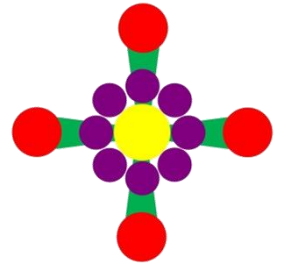


The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
26 July 2026



The Eighth Sunday of Trinity

Call To Worship

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, our souls wait for you,
our hearts are glad in you.
When we trust in your holy name,
let your love be upon us anew,
as we hope in you
and worship you this day.
Amen.

Loving God,
we lay our lives before you and come to worship today
in hope that is heart-shaped.
We come with faith that is Christ-shaped.
We come in trust that is kingdom-shaped.
We come to be shaped, empowered and enabled by you,
and to share our hope, faith and trust with others,
to your glory.
Amen.

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

May the God of love and power
Forgive us and free us from our sins
Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving as we realise
that God is not 'out there', distant and seated high above us,
but is here with us in this moment, not distant but close.

Our hearts overflow as God's being infuses ours,
as God's love warms us, shelters and comforts us,
as God's Spirit gives us strength and hope, passion and purpose.

Our hearts overflow as we know we need not fear God,
that God's treasure is closer than we can feel
and deeper than we can know,
wider than we can see and more real than we can imagine.

Our hearts overflow to know that the place we have searched for is this place,
and that the time we have been searching for is here and now.

Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving.

Amen.

Collect

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First reading: Romans 8:26-end

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. 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.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 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? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

Second reading: Matt 13:31-33. 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 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.'

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.'

'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.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ 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.’

Reflection with Alison

What is the most valuable thing you own?

It might be a family heirloom, a piece of jewellery, or perhaps something that would mean very little to anyone else but means the world to you.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells a series of very short parables about the kingdom of heaven: a mustard seed, yeast, hidden treasure and a pearl of great value. They all point to the same truth, God’s kingdom is often easy to overlook, but once we recognise it, we realise it is worth more than anything else.

The kingdom doesn’t usually arrive with great fanfare. More often it grows quietly, in acts of kindness, a helping hand, a conversation over a cup of tea, or a prayer whispered when we can’t find the words.

That’s exactly what Paul reminds us in Romans. Even when we don’t know how to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us. And nothing, absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. What a treasure that is.

This Sunday is also a special one for our benefice as we welcome Daniel as our new Team Rector. After a long wait, we pray that this new chapter will be one in which we continue to discover God’s kingdom growing among us, often in the small and ordinary moments of everyday life.

May God give us eyes to recognise those hidden treasures, and hearts ready to share them with others.

Amen

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Intercessions with Alison

Let us pray.

Loving God,

your kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a great tree,
like yeast that quietly transforms the whole batch of dough.

Help your Church never to despise small beginnings.

Give us patience to sow faithfully, courage to trust your work, and joy to
discover your kingdom already growing among us.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world.

Where there is conflict, bring peace.

Where there is injustice, bring righteousness.

Where hope seems hidden, reveal signs of your kingdom.

Guide those in positions of authority that they may seek the common good and
protect the most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our own communities.

Help us to recognise the treasures that lie close at hand: acts of kindness, quiet generosity, faithful neighbours and unexpected friendships.

May we become people who bring hope, welcome and compassion to those around us.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are struggling today.

For those who are anxious and cannot find the words to pray...

For those who are ill, grieving, lonely or overwhelmed...

For those living with pain, uncertainty or fear.

In the silence, we remember before you those known personally to us...

Silence

Holy Spirit, when words fail us, pray within us with sighs too deep for words, and surround all who suffer with the assurance that nothing can separate them from your love.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those whose lives have shown us the priceless treasure of faith.

We remember those who have died in the hope of the resurrection.

May they rejoice in the fullness of your kingdom, and may we, with them, come at last to share your eternal glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Faithful God,

help us to recognise the treasure of your kingdom, to trust the work of your Spirit even when we cannot see it, and to live each day in the confidence that nothing in all creation will ever separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

Closing prayer

Lord, go with us.
Help us to seek your treasure.
Help us to look for all you're doing right now.
Help us – by our example as much as by our words –
to share your treasure and your life-giving story
with the people we meet this week.
Amen.

May God keep us in all our days.
May Christ shield us in all our ways.
May the Spirit bring us healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us
and pour upon us blessing and light.
Amen.

We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.