

The Parish of Berkswich
in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sung Eucharist for 13th Sunday after the Trinity



Welcome to our worship this morning. 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



We serve a holy God who calls us to be a holy people. However, the Lord knows we cannot manage this in our own strength. God helps us in our weakness, gradually changing us from within through the Holy Spirit. So let us come together and rejoice in God's transforming grace.

**Sing to God new songs of worship-
all his deeds are marvellous;
he has brought salvation to us
with his hand and holy arm:
he has shown to all the nations
righteousness and saving power;
he recalled his truth and mercy
to his people Israel.**

**Sing to God new songs of worship-
earth has seen his victory;
let the lands of earth be joyful
praising him with thankfulness:
sound upon the harp his praises,
play to him with melody;
let the trumpets sound his triumph,
show your joy to God the king!**

**Sing to God new songs of worship-
let the sea now make a noise;
all on earth and in the waters,
sound your praises to the Lord!
Let the hills rejoice together,
let the rivers clap their hands,
for with righteousness and justice
he will come to judge the earth.**

Michael Baughen (1930-)

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

As Paul wrote to the Romans, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Yet through Christ we can know forgiveness. Let us, then, confess our sins.

We are sorry when we fail to recognise the unconditional nature of your love.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.



We are sorry when we are content with simply appearing to be good people and are reluctant to deal with the sin that lies within.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We are sorry when we do not seek your help to change but try to become better through our own efforts.
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 God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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 Song of Solomon 2:8-end

A reading from the Song of Solomon

A woman describes her excitement at seeing her lover approach and tells us some of the things he says to her.



The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.
Catch us the foxes,
the little foxes,
that ruin the vineyards—
for our vineyards are in blossom.'

My beloved is mine and I am his;
he pastures his flock among the lilies.
Until the day breathes
and the shadows flee,
turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle
or a young stag on the cleft mountains.

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 Mark ✠

Glory to you, O Lord.

7.1-8. 14. 15. 21-23

Jesus faces more criticism from the Pharisees and scribes, who were experts in religious law.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus] they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.' Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

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

God works with and through us to transform us and change the world, so let us seek the Lord's help in prayer.



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

Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers. We ask them through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the sacrament

The Peace

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you



Despite our sins and weaknesses, we can all know peace with God because of the forgiveness Jesus brings.

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

**Just as I am, without one plea,
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you call us, 'Come to me',
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Just as I am you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am -- your love unknown
has broken every barrier down --
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to
prove,
here for a season, then above --
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Prayer after communion

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The dismissal



O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

The Blessing

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

May you know the Spirit's help this week
to be transformed from within,
so others may see more of Christ through you.
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 by OpenDoors

A focus on Myanmar

Christians in Myanmar are fearful yet bravely persevering, in the wake of the military coup that has instigated a trail of brutality and threatens to undo a decade of democratic progress.

The military took control on 1 February, alleging election fraud. Thousands took to the streets in protest. In a ruthless military clampdown, over 700 people have been killed and thousands arrested. As hostilities intensify, fears grow that the country's longrunning civil war will escalate.

Between 1962 and 2011, when Myanmar was ruled by the staunchly-Buddhist military, Christians were systematically persecuted. Recent months have reawakened traumatic memories, including those of older pastors who are paralysed by fear and unable to lead their churches. "The military coup is going to be like North Korea," says one believer. "I have big concern for our future generations."

Churches have been unable to meet because it's too dangerous. Church buildings have been shot at and ransacked. Pastors have been forced into hiding, having shown opposition to the coup.

But there is hope. Persecution survival training, funded with the support of OpenDoors, is guiding believers in their response. In one village, 40 people have become Christians! And believers are drawing strength from praying and reading the Bible. "I have become more prayerful since the coup," shares a believer.



Father, please strengthen and encourage our family in Myanmar in their faith and witness, and provide for their needs. Bring the coup to an end. Amen.

Libya

There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion and no possibility of public church life in Libya. Pray for several groups of believers who have begun meeting with each other. Ask the Lord to provide ways for them to meet securely together.

Tunisia

Marwen* has faced much persecution from his family since becoming a Christian, and now needs to find a stable place to live. Ask the Lord to guide him through those supporting him practically and spiritually.

*name changed for security reasons

Morocco

The country and the church have been hit extremely hard by Covid-19. Ask the Lord to provide for His people so they can not just survive, but be a light to their communities.

