

The Greenway Benefice Sunday Sheet

Holy Trinity Badgeworth, St Paul's Shurdington, and St Mary's Witcombe with Bentham

(Sunday services, readings and prayers are on this sheet, please look in the Three in One for other news and notices)*

Sunday 17th August 2025

9th Sunday after Trinity

Today's Services

9.30 St Paul's Holy Communion
11.00 Holy Trinity BCP Morning Prayer
11.00 St Mary's Holy Communion

Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 5.1-7

The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

5 Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Psalm 80

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, •
you that led Joseph like a flock;
2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the
cherubim, •
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; •
you drove out the nations and planted it.
10 You made room around it, •
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.
11 The hills were covered with its shadow •
and the cedars of God by its boughs.
12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea •
and its tendrils to the River.
13 Why then have you broken down its wall, •
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off, •
and all the insects of the field devour it.
15 Turn again, O God of hosts, •
look down from heaven and behold;
16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted, •
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.
17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down, •
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, •
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
19 And so will we not go back from you; •
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; •
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.

Hebrews 11.29-12.2

The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

The Example of Jesus

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12.49-56

Jesus the Cause of Division

49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!

⁵²From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Interpreting the Time

54 He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

This week's prayers

Please remember in your prayers:

- Those living in Little Witcombe Court.
- Shurdington's Post Office, Shop and Café.
- We are also praying for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East, that they may freely live in peace.

Shurdington Primary School

We are continuing our school links, and we pray for the staff and pupils. This term's school value is Thankfulness.

Our Frontline Prayer

We thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of this community. We commend one another to you on our different frontlines.

Wherever we are, whatever we do, whoever we are, may the Holy Spirit guide us in all things so that we may do God's will in the world, in the service of Jesus Christ and with great joy.

In Church next week

Sunday 24th August 10th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am St Mary's Benefice Holy Communion

This will be the only service in the Benefice today - all welcome.

ECO tip for August

Help your garden wildlife during the hot weather. Feed garden birds as the supply of seeds and berries dries up, and also feed hedgehogs (with hedgehog biscuits) as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes. Provide water for hedgehogs and birds and make sure that small mammals can get out if they fall into your pond.