

Pew Sheet for 2nd August 2026

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Sunday 2nd August

9.30am Holy Communion at Boddington

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

Thursday 6th August

11.00am – 1.00pm Messy Church at Byfield

Sunday 9th August

9.30am Holy Communion at Eydon

10.00am Morning Prayer at Boddington

11.00am Common Worship Communion at Aston le Walls

Wednesday 12th August

9.45am Morning Prayer at Byfield

11.45am Prayer Group at Woodford Halse

Sunday 16th August

9.30am BCP Communion at Aston le Walls

11.00am Holy Communion at Woodford Halse

Messy Church

Holy Cross Church Byfield

Thursday 6th August 11.00am – 1.00pm

Suitable for young families with children aged up to 11. There will be activities, followed by a bible story and short period of worship followed by a simple picnic lunch.

Please bring something to sit on.

There is no charge, but donations are welcome

Walk to raise money for ABCD

On 11 August six of us from the Benefice are walking 40km shared between us to raise money for the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Charity. ABCD Bethlehem aims to help to improve the lives of children with disabilities across Palestine, regardless of faith, race or gender. If you would be willing to help us please go to the Just Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/lesley-palmer-3?>

or speak to Lesley 07941 328535

Thank you very much!

William Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson and Olaudah Equiano.

On Thursday this week we remember these three men who played a huge part in abolishing the Slave Trade.

William Wilberforce was an MP, friends with William Pitt and rather fond of cards, gambling and drink. But in 1785, influenced by his Aunt, a supporter of the Methodist preacher George Whitefield, he had a 'conversion experience' and became an Evangelical Anglican. His faith prompted him to become interested in social reform.

In 1787 Wilberforce met Thomas Clarkson, the son of a clergyman. Whilst at Cambridge he won a competition with an essay written in Latin on the subject of whether it was lawful to make slaves of others against their will: ending slavery became his driving passion. In 1787 he formed the Committee for the Abolition of the African Slave Trade, many of whom were Quakers. They persuaded Wilberforce to take up their cause in Parliament. It wasn't until 1807 that the Slave Trade was abolished in the British Empire and it was 1833 before the Abolition of Slavery Act was passed. Wilberforce died just three days after he heard that the Act was going through Parliament.

In 1786 in London, Olaudah Equiano became involved. He was born in Nigeria, captured and taken to Virginia as a child where he was sold to a Royal Naval captain who baptised, educated him and brought him to London. He was able to work and bought his freedom. He was a prominent member of the 'Sons of Africa', a group of 12 black men who campaigned for abolition. LP

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

2 August 2026 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Or **Genesis 32:22-31**

PSALM Psalm 145:8-9. 15-end

[or 145:15-end]
R Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great
goodness.

The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his
creatures. **R**

[The Lord upholds all those who
fall
and lifts up all those who are
bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you,
O Lord,
and you give them their food in
due season. **R**

You open wide your hand
and fill all things living with plenty.
The Lord is righteous in all his
ways
and loving in all his works.

The Lord is near to those who call
upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully. **R**

He fulfils the desire of those who
fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over those who
love him,
but all the wicked shall he destroy.
My mouth shall speak the praise of
the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy
name for ever and ever.] **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I am speaking the truth in Christ.
I am not lying; my conscience
confirms it by the Holy Spirit. I
have great sorrow and unceasing
anguish in my heart. For I could
wish that I myself were accursed
and cut off from Christ for the sake
of my own people, my kindred
according to the flesh. They are
Israelites, and to them belong the
adoption, the glory, the covenants,
the giving of the law, the worship,
and the promises; to them belong
the patriarchs, and from them,
according to the flesh, comes
the Messiah, who is over all, God
blessed for ever. Amen.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

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

When Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the
table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole
household of God:
in that new world where you reveal
the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and
language to share in the eternal
banquet of Jesus Christ our
Lord.



Great is the Lord and high - ly to be praised

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