

Benefice of  
Goring & Streatley  
with South Stoke



**Sunday 18th July**

**Trinity 7**

**Welcome to Church**

**The Collect**, the prayer for this week

*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.*



**For an update on services after 19th July please see below**

**This weekend: 18th July**

- 9:30am** \*Holy Communion at St Thomas' and by Zoom
- 11:15am** \*Mattins at St Mary's
- 11.15 am** Morning Worship at St Andrew's
- 3:00pm** Wild Church please pray for us as we learn what works well and what doesn't before we hopefully launch in September.
- 4:00pm** Evensong at St Thomas' led by the trebles

The morning service from St Thomas' will be available by Zoom with the Meeting ID: 826 6127 7602 and Passcode: 038739.

\*It really helps in keeping a register for Track and Trace if you can book in advance (please see below for details on how to do this).

## **From 19th July**

We are relaxing a little but still being cautious. We know that the virus is more present than before but thank God for the effectiveness of the vaccinations on all the vulnerable who have been able to have it.

We have plenty of space to remain at a safer distance to each other during the service, and will have plenty of ventilation.

We will no longer need booking for any service but names will still be taken for a while.

Singing will be allowed in all services and refreshments will sometimes be available.

We will continue to Zoom on Wednesdays and once a month on Sundays (the second Sunday of the month).

People can choose about face coverings, but are asked to be thoughtful both about deaf people who need to lip read and those who are more vulnerable.

Any loud organ voluntaries will be short so no-one is obliged to speak loudly above it. 😊

We will continue to be very careful at the Communion table and distribute bread only at Communion for a while.

All this will be subject to review.

For those who are not able to join us in church or by Zoom on Sunday morning it is our hope that you will be able to take time to stop, find a special place, switch off all distractions, light a candle perhaps, and join in spirit, and by God's Spirit worship and be built up together.

Suggested wording for you to say:

*This is the day which the Lord has made....*

***We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

*The Lord is here, **His Spirit is with us.***

***Lord Jesus, lead us as we come before you now.***

## **The Collect** (*please see above*)

### **Psalm 23**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### **Readings**

Our readings today are Jer. 23: 1-6, Psalm 23 & Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end.

Judith Hogg has written a reflection on the readings:

Jesus had sent out the twelve into the nearby villages to preach about repentance, the Kingdom of God and a new way of living, and to heal the sick, just as He had been doing. But now they are back on a hot, dusty evening, excited, exhilarated, but utterly exhausted, something to which Jesus could relate all too well. They were reporting on all that they had done, but the startling thing was that not only had they taught, but had been instruments in miracles of healing. How exciting is that? But giving yourself to others can be draining.

Jesus sees His disciples and their need to rest, but the crowd was buzzing around them so they couldn't even eat. So He sends them off to a solitary place across the lake. But when they had arrived at their retreat centre, the crowd had got there first. On this occasion Jesus responds to the crowd,

“Because they were like sheep without a shepherd”. He responds to them out of compassion, to be the shepherd they need.

Jeremiah criticized the leaders of Israel for being bad shepherds: the priests and prophets were self-deluded and godless, often gripped by false ideas, not believing that disaster lay ahead, namely, exile. They were more interested in being acceptable to their idolatrous king and popular in the nation, rather than bring bad tidings.

What has this got to do with us today? I believe that millions of us are harassed and helpless, made more real through isolation during the pandemic, with nothing to distract from problems and no-one with whom to share them. We have had less opportunity to spend time with friends, who are more important to us than ever.

Certainly, we have a huge incidence of family breakdown, but also epidemic levels of depression and mental illness and governments have been either indifferent or haven't had a clue what to do.

Psychologically we are enslaved to the idea that our image is more important than our character. Success in our jobs or exams define who we are. What we do is more important than what we are. We forget that we are made in God's image and He delights in us. Our true identity is in who we are in Christ, not in what others may think or say about us. If we know that we are significant to God, so much so that He sent His Son to die for us, we are far more likely to be emotionally secure and to be successful.

Intellectually we are enslaved to the idea that tolerance matters more than truth and we must not speak out against ideas that do not tally with Scripture. Jesus was not afraid to speak out and so become unpopular. Believing a lie because it is popular does not bring salvation. Our nation needs liberating truth, not that all ideas are equal. Believing that God does not exist does not save us. Jesus said that it is the truth that will make us free.

Jesus showed compassion then on the lost crowds, and He does so today. He brought liberating truth, a true account of who God is and who we are, and what we can become. He does not always heal, though he certainly does still today, but He always cares.

We can cast all our burdens on Him and receive His truth and abundant life. But let us also be good shepherds ourselves, having the courage and confidence to speak God's truth. Yes, it needs to be done lovingly and graciously, but not watering down the truth, and leaving the outcome to God.

## Hymn

All who are thirsty  
All who are weak  
Come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the streams of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy  
As deep cries out to deep, we sing  
*Come Lord Jesus, come*

*Holy Spirit come*

*Come Lord Jesus, come*

## Prayers for this week

Thank you to Mary Scriven for this week's prayers.

Heavenly Father, as we reach the time of our release from legislative restrictions to control the Covid pandemic we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our thoughts and actions to keep us and all those with whom we have contact safe and well.

We pray for our Government and all those in positions of authority and influence, that they may show sound judgement and good leadership at home, and compassion and integrity on the global stage.

