

**PARISH OF THE UPPER SKERNE**  
**(Fortnightly notice sheet)**  
**19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**CREATIONTIDE WEEK 3**



**Church Services week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00 am Harvest Celebration at St Edmund's Sedgefield (*Rev Elizabeth Bland*)  
(*This will also be the Zoom service for this Sunday*)

10.00am Harvest Celebration at St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon (*Rev Martin King*)  
6.00pm Meditation Service at St Mary Magdalene's Trimdon Village

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

10.00am Holy Communion at St Michael's, Bishop Middleham (*Rev Peter Robson*)

Today at St Edmund's Church, Sedgefield, we welcome into God's family,  
through the sacrament of Baptism Hallie Mary May Smith



**Our worship on Zoom will continue.**

Sunday Morning Worship on Zoom at 10.00am.

Weekly Meditation on Zoom: 10.00am Wednesday

Not an internet user? You can join Zoom too – by telephone! Please follow the instructions below.

**To access Sunday Worship on Zoom by Telephone:**

**Dial one of these numbers:** 0203 901 7895  
0131 460 1196

**Key in meeting number:** 879 9350 3721 followed by #

**Key in: # again**

**Key in passcode:** 008647 followed by #

**The Third Sunday Of Creationtide – Harvest Thanksgiving**

**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**

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of

olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

## **Psalm 126**

*Refrain: The Lord has indeed done great things for us.*

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter  
and our tongue with songs of joy.

3 Then said they among the nations,  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us,  
and therefore we rejoiced. [**R**]

5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,  
as the river beds of the desert.

6 Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,  
will come back with shouts of joy,  
bearing their sheaves with them. [**R**]

## **1 Timothy 6.6-10**

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

## **Matthew 6.25-33**

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

## **Post Communion**

Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation  
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:  
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Parish Prayers

### **Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> September THOSE WHO LIVE IN:**

(Mon) Cordwainer Grove, St Edmund's Manor, S (Tue) Coronation Ave, F  
(Wed) Coronation Terr, TC (Thurs) ) Coronation Terr, TV  
(Fri) Cragside, S (Sat) Crispin Court, S

### **Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> September THOSE WHO LIVE IN:**

(Mon) Cross Street, S (Tue) Deaf Hill Terr, TC (Wed) Down Terr, TG  
(Thurs) Dunelm Court, S (Fri) Dunelm Rd, TV (Sat) Durham Rd, S

## Recently Departed

**St Mary Magdalene's** - Jennie Mercer, Angela McCourt

**St Catherine's** – Lavinia Frain

**St Michael's** –Nora Etherington

**St Alban's** – Liam Sean Catchpole

**St Edmund's** – John Garside

## The Sick

*We remember those known to us who are ill at this time. We give thanks for those who are regaining their strength. This week our prayers are asked especially for-*

**St Alban's** - Doreen Greathead, Richard Wilks, Charlie Clement, Joyce Teasedale  
Sandra Venner

**St Catherine's** - Norma Uren, Rita Fulton, Katherine Cooper-Young, Joan Ward,  
Jean Etherington

**St Edmund's** - Freda Gunn, Sam Edgoose, Anne Jordan, Betty Weightman, June  
Ord, Keith Lombard, John Maddison, George Harrison

**St Mary Magdalene's** - Lesley Jennings, Betty Weightman, Jean Etherington

**St Michael's** - Betty Dykes, Paul Gray, Theresa and John Cornwell, Keith Walker

## Prayers from Roots website

Loving, gracious God,  
who does not put us in order – greatest to least,  
best to worst, loved most to loved least, or any other order:  
be with us as we spend time with one another and with you.  
Help us to listen to you as you speak to us

and challenge us, love us and encourage us.

Amen.

Lord God, you call us to live our best lives

– for you, with you, in you.

We may sometimes pause to smell the coffee or the roses,

but we are often too busy to take time to be aware of you

– that you are with us, in us, and in those around us.

Quieten our hearts now to recognise you in this place today.

Help us to reach out to one another with love,

care and compassion,

so that we can all live our best life for you.

Amen.

God, who loves little children, we adore you.

We drink in the wonder of your presence,

the specialness of our relationship with you.

You are far beyond our understanding,

your love is greater than our greatest dreams.

