

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

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### **Collect for Today**

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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### **Service Readings**

Isaiah 58:9b -end (*p.699*), Hebrews 12:18-end (*p.224*) and Luke 13:10-17 (*p.73*)

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### **Please pray for**

... Julie Banks, Sylvia Holdsworth, Mark Knott, Becki & Jonathan Salmon and Timothy Rayner (Julie Shaw's brother).

... Charles Okwonna and his family following the death of Charles' mother Adline Okwonna.

... the family and friends of John Evans, Arthur Gowers and Peggy Colson whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Old Court Road, Old Palace Road and Orchard Road.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

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### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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### **Financial Giving**

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

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## Dear Friends

Who wants to be a Pharisee?

“Pharisee” what thought does that conjure up for you? I’ll bet “hypocrite” or “legalistic”? But I doubt “faithful” Yet why such a bad press? After all, Pharisees believed in the authority of scripture, in miracles, in angels, and the resurrection of the dead. And they asked some neat questions: “is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”- “What’s the greatest command?” I expect its because they didn’t get along to well with Jesus - “you brood of vipers” He called some of them. So, we tend to go along with that.



Yet in reality, the Pharisees were a respected religious group. People looked up to them for spiritual guidance. And theologically, Jesus was almost always in agreement with them. Even the style of His encounters was typically that of first century rabbinical debate. No, His beef wasn’t with the group as a whole. Just those who heaped legalistic burdens on the people, while not fulfilling the call to love their neighbour. There are even reliable Jewish texts, which show that the Pharisees themselves were critical of hypocrites in their ranks.

Thus today, when I hear that objection – “I don’t go to church, because its full of hypocrites” I know what they really mean is: “your few bad apples (who get all the publicity) are my excuse for turning my back on God”. Yet in reality, whether we’re Anglican or Baptist, Methodist, or Pharisee, we are by and large “good apples”, though still sinners. Seeking to be both hearers and doers of the Word. So, to those watching we ask for forgiveness for our “bad apples.” Trusting that “faithful” will one day replace “hypocrite” as together we build God’s kingdom on earth to His glory in Heaven.,

**Paul Fenner**

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## Mission Focus for August: North Guildford Food Bank

The North Guildford Food Bank (NGFB) provides temporary help for individuals and families living in the Guildford area by supplying food parcels and signposting people to other helpful local services. Last year NGFB fed nearly 3500 adults and 2500 children – an increase of about 1500 adults and children on the previous year and nearly triple pre-pandemic levels. There will be a collection box in church in October for Harvest and also throughout November to contribute towards Christmas parcels. For more information please see the Mission Focus article in August’s church magazine and their website: [northguildfordfoodbank.co.uk](http://northguildfordfoodbank.co.uk)

## Notices

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**Children's Church over the summer:** Over the summer holidays, the services will be accessible for children and there will be activities at the back of church for children to do so that they can enjoy being in the service.

**The funeral** of Trixie (Rachel Koci's mum) will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm at Guildford Crematorium. Beverly will be leading the service and anybody who would like to attend would be very welcome.

**Pilgrim course books needed:** Did you take part in the Pilgrim courses – and if so, do you still have 'The Beatitudes' book? The Women's Bible Study group are planning to work through this book in the autumn and would love to borrow the books if possible. If you have one to loan, please give to Trish. Thank you!

**Our love and prayers are** with all the GCSE students in our church family who have received exam results. Please pray for them all as they consider their next steps, whether those are on the path they hoped for or not.

### **Special Events coming up:**

- **Beverly's 10 Year Anniversary Celebration:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. After our 10am Café-style Altogether Worship service, we'll celebrate with prosecco and cake. From midday, we'll enjoy a picnic lunch together on the field. Food will be provided, but please also bring anything you'd like as a picnic. Several 'old friends' will be joining us for the occasion!

*There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, please add your name if you're able to come.*

It's also **Backpack Sunday** on 7<sup>th</sup>, so do bring along your school bag, work bag or anything that signifies the work you do, for a special blessing. Key rings will be given to anyone who would like one!

- **Autumn Fair** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2-5pm. Donation boxes are in the foyer and we'd love volunteers for the day. Please see Jo or Trish.
- **Harvest Supper & Quiz** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30-7.30pm. We'll have a great quiz from Quizmaster Robin and enjoy a ploughman's supper together. Tickets are now available on the website:

[allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/about-us/whats-on/harvest-supper-quiz/](https://allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/about-us/whats-on/harvest-supper-quiz/)

- **Harvest Festival** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10am and 4pm.

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## Diary for the Coming Week

**Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and on Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.**

Mon 25<sup>th</sup>     *Bank Holiday – no Morning Prayer today*  
Weds 27<sup>th</sup>     Preaching Group, 7.30pm, The Vicarage  
Thurs 28<sup>th</sup>     Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am.  
                 Safeguarding Team Meeting, Zoom, 6.30pm  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup>     Orchard Volunteer Morning, 10.30am-1.00pm  
Sun 31<sup>st</sup>     Church Family Communion, 10.00am  
                 Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

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## Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 25<sup>th</sup>     Ps. 71, Proverbs 1:1-19, Mark 2:23-3:6  
Tues 26<sup>th</sup>     Ps. 73, Proverbs 1:20-end, Mark 3:7-19a  
Weds 27<sup>th</sup>     Ps. 77, Proverbs 2, Mark 3:19b-end  
Thurs 28<sup>th</sup>     Ps. 78:1-39, Proverbs 3:1-26, Mark 4:1-20  
Fri 29<sup>th</sup>     Ps. 55, Proverbs 3:27-4:19, Mark 4:21-34  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup>     Ps. 76, Proverbs 6:1-19, Mark 4:35-end

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## Service Readings for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August: Trinity 11

Proverbs 25:6-7, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 and Luke 14:1,7-14

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## Contacts

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