

Collect for Today

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through 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

Exodus 14.19-31
(Psalm 114)
Romans 14.1-12
Matthew 18.21-35

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Exodus 16.2-15
(Psalm 105.1-6,37-45*)
Philippians 1.21-30
Matthew 20.1-16

Verse for the Week

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”
Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **Matthew 18.21-22**

Prayer & Reading Diary Bridestowe

Monday

Read: Exodus 16.2-15
Prayer: We pray for our church leaders, all the members of the Northmoor Team and local Methodist circuit, together with our PCC members and all who help keep St. Bridget’s on the road.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 105.1-6,37-45*
Prayer: We pray for all the activities taking place in the Ark; enabling so many members of the community to get together. Bless all that goes on as part of our outreach in the village: God’s love in action.

Wednesday

Read: Philippians 1.21-30
Prayer: We pray for any who are unwell or lonely, anxious or in need of company. Please draw them to our attention and enable us to help.

Thursday

Read: Isaiah 45.9-22
Prayer: We pray for all the clubs and groups in our village which bring people together. The Queen Bees, the book club, the Thursday morning group, the Ark whist players, the cricket club and more.

Friday

Read: Revelation 14.1-5
Prayer: As we celebrate the Harvest season, we give thanks and pray for all the farmers and others who produce food for our tables, often in very difficult circumstances.

Saturday

Read: Matthew 20.1-16
Prayer: We pray for our local medical and social services as they roll out the vaccines and that people will feel confident that their health needs will be properly met in good time.

Notices:



• Gill’s Ordination as Priest:

Our curate, Gill, will be priested at 3pm on Sunday 24th September at All Saints’ Okehampton. ***It is essential that you give your name to Ruth Cartledge in advance if you are planning to attend.*** Parking at All Saints Church is limited and we are expecting a considerable number of guests at this service. Gill and two others (Phill and Pete) are being ordained so there will be a large number of their family members and friends arriving by car. So - **please, please, please** team up with others to share car seating or even better walk to church.

• Christmas Shoeboxes – Christian Response to Eastern Europe

This year I hope to again donate Shoeboxes through Christian Response to Eastern Europe, based in Exmouth. The charity originally supported Moldova but now, with its close proximity to Ukraine, they are also supporting Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and, in addition, are going into Ukraine itself. I have put information and a Newsletter from the charity on the noticeboard at the back of Church. Please take time to read it. You can also read all about their brilliant work on their website. I have also placed lists of items welcomed in the Shoeboxes. Both for children and grandparents! The charity also welcomes new, warm, children’s clothing. If you are able, please donate to this worthwhile cause. Shoeboxes will need to be completed by the end of October. If you prefer to donate financially, I will be very happy to receive donations to supplement the small amount we hold in the P.C.C. account for this purpose. Last year the cost of filling an exciting Shoebox was £22 and I expect, this year, will be a little more. Thank you,
Ann Ball -P.C.C. Treasurer

Dates for your Diary:



- **Saturday 30th September: Quiz Night**

Sticklepath Village Hall, 7pm for 7:30pm start. £10 per team of four – BYO refreshments. Please book your teams in advance with Nikki Wooldridge on 01837 840876

- **Friday 6th October: Fun evening**

with French cuisine, music and more. Church hall at 7pm. Tickets £18 with all profits going to Hall refurbishment. To reserve a ticket or for more information email mishflexman@gmail.com

- Just lately, I've had a few people concerned I'll be leaving soon after ordination. I won't be! Curates can't move onto their own parish until they've done 3 years with someone else – which means you've got me until Summer 2025 at the very earliest. Hopefully that's reassuring – although it's always nice to be told I'll be missed! The feeling's mutual – **Gill**

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Church Services:



Sunday 17th September

(15th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Meeth – Morning Prayer
Northlew – Holy Communion
Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion or
Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – Harvest Festival

11:00am

Okehampton – Harvest Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Family Service
Exbourne – Harvest Festival
Belstone – Harvest Service
Lydford – Morning Prayer

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer & Praise

Sunday 24th September

(16th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer
Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer
Northlew – Morning Prayer
Bratton Clovelly – Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – Family Service
Sourton – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Morning Prayer
Hatherleigh – Morning Service
Exbourne – Joint Family Service
Meeth – Patronal Service
Lydford – Holy Communion

3:00pm

Okehampton – Gill's Ordination

6:00pm

Hatherleigh – Evensong

Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

15th Sunday after Trinity

17th Sept 2023



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk



Anyone got up your nose recently? In the gospel reading this week Peter was plainly rattled with someone, and thinks he's doing alright by offering to forgive up to seven times. Jesus is less than impressed and sets him straight; the grace we receive, and need, from God is endless, ours must be the same to each other.

In the parable, Jesus is setting out a choice for us as to how we do relationships; grace or law.

If we want to live under the benefits of God's grace, this must also be the measure we live by in our human relationships. If we want to base our human relationships on any kind of 'morality code' we then must expect God to treat us in the same way. In which case, we will find ourselves up a very unpleasant creek!

If in doubt, forgive anyway, and let God sort out the justice! You'll feel better for it too. Forgiveness releases you from the oppressive weight of requiring justice that you're most likely powerless to demand or receive, usually over issues that the 'other' probably has no idea about. We can be confident that God will judge all in the end, from a position of complete knowledge and understanding which we just don't have. If we live by grace, we can safely assume that others will offend in some way, but we will have already decided to forgive in advance, and refuse to take offense. O the sweet freedom of grace!

Leigh Winsbury