



Sunday 25th September 2022

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Points for Prayer. We give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth for her service to this nation and for her example of faith. We pray for the Royal Family as they mourn the loss of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We pray for King Charles III as he begins his reign.
The Final Day for signing the Book of Condolence. As a way of marking the death of the queen there is a condolence book in each of our parish churches. Note that today, Sunday 25th September, will be the last day for signing the book of condolence. Please remember that all our churches provide a quiet place for personal reflection on what her majesty meant personally to us, for this nation and for the commonwealth.

Churches Together in Ipplepen Joint Service on 25th September. With the rededication of the Methodist Church we will start alternating the joint monthly service between there and St. Andrew's. On September 25th the Methodist Church will host and welcome us into their new worship space.

Harvest Soup & Sweet Lunch from 12 noon to 2pm at Church Cottage Denbury. Please add your name to the lists in the churches or contact Tessa Amies on (01803) 813993 if you would like to join this Harvest Lunch .All Welcome!

The PCC of St Mary's, Denbury, would like to express our profound thanks to those many members of the community who turned out to assist in the recent reinstalling of our church bells: by providing labour, refreshments, clearing and cleaning or through support and encouragement. We literally couldn't have done it without you! Thank you!

New Start Date Autumn small group sessions, starting on Tuesday 4th October at 7pm - 8pm at St Mary's Denbury. Do you have a gift or talent that you are currently offering in our Church Communities or would be interested in offering? Topics will include leading, reading, intercessions, music and assisting at communion. See flyers for full details and the venues for each session. These sessions begin on 4th October at 7pm - 8pm at St Mary's Denbury. Please see the poster on our website www.missioncommunity.org.uk/ or contact the Church Office for more details.

Cream Tea Concert featuring the award-winning Folk Musician Jim Causley at St Mary the Virgin, Denbury has been rescheduled for Sunday 30th October at 2pm (Please note new earlier start time). For tickets and more information please contact Rachel 07751 804 007

Readings	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
1st Reading	Amos 6:1a. 4-7	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm	146	37:1-9
2nd Reading	1 Timothy 6:6-19	2 Timothy 1:1-14
Gospel	Luke 16:19-End	Luke 17:5-10

Readings for the week ahead:

Mon 26 th	Luke 9:46-50	Thurs 29 th	John 1:47-End
Tue 27 th	Luke 9:51-56	Fri 30 th	Luke 10:13-16
Wed 28 th	Matthew 9:57-End	Sat 1 st	Luke 10:17-24

Readings can be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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Today's Sunday Services

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Churches Together – Family Service	- Ipplepen Methodist Church
2.00 pm	Interment of Ashes of Kay Simmonds	- St Andrew's Churchyard, Ipplepen
4.00 pm	Harvest Afternoon Tea	- The Parish Rooms, Woodland
5.00 pm	Harvest Service	- St John the Baptist, Woodland

Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Tuesday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am	- Online Via Zoom (for the zoom password email rev.andrewdown@gmail.com)
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation)

Reflection

All our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down - Day off on Mondays.

We will be celebrating St Michael and All Angels (29th Sept) at the midweek Communion.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	4.30-5.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Saturday	10am-12	Coffee Morning	- The Parish Rooms, Woodland
	10.30am-12	Harvest Fayre and Gift Day	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	12noon-2pm	Harvest Soup & Sweets Lunch	- Church Cottage, Denbury

Next Sunday 2nd October 2022 – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Churches Together – Harvest Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2.00 pm	Interment of Ashes of Pamelia Langworthy	- St Andrew's Churchyard, Ipplepen
4.00 pm	Nature Walk to Torbryan	- Meet at Orley Common
4.30 pm	Harvest Communion	- Holy Trinity, Torbryan

In Memory: Pamelia Langworthy, Cynthia Griffiths, Barbara Bradburn, John Shepherd, Patricia Clarke, Betty Chudley, Margaret June Rowe, Sonia Pearse, Rev'd John Heath and Kay Simmonds.



Reflection by Steve Sheldon

Luke 16:19-31
Sunday 25th September 2022

This Sunday's gospel lesson is that uncomfortable story of Lazarus and Richman [or Diverus/Dives as found in the 16th century folksong]. Richman is in his comfortable home, living the life he pleased while Lazarus is begging for crumbs in the street outside Richman's gate. The unexpurgated version of All Things Bright and Beautiful tells us [wrongly] that God has ordered this separation of classes.

At the time of Jesus, the problem of extremes of wealth and poverty living side by side had been plaguing Israel for a thousand years. It was the number one theme of the OT prophets; and it seems to have bothered Jesus a lot too.

The problem is not one of wealth and poverty. Both Moses and Jesus said that because of human sin the poor will always be among us. Poverty is a given fact of life; part of reality. The problem is the attitude of indifference over this situation on the part of Richman.

Richman wasn't cruel or heartless; just careless and apathetic. He didn't consciously reject Lazarus; he just didn't give him a thought. He failed to pay attention to an obvious problem; he never considered what Lazarus' life might be like; he didn't love his neighbour in the same way that he loved himself; loved himself by satisfying all his appetites for luxuries and pleasures. To stop and think about his neighbour Lazarus would upset his standard of living, would make him uncomfortable. Richman chose good things for himself. Lazarus had evil things thrust upon without having a choice.

The basis of Richman's attitude problem was a sense of superiority and self-importance. So strictly speaking, this parable isn't just about wealth and poverty; it's about class attitudes, racism, and other forms of bigotry. Note Richman's attitude in the World of the Dead; he still hasn't a clue. He's demanding that Lazarus run around and do errands for him like a servant. He's only concerned about saving his brothers from damnation, not anyone else outside his class.

It's important to understand that this parable about life after death is not meant to describe Heaven and Hell. Lazarus and Richman are in the

same place, separated only by an impassable gulf. That gulf is not a real geographical place, but a barrier created by Richman himself, through his perception of the relative positions of himself and Lazarus in society, a perception that is contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

Richman built that barrier when he was living; he chose to cut off Lazarus from his society. The gulf created in life by failing to share with others, cannot now be bridged in death. It's too late. As Richman chose to exclude himself from part of the community while living, so he is left alone in the hell of his own creation in death. As Lazarus was excluded from society not by choice but by circumstances, so he is welcomed and restored to the community in death.

Unable to save himself now, Richman then plays the "If only..." game. If only he had had a sign, a wonder, a miracle of some kind, something dramatic to wake him out of his complacency, to make him pay heed to the words of Scripture. But one must first have the will to believe in order to see God's revelations. Those whose hearts are already closed to compassion, will also have minds closed to revelation. God had already revealed his will to Israel in the teachings of Moses and Prophets. All they and we ever need to know about how to treat the poor is contained in the OT scriptures. Miracles are secondary to this revelation, and in fact are useless for those who refuse to accept the message of the scriptures.

Ignoring God's revealed Word was Richman's downfall. The return of a man from the World of the Dead would not cause anyone to obey the Bible by choice; possibly out of fear, but certainly not as a loving response from the heart. Faith can never be compelled.

Jesus said the only miracle he offers is the miracle of Jonah. Jonah preached a message of repentance to the city of Ninevah. The people of the city heard that message and believed. No tricks, no magic, no signs and wonders.

Jesus was raised from the Dead, and yet few people really believed. The people who had experienced God's revelations and salvation for over a thousand years failed to hear the Word of God, failed to repent; rejected and crucified God's ultimate revelation of himself.

This is why after his resurrection Jesus only appeared to a handful of believers; there was no point in making grand displays to those whose hearts and minds were closed; who had decided to seek their own way and not God's.

How can we bridge the gaps in our society today?