

Collect for Today

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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

Jonah 3.10 - 4.11
(Psalm 145.1-8)
Philippians 1.21-30
Matthew 20.1-16

Readings for Next Week

Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32
(Psalm 25.1-8)
Philippians 2.1-13
Matthew 21.23-32

Verse for the Week

“For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two.” **Philippians 1:21-22**

Prayer & Reading Diary Exbourne

Monday

Read: Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32

Prayer: Lord, watch over all our children as they begin the New Term, and University students facing a very different style of tuition in this challenging time.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 25.1-8

Prayer: Grant Teacher's and Lecturers special attention and unfailing courage and perseverance for this unusual and difficult time.

Wednesday

Read: Philippians 2.1-13

Prayer: Send your spirit down to all of us to be more caring and considerate of others.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 21.23-32

Prayer: Bless all our Clergy, Readers and Wardens for their continued efforts to ensure our Churches are open and welcoming.

Friday

Read: Ezekiel 37.15-28

Prayer: Dear Lord, we beseech you to help bring an end to this Pandemic and grant us all normality, as we know it, and guide us in our actions to assist.

Saturday

Read: 1 John 2.22-29

Prayer: Care for and bless our families and friends, far and near, hold them close and keep them safe.

Notices:



Government regulations now require the wearing of face coverings in church.

- The “Rule of Six” is now in place but fortunately it does not apply to places of worship being used for that purpose. This means we can continue as we have been. The rise in cases across the country is concerning and we need to be extra vigilant in keeping to the measures we have put in place. Case numbers in West Devon remain low.
- Please don’t forget to send thoughts and stories to Sandy for Grapevine Plus. This is no longer being produced weekly but a new edition will come out whenever there is sufficient material. It could be stories, ideas, jokes, things you have seen which you found inspiring, requests for prayer.
- If you know of anyone who is struggling in some way there may be things we can do to help: please let one of the clergy know. If it is a pastoral need they may be able to call or if it is a practical need they may be able to point them in the right direction.

Notices:



• Churches which have not yet held AGMs need to do so in the next few weeks. They are likely to be much shortened affairs, limited to the legal requirements and sometimes incorporated into morning services. Please support these important events in the annual cycle of the year.



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Church Services:



Sunday 20th September

8:30am

Bratton Clovelly & Germansweek – Celtic Holy Communion

9:30 am

Northlew – Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – Morning Prayer
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Belstone – Harvest Morning Prayer
Jacobstowe – Holy Communion

11:00 am

Okehampton – Harvest Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Family Service with Baptism
Lydford – Matins

Sunday 27th September (These may change)

8:30am

Sticklepath – Holy Communion

9:30 am

Northlew – Family Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – Holy Communion
Belstone – Holy Communion
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer
Meeth – Patronal Holy Communion
Exbourne – Morning Prayer

11:00 am

Okehampton – Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Morning Prayer
Lydford – Holy Communion

Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

15th Sunday after Trinity

20th Sept 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk



I suppose there is a time in everyone's life when you have to come to terms with the fact that you won't be around forever. When you are young you kind of assume you are immortal, as you get older you realise that you are not. Every time I take a funeral I think "One day this will be me". It's a strange thought, especially as it is not a fantasy but a cold hard fact.

As Christians, of course, we have a particular perspective on this: we have a "sure and certain hope", to quote from the funeral service. We don't believe that life ends with the death of our bodies; we believe that death is a gateway to a new life beyond our imagining. This is not a fantasy either: it is based on the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"For me to live is Christ, to die is gain" says St Paul in the passage from Philippians set for today. He goes on to talk about how he is "Hard pressed between the two": he knows there is still work to be done, but he longs to see the Lord face to face. Perhaps that is the answer: to embrace both mortality and immortality. In this life we have a purpose; in the next we have a place. By God's grace the later stages of our life can be lived in the ever increasing glow of eternity.

Stephen