

## Collect for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom  
of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Readings for This Week

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11  
(Psalm 126)  
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24  
John 1.6-8, 19-28

## Readings for Next Week

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16  
(Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26\*)  
Romans 16.25-27  
Luke 1.26-38

## Verse for the Week

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words  
of prophets, but test everything: hold fast to what is  
good, abstain from every form of evil.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**

## Prayer & Reading Diary Lydford

### Monday

**Read:** 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

**Prayer:** For all members of the local community,  
especially those whose livelihoods have been seriously  
affected by lockdown, for local businesses and those  
whose work has to be done away from the safety of  
home.

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26\*

**Prayer:** For the elderly, the housebound, the lonely,  
those suffering from long-term ill health and those who  
are finding the present restrictions hard to cope with.

### Wednesday

**Read:** Romans 16.25-27

**Prayer:** That those in positions of power and influence  
nationally and internationally may speak and act with  
wisdom, integrity and compassion as they deal with the  
problems caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

### Thursday

**Read:** Luke 1.26-38

**Prayer:** For those who help to keep the church and its  
surroundings open, welcoming, clean and safe for those  
who enter the building to attend services, pray or visit.

### Friday

**Read:** Zechariah 2.10-13

**Prayer:** The Churchwarden and P.C.C. who are  
responsible for the running of the church: for their  
deliberations over works on the church fabric and  
grounds. For guidance as they explore ways to support  
our ministry in the local community and to visitors.

### Saturday

**Read:** Luke 1.39-55

**Prayer:** Adrian and those ordained and lay people who  
lead worship in the Northmoor team as they prepare for  
tomorrow's services, for those who help to enhance that  
worship with appropriate music, readings and prayers.

## Notices:



• This Sunday there will be toy service at All Saints  
Okehampton at 11:00 am. Please bring a toy wrapped  
(preferably not in Christmas paper, but it doesn't  
matter) and labelled with age and gender. The toys  
are given to a women's refuge, where women and  
their children often arrive with only the clothes on  
their backs and it is lovely for them to be able to bring  
a smile to the children's faces.

### • Online Christingle service

We are very grateful to the Okehampton United  
Charity for providing us with funds to hold a virtual  
Christingle Service this year. Free “make your own  
Christingle packs” will be available via schools and  
shops and details of how to take part will be on the  
Northmoor Team website. The service will take place  
live at 4:00 pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December.



## Christmas Services across the Team:

### Okehampton

19th December 4:00 online Christingle service  
20th December 4:30 and 6:30 pm Carol service (same  
thing twice)  
24th December 4:00 Crib service 11:00 Midnight  
Communion  
25th December 10:30 Family Communion

### Belstone and Sticklepath

23rd December 6:00 pm Carol Service: outside  
around Christmas Tree  
24th December 9:30 pm "Midnight" communion  
25th December 10:30 Sticklepath Holy Communion

## Christmas Services across the Team:

### Inwardleigh

20th December 7:30 Carol service  
25th December 11:00 am Holy Communion



### Hatherleigh

24th December 11:30pm Midnight Communion  
25th December 11:00 am Holy Communion

### Exbourne

20th December 11:00 am Morning prayer for Christmas

### Meeth

20th December 9:30 am Christmas themed morning prayer

### Northlew

24th December 10:00 pm Holy Communion  
25th December 10:00 am Christmas Morning service

### Jacobstowe

25th December 9:30 am Family Communion

### Bridestowe

20th Dec 9:30 Morning Prayer  
24th Dec 11:30 pm Midnight Communion

### Sourton

25th Dec 9:30 Holy Communion

### Bratton Clovelly

20th December 9:30 am Messy Church  
24th December 4:30 pm Carol service followed by singing in the square

### Germansweek

25th December 10:30 Holy Communion

### Lydford

13th December 11:00 am Lessons and carols  
20th Dec 11:00 am Morning Prayer  
25th December 10:30 am Holy Communion

## Church Services:



### Sunday 13th December

9:30am Bridestowe - Holy Communion  
Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer  
Meeth – Holy Communion  
Northlew – Morning Prayer  
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer  
Belstone – Holy Communion

11:00am Okehampton – Toy Service  
Hatherleigh – Morning Prayer  
Lydford – Holy Communion

3:00pm Sticklepath – Light a Candle for Christmas

6:30pm Sourton – Taize Service



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# Grapevine

**Northmoor Churches Weekly News**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020**

  
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“Do not quench the Spirit” says St Paul in the epistle reading set for today. Fire can be a dangerous thing when it is raging out of control but it can also be fragile and delicate: something that needs to be protected and fed. Faith can be kindled and it can be quenched.

“Do not despise the words of prophets” he goes on. He is probably not talking about the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah but about people with a gift of prophecy in the New Testament church. God has always blessed the church with prophets: people who have a particular gift for articulating what God is saying in each and every situation. Their words can be uncomfortable and they are often the subject of ridicule and abuse but Paul urges his readers to listen carefully for the truth beneath the words.

“Test everything: hold fast to what is good, abstain from every kind of evil” he concludes. Just because someone claims to be speaking with God’s authority doesn’t mean that they are. Everything should be carefully weighed and tested so that the good can be filtered from the bad. The aim is that the flame of faith should not be quenched but enabled to burn more brightly. We are going to need that flame in the dark days that lie ahead of us: make sure you do not quench it: in yourselves or in others.

*Stephen*