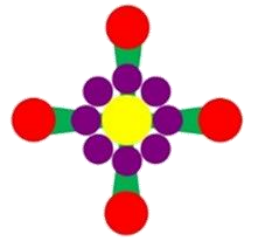


**The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
30 August 2026
Trinity 13**



Call to Worship

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God!

Silence is kept

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Invitation to Confession

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good
so that all people might be saved from sin.
Let us then confess our need for grace,
confident of God's forgiveness.

Confession

**God of mercy,
We confess that, like the disciples,
We set our minds not on divine things
but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for
more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink
from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become
stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you,
for we pray in Jesus' forgiving name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.
In return for our old life of sin,
he promises a new life of grace.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God, and Father;
We worship you; we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Collect

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.

First Reading: Romans 12:9–21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his word

Second Reading: Matthew 16:21–28

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word

Reflection from Stuart

Our reading today from Romans could be entitled “**Absolute Love in Action**”.

Essentially it is about putting others before ourselves regardless of who they are or how they behave or what they may have done to hurt us. It is recognising that none of us is perfect, we all get things wrong, as the bible reminds us 'all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God'.

It reminds me of Lorna, my wife, (who sadly passed away in September 2024). Many years ago, if somebody cut me up whilst I was driving I used to get really cross, blowing the horn and flashing the headlights which was a fairly common reaction on the roads. Not only was it irrational, but my reaction was also illegal! Lorna's response to such antics was - “It's up to them if that's how they want to drive let them get on with it” and be glad that they are now in front and not a threat! She was right, as she often was when we had disagreements!

Our reading is like that. If somebody does something to hurt or annoy us we should not lash back but we are to love them, to support each other and do what is right. Our churches are to be centres of acceptance, love and healing.

When East Germany's hard line communist leadership was forced from power in October 1989 the Berlin wall opened up after 28 years of separation, there were many Soviet Communists who were against it and they loaded up a lorry with stinking rubbish, drove into West Berlin and deposited it in the square.

In response the West Berliners loaded up a lorry with fresh food and drove it into East Berlin with a placard declaring **“EACH GIVES WHAT HE HAS TO GIVE”** I believe that this story sums up how we should strive to be.

Let us ask in prayer for the power of the Holy Spirit to reign in our lives so we can show Absolute, Unconditional Love to each other and all whom we meet.

The Bible says, 'The fruit of the Spirit is forbearance (self control)' Galatians 5.22) and the best way to have Self Control is to submit to 'Spirit Control'.

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Heavenly Father as we gather together in our Joint Benefice, or in our own homes, we ask that You bring the Grace of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds .We thank You for the gift of fellowship in our communities. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in our nation and around the world.

We pray especially for all those whose families, homes and communities who have been decimated by war, violence or natural disasters. We bring before you especially all those who are affected by the flash flooding in Nepal and Tibet Those who have lost their lives. Those who are missing Their bereaved and anxious families We beseech You Oh Lord to keep safe those brave souls who have rushed to help and try to rescue the missing in the face of immense danger to themselves. You are the Lord God of love and compassion We ask that You bring hope to their devastated worlds and a sense of peace to their broken hearts. May the Light of Your Son Our Saviour Jesus Christ shine in their darkness bringing them His Healing love.

Lord in Your mercy. Hear our prayer

Dear Holy God We bring before you the Leaders of our world Those who have the power and ability to bring peace and the opportunity to end war and suffering Grant them wisdom and courage to challenge those who wish to hold on to power at any cost War diminishes us all Help all the leaders of the nations remember Jesus's teaching to love our neighbours as ourselves. We pray too for our Government and the rest of the legislators of our own countries of the UK. Help them to bring solutions to our social problems ,to provide safe homes for all, to bring an end to poverty so that all individuals in our nation may share in the bounties bestowed on the more fortunate amongst us.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father today we come to the turning of the seasons as summer turns to autumn we think of all those teachers and pupils, Lecturers and Students returning to schools, colleges and universities. We thank you for all the opportunities we have We are blessed that we live in a society where we are free to have the right to pursue our faith in safety ,for girls and women as well as boys and men to pursue education.

To enjoy liberties that even our recent ancestors may not recognise. We thank you that we live in a democracy Help us to remember when we are sometimes disgruntled and complain about the small irritations of life how fortunate we are and to never take those freedoms for granted .

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Lord God Blessed are you King of the universe We bring before you today all those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit We pray for your healing touch on them We pray to you for those who are coming to the end of their earthly journey Give them peace at the last that they may join You and Your Beloved Son our Saviour in Your Heavenly Kingdom. In a moment of quiet we think of those we love who are suffering today.. We pray too for their carers, their families who are distressed by the loved ones suffering or worn down by caring. We pray for the Drs Nurses and all staff in the NHS, care homes and agencies who bring comfort and support. We also pray today for those brave members of our public services ,especially those members of the Police force who either risk or have given their lives in the last few days in an effort to keep our society safe We pray for the families of the 3 officers who have lost their lives in the execution of their duties. Heavenly Father embrace them in Your loving arms and comfort them in their grief. We pray also for all who have lost loved ones, either recently, or in the past. Let us remember them in a moment of quiet. Love never fades ,time eases grief but we are comforted by the sacrifice and promise made by our Saviour Jesus Christ who came to redeem us all and offer eternal life. For His sacrifice we thank you Heavenly Father.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Hold fast to what is good; repay no one evil for evil.
Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering;
persevere in prayer.

Blessing

May Almighty God,
who creates all good,
redeems from all evil,
and hears all prayer,
be with you and all people in suffering and in hope. **Amen**

Sending Out

Go in love and peace to serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.