

## Collect for Today

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented  
in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ 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

Malachi 3.1-5  
(Psalm 24.7-10)  
Hebrews 2.14-18  
Luke 2.22-40

## Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 40.21-31  
(Psalm 147.1-12,21c)  
1 Corinthians 9.16-23  
Mark 1.29-39

## Verse for the Week

“Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.”

**Hebrews 2:17-18**

## Prayer & Reading Diary

### Monday

**Read:** Isaiah 40.21-31

**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

**Read:** Psalm 147.1-21

**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

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 9.16-23

**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

**Read:** Mark 1.29-39

**Prayer:** You call us to speak to you in prayer– even  
when the places we would usually go to are not  
available. Help us to know you 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

**Read:** Numbers 13.1-2, 27-33

**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  
(from St Patrick’s Breastplate)

### Saturday

**Read:** Philippians 2.12-28

**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:



- Apologies if some of you were struggling with the sound at last Sunday's live service. There was an issue with the microphone level which we will correct for this week. It is quite hard to get it right when you don't actually know what people are seeing and hearing at the other end! More experimentation needed during this week.
- As usual there will be a video service available at the end of the week on the website or via the link which will be sent out later.
- There will be no Zoom Fellowship next Tuesday (2<sup>nd</sup>) but it will resume the following week (9<sup>th</sup>). Please do think about joining us.
- Every Thursday there is a 20 minute time of prayer by Christians Together Okehampton at 7:00 pm on Zoom. If you would like to be part of it, ask Stephen or Beverley to be put on the list of people who receive the link. If you don't do Zoom you might just like to light a candle and join in praying at the same time for all the local churches.
- The extended lockdown and isolation is dangerous to our mental and physical health. Both of these are precious to God because we are precious to God. Please see it as part of your Christian practice to take care of your own health and to look out for the health of others. We are still allowed to go for a walk with one other person. Why not think if there is someone you could team up with and get some fellowship and fresh air?
- It has been decided to pause Thursday communions in St James for the time being. They will be resumed as soon as it seems wise to do so. The chapel will remain open for private prayer on Thursdays and Sundays.

## Church Services:



### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January:

9:30am

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion  
Belstone – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion  
Bratton Clovelly – Benefice Service

**These are the only services that have been confirmed as taking place as of publication.**

**Services are however 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:

- Revd Stephen Cook (Team Rector)  
01837 659297 [SCook9673@aol.com](mailto:SCook9673@aol.com)
- Revd Adrian Brook (Team Vicar)  
01837 861580 [adrian@ministry.plus.com](mailto:adrian@ministry.plus.com)
- Revd Leigh Winsbury (Team Vicar)  
01837 810680 [lwinsbury@googlemail.com](mailto:lwinsbury@googlemail.com)
- Revd Richard Bache (Curate)  
01822 820536 [rich.foley@btinternet.com](mailto:rich.foley@btinternet.com)
- Ruth Cartlidge (Team Administrator)  
07551 655424 [northmoorpa@gmail.com](mailto:northmoorpa@gmail.com)
- Maurie Webber  
01837 53845 [mwebberm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mwebberm@yahoo.co.uk)



# Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021



[grapevine.northmoor@aol.com](mailto:grapevine.northmoor@aol.com)



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

A friend of mine who is about the same age as me posted on Facebook that he had worked out there were about 10 million people in the queue for a vaccine ahead of him and that if the queue were socially distanced it would stretch half way round the world, so he was heading to Auckland to join at the back! At least it would be summer there.

It is hard to wait. It is even harder if you don't know how long you will have to wait. It is harder still if you are not absolutely sure that the thing you are waiting for will happen at all. Yet most of our life is spent waiting in one way or another: from the little things like waiting at those traffic lights in the middle of Okehampton, to the major things like waiting for the right job or the right life partner. So if life is to be bearable we have to learn how to wait properly.

Waiting is transformed by faith: the kind of faith that Simeon and Anna had in the Gospel reading set for today. They had waited all their life in the belief that God would grant them a glimpse of the Messiah. This was the moment that defined them and gave meaning to all that had gone before. If we can learn to trust our lives to God's purpose and believe that in the end all will be well and all manner of things will be well then the constant waiting becomes bearable.

*Stephen*