

## Collect for Today

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may  
raise us to eternal joy;  
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

**Monday:** Acts 1.6-14  
**Tuesday:** Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35\*  
**Wednesday:** 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11  
**Thursday:** John 17.1-11  
**Friday:** 2 Samuel 23.1-5  
**Saturday:** Ephesians 1.15-23

## Verse for the Week

“I will not leave you orphaned, I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me but you will see me: because I live, you also will live.”

**John 14:19**

## Prayer Diary

### Monday

Almighty God, it's thrilling to hear from John's Gospel that we're *not* orphans; you live *with* us; you are *in* us! - that's what Jesus said – **there's no spiritual distancing!**  
Please fill us with wonderment and praise!  
John's Gospel also says: we are *in* you, and you, Lord, are *in* us. Wow! That's a dynamic life of loving-togetherness – **no two-metre rule!**  
Please fill us with wonderment and praise!

### Tuesday

Lord, bless your Church with the continuing energy and presence of your Holy Spirit.  
During this challenging time, give wisdom to all leaders across the Christian spectrum; thank you for the new ways we're enjoying corporate worship, not in a physical building but as living stones bonded together into the body of Christ, here in Devon and around the world.

### Wednesday

We pray for the leaders of the nations, and our own government, as they and their advisors wrestle with the science and politics of the COVID-19 pandemic. And we pray for speedy success with the international efforts to produce an efficient vaccine for our planet's population. We pray, too, for all working hard to provide the necessary technology, and personal protective equipment: the need is so great!

## Prayer Diary

### Thursday

Lord, your faithful Spirit resides in the compassion and gritty determination of millions. We give thanks and pray for those soldiering-on in residential and nursing homes, hospitals, intensive care units, health centres and online helplines. And we give thanks and pray for workers in multiple industries and services who enable the proper functioning of our complex society. We applaud their perseverance, especially when they may be weary or worried about their own families and friends.

### Friday

We pray for those with no garden to enjoy, the lonely, isolated and sick, and families managing the challenge of home-schooling. And we pray for teachers and all ancillary staff in our schools, businesses and workers wondering about their safety, and how they'll cope with the future. We pray for those feeling intense pressure, or facing financial ruin.

### Saturday

Almighty God, huge numbers are read out on the TV and radio. Each representing a deceased loved-one, missed and mourned by many; wonderfully created human beings of whatever age and race.  
We pray for all who grieve.  
From within the disturbance of death, blaze a trail of light, ignited by the awesome words of Jesus in John's Gospel: “**I am the resurrection and the life!**” Please fill us with wonderment and praise, Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## Notices:



• The restrictions on the use of church buildings have been eased a little and now allow a limited number of people to enter them for certain purposes, including the recording of services. They are not yet open more generally to the public but we hope that may happen reasonably soon. The resumption of church services still seems a considerable way off, so in the meantime we have to do our best to stay in touch, to support one another and to keep praying for those we love and for our nation. You can find the latest advice as it relates to churches on the Church of England website.

• From next Sunday the services Stephen has been recording will only be accessible via the link provided with Grapevine Plus or via the website. If you have been finding your way there by some other route you will need to take one of these options. If you would like a link sent directly to you please contact Stephen.

• The email list for Grapevine and Grapevine Plus has greatly increased during lockdown. It is no problem for us to add more! If you enjoy reading it, please recommend it to your friends. They just have to email Sandy the editor ([grapevine.northmoor@aol.com](mailto:grapevine.northmoor@aol.com)) and she will gladly add their name to the list. Maybe something of small but lasting value will come from this horrible time.



## 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!

## Contact Details

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# Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Sixth Sunday of Easter

17<sup>th</sup> May 2020



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I always give a little groan when someone says "We have to start where people are": it is such a well-worn cliché. But perhaps the reason it is used so often is that we have all experienced what happens when we start somewhere else. If we think people know something they don't or they believe something they don't or they want something they don't then our message will completely miss the mark. We've all been on the receiving end of it and we have all made the mistake ourselves.

St Paul's speech to the Athenians in Acts 17, which is set for this Sunday, is often given as a classic example of how to start where people are. On his travels around the city he had noticed an altar dedicated "to an unknown God". "I see you are very religious," he says, "...what you worship as unknown I now proclaim to you." What he was about to say was not a contradiction of their beliefs and values but a fulfilment.

In order to start where people are you have to respect them and in order to do that you have to pay attention to what they are saying and in order to do that you have to try to put aside your own preoccupations and prejudices. None of that is easy but when we are able to listen beneath the surface and connect with others at a deeper level the rewards are great; not only will they hear what we are saying but we will hear what they are saying as well.

*Stephen*