

Collect for Today

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings for This Week

Isaiah 40.1-11
(Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13*)
2 Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-8

Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11
(Psalm 126)
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
John 1.6-8, 19-28

Verse for the Week

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

Isaiah 40: 1 –2

Prayer & Reading Diary Hatherleigh

Monday

Read: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

Prayer: Pray for a continued sense of unity in the Spirit between the churches here, especially as we head towards Christmas with some shared projects in hand to share Jesus and His love with this town.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 126

Prayer: Pray for Hatherleigh market, as it re-opens within the regulations that it will thrive in every way and continue to be a supportive hub for the area.

Wednesday

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Prayer: Pray for people to be stirred in their hearts about Jesus through the on-line missions we are putting out at this time. Pray that they find their way into true fellowship with Jesus and His church. Pray for the church as we negotiate the new phenomenon of distant, on-line discipleship.

Thursday

Read: John 1.6-8, 19-28

Prayer: Pray that as we all face the same challenges together, the people of God will shine with confidence in Him and that we see old barriers broken down as we share the good news of Jesus.

Friday

Read: Malachi 3.1-4; 4

Prayer: Pray for Kyra our resident connect worker as she becomes more involved with local people on top of her college work role.

Saturday

Read: Philippians 4.4-7

Prayer: Pray that we manage to engage those who are coming to church in true worship in spite of the limitations imposed at this time, and that all remain safe and well.

Notices:



- There is no service at St Mary's Belstone this Sunday, as it was felt to be too difficult to hold a Christingle service safely. If you have toys you would have brought to the service please leave them in the church porch in the bag provided. (Please see note on other side for more information.)

- Next Sunday there will be toy service at All Saints Okehampton at 11:00 am. Please bring a toy wrapped (preferably not in Christmas paper, but it doesn't matter) and labelled with age and gender. The toys are given to a women's refuge, where women and their children often arrive with only the clothes on their backs and it is lovely for them to be able to bring a smile to the children's faces.

- Christians Together Okehampton are holding weekly prayer meetings for 20 minutes only on Thursdays at 7:00. Stephen is leading on 3rd Dec and the link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85382567048> All are welcome.

- From Sarah Leadbetter:
If you, or someone you know is suffering from cancer, you will know just how much taste buds can be shot to pieces by treatment and make meal times upsetting at times. A special book has been published on Tuesday 1 December, filled with Christmas recipes adapted to allow cancer sufferers to enjoy the festive foods and they are giving away copies, you just pay postage of £2.95.
Please see the attached link for more details.
<https://lifekitchen.co.uk/>

Notices:



• In preparation for our **Toy Service** on **Sunday 13 December** in this unusual year, we thought you might like to drop your gifts off at my house in advance and then I can take them all up to All Saints on the day or, if we do it differently, Steve can come along here to bless them. So, **from Friday, 27 November**, you can either put gifts in the clean, plastic-line recycling box near my front door or in the porch on the table.

Bev Johnson: 56 North Street, Okehampton.

Phone 078158 821532 if you'd like me to collect them. Let's fill my home with gifts for those who have suffered abuse during lockdowns. Thank you. Best wishes,
Beverley

• **St Mary's Belstone:** Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we have decided to cancel the Christingle & Toy Service planned for the 6th December, along with the Crib Service normally held on Christmas Eve.

However, we still would like to collect for the Women's Refuge in Torbay, so if you would kindly like to donate a new toy in aid of this charity, it would be most gratefully received. It would also be useful if the gift could be wrapped, labelled with the appropriate age and, if appropriate, gender. There will be a toy sack, until the 14th December, in St Mary's Church, Belstone, which is open on Sundays for private prayer from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Alternatively, please leave in the porch of Green Lodge, or contact Sue on 01837 840 492

Thank you for your generosity.

Church Services:



Church services resume this Sunday on a very similar basis to the pattern in October. Congregational singing is still not allowed and all the previous measures to keep you safe will be in place.

There will be an online service as usual.

The details of Christmas services across the team are still being finalised and a full list will be issued with the service links later in the week.



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Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

2nd Sunday of Advent

6th Dec 2020



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com



www.northmoorteam.org.uk

I am writing this sitting on my sofa: I have lit the fire and I have a cup of tea; very nice work if you can get it! We have all done quite a bit more sitting on our sofas than is good for us and I for one am glad that when we chose this sofa we went for comfort over style: there are some sofas that look great but are not good to sit on. Our old one (sadly no longer with us) used to welcome you into its arms like a long lost friend.

But comfort is about more than a sofa, a fire and a cup of tea. If I am anxious or angry I don't want to sit down: I want to pace around. In order to be comfortable I need to find an inner peace and reassurance that all is well with my little bit of the world. I need hope as well as cushioned upholstery.

"Comfort, comfort my people..." is the Lord's command to Isaiah in the Old Testament passage set for today. Those words were first spoken to a people in disgrace and in exile: they were a reassurance that in spite of everything they were still God's special possession. Down the centuries that promise extends to us: we are the ones on whom God's favour rests: we are God's chosen ones, the apple of God's eye. This is something that we can relax into in weary and troubled times and which will enable us to be a source of strength, of comfort and of joy to others as well.

Stephen