

Collect for Today

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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)

Genesis 28.10-19a
(Psalm 139.1-11,23,24*)
Romans 8.12-25
Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Genesis 29.15-28
(Psalm 105.1-11,45b* or Psalm 128)
Romans 8.26-39
Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Verse for the Week:

'We know that the whole creation has been
groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the
present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have
the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait
eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of
our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope
that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they
already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet
have, we wait for it patiently. **Romans 8.22-25**

Prayer & Reading Diary Belstone & Sticklepath

Monday

Read: Genesis 29.15-28

Prayer: We pray for those in any kind of need, the sick,
the housebound or those anxious about forth-
coming medical appointments and results. We especially
hold the bereaved in our prayers. May they all receive your
comfort.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 105.1-11,45b*

Prayer: Lord, be with our young people with the
approach of school holidays. For those who have been busy
sitting exams, let positive opportunities for relaxation and
fun times with friends help to restore them.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 8.26-39

Prayer: We pray and give thanks for the fundraising
efforts for essential works needed on St Mary's Belstone.
May they continue to be supported by the community and
beyond.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Prayer: Dear Lord, please pour your loving guidance on
all who work on the land and in hospitality, during these
especially busy times. May they realise the importance of
the work they carry out each day for the benefit of us all.

Friday

Read: Song of Solomon 2

Prayer: We give thanks for the widening use of our little
church. For the uplifting collaborative services with our
friends from the Sticklepath Community Church and for the
welcome return of a Quaker presence in the village. For the
beautiful villages we live in and care for, for good
neighbours and good deeds carried out quietly day by day.
Thy will be done.

Saturday

Read: 1 Peter 4.7-14

Prayer: Please pray for all who serve our churches in
the Okehampton Benefice, for the Clergy, PCC members
and numerous volunteers. Dear Lord, please uphold them in
their good works.

Notices:



* There will *not* be a service on the **19th of July** at
Inwardleigh Church at 9.30am owing to the village
Fair, as all attending are involved in the running
of this.

* **Monday 20th July: Hatherleigh Archdeacon's
Visitation at 7pm.** There will be refreshments after
the service.

* **Wednesday 22nd July: Jacobstowe**
Patronal and Celtic Service @ 7pm followed by
Pimms & Puddings

* **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, Okehampton**
There is a 10am Holy Communion Service at St
James every **Thursday**.

Dates for your Diary:



* Inwardleigh country Fair on July 19th from 12 noon to 5pm.

Lots to do and entertainment, refreshments available. Also there will be no church service at St Petroc's Church Inwardleigh on Sunday 19th July.

* Belstone Cream Tea: Sunday 26th July

St Mary's Church, Belstone are having their next Cream Tea on Sunday 26th July in Belstone Village Hall from 2:30pm to 5pm.

Why not come for a cuppa and delicious homemade scones and cakes. All proceeds are for the Church.

Contact Details:



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Church Services:



Sunday 19th July

(7th Sunday after Trinity)

8:30am

Sticklepath – Holy Communion

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion

Inwardleigh – **NO Service**

Bratton Clovelly – Morning Prayer

Meeth - All Age Worship

Northlew – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Celebration Service

Lydford - Morning Prayer

Exbourne – Holy Communion by ext'n

Bridestowe – Joint Service with Methodists

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Prayer and Praise

Sunday 26th July

(8th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Morning Prayer

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

Northlew – Holy Communion

Jacobstowe – Holy Communion

Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion

Bridestowe – Morning Service

Sourton – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Morning Service

Lydford - Holy Communion

Meeth - Family Worship

Exbourne – Morning Prayer

6:00pm

Hatherleigh – Evensong

Grapevine

7th Sunday after Trinity

19th July 2026

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Hello,

I'm hoping you're managing to enjoy a slice of proper British Summer? Or are you overwhelmed with fear by all the black and red patches on the modern weather maps, where in the 1970s we used to have little smiling 'sun' faces for the same temperatures? Take a peek at today's reading from Romans and take heart.

There is so much in this passage, but, in 200 words... Creation is groaning. It always has been. Is it groaning in waiting for a carbon neutral humanity? No, and a good thing too, as whatever we do, India and China will kick into the dust. Creation is waiting for the sons of God to be revealed. You, in all your fullness, are the answer to creation's groaning. The moment when Jesus redeems us completely, restores us perfectly and ransoms us ultimately, when we are made clean and whole on His return, is the moment when our fullness of perfection will take creation with us into it's restored future.

Do we then, do nothing 'green' in the meantime? By no means, make every effort to tread lightly on the earth, leaving blessing, not curse behind in your footsteps. But do not do so in fear of failure, rather in the sure and certain hope of God's promises. I'm off now, to top up my tan!

Love, Leigh Winsbury