We worship you, our Lord and our God.

Amen.

Jesus said: 'Anyone who wants to be first must be last.'

Lord, for the times I've put myself first, or argued with people,  
because I think I know better than them or that I am better  
than them...

For the times when I don't want to be a servant because I think  
I'm capable of greater things...

When I don't recognise Christ in those around me because I'm  
too busy looking out for myself...

When I don't understand what people mean, perhaps not  
understanding their feelings of fear or inadequacy...

When I jostle for position, rather than being happy where you  
put me...

You challenge us, Lord, when we do wrong.

You get us to focus by using questions,  
even though you know the answers.

Your image is present in each one of us.

When we confess our sins,

you are always there to forgive us.

We stand now, humbly in your presence. Forgiven.



Acknowledging that you are the greatest.

Amen.

Thank you, Lord, that we can always find our place in you.

Thank you that we belong to you,  
and no one can take that away from us.

We are secure in your loving arms.

We need never be afraid to ask you anything.

Thank you for the people who give us a cup of water,  
and much more, because we belong to you.

Thank you for the times we can meet blessing with blessing.

Amen.

Lord, we pray for all who have decisions to make today,  
or who face difficulties or challenges in their lives.

We pray for those who are making decisions on behalf of others,  
and those whose decisions affect lives other than their own.

We pray that they may have courage to do what is right,  
and the vision to see what is important,  
when there are so many other distractions.

We pray that they may all have the wisdom that comes from you –  
pure, peace-loving, gentle and merciful.

We pray for your Church, in all her diversity,  
that she may seek you above all,  
that you may grant her discernment and compassion.

We pray that we may yield good fruit in our lives,  
not 'lording' it over others or squabbling about what we deserve  
but instead considering the needs of others first.

Let us receive as we have been received,  
forgive as we have been forgiven,  
and love as we have been loved.

For Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen.

Lord, Jesus,  
may we go out into the world to shine with your love,  
listen with your ears  
and speak words of kindness and hope  
to everyone we meet – in your name.

Amen.

## Morning Prayer Readings

Week beginning Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)

### Collect for 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	119.153-176	Isaiah 45.9-22	Revelation 14.1-5
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	44	2 Chronicles 2.1-16	Mark 12.28-34
<b>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</b> Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	49, 117	1 Kings 19.15-end	2 Timothy 3.14-end
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	119.57-80	2 Chronicles 5	Mark 13.1-13
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	57	2 Chronicles 6.1-21	Mark 13.14-23
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	51	2 Chronicles 6.22-end	Mark 13.24-31
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	68	2 Chronicles 7	Mark 13.32-end
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	122	Isaiah 48.12-end	Luke 11.37-end

### Collect for St Matthew

O Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector  
to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ.

### Collect for 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:

deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## REFLECTION

*As we move through Creationtide, in this notice sheet we're including the joint message from Archbishop Justin, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew regarding the Protection of Creation. This is in place of the usual reflection from one of our local ministers.*

For more than a year, we have all experienced the devastating effects of a global pandemic-all of us, whether poor or wealthy, weak or strong. Some were more protected or vulnerable than others, but the rapidly-spreading infection meant that we have depended on each other in our efforts to stay safe. We realised that, in facing this worldwide calamity, no one is safe until everyone is safe, that our actions really do affect one another, and that what we do today affects what happens tomorrow.

These are not new lessons, but we have had to face them anew. May we not waste this moment. We must decide what kind of world we want to leave to future generations. God mandates: 'Choose life, so that you and your children might live' (Dt 30:19). We must choose to live differently; we must choose life.

September is celebrated by many Christians as the Season of Creation, an opportunity to pray and care for God's creation. As world leaders prepare to meet in November at Glasgow to deliberate on the future of our planet, we pray for them and consider what the choices we must all make. Accordingly, as leaders of our Churches, we call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.

### *The Importance of Sustainability*

In our common Christian tradition, the Scriptures and the Saints provide illuminating perspectives for comprehending both the realities of the present and the promise of something larger than what we see in the moment. The concept of stewardship-of individual and collective responsibility for our God-given endowment-presents a vital starting-point for social, economic and environmental sustainability. In the New Testament, we read of the rich and foolish man who stores great wealth of grain while forgetting about his finite end (Lk 12.13-21). We learn of the prodigal son who takes his inheritance early, only to squander it and end up hungry (Lk 15.11-32). We are cautioned against adopting short term and seemingly inexpensive options of building on sand, instead of building on rock for our common home to withstand storms (Mt 7.24-

27). These stories invite us to adopt a broader outlook and recognise our place in the extended story of humanity.

