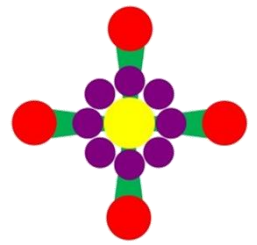


**The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
10 August 2025
TRINITY 8**



Liz has prepared our liturgy today

Call to worship

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, our souls wait for you,
our hearts are glad in you.
When we trust in your holy name,
let your love be upon us anew,
as we hope in you
and worship you this day.
Amen.

Loving God,
we lay our lives before you and come to worship today
in hope that is heart-shaped.
We come with faith that is Christ-shaped.
We come in trust that is kingdom-shaped.
We come to be shaped, empowered and enabled by you,
and to share our hope, faith and trust with others,
to your glory.
Amen.

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

May the God of love and power

Forgive us and free us from our sins

Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit

And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Praise response

Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving as we realise
that God is not 'out there', distant and seated high above us,
but is here with us in this moment, not distant but close.

Our hearts overflow as God's being infuses ours,
as God's love warms us, shelters and comforts us,
as God's Spirit gives us strength and hope, passion and purpose.

Our hearts overflow as we know we need not fear God,
that God's treasure is closer than we can feel
and deeper than we can know,
wider than we can see and more real than we can imagine.

Our hearts overflow to know that the place we have searched for is this place,
and that the time we have been searching for is here and now.
Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving.

Amen.

Collect

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Readings

First reading: Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Second reading: Luke 12:32-40

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

Reflection with Alison

August is upon us—the season of holidays, day trips, and suitcase dilemmas.

Are you travelling this month?

Whether you're heading off somewhere new or simply enjoying a slower rhythm at home, this time of year invites us to pause, reflect, and maybe even repack—spiritually and practically.

I'll