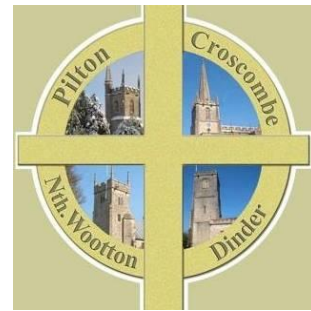


***Pilton with Croscombe, North Wootton  
and Dinder.***



***Morning Worship for 23<sup>rd</sup> August***

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with us all. Amen

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognize his presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we are together even if physically apart so  
let us worship him together.

**Hymn:** To God be the glory

<https://youtu.be/2CeBoSQsBR0>

***Prayers of Penitence***

Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from *our* sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### ***Praise***

Let everything be said and done in the name of the  
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.  
Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:  
let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
and we shall praise your name. Amen.

### ***The Word***

*This week a gospel version of psalm 124 by Ann Neesby*

<https://youtu.be/vbQzfbm6lxc>

### **Psalm 124**

1. If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say;
2. If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;
3. Then would they have swallowed us alive when their anger burned against us;
4. Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the

torrent gone over our soul; over our soul would have swept the raging waters.

5. But blessed be the Lord who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

6. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken and we are delivered.

7. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth

### **Reading(s)**

#### **Romans 12: 1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in

generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### **Matthew 16: 13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Sermon** by Philip

#### ***'You are Peter'***

**'And I tell you, you are Peter and on *this rock* I will build my church,'**...This *rock*?...Peter...

Simon Peter, who in the previous chapter sank in the waves for lack of faith...(Matthew 14: 22-33)

Simon Peter, who in the very next passage is a 'stumbling block' to Jesus and told to 'Get behind me *Satan!*'...(Matthew 16:21-23.)

Simon Peter, who as foretold, denies knowing Jesus three times ...and is left with bitter tears. (Matthew 26: 69-75). Simon Peter, not his brother Andrew, the first disciple, nor the other fishermen, nor the one whom Jesus loved most, nor the tax collector, nor the zealot...

No, it is impetuous Peter, who Jesus declares as the *rock* on which his *church* is to be built, who is given authority and the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

**Each week, since Trinity Sunday, we have been tuning into the Gospel according to Matthew.** And over the weeks we have walked with Jesus and his disciples during his ministry in Galilee, hearing the parables, witnessing his miracles and observing his disciples as they are shaped by His ministry preparing them for the time when they will lead his church, his new community.

**Matthew has been described as the Gospel of the church.** It is the only Gospel to use the term 'church' (ekklesia) (16:18, 18:17) and appears written to give clear and coherent guidance to a community of believers. It has been crafted to show Jesus as the fulfilment of the Jewish hope for a Messiah, and draws from Hebrew scripture to show how Jesus' life and teaching fits. Thought to be written for Jewish Christians, it cites Hebrew Scripture directly some 57 times. Jesus is shown as God with us, as 'Emmanuel' (1:23), as 'Beloved Son of God', saviour of his community, healer, as Isaiah's 'Suffering Servant' (8.17) who takes on his peoples infirmities. He is also shown to be 'Lord', a new Moses giving new law.

**Today's reading follows on from the Pharisees and Sadducees demands for a sign from heaven**, and from Jesus' warning to the disciples to beware of their teaching, their yeast. And it is followed by the Transfiguration where Jesus' identity is confirmed by God...'This is my Son, the Beloved...'(17:5)

**But in today's reading** , when asked by Jesus, who He is , ...despite the feeding of the 5,000, the walking on water, the healings, the feeding of 4,000, ...the disciples appear surprisingly slow to grasp that Jesus is the fulfilment of prophecy, the awaited 'Messiah', the 'Christ', the 'Son of Man' who comes with judgement at the end of time. ....**Apart that is, from Simon Peter**, who when asked....cannot help but blurt it out...'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God'(16:16). And this he knows through faith, not learning, this he knows in his heart, not his mind. It is through the heart, not the mind that he is driven to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah. And it is this knowledge deep within him, direct from God, that qualifies him to be a rock. **Many of us may feel ill-equipped, ill-prepared or ill-suited to dare to follow in Christ's footsteps and walk His path.** Our humanity, our fallibility can bequeath glaring flaws. Peter's selection as rock, reminds us that Jesus calls us as human beings....as fallible flesh and blood.

