

Collect for Today

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice
and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of 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 This Week

Monday: Acts 2.14a, 36-41

Tuesday: Psalm 116.1-3, 10-17*

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1.17-23

Thursday: Luke 24.13-35

Friday: Haggai 1.13 - 2.9

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 3.10-17

Verse for the Week

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." **John 20:29**

Prayer Diary

Monday

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Tuesday

Most gracious God and Father,
in whose will is our peace,
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,
that by the power of your Spirit
the peace which is founded on justice
may be established throughout the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Wednesday

Lord God of Abraham,
bless the children of your covenant, both Jew and
Christian;
take from us all blindness and bitterness of heart,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom,
when the Gentiles shall be gathered in,
all Israel shall be saved,
and we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace
under the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.
Amen

Prayer Diary

Thursday

Merciful God,
creator of all the people of the earth,
have compassion on all who do not know you,
and by the preaching of your gospel with grace and
power,
gather them into the one fold of the one Shepherd;
Christ our Lord.
Amen

Friday

Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who
suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any
trouble,
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and
refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Saturday

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery,
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual
providence
carry out the work of our salvation:
and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up
and things which had grown old are being made new
and that all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin,
even Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Notices:



• The church buildings are currently closed to the public, not just for services but also for private prayer. You can hear a justification for this by The Archbishop of Canterbury here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY44A6FlhkI> We hope that when restrictions begin to lift this will be one of the first things to change.

• We very much want to remain connected during this time when we cannot be together. We know how easy it is for people to fall through the gap so if you become aware of anyone who is feeling lonely, or afraid or neglected PLEASE tell us so that we can make contact.

• There are various initiatives around the team to enable people to continue to pray for each other and for the community. If you are not part of one and would like to be please contact one of the clergy or Maurie Webber and we will see to it that you are directed to the best one for you.

• Thank you to those who have volunteered their help in various ways. At the moment most people seem to be managing remarkably well via their own support networks but it may well be that as time goes on there will be needs that come to the surface. Please be aware that these volunteers exist and don't be afraid to tell us of any practical needs we may be able to help with.

• An email discussion has taken place between treasurers in the team because we are concerned that this crisis will hit church finances hard. The general feeling was that this is not a good time to be asking for money but please remember the matter in your prayers. In due course individual churches will have to consider how best to meet the challenge we will undoubtedly face. Some help has already been given to parishes from team funds.



Church Services:

Please note all Church services are currently cancelled.

On-line Sunday Services:

These have been well received. You can access them by just clicking on the links that will be circulated later in the week or by visiting the team website or by going to last week's service and following the link to the next one. ***The plan this week is to offer a service on Sunday from 9:00 am.***

Leigh is also putting things on line which you can see by going on Facebook and searching for the "Hatherleigh Building Community" page.



Grapevine Plus:

Thank you to all those who have contributed to Grapevine Plus. Please keep your contributions coming in, no matter how mundane. Share what you have been doing, things you have found helpful, little acts of kindness you have come across. Let's stay connected!

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Second Sunday of Easter

19th April 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

This Sunday is traditionally known as "Low Sunday". After the great festival of Easter the following week seems routine by contrast. We all know that low feeling when something you have been building up to is over and you are left thinking "now what?" This year, of course, there wasn't so much of a build-up: our minds were elsewhere, but I think Low Sunday will coincide with a realisation that what we are going through is not an aberration from which we will bounce back but something which will change our country for a decade or more. "Low" may well describe how we feel.

But this is just the second Sunday of Easter and there are five more after this! The Christian Faith begins at the empty tomb and goes on into the rest of the New Testament. That is why we traditionally have readings every Sunday from the Acts of the Apostles: the story of the early church as it worked out the world-changing news of the resurrection. We are an Easter People: our day of worship is the first day of the week, not the last.

It is natural to feel low sometimes: I am sure you do, there is no shame in it. Easter does not require us to be upbeat all the time: what it does is to remind us that whether we are high as a kite or down in the gutter Jesus is alive. Like those very first witnesses we have to work out what that means as we battle on though the next few weeks, searching for the reality behind that Easter greeting. Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Stephen