But we have taken the opposite direction. We have maximised our own interest at the expense of future generations. By concentrating on our wealth, we find that long-term assets, including the bounty of nature, are depleted for short-term advantage. Technology has unfolded new possibilities for progress but also for accumulating unrestrained wealth, and many of us behave in ways which demonstrate little concern for other people or the limits of the planet. Nature is resilient, yet delicate. We are already witnessing the consequences of our refusal to protect and preserve it (Gn 2.15). Now, in this moment, we have an opportunity to repent, to turn around in resolve, to head in the opposite direction. We must pursue generosity and fairness in the ways that we live, work and use money, instead of selfish gain.

### *The Impact on People Living with Poverty*

The current climate crisis speaks volumes about who we are and how we view and treat God's creation. We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth's resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them. We serve a God of justice, who delights in creation and creates every person in God's image, but also hears the cry of people who are poor. Accordingly, there is an innate call within us to respond with anguish when we see such devastating injustice.

Today, we are paying the price. The extreme weather and natural disasters of recent months reveal afresh to us with great force and at great human cost that climate change is not only a future challenge, but an immediate and urgent matter of survival. Widespread floods, fires and droughts threaten entire continents. Sea levels rise, forcing whole communities to relocate; cyclones devastate entire regions, ruining lives and livelihoods. Water has become scarce and food supplies insecure, causing conflict and displacement for millions of people. We have already seen this in places where people rely on small scale agricultural holdings. Today we see it in more industrialised countries where even sophisticated infrastructure cannot completely prevent extraordinary destruction.

Tomorrow could be worse. Today's children and teenagers will face catastrophic consequences unless we take responsibility now, as 'fellow workers with God' (Gn 2.4-7), to sustain our world. We frequently hear from young people who understand that their futures are under threat. For their sake, we must choose to eat, travel, spend, invest and live differently, thinking not only of immediate

interest and gains but also of future benefits. We repent of our generation's sins. We stand alongside our younger sisters and brothers throughout the world in committed prayer and dedicated action for a future which corresponds ever more to the promises of God.

### *The Imperative of Cooperation*

Over the course of the pandemic, we have learned how vulnerable we are. Our social systems frayed, and we found that we cannot control everything. We must acknowledge that the ways we use money and organize our societies have not benefited everyone. We find ourselves weak and anxious, submersed in a series of crises; health, environmental, food, economic and social, which are all deeply interconnected.

These crises present us with a choice. We are in a unique position either to address them with shortsightedness and profiteering or seize this as an opportunity for conversion and transformation. If we think of humanity as a family and work together towards a future based on the common good, we could find ourselves living in a very different world. Together we can share a vision for life where everyone flourishes. Together we can choose to act with love, justice and mercy. Together we can walk towards a fairer and fulfilling society with those who are most vulnerable at the centre.

But this involves making changes. Each of us, individually, must take responsibility for the ways we use our resources. This path requires an ever-closer collaboration among all churches in their commitment to care for creation. Together, as communities, churches, cities and nations, we must change route and discover new ways of working together to break down the traditional barriers between peoples, to stop competing for resources and start collaborating.

To those with more far-reaching responsibilities-heading administrations, running companies, employing people or investing funds-we say: choose people-centred profits; make short-term sacrifices to safeguard all our futures; become leaders in the transition to just and sustainable economies. 'To whom much is given, much is required.' (Lk 12:48)

This is the first time that the three of us feel compelled to address together the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on persistent poverty, and the importance of global cooperation. Together, on behalf of our communities, we appeal to the heart and mind of every Christian, every believer and every person of good will. We pray for our leaders who will gather in Glasgow to decide the future of our planet and its people. Again, we recall Scripture: 'choose life, so that you and your children may live' (Dt 30:19). Choosing life means making sacrifices and exercising self-restraint.

All of us-whoever and wherever we are-can play a part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation.

