

Matthew 20: 20-28

A Mother's Request

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *NIV*



St Mary's Church Black Torrington

invite you to a
TEA and RING afternoon

Do come and join us on

Wednesday 28th July from 3- 5pm
and have fun!

*The Willis family from Okehampton will be bringing
some of their handbells so we can all have a go.*

You don't have to read music, we will play by numbers

If you don't feel brave enough just enjoy your tea and cake!

*We are raising funds in hope to get them refurbished
so that we can play at Christmas*

*The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington,
Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott*
Sunday 25th July 2021
James the Apostle

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

A warm welcome to Revd Douglas Adams and Revd Stuart Wilson

9.30 am Family Service, Ashwater

11.00 am Holy Communion, Clawton

11.00 am Holy Communion, Beaworthy

11.00 am ZOOM Morning Service

Meeting ID: 677 027 7192 Pass code Services

6.30 pm Holy Communion, Black Torrington



Readings

Jeremiah 45: 1-15

Acts 11: 27—12: 2

Matthew 20: 20-28



Collect

Merciful God,

whose holy apostle Saint James,
leaving his father and all that he had,
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ
and followed him even to death;
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever, 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*) and Jan Luckhurst (*Highampton*)

Rest in peace all who have recently died including Philip Taylor and Jan Luckhurst

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

All those suffering from anxiety, particularly in relation to COVID-19 as lockdown rules are lifted, we pray God would fill them with peace.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 27th July	10.30 am	Highampton PCC Meeting
	<i>Bible Study postponed. Next Bible Study will be on Tuesday 10th August</i>	
	2.30 pm	Churchwardens/Benefice Reps. Meeting, Halwill
Wednesday 28th July	10.00 am	Morning Prayer, Black Torrington Church
	3.00 pm—	Tea and Ring, Black
	5.00 pm	Torrington, Church
	7.00 pm	Tetcott PCC Meeting
Thursday 29th July	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
Sunday 1st August	9.30 am	Holy Communion Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Mission Community Service with The Bishop of Exeter Stanhope Park, Holsworthy
	6.30 pm	Evening Service, Tetcott Church



Meeting ID: 317 183 8102 Pass code: 848984

Thought for Sunday 25th July 2021

St James, The Greater



This Sunday sees us celebrate, in our services, the life of one of the well known Saints, who was an Apostle, one of our Lord's first disciples James. Known as the 'Greater' which distinguishes him from James the 'lesser' and James the Lord's brother.

This James whom we celebrate this weekend was with his brother, the Apostle John, when called by Jesus from their fishing trade to follow him.

They were the Sons of Zebedee, and also later nicknamed as 'The Son's of Thunder' by Jesus which conjures up something of their character perhaps.

Once again we see Jesus, true to form, choosing ordinary and arguably what others may have thought to be unlikely people to be his closest companions on his journey, or rather his mission.

What can we learn here? Well perhaps it's simply to let God do the choosing and that we should never write anybody off because we think they aren't suitable for something. After all it's always far too easy to let our own petty prejudices bear an influence on our thoughts, decisions and therefore our actions.

In the Gospel reading set for this feast day, we see James and John's mother seemingly pleading to Jesus for special treatment for her beloved sons in the Heavenly kingdom to come, implying that they should be treated more favourably than the disciples perhaps.

Jesus uses this request to give some radical teaching on status.

The other ten disciples were angry with the two brothers but Jesus calms the situation, in his wisdom he can see that their willingness to 'share the cup' didn't arise out of obedient discipleship, but more out of a desire to, as it were, get to the top.

Most interestingly Our Lord doesn't immediately deny the mother's request, but what he does do is to answer by telling her the way it will be in his kingdom. The only ones Jesus rebukes are his disciples here.

An interesting and challenging passage to read and think about this week. What do you all think about it?

Blessings from Jim