

The Benefice of Lavenham with Preston

Sunday 17 September 2023

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

We exist to honour God by worshipping together, welcoming and showing the love of God to all and to enable questioning, open-minded people discover for themselves the significance of Jesus Christ.

Today's Services

Lavenham	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Lavenham	10.15am	Holy Communion (CW)
Preston St Mary	6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)

During the Week

Monday 18 Sept	10.00am	Knit & Natter (<i>Lavenham Village Hall</i>)
Tuesday 19 Sept	8.45am	Morning Prayer (<i>Lavenham Lady Chapel</i>)
	5.00pm	Lavenham Young Voices (<i>Lavenham Vestry</i>)
Wednesday 20 Sept	7.15pm	Choir Practice (<i>Lavenham Vestry</i>)
	8.45am	Morning Prayer (<i>Lavenham Lady Chapel</i>)
Thursday 21 Sept	10.00am	Midweek Communion (<i>Lavenham Lady Chapel</i>)
	8.45am	Morning Prayer (<i>Lavenham Lady Chapel</i>)
	10.00am	Community Coffee Morning (<i>Lavenham Village Hall</i>)

Next Sunday 24 September – Michael & All Angels (Trinity 16)

Lavenham	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Lavenham	10.15am	Holy Communion (CW)
Preston St Mary	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)

Prayers

Celebrating resurrection & new life we pray for:

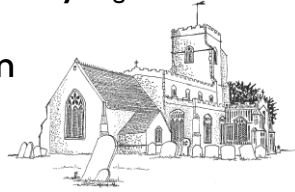
Mildenhall Deanery; Newmarket: All Saints: Revd Robert Otule; Revd Ricky Woodard; Revd Bob Molton; Revd Su Shaw; Modern Day Slavery, victims of sex trade, crime, labour exploitation and domestic servitude; An end to the civil war in Yemen, where four million people are displaced and the war has given rise to cholera outbreaks, medicine shortages, and threats of famine, and for those who are suffering.

Lavenham: Meadow Close, Meadow Court, Mortlocks; **Preston St Mary:** Highlands Road



St Peter and St Paul Lavenham

St Mary the Virgin Preston



Contact Details

Website: www.lavenham.church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lavenhamchurch

ACNY: www.achurchnearyou.com/2156 (Lavenham) /2155 (Preston St Mary)

Sunday readings & sermons are usually to be found on the website and on Facebook

Rector:

Revd Canon Simon Pitcher rector@lavenham.church 01787 247244

Curate:

Revd Graham Naylor graham.naylor@lavenham.church 07768 283636
(usual rest day Friday)

Reader:

Pete Postle pete.postle@btinternet.com 01787 248564

Churchwardens (Lavenham):

David Deacon davidgdeacon38@gmail.com 01787 248147

Mary Morrey marymorrey.pfc@gmail.com 01787 247311

Churchwardens (Preston St Mary):

Keith Davis keithhdavis@btinternet.com 01787 247112

Janet Martin janet.martin01@btconnect.com 01787 249020

Director of Music:

Kevin Slingsby kevin.slingsby@lavenham.church 01787 389409

Hearing Aid Loop: This is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

Offerings: There is a collection plate on the table at the back of church. If you pay UK tax please use a yellow gift envelope; or use **Just Giving** online via www.justgiving.com/lavenhamchurch; or for the **Parish Giving Scheme**, go ONLINE to <https://parishgiving.org.uk>, or scan the QR code here with your phone.



Photos and Videos: If these include individuals in the church, they are deemed personal data. Please ensure you have consent. More information can be obtained from our PCC Secretary, Parish Safeguarding Officer, on porch noticeboard, and church website. This information is also to be found on Facebook and our church website.

Information for next week's pew sheet by preceding Wednesday to Mary:
maryndave@tiscali.co.uk or **01787 247631**.

Notices

Readers Renewal Service – Sunday 24 September 3.30pm. We all value the ministry and service that our Reader Pete Postle gives to our church family. Each year there is a service of renewal at the Cathedral at which the Bishop renews a Reader's licence to minister. If you would like to come to the service to support Pete you will be welcome.

Friend's Outing – Tuesday 26 September. If you would like to join us for the Friend's outing to Crow's Hall, Debenham you will be most welcome. Cost: £35 per person inc tea/coffee & cake. Coach leaves Village Hall car park at 1.30. Please phone Malcolm on 01787 247821.

Harvest Supper – Friday 6 October. Please put the date in your diary and let us know you are coming by signing the sheet at the back of church today. Please invite your friends and include them in your numbers.

Confirmation – Sunday 22 October 3pm. We will be hosting a Deanery Confirmation service in Lavenham. Please come to support our confirmation candidates and those who will be renewing their baptismal/confirmation vows.

Morning Prayer: You are invited to join us for Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 8:45am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. We will be using the Church of England Daily Prayer app which can be downloaded to a smartphone.

Community Coffee Morning: Thursdays 10.00am-12 noon at Lavenham Village Hall.

Food Bank: Please donate to the basket back of church for Storehouse in Sudbury.

10.15am Holy Communion – Lavenham

Opening Hymn



1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:

5. Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;

O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

Words: W H Draper (1855-1933) based on St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) Music: Lasst Uns Erfreuen, melody from an Easter hymn in Geistliche Kirchengesang Cologne 1623, arr R Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) (Ancient & Modern - 532)

Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.**

First Reading – Genesis 50.15-21

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103.8-13



The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever. **R.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him. **R.**

Second Reading – Romans 14.1-12

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn



1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
*O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*
2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.
3. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Word & Musics: Sebastian Temple (1928-1997) © 1967 OCP Publications (Ancient & Modern – 725)

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18.21-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Offertory Hymn



I. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome, all are welcome
all are welcome in this place*

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.

3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

5. Let us build a house where all are named
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed,
as words within the Word.

Build of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter

Words & Music: Marty Haugen (b 1950) © 1994 GIA Publications Inc (Ancient & Modern – 365)

Communion Anthem

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me,

Words: Psalm 51.2-3 Music: David Halls (b 1963)

Communion Hymn



1. The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor.

*The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.*

2. The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
foregoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn.

The peace of God ...

3. The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears.

The joy of God ...

4. The grace of God comes close
to those who grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised and bent.

The grace of God ...

Words & Music: John L Bell & Graham Maule © 1989, 1996 WGRG, Iona Community (Ancient & Modern – 466)

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn



1. I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary
when Beth'lem's manger was his only home,
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.
2. I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.
3. I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when, at his bidding, every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when every heart with love and joy is filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

Words: W Y Fyullerton (1857-1932) Music: Londonderry Air, harmonised by J Barnard (b 1948) (A&M – 666)

Organ

Prelude in G minor (BWV 558)

J S Bach (1685–1750)

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