Caring for God's creation is a spiritual commission requiring a response of commitment. This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it.

*Signed 1st September 2021*

*Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*

*Pope Francis*

*Archbishop of Canterbury Justin*

## **Parish Notices**

### **Church Office**

Contact: Julie Robson, Parish Administrator

St Alban's Church, Northside Terrace, Trimdon Grange, TS29 6HG

Office hours are Mon – Thurs 12 noon – 2pm.

Telephone number: 01429 882115 or 07443515495

If you have anything you wish to be placed on next week's notice sheet please contact the Parish Office on 01429 882115 or 07443515495 by **Wednesday 9.00am**

**Email** – [upperskerne@gmail.com](mailto:upperskerne@gmail.com)

**Find us on Facebook** – Parish of the Upper Skerne

**Website** [www.upperskerne.org.uk](http://www.upperskerne.org.uk)

**Twitter** - @skerneupper

### **Clergy Contact Details**

**Team Vicar** – The Revd Elizabeth Bland, St Alban's Vicarage, Salters Lane,  
Trimdon Grange TS29 6EX Tel: 01429 883151

**Temporary Associate Priest** - The Revd. Peter Robson Tel: 01740 651960

**Clergy (retired)** – The Revd. Martin King Tel: 01740 620424

The Revd. Malcolm Masterman Tel: 01740 644787

### **Parish Contact details**

Parish Church Wardens - John Burrows

Tel: 01740 469757 or  
07870210269

Michele Maccallam

Tel: 01740 654285

### **Coffee Morning for Macmillan**

Suzanne Hopper is hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer:

Where: 2 Hall Farm Court

When: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 10am until 1pm.

Please come along and support this very worthwhile charity.

Any donations of cakes will be very welcome.

### **HARVEST, HARVEST, HARVEST**

A gentle reminder to the congregation of St. Edmund's that we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving this Sunday at the 10.00am service. If you are able to donate non-perishable items of food or toiletries, please bring them to the service. All that we collect will be given to the Durham foodbank.

### **Aumbry Candle Donations at St Edmunds**

If you would like to donate £5 for an aumbry candle in memory of a loved one please contact Brenda Moore on 01740 620758

### **Want to give someone special a great gift this Christmas? Why not a unique jigsaw?**

**Jigsaw enthusiasts will soon be able to test their skills on a unique charity fund-raising puzzle – but they will need plenty of time and lots of patience to crack it.**

The challenge comes in 1000 pieces and features a striking photograph of Sedgefield's centuries-old church and surroundings shot by local drone pilot Jonathan Clegg.

It's being produced by the Friends of St Edmund's as part of the group's tireless campaign to keep the fabric of the church in a decent state of repair

Membership secretary Brian Mutch said this week: "It's a wonderful picture and we are already being asked how soon it will be available because it would make a superb Christmas gift. Orders have flooded in since we circulated information to members of the Friends."

The limited-edition jigsaw measures 66cm x 52cm and comes with a price tag of £20.

Expressions of interest can be sent to Brian by e-mail

at [b.mutch@btconnect.com](mailto:b.mutch@btconnect.com) or by ringing him on 01740 622302.

## **Rise to the Moment: Walkers arrive in Trimdon!**

In July this year, a group of people from the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) set off from the G7 summit in Cornwall on a walking relay to Glasgow, planned to coincide with the COP26 summit in November. They made a model boat, which they're carrying with them, as a sign that they're hoping 2021 will be the year we will rise to the moment and sail towards a more just future.

The YCCN relay – and their boat - will be passing through our parish at the end of the month, walking along the Way of Love. A few of them will be staying in Trimdon/Trimdon Grange the night of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Christian Aid is working with YCCN with their *Rise to the Moment* initiative. Around the country, churches and other organisations are making paper boats which will be gathered together to create an installation at the COP26 summit.

At their Harvest Service on 12<sup>th</sup> September, the congregation at St Catherine's in Fishburn wrote their prayers on a piece of paper which they then turned into a small fleet of paper boats. We took a photograph of them on the altar, which we'll send to our MP. The boats will go to Christian Aid to become part of the installation in Glasgow. In order to be part of the installation our boats need to be in London by 15<sup>th</sup> October which means they'll need to be at Trimdon Vicarage by 10<sup>th</sup> October.

