

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)

Isaiah 11.1-10
(Psalm 72.1-7,18,19*)
Romans 15.4-13
Matthew 3.1-12

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

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

Verse for the Week:

“John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had
a leather belt around his waist. His food was
locusts and wild honey.” **Matthew 3: 4**

Prayer & Reading Diary Bridestowe

Monday

Read: Isaiah 35.1-10
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 146.4-10
Prayer: To give us boldness to preach the gospel in
season and out of season. *2 Timothy 4:2*

Wednesday

Read: James 5.7-10
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: Matthew 11.2-11
Prayer: Almighty God defend us in all assaults of
our enemies and deliver us from evil. *Matthew 6:13*

Friday

Read: Zephaniah 3.14-20
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: Philippians 4.4-7
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:



* Wednesday 10th December

Jacobstowe has their Carol Service, starting at 7pm.

* **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:

- Ruth Cartlidge (Team Administrator)
07551 655424 northmoorpa@gmail.com
- Revd Adrian Brook (Team Vicar)
01837 861580 ajbrook2020@outlook.com
- Revd Leigh Winsbury (Team Vicar)
01837 810680 lwinsbury@googlemail.com
- Revd. Jonathan Cook (Curate) 07768 836077
rev.jonathan.cook@gmail.com
- Canon Tim Newcombe 01837 52901
tnewcombe001@gmail.com
- Revd. John Hall 07771848412
sarasgarden@hotmail.co.uk
- Maurie Webber 01837 53845
mwebberm@yahoo.co.uk
- Canon Professor Michael Winter,
Licensed Lay Minister. 01837 851718
d.m.winter@exeter.ac.uk

Dates for your diary :



* All Saints Christmas Coffee Morning:

Saturday 6th December 10am-12 in the Hall
Cakes, produce, crafts; Christmas Hamper Raffle
All Welcome

* 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.

Church Services:



Sunday 7th December

(2nd Sunday of Advent)

9:00am

Exbourne - Breakfast followed by Service

9:30am

Belstone - Holy Communion

Inwardleigh - Morning Prayer

Sourton - Holy Communion

10:30am

Sticklepath – Village Praise

11:00am

Okehampton - Cafe Style @ Church Hall

Hatherleigh – Holy Communion

Lydford - Morning Prayer

Meeth - Samuel Jerman Service

11:15am

Germansweek – Holy Communion

4:00pm

Northlew – Christingle

6:00pm

Hatherleigh - Christingle

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 – Holy Communion

Exbourne – Holy Communion

Meeth – Morning Prayer

3:30pm

Sticklepath – Carol Service

6:30pm

Northlew - Carol Service

Grapevine

2nd Sunday of Advent

7th December 2025



grapevine.northmoor@aol.com



www.northmoorteam.org.uk

So to the Second Sunday of Advent, this season of preparation, and this week we think of John the Baptist, a voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord. It is not often in the New Testament that we get much in the way of a description of the lifestyle of characters. But for John we are given the vision of rough-hewn, functional clothes and an unusual diet of locust and wild honey, so plenty of protein and micro-nutrients! In one verse we have an image our imaginations can build on, bolstered by his uncompromising words. It is easy to add in long hair and a beard, piercing eyes, an itinerant lifestyle, a disturber of peace and order, a troubling presence. Read verses 7-12 in Matthew Chapter 3, with this wild man laying into the Pharisees and Sadducees in no uncertain terms.

That's what we tend to remember about John but may be that's a tad one-dimensional! After all he is not known as John the preacher but as John *the Baptist*, 'confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River'. And in these confessions and baptisms, there must have been emotion and tears, love and reassurance. He may have given a thorough dressing down to the 'brood of vipers', but to the ordinary people he was offering something needful and redeeming. And then we come to the baptism of Jesus himself when essentially John's work is accomplished. Through the baptism Jesus is revealed as well pleasing in the sight of God. Jesus' own preaching and healing ministry begins.

Michael Winter