

Collect for Today

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen

Readings for This Week (may vary)

Baruch 5.1-9 or Malachi 3.1-4
(*Canticle*: Benedictus)
Philippians 1.3-11
Luke 3.1-6

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Zephaniah 3.14-20
(*Canticle*: Isaiah 12.2-6*)
Philippians 4.4-7
Luke 3.7-18

Verse for the Week:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and
hill shall be made low and the crooked shall be made
straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all
flesh shall see the salvation of God”

Luke 3.4-6; Isaiah 40.3-5

Prayer & Reading Diary Exbourne

Monday

Read: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Prayer: Give strength and encouragement to all
Ministers and Readers at this busy time of
year. Especially Rev. S. Cook as he takes his last
Services before retirement, we wish him relaxation
and comfort and thanks for his faithful Service.

Tuesday

Read: Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6*

Prayer: Lay your hands on all Children and Teachers
during this exciting and meaningful Term, grant them
an understanding of your being.

Wednesday

Read: Philippians 4.4-7

Prayer: We ask you to comfort and sustain all those
who are recently bereaved, ill or distressed; give them
solace in knowing you are there and let those around
them show their kindness and care.

Thursday

Read: Luke 3.7-18

Prayer: Look kindly on all Organisations,
Committees, Groups in Villages and bring Harmony
and Cooperation within all their endeavours together.

Friday

Read: Isaiah 25.1-9

Prayer: As we enter Advent with joy and excitement
of what is to come, let us remember the true meaning
of Christmas and your presence with us all.

Saturday

Read: 1 Corinthians 4.1-5

Prayer: Lay your hands on anyone in need Lord,
grant them peace and give them hope of better things
to come.

Notices:



* **This Sunday December 8th at All Saints Church
at 11am:** Holy Communion with the Toy Service.

* **This Sunday, 8th December at 11am at St
Michaels & All Angels Meeth** our very special
Samuel Jerman Memorial Service with Organ Recital
given by Mr Maurice Coates.
The retiring donations will be given to The North
Devon Hospice. Refreshments will be served
afterwards.

All are most welcome to join us and listen to some
wonderful music, with a few hymns for the
congregation to join in.

* **Sourton:** Unfortunately our **December soup
lunch THIS Sunday 8th December** has had to be
cancelled . We hope to have one in January.

* **Monday 9th December at 7.30pm at
Hatherleigh Church** when Okehampton Choral
Society will perform Festive Favourites:
Choral music and Christmas carols for all the family
to join in, (with festive refreshments to follow). Free
admission.

* **Wednesday 11th December: Carol Service** at
Jacobstowe, starting at 7pm

* **Wednesday 18th December: Carol Service** at
Meeth, starting at 7pm

Dates for your Diary:



* Monday 9th Dec: Christmas Wreath Making

Workshop at 7pm in the Church Hall, Okehampton.
Materials provided. Booking Essential
To book or for further information call Mish Flexman
on 07913329148

* Bridestowe Christmas Tree Festival in St Bridget's Church.

Opening times: December
Sunday 15th 11.00am to 7.00pm
Monday 16th to Saturday 21st 10.00am to 7.00pm
Sunday 22nd 11.00am to 4.00pm

* **Saturday 21st December at 5.30pm St Mary's
Church, Belstone** - Moor Harmony, Christmas
Concert, Christmas songs and Carols for all the
family. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Free admission
but retiring collection.

Contact Details:



- Revd Stephen Cook (Team Rector)
01837 659297 SCook9673@aol.com
- Revd Adrian Brook (Team Vicar)
01837 861580 ajbrook2020@outlook.com
- Revd Leigh Winsbury (Team Vicar)
01837 810680 lwinsbury@googlemail.com
- Ruth Cartlidge (Team Administrator)
07551 655424 northmoorpa@gmail.com
- Maurie Webber 01837 53845
mwebberm@yahoo.co.uk
- Canon Tim Newcombe
01837 52901 tnewcombe001@gmail.com
- Revd Gill George (Curate) 07947
604160 revgillgeorge@gmail.com
- Revd. Jonathan Cook (Curate) 07768 836077
rev.jonathan.cook@gmail.com

Church Services:



Sunday 8th December

(2nd Sunday of Advent)

9:30am

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

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion Toy Service
Hatherleigh – Morning Service
Lydford – Holy Communion
Exbourne – Morning Prayer
Meeth – Samuel Jerman Service

Sunday 15th December

(3rd Sunday of Advent)

9:30am

Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion
Exbourne – Holy Communion
Northlew - Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Children's Nativity
Lydford - Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – Joint Service at Methodists

3:30pm

Sticklepath - Carol Service
Inwardleigh – Christingle

6:00pm

Hatherleigh - Carol Service

6:30pm

Belstone - Carol Service

“Where has this year gone?” “This year has just flown by!”
“It can't be a whole year since we were in Advent!” Sound
familiar? I, too, am wondering where the year has gone.
We need signs, symbols, and the framework of the church
year to help keep our wayward minds and hearts on track.
Advent candles are useful like that.

But you may also notice the church ‘colour’ – the fabric
altar frontals, communion veil, pulpit falls, clergy stoles –
have changed to purple. Purple is the colour of patient
anticipation. It is the colour of waiting, of longing, for
fulfilment of God's plans. It's not always a happy waiting.
In fact, as we inhabit Advent, we can reflect on how
‘mixed’ that waiting is – a difficult journey, and the
anticipation of joy mixed with pain.

This Sunday, in particular, has the theme of preparation, of
waiting, and of prophecy. The Old Testament reading
foretells of John the Baptist, preparing the way, and of God
purifying and cleansing us to be able to accept the Messiah;
the Canticle is the Benedictus, the Song of Zechariah,
John's father, speaking another prophecy about his son
preparing the way; and the gospel reading speaks of John's
ministry, quoting Isaiah “Prepare the way of the Lord”.

So, the year may have flown by, but now we are waiting,
together. God didn't stop speaking when the Bible
manuscripts were compiled – so may we wait, and listen,
and prepare ourselves, and we will continue to hear that
prophetic voice, living and active, speaking into our hearts,
church, and community because without that waiting upon
God, we are nothing. Amen. *Revd Gill George*