

Pew Sheet for 16th August 2026

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Sunday 16th August

9.30am BCP Communion at Aston le Walls

11.00am Holy Communion at Woodford Halse

1.00pm Baptism of Enzo at Byfield

Wednesday 19th August

9.45am Holy Communion at Byfield

11.45am Prayer Group at Woodford Halse

Sunday 23rd August

9.30am BCP Communion at Woodford Halse

11.00am Holy Communion at Byfield

Wednesday 26th August

9.45am Morning Prayer at Byfield

11.45am Prayer Group at Woodford Halse

Sunday 30th August

10.00am Benefice Communion at Eydon

Wonderfully Wild Churchyard trail!

Explore the wonderful **Eydon** churchyard throughout the school summer holidays.

Discover the creatures who may live there.

*Find the pictures of creatures around the church yard

*Try our churchyard treasure hunt

*Explore with one of our spotter sheets

*Use the binoculars or magnifier

*Colour and discover with an activity sheet

*Reward yourself with stickers!

In the prayer corner inside the church you will find some mini meditations.

Please leave any laminated sheets, binoculars and magnifier here for others to enjoy.

Change and transformation



August is a time when the Church thinks about change and transformation. It is 'ordinary time', which is that time of the year when we're not preparing for, or celebrating, either of the major festivals of Christmas or Easter but we are thinking about growth and creation. It is also the month when the Church remembers the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus on the Mountain is changed (transfigured) in front of his amazed disciples. This story of life, light and connection with heaven comes as Jesus prepares for his death. He leaves the mountain and goes down towards Jerusalem and the events of that first Holy Week.

At this time of year, I am often thinking of children preparing to return to school, or even more poignantly begin new schools; we see a change in them.

As the summer draws to a close we prepare for autumn and a very different sort of season. The growing also draws to a close, the seeds are prepared and the sense of death that will lead to life is there for us to see if we want to.

An old chapter is closing and a new one beginning for many. Life is created by just such occasions; whether we are enjoying the wonder of creation, finishing with one experience, looking forward to a new one, enjoying the sunshine and the life of summer or glimpsing the beginning of autumn, I pray that you will know the transformation of God's presence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham

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

16 August 2026 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure
of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1. 6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Or **Genesis 45:1-15**

PSALM Psalm 67

R *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations. **R**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for you will judge the peoples
righteously and govern the nations
upon earth.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, our own God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a. 29-32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL (Short or long reading)

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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

[Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without

understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."] Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have
celebrated that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings
pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the
gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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