



## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

### Today - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September

9.30 am	Harvest 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
6.00 pm	Harvest Evensong	- St John the Baptist, Woodland

### Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday	9.15 am (Book of Common Prayer)	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Thursday	9.15 am (Celtic Morning Prayer)	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am (Silent prayer and meditation)	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston

### Reflection

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

### Mid-Week

Monday	3pm-5pm	'T-Pot'	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	4.15 pm	Sta*x Junior Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	4.30 pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Saturday	12noon - 2pm	Harvest Soup & Sweets Lunch	- Church Cottage, Denbury

### Next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Seventeenth 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	Harvest Holy Communion & Bellringers Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.30 pm	Reflective Evening Prayer	- Holy Trinity, Torbryan
6.30 pm	Harvest Home Celebration	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

**Points of Prayer:** We pray for Lesley and Chris as they start on the Foundations in Christian Ministry course. We pray that this will be a fruitful year for them as they seek to deepening their faith, developing their gifts and exploring and discern what God's calling on their lives might be.

**In Memory:** Gerald Greet and Ivor Partridge.

**'Harvest Soup & Sweets Lunch' takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 12 noon to 2pm.** Please telephone Tessa Amies to add your name to the list for this lunch (01803) 813993 .

**All our churches in the Beacon Parishes are making Harvest collections for HITS.** Please feel free to take your contribution to any of our churches. <https://hitsfoodbank.org/>

**Denbury Harvest H.I.T.S. appeal:** Last week to bring donations to the church to leave on the windowsills for the H.I.T.S. foodbank. Please help if you can - the need is greater than ever. (Sorry - no fresh of homemade produce).

**On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 11am there will be the 'Harvest Holy Communion & Bellringers Service' at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.**

**'Coffee Morning in Woodland' takes place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 12 noon at The Parish Rooms, Woodland and then on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November.** This is a regular monthly coffee morning in Morning in Woodland which takes place on the first Saturday of each month. All Welcome!

**'Family Holy Communion Service with a Crafts table and Childrens Activities' takes place in St Peter & St Paul's Church, Broadhempston, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11am and then on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance Sunday) at 10.55 am (gathering for coffee and cake at 10am).** This regular monthly family service takes place on the second Sunday of every month.

**'Coffee Mates – Men of Denbury (and friends)' takes place at Church Cottage, East Street, Denbury, on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am.** This is a regular monthly coffee morning in Denbury which takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. All Welcome!

**'St Andrew's Ipplepen Gift Day 2023' with 'Coffee & Chat!' will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 10.30am to 12 noon at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.** This event will include a sale of produce, cakes and preserves. Flyers for this event can be view on the welcome page of our Mission Community website and within the printed hardcopies of the Ipplepen Magazine.

**Harvest Holy Communion in Broadhempston** will now take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 11am.

**On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm (for 7.30pm start) There will be a talk by Danielle from 'Children's Hospice, South West' in St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen.** Cakes and refreshments will be available.

**Preparations are afoot for our 'Come and See' St Andrew's Outside event on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm.** Please could you let me have any surplus clean, glass jam jars, 340-450g size range and empty clear plastic squash/soft drinks bottles up to 1 litre capacity. Thank you. Lesley Mawson.

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>	1st Reading Jonah 3:10-End of 4	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-End
	Psalm 145:1-8	25:1-8
	2nd Reading Philippians 1:21-End	Philippians 2:1-13
	Gospel Matt 20:1-16	Matt 21:23-32

#### Readings for the week ahead:

Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 8:16-18	Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 9:7-9
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 8:19-21	Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	John 1:47-End
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 9:1-6	Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 9:43b-45

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

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[www.facebook.com/denburyworship](https://www.facebook.com/denburyworship) [www.facebook.com/Broad20/](https://www.facebook.com/Broad20/)



## Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity  
Matt 20:1-16  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Whenever you look at the news on the television or read it in the papers, it seems as if we're living in a world where very many people are unhappy with their work conditions. They want better pay and they are prepared to strike to get it. Our struggling economy has meant that their salaries have not kept up with inflation - and many people are feeling overlooked by the government in the decisions and the policies they make. Often I can feel sympathy for those who strike - perhaps even support their causes - and sometimes too, I question why it is that many people want a better and better standard of living, and to be paid more and more for themselves, in a world where so many live in poverty and impossible hardship. How have we come to create a world where some earn obscenely enormous salaries and others are literally starving? What does God think of this world he has created for us - and how does our Christian faith guide us as we work out how to live in it? And the question behind this: What is God's kingdom like? - the kingdom we pray will come 'on earth as it is in heaven'.

The Gospel reading this Sunday is one of the Parables of the Kingdom, images of God's kingdom. We hear about the labourers in the vineyard, who are paid equally regardless of how many hours they have worked. It's a challenging passage, not least because it seems to introduce an element of unfairness in how the Kingdom works. Is it really fair that those who worked for only one hour should be paid the same wages as those who have worked all day?

The amount that the first labourers received for their whole day's work was not in itself unfair. We assume that they were paid the going rate, and they agreed to it. It only seemed unfair when they saw the generosity with which the later employed workers were treated - equal wages for everybody.

Whether the labourers worked for the whole day or just an hour, their need for money to support themselves and their families was equally as great. It could be argued that if the later workers were effectively penalised for other employers failure to hire them - that would be more unfair than if all the labourers were paid the same amount. You may think that this argument is a step too far - but it's worth thinking about - and about what parallels there might be in our society today. In the parable it seems as if the pattern for God's Kingdom is on the basis of equal pay for equal need, rather than linking rewards to earning power, luck or opportunity. This means that it should not be possible to work one's way to superiority over others - in the parable by simply having the opportunity for longer service - and in our own world in this or many other ways.

Some people in our society are more fortunate or more gifted than others. It's simply not true to say that anybody can do anything if they work hard enough - although we can, of course, strive to make the very best out of whatever it is that life has handed out to us. Some are born with wealth, good health, intellectual and emotional strength, loving family relationships - and some are not. By and large this is not a matter of choice - and people should not, I believe, be penalised for what they lack - for gifts and talents which they have never been given and never had the chance to acquire.

God loves us all equally - and that means fully and completely - and the miracle of his love is that within even the most damaged and deprived person he has planted a seed of life and love which can grow, develop and be shared. Our task as Christians is to find that seed in ourselves, and do what we can to use it and to discover life and love in others. God is the creator and the giver - and he wants nothing more than to see his love flourish in his beloved people, and in his troubled world. He calls us to help him in this task.