

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

The week ahead

Mon 27 th	9am Morning Prayer in Epwell 7.30pm Licensing of our new Area Dean, Rev Philip Cochrane, in St Mary's Banbury
Tue 28 th	10am Holy Communion in Tadmarton Ronald at pre-Advent Retreat in Woodstock
Wed 29 th	8.45am Morning Prayer in Sibford 9.30am Holy Communion in Epwell 10am School Assembly at Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School 1.30pm Sibford School Years 1 & 2 Visit Sibford church
Thu 30 th	St Andrew Ronald's Day off
Fri 1 st	9am Morning Prayer in Swalcliffe 2.30pm Bishop Carpenter Advent Family Service in school 6.30pm Benefice Choir Practice in Sibford 6.30pm Swalcliffe PCC meet at Elm Tree Farm
Sat 2 nd	9am Morning Prayer in Shutford 10am-12noon Christmas Coffee Morning @ Silver Birches, Backside Lane 12noon Souper Saturday Lunch @ Shutford Village Hall Swalcliffe Christmas Market
Sun 3 rd	Advent Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion @ Shutford, Sibford and Swalcliffe, and 9.45 @ Epwell 11am Holy Communion @ Broughton 4pm St Nicholas Service @ Tadmarton

For Prayer this week

That Christ may be King of our hearts and lives, of our worship and throughout the world.

The peace of the world.

Zimbabwe, Yemen, Myanmar; those many communities still recovering from earthquake, fire, flood and hurricane.

The sick

Sue Colquhoun. Doreen Pratt, Linda Nunneley, Erica Wimbush,

RIP

Sylvia Grant

Personal Discipleship; All are called. So what is YOUR calling? Are you ready to respond? If so, pick up one of the leaflets (at the back of each church) entitled "What do you do best in the Body of Christ?" and have a go at the questionnaire. Remember, Vocation is ***not*** only about Ordained or Licensed forms of ministry but includes all the ways in which we individually serve God and one another.