

## Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things  
which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Readings for This Week

**Monday:** Acts 7.55-60  
**Tuesday:** Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16\*  
**Wednesday:** 1 Peter 2.2-10  
**Thursday:** John 14.1-14  
**Friday:** Zechariah 4.1-10  
**Saturday:** Revelation 21.1-14

## Verse for the Week

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness: by his wounds you have been healed.”

**1 Peter 2:19-end**

## Prayer Diary

### Monday

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. May your love that never fails strengthen the weak encourage the fearful calm the anxious heal the sick through your church – your washed hands and feet on earth – distant but still present virtual but still connected apart but still helping.

**Lord in your mercy.**

### Tuesday

God of all hope even in the darkest moments, love gives hope. Love compels us to come alongside our sisters and brothers. Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one. As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family as we lift up our hearts together in prayer. (Silence)

**Lord in your mercy.**

### Wednesday

God of compassion, keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; for those who grieve in their darkness, be their light; Sustain and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

**Lord in your mercy.**

## Prayer Diary

### Thursday

Dear Lord thank you that you are with us as we pray. Lord as we come into your quiet place of being this day help us to bring ourselves fully into your presence, not expecting anything, only coming to give of ourselves and our time freely and allow us to simply be with the One who loves us. Let our spirit roam where it is guided by you.

**Lord in your mercy.**

### Friday

Loving God instil in our shaken souls the belief and hope that all things are possible with your creative love for strangers to become friends, for science to source solutions, for resources to be generously shared so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need for your perfect love that knows no borders may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides. May your love that never ends be our comfort, strength and guide for the wellbeing of all and the glory of God.

**Lord in your mercy.**

### Saturday

Father, as we seek Your wisdom daily, be with and guide those people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

**Lord in your mercy. Amen**

## Notices:



• Thank you for all the encouraging messages about the online services: we are so glad people are finding them helpful. It isn't as good as being together but it is the best we can do for now. If you can think of other things we could do on line that you would find helpful please tell us: we are always looking for ideas.

### • Sunflower Competition

All Saints are having a sunflower growing competition. You can pick up a seed & pot from outside St James Church. Share your photos on the Facebook page. Judging will be on 1/9/20. Michelle is also offering a delivery service for those that can't get out and want to take part- you can email her and she will get the pots and seeds to you. Contact Michelle on [michelle0uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michelle0uk@yahoo.co.uk)

### • Pyjamarama: Friday 1 May

[Libraries Unlimited](#) is encouraging families across Devon to join them on Friday 1 May for a celebration of bedtime stories as part of the [Book Trust's online reading festival, Pyjamarama](#). Find out more about the events planned by your local library by [following them on Facebook](#).

### • VE 75: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

There are posters and bunting to download to put in windows to help celebrate Victory in Europe (75 years) on 8<sup>th</sup> May. In addition, if you go to the home page and click on the Dan Snow link, there are lots of activities you can do at home. <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/toolkit/>



## Church Services:

*Please note all Church services are currently cancelled.*

## On-line Sunday Services:

These have been well received. You can access them by just clicking on the links that will be circulated later in the week or by visiting the team website or by going to last week's service and following the link to the next one. *The plan this week is to offer a service on Sunday from 9:00 am.*

Leigh is also putting things on line which you can see by going on Facebook and searching for the "Hatherleigh Building Community" page.



## Grapevine Plus:

Thank you to all those who have contributed to Grapevine Plus. Please keep your contributions coming in, no matter how mundane. Share what you have been doing, things you have found helpful, little acts of kindness you have come across. Let's stay connected!

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# Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Fourth Sunday of Easter

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020



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When Jesus said "I am the good shepherd", as he does in the Gospel reading set for today, the image would have been no surprise to his hearers. It spoke to their ancestral roots: Abraham was a nomadic herdsman, and the sight of shepherds leading their sheep was familiar. The comparison was made by the prophets: the false shepherds, who exploited the people for their own ends, was contrasted with the good shepherds God looked for.

The service for the consecration of bishops contains this charge: "Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ. Mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep, they are to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people and being known by them." That's quite a contrast to the prince bishops of earlier centuries who were quite capable of being the bishop of places they had never visited. Thankfully we are served by a better set of bishops now.

But just as bishops are called to follow the example of the Good Shepherd, so are we all. Pastoral care is not something we can hand over to someone else: it is the responsibility of all of us. The example Jesus set is just that: a pattern for us to follow, just as he washed his disciples' feet and told them to do the same. Who has God given you to care for? Who could you pick up the phone and speak to today? How could you show love to someone who needs it? We are all of us called to be shepherds in the pattern of the Good Shepherd Jesus set.

*Stephen*