

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 (may vary)

Esther 7.1-6,9,10; 9.20-22
(Psalm 124)
James 5.13-20
Mark 9.38-50

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Job 1.1; 2.1-10
(Psalm 26)
Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12
Mark 10.2-16

Verse for the Week:

Then God said, "Let the land produce
vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land
that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their
various kinds. And it was so. ... And God saw that
it was good."
Genesis 1: 11-12

Prayer & Reading Diary Okehampton

Monday

Read: Job 1.1; 2.1-10

Prayer: For our church officers – Ann, Sara, Ruth
and Pete.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 26

Prayer: For St James and Okehampton primary
schools.

Wednesday

Read: Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

Prayer: For 'Who Let the Dads Out'.

Thursday

Read: Mark 10.2-16

Prayer: For Brick Church.

Friday

Read: Isaiah 49.13-23

Prayer: For cafe church this coming Sunday.

Saturday

Read: Luke 12.1-12

Prayer: For Stuart, our organist and our choir.

Notices:



* There is a new 4-session GROW course beginning soon (these are very popular free courses run by the Diocese). The upcoming GROW is on Children, Youth and Schools work. It's on **19th & 26th Sept, and 3rd & 10th Oct.** If you want to learn more about how we can GROW in this area, please contact sharon.blyth@exeter.anglican.org

* There will be a series of pub discussions in the Devonshire Inn in Sticklepath on the **3rd, 10th and 17th of October, 12:30-2:00pm.** This time the title is "All things woke". The subjects are "Is immigration a problem?" "Sex, gender, male female, what's it all about?" and "Is climate change really an emergency?" The sort of thing you might talk about in a pub but in a slightly more organised way. Hosted by Stephen Cook and Derek Moore. Pasties available if notified in advance 07790909442.

Pet Memorial Service

St Mary's Sticklepath 6th October 5pm

Would you like to celebrate the life of a much-loved pet?
Come and join us as we acknowledge the amazing contribution companion animals make to our lives.
Bring a picture, share a memory, light a candle, paint a stone to be part of a memorial project

This is a short service for people of all ages.
It is not a "pet service", but well-behaved animals are welcome!

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://Stile Antico (twomoorsfestival.co.uk))
Festival tickets go on sale on 1st July.

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Church Services:



Sunday 29th September

(18th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Bridestowe – Holy Communion

11:00am

Okehampton – Joint Service with Belstone and
Inwardleigh @ Okehampton

Hatherleigh – Five Church Service

Lydford - Holy Communion

Wednesday 2nd October

Hatherleigh - Harvest Evensong @ 6pm

Thursday 3rd October

Jacobstowe - Harvest Celebration @ 7pm

Sunday 6th October

(19th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Morning Prayer

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

Exbourne – Family Service

Meeth - All age Worship

Sourton – Holy Communion

11:00am

Okehampton - Family Service

Hatherleigh – Holy Communion

Lydford - Morning Prayer

Bridestowe – Jnt Harvest Festival @ Methodists

11:15am

Germansweek – Holy Communion

5:00pm

Sticklepath - Pet Memorial Service

6:00pm

Northlew - Harvest Festival, followed by supper

Grapevine

18th Sunday after Trinity

29th Sept 2024



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com



www.northmoorteam.org.uk

It is the season of Harvest Festivals and some of our churches will have had their celebrations, others in the next few weeks. So, my verse this week is not from the set readings but from Genesis about the creation of plants.

The diversity of the plant world is truly extraordinary. Between 50,000 and 70,000 plant species have been documented as having been used for human food across the world over time; many still are, but these days just three – rice, wheat and maize – account for half the plant-derived energy we consume. Those three wonder crops, through plant breeding, are radically different to the plants from which they were developed and, without them and the scientific endeavour that lies behind these high yielding species, we would struggle to feed a global population of more than 8 billion. So we thank God for the harvest of these grains and for science. But we should not lose sight of the importance of a varied diet – we cannot live by bread alone spiritually, nor should we do so in dietary terms.

Human health requires variety and God's world certainly offers great riches. When I spent some time in Canada a few years ago I found that the traditional diets of the indigenous, first nation, peoples had been marvellously varied, with over 200 species of plants regularly eaten and not just seeds or fruit but also roots, bulbs, tubers, stems, shoots, buds and leaves as well. Praise God for the richness of creation and the blessings of his provision.

Michael winter