

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

09:30	Harvest Festival <i>with Holy Communion</i>	St Bartholomew's, Corton
11:00	Morning Worship	St Margaret's, Hopton
11:00	Harvest Festival <i>with Holy Communion</i>	St Peter's, Gunton

THIS WEEK

Saturday 26th September

10:00 – 14:00

CRAFT FAYRE at St Margaret's, Hopton. Refreshments are available to eat in or take out. Donations for the tombola are gratefully received.

Monday 28th September

10:00 – 12:00

DROP IN at St Margaret's, Hopton. Meet and chat with others over a cup of tea or coffee. All are welcome.

Thursday 1st October

09:15 – 11:15

LITTLE FOOTPRINTS at St Margaret's, Hopton. Play & Stay for pre-school children (0-4) and their parents/carers.

OTHER NOTICES

HARVEST FESTIVAL is on Sunday 27th September at **St Bartholomew's, Corton** and **St Peter's, Gunton**. Please bring dry packaged food and tins, which will be donated to a local food bank. Please do *not* bring fresh fruit and veg and other perishable items, or those requiring refrigeration, as these cannot be taken. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

LITE BITE LUNCH at St Margaret's, Hopton, on Sunday 4th October will be bring-and-share. This will follow the Harvest Festival service at St Margaret's. All are very welcome. Please don't worry if you are unable to bring anything to share; there will be some spare food available.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES will be collected at St Margaret's, Hopton, on behalf of Samaritan's Purse. Fill a shoebox with gifts to be shared with a child in need this Christmas. Empty shoeboxes can be collected from St Margaret's, or you can use one you have at home. A sheet with information of appropriate gift ideas is available. The deadline for returning filled shoeboxes to St Margaret's is Sunday 8th November.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- The family and friends of **Martyn Watney** and **Jane Watney**, whose funerals are being held at St Peter's, Gunton, on Friday 2nd October.
- **Danny Perring** and **Isobel Williams**, whose wedding is being held at St Bartholomew's, Corton, on Saturday 3rd October.

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

09:30	Morning Prayer	St Benedict's, Gunton
11:00	Harvest Festival <i>with Holy Communion</i>	St Margaret's, Hopton

Followed by a bring-and-share Lite Bite lunch. All are welcome.

COLLECT

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your
goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth
in their season:
grant that we may use them to your
glory,
for the relief of those in need and for
our own well-being;
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.

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; ⁸a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig-trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷You may say to yourself,

‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’
¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

⁶Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

LUKE 12:16-30

¹⁶And he told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.”

¹⁸‘Then he said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰‘But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

²¹‘This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.’

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷‘Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ²⁸If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! ²⁹And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find
their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us
to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.

EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

18 The word of the LORD came to me:
² ‘What do you people mean by quoting
this proverb about the land of Israel:

“‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on
edge’?”

³ ‘As surely as I live, declares the
Sovereign LORD, you will no longer
quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For
everyone belongs to me, the parent as
well as the child – both alike belong to
me. The one who sins is the one who
will die. [...]

²⁵ ‘Yet you say, “The way of the LORD is
not just.” Hear, you Israelites: is my way
unjust? Is it not your ways that are
unjust? ²⁶ If a righteous person turns
from their righteousness and commits
sin, they will die for it; because of the
sin they have committed they will die.
²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away
from the wickedness they have
committed and does what is just and
right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because
they consider all the offences they have
committed and turn away from them,
that person will surely live; they will not
die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, “The way of
the LORD is not just.” Are my ways
unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your
ways that are unjust?

³⁰ ‘Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge
each of you according to your own
ways, declares the Sovereign LORD.
Repent! Turn away from all your
offences; then sin will not be your
downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the

offences you have committed, and get a
new heart and a new spirit. Why will
you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no
pleasure in the death of anyone,
declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent
and live!

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

2 Therefore if you have any
encouragement from being united with
Christ, if any comfort from his love, if
any common sharing in the Spirit, if any
tenderness and compassion, ² then
make my joy complete by being like-
minded, having the same love, being one
in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing
out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.
Rather, in humility value others above
yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own
interests but each of you to the
interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one
another, have the same mindset as
Christ Jesus:

⁶ who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own
advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a
servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a
man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death –
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the
highest place

and gave him the name that is above
every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee
should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that
Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you
have always obeyed – not only in my
presence, but now much more in my

absence – continue to work out your
salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for
it is God who works in you to will and
to act in order to fulfil his good
purpose.

MATTHEW 21:23-32

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and,
while he was teaching, the chief priests
and the elders of the people came to
him. ‘By what authority are you doing
these things?’ they asked. ‘And who
gave you this authority?’

²⁴ Jesus replied, ‘I will also ask you one
question. If you answer me, I will tell
you by what authority I am doing these
things. ²⁵ John’s baptism – where did it
come from? Was it from heaven, or of
human origin?’

They discussed it among themselves
and said, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he
will ask, “Then why didn’t you believe
him?” ²⁶ But if we say, “Of human
origin” – we are afraid of the people, for
they all hold that John was a prophet.’

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, ‘We don’t
know.’

Then he said, ‘Neither will I tell you by
what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ ‘What do you think? There was a man
who had two sons. He went to the first
and said, “Son, go and work today in the
vineyard.”

²⁹ “I will not,” he answered, but later he
changed his mind and went.

³⁰ ‘Then the father went to the other
son and said the same thing. He
answered, “I will, sir,” but he did not go.

³¹ ‘Which of the two did what his father
wanted?’ ‘The first,’ they answered.

Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the
tax collectors and the prostitutes are
entering the kingdom of God ahead of
you. ³² For John came to you to show
you the way of righteousness, and you
did not believe him, but the tax
collectors and the prostitutes did. And
even after you saw this, you did not
repent and believe him.