More information about Rise to the Moment can be found at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).

## **St Michael's Harvest Thanksgiving**

Giving thanks for the Harvest this year, forms part of our celebration of Creationtide. The Harvest Thanksgiving service at St Michael's will take place at the 10am service on Sunday 26th September. As usual, the collection at the service will be donated to charity. The charity chosen by the DCC this year is Mind - the mental health charity. We have chosen Mind because of the impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on the mental health of so many people.

## **Bereavement Support**

BALM: The Bishop Middleham branch of the parish bereavement support service has continued working since the beginning of the first lockdown period and is able to offer one-to-one or group support as needed within a friendly and confidential setting. Since the beginning of the Coronavirus lockdown we have worked mostly by telephone, and individual calls can be booked for Mondays and Tuesdays. In addition a group meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month in St Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham, from 2 to 3.30 pm. (Please note that we are discontinuing the monthly Wednesday evening group and that

the Tuesday group will be subject to Coronavirus restrictions). For further information on telephone appointments or group meetings, or to book a time, please ring Janet Deane on 01740 656391 or email [janetgraham456@btinternet.com](mailto:janetgraham456@btinternet.com)

**Trimdon Bereavement Support Group** -Please contact Joan Clifford on 01429 880313for further information

**One step Forward Sedgefield Bereavement Support Group.** - Please contact Sue Archer on 07779 093386.

### **Daily Hope 'phone line – A Brilliant FREE Resource**

Daily Hope offers music, prayers, reflections and more, as well as full worship services from the Church of England, all at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly for those unable to join online church services. Just dial the number (above) and you'll be given options to press on your telephone keypad.

### **Flu Vaccination Campaign**

The national influenza immunisation programme aims to provide direct protection to those who are at higher risk of influenza associated morbidity and mortality.

#### ***Those eligible for NHS influenza vaccination in 2021 to 2022 are:***

- all children aged 2 to 15 (but not 16 years or older) on 31 August 2021 (school age children will receive the vaccine through school but if you are in a clinical risk group and wish to receive the vaccine sooner please contact your GP surgery)
- those aged 6 months to under 50 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 50 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline health and social care staff employed by:
  - a registered residential care or nursing home
  - registered domiciliary care provider
  - a voluntary managed hospice provider
  - Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants.

Further dates & times will be advertised as soon as possible – please check out the website on [www.doctorsnhs.co.uk](http://www.doctorsnhs.co.uk) for details

**PARISH OF THE UPPER SKERNE**  
**26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**CREATIONTIDE WEEK 4**



**Church Services week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Harvest Celebration at St Michael's, Bishop Middleham (*Rev Peter Robson*)

10.00am Holy Communion on Zoom (*Rev Elizabeth Bland*)

11.30am Harvest Celebration at St Alban's, Trimdon Grange (*Rev Peter Robson*)

6.00pm Meditation Service at St Mary Magdalene's Trimdon Village

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

6.00pm Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon (*Rev Elizabeth Bland*)

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Holy Communion at St Edmund's, Sedgfield (*Rev Malcolm Masterman*)

Today at St Mary Magdalene's  
God's family, through the  
Brown and Jake Langland.



Church, we welcome into  
sacrament of Baptism Eli

**Our worship on Zoom will continue.**

Sunday Morning Worship on Zoom at 10.00am.

Weekly Meditation on Zoom: 10.00am Wednesday

Not an internet user? You can join Zoom too – by telephone! Please follow the instructions below.

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**Key in passcode:** 008647 followed by #

**The Fourth Sunday of Creationtide**

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
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.

### **Ecclesiastes 3.1-8**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

### **Psalm 98**

*Refrain: The Lord has made known his salvation.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦  
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm ♦  
have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦  
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness  
towards the house of Israel, ♦  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. [R]
  
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦  
break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦  
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦  
sound praises before the Lord, the King. [R]
  
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, ♦  
the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands ♦

and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world ♦  
and the peoples with equity. [R]

### **Romans 8.14-25**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Mark 4.26-32**

Jesus also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

### **Post Communion**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### Prayers from Roots website

Lord God, you call us to live our best lives  
– for you, with you, in you.

