

Sunday 23rd August
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

. 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,

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 30th August

10.00 am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Harvington	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion

Events

- St. James', Bishampton **Sustainable Fower arranging** led by *Renata* – Wed 26th Aug, 7:30pm. £5 entry including drinks and nibbles. Contact bishamptonstjames@outlook.com for bookings or more info.
- St. Peter's, Inkberrow **Harvest Supper & Quiz** – Sat 26th Sept 7:00pm. £10 Adult ticket, £5 child. Teams of 4-6 people. Contact Melanie on 07976789444 to book your place!

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 51.1-6.*

⁵¹ Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

This Weeks Psalm: *Psalms 138*

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.

2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me;
you put new strength in my soul.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me;
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand will save me.

8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 12.1-8.*

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;

⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 16.13-20.*

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'

¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Next Weeks Readings: Jeremiah 15. 15-21, Psalm 26. 1-8, Romans 12. 9-end, Matthew 16. 21-end.

Prayer of Intercession

Everlasting God, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ and for revealing him as Messiah and Saviour of the World. Thank you that your son gave our Benefice the keys to the kingdom as a reward for his lively and outspoken faith and so became the foundation of your church here on earth. Everlasting God, we thank you for our church leaders; locally and throughout the world. We pray for all who preach your word, inspire, lead and grow us as disciples as we reach out to those in need in our communities and in our world.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, we pray for all who carry civic and political responsibilities throughout the world. Help the leaders of the Nations put aside all selfish ambition as they seek to be the instruments of your will for humanity and carry out your desire for the welfare of all people.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, may our closeness to family and friends make us never exclusive, shutting others out, but always inclusive, welcoming all.

Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love. We ask for your wisdom to discern your wishes and direction in our lives and how to deal with those we encounter in our daily lives;

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for all who we know who are housebound and in nursing homes; those in hospitals, in recovery and rehabilitation. We thank you for our local hospitals, health centres and clinics and for all those working in sheltered accommodation and care homes. In a moment of silence, we bring before you those on our hearts at this time.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all those departed this life and for those who are bereaved by their passing. Help us to be sympathetic, caring and loving with the bereaved and always ready to help practically and to pray diligently in their time of greatest need.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we thank you that your wisdom not only enlightens us but transforms us and guides us as we go from this place of worship and into our daily walk, through life with you.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**