

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

Sung Eucharist for 14th Sunday after the Trinity with commissioning of Henry



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



In two encounters in the Gospel reading today Jesus offers us a pattern for engaging with others. How we act, approach and respond to the people around us demonstrates our faith more powerfully than our words can.

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;**

**Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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

Let us come to the God who gives courage to the fearful, owning our weakness and frailty, and seeking new life and hope.

You watch over those who are rich and poor alike, and love justice and mercy
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.**

You challenge our expectations and shatter our prejudices.
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.

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the word

First reading James 2.1-10; 14-17

A reading from the letter of James

Regardless of how strong our convictions are, it is how we deal with other people that gives the clearest indication of faith in Christ.



My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What

good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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.

7.24-end

Jesus encounters two people in need: a Gentile woman who challenges him and a deaf man who causes him to behave in an unusual manner.

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears

were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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

Let us pray for the world God loves, holding in our hearts those who are in need and praying for peace, healing and joy for ourselves and for others.

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

Loving God, you know our needs before we tell you about them. Hear our prayers for your Church and your world, and shower your love and blessings upon all for whom we have prayed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the sacrament

The Peace

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



"Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert" (Isaiah 35:6). In God's transformation of the world, we find our hope and our source of peace.

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 priest then 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

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

Hope of our calling: hope through courage won;

By those who dared to share all Christ had done.

**Saints of today, Christ's banner now unfurled,
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.**

Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,

Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;

This call is ours, for we are chosen too,

To live for God in all we say and do.

Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,

From death's despair the gift of life restored;

Our call to serve, to wash each others' feet,

To bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.

Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;

To sow God's righteousness throughout the world;

Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,

The kingdom's harvest from a mustard seed.

Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,

Old joys remembered and new purpose found,

Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Ally Barrett (b. 1975)

Prayer after communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The commissioning of our new Reader

The Introduction

The office of Reader in this diocese is a recognised form of ministry supporting the whole ministry of God's people. Following a call from God, a Reader is trained and licensed by the Anglican Church to teach the faith, enable mission and lead in church and society. Readers are uniquely equipped to enable Christians to live out their Christian faith in the places where they spend the majority of their time. As people who daily move between the worlds of work, home, social networks and church, Readers can teach the faith and play a part in leadership such that all God's people grow in confident and humble witness to God's kingdom. We gather here today to commission Henry that his ministry may be both recognised and blessed, in order that the work of the Church in Berkswich may be both strengthened and advanced.

The Charge

Henry, will you be faithful in the ministry of Reader in this place of Berkswich, that the work of the Church may be strengthened and advanced?

I will

Will you, through worship, prayer, study and witness, seek to reflect the Good News of Jesus Christ to the praise of the Father and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?

I will

Will you, the people of God gathered here in Berkswich, support Henry by your prayers and with your friendship?

I will

The Commission

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Give to your servant Henry the gifts of faith, hope and love, that he may execute the office of Reader in this place, to your praise and honour.

May his hands be ready to do your work.
May his eyes be open to recognise those in need.
May his ears hear soft-spoken words of pain or sorrow.

May his voice speak of healing and peace.
May his feet walk the extra mile with those who falter.

And may he always be aware of your presence guiding him and your loving protection around him in all that he does. **Amen**

The Blessing

Henry, may the blessing^x of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and your ministry, this day and forevermore.

Amen

The dismissal



Lord, thy church on earth is seeking thy renewal from above; teach us all the art of speaking with the accent of thy love.

We would heed thy great commission: 'Go now into every place – preach, baptise, fulfil my mission, serve with love and share my grace'.

Freedom give to those in bondage, lift the burdens caused by sin. Give new hope, new strength and courage, grant release from fears within. Light for darkness; joy for sorrow; love for hatred; peace for strife: these and countless blessings follow as the Spirit gives new life.

In the streets of every city where the bruised and lonely dwell, let us show the Saviour's pity, let us of his mercy tell; to all lands and peoples bringing all the richness of thy word, till the world, thy praises singing, hails thee Christ, Redeemer, Lord.

Hugh Sherlock (1905-1998)

The Blessing

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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September Wave of Prayer for



Lord, we pray for Mothers' Union worldwide.

1-2 Harare in Zimbabwe; Machakos in Kenya; Ogori-Magongo & Ekiti in Nigeria; Southwark in England and Phulbani in India

3-5 Khartoum in Sudan; Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; Bari & Ilesa in Nigeria; Gloucester in England and Dugapur in India

6 Mothers' Union worldwide

7-9 Pacong in South Sudan; Southern Nyanza in Kenya; Kutigi & Ijesha North in Nigeria; Bristol in England and Karnataka Central in India

10-12 Pretoria in South Africa; North Mbale in Uganda; Oke-Osun in Nigeria; Exeter in England and Barbados

13 Mothers' Union worldwide

14-16 Mthatha in South Africa; Namirembe in Uganda; Pankshin & Sabongidda-Ora in Nigeria; Dublin & Glendalough in All Ireland and Central Solomons in Solomon Islands

17-19 Buye in Burundi; Sebei in Uganda; Abakaliki & Ekiti-Oke in Nigeria; Southwell & Nottingham in England and Belize

20 Mothers' Union worldwide

21-23 Rumbek in South Sudan; Soroti in Uganda; Aba Ngwa North & Oyo in Nigeria; Peterborough in England and North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba

24-26 Makamba in Burundi; North Karamoja in Uganda; Lokoja & Sapele in Nigeria; Truro in England and Tirunelveli in India

27 Mothers' Union worldwide

28-30 Katanga in DR Congo; Rwenzori in Uganda; Mbaise & Egba in Nigeria; Meath & Kildare in All Ireland and Tiruchirappalli Thanjavur in India

Final Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. Amen

Key Contacts...

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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 **OL** = Online

Sunday 5th September – The Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity

0845	Sung Eucharist	AS
1045	Sung Eucharist	HT, OL
1830	Evening Prayer	OL

Monday 6th September

Tuesday 7th September

1000-1200	Drop-in coffee morning	OL
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Wednesday 8th September

1000-1200	Private Prayer	AS
1400	Online Trinity Ark members group Chat, song and story	
2000	Compline	OL

Thursday 9th September

1000	Private Prayer	ST
1030	Sung Eucharist	ST

Friday 10th September

Sunday 12th September – Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

0900	Said Eucharist	Milford CC
1045	Sung Eucharist	HT, OL
1330	Parish Fete	Milford CC
1500	Baptism	ST
1830	Evening Prayer	OL

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalms 4, 7 1 Kings 1.5-31 Acts 13.13-43
Tuesday	Psalms 9, 10 1 Kings 1.32-2.4; 2.10-12 Acts 13.44-14.7
Wed	Psalms 11, 12, 13 1 Kings 3 Acts 14.8-end
Thursday	Psalms 18 1 Kings 4.29-5.12 Acts 15.1-21
Friday	Psalms 22 1 Kings 6.1, 11-28 Acts 15.22-35
Saturday	Psalms 24, 25 1 Kings 8.1-30 Acts 15.36-16.5

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&d=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... For the world... Saturday marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the USA. God of hope and healing, we remember those who were killed 20 years ago, we pray for those whose grief continues, and we pray for those still living with the trauma and the consequences of the violence. May we, as individuals and as nations, live in love when hate seems to reign, and bear witness to the cause of peace, in Jesus' name. Amen

For the church... Give thanks for those who offer themselves for ministry in the Church. Let's pray for all who are beginning a new ministry as Lay Readers in the diocese of Lichfield. In particular, pray for Henry and for his family.

For our community... Pray for all who are preparing for new courses of study at college or university; for those leaving home, who may be anxious about forming new friendships, finances or academic pressures. Ask God to reassure, strengthen and guide them on the next stage of their life's journey.

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, Pauline

... 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; Graham Sturgess

+ 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

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/>

We rejoice that, after the help and encourage of you all, Henry has completed his Lay Reader training with The Queens Foundation and yesterday was licensed by Bishop Michael. Please pray for him as today he begins a new chapter of his connection with our Parish.

This last week we have appreciated the opportunity that our Berkswich Unlocked exhibition has given us to listen to and reflect on some of the lockdown stories and the artwork that flowed from them which members of our local community have been brave enough to share. It has been a privilege to hear them and an honour for us to have been given the responsibility of hosting them. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work.

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.

It is great to think that once more we are able to welcome our community into our parish Summer Fete. The fete is a wonderful occasion, where we can demonstrate to our wider community the love and fellowship we have in Christ. The parish has been given a special dispensation by the Bishop of Lichfield to hold a short, said, Eucharist at nine o'clock in the cricket ground before people start setting up. We are grateful that he has given us the opportunity to place the fete in the hands of the God who makes it so successful in such a way.

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 us staging this much needed event. Please ring Bob (664302) if you have any queries or would like to help, or donate tombola prizes/books/toiletries/bric-a-brac. **Cake Stall** – if you are kindly making a donation to the cake stall, may we ask that items are pre-wrapped with a note of the ingredients? This will alleviate any unnecessary handling of the produce. With thanks.

THE GRAND DRAW - will take place at The Fete next **Sunday, 12th September**.

Thank you to all who have already bought and sold tickets, there is still another week to sell tickets to family, friends and work colleagues. Books available at all three churches. Please, if possible, return all sold ticket stubs and money prior to Sunday to Mary Moss, at The Parish Office or ask for them to be collected 07854 531619. This will help with folding. Otherwise bring on the day. Thank you.

Please come and bring your friends to a Red Cross Coffee Morning on 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!

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.