

Collect for Today

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience
is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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 1.8 - 2.10
(Psalm 124)
Romans 12.1-8
Matthew 16.13-20

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Exodus 3.1-15
(Psalm 105.1-6,23-26,45b*)
Romans 12.9-21
Matthew 16.21-28

Verse for the Week:

‘Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this
world, but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what
God’s will is- His good, pleasing and perfect will’.
Romans 12: 2

Prayer & Reading Diary Hatherleigh

Monday

Read: Exodus 3.1-15

Prayer: Please pray for our farmers [and everyone
else’s too] as they struggle to find ways to keep stock
fed in this current drought: indeed, pray for rain!

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 105.1-6,23-26,45b*

Prayer: Pray for the gatherings in town today;
market, coffee mornings, pubs, cafe and chip shop as
people gather as much to meet as to shop; that
connections made are appointed by God.

Wednesday

Read: Romans 12.9-21

Prayer: Please pray for families who are finding the
holidays difficult and are facing challenges of work,
finance, housing and mental well-being, especially
those known to us.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 16.21-28

Prayer: Please pray for our transition as we relocate
the Youth Cafe from Old Schools, which we have
outgrown, to the Methodist church; for good
communication and relationships all round.

Friday

Read: Ecclesiasticus 11.7-28

Prayer: Vicar’s day off! Please pray for the
leadership here; clergy, readers, PCC and wardens;
that we collectively hear the Lord concerning our
onward direction and daily choices.

Saturday

Read: Revelation 3.14-22

Prayer: Today should be our big rake up day in
Hatherleigh churchyard to end the year’s wildflower
project. Pray for willing volunteers to share in a safe,
positive and fun time together.

Notices:



* **Wednesday 26th August: Jacobstowe** are having
Celtic Evening Prayer 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, Okehampton**
There is a 10am Holy Communion Service at St
James every **Thursday**.

Contact Details:



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Dates for your Diary:



* **This Saturday, August 22nd, 4pm at Okehampton Parish Church: "Songs and Scones".** Churches Together in Okehampton invite everyone to come along and enjoy favourite hymns and songs followed by scones (and cake)"

* **Next Cream Tea at St Mary's Belstone** is on **Sunday 23rd August** at Belstone Village Hall between 2.30pm - 5.00pm.

* **ST THOMAS à BECKET CHURCH CREAM TEAS** at SOURTON VILLAGE HALL
2 scones, Cream, and Jam , Tea or Coffee **Only £7!!**
Also available: Savouries including Sandwiches, Sausage rolls, quiches and a delicious assortment of home-made Cakes

Sunday 23rd August 1.30-4.30 p.m.
IN AID OF SOURTON CHURCH AND SOURTON VILLAGE HALL
DO COME AND SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY EFFORT!!



Church Services:



Sunday 23rd August

(12th Sunday after Trinity)

9:30am

Belstone – Morning Prayer
Inwardleigh – Holy Communion
Northlew – Morning Prayer
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 - Holy Communion
Exbourne – Morning Prayer

6:00pm

Hatherleigh - Evensong

Sunday 30th August

(13th Sunday after Trinity)

10:00am

Okehampton - United Benefice Service at
All Saints

11:00am

Hatherleigh – Five Parish Service

No details for Benefice service for Bridestowe parishes at time of publication

Grapevine

12th Sunday after Trinity

23rd August 2026

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As a part of the Hatherleigh festival this year, I did a little talk on the Saturday about the ancients' opinion of the story in the stars. Essentially, what the Magi were up to, and how they had traced their prophetic system of images from the beginnings of history and recognised the time of Christ's arrival from what they saw in the skies.

From which, you'll guess that I love watching what the sky is up to and making the connections, eclipses and meteors included, and I hope you found a way to observe the spectacle.

The miracle of an eclipse, of course, is that from here, the sun and moon appear identical in size or it wouldn't work. The riddle is, that the sun is 400 times further away than the moon while being 400 times larger. Not 403, or 97; 400! The chances of anything like that happening in a random universe are zero. And it only works from here, on earth. To answer the riddle, $400 = 40 \times 10$. If you are in one of my five churches you will by now know all about the theological numbers in scripture and their meanings. 40, the number of preparation for the purposes of God, and 10, the number of God's laws that bring order.

The earth may not be at the physical centre of the universe, but the fact that total eclipses happen is as good a flag as you will ever get that this planet is at the very centre of His order and purpose, which I hope is a comforting thought! Is that all a bit much? Well, how big is your God? The same God who breathed inspiration into the minds of the authors of scripture, also wrote His own story into the physical universe for those to read who would. Maybe He's bigger than you thought!

Leigh Winsbury