

Collect for Today

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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)

Proverbs 22.1-2,8,9,22,23
(Psalm 125)
James 2.1-10[11-13] 14-17
Mark 7.24-37

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Proverbs 1.20-33
(Psalm 19* *or Canticle*: Wisdom of Solomon 7.26 - 8.1)
James 3.1-12
Mark 8.27-38

Verse for the Week:

“If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and you say to them “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill”, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” **James 2:16-17**

Prayer & Reading Diary Bridestowe

Monday

Read: Proverbs 1.20-33

Prayer: We pray for all who are on holiday in our area. May they have a really restful and refreshing time.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 19

Prayer: We pray for all the Lay Worship Leaders in the Northmoor team who give so generously of their time and talents.

Wednesday

Read: James 3.1-12

Prayer: We pray for local farmers who have had such a hard time with the weather this year that their harvests may be better than expected and they may prosper.

Thursday

Read: Mark 8.27-38

Prayer: We pray for any in our community who are hidden behind closed doors, suffering from ill health or loneliness. May we be able to help them in some way.

Friday

Read: Isaiah 44.24 - 45.8

Prayer: We pray for all who care for loved ones, old and young who suffer from ill health or plain old age. Help them to get some respite and to know that they are appreciated.

Saturday

Read: Revelation 12.1-12

Prayer: We pray for St. Bridget's and for our Methodist church that their covenant may prosper and flourish.

Notices:



* St James, Jacobstowe, invites you to join us for a traditional cream tea on **Saturday 14 September** from 2 to 4.30pm in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust.

* **All Saints Okehampton** is holding a **church open day on 14th September** with all kinds of things happening.

* **Thursday 19th September** 2-4pm online: **Free training** for anyone involved in making posters and notices etc. for their church. Our team is desperately short of people to do this, so find your creative side and learn how to communicate the church message through this essential ministry. Sign up at: <https://forms.gle/PJK7TGakVZ3Cku2M6>

Dates for your Diary:



* **Sunday 22nd September: Jim Causley event**
St Mary's church Sticklepath at 3pm.
Tickets £12 to include tea and cake.
Please contact 01837 840822 or email for ticket bookings: carolandmikey@gmail.com

* 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:



Sunday 8th September

(15th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

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

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Morning Service
Lydford – Holy Communion
Meeth – Morning Prayer
Exbourne – Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 15th September

(16th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Morning Prayer
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Exbourne – Holy Communion by ext.
Northlew – Morning Prayer
Meeth – Morning Praise
Bridestowe – Harvest Festival with Methodists
Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion

11:00am

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

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer and Praise

Grapevine

15th Sunday after Trinity

8th Sept 2024



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com



www.northmoorteam.org.uk

One Christmas in my last parish I arrived at the carol service to find the place was buzzing. “The guy from Buffy the Vampire Slayer is here!” people were saying. It turned out he was a guest of the owners of the manor house and had come to church. I’d never seen the show and had no idea who he was, but we were introduced and shook hands. Everyone was very excited, and I went home feeling the service had been blessed by his celebrity presence.

In our reading today, James urges us not to show favouritism and gives the example of a rich person arriving and being shown to the best seat while a poor man is told to stand at the back. “Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith?” he asks. There were lots of people at that carol service who didn’t normally come to church, but I had favoured someone just because he had been on TV.

None of us would deliberately discriminate against people, but in all kinds of subtle ways we can show favouritism. If someone is like us, if they have an impressive CV, if they seem to fit in, or even if they are just young and beautiful, it is so easy to value them over others. We need to see each person as God’s special gift. In a family service I once made stick-on labels which said, “I am God’s gift to the church” and asked everyone to wear one. If we can picture that label on everyone who comes to church this week we will be closer to the kind of fellowship God wants us to be.

Stephen Cook