

Mark 8: 27-38

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

NIV



St Mary's Church, Black Torrington Harvest Flower Festival



Friday 17th September/Saturday 18th September 11am-7pm
Sunday 19th September 12.30 pm—7pm Monday 20th September 11am-5pm

Refreshments available throughout the day
Teas—Coffee—Cakes—Ploughman’s Lunch-Cream Teas

The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,

Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott

Sunday 12th September

15th Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

9.30 am Morning Service, Ashwater

11.00 am Holy Communion, Black Torrington

11.00 am Morning Service, Clawton

3.00 pm United Churches Harvest Service, Halwill Village Hall

6.30 pm BCP Evensong, Beaworthy



Readings

Isaiah 50: 4-9

James 3: 1-12

Mark 8: 27-38

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.

Interim Priest-in-Charge (part time)

Revd Stephen Skinner

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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 Rachel Gilbert (*Black Torrington*), Steve Bridges (*Black Torrington*), Trevor May (*Tetcott/Ashwater*), Lynn Tyrrell (*Black Torrington*)

Rest in peace all who have recently died including Trevor May

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

Dates for your diary

Monday 13th September	2.30 pm	Churchwardens/Parish Reps Meeting, Black Torrington Church
Wednesday 15th September	10.00 am	Morning Prayer Black Torrington Church
	10.30 am	PCC Meeting, Halwill Church
	2.30 pm	Living in Love and Faith Hope Chapel, Black Torrington
	7.00 pm	Collation at Parish Church of St Mary, Bideford of the Revd Canon Verena Breed as Archdeacon of Barnstaple
Thursday 16th September	12.00 noon	Funeral Trevor May Ashwater Church
	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
Meeting ID: 317 183 8102		Passcode: 848984
Friday 17th September	11.00 am	Flower Festival
	7.00 pm-	Black Torrington Church
	2.30 pm	Memorial Service, Rodney Brock, Ashwater Church
Saturday 18th September	11.00 am	Flower Festival
	7.00 pm-	Black Torrington Church
Sunday 19th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Harvest & Lunch With Archdeacon Verena Black Torrington Church

Thought for Sunday 12th September 2021**15th Sunday after Trinity****"MIND YOUR TONGUE!"**

We are studying James in our Zoom Bible Study Group, and so his wonderfully practical teaching is very much in my mind at the moment. In Chapter 3 he writes about the power of the tongue.

On a windswept hill in an English country churchyard stands an ancient grey tombstone. The faint etchings read:

"BENEATH THIS STONE, A LUMP OF CLAY

LIES ARABELLA YOUNG,

WHO ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF MAY

BEGAN TO HOLD HER TONGUE

If your lips you would keep from slips,

Five things observe with care:

To whom you speak, of whom you speak,

And how, and when, and where."

What a way to be remembered for posterity, for all to read as they pass by! Most inscriptions are pretty innocuous, but some have a bit of a 'barb' to them – make sure it's not on yours!

James illustrates the power of the tongue using the illustrations of a bit, a rudder or a small fire. The point is that these can be useful in controlling a horse, a boat or a campfire if used with thoughtful care. But if not controlled wisely under the guidance of God then the result can be disastrously destructive. These are memorable images – well selected by James.

Thus so, the tongue, if well controlled it can be used under God's guidance to edify others, offer censure where needed, and ultimately bless others. But when used in an uncontrolled manner the tongue can create massive damage to relationships and to the work of God in the church and world. The damage could be immediate or long term, 'passing' or even eternal. Cast your minds back to the good and bad experiences that you have had from the words of others – and learn from any mistakes. It might be that by God's grace you can even rectify the damage through sincere apology – my wife did this for someone today, and it immediately transformed their relationship!

Stephen