

## Collect for Today

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of  
eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and  
glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Readings for This Week

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18  
(Psalm 90.1-8 [9-11]12\*)  
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11  
Matthew 25.14-30

## Readings for Next Week

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24  
(Psalm 95.1-7)  
Ephesians 1.15-23  
Matthew 25.31-46

## Verse for the Week

“So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us  
keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup> for those who sleep sleep  
at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.  
<sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and  
put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a  
helmet the hope of salvation.” **1 Thessalonians 5:6-8**

## Prayer & Reading Diary Germansweek

### Monday

**Read:** Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

**Prayer:** Our special church of St Germanus in  
Germansweek. Pray for our Clergy, Churchwardens,  
PCC and Bell Ringers, all of whom make it so special.

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 95.1-7

**Prayer:** The parents of our young children in  
Germansweek and surrounding areas, may they  
encourage (by example) their young ones to be part of  
our Christian faith.

### Wednesday

**Read:** Ephesians 1.15-23

**Prayer:** The message of love and hope sent to you  
Lord on the ‘Prayer Tree’ in memory of our dear  
friends.

### Thursday

**Read:** Matthew 25.31-46

**Prayer:** The wider community of businesses,  
especially during this difficult time.

### Friday

**Read:** 2 Samuel 23.1-7

**Prayer:** Our local people who work so hard to make  
this Parish a better place.

### Saturday

**Read:** Matthew 28.16-20

**Prayer:** Love, Joy and Laughter in this community.  
Keep us well to continue to perform our daily lives  
but remembering THY WILL BE DONE.

## Notices:



- There are no services in any of the churches this  
Sunday in line with the Government’s latest  
instructions. If you should think that it’s a little  
strange that you can visit your local garden centre  
today but not your local church you might want to  
write to your MP about it, which for most of us will  
be *mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk*. It won’t make any  
difference this time around but it will register a protest  
and might make them think more carefully about  
future lock downs. Make sure you provide your  
address, or you will not receive a reply and your letter  
will be ignored.

- There will be services on line as before and in  
addition this time there will be a zoom fellowship  
meeting every Tuesday at 7:30 pm for an hour. The  
link will be sent with the link for Sunday services later  
in the week. If you receive Grapevine in paper form  
you can take part by phone. Ask whoever gets you  
the paper Grapevine to give you this information as  
well. Zoom is very easy to use, but if you are new to it  
there are plenty of “how to” videos on line. Here is  
one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

- Christmas is not cancelled! We are making the  
assumption that by then we will be back in some sort  
of tiered system and able to operate as we were until a  
couple of weeks ago. It will be different but we are  
doing our best to think of ways of making it safe but  
profound.

## Notices:



- Churches are allowed to be open for private prayer. The churches in the team each have their own policy on this. St James in the centre of Okehampton will be open on Sundays and Thursdays and you are positively encouraged to pop in and pray. Material will be provided to help you pray for the world, for our country and for our local area. Please carefully observe the usual rules.



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## Church Services:



*Please note all Church services are cancelled for the next 4 weeks.*

Video services will continue and opportunities to get together online will be expanded.

# Grapevine

**Northmoor Churches Weekly News**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020**

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The word “sober” comes twice in two sentences in the section of the letter to the Thessalonians set for today. Misuse of alcohol was as much of a problem in the 1<sup>st</sup> century as it is now, if not more so, but there is a bigger sense here than not getting drunk. Just as we use the word to mean serious and reflective, so does Paul. When we think about ourselves and about the future of the world we should do so in a sober manner.

People have always used alcohol as a means of escaping reality. While the effects last you can lose your inhibitions, believe your jokes are funny and that you really, really love your best mate who you’ve only just met. But there are plenty of other ways of escaping reality, the most effective of which is just refusing to think about it; filling our lives with sugar and fluff and focussing on the trivial.

This is the time of year when we are asked to think about the world and about ourselves with sober judgement. We can’t do it all the time but we can do it sometimes. We can take stock, we can ask hard questions and expect straight answers from ourselves about whether our priorities are right, whether our deeds match our words and whether we are heading in the right direction. For a few weeks we stop hiding from reality and dare to face up to it. Then when the festive period comes (please Lord let it happen this year) we can loosen the laces a little and enjoy ourselves.

*Stephen*