

Sunday 26th July
Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

Next Week Services: Sunday 2nd August

10.00 am	Harvington	Church @ 10
11.00 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Church @ 11
6.00 pm	Norton & Lenchwick	Evensong
6.30 pm	Harvington	Holy Communion Trad Lang

Events

- Bimble Car Drive out on 8th August – Contact Tina Hill, tinahill18@hotmail.com for tickets!
- Next Coffee Morning in St Egwin's - Sat 15th Aug.
- Sustainable Fower arranging by Renata – Wed 26th Aug, 7:30pm. £5 entry including drinks and nibbles. Contact bishamptonstjames@outlook.com.

This Week's First Reading: 1 Kings 3.5-12.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.'

⁶ And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹ God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

This Weeks Psalm: Psalm 119.129-136.

This Week's Second Reading: Romans 8.26-end.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Continued: *Romans 8.26-end.*

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52.*

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'

⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Next Weeks Readings: *Isaiah 55.1-5, Psalm 145.8-9, 15- end, Romans 9.1-5, Matthew 14.13-21.*

Prayer of Intercession

We pray for families, for those rejected by loved ones, parents, siblings, and for those people rejected by society. At the onset of schools' long summer holidays, we pray for parents and grandparents juggling childcare around work. We pray for working parents who have no-one to help them and for children left to fend for themselves for hours at a time.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for the new Prime Minister, the fourth under King Charles. We pray the Prime Minister and his new cabinet will have the integrity to bring stability and unity to this country. We pray for our ever-changing climate and the adaptations needed to cope with increasing temperatures. We pray for our farmers reliant on the weather for their livelihoods and for those farmers who have lost crops and grazing pasture due to the wildfires.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for your Church at home and abroad. We pray for Christians around the world having to meet and worship in secret. We pray for all churches here threatened with closure due to falling numbers and revenue. We pray for the churches that are seeing growth and pray for new Christians setting out on their journey of faith. We pray for those in our own communities reaching out to the needy: the hungry, the lonely, the destitute, the victims of crime and the bereaved.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

We pray for Christians the world over showing your love and compassion to those in need, especially to those suffering amid conflicts. We think especially of the war in Ukraine, the hostilities in the Middle East, and the famine in Sudan. We think of all those who suffer in mind body or soul. We think of all those facing impossible decisions and unavoidable sadness. We remember all those who have died remember that they sit now, covered and protected by your love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Amen.