**So what was built upon this rock?** A community of believers. A body, called to act in unity though varied and diverse. The church's development over 2,000 years reflects our humanity in its richness, its and variety. And as a body comprised of human beings it has to cope with failure, with

disagreement, with jealousy, rivalry, insecurity, betrayal and disappointment. And like Simon Peter, we too fall short, we get things wrong, but like him also we do our best, and we don't give up, trusting God to transform us.

**Two letters written by Peter towards the end of the New Testament** reveal an older wiser Peter, a stable and mature leader, an Apostle of Christ, a *rock* weathered by a life of mission. Nurtured by Jesus, and transformed by His resurrection and the fulfilment of scripture. In the first letter, Peter the rock, invites us to come '...to come, and like living stones, let yourselves be built-into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,....' (1 Peter 2:4-6, Peter).

**And today as a church,** as God's Spiritual house and the Body of the risen Christ, as a community of believers, we grapple with being human and particularly now, in this challenging and changing world where stress levels are high.

**But we have Christ's Apostles and the heroes of the church to inspire us.** Think how the trauma of Peters' betrayal of Jesus might have ended Peter's ministry...But no, Peter moves forward to embrace his destiny, his future as the *rock* on which Christ chooses to build His church. Like him we too are to let ourselves be used, to allow ourselves be built into the spiritual house that is Christ's church. **Amen.**

*We continue with the Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Song: Jesus Messiah by Chris Tomlin

[https://youtu.be/9\\_jnk8dgxrQ](https://youtu.be/9_jnk8dgxrQ)

***Prayers of Intercession.***

As the Church of God, let us pray together.

Fill your Church, O Lord, with life and energy to serve you in our communities. We thank you for the support we receive from one another and from you and we pray that you will strengthen us to live out our Christian faith with tenderness and humility with the people and in the situations in which we find ourselves.



Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord, as the season of summer moves on we pray that you will fill us with the wonder of creation. Enable us to recognise our responsibilities in stewarding and caring for the world. We remember the suffering that manifests itself in a variety of ways whether as a result of natural or man-made conditions and we pray that, as we are able, we will play our part in alleviating suffering. We hold in our minds our concerns for areas and issues of conflict and violence, and of inequality and poverty.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Fill our homes and neighbourhoods, O Lord, with generosity and trust that allows space but is always ready to encourage, support and listen. We pray for wisdom in people's lives and actions. Ensure that we go about their comings and goings with respect and responsibility for the well-being of all.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord, these last weeks have been a challenging time for young people especially those in their mid and late teenage years. Hear our prayers for the students who should have taken important exams in schools, colleges and universities. May all those affected by the recent muddle find a sure path for the future. We pray for them and for the plans being made for children and staff returning to school in September.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Fill the hearts and minds, O Lord, of people facing today with anxiety for themselves or for someone they love. We hold in our prayers all in need; we remember those who are unwell or lonely, and those who are bereaved and here we remember in particular the families of Clive Browning and Margaret Miles; all in any kind of need. We bring these and our own particular concerns to the Lord in a moment of quiet prayer.

Grant your healing peace to all in need.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord, we thank you that you are always there for us, that we can place our hope in you, the foundation of our faith. Strengthen our trust in your presence whatever the circumstances. Keep us aware of your love for us in these uncertain times and take us forward with you in the coming days.

Merciful Father, *accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## We continue in prayer

**Our Father in Heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### ***The 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.  
**Amen**

**Hymn** The Church's one foundation

<https://youtu.be/FHCqXL3mCwU>

### ***Conclusion***

***The service ends with a Grace.***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.