

## Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error  
the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way  
of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable  
to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
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

Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16  
(Psalm 22.23-31)  
Romans 4.13-25  
Mark 8.31-38

## Readings for Next Week

Exodus 20.1-17  
(Psalm 19)  
1 Corinthians 1.18-25  
John 2.13-22

## Verse for the Week

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them "If any want to become my followers let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me."  
**Mark 8:34**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Monday

**Read:** Exodus 20.1-17

**Prayer:** God of all wisdom, we pray for those who have to make big decisions at this time: for government ministers and leaders of local councils, for CEOs and scientific officers; for all who hold positions of power in this global emergency. Grant them insight, patience and compassion: the desire to do the right thing and the courage to put it into effect. For Jesus' sake.

**Amen**

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 19

**Prayer:** Risen Lord Jesus, we rejoice that you are seated at the father's right hand in glory. Pray for us that we may receive your spirit. Liberate us from the bonds of doubt and fear and set us free to be the people we are called to be. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Amen**

### Wednesday

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we pray for children being educated at home. Grant to parents understanding and patience as they carry on this difficult task. Help teachers to provide the kind of help and support that is needed and guide their thinking as they consider how children may safely return to their classrooms. We pray especially for our local schools... Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Amen**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Thursday

**Read:** John 2.13-22

**Prayer:** Lord of all, we lay before you the needs of your church. Help us to respond wisely and well to the crisis we are facing. Help us to stay connected and committed to each other. Guide us as we seek to be church in new and innovative ways and yet help us not to be so focussed on new technology that we forget the value of the old. May we be determined that no one be left behind as we seek to move forward. In Jesus name,

**Amen**

### Friday

**Read:** Exodus 5.1 - 6.1

**Prayer:** Merciful Lord, we pray for our local care homes. We pause for a moment to remember the ones near us and the people we know there... Watch over residents and staff. Set your angels at the doors to keep evil out and love and security within. May each person, however old and frail they may be, know that they are valued, loved and held in your care. For Jesus' sake.

**Amen**

### Saturday

**Read:** Philippians 3.4b-14

**Prayer:** Lord of healing we pray for those who are sick, for those who are anxious and afraid, for those in need of medical help who feel unable to access it. In your mercy meet their needs. Grant wisdom and compassion to doctors and medical staff and enable the right help to be available at the right time. Comfort those who mourn, especially those who are grieving without the presence of family and friends: may they know your overshadowing power and grace. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Amen**

## Notices:



- It's not too late to join a lent group. There are three on offer. Details have been sent with previous emails, but if you would like it again please email Sandy or Stephen.
- This time last year we were just beginning to realise we were facing a serious problem. Over the last few months we have all had to learn new things and to engage with church in a different way. Some people have found this much easier than others. I would like to pay tribute to our readers, wardens, treasurers and other officers who have risen to the challenge and got us through this far. I have been deeply impressed by the resilience of our churches and our congregations. It has been a test but so far at least we have survived it: thank you. *Stephen*.
- Thank you for your generosity which has meant that all the churches have survived last year in a relatively sound financial position. However the lack of other sources of income does mean that we are increasingly reliant on that generosity and with small congregations in church at the moment we do need you to think about your regular giving. Please continue to be as generous as you can and if you are not already part of a planned giving scheme please consider joining one. Your treasurer will be able to help you with this.
- The government announcements this week do not appear to affect churches, however the encouraging news about the effectiveness of vaccines should give us confidence as we continue to offer a mixture of online and in church worship.

## Church Services:



### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February:

8:30am  
Sticklepath – Holy Communion

9:30am  
Sourton – Morning Prayer  
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer  
Belstone – Holy Communion

11:00am  
Okehampton – Holy Communion  
Lydford – Holy Communion

5:00pm  
Bratton Clovelly – Evening Prayer

**Services are subject to last minute changes at the moment, so if there are any alterations to this list, updates will be published in the email that comes out later in the week.**

### Contact Details:

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# Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

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

28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



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[www.northmoorteam.org.uk](http://www.northmoorteam.org.uk)

Over the last few months we have all learned to be scared. We have come to see other people as possible sources of infection, to see crowded places as dangerous, to think of any cough as the potential beginning of something serious. We have started to think about how the air may be filled with invisible deadly droplets, that any surface may be contaminated, that the only safe place is in our house with the door shut.

This week a “roadmap” to something closer to normality has been laid out: four cautious steps back to a way of living that in previous years would have felt very restricted but which we now think of as freedom. I have every sympathy with the caution: the last thing we want to do is open everything up and see infections rise again, but I do worry about the effect all this is having on the way we think.

“Anyone who seeks to keep their life will lose it” says Jesus in the Gospel reading set for this Sunday. He wasn't talking about a pandemic, of course, he was responding to Peter's insistence that the disciples would keep him safe, but maybe there is a word for us in there. If our focus is simply on preserving our life then we risk losing its purpose. Jesus faced what was about to happen because he had this overwhelming sense of his Father's will. As the restrictions on our lives loosen a little over the coming months I pray that the same sense of purpose will give us the courage to step outside the boxes we have put ourselves in and that little by little we can learn not to be scared. *Stephen*