

## Collect for Today

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
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 Kings 3.5-12  
Psalm 119.129-136  
Romans 8.26-39  
Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

## Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 55.1-5  
Psalm 145.8-9, 15-22\*  
Romans 9.1-5  
Matthew 14.13-21

## Verse for the Week

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”

**Romans 8:26**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Monday

**Reading:** Isaiah 55.1-5

**Prayer:** God of all hope we call on you today.  
We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.  
May your Spirit give us a sense of calm and peace.  
Holy God, we remember that you have promised  
That nothing will separate us from your love –  
demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.  
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

**Amen**

### Tuesday

**Reading:** Psalm 145.8-9, 15-22\*

**Prayer:** Loving God,  
If we are ill, strengthen us.  
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.  
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.  
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.  
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace. For Jesus' sake.

**Amen**

### Wednesday

**Reading:** Romans 9.1-5

**Prayer:** Dear Lord,  
Help us always to hold fast to the good,  
See the good in others,  
And remember there is just one world, one hope,  
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.  
In Jesus we make our prayer,  
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,  
In whom we trust these days and all days.

**Amen**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Thursday

**Reading:** Matthew 14.13-21

**Prayer:** You call us to speak to you in prayer. Help us to know your Spirit's presence wherever we pray.  
Today we especially pray for those who are living in fear – give them your strength.  
For those who have not yet realised the urgency of the situation – protect them, and all of us from harm.  
Today I especially want to pray for ... In the name of Jesus.

**Amen**

### Friday

**Reading:** 1 Kings 10.1-13

**Prayer:** Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

**Amen**

### Saturday

**Reading:** Acts 13.1-13

**Prayer:** Lord of all power and might, guide those who have to make difficult decisions in this time of crisis. We pray for government ministers and their advisors, for health officials, for senior doctors, for those who allocate resources. Grant them wisdom, clarity of thought and the ability to see a way through the tangle of competing demands. Help them to see power as a responsibility not a privilege and to use it for the good of all. In Jesus' name.

**Amen**

## Notices:



■ It is nice to hear good reports of services resuming across the team. There are still some things (notably singing and receiving wine at communion services) that we can't do but it has been good to be in the same physical space once again. If you have not yet ventured back you are encouraged to do so if you can: every effort has been made to enable you to feel safe and comfortable.

■ Church finances have obviously taken a hit over the last few months. Income has dropped dramatically and expenditure has remained substantially the same. Please think carefully about how you might be able to help, especially if you normally give cash when you come. Your treasurer will be very glad to hear from you!

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## Church Services:



### Services this Sunday (26<sup>th</sup> July)

#### 9:30 am

Bridestowe – Holy Communion  
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer  
Belstone – Holy Communion  
Jacobstowe - Holy Communion

#### 11:00 am

Okehampton - Holy Communion  
Hatherleigh - Holy Communion  
Lydford – Holy Communion

### Services for 2<sup>nd</sup> August (These may change)

#### 9:30 am

Exbourne - Morning Prayer  
Meeth - All Age Worship  
Northlew - Holy Communion  
Belstone – Morning Prayer  
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

#### 11:00 am

Okehampton – Holy Communion  
Hatherleigh - Holy Communion

# Grapevine

## Northmoor Churches Weekly News

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

## 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020



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For months just recently it was very hard to buy yeast because during the lock down many more people had taken to baking their own bread. I was among them: I have got a bread maker and I love waking up to the smell of fresh bread in the morning. There is something very therapeutic about making your own bread: even in a machine, but especially if you do it by hand: kneading, stretching, turning, kneading, stretching turning, and then waiting for it to rise as the teaspoon of yeast gets to work.

“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened” said Jesus in one of several short parables set for today. You can't see or taste or smell the yeast but you know it is there because of the effect it has. Unleavened bread is very different: there is no mistaking the two. In the same way, the little story says, God's spirit is at work: unseen, unnoticed but unmistakable in its effects.

Bread contains very few ingredients. The work of the baker, with all that kneading and waiting and baking, is just to enable the yeast to get to its work of multiplying and in the process giving off the gas which causes the bread to rise. In the same way it is not up to us to do the Spirit's work. Our job is to create the conditions so that the aroma of God at work: love, joy, peace and all the other things God's spirit produces, can fill the house.

*Stephen*