

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 This Week

Monday: Acts 17.22-31
Tuesday: Psalm 66.7-18
Wednesday: 1 Peter 3.13-22
Thursday: John 14.15-21
Friday: Psalms 87, 36.5-10
Saturday: Psalms 87, 36.5-10

Verse for the Week

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by
mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and
like living stones, let yourselves be built into a
spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer
spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus
Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5

Prayer Diary

Monday

Risen Lord, we thank you for coming to live among us
so that each of us may come to know you and receive
your Salvation. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the
Life. Through him we can come into the presence of
God for ever. As living stones, let us pray for the
building up of God's Church and for the world He
loves.

Tuesday

Risen Lord, our lives are in your hands, and we offer
ourselves to you not only all that is behind us but all
that lies ahead of us too, throughout our whole lives.
By the power of your Holy Spirit we ask you to build
us into a spiritual temple where we praise and glorify
you in our worship, either alone or with others so that
your Church will grow and flourish.

Wednesday

Risen Lord, our planet, with the stress of modern life
is so open to abuse. As we see how even a short time
of lockdown across the world has helped to bring
about improvements encourage us to see how we can
continue these developments as we move forwards.
Guide all those in positions of power to see the way to
provide true goodness for all and an understanding
and acceptance of the values which are built on you.

Prayer Diary

Thursday

Risen Lord, as we live out our daily lives, often alone
at this time, help us to follow your teachings when we
have family conversations, sometimes in new and
different ways. Show us how to follow your Way of
Truth and Life, in our current situation and, as living
stones, when things move forward and change, help us
to build on all we are learning. Help us to be a
blessing in our neighbourhood and across our
community.

Friday

Risen Lord, you can use and transform all our
experiences. We bring before you now those who are
living through a time of pain or affliction; of body,
spirit, or mind, which they are finding hard to bear.
Hear our prayer for all whom, in our hearts, we bring
to you. May the light of your face shine upon them
and give them hope and peace and your transforming,
healing love wash over them.

Saturday

Risen Lord, we remember all those who have died and
pray for them; asking you to lead them into the light
of eternity. We pray for those whose lives have been
shortened by COVID-19, particularly those who were
caring for others. We ask you to bring comfort to
those who mourn and that you keep us all in the Way,
the Truth and the Life that you offer to everyone so
that we may all share everlasting life with you.

Notices:



• We are all realising that this time is more of a marathon than a sprint and those of us that began by running rather too hard may be starting to feel it now. Be kind to yourself and to others and recognise that the next few weeks are probably the hardest part. Please keep phoning others, please keep contributing to Grapevine Plus, even if it is to say how hard you are finding things and above all keep praying to the Lord of All who sees the end from the beginning.

• Thank you for all the encouraging messages about the online services: we are so glad people are finding them helpful. It isn't as good as being together but it is the best we can do for now. If you can think of other things we could do on line that you would find helpful please tell us: we are always looking for ideas.

• Sunflower Competition

All Saints are having a sunflower growing competition. You can pick up a seed & pot from outside St James Church. Share your photos on the Facebook page. Judging will be on 1/9/20. Michelle is also offering a delivery service for those that can't get out and want to take part- you can email her and she will get the pots and seeds to you. Contact Michelle on michelle0uk@yahoo.co.uk



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

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"Some people think football is a matter of life and death," said the Liverpool legend Bill Shankly: "I can assure you it is much, much more important than that." Interestingly, if you read the full context of that famous quote it is part of an admission of regret: he had put so much of his life and soul into his profession that he knew his family had suffered as a result, but it is good to be reminded that there are some things more important than life and death, even if football isn't one of them.

The reading from Acts tells the story of the death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. He had been arrested by people who were jealous of him and when he was put on trial he pulled no punches in testifying to what he believed. He knew that there are some things more important than life or death. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church" said Tertullian and the Luke records that the people stoning Stephen laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you." runs Psalm 63. The story of Stephen and all the martyrs who followed him puts life into context: it is important but there are some things more important still. This weekend's celebration of VE day reminds us of those who put their lives on the line for others back then and those who still do so today and calls us to put our own priorities in order.

Stephen