

## Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed. NIV



A group of people who pray privately  
(and in strict confidence)  
for specific situations.

If you, or anyone you know,  
is in need of prayer for any reason,  
please contact: **Co-ordinators**  
**Sheila Grabham—01409 231581**  
**s.grabham@btconnect.com OR**  
**Sue Brice—01409 231630**  
**bricesusan@yahoo.co.uk**

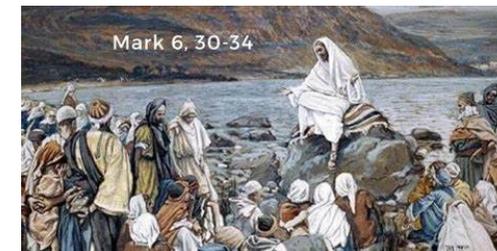
**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF CHURCH for the  
VISITATION by the ACTING ARCHDEACON**  
Thursday 22nd July, 7.30 pm **St John the Baptist, Bradworthy**

**All welcome**

*The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,  
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott*  
**Sunday 18th July 2021**  
**7th Sunday after Trinity**

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

9.30 am Holy Communion, Ashwater  
11.00 am Morning Service, Halwill  
6.30 pm Evening Service, Highampton



### **Readings**

Jeremiah 23: 1-6  
Ephesians 2: 11-22  
Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

### **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.

### **Interim Priest-in-Charge (part time)**

Revd Stephen Skinner  
sjmskinners@btinternet.com  
07554 142264

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**The Mission Community:** for all who live and work in our Mission Community.

**All who are mourning** the death of a loved one including the family of Philip Taylor (*Ashwater*)

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died including Philip Taylor.

**Those who are ill** or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Bryan Hancock, Sue, Grace Spelman, Mavis Watson, Peter and Maureen Ellis, Malcolm and Judith Lusted, Jenny Hyslop, Brian Colebrook-Clark, Tim Kirk.

**We pray for our Benefice Schools,** for all staff and pupils, as they prepare for their last week of this school year.

**We pray for those recently married,** including Lucy and Mark.

**Dates for your diary**

**Wednesday 21st July** 10.00 am Morning Prayer,  
Black Torrington Church

**Thursday 22nd July** 7.30 pm Archdeacon’s Visitation  
Bradworthy Church  
8.00 pm ZOOM Compline

**Meeting ID: 317 183 8102 Pass code: 848984**

**Friday 23rd July** 9.30 am School Leavers Service,  
Black Torrington Church  
3.00 pm Clawton PCC Meeting

**Sunday 25th July** 9.30 am Family Service  
Ashwater Church  
11.00 am Holy Communion  
Clawton Church  
11.00 am Holy Communion  
Beaworthy Church  
11.00 am ZOOM Service

**Meeting ID; 677 027 7192 Passcode Services**

6.30 pm Holy Communion  
Black Torrington Church

**Thought for Sunday 18th July 2021**

**“ONE IN CHRIST’S BODY”**

St. Paul writes beautifully for us in Ephesians 2: 11 – 22. The verse that I’ve highlighted in my Bible is Verse 15B : ”God’s purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.” It seems that through Christ’s self-sacrifice God is forging together a new being, entity or body, overcoming the old divisions between Jews and Gentiles. God intends that the old enmities between Jews and gentiles are overcome through the ‘passion’ of Christ’s death, resurrection and exaltation. It is not so much that God is incorporating Gentiles into the existing Jewish community , or vice versa. Rather, something radically new is being created – a brand new humanity where old distinctions are no longer valid. This is a new body of people, organically part of the spiritual body of Christ himself. It is a grandiose prospect, which already exists in heavenly terms.

But the question has to be faced: do we see much, if any, evidence that this amazingly strong sense of unity exists in the here and now? Honest examination of the state of the world leads me to feel that we are no more united today than we have in the past – perhaps we are even more divided across our world and across our churches. It is a depressing prospect to reflect upon the differences between Protestants, Catholics and Orthodox churches – despite years of meetings in ‘ecumenical councils’. Even Protestants remain divided, although more locally we have “Churches Together” Groups in Halwill and Holsworthy (both of which I am involved with). I’m glad that locally Methodists and Anglicans are getting on very well together, and within our individual churches there are no obvious divisions, but actually a considerable degree of harmony and friendship. Yet there is much more we can do to foster a genuine unity that will enable ‘heavenly’ realities to become ‘earthly’.

So, what can we do to strengthen our unity within the universal Body of Christ? Some suggestions:

- ~ Always make our prime focus to be all that we share in common as fellow believers and Anglicans.
- ~ Aim to be enriched by the diverse experiences of other Christians, of any denomination.
- ~ Accept unconditionally into our fellowship those of varying cultures and social backgrounds.
- ~ Seek for peace and harmony in discussions, in the context of honest and open debate.
- ~ Make the subject of Christian unity locally and internationally a top priority in your prayers.

Here is a prayer for unity that you could use:

“Heavenly Father, you called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world.

Forgive us the sins which tear us apart.

Give us the courage to overcome our fears,

and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will.

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Stephen