

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus
Christ have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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

Ezekiel 37.1-14

(Psalm 130)

Romans 8.6-11

John 11.1-45

Verse for the Week

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe
in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone
who lives and believes in me will never die.”

John 11:25-26

Prayer and Reading Diary

Monday

Read: Matthew 21.1-11,

Prayer: Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer and Reading Diary

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 118.1-2 & 19-29,

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

Wednesday

Read: Isaiah 50.4-9a,

Prayer: God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thursday

Read: Psalm 31.9-16,

Prayer: For those who are ill
Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer and Reading Diary

Friday

Read: Philippians 2.5-11,

Prayer: For hospital staff & medical researchers
Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to
health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Saturday

Read: Matthew 26.14 – 27,

Prayer: From one who is ill or isolated
O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday

Prayer: For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

Notices:



- If you can't receive the Grapevine electronically it may be possible to deliver one to your door. Please let us know via the contacts on this issue.
- The first "broadcast" service from All Saints Okehampton was well received last Sunday. The intention is to carry on. You can see the first one by visiting the team website www.northmoorteam.org.uk. We can't offer you coffee and biscuits after the service: you will have to arrange that yourselves, but I am told the pews are much more comfortable!
- We would like Grapevine to expand during this time of lock down to be more of a newspaper. Now that we are mainly electronic space is not such an issue. We would like to hear from you! How are you doing? How are you passing the time? What are your hopes and fears? All contributions, profound or trivial, will be welcome but please no politics. You may think you have nothing much to say, but you will be surprised how much people will appreciate just hearing from you. Send your contribution to Sandy the editor who will publish them in "Grapevine plus" which will go out with this weekly edition when there are enough of them to make it worthwhile. Go on... put fingers to keyboards: what else are you going to do?

Future Events:



- **Christ and the Chocolaterie**
The Lent Course at Bridestowe Methodist Chapel on Monday evenings **has been suspended** until further notice.
- **Saturday 4th April:** All Saints Easter Fare
This is now cancelled.

Church Services:



Please note all Church services are currently cancelled.

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Fifth Sunday of Lent
29th March 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

In the Gospel reading set for today Jesus is confronted by Martha outside the tomb of her brother Lazarus. She is angry: why didn't he come sooner and stop this happening? Jesus tells her that her brother will rise again but Martha is not interested in some future promise. "I *am* the resurrection and the life" says Jesus "...do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord I believe." She says.

Some of you may know that my son Ben has been keeping bees. They are such wonderful, amazing creatures and it has been a journey of discovery for our family. Most new bee keepers lose their colony in the first winter and we have been watching the hive anxiously for weeks, unable to open up and look because of the cold. Then yesterday the first ones could be seen coming and going: it was a sign of spring, of life, of hope. We were ridiculously happy.

This time will pass. It will be hard but it will pass and that is what we need to have in our heads when we are asking "What is going to happen?" In the winter the bees lock down: they huddle together in the confines of the hive and wait for the spring. Then when the warmth returns they venture cautiously out and start all over again. Now is a time for huddling but it will pass. We are a people of resurrection and of life; we have to believe that.

Stephen