We thank you for the work of the scientists who have brought us the reassurance of the vaccines, for the doctors, nurses and care workers, and ask your blessing on them in their ongoing work. Gracious God, give sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick and your wisdom to those searching for a cure for all the known variants of the virus. Strengthen them with Your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health. As restrictions are eased we pray for all in the medical profession and the staff and residents of all our local Care Homes.

We pray for the sick and all those who have been affected by the pandemic and for those who are anxious and fearful in this time of uncertainty, particularly those who have lost their livelihoods and the homeless. May they be reassured and lifted up that they may rejoice in Your comfort, knowing

that nothing can separate us from Your love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We ask your blessing on Your church throughout the world that it may show good leadership and give aid to those in need at this time of global crisis. We particularly pray for the work of our Benefice, for our Bishops Steven and Gavin, for Ben and the Ministry team, and remember Steve Poulson in Honduras as he embarks on married life.

Holy Father, we bring before you our families and loved ones that you will bless them and hold them close to you. And for ourselves we ask for your help and guidance throughout the coming week. In the words of Ignatius of Loyola we pray:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve Thee as Thou deservest  
To give and not to count the cost  
To fight and not to heed the wounds  
To toil and not to seek for rest  
To labour and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will. Amen.

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

### **St Andrew's Coffee Morning**

The monthly coffee morning at St Andrew's will return this month on **Wednesday 21st July at 10:30am**. Although this is after 19th July those running the event will be careful to ensure coffee and cakes are served in a safe manner. Please do pass the word on!

### **St Mary's and Little Lights tea party**

St Mary's summer tea party will be held at Gatehampton Manor on **Sunday 25th July** starting at **3pm**. Please bring a plate of something tasty to share. We are inviting the Little Lights and their families and carers, suggesting they bring a teddy bear for a picnic. We hope to start with a very short Bible story and song about a boy who shared his picnic. All welcome to join in this. Older people may also bring a teddy if they wish!

**By Sunday 25th July**, we will be allowed to enjoy indoor congregational singing. Much research shows that there is no more likelihood of spreading air droplets when singing than when speaking. We have been patient and missed

so much of the togetherness and communal harmony that signing together affords. Do invite all your neighbours.

### **What is your favourite hymn? Why?!**

Have you been missing singing your favourite hymns? At our service on Sunday 25th July and in the following weeks we would like to include some of your favourite hymns. If you have a favourite hymn, please email Ben to let him know. Even better, if you tell us why it is your favourite hymn. We will try to include as many of your choices as possible.

### **St Thomas' Music Committee**

For many years, we've had a music committee with young and old members from the clergy, choir and congregation choosing hymns for us to sing at our Sunday services. Having a committee ensures we get a wide variety of hymns with some traditional and some new. During the last 18 months, the committee hasn't met. We're hoping to meet again in the autumn and are looking for one or two new committee members. Would you like to join us? If so, let Ben know either by speaking to him, phoning or emailing.

**Date for your diary:** This year's *Ride and Stride* in aid of Oxford Historic Churches Trust will take place on **Saturday 11th September.**



### **Morning and Evening Prayer**

Morning Prayer is now taking place in our churches again as follows:

8am on Mondays at St Thomas' **plus** Evening Prayer at 4:30pm

8.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St Mary's

8.30am on Fridays at St Thomas'

Do come and join us.

We pray for a good end of the school year somehow and for us as we plan for the Autumn.

**We are asked to pray** this week for Jo Harvey, Peter Phillips, Christine Tucker, Mary Bulmer, the Gregory Family, and for Rose Fay, and for all their families.

**RIP** We lift to God the recently departed including Myrna Anderson and pray for their families and friends.

*Diary for this week:*

**Wednesday 21st July**

10.30am BCP Holy Communion at St Thomas' and by Zoom

Meeting ID: 894 7049 1237 Passcode: 385710

The readings will be Exod. 16. 1-5, 9-15, Ps. 78. 17-31 and Matt. 13. 1-9

10:30am St Andrew's coffee morning

**Thursday 22nd July**

4:00pm Marriage of Rob and Josephine at St Mary's

**Saturday 24th July**

Noon Marriage of Bruce and Erika at St Mary's

**Sunday 25th July**

8:00am BCP Holy Communion at St Thomas'

9:30am Morning Praise at St Thomas'

11:15am Holy Communion at St Mary's

11:15am Morning Praise at St Andrew's

**Daily Prayer...**

See below.... Please join in.

**Daily readings for the coming week**

Monday <b>am:</b>	Ps 1	Ezek. 14. 12-end	2 Cor. 11. 1- 15	<b>pm:</b> Ps 4	Luke 22. 24- 30
Tuesday <b>am:</b>	Ps 5	Ezek. 18. 1- 20	2 Cor. 11. 16- end	<b>pm:</b> Ps 9	Luke 22. 31- 38
Wednesday <b>am:</b>	Ps 119. 1-32	Ezek. 18. 21-32	2 Cor. ch. 12	<b>pm:</b> Ps 11	Luke 22. 39- 46
Thursday <b>am:</b>	Ps 30	1 Sam. 16. 14-end	Luke 8. 1-3	<b>pm:</b> Ps 63	Mark 15.40 – 16.7
Friday <b>am:</b>	Ps 19	Ezek. 20. 21-38	James 1. 1-11	<b>pm:</b> Ps 22	Luke 22. 63- end
Saturday <b>am:</b>	Ps 23	Ezek. 24. 15-end	James 1. 12- end	<b>pm:</b> Ps 24	Luke 23. 1-12

For further information please check [www.thomandmary.org.uk](http://www.thomandmary.org.uk)