

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 14 September 2025, A Service of Praise for the Biodiversity of the Chew Valley

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in **bold** are to be said together.*

Preparation

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is a Valley full of beauty.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is a world full of living diversity.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is a creation that sings your praise.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God, our creator,
we come together to celebrate your creation:
the bright beauty of this Valley that is our home,
the abundance of your providing;
accept this offering of praise as we worship you,
the Maker of all. **Amen.**

Confession

Lord, you delight in creation, its colour and diversity;
yet we have misused the earth
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Creator God, in your mercy: **Forgive us and help us.**

Lord, you have brought order out of chaos,
light in darkness, good out of evil,
but we have preferred darkness
in words and deeds which dishonour your holy name.

Creator God, in your mercy: **Forgive us and help us.**

Lord, you have showered us with blessings,
but we have been grudging
towards other people and other species
and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

Creator God, in your mercy: **Forgive us and help us.**

God forgives us

May the Lord of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in God's image
to the praise and glory of the Creator's name,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Praise Job 12:7-10, Psalms 147:9; 148:9-10; 150:6

'Ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.'

He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Bible Reading: Luke 12:22-31

²²Jesus said to his disciples:

I tell you not to worry about your life! Don't worry about having something to eat or wear.

²³Life is more than food or clothing. ²⁴Look at the crows! They don't plant or harvest, and they don't have storehouses or barns. But God takes care of them. You are much more important than any birds. ²⁵Can worry make you live longer? ²⁶If you don't have power over small things, why worry about everything else?

²⁷Look how the wild flowers grow! They don't work hard to make their clothes. But I tell you Solomon with all his wealth wasn't as well clothed as one of these flowers. ²⁸God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow. Won't he do even more for you? You have such little faith!

²⁹Don't keep worrying about having something to eat or drink. ³⁰Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things. Your Father knows what you need. ³¹But put God's work first, and these things will be yours as well.

Festival Benedicite *'O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord'*

O all you works of the Chew Valley, bless the Lord.

All you villages, parishes and farms,
woodlands, coombes, meadows and pastures, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you watery things, bless the Lord.

Lakes, ponds and reservoirs, Winford Brook and River Chew,
sewerage and irrigation systems, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you mighty things, bless the Lord.

Dundry Hill, Maes Knoll, stone circles,
airliner, combine and HGV, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you tiny things, bless the Lord.

Goldfinch and harvest mouse, pollen dust, ladybird,
Small copper butterfly and meadow grasshopper, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you hunting things bless, the Lord.

Kingfisher with flashing wings, lurking pike, midnight bat,
hovering kestrel and zooming dragonfly, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you hunted things, bless the Lord.

Tufted duck and moorhen chick, wild rabbit,
tiger moth and stripy caterpillar, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you noisy things, bless the Lord.

Cackling geese, chattering jackdaws,
bellowing cattle, backfiring motorcycle, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you harmonious things, bless the Lord.

Singing blackbird, carolling choir,
chiming bells, yaffling woodpecker, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you fruiting things, bless the Lord.

Blackberries and wild sloes, red rose hips,
woodland fungus and hedgerow hawthorn, bless the Lord.

Praise and magnify God for ever.

All you travelling things, bless the Lord.
Migrating swallows and package holidaymakers,
returning students and departing osprey, bless the Lord.
Praise and magnify God for ever.

**Now all you creatures that never talk
still bless the Lord.
Praise and magnify God for ever.**

Poem: All Nature has a Feeling *by John Clare*
All nature has a feeling: woods, fields, brooks
Are life eternal; and in silence they
Speak happiness beyond the reach of books;
There's nothing mortal in them; their decay
Is the green life of change; to pass away
And come again in blooms revived.
Its birth was heaven, eternal is its stay,
And with the sun and moon shall still abide
Beneath their day and night and heaven wide.

Intercessions

Following the example of Jesus, we bring before God the needs we perceive for the world and for ourselves.

Our Father in heaven,

Who formed the cosmos, knit us in the womb. (Genesis 1, Psalm 139:13)

We bring before you our prayers for creation in all its complexity, both beautiful and broken, and for ourselves with all that is going on in our lives, both that which delights us and that which troubles us.

hallowed be your name.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. (Psalm 150:6)

We give you thanks for the marvellous variety of life in the Chew Valley and for the intricate web of relationships that binds us together in this place.

Your kingdom come,

Creation waits in eager expectation. (Romans 8:19)

We lament the effects of climate change that cause many parts of this earth to groan under excessive stress and we pray that you will give us the determination, the skills, time and will to safeguard the viability of our world.

your will be done,

They will beat their swords into ploughshares. (Micah 4:3)

We hold before you the terrible suffering caused by war, famine, displacement and disease and we pray for the continuing work of peacemakers striving to end all conflicts, remembering especially those in the Holy Land, Ukraine and the Sudan.

on earth as it is in heaven.

The wolf will live with the lamb.

(Isaiah 11:6)

We pray that you will give us the courage to challenge every instance of racism and every act designed to engender polarisation, giving us wisdom and compassion to open our hearts to the stranger in our midst.

Give us today our daily bread.

Fruit of the earth and the work of human hands.

We ask you to lead us into moderation that we may share equally and justly the rich resources of the earth, encouraging all to thrive.

And forgive us our sins

When there is no rain because your people have sinned.

(1 Kings 8:35)

We are sorry for every thought or act that has hurt others, ourselves or creation.

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.

(Matthew 18:18)

We pray that you will fill us with the strength and will to never give up on the deep, hard and ongoing work of forgiveness.

Lead us not into temptation

Do not worry.

(Matthew 6:25)

We ask for your compassion for all who are suffering in body mind and spirit – those we know closely and those whose pain we witness from afar.

but deliver us from evil.

Under his wings you will find refuge.

(Psalm 91:4)

And we pray that they will feel the comfort of your healing hand sheltering them and guiding them in their time of need.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Who was, and is, and is to come.

(Revelation 4:8)

Loving Father, who laid the earth's foundation and brings forth the constellations in their seasons, we pray trusting that you will hear us, and hearing us, will respond.

May we discover your holy presence everywhere.

May we value your gifts without harm or waste.

May we find and share the beauty of your love for all creation. Amen.

Collect

Holy God,

Creator of the world and fount of all life,

you never abandon the creatures

formed by your wisdom:

remain with us always, we pray,

working for our good,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Conclusion

Glorious God, who made us part of a wonderful and varied creation
who entrusts the care of all creation to us, and gives us the gift of creativity,
you send us out to be your hands, eyes, ears, head and heart in the world.

We will tread the earth lightly,
scattering God's blessing.

Our hearts changed by love,
the love of the living God.

Working to transform the world.
Inspired by the holy God.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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