We may sometimes pause to smell the coffee or the roses,  
but we are often too busy to take time to be aware of you  
– that you are with us, in us, and in those around us.

Quieten our hearts now to recognise you in this place today.

Help us to reach out to one another with love, care and compassion,  
so that we can all live our best life for you.

Amen.

God of eternity, you are at the very heart of our lives:  
we adore you.

God of miracles, you add flavour to our world.

You are the salt that seasons us,  
you preserve all that is good and make us whole:  
we worship you.

God of humanity, you look on us with love  
and we cannot help but love you back:  
we bless you, Lord.

Amen.

For the times I don't live my best life,  
or even recognise what that might be:  
I'm sorry, Lord, please forgive me.

For the times I have the sulks because I think my nose is out of  
joint, and I'm too blinkered to see you in others:  
I'm sorry, Lord, please forgive me.

Sometimes I just don't understand your word;  
when I haven't the patience to work out what it really means:  
I'm sorry, Lord, please forgive me.

For the times when I try and water down your Gospel  
because I don't like what it is saying to me:

I'm sorry, Lord, please forgive me.

Sometimes I judge others harshly, and try to stop them  
because I don't agree with what they are doing

– even though it may be for good:

I'm sorry, Lord, please forgive me.

Amen.

Loving Lord God,

you care so much for each one of us.

You are there for us whenever we turn to you.

When we are truly sorry,

and intend to move forward, to live our best life,

you graciously forgive us all our sins.

We gratefully and humbly accept

your forgiveness and peace.

Amen.

Thank you, Lord, for all the people that are there for me.

All who help me – and others – to live the best life,  
even in the hardest of times.

Thank you for all the good things in the world  
that spur us on, day by day.

Thank you for the ties of your love  
that bind us to each other, and to you.

Amen.

Lord God,

bless us and keep us.

And may we be a blessing to others  
in all we think and say and do.

Amen.

## **Morning Prayer Readings**

**Week beginning Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

**Collect for 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Gracious God,

you call us to fullness of life:

deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	122	Isaiah 48.12- end	Luke 11.37-end
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	71	2 Chronicles 9.1-12	Mark 14.1-11
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	73	2 Chronicles 10.1 – 11.4	Mark 14.12-25
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September <b>St Michael and All Angels</b>	34, 150	Daniel 12.1-4	Acts 12.1-11
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	78.1-39	2 Chronicles 13.1 – 14.1	Mark 14.43-52
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	55	2 Chronicles 14.2-end	Mark 14.53-65
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	76	2 Chronicles 15.1-15	Mark 14.66- end
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	123, 124	Isaiah 49.13-23	Luke 12.1-12
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	80	2 Chronicles 17.1-12	Mark 15.1-15
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	89.1-18	2 Chronicles 18.1-27	Mark 15.16-32
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	119.105- 128	2 Chronicles 18.28 – end of 19	Mark 15.33-41
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	92	2 Chronicles 20.1-23	Mark 15.42- end
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	88	2 Chronicles 22.10 – end of 23	Mark 16.1-8
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	97	2 Chronicles 24.1-22	Mark 16.9-end
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	129, 130	Isaiah 50.4-10	Luke 13.22-30

### **Collect for St Michael and All Angels**

Everlasting God,  
you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:  
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,  
so, at your command,  
they may help and defend us on earth;  
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.

### **Collect for 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

God, our judge and saviour,  
teach us to be open to your truth  
and to trust in your love,  
that we may live each day  
with confidence in the salvation which is given  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Collect for 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Faithful Lord,  
whose steadfast love never ceases  
and whose mercies never come to an end:  
grant us the grace to trust you  
and to receive the gifts of your love,  
new every morning,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Church Services for September

*There will be a meditation service every Sunday evening, 6.00pm, at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Trimdon Village*

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Harvest Celebration St Edmund's, Sedgefield

*This service will also be the Zoom service for this week*

10.00am Harvest Celebration St Mary Magdalene's, Sedgefield

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

10.00am Holy Communion at St Michael's, Bishop Middleham

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Harvest Celebration at St Michael's, Bishop Middleham

10.00am Harvest Celebration on Zoom

11.30am Harvest Celebration at St Alban's

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

6.00pm Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene's, Trimdon Village

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Holy Communion St Edmund's, Sedgefield