

Sunday 16th August
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 23th August

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Harvington	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Church Lench	Church @ 11
3.30 pm	Harvington	Messy Church
6.00 pm	Norton & Lenchwick	Evensong

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 56.1, 6-8.*

⁵⁶ Thus says the Lord : Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord , to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God , who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

This Weeks Psalm: *Psalm 67.*

¹ *God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,*

² *That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.*

³ *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

⁴ *O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples
righteously and govern the nations upon earth.*

⁵ *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

⁶ *Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, our own God, will bless us.*

⁷ *God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.*

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32.*

¹¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.

³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 15.10-28.*

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.'

¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?'

¹³ He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.'

¹⁵ But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.'

¹⁶ Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding?

¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.'

²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'

²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.'

²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'

²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'

²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.



Next Weeks Readings: *Isaiah 51. 1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12. 1-8, Matthew 16. 13-20.*

Prayer of Intercession

Father, we pause to think of all those in our lives who bring your love to us. We pray for those we live with or spend time with regularly. Thank you for the ways they make us better people. And we think of all those for whom we have care and responsibility. Show us how we can bring your love to them in deeper ways. Challenge us to serve them more readily.

Father, help us to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves:

enlarge our hearts to see others as you see them.

Father, we pray for all those in our society who cannot stand up for themselves or feel they do not have a voice. We pray for young children, particularly those in care. We think of those who live on the streets of our cities, or those moved from hotel room to hotel room, never able to get a foot on the ladder. For prisoners. For all who live in abusive relationships. For those who have had to flee their homes because of war or natural disasters. Father, the list seems endless.

Father help us to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves:

enlarge our hearts to see others as you see them.

Father, we pray for our schools. We pause to bring to mind the schools in our neighbourhood. We know that schools can sometimes be a place of fear and anxiety, where young people are under such pressure to conform. We pray for all who are bullied, or who have few, if any, friends. For those who feel on the edge of everything that is happening. We pray for those excluded from school, for whatever reason, feeling perhaps that their true voices haven't been heard. We pray for teachers and support staff, asking that every student will have the opportunity to find a listening ear and an encouraging voice, helping them to reach their full potential.

Father, help us to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves:

enlarge our hearts to see others as you see them.

We remember those who are sick, sorrowful or sad at this time. Help us all to share the joys and the pains of being human by respecting each other and seeing everyone through your eyes.

Father, help us to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves:

enlarge our hearts to see others as you see them.

Engage our minds to remember that we are your children.

Encourage us in all our relationships, to bring your love to others. Amen.