

Sunday 26th July 2026
Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

Collect for Today

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

1 Kings 3:5-12 (*p.315*), Romans 8:26-end (*p.154*) and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (*p.14*)

Please pray for

... Esme Doran, Violet Guo, Mark & Jan Knott, Julie Lodge and Mike Woodcock.

... the family and friends of Hazel Zimmerman and Revd Nick Farbridge whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Hedgeway, Henley Bank, High View Road and Hollow Close.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

Donations are welcome at all our services. If you don't give regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme, please put your donation in the bowl, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

Since the beginning of June our Sunday readings have included extracts from Paul's letter to the Romans. If you were in church last Sunday, and heard Revd Julian Hubbard's sermon, you'll know that the answer to his riddle is that these readings continue right through to the middle of September. So, for more than three months, a quarter of the year, we hear this letter the Church in Rome read in a systematic and focussed way.

The reason for this is that Paul's letter to the Romans is one of the most profound of his writings, and gives us his most worked through theology. It covers all the major themes of the Christian faith: the righteousness of God, the sinfulness of human beings, justification by faith, reconciliation, the work of the Spirit, and the future glory that awaits us. If you've never read it, it's a must.

Today we come to chapter 8, which is the pinnacle of the letter, and of Paul's understanding of the Christian faith. He writes words that are often read at funeral services:

'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord' (8:37-39).

Today we'll be unpacking a little of what Paul is saying in this chapter, and seeking to understand its meaning for our lives.

Beverly

Mission Focus for July: Mosaic Middle East (MME)

Our prayers are still urgently needed for the work of MME, particularly for the beleaguered Christian communities in Iraq. Iran and other areas of the Middle East are of course more in the spotlight at the moment, but Iraq continues to feel the effects of ISIS and the wars since 2000. It remains a country suffering all kinds of internal strife, but some Christian communities soldier on against all the odds. St. George's Church in Baghdad is one of these – it stands steadfast as a beacon of hope. Please continue to offer prayers for the Rev'd Faiz and all those who benefit from his ministry!

Notices

Children's Church: Now that we're in the school summer holidays, we're giving our Children's Church leaders a well-earned break! Children are extremely welcome in our services and there will be specially prepared activities at the back of church for each Sunday. We ask that parents supervise their children when they are enjoying the activities.

Children and families are also very welcome at Tea Time Church every Sunday for an intergenerational service with activities for children.

Tea Time Church today: Jesus often told stories - or parables. He did this to help us reflect. This Sunday in Tea Time Church, we're going to look at some of the parables that Matthew wrote about and that are in this Sunday's reading.

Sponsored Bible Reading Event: On Saturday 15th August, 9.30am-12 noon we'll be reading through Mark's gospel and raising money for the Koens and their work for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. Have a chat with Katherine, Bruce or Richard Hemingway from the Mission Vision Group to find out more.

Dray Court Service in August: On Wednesday 19th August at 2.30pm, we'll have a special Dray Court Service celebrating our favourite hymns. If you'd like to choose a hymn and come along, please let Beverly know. Offers of cake would be very welcome!

Contacting our curate: If you need to get in touch with Andy, our new curate, please use this email address: curate@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk.

Summer Season: We're aware that this is a quieter time for many of us. Some may be going on holiday, others may be holidaying at home. Over these months, Sunday services will continue as usual, Thursday communion will take place at 9.30am each week, Morning Prayer continues each Monday to Wednesday.

Tea & Cake at The Vicarage on Wednesday afternoons: Recognising that August can be a quiet month for many, Beverly would like to welcome people into the new look Vicarage. She will hold an 'open house' at the Vicarage on Wednesday afternoons between **29th July and 26th August**. Everyone is welcome to drop in between **2.30pm and 4pm**. (On 19th August, instead of meeting at the Vicarage, everyone would be welcomed to the Dray Court service entitled "Our Favourite Hymns").

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 27 th	Pastoral Team Meeting, 5 Elmside, 10.30am Premises Team Meeting, Reading Room, 8.00pm
Tues 28 th	Safeguarding Team Meeting, Zoom, 6.30pm
Weds 29 th	Tea & Cake at The Vicarage, 2.30pm-4.00pm Sharing & Learning Group, 5 Elmside, 7.45pm
Thurs 30 th	Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am
Fri 31 st	Friday Group, 43 Poltimore Road, 3.00pm
Sat 1 st	Band Rehearsal, Church, 10.00am
Sun 2 nd	Holy Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am Café Style Altogether Worship, 10.00am Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 27 th	Ps. 30, 1 Samuel 14:24-46, Luke 23:13-25
Tues 28 th	Ps. 36, 1 Samuel 15:1-23, Luke 23:26-43
Weds 29 th	Ps. 34, 1 Samuel 16, Luke 23:44-56a
Thurs 30 th	Ps. 37, 1 Samuel 17:1-30, Luke 23:56b-24:12
Fri 31 st	Ps. 31, 1 Samuel 17:31-54, Luke 24:13-35
Sat 1 st	Ps. 42, 1 Samuel 17:55-18:16, Luke 24:36-end

Service Readings for Sunday 2nd July: 9th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

Contacts

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