

Collect for Today

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
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

Zechariah 9.9-12

Psalms 145.8-15

Romans 7.15-25a

Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 55.10-13

Psalms 65. [1-7] 8-13*

Romans 8.1-11

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Verse for the Week

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11:28-30

Prayer & Reading Diary

Monday

Reading: Isaiah 55.10-13

Prayer: Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,
for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve,
for our bishop, and the people of this diocese,
for all Christians in this place,
for those to be baptized,
for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith,
that God will confirm his Church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Amen

Tuesday

Reading: Psalm 65. [1-7] 8-13*

Prayer: Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:
for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land,
for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,
for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,
that by God's help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Amen

Wednesday

Reading: Romans 8.1-11

Prayer: Let us pray for God's ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word:
for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,
for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart,
that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant and to grow in the love of his name.

Amen

Prayer & Reading Diary

Thursday

Reading: Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Prayer: Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ:
for those who have not heard the message of salvation,
for all who have lost faith,
for the contemptuous and scornful,
for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him,
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified,
that God will open their hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience.

Amen

Friday

Reading: 2 Samuel 7.18-29

Prayer: Let us pray for all those who suffer:
for those who are deprived and oppressed,
for all who are sick,
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,
for prisoners, captives and refugees,
for the victims of false accusations and violence,
for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them,
that God in his mercy will sustain them with the knowledge of his love.

Amen

Saturday

Reading: Luke 19.41 - 20.8

Prayer: Let us commend ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ, we may come to the fullness of eternal life and the joy of the resurrection.

Amen

Notices:



• All Saints Family

A big thank you to those of you who have sent me cheques during this difficult time. With the reduction in our income from collections, fundraising and fees we have been unable to meet the monthly £3123 Common Fund commitment that we have to the Diocese which is needed by them to cover salaries and other running costs. It doesn't seem like we will be fully back into services for some time so, if you are able, a donation towards our shortfall would be very welcome. Cheques should be made payable to "Okehampton Parochial Church Council" and my address is 3 Abbeyford Court, Okehampton, EX20 1TU. Telephone: 52115.

Thank you and stay safe,

Ann Ball

PCC Treasurer

• Readers of "Grapevine Plus" will have read with sadness that Alison Duckers has decided not to renew her ministry as a Reader. This has been a painful decision for Alison and we will greatly miss her valuable ministry. She sends her very best wishes to the churches with which she has been involved.



Church Services:

At the time of writing it is not entirely clear which churches will be offering services this Sunday. We are still waiting more detailed instructions from the government and the diocese. A full list for this Sunday and next will be circulated by email in a few days.

There will be a video service as usual this Sunday but in order to encourage you to go to physical church it will "premiere" later in the day (from 4:00pm).

Please go to church if you possibly can. We will do everything possible to enable you to be safe in doing so. We recognise that it takes effort and courage, but it is an essential part of our common life to meet for worship and our churches will be at serious risk if we do not start to gather again. If you have particular concerns please contact a member of the clergy or a churchwarden and we will do our very best to cater for your needs.

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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

4th Sunday after Trinity

5th July 2020



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

I am writing this at the beginning of the week in which there is due to be a major easing of regulations, which will enable people to meet for worship once more. Some of you may be reading this in church: I hope so. It is already clear, though, that this will not be a return to the way things were and that many of the things we most value about church services will still not be allowed as yet.

The secret fear of church ministers is that people will get used to not coming to church and feel that watching worship on a screen is just as good, if not better; after all you can't come to church in your pyjamas! On screen worship may be better than nothing but it is a poor substitute for the real thing. It is two dimensional (literally) and there is something important about being in the same physical space as others. The fact that coming to church takes effort is also important: we are offering a sacrifice of praise to God which costs time and energy.

In the Gospel reading Jesus says "Come to me and rest...take my yoke upon you..." These last few months have been a time of enforced rest but now it is time to take up the yoke again. The next twelve months will be a critical time in the life of our churches and we need to be prepared to rise to the challenge. It's time to get out of those pyjamas and into our work clothes once again!

Stephen