

Collect for Today

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented
in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings for Today (may vary)

Malachi 3.1-5
(Psalm 24.[1-6] 7-10)
Hebrews 2.14-18
Luke 2.22-4

Next week's Readings (may vary)

Genesis 1.1 - 2.3
(Psalm 136)
Romans 8.18-25
Matthew 6.25-34

Later Today

4.00pm **Hatherleigh** – Praise@4.00
6.30pm **Okehampton** – Holy Communion

Verse for the Week

“For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” **Hebrews 2:17-18**

Prayer and Reading Diary Inwardleigh

Monday

Read: Genesis 1.1 - 2.3,
Pray for: For our church officers Dot, Phil,
Sandy and Brenda.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 136,
Pray for: For the churches choir: that it may draw
the churches closer together and bring new people in.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 8.18-25,
Pray for: For the small Sunday school and Janet
and Nan who run it.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 6.25-34,
Pray for: Give thanks to all the organisations who
contribute to the life of our neighbourhood and work
hard to make it a better place.

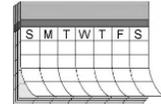
Friday

Read: Proverbs 8.1, 22-31,
Pray for: That we may know how to make the most
of the connections between church and community.

Saturday

Read: Revelation 4,
Pray for: For members of the congregation and
their loved ones who are sick.

Events This Week:



Tuesday 4th February:

9am Hatherleigh Prayer Group - Methodist
Prayer Room

Wednesday 5th February:

9am Bridestowe weekly jnt. church prayer meeting

Thursday 6th February:

10am Holy Communion - St James Church,
Okehampton



Notices:

- **Deanery synod** meets on Weds 12th Feb and once again the “Deanery plan”, which will affect the life of the parishes for the next 20 years (maybe) is on the agenda. All interested parties are welcome to attend: 7:45, Church Hall Market Street Okehampton.
- **The “Good Grief” Café** is a five week support group for people who have experienced significant bereavement, whether recently or some time ago. It begins again on Thursday 13th Feb in at the Medical Centre in the afternoon. It looks at the nature of grief and tries to identify positive strategies for living with it. If you think this might be for you please contact Stephen on 07790 909442.

Future Events:



• **Tuesday 25th February: Pancake Evening** at Old Schools, Hatherleigh from 5.00 - 7.30 on Shrove Tuesday. Freebie evening - donation pot available if you wish to contribute.

• **Thursday 12th March: “Prayer in a Secular Age – Finding the Secret of prayer in the Earliest Teachers” - a talk by Laurence Freeman.**
7pm at St James’ Church, Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter EX4 7AH.

This talk will provide an introduction to Christian meditation and is suitable for those new to meditation as well as those with more experience. No need to book and there is no charge for this event but there is a suggested donation of £5 to £10 to cover costs.

Dates for your Diary – All Saints. Okehampton

- **Sunday 16th Feb:** Games afternoon - Church Hall at 3pm ~ 5pm. Tea and crumpets.
- **Saturday 4th March:** Easter Fare
- **Sunday 19th April:** Church Lunch at Golf Club
- **Friday 24th April;** Quiz ~ 'Everything English'
- **Saturday 16th May:** Valley Voices Concert in Church.

More details for these events to follow!

Services for 9th February 2020 Third Sunday before Lent

8.00am	Sourton – Holy Communion
9.30am	Belstone – Holy Communion
	Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer
	Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion
	Bridestowe – Morning Prayer
	Jacobstowe – Holy Communion
	Northlew – Morning Prayer
11.00am	Okehampton – Holy Communion
	Lydford – Holy Communion
	Hatherleigh – Morning Prayer
	Meeth – Holy Communion
3.00pm	Germansweek – Confirmation Service
4.00pm	Hatherleigh – Praise@4.00
6.30pm	Okehampton – Evensong

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

2nd February 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

There is something that links all the people who first recognised Jesus as the Messiah: the shepherds, the wise men and, in today’s reading, Simeon and Anna; they were all watchers. The shepherds were watching over their flock, the wise men were watching the stars and Simeon and Anna were watching for what Luke calls “the consolation of Israel”.

Anna was an old lady: very old by first century standards. She was a widow who since the death of her husband had been a constant presence in the temple, worshipping and praising God. She makes this brief appearance on the stage and then disappears for ever; it’s as if these few moments were what her whole life had been leading to. Simeon and Anna might be forgiven if they had come to feel that having waited this long it was never going to happen but they had not lost that capacity to watch and wait.

Waiting impatiently is different to waiting and watching. We are called to be patient as we wait and watch. That becomes easier if, like Simeon and Anna, we have faith in the one who calls us to wait and watch because with faith comes hope and with hope comes patience. Simeon and Anna were blessed in their old age with a glimpse of the promised one. I am aware that many of you reading this will not be in the first flush of youth; I pray that you may be blessed as well as you watch and wait.

Stephen