

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error
the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the
fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable
to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
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)

Genesis 12.1- 4a
(Psalm 121)
Romans 4.1-5, 13-17
John 3.1-17

Next week's Readings (may vary)

Exodus 17.1-7
(Psalm 95)
Romans 5.1-11
John 4.5-42

Later Today

4.00pm **Hatherleigh** – Praise@4.00
6.30pm **Okehampton** – Evensong

Verse for the Week

“For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham.”

Romans 5:16

Prayer and Reading Diary Exbourne

Monday

Read: Exodus 17.1-7,

Pray for: Guide all the youngsters as they prepare for end of year exams and grant their parents patience and support.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 95,

Pray for: As all PCCs prepare for their APCMs, guide and assist in the election of new members.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 5.1-11,

Pray for: Bless all the Clergy and Readers in the Benefice for all they do in so many Parishes.

Thursday

Read: John 4.5-42,

Pray for: Grant your healing and care for all those sick and suffering in any way in our Parishes. We also pray for all those infected by the Corona Virus at this time and grant us all help and understanding to stop further infection.

Friday

Read: Joshua 1.1-9,

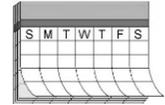
Pray for: Touch your faith and love on any folk who may be considering joining a PCC to ensure all areas of Ministry are covered.

Saturday

Read: Ephesians 6.10-20,

Pray for: Help us all Lord to feel your presence more closely and treat others as we would be done by.

Events This Week:



Tuesday 10th March:

9am Hatherleigh Prayer Group - Methodist
Prayer Room
10am Prayer Group – St James, Okehampton

Wednesday 11th March:

9am Bridestowe weekly jnt. church prayer meeting

Thursday 12th March:

10am Holy Communion - St James Church, Okehampton



Lent Notices:

•**Lent groups** will be taking place in various places around the team and details are available in the various parishes.

Bridestowe : Christ and the Chocolaterie

A Lent Course based on the film *Chocolat* will be held at Bridestowe Methodist Church on Mondays at 7.30pm. The Course starts on February 24th.

Hatherleigh: Discover what the church is and should be according to the Revelation of St. John, chapter 21. At the Rectory, Hatherleigh, 2.00 p.m. Wednesdays' 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th March and 1st of April.

Okehampton: Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Church Hall, beginning on 3rd March. We will be looking at “Big Issues”: those questions at the back of your mind which seem to hang around like unwanted guests at every conversation about faith: Who needs God? (Faith and Science) How did the dinosaurs fit on the ark? (Faith and the Bible) Where was God when...? (Faith and suffering) Loaves and fishes (Faith and miracles) Dead man walking (Faith and resurrection). There will be an introduction to the subject and an open conversation. All welcome.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2020 is 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valero; published by SPCK. Available on line or from the local bookshop: There is an excellent introduction by the Archbishop.

Health Notice:



There has been a great deal of concern about the Coronavirus (Covid19). The current Church of England advice is that there is no need to change our normal behaviour but that strict hygiene should be maintained in administering the communion bread and wine. If you are in any way unwell or if you are worried you should receive just the bread (you are asked NOT to dip the wafer, as that can be a cause of infection). This is a fluid situation and we will continue to follow best practice and keep you informed.

Future Events:



• **Thursday 12th March: “Prayer in a Secular Age – Finding the Secret of prayer in the Earliest Teachers”** - A talk by Laurence Freeman at 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.

• **Saturday 14th March: Coffee Morning**

Being held at Longridge, Lydford - at 10am to 12 noon, by kind invitation of Vic & Linda Hanson.

• **Saturday 28th March: CTiO Prayer Breakfast**

8.30am for a 9am start in the Baptist Lower Room.

• **Saturday 4th April.** (not 4th March as previously stated!!) 9:30 ~ 12 noon. All Saints Easter Fare. Raffle, cake stall, tombola and various Easter related stalls. Ann P would be very grateful for offers of help. 01837 55830

Dates for your Diary: Okehampton

Sunday 19th April: Church lunch at Golf Club

Friday 24th April: Quiz ~ 'Everything English'

Saturday 16th May: Valley Voices Concert in church.

Services for 15th March 2020 Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Bridestowe – Holy Communion
9.30am	Belstone – Morning Prayer
	Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
	Bratton Clovelly – Messy Church
	Bridestowe – Messy Church
	Meeth – Morning Prayer
	Northlew – Holy Communion
11.00am	Okehampton – Holy Communion
	Sourton – Holy Communion
	Lydford – Morning Prayer
	Hatherleigh – Morning Prayer
	Exbourne – Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hatherleigh – Praise@4.00
5.00pm	Germansweek – Evening Prayer
6.00pm	Hatherleigh - Evensong
6.30pm	Okehampton – Joint Evening Prayer At Fairplace Church

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Second Sunday of Lent

8th March 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

In the Gospel reading Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again. The transformation required to enable him to enter the Kingdom of Heaven is so fundamental that no amount of doing good is going to get him there: he doesn't need to reform, he needs to be reborn. Nicodemus is astonished and asks how it can be. Jesus talks enigmatically about being born of the Spirit.

Paul, in the reading from Romans, asks us to consider Abraham. Was he made right with God by keeping the law? Abraham was before Moses, so the law hadn't even been given then: he had never heard of the Ten Commandments. Abraham was made right with God because he had faith and God “reckoned” that as righteousness. He was not a righteous man (and if you read his story you can see how true that is) but he was counted righteous because of his faith.

This simple, liberating, concept is at the heart of the Christian Faith. It is not about us laboriously climbing the mountain of goodness to get near to God: it is about God reaching down and scooping us up in Jesus. We are saved not by works but by grace. We are Abraham's descendents and inheritors of the promise not by birth but because we share his faith. We too believe God, and that is reckoned to us as righteousness.

Stephen