18th Sunday after Trinity
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH 4th October

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:
my loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. 'Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?
Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.
I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds not to rain on it.'
The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia! I chose you from the world to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

'Listen to another parable: there was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall round it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

'The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them in the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said.

'But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance." So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

'Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,' they replied, 'and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures:

'"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes"?

'Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen.**

✠ ST GEORGE'S CHORLEY ✠

NOTICES for 4th October 2026

CLERGY CONTACTS

Rev. Toby Webber	E: vicar@stgeorgechorley.co.uk
Vicar	T: 01257 826131
Rev. Peter Smith	E: frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk
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ST GEORGE'S CONTACTS

Lorraine Smith:	T: 07729 886640
Warden	E: lorraine54@me.com
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Warden	E: n.m.a@hotmail.co.uk
Sian Philipson:	E: churchhall@stgeorgechorley.co.uk
Church Hall	

REGULAR SERVICES

Wednesday 10am Eucharist
Friday 9:15am Morning Prayer
Sunday 9:30am Sung Eucharist and Sunday School

ALL SAINTS' HARVEST FESTIVAL

This afternoon at 4pm we welcome Bishop Philip to Closer for Harvest. There will be a Jacobs Join afterwards

SHOEBOX APPEAL. We are supporting IAT appeal during October . Please take a box and leaflet from the back of church and return by 1st November . Please note NO chocolate and only sweets with a long Best Before date.

BIBLE STUDY – Continues this Wednesday at 1:30 an hour, followed by a short time of prayer. 25 Hamilton Road, Chorley, PR7 2DL.

CPR/defib training will take place in the church hall on Friday 9th October at 7:30pm

ATTENDANCE FORMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL- For anyone putting St Michael's down as their choice of High School, please hand your completed forms to either Lorraine or Netta ASAP. Please remember to take a copy of them before handing in.
And if your child is in Year 4 don't forget to get a form and start getting your attendances recorded and verified.

PANTOMIME AUDITIONS 11th October
Sunday 11 Oct in the Church hall
Children: 4:30pm, Adults & Children Year 9 & above

CAROL'S LICENSING alongside two other new LLMs will take place in St George's on 25th October at 3pm. Could you provide a cake for the 'bun fight' afterwards – please let Lorraine or Netta know.

APPLIANCE TESTING A reminder to leave any appliances in the back room of the hall by 9.30 am this Weds 7th.

ABIDE – some of our young people (Y6+) are going to the annual 'Abide'event on Sat 10th at St Michael's. If interested please speak to Pete or Revd Toby.

Today's hymns

97 Christ is made the sure foundation
227 God of mercy, God of grace
463 My song is love unknown
Choir: Brother James' Air (Jacob)
34 And now, o Father **45** As the deer
305 Lord of the dance

Please remember in your prayers:
Barbara Ashcroft, May Maiden, Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Jonathan Yates, Margaret Salisbury, Dorothy Treadwell, Stephen Dunseath

The recently departed
Marjorie Baxendale

and for those whose years' mind falls at this time:
Alfred Johnson, William Herbert Williams

St George's Christmas Fair 2026

You are invited to join us on Saturday 28th November for our Annual Christmas Fair inside the Church Hall. The fair opens at 10.30am by very special guests and closes at 1.30pm.
You will find all the usual fun and games, as well as a great selection of stalls including:
Bottle tombola, Crafts and festive gifts, Cakes and Preserves, jewellery, games and gifts, Pop-up café, a visit from Santa, Children's Crafts, Teddy and Chocolate tombola and Mothers Union Gift Bag stall.
There will also be 'Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake' competition. Amazing prizes in our Grand raffle, the £50 note game and the usual program raffle along with the Mothers Union raffle.

Run-up to the big day:

You could help us make the fair a really successful event (and our main fundraiser for the year) by bringing in the following in the months and weeks running up to the fair:

- Bottles (all types, including toiletries and alcoholic/non-alcoholic)
- Chocolate for the chocolate tombola
- Great condition teddies, white elephant items.

Also - can you help us find some raffle prizes? We would be grateful for a raffle prize to add to the Grand raffle. Would your hairdresser donate a haircut, your garage a free MOT, your favourite restaurant a meal for 2?
On the day: Please come and support the fair and bring your friends and family for a lovely festive event!
In Summary: Drop off your essential donations at the back of church and please follow the notices directing which box each type of contributions are to be placed.

In summary

Oct Nov – Bottles, teddies/soft toys/chocolate/ White elephant items (in good condition)/ Raffle prizes/ new/good used jewellery (no earrings unless new – please see Victoria Gibson)
On the day – cakes and bakes for the cake stall

Thank you, Sara Shingler (shinglebelly@yahoo.com)