

Collect for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
Mysteries may likewise so prepare and make
ready your way by turning the hearts of the
disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in
your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings for Today (may vary)

Isaiah 35.1-10,
(Psalm 146.4-10),
James 5.7-10,
Matthew 11.2-11

Next week's Readings (may vary)

Isaiah 7.10-16,
(Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20),
Romans 1.1-7,
Matthew 1.18-25,

Later Today

4.00pm Hatherleigh – Praise@4.00
6.00pm Hatherleigh – Nine Lessons & Carols
6.30pm Bridestowe – Joint Carol Service
Northlew – Nine Lessons & Carols
In Church

Verse for the Week

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” **James 5:7-8**

Prayer and Reading Diary Sourton

Monday

Read: Isaiah 7.10-16,
Pray for: Our clergy, especially Adrian Brook and his family, lay readers and Sourton lay worship leader, Jenny Pratt.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 80.1-8,18-20,
Pray for: Local families, farmers and children; Boasley Cross Primary School and all schools in the Dartmoor Federation.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 1.1-7,
Pray for: The Sourton Commoners Association, Sourton Parish Council and Women’s Institute.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 1.18-25,
Pray for: Our PCC members and all who care for St Thomas’ Church.

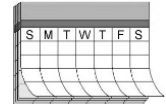
Friday

Read: 1 Samuel 1.1-20,
Pray for: All who visit St Thomas’ Church; our outreach to visitors and to all people seeking faith and direction.

Saturday

Read: Revelation 22.6-21,
Pray for: Those who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

Events This Week:



Tuesday 17th December:

9am Hatherleigh Prayer Group - Methodist
Prayer Room

Wednesday 18th December:

9am Bridestowe weekly jnt. church prayer meeting
10.30 -12.30 am Parent/Childminder & Toddler
Group. Old Schools, Hatherleigh

Thursday 19th December:

10am Holy Communion - St James Church,
Okehampton



Notices:

• **The All Saints Angel Trail** is underway; 40 knitted angels are scattered in the shops and businesses of Okehampton. If you can find all the angels (they are all named) you can claim a free hot chocolate at Toast. Entry forms wherever there is an angel.

• Hatherleigh Advent Course

Rev Leigh Winsbury is running a three part Advent course at 7p.m on 4th, 11th, and 18th December in Old Schools, Hatherleigh. He will be looking at what lies behind the 9 readings used in the 9 lessons and carols service.

• Next Sunday will be the **last Grapevine until 12th January**. If you have events you wish to include before the New Year, please make sure they get into next week’s addition.

Future Events:



• **"Who Let The Dads Out"** a new initiative starting in January in the All Saints Hall on the second Saturday morning of each month. This is an activity based group for male carers and young children. For further details phone Michelle 07535 633747 or Henry 07807 508543

Christmas Eve Services:

- 4.00pm Crib Services @ Okehampton, Belstone, Meeth, Exbourne & Northlew
4.00pm Christingle Service @ Lydford
7.00pm Hatherleigh – Carols around the Tree (in The square)
9.00pm Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion
9.30pm Belstone – Holy Communion
10.00pm Northlew – United Holy Communion
In Church
11.00pm Midnight Mass @ Okehampton & Bridestowe
11.30pm Hatherleigh – Holy Communion

Christmas Day Services:

- 9.30am Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Jacobstowe – Family Holy Communion
Northlew – Celebration in Meth. Chapel
10.00am Bridestowe – Joint Service at Chapel
10.30am Okehampton – Holy Communion
Sticklepath – Family Holy Communion
Lydford – Holy Communion
11.00am Hatherleigh – Family Holy Communion

Services for 22nd December 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am Sticklepath – Holy Communion
9.30am Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion
Bridestowe – Morning Prayer
Jacobstowe – holy Communion
11.00am Okehampton – Holy Communion
Sourton – Morning Prayer
Lydford – Holy Communion
3.00pm Inwardleigh – Christmas Fam. Serv.
4.00pm Hatherleigh – Praise@4.00
6.30pm Okehampton – Carol Service
Belstone – Carol Service
Exbourne – Joint Carol Service
Northlew – Carol Service in Church

Carol Concerts:

- Thursday 19th Dec – Jacobstowe @ 7pm
Inwardleigh @ 7.30pm
Friday 20th Dec – Bratton Clovelly @ 7.30pm
Meeth @ 7pm

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2019



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com
www.northmoorteam.org.uk



There are all sorts of stories about satnavs: how they can tell you to drive into a river or along a non-existent road or get lorries stuck in places they can't reverse out of. One of the best things about them, though, is that at the end of a tiring day you can get in your car and press "home" and it will calculate your fastest route. Somewhere in its little electronic heart it has a record of where home is and it always knows the way from here to there.

Much of the history section of the Bible is about exile: the journey to it and the journey back from it. Abraham left his home and went to the place God promised him, the people ended up in Egypt and then in the wilderness for forty years. After a settled time in the Promised Land they were carried off to Babylon and the later history books record their return. By the time of the New Testament, trade and Roman occupation had scattered the Jewish people all around the known world but they always had that sense of where their home was. "Next year in Jerusalem!" is still the toast at every Passover meal.

In our first reading Isaiah has a vision of a highway through the desert along which the exiles would return to their home. For us all these centuries later it carries that sense of hope because although we are not exiles from our physical home there is still a longing for a home that we do not yet see. John the Baptist understood the highway to be a message about repentance and salvation and so should we. Turning back to God is like pressing the button and seeing that welcome message "I'm calculating your fastest route home..." *Stephen*