

Sunday

23 August 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue
righteousness, you that seek the
LORD. Look to the rock from which
you were hewn, and to the quarry
from which you were dug. Look to
Abraham your father and to Sarah
who bore you; for he was but one
when I called him, but I blessed him
and made him many. For the LORD
will comfort Zion; he will comfort
all her waste places, and will make
her wilderness like Eden, her desert
like the garden of the LORD; joy
and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people, and give
heed to me, my nation; for a teaching
will go out from me, and my justice for
a light to the peoples. I will bring near
my deliverance swiftly, my salvation
has gone out and my arms will rule
the peoples; the coastlands wait for
me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up
your eyes to the heavens, and look
at the earth beneath; for the heavens
will vanish like smoke, the earth will
wear out like a garment, and those
who live on it will die like gnats; but
my salvation will be for ever, and my
deliverance will never be ended.

Or **Exodus 1:8 – 2:10**

PSALM Psalm 138

R O Lord, your love endures for ever;
[do not abandon the works of your
hands].

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with
my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
I will bow down towards your holy
temple
and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
For you have glorified your name
and your word above all things. **R**

When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
All the kings of the earth will praise
you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of
your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, he cares for
the lowly;

he perceives the haughty from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand
against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
The Lord will make good his purpose
for me;

O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your
hands. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers
and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. Do not
be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewing of your
minds, so that you may discern what
is the will of God – what is good and
acceptable and perfect. For by the
grace given to me I say to everyone
among you not to think of yourself
more highly than you ought to think,
but to think with sober judgement,
each according to the measure of

faith that God has assigned. For as in
one body we have many members,
and not all the members have the
same function, so we, who are
many, are one body in Christ, and
individually we are members one of
another. We have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in
teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation;
the giver, in generosity; the leader,
in diligence; the compassionate, in
cheerfulness.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

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

Now when Jesus came into the
district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked
his disciples, "Who do people say
that the Son of Man is?" And they
said, "Some say John the Baptist,
but others Elijah, and still others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He
said to them, "But who do you say
that I am?" Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the
living God." And Jesus answered
him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of
Jonah! For flesh and blood has not
revealed this to you, but my Father in
heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail
against it. I will give you the keys of
the kingdom of heaven, and whatever
you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on
earth will be loosed in heaven." Then
he sternly ordered the disciples not to
tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

POST 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.

St Martin's, Sherford

11 am Village Service – Lay Led

If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself. You are very welcome!
Please join us for tea/coffee after the service.

THIS WEEK WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

....The departed and those who mourn that they may be comforted and consoled...
for those whose anniversaries we keep at this time.... Moira Manchip, William Deller, Elsie Tonque, Judy Peters and George Johns (MBE)....

Notices:

‘Teas by the Seas’ Every Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm and every Bank Holiday Monday from 11 am to 4 pm into September. Enjoy tea/coffee and cake at St Andrew's Church Beesands, helping to support many charities. If you can assist by baking cakes or serving, please contact Ann Foss 07970 702537.

Bible Study meets on the 2nd Monday of the month. The next Bible Study will be on 14th of September 2026 2.30 pm in the Old Exchange. All are welcome.

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 29th August Neil Martin will be presenting a history talk ‘Pirates – from the Hams’ at St Michael and All Angels. 10 am for tea, coffee and cake. The talk will commence at 10.30am. All proceeds to the Church restoration.

Monday 31st August A History Stroll and Cream Tea event will be held at St Martins to raise money for the St Martins Improvement Fund. The Stroll will be from 12pm – 4pm with parking at the Village Hall. The cream tea without the walk is allowed!

Saturday 29th to Monday 31st August, 10am – 5pm Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Sale at St James the Great, Slapton. Free entry, refreshments 2pm – 5pm and Demonstrations.

Forthcoming Services:

Wednesday 26 th August	Holy Communion	St Michael's	10 am
Sunday 30th August	Benefice Holy Communion	St Mary's	10:30 am