

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great
humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him 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 (may vary)

Isaiah 64.1-9
(Psalm 80.1-8,18-20*)
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-37

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

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

Verse for the Week:

“He will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” **1 Corinthians 1:8-9**

Prayer & Reading Diary Meeth

Monday

Read: Isaiah 40.1-11

Prayer: As we wait for Christ the King help us to remember that we are all your people and all are loved by you.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 85.1-2,8-13*

Prayer: We give thanks for the ceasefire between Israel and Palestine that enabled the hostage exchange to take place. We pray for peace in the Holy Land.

Wednesday

Read: 2 Peter 3.8-15a

Prayer: Thank you for the people in our community who made the Christmas Fair such a success and raised funds for our Village Hall.

Thursday

Read: Mark 1.1-8

Prayer: Help us make our Church friendly and welcoming and a beacon of hope in this dark world.

Friday

Read: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Prayer: Please remind us of the true spirit of Christmas as we shop for treats for our family and friends.

Saturday

Read: Luke 1.5-20

Prayer: Please show us the way to encourage young people to our Churches. please make our Carol Service a great success for all generations.

Notices:



- For the first time for many years, **St Mary's Belstone** will have a service of Holy Communion on **Christmas Day** at 9:30 am. There will be no late evening service on Christmas Eve.

- The annual “**Toy Service**” will take place at All Saints Okehampton on **Sunday 10th December** at 11:00 am. Please bring a toy wrapped in non-Christmas paper and labelled with age and gender. These will be taken to a women's refuge in Torquay. You might instead like to give a present for a woman, also suitably labelled.

- There will be a **Celtic Reflective Service: ‘Celtic Epiphany’** - taking place in Jacobstowe on Wednesday 10th January, starting at 7pm. If it goes well, it will hopefully be followed up with a regular version.

- Advent Course, Tuesdays 7pm, Okehampton.** By very kind permission of Phil and Nan, we are running the Hope Explored course for three Tuesday evenings in Advent (beginning 5th December). This is open to all (no previous knowledge of Christianity/church is necessary) and will comprise video clips, discussion, food (yes – a proper meal so don't eat tea first!) and fellowship. The course is free – we just need to know numbers though – so let me know if you'd like to come along. - Revd Gill.

Dates for your Diary:



- **Christmas Wreath Making Workshops 7.30**

Monday 4th and Friday 8th Dec

Church hall. Refreshments available. Materials provided. Tickets £25. Booking essential.
Phone Mish on 07913 329148

- **Moor Harmony Christmas Concert:**

Saturday 16th December starting at 5:30pm

St. Mary's Belstone – Christmas carols featuring Eric Thiman's "The Flower of Bethlehem"
Free admission with a retiring collection

- **Wednesday 6th December**

Meeth – Samuel Jermaine Concert @ 7pm

- **Wednesday 13th December**

Jacobstowe – Carol Service @ 7pm

Contact Details:



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Church Services:



Sunday 3rd December

(Advent Sunday)

9:30am

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

Meeth – All Age Worship

Northlew – Morning Prayer

Exbourne – Holy Communion

Sourton – Holy Communion

10:30am

Sticklepath – Village Praise

11:00am

Okehampton – Family Service: Christingle

Hatherleigh – Holy Communion

Lydford – Morning Prayer

11:15am

Germansweek – Holy Communion

4:00pm

Belstone – Christingle

6:00pm

Hatherleigh – Christingle

Sunday 10th December

(2nd Sunday of Advent)

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion

Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer

Bridestowe – Holy Communion

Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion: Toy Service

Lydford – Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Nativity Service

Meeth – Morning Prayer

Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion

3:30pm

Sticklepath – Carol Service

6:00pm

Northlew - Carol Service

Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

Advent Sunday

3rd Dec 2023

grapevine.northmoor@aol.com
www.northmoorteam.org.uk

Advent, like Lent, is intended to be a time of preparation. We take the flowers out of church, we stop saying the Gloria and use the Kyrie's instead, the Bible readings are all about the end of the world, the liturgical colour changes to purple. In the world outside the Christmas lights are up, the carols are being played in the shops, Santas are in their grottos as the whole Christmas industry gets into full swing. As Christians, we have a foot in both worlds; we need to buy presents and send cards and make sure we can fit the turkey in the freezer, but we also want to somehow have our hearts in the right place to celebrate the birth of the Saviour.

So maybe coming to church in the next few weeks can be a sanctuary. As we light the candles and think about the prophets and John the Baptist and Mary, as hear the stern warnings to wake up out of sleep and be ready for the coming of the Lord, as we remind ourselves of coming judgement, perhaps the jingle jangle of commercial Christmas can be left outside, and we can find a little bit of peace.

Judgement and peace go together. As we think about ourselves with "sober judgement", as the Bible says, so we find the peace of knowing that God loves the world with all its failings and loves us with all ours; enough to come among us to redeem us; enough to be born in Bethlehem which, as you probably know, is in Palestine.

Stephen Cook