

Parish of Todmorden, Cornholme and Walsden
Readings & News, 27th September 2026 - 17 after Trinity



Hymns

Opening: 450 - Morning has broken

Gradual: 25 - All things bright and beautiful

Offertory: 184 - For the beauty of the earth

Communion: 933 - Laudate Dominum

Communion: 926 - Eat this bread, drink this cup

Final: 185 - For the fruits of his creation

Collect Prayer

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. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all
good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18: 1-4 & 25-end 18 The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 1-13 2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21: 23-32 ²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who

gave you this authority?’²⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.’²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?”’²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’²⁷ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.’²⁸ ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.”’²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.’³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

What’s On – All Welcome!

Harvest Festival: 11am, Sunday 4 October – we are collecting donations for the Food Drop In, especially long life milk, tinned veg, tuna, sardines, meats, soup, pasta, rice, toiletries.

Rainbow Faith: 3pm, Sunday 4 October at St Thomas Heptonstall, for the Baptism of Esme Gibbons.

Bible Study: 11am Tuesday 6 October and **7.30pm Wednesday 7 October** – reflecting on exile, faith and action.

Stolen from God: 7 for 7.30pm, Friday 9 October - a musical folk story about the Transatlantic Slave Trade, sponsored by Todmorden Folk Festival.

Oktoberfest: 3-6pm, Saturday 10 October - Beer, wine, food, music and fellowship.

News from Tanzania: 12.30pm, Sunday 11 October - with Alice Leadbitter, head teacher at National School, after her work with a safe house in Tanzania this summer. Refreshments available.

Ghostly Tales Part 2

Rehearsals: Thursdays 15, 22 and 29 October – actors needed, please speak to Luke

Performance: 7 for 7.30pm Saturday 31 October – spooky stories from Todmorden’s past

Rotas for Readers and Prayers: We are about to prepare the rotas for December onwards. If you are already on a rota, please could you tell Megan (Megan.Barford@leeds.anglican.org) of any dates you are not available to read/pray between **December 2026 to April 2027**. If you are not on a rota but would like to be, please let Catherine (Catherine.Shelley@leeds.anglican.org) know.

Please pray for: Gwen Mills, Jacob Howarth, Roy Yearsley, Viv Hawksworth, Mandy Fielden, Norman Cruikshank, Margaret McArdle; Sarah Battershell, Robert Scholey, Joyce Campion, Trevor Smith, Meg Kennedy, Jeffrey Hunter, Lisa & Michael Kenyon, Natasha McArdle, Ann Mason, Zoe Beesley, Lorna & Peter Shackleton, Roger & Pat Dale, Maureen Marshall, Val & William Cottam, Rowena, Mary Clear, David Crossley, Dr Diana Harris, Jules Mercer, Catherine, Patty Edmonds, Val Wigglesworth, Grandma Janey, Pat & Mike Edwards, Middle East, Ukraine, Somalia, Sudan & Yemen

Recently Departed: Fred Wigglesworth, Rita Jackson, Diane Davis, Ghasemi, Estelle Brown

In Memory: Ethel Sunderland, Barry Dawson, Will Banks, Barbara Finney, Richard Foster, John R Trenholme, Nellie Barker, John Taylor, Anne Radford, David Baxendale, Sidney Francis (Sid) Cridge, George Wright, Sheila Jones

For **notices, weddings, funerals, baptisms** and **volunteering** please contact Rev Catherine:
07711 611201 / Catherine.Shelley@leeds.anglican.org

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