

## Collect for Today

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray  
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:  
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,  
forgiving us those things of which our conscience  
is afraid and giving us those good things  
which we are not worthy to ask  
but through the merits and mediation  
of 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

Jeremiah 15.15-21  
(Psalm 26.1-8)  
Romans 12.9-21  
Matthew 16.21-28

## Readings for Next Week

Ezekiel 33.7-11  
(Psalm 119.33-40)  
Romans 13.8-14  
Matthew 18.15-20

## Verse for the Week

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast  
to what is good: love one another with mutual  
affection, outdo one another in showing honour.”

**Romans 12:9-10**

## Prayer & Reading Diary Hatherleigh

### Monday

**Read:** Ezekiel 33.7-11

**Prayer:** Thank God for the good relationships  
building up between the churches as we have been  
meeting together now that we are the only church  
open in the town; that these relationships continue  
positively into the future whatever it holds.

### Tuesday

**Read:** Psalm 119.33-40

**Prayer:** Pray for the details of arranging to settle a  
'Connect' youth worker in Hatherleigh, that we can  
find the right host family and provide a good support  
network.

### Wednesday

**Read:** Romans 13.8-14

**Prayer:** Pray that since we have had such a limited  
social life this year, those folks in the community  
showing interest in faith in Jesus don't get lost to our  
network of communication.

### Thursday

**Read:** Matthew 18.15-20

**Prayer:** Pray for the people stepping forward to take  
on new roles here; warden, treasurer, Lay Reader and  
Lay worship leader.

### Friday

**Read:** Ezekiel 12.21 - 13.16

**Prayer:** Pray that we are able to renew our contact  
with the school after the closure, and for clear,  
creative thinking to engage our young people.

### Saturday

**Read:** Acts 19.1-20

**Prayer:** Pray for our local people who work so hard  
to make this Parish a better place.

## Notices:



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

It has been lovely to see so many of you back in  
church in recent weeks. We feel confident that we  
have the measures in place to keep any risk from  
gathering in this way to an absolute minimum but we  
completely understand that for some people it is still a  
step too far. For that reason we have continued with  
video services on Sundays. The talk is the same as the  
one Stephen is preaching at the services so be warned:  
if you watch the service and then come to church you  
may get the same sermon twice! The video has been  
“upgraded” a little to include more music. If you  
receive Grapevine by email you will also receive a  
notification on Friday or Saturday with a link to the  
video, but you can always find it by going to the team  
website.

Face coverings are now mandatory for those coming  
to church. There are some exceptions and if you think  
you may be exempt please check the government  
advice. Please be aware that there may be some who  
are not covering up for good reasons. A face shield is  
an acceptable alternative as long as it covers nose and  
mouth. Some find these easier. Those leading worship  
are not required to wear a covering except at moments  
when they come into closer contact with people.

## Notices:



You might like to try the daily “Night Prayer” services of 6-7 minutes reflection and prayers designed for use before sleep. You can find them in video form on the same YouTube channel as the Sunday services or as podcasts if you search “Moorthoughts” on any of the major podcast channels.

Please remember to pray for our schools as they return in the next few days.



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## Church Services:



### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

#### 9:30 am

Exbourne – Holy Communion  
Belstone – Morning Prayer  
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

#### 11:00 am

Okehampton – Holy Communion  
Hatherleigh – Joint Service  
Sourton – Benefice Service

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September (These may change)

#### 8:00am

Sourton – Holy Communion

#### 9:30 am

Meeth – All Age Worship  
Northlew – Holy Communion  
Bridestowe – Joint Service in Church  
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion  
Belstone – Morning Prayer  
Exbourne – Morning Prayer

#### 11:00 am

Okehampton – Family Service  
Hatherleigh – Holy Communion  
Lydford – Morning Prayer  
Bridestowe – Joint Service in Chapel

#### 11:15am

Bratton Clovelly & Germansweek –  
Holy Communion

# Grapevine

## Northmoor Churches Weekly News

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

## 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020



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“Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse them.” So runs one of the many pithy pieces of advice in the extract from the Letter to the Romans set for this Sunday. “Bless” is a word that is being used more and more. People will say about their child “He can be a little monster sometimes... bless him.” It isn’t much more than an expression of affection. “Bless” should be a stronger word than that.

Blessing in the Bible is the opposite and the antidote to cursing. Cursing is violent and destructive, blessing is creative and healing. Cursing sides with evil; blessing sides with good. Blessing is God’s business and we are called to bless and to be a blessing in the name of the Lord.

Blessing is also priestly business: it is part of the priesthood of all believers to pronounce blessing. When confronted with evil we choose to bless, not to curse. Our task in these difficult times is to bless and to seek ways of being a blessing: to be light in darkness, hope in despair, comfort in sadness, strength in weakness, a place of shelter in the storm. That really is our number one task at the moment: to bless in the Name of the Lord. Next time you are faced with a choice of blessing or cursing try blessing.

*Stephen*