

The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, Knightley & High Offley, Moreton and Norbury

Sunday 5th July (5th Sunday of after Trinity)

As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship

We bring the burdens of the week.

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.

We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

We bring all this to God, whom we worship today. Amen

Lord, awaken us to your glory. Open our eyes to your presence; open our ears to your call.

Open our hearts to your love, that we may proclaim that you are among us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CONFESSION

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Yet, still we make our confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts in confidence of His love and forgiveness.

For not loving you with all our heart:

Forgive us and make us whole

For not loving our neighbour as ourselves:

Forgive us and make us whole

For the times we forget you and rely on our own strength

Forgive us and make us whole

For being less than you created us to be:

Forgive us and make us whole

ABSOLUTION

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**

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment.

Let us give thanks to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ,

that we might be holy and blameless before him.

Let us praise God for the glory of his grace,

for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son.

To Father, Son and Holy Spirit

give praise and dominion, honour and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 118

God is good! Give thanks all you people; his faithful love endures forever. Whom shall I fear if God is on my side?

He heard my cry and set me free: though enemies swarmed around me on every side, God gave me the victory; the rejected one became the cornerstone.

The Lord is my strength and song; in him alone I take refuge.

Give thanks: praise him in the sanctuary, praise him in your hearts; praise him always. His faithful love endures forever.

1st Reading: Genesis 24. 34-38, 42-49, 58-end

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.'

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.'

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

INTERCESSIONS

We bring our prayers using the response: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

The Lord's Prayer: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen**

THE PEACE

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver. The peace of the triune God be always with you: **and also with you.**

PRAYER OF OFFERING

Creator of abundance, Spirit of wisdom, may you use the gifts of the church and the gifts of our lives that your kingdom may come and your will be done through Christ, Lord of extravagant love. **Amen**

CONCLUSION

Spirit of truth, fill our minds. Spirit of Christ, fill our hearts. Spirit of power and holiness, revive your church. Spirit of love, bind us together in Christian fellowship. Spirit of justice and peace, lead all nations into your kingdom. In the name of Jesus Amen

May we go forward through the change and chance of time with the light of eternity in our eyes, the inspiration of truth in our minds, the song of the gospel in our hearts and the strength of well-doing in our hands. But above all, may we go forward with Christ by our side; the way, the truth and the life. **Amen**

BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing ...

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ Amen

Notices

This Week's Services- 5th July

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion

10am Benefice Zoom Worship

Next Week's Services- 12th July

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion

10:30am Morning Worship Civic Service

High Offley 9:30am Holy Communion

Adbaston 9:30am Morning Worship

Norbury 11am Morning Worship

Moreton 11am Holy Communion

Please take this pew sheet with you at the end of the service to help you in your prayers this week.

Prayer diary for this week:

Monday All those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela

Tuesday G G's Youth Club Leader, Megan, as she takes up a new appointment

Wednesday For a vaccine to halt the spread of the latest Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda

Thursday Those who work in our local shops

Friday All who gather for the burial of ashes at Knightley and Tina as she officiates

Saturday For a successful week of GFest

Sunday For the Civic Service at St Lawrence Church

Weekly Diary

Rev Rachael is on holiday this week. Please direct any queries to the benefice office.

Contact the benefice office if you would like the code to join any of the services online.

Monday 6th July 9.30pm Benefice Compline service on Zoom.

Tuesday 7th July 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom.

Wednesday 8th July 9.30pm Benefice Compline service on Zoom

Friday 10th July 2pm Interment of ashes at Knightley

9.30pm Benefice Compline on Zoom

St. Peter's Norbury Salmon Lunch

Sunday 19th July - 12.30 for 1.00pm Norbury Village Hall Salmon, hot new potatoes, and a variety of homemade salads, followed by delicious homemade desserts. Tickets: Adults-£16.00, Children (12 years and under)- £8.00_

Please bring own drinks **Early booking advised - contact 01785 284463**

North West Pinnacle, St Lawrence church tower

The ropes that were secured to the NW pinnacle have been removed following consultation with the church architect. In 2021, a high-level inspection took place and repairs carried out including fitting a stainless steel dowel and some pointing work. The rope was put in place while the pinnacle was monitored. The repairs have consolidated the stonework and the pinnacle is therefore stable. The architect has deemed it safe to remove the ropes. Many thanks to our Churchwarden Eric for undertaking this task.

Gnosall Singers Summer Concert

Saturday 25th July, Moreton Millennium Village Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets £10. Please contact Pat Tweed 01785 822523 or Pat Simcock 01952 971010

Confirmation Service

There will be a Benefice Confirmation service with Bishop Matthew at St Lawrence on Sunday 13th September. If you would be interested in being confirmed, please let Rev Rachael know.

Gnosall Carnival

Many thanks to all who helped with Gnosall Carnival. It was a wonderful day and was well attended by many villagers. Space and Beyond was a fantastic theme which saw many space ships and aliens descend on Gnosall for the day. Full write up will be in the GPN next month.

Contact Details for the Church Office.

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator: Victoria Hainsworth

Office email: churchofficegnosall@gmail.com

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00, Friday 9-1:00. When the office is not staffed, leave a message and someone will reply as soon as possible.