

Collect for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the
wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Readings for This Week (may vary)

Isaiah 35.1-10
(Psalm 146.4-10 *or Canticle*: Magnificat)
James 5.7-10
Matthew 11.2-11

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Isaiah 7.10-16
(Psalm 80.1-8,18-20*)
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-25

Verse for the Week:

‘Everlasting joy will crown their heads’
Isaiah 35:10

Prayer & Reading Diary Northlew

Monday

Read: Isaiah 7.10-16
Prayer: Give strength and encouragement to all
Ministers and Readers at this busy time of year.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 80.1-8,18-20*
Prayer: Lay your hands on all children, teachers and
school staff during this exciting and meaningful term.
Please grant them an understanding of your being in
the approach to Christmas as they look forward to the
school holidays.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 1.1-7
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: Matthew 1.18-25
Prayer: Look kindly on all our local organisations,
committees and groups and bring harmony and co-
operation within all their endeavours together.

Friday

Read: Micah 5.2-5a
Prayer: As we continue in this time of 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: Luke 1.26-38
Prayer: Lay your hands on anyone in need Lord,
grant them peace and give them hope of better things
to come.

Notices:



* Saturday 20th December: Moor Harmony concert

St Mary's Church, Belstone invites you to their 'Moor Harmony' concert in the Church on Saturday 20th December at 5.30pm. An hour of Carols and Christmas themed music. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. Retiring collection will be split between the Church and Moor Harmony. We look forward to seeing you.

* **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.



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Church Services:



Wednesday 18th December:

Meeth – Carol Service @ 7pm

Inwardleigh – Candlelit Service @ 7:30pm

Saturday 20th December:

Bratton Clovelly – Carols & Readings @ 4pm

Christmas Eve:

4:00pm

Okehampton – Blessing of the Crib

Belstone – Crib Service

Exbourne – Carol Service

Northlew – Carol Service

Lydford - Christingle

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Carols in the Square

8:00pm

Okehampton - First Communion of Christmas

11:30pm

Bratton Clovelly - Midnight Mass

Bridestowe – Midnight Mass

Northlew – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

9:30am

Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer

Belstone – Holy Communion

10:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion

Jacobstowe – Christmas Family Service

10:30am

Lydford – Christmas Communion

11:00am

Hatherleigh – Christmas Family Communion

Sunday 28th December:

Okehampton – Joint Benefice HC @ 10am

Hatherleigh – Five Parish Service @ 11am

Bratton Clovelly – Christingle @ 3pm

Bridestowe – Holy Communion @ 4:30pm

Lydford – Holy Communion @ 11am

Church Services:



Sunday 14th December

(3rd Sunday of Advent)

9:30am

Bridestowe – Morning Prayer

Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion

Belstone – Celtic Prayer

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Morning Nativity Service

Lydford – Lessons & Carols

Exbourne – Holy Communion

Meeth – Morning Prayer

3:30pm

Sticklepath – Carol Service

6:30pm

Northlew - Carol Service

Sunday 21st December

(4th Sunday of Advent)

8:30am

Sticklepath - Holy Communion

9:30am

Bratton Clovelly - Holy Communion

Northlew - Holy Communion

Jacobstowe – Holy Communion

11:00am

Hatherleigh – Morning Service

Lydford - Morning Prayer

Meeth - Holy Communion

6:30pm

Okehampton - Carols by Candlelight

Belstone - Carol Service

Exbourne – Carol Service

Bridestowe – Joint Carol Service

Grapevine

3rd Sunday of Advent

14th December 2025



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

Imagine as hard as you can, with all your courage and boldness and naivety that life will one day be just simply the best it could be in every way. Just take a moment now to close your eyes and imagine.

What came to mind? What did you see? Who was with you? Where were you? And, most importantly for this day's reflection, how did you *feel*?

It's easy to get caught up at Christmas thinking about stuff (and stuffing!) that you/others want. Because we have some sort of control over things like that. But Christmas isn't at all about 'things', it's about Christ, and the access to the 'Everlasting joy' that we find in Him. That quite honestly, is going to be far greater than any royal gem-encrusted crown, or wealth, or possession any of us could ever imagine.

Christmas isn't about getting stuff. It's about people giving it away because they found a freedom and joy in love of Christ and neighbour that meant they had no need or interest in acquiring more stuff for themselves. Sadly, this doesn't quite feel like the reality of today.

If joy is the goal. And we must remind ourselves it is. How might we plan and host our Christmases differently this year to truly reach for it, rather than simply keeping up appearances?

Jonathan Cook