

Collect for Today

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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 20.1-4,7-9,12-20
(Psalm 19*)
Philippians 3.4b-14
Matthew 21.33-46

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Exodus 32.1-14
(Psalm 106.1-6,19-23*)
Philippians 4.1-9
Matthew 22.1-14

Verse for the Week

“One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on
towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call
of God in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 2:13-14**

Prayer & Reading Diary Okehampton

Monday

Read: Exodus 32.1-14

Prayer: For the repair of the ceiling; praying that it
can be done quickly and that no further problems will
be found.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 106.1-6,19-23*

Prayer: For Who Let the Dads Out? - which works
with fathers and children.

Wednesday

Read: Philippians 4.1-9

Prayer: For Brick Church, our initiative to reach out
to young families.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 22.1-14

Prayer: For St James School and Okehampton
Primary and our work there.

Friday

Read: Isaiah 50.4-10

Prayer: For our church officers; Tony, Ruth and Ann

Saturday

Read: Luke 13.22-30

Prayer: For Churches Together in Okehampton and
for unity among Christians in the town.

Notices:



- **Thank you!** I was really happy to see so many people from across the team when I was ordained. I felt well and truly supported and held in your love and prayers that day, and for that I am truly grateful. With love, Gill
- **“Putting the world to rights”:** a three-week series of discussions over a pint and a pasty 12:30-2:00 pm at the Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath as the UN Declaration of Human Rights reaches its 75th year. Oct 12th - The right to Life, Oct 19th - The right to freedom of thought, Oct 26th - The right to freedom from discrimination. All things that are talked about in pubs! Come and be part of a free and open discussion as we exercise our right to speak freely. Hosted by Stephen Cook and Derek Moore.
- **Songs of Love and Loss.** A time of reflection, thanksgiving and commemoration in a season of remembrance. Do you have someone you would like to remember? Do you have a song or a reading you could share? 5:30 pm Sunday 5th November in St Mary’s Sticklepath. Followed by refreshments.
- **Good grief Café.** A five week pop up café for those who are grieving, looking at the various aspects of grief and supporting each other. Tuesday mornings starting 24th October 10:30-12:00 in the Church Hall Market Street Okehampton. Prior booking essential. Contact Stephen Cook scook9673@aol.com
- **Prayer Group:** This is a home-group style relaxed gathering at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday every month at Phil & Nan’s house, 30 Leeze Park, Okehampton EX20 1EE. You don’t need to book in advance – just turn up and enjoy refreshments, fellowship, and shared prayer for the team and community. Upcoming dates are 10th October, and 14th November. See you there!

Dates for your Diary:



- **Thursday 5th October: Harvest Festival Thanksgiving** at Jacobstowe, starting at 7pm
- **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
- **Bratton Clovelly Harvest Supper** is at 4pm in Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall on **15th October** and includes pasties/Cider/Produce table, raffle - all proceeds to be donated to a local charity.
- **Friday 20th October: Harvest Festival** At Meeth , starting at 7pm.

Contact Details:



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Church Services:



Sunday 8th October

(18th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion
Inwardleigh – Harvest Morning Prayer
Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer
Northlew – Holy Communion
Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion
Bridestowe – Morning Prayer

10:30am

Sticklepath – Harvest Praise followed by
Lunch in Village Hall

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Holy Communion
Meeth - Morning Prayer
Lydford – Holy Communion

Sunday 15th October

(19th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Belstone – Morning Prayer
Northlew – Holy Communion
Meeth – Morning Praise
Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion or
Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Family Service
Exbourne – Community Service
Bridestowe – Joint Service at Methodist Ch.
Lydford – Morning Prayer

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer & Praise

Grapevine

Northmoor Churches Weekly News

18th Sunday after Trinity

8th Oct 2023



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com

www.northmoorteam.org.uk



I'm going to tell you a joke and then tell you why I think it isn't funny. Moses is coming down from the mountain with the stone tablets in his hand and all the people are waiting for him. "Well," he says, "the good news is that I've managed to talk him down to just ten. The bad news is that adultery's still in."

Did you smile? Probably not, it's not a very good joke, but I told it for a reason. The Ten Commandments, which feature in our Old Testament reading for this Sunday, are not arbitrary rules made up by God for his own reasons and our frustration, they are the outworking of deeper truths. When the New Testament tells us that love is the fulfilling of the law it is appealing beyond the Ten to the rock on which they are built. They are not negotiable, as the joke implies, they are fundamental to the way things are.

That's why the Psalmist can spend all 176 verses of Psalm 119 celebrating God's law. The commandments are not there to bind us up but to set us free. They are like a wise teacher; we may chafe against them, think we know better or look for short cuts, but ultimately if we want to learn we have to accept that they are wiser than we are. That's why adultery is still in; thank goodness!

Stephen Cook