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 ssnhatton@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 29th August – The Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS
1045 Sung Eucharist HT and online
1400-1700 Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition HT
1830 Evening Prayer Online

Monday 30th August

1000-1700 Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition HT

Tuesday 31st August

1000-1200 Online drop-in coffee morning
1000-1700 Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition HT

Wednesday 1st September

1000-1200 Private Prayer AS
1000-1700 Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition HT
2000 Online service of compline

Thursday 2nd September

1000 Private Prayer ST
1000-1700 Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition HT
1030 Sung Eucharist ST
1000-1200 Online drop-in coffee morning

Friday 3rd September

1000-1700 Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition HT

Saturday 4th September

1400 Licensing of Henry Birtley

Sunday 5th September – Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS
1045 Sung Eucharist HT and online
1500 Baptism ST
1830 Evening Prayer Online

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalms 127, 128, 129 2 Samuel 18.1-18 Acts 10.34-end
Tuesday	Psalms 135 2 Samuel 18.19-19.8a Acts 11.1-18
Wed	Psalms 136 2 Samuel 19.8b-23 Acts 11.19-end
Thursday	Psalms 138, 140, 141 2 Samuel 19.24-end Acts 12.1-17
Friday	Psalms 145 2 Samuel 23.1-7 Acts 12.18-end
Saturday	Psalms 148, 149, 150 2 Samuel 24 Acts 13.1-12

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... O God of mercy and of peace, we hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan. Be living bread to those who are hungry each day. Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic. Be their true home to all who have been displaced. Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views. Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow. Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace, open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care, strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and hold us all in your unfailing love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness. Amen

For the church... pray for our Cathedral, for Dean Adrian Dorber, the Residentiary Canons and Cathedral Chapter. Pray for all due to be licensed Lay Reader in the cathedral next Saturday, including Henry.

For our community... Pray for God's blessings and peace to all preparing to return to school or college, for the leaders and teachers in our schools as they balance heavy workloads with the desire to meet the needs of the children in their care; give thanks for their tireless dedication and their enthusiasm to continue to provide moments of joy, awe and wonder within each classroom; lift up the most vulnerable families before God and pray that they would be surrounded with love.

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

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.

Our church is crammed full of the most incredible art-work thanks to our *Berkswich Unlocked Art Exhibition*. During lockdown, many of you took to some form of Art to create beautiful, meaningful, funny or strange things. That act of creating brought meaning to our lives at the time. Here, those pieces of work are displayed for all to

enjoy. Please come along to see for yourself the wonderful array of exhibits and rejoice in the creativity of so many members of our community. Saturday 28th August until Friday 3rd September, 10 am – 5pm (except Sunday, 2pm – 5pm) in Holy Trinity Church £1 admission, children free – proceeds split between MIND and the Parish.

You will remember Philip Swan, Lichfield Diocese Director of World Mission, who has preached and spoken in the Parish many times over the years. To mark his forthcoming retirement, Philip is walking the Two Saints way, and inviting anyone interested to join him. He will be finishing one leg of his walk in Berkswich on the afternoon/evening of the 8th September, before starting the next day with prayers held approx. 10am on Thursday 9th in Holy Trinity. If you would like to see a copy of his walking itinerary, so you can join him, please let Fr Graham know.

Another event to mark Philip's retirement is a zoom call with members of the Mecklenberg and Nordkirche churches. Anne Lange (who you may remember visited the parish during Advent 2018) will be talking about her own journey of faith and the impact of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the process of reunification. If you would like to attend, Fr Graham has the contact details.

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. Please ring Bob Moore (664302) if you have any queries or would like to help, or donate tombola prizes/books/toiletries/bric-a-brac.

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

Books of tickets are now available to sell; to sell books please contact either Mary Moss (the promotor 07854 531619) or Bob Moore (664302) and we shall arrange to deliver. Also, books of tickets are 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, or Mary Moss, or place in the letter box at the Parish Office, Holy Trinity. The first prize is **£600**, and there are many more quality prizes.

Red Cross Coffee Morning – Monday 13th September, from 10.30 – 12.30 at Mannicotts, Radford Rise. ST17 4PS. Admission £2. There will be stalls for cakes, plants, bring and buy and, of course, a raffle! Please come and bring your friends!

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. Sign up sheets are available in the back of church.