

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience
to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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)

Deuteronomy 26.1-11
(Psalm 91.1-2,9-16*)
Romans 10.8b-13
Luke 4.1-13

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18
(Psalm 27)
Philippians 3.17 - 4.1
Luke 13.31-35

Verse for the Week:

‘for forty days he was tested by the devil’ **Luke 4:2**

Prayer & Reading Diary Bridestowe

Monday

Read: Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

Prayer: For the Holy Spirit to breathe life into our church that it may be led into the way of truth, unity of spirit, the bond of peace and righteousness of life.
Book of Common Prayer

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 27

Prayer: To give us boldness to preach the gospel in season and out of season.
2 Timothy 4:2

Wednesday

Read: Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

Prayer: God our creator who wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known to all men, have mercy on all unbelievers and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart and contempt of thy word.
Book of Common Prayer

Thursday

Read: Luke 13.31-35

Prayer: Almighty God defend us in all assaults of our enemies and deliver us from evil.
Matthew 6:13

Friday

Read: Genesis 17.1-7,15,16

Prayer: For those afflicted in mind, body or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, giving them patience under their sufferings and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.
Book of Common Prayer

Saturday

Read: Romans 11.13-24

Prayer: That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful and we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips but in our lives and giving up ourselves to thy service.
Book of Common Prayer

Notices:



* **Sunday 9th there's an extra service at St. James**
A time of guided reflection in St James' Chapel, 12noon on Sunday 9th to mark the national Covid-19 day of reflection. Led by Revd Canon Tim Newcombe.

* **LENT GROUPS:** There will be two lent groups both starting in the week beginning 10 March. The first will be on Monday mornings (starting on Monday 10 March), 10.30am to 12noon at Sara & John's home, 2 Church Path, Okehampton. Please contact Sara on 07504 272061 if you would like to attend this one. The second will begin on Tuesday 11 March, 7.30pm to 9pm – although the first meeting will be at Pete & Val's house, 111a Station Road, Okehampton, the second (and following) will be at Phil and Nan's house, 30 Leeze Park, Okehampton. Please contact Pete Brayne on 07775 878343 if you would like to attend. Both groups will be following the Church of England's Lent theme for 2025, "*Living Hope*" and a booklet will be available.

* **LENT LUNCHESES:** During Lent, there will be soup lunches in support of Christian Aid, at All Saints Church Hall, 12noon to 1pm, each Thursday starting on 6 March. No need to let anyone know – just turn up!

* **Sticklepath Quiz Night: Saturday 12th April**
at Sticklepath Village Hall. 7pm for a 7:30pm start. £10 per team of 4. Raffle available – bring your own refreshments. Please book your team in with Niki Wooldridge on 01837 840876. All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Sticklepath

Dates for your diary :



* Prayer during the Interregnum

Okehampton All Saint's Parish Church is open every Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon for prayer. This is an opportunity to meet and pray with others, or just to sit quietly. Refreshments will be available.

* **St James Chapel**, in the centre of Okehampton, is open all day, every day.

Every Thursday: 10am Communion at St James, Okehampton.

Contact Details:



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Church Services:



Sunday 9th March

(1st Sunday of Lent)

09:30am

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

11:00am

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

12 Noon

St James, – Covid-19 Service of Reflection
Okehampton

Sunday 16th March

(2nd Sunday of Lent)

9:30am

Belstone – Morning Prayer
Inwardleigh - Holy Communion
Bridestowe – United Service at St Bridget's
Exbourne – Holy Communion
Northlew - Morning Prayer
Meeth – Morning Praise
Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion

11:00am

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

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer and Praise

Grapevine

1st Sunday of Lent
9th March 2025



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

All creatures test the world around them. It helps us develop our understanding of our place in the order of things: monkeys test a branch to see if it's strong enough to hold them, and in relationships we endlessly 'test' one another's patience to see if we are really loved (or who's really in control). God has no need for tests, he simply knows all things. Testing is for us creatures. As such it is the Devil, in his weakness, that tests Jesus. He still has this absurd idea he'd like to test out that he may have a way of tricking God. He fails, of course, and so leaves him alone, turning his face towards easier targets. He's like any playground bully seeking out the weak to cover their own deeper sense of weakness.

If we test our self control through a Lenten commitment (which I hope we all do in some way) it is not to 'prove' anything to God. It is to prove to ourselves that Jesus (the branch of Jesse) is truly strong enough to take the weight of our whole lives. We need no other crutch to stand upon. Lent is not about us being tested by God, it is about us testing Christ. And as in the desert, He *will* prove his eternal worthiness of our faith and devotion.

Jonathan Cook