

Collect for Today

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water
and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your
adopted children;
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 (may vary)

Genesis 1.1-5
(Psalm 29)
Acts 19.1-7
Mark 1.4-11

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]
(Psalm 139.1-5,12-18*)
Revelation 5.1-10
John 1.43-51

Verse for the Week:

“Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe
to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the
honour due to his name, worship the Lord in the
beauty of holiness.” **Psalms 29:1-2**

Prayer & Reading Diary Okehampton

Monday

Read: 1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]
Prayer: For all the people who came to church over
Christmas; that the message of God's love will take
root in the hearts and start to grow.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 139.1-5,12-18*
Prayer: For our financial situation, as we plan ways
of getting to grips with our finances this year.

Wednesday

Read: Revelation 5.1-10
Prayer: For our church officers Tony, Ann and Ruth

Thursday

Read: John 1.43-51
Prayer: For our work in the schools, especially St
James and Okehampton Primary

Friday

Read: Isaiah 62.1-5
Prayer: For Churches Together in Okehampton; that
we can learn new ways of working together.

Saturday

Read: 1 Corinthians 6.11-20
Prayer: For imagination, as we seek new ways to
reach out to our ever-growing town.

Notices:



- On the first Sunday in January (7th) All Saints are having a **Family Service** in the Hall followed by a baked potato lunch and then an afternoon of board games and cake. All are welcome to any part of the day.
- 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.

Dates for your Diary:



- **Wednesday 10th January**

Jacobstowe – Celtic Praise @ 7pm

Contact Details:



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Church Services:

Sunday 7th January

(1st Sunday of Epiphany)

9:30am

Belstone – Celtic Morning Prayer
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Exbourne – Holy Communion
Meeth – All Age Worship
Sourton – Holy Communion

10:30am

Sticklepath – village Praise

11:00am

Okehampton - Family Service
Lydford – Morning Prayer
Hatherleigh – Holy Communion

11:15am

Germansweek – Holy Communion



Sunday 14th January

(2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

9:30am

Northlew – Holy Communion
Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer
Belstone – Holy Communion
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – Holy Communion

11:00am

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

Grapevine

The Baptism of Christ

7th Jan 2024



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Well, happy New Year! I hope Christmas worked out as you planned. With all the illness that is about, the travel chaos and the atrocious weather it may not have done, but even so the fundamental truth of God's presence with us, which is at the heart of the Christmas message, still stands.

2024 will be a year of elections. All over the world people will be going to the polls to decide who they want to govern them. Even the people of Russia will have a choice; I wonder how that one will go? Unless our government decides to hold out until the very last minute, we too will have a chance to vote, and it is a precious and fragile thing. Many would-be dictators are changing the rules to ensure their re-election; democracy is under threat in every corner of the globe.

Faith is about choice. God gives us autonomy. There was no fence around the tree in the Garden of Eden. As you look into this new year you have choices. It may feel like you don't, but you do. Your life can change for better or worse. Your walk with God can be closer or more distant. Dictators tell you there is no choice. God tells you to choose. Choose life this year.

Stephen Cook