

The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Live-streamed Eucharist for 12th Sunday after the Trinity



We rejoice to sing in church again. If you are in church, unless exempt please continue to wear a mask when moving around the building or singing hymns. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing – please respect those who have done so. Those at home, please do continue to sing loudly, you will still be muted!

The gathering

Choosing to answer Christ's call to discipleship requires us to make some hard decisions, following a faith that demands total commitment in every aspect of our lives. But we don't do this alone; we walk alongside each other, upheld and encouraged by God's Spirit breathing through us.

**Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.**

**Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.**

**In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.**

**Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessèd Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.**

Francis Pott (1832-1909)

The greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

The Act of Penitence

Believing that Christ is the Holy One of God, we often still fall short of his example. Yet Christ is patient and when we faithfully confess our failings he forgives us and draws us back to the heart of his community.

For all the times we have lived for our own desires and have ignored the will of God.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For the times we have ignored the plight or needs of individuals, nations or the environment.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

For the times we would rather remain silent than proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon✠ and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Gloria

Our virtual choir sing the Gloria. Often referred to as "the angelic hymn," the gloria was first intoned by the angels from heaven for the birth of Christ on earth. The Gloria is a true hymn. Its opening burst of praise overflows into a series of joyful cries addressed to the Father: "we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory." The hymn goes on to implore the mercy of the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In singing the Gloria, the church relives the experience of Saint Stephen who, "full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55). Gazing on Christ, the Church praises him: "You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High." The final lines of the Gloria soar into the blinding mystery of the Trinity: "Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father." The hymn ends where it began: in the heavens.

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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.

The liturgy of the word

First reading

Ephesians 6.10-20

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Fallible, fragile Christians must, through prayer, surrender themselves to God's protection if they are to withstand cosmic forces of evil.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

The virtual choir sing the Alleluia

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John ✠

Glory to you, O Lord.

Faced with the shocking total engagement that faithfully following Christ requires, the disciples are left with a stark choice: should they stay, or should they go?

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian sisters, brothers and siblings throughout the world, let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As Solomon entreated that the prayers of all who turn their voices to God would be heard, so we pray in confidence for our needs and those of all creation.

At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

At the end, on behalf of us all, the intercessor gathers our individual prayers together into one, by saying on our behalf

Holy God, we offer these prayers in the sure and certain hope that you hear the petitions of all who cry to you in hunger and feed them with your word. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the sacrament

The Peace

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

We are gathered together because we believe and know that Christ is the Holy One of God

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Prayer

Father, accept all we bring before you this day. Guide us with your love and feed us at your table as you nourish the faith of the Church by the preaching of your apostles. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life. You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and the famine of death. Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:

Our Virtual Choir will sing the Sanctus, the Holy, Holy, Holy, an integral part of the Eucharistic Prayer in both the Eastern and Western churches from before the year 400 A.D, and the conclusion of the Preface.

Its text is composed of two parts, both inspired in Scripture and highlighting two juxtaposing aspects of God – the first part focuses on the awe and surpassing wonder before the divine majesty, and in the second, the humility of Jesus, God made man.

The priest continues the prayer, recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper during which our Virtual Choir will sing our Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, the assent to the prayer by saying....

Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Let us offer our prayers to God with grateful and trusting hearts as we say together.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share your resurrection.

Live in us,
that we may live in you

The priest breaks the consecrated bread as our virtual choir sing the Agnus Dei, underlining the reality of Jesus the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

An act of Spiritual Communion

Those at home, as they look on to the consecrated elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present in the Bread and Wine, are invited to say

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

As those in church receive, we sing the following hymn

Above the voices of the world around me,
my hopes and dreams, my cares and loves and fears,
the long-awaited call of Christ has found me,
the voice of Jesus echoes in my ears:
'I gave my life to break the cords that bind you,
I rose from death to set your spirit free;
turn from your sins and put the past behind you,
take up your cross and come and follow me.'

What can I offer him who calls me to him?
Only the wastes of sin and self and shame;
a mind confused, a heart that never knew him,
a tongue unskilled at naming Jesus' name.
Yet at your call, and hungry for your blessing,
drawn by that cross which moves a heart of stone,
now Lord I come, my tale of sin confessing,
and in repentance turn to you alone.

Lord, I believe; help now my unbelieving;
I come in faith because your promise stands.
Your word of pardon and of peace receiving,
all that I am I place within your hands.
Let me become what you shall choose to make me,
freed from the guilt and burden of my sins.
Jesus is mine, who never shall forsake me,
and in his love my new-born life begins.

Timothy Dudley Smith (1926-)

Prayer after communion

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The dismissal

When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried
alleluia, alleluia!

**How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
alleluia, alleluia!**

**So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue,
alleluia, alleluia!**

**And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always
Alleluia alleluia!**

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The Blessing

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you

May the living Father
clothe us with the breastplate of righteousness,
defend us with the shield of faith, and feed us
with bread of heaven. And the blessing of God
almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you
always. **Amen**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole
creation.'

Mark 16.15

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Equipped to go out into our world, we leave in
silence*

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Prayers for August by



Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, Christian Aid partner Soppexcca is training young people to be climate champions. Johaira Herrera is 15 and a climate champion and promotor visiting farms to give information about climate change and collect data to help Soppexcca respond to changing local conditions. Her family have diversified and now grow cocoa as well as coffee because the coffee crop is struggling with changes to the climate.



- Pray for the work of Johaira and other climate champions working to help farmers in Nicaragua adjust and keep their livelihoods in the face of climate change.

Malawi and Zimbabwe



In Malawi and Zimbabwe Christian Aid partners are training young people in employment skills like tailoring and shoe making to give them income and opportunities. As climate change has affected their communities through droughts or displacement after extreme weather events it's more important than ever for young people to have skills they can use to earn money for their families.

- Pray for young people trying to learn the skills they need to be resilient in the face of climate change. Pray for Christian Aid partners as they work on disaster risk reduction to help communities weather the ever changing conditions.

YCCN Relay

In the UK Christian Aid is joining with the Young Christian Climate Network for Rise to the Moment - a journey of prayer and action in the run up to COP26. Young people are walking from Cornwall to Glasgow, praying and campaigning along the way.

- Pray for the young people leading this movement campaigning for change that they will be courageous in speaking out and that their voices are heard.
- Pray that this relay will engage churches and faith communities across the UK to add their prayers and actions.
- Pray that world leaders listen to those on the front lines of climate change and come to COP26 ready to take decisive action.

[Download the Activity Pack and create your own prayer boat to be part of this movement for change.](#)

Key Contacts...

Fr. Graham Adamson - Vicar	01785 251057	graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk
The Revd. Joy Bishop – Associate Priest	01785 253111	joy.bishop@berkswich.org.uk
The Revd. David Clark – Curate	07999 596590	david.clark@berkswich.org.uk
Judith Rennard – Warden	01785 253111	wardenjudith@berkswich.org.uk
Chris Bowen – Warden	01785 253111	wardenchris@berkswich.org.uk
Mary Moss – Safeguarding Officer		safeguarding@berkswich.org.uk

Fr Graham's usual day off is Monday

The Parish Office is situated behind Holy Trinity Church and is closed at the current time

Please send all items for next week's News from the Pews to Sue on sshatton@gmail.com (or 661767) by the end of Wednesday

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

HT = Holy Trinity Church
ST = St Thomas's Church **AS** = All Saints Church
V = Vicarage **CH** = Community Hall

Sunday 22nd August – The Twelfth Sunday After Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS
1045 Sung Eucharist with Hymns (HT and online)
1830 Online Evening Prayer

Monday 23rd August

Tuesday 24th August – Bartholomew the Apostle

1000-1200 Online drop-in coffee morning

Wednesday 25th August

1000-1200 Private Prayer AS
1400 Online Trinity Ark members group
Chat, song and story
2000 Online service of compline

Thursday 26th August

1000 Private Prayer ST
1030 Sung Eucharist ST

Friday 27th August

Saturday 28th August

1000-1700 Lockdown Art Exhibition (HT)

Sunday 29th August – Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS
1045 Sung Eucharist HT and online
1400-1700 Lockdown Art Exhibition (HT)
1830 Online Evening Prayer

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalm 97 Isaiah 61.1-9 2 Corinthians 6.1-10
Tuesday	Ecclesiasticus 39.1-10 Matthew 10.1-22 Psalms 91, 116
Wed	Psalm 119.129-152 2 Samuel 15.1-12 Acts 9.19b-31
Thursday	Psalms 114, 116, 117 2 Samuel 15.13-end Acts 9.32-end
Friday	Psalms 130, 131, 137 2 Samuel 16.1-14 Acts 10.1-16
Saturday	Psalm 118 2 Samuel 17.1-23 Acts 10.17-33

Welcome!

Welcome to you all as we continue to try and meet at this unusual time in the history of our nation and world. We hope that you will join with us in prayer and worship via Zoom, Facebook or YouTube (details <http://www.berkswich.org.uk/coronavirus.html>)

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or see older issues here <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5991be44ea1b9738d6262c1e2&id=a28b74cddb>

If you wish to make a donation towards the life and work of the Parish, there is an opportunity to do so during the service. Please consider joining the Giving Direct scheme (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/finance/financegiftaid/financegivingdirect/>) or make a one-off donation via JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkswichparish>)

You can follow us on Facebook! To sign up for our weekly email newsletter, please email Fr Graham (graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk)

Points for Prayer

For the world... Pray for South Sudan where the lack of stability in the agricultural land, a combination of drought followed by flooding, a fragile economy and many other factors keep people in a cycle of poverty. Half of the population are at risk of starvation and depend on food distribution. Pray for peace, economic opportunities and a better future for all in South Sudan.

