

Pew Sheet for 26th July 2026

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Tuesday 21st July

2-2.45pm Little Angels

Wednesday 22nd July

9.45am Morning Prayer at Byfield

11.45am Prayer Group at Woodford Halse

Thursday 23rd July

10.00am Funeral Alan Holton at Byfield

Sunday 26th July

9.30am BCP Communion at Eydon

11.00am Holy Communion at Boddington

1.00pm Baptism of Herbert at Byfield

6.00pm Songs of Praise at Byfield

Wednesday 29th July

9.45am Holy Communion at Byfield

11.45am Prayer Group at Woodford Halse

Sunday 2nd August

9.30am Holy Communion

10.00am BCP Morning Prayer at Eydon

10.00am Café Church at Woodford Halse

11.00am Holy Communion at Byfield

Wednesday 9th August

9.45am Morning Prayer at Byfield

11.45am Prayer Group at Woodford Halse

Sunday 9th August

9.30am Holy Communion at Eydon

10.00am Morning Prayer at Boddington

11.00am Common Worship Communion at

Aston le Walls

As you probably all know, none of the churches in the Fiveways benefice receive any external funding and we rely solely on the generosity of parishioners to maintain the church buildings and the ministry that takes place within them and to pay our parish share, most of which is used by the diocese to cover the direct and indirect costs of employing clergy. I know that many people across the benefice already give extremely generously but I have recently been asked by a couple of people from different churches in the benefice if there was a way that they could make their regular offering by a monthly standing order so I thought I would use this week's pew sheet to let you know about the parish giving scheme.

The parish giving scheme is managed by the diocese and it provides a way for people who would like to do so to sign up to give their offering as a monthly, quarterly or annual direct debit. Although it is managed by the diocese any money that is given through the parish giving scheme is immediately passed back to whichever church you have chosen to support, along with the gift aid which can be claimed from the government if you are a UK taxpayer. This saves the church treasurers from some of the paperwork involved in claiming gift aid and many people find it a convenient way to make their offering to help maintain the ministry and mission of the church in these villages.

If you do not already give using the parish giving scheme, and would like to do so, please do speak to your church treasurer who I'm sure would be very happy to help you find out more.

Every blessing,

Clare

Bishop Alex will be coming to Woodford on 18th October for a confirmation service. This will be one of his first commitments in the diocese after being installed as Bishop of Brixworth towards the end of September. If there is anyone from across the benefice who is not confirmed and who would like to join Chris and Colin from Woodford in publicly affirming their faith at this service, please speak to Clare for more information.

Sunday

26 July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 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. 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. 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. 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?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 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, 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."

Or **Genesis 29:15-28**

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

R *The opening of your word gives light.*

Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love
your name. **R**

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion
over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments. **R**

Show the light of your countenance upon
your servant
and teach me your statutes.

My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your
law. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus put before the crowd 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."

POST COMMUNION

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.



The op'-ning of your word gives light.

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