8.00am 7.45pm	<b>Prayer Breakfast,</b> The Rectory <b>FCMG Team Meeting</b> Priestacott Barn, Bradford
Wed 11th	8.00am 2.30pm 7.30pm	<b>Morning Prayer,</b> St Mary's Black Torrington <b>School Harvest Service,</b> Highampton School <b>Benefice Discussion Group,</b> The Rectory
Thurs 12th	8.15am 9.00am 12.30pm 2.30pm 7.30pm	<b>Morning and Silent Prayer;</b> <b>Iona Holy Communion,</b> St Peter's, Thornbury <b>Ladies Lunch,</b> Half Moon, Sheepwash <b>Burdon Grange Service,</b> Highampton <b>Communication Team Meeting,</b> Croft End, Highampton
Sat 14th	10.00am 11.15am 7.00pm	<b>Benefice Saturday Church;</b> <b>Iona Holy Communion,</b> Bradford Village Hall <b>Compline,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington
Sun 15th	9.30 am 11.00 am	<b>Holy Communion,</b> St Peter's, Thornbury <b>Holy Communion,</b> St Mary's, Black Torrington

**School Harvest Service**

Wednesday 11th October – 2.30pm at Highampton School

*Please come along and support our children*



**Focus on Compassion—More on USPG**

USPG - United Society Partners in the Gospel - is an Anglican mission agency supporting churches around the world in their mission to bring fullness of life to the communities they serve. In Sri Lanka, USPG are working with tea plantation communities and supporting leadership training.



**Thilega's story: 'I always wanted to be a teacher'**

*Thilega Rajendran* wanted to be a teacher from an early age. But the prospects of fulfilling her dream seemed remote because the tea plantation she grew up on offered few opportunities to children to develop their education.

But Thilega is part of a new generation that is benefiting from the intervention of the local church, which with support from USPG, has established nursery schools, helped young people from the plantation into university for the first time, and provided training so that local people are now providing pre-school care and education.

Thilega underwent training in teaching English and computing, and is now in charge of a small school for plantation children while studying for a teaching qualification. She told USPG:

*'I always wanted to be a teacher, but my parents are tea plantation workers and poor. However, thanks to the support of the church, I am now a teacher. I have achieved my dream, and I am very thankful.'*



**Letter of Joy!**

The benefice study group will be looking at Philippians; the 'Letter of Joy'. We will be exploring the relevance of this letter of Paul to our everyday lives. Everyone will be very welcome!

**Real Advent Calendars**

Telling the Christmas story and including Fair Trade chocolates, these calendars bring the real meaning of Christmas to many adults and children who have little understanding of the relevance of the birth of Jesus to their Christmas festivities.

The calendars cost £3.99 each - proceeds from the sale will help the Funzi and Bodo Trust equip a clinic in Kenya. If you would like to order any calendars please sign the list at the back of the churches before the end of October.