For the church... Monday is International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. Let us thank God for the Christians in this country who campaigned in Parliament and in Society for the abolition of the Slave trade. Pray too for the continuing work of the Church in combatting modern slavery.

For our community... Hold before God all who serve our community through their work as part of the emergency services. Pray that they will be safe as they undertake their often dangerous roles. Pray too for those who have a chaplaincy ministry to the Police, Fire and Rescue Service or the Ambulance service.

For those known to us, near and far...

... who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

Jim, Phyllis, Alistair, Ann, Sally, Wendy, Brenda, Oscar, Olivia, Terry, Justine, Carolyn, Ruth

... for the recently departed: Dianne Oakes; Doreen Johnson; Doreen Hulse; Peter Alden; Pauline Pemberton; John Hodgens; Beryl Ellis; Raymond Buttery; Edward Crosby; Geoffrey Wood; David Peeler; Robina Stewart
+ *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

News & Events

Prayer requests - please send to david.clark@berkswich.org.uk or call 07999 596590

A very big thank you to everyone who came to help clean our three buildings. The tremendous effort of those who helped has certainly paid off - all three are sparkling - and it certainly has helped prepare our buildings for this next stage in our journey to discern God's will for His Church in the months and years ahead.

The Parish Prayer group will meet individually but united by the Holy Spirit on Wednesday 25th August between 2020 and 2100. If you have prayer requests for the group, please send them to Fr. Graham, graham.adamson@berkwisch.org.uk

Leaving a legacy – Another way of leaving a lasting gift to the Parish is to consider leaving a legacy in your will. Information about why and how you can do that can be found at <https://www.churchlegacy.org.uk/>

Head Shave - Isla Saberton has now had her hair cut and sent to the wig makers. She would like to thank those people who sponsored her, enough money was raised to pay for the wig to be made and also some to go for research into child cancers.

Summer Fete 2021 – Sunday 12th September, hopefully with all our usual 'ingredients'. Please pray for a fine day and that the pandemic situation does not prevent our staging this much needed event. If you have any queries or would like to help, or donate tombola prizes/books/toiletries/bric-a-brac, please contact Bob Moore (664302)

THE GRAND DRAW – will take place on **Sunday, 12th September 2021 at the Parish Fete.**

Books of tickets are now available to sell; if you are willing to sell books please contact either Mary Moss (Promotor, 07854 531619) or Bob Moore (664302) to arrange delivery. Books of tickets are also available from outside the main doors of all 3 churches.

Return stubs and money in an envelope marked Mary Moss, c/o Parish Office, to either Bob, Mary Sapsford, Mary Moss, or place in the letter box at the Parish Office, Holy Trinity.

The first prize is **£600**, and we have a number of other prizes but are still looking for more quality prizes. Local businesses will be contacted, but if you know of a possible business who may be willing to donate a prize please let either Mary Moss or Bob know.

Did you take up a new art or craft during 2020/2021?

Perhaps you returned to an old hobby or had more time to enjoy an existing one? It is not too late to join in!

Creative Arts gave many of us joy or solace during the last 18 months, and we'd like to hold an exhibition to share our endeavours, celebrate each other's creations, and maybe get some new ideas. If you have anything you would like to enter into the exhibition, please contact Vicki Adamson at arts@berkswich.org.uk or complete the form at <https://cutt.ly/lockdownarts> objects can be dropped off at Holy Trinity from anytime between 2pm and 6pm Monday or Tuesday this week. The exhibition opens at 10am on Saturday and will run all week – entrance £1 with proceeds going to the Parish and Mind.

It has been a delight to hear from some different voices leading intercessions and reading our lessons during our online services. Thank you to everyone who has done so during either our live or pre-recorded services. We'd like to be able to keep hearing from those voices, and so will be starting afresh with our lists of readers and intercessors and drawing up new rotas from those lists. To help us continue to worship closely together, once a month our readers/intercessors will be 'moving around' to one of our other three buildings – so please be aware of that before you sign up. New sign-up sheets will appear in our churches from next week.

We rejoice that, after the help and encourage of you all, Henry has completed his Lay Reader training with The Queens Foundation. Henry should be licenced by Bishop Michael on Saturday 4th September in Lichfield Cathedral and anyone who wishes to attend the service is more than welcome. The service begins at 2pm and we have been advised that it is best to arrive early – remember there is no parking available directly outside the cathedral.