

Collect for Today

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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)

2 Samuel 6.1-5,12b-19
(Psalm 24)
Ephesians 1.3-14
Mark 6.14-29

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

2 Samuel 7.1-14a
(Psalm 89.20-37)
Ephesians 2.11-22
Mark 6.30-34,53-56

Verse for the Week:

“In him you also, when you had heard the word of
truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in
him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy
Spirit”
Ephesians 1.13

Prayer & Reading Diary Belstone

Monday

Read: 2 Samuel 7.1-14a

Prayer: For our church officers Michael, Sue,
Sandra, Carol and Wendy.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 89.20-37

Prayer: For ongoing fundraising activities to
undertake quinquennial repairs.

Wednesday

Read: Mark 6.30-34,53-56

Prayer: For all those who are suffering with illness
or are in hospital, we ask for God's blessing.

Thursday

Read: Ephesians 2.11-22

Prayer: For the work of Bernard's Acre retreat
centre in the parish.

Friday

Read: Deuteronomy 30.1-10

Prayer: For all those who are bereaved; offer comfort,
Lord, during this time of sadness and loss.

Saturday

Read: 1 Peter 3.8-18

Prayer: For engagement with our communities so
that people feel these are "our" churches.

Notices:



*** Inwardleigh Big Parish Breakfast – Saturday 13th July @ Folly Gate and Inwardleigh Parish Hall**

Come along between 10am and 12 noon and we'll
have sausage or bacon baps with either tea or coffee.
Everyone's welcome and parking will be available.

*** Wednesday 24th July: Jacobstowe Patronal Celtic Evening Prayer @7pm**

Dates for your Diary:



* The **Two Moors Festival** is holding a concert in Okehampton Church this year on **Thursday 10th October** at 7.30. Further details are here.

[Stile Antico \(twomoorsfestival.co.uk\)](http://StileAntico(twomoorsfestival.co.uk))

Festival tickets go on sale on 1st July.

Contact Details:



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Church Services:



Saturday 13th July
3:00pm

Northlew – Patronal Festival followed by Fête

Sunday 14th July

(7th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion

Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer

Bridestowe – Morning Prayer

Jacobstowe - Morning Prayer

Northlew - Holy Communion

Bratton Clovelly - Holy Communion

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Churches Together Service

Lydford - Holy Communion

Exbourne - Morning Prayer

Meeth - Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st July

(8th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Morning Prayer

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

Exbourne – Patronal Festival

Meeth – Morning Praise

Northlew – Morning Prayer

Bridestowe – United Service with Christening

Bratton Clovelly - Holy Communion

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Family Service

Lydford – Morning Prayer

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer and Praise

Grapevine

7th Sunday after Trinity

14th July 2024



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com



www.northmoorteam.org.uk

Today's gospel from Mark 6 about the beheading of John the Baptist makes grotesque reading! How sad to read although Herod feared John, 'knowing he was a righteous and holy man', he feared the scorn of his guests, and his powerful wife, more. And there is the young girl. First she has to pirouette and display for the honoured guests, then the reward must be a man's severed head. I suspect that hidden behind the short sentence "Then the girl gave it to her mother" (v. 28) was some revulsion and relief to be rid of the staring object! It is hard for our 21st Century sensibilities to comprehend, and difficult to understand why some groups still seek to retain violent practices - many in the name of religion, sadly.

Yet, we might all appreciate the pickle Herod got himself into. One action led to another and another, until he could not retrench without 'losing face'. I sincerely hope no-one reading this has ordered a beheading, but I do think we probably all know what it is like to face a moral dilemma culminating from a questionable decision further back down the line. Our society is complex. In some ways our lives and actions are more visible to others these days than back before the days of online communications and social media. A poor decision, compromising photograph, or a stupid post is there for ever. Society seems to be all about 'face' or – as journalists call it – 'optics'. Powerful leaders are not the only ones who fear losing face.

But we have a refreshing contrast in Ephesians which reminds us of our inheritance, and that we are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit, as a pledge. Our concern should be on that, not all the optics!

With love in Christ, Revd Gill