

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of
the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life
and peace;
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)

Exodus 17.1-7
(Psalm 95)
Romans 5.1-11
John 4.5-42

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

1 Samuel 16.1-13
(Psalm 23)
Ephesians 5.8-14
John 9.1-41

Verse for the Week:

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
John 4. 13-14

Prayer & Reading Diary Meeth

Monday

Read: 1 Samuel 16.1-13
Prayer: We thank you, Lord, for listening to our new prayer group which met today and for sending your Holy Spirit to inspire us.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 23
Prayer: We give thanks for the energetic young ladies who helped clean The Church last week. May we hope for their future involvement in Church activities.

Wednesday

Read: Ephesians 5.8-14
Prayer: We pray for those isolated by poor health and immobility that they are visited regularly by friends, family and neighbours.

Thursday

Read: John 9.1-41
Prayer: We pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world but especially in Iran at this time. Please give them your protection and strengthen their faith.

Friday

Read: Isaiah 43.1-7
Prayer: We pray for peace in Jerusalem and that the war in the Middle East be speedily resolved.

Saturday

Read: Ephesians 2.8-14
Prayer: Help us to remember your wilderness time during Lent and to learn your wisdom through our Bible readings and sermons.

Notices:



* **Wednesday March 18th: Deanery meeting**
7.00pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall; Speaker, Danny Semorad from Devon Historic Churches Trust. All are welcome.

* **All Saints Lent Groups:**
2pm at the Rectory (07858 313677) and 7.30pm at the home of Phil Bush (07508 686689) All welcome & not too late to join in.

* **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.

Dates for your Diary:



* **All Saints Lent lunches:** (homemade soup and bread) Every Wednesday during Lent from 12-1.30 in the Hall. All proceeds to Christian Aid.

* **Friday 27th March: All Saints Quiz night.**
7 for 7.30 start in Church Hall. Licensed bar, refreshments, raffle. £6pp, teams of 4-6. Booking essential, contact Ruth on 07551 655424 (if you don't have a team we will find you one)

Contact Details:



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Church Services:



Sunday 8th March

(3rd Sunday of Lent)

9:30am

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

11:00am

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

6:30pm

Bratton Clovelly – Church Supper

Sunday 15th March

(4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday)

8:30am

Sticklepath – Holy Communion

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion
Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer
Bratton Clovelly - Mothering Sunday Service
Northlew – Morning Prayer
Exbourne – Holy Communion

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion
Hatherleigh – Family Service
Lydford - Morning Prayer
Bridestowe – United Service @ Chapel
Meeth – Morning Prayer

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer & Praise

Grapevine

3rd Sunday of Lent

8th March 2026



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

As we continue in Lent our reading for this week is this remarkable encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. In the story Jesus travels through Samaria and stops at Jacob's well. Tired and thirsty, He asks a Samaritan woman for a drink. This simple request breaks social barriers - between Jews and Samaritans, men and women. Yet that does not bother Jesus. Jesus meets her in her ordinary routine. She comes to draw water, likely at noon to avoid others, carrying the weight of isolation and shame. Instead of exposing her publicly, Jesus gently leads her to "living water." He awakens in her a deeper thirst - the longing for meaning and acceptance. The conversation shifts to theological debate about worship. True worship Jesus says is about worshipping "in spirit and truth." This expands the understanding of God's presence beyond geography and ethnicity. Worship is to be relational and transformative, rather than ritualistic. There is a question for each of us here, about our worship and whether we are open to encountering God there, and allowing Him to change us. Perhaps most astonishing is that Jesus openly reveals Himself here as the Messiah. In John's Gospel, this is one of the clearest early declarations of His identity. It is given not to religious leaders, but to a marginalized Samaritan woman. Her response is immediate. She leaves her water jar and runs back to her town. The one who avoided people becomes a bold witness, inviting others to "come and see."

As we approach Easter, what opportunities do each of us have – to invite others to "come and see" the good news that Jesus is our saviour? This passage reminds me that transformation begins with being known and loved by Christ. Jesus does not wait for perfection; He meets us in our brokenness and offers living water that satisfies the deepest thirst. Like the Samaritan woman, we are invited to encounter Him personally—and then to share that encounter with others.

Revd Claire Reynolds