

## Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches  
of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son 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

1 Samuel 3.1-10 [11-20]  
(Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18\*)  
Revelation 5.1-10  
John 1.43-51

## Readings for Next Week

Genesis 14.17-20  
(Psalm 128)  
Revelation 19.6-10  
John 2.1-11

## Verse for the Week

‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.’

**Revelation 5:9-10**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Monday

**Read:** Genesis 14.17-20

**Prayer:** Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:  
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,  
for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve,  
for our bishop, and the people of this diocese,  
for all Christians in this place,  
for those to be baptized,  
for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith,  
that God will confirm his Church in faith,  
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.  
**Amen**

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 128

**Prayer:** Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders: for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land,  
for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,  
for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,  
that by God’s help the world may live in peace and freedom.  
**Amen**

### Wednesday

**Read:** Revelation 19.6-10

**Prayer:** Let us pray for God’s ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word:  
for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,  
for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart, that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant and to grow in the love of his name.  
**Amen**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Thursday

**Read:** John 2.1-11

**Prayer:** Let us pray for God’s ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word:  
for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,  
for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart, that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant and to grow in the love of his name.  
**Amen**

### Friday

**Read:** Jeremiah 3.21 - 4.2

**Prayer:** Let us pray for all those who suffer:  
for those who are deprived and oppressed,  
for all who are sick,  
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,  
for prisoners, captives and refugees,  
for the victims of false accusations and violence,  
for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them,  
that God in his mercy will sustain them with the knowledge of his love.  
**Amen**

### Saturday

**Read:** Titus 2.1-8, 11-14

**Prayer:** Let us commend ourselves and all God’s children to his unfailing love,  
and pray for the grace of a holy life,  
that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ, we may come to the fullness of eternal life and the joy of the resurrection.  
**Amen**

## Notices:



• At the time of writing public worship can still take place, although it is possible that at any time the rules will be tightened further. Individual churches are making decisions about what is possible for them and we will do our best to keep you informed in good time. You should not feel under any pressure or obligation to attend, although we will be delighted to see those who do manage to come. Services are being kept short and rules are being strictly enforced. We would not be open at all if we did not feel it was reasonably safe to do so.

• An email later in the week will give details of the various ways you can be part of the fellowship on line, including the weekly video. Last Sunday we experimented with streaming the service live from All Saints Okehampton. It worked well (somewhat to our surprise) and later in the week we will send details of how you can watch this Sunday. We have a slightly dodgy internet connection so it may not work all the time but the video will be there as well. Please believe me that if you have access to the internet you can watch: it's not rocket science!

• There is a Communion Service, using the Book of Common Prayer, in St James' Chapel every Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

## Church Services:



### Sunday 17th January:

9:30am

Meeth – Holy Communion  
Northlew – Morning Prayer  
Bridestowe – Morning Prayer  
Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion  
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion  
Belstone – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion  
Lydford – Morning Prayer  
Hatherleigh – Family Service  
Exbourne – Morning Prayer

### Contact Details:

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# Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021



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The passage from Revelation set for today contains some very strange images; in fact the whole book is so packed with symbolism and obscure references that is probably best not to be too concerned with details but to try to take in the whole picture. It was written in a time of intense persecution and John sees the dark temporary troubles of the world contrasted with the permanent glories of Heaven. He sees a lamb: a strange lamb to be sure, with seven horns and seven eyes; a lamb that has been slain and by its blood has ransomed the world.

The Bible does not make it clear quite how the death of Jesus saves us: that has been the subject of theological debate ever since. When I was turning out my study a few days ago I came across an essay I had written back in theological college entitled "Theories of the Atonement". I got a good mark but I am still not sure I could explain it to you. Whatever the mechanism, though, it is central to our faith that by his blood the lamb that was slain has ransomed people from every tribe and language and people and nation, including you.

Some of you will already have had your vaccination and through the wonders of science your body will be building immunity to this disease that has blighted our lives. The blood of Jesus, the lamb who was slain, has a far more profound effect; restoring our relationship with our creator: that is the wonder of salvation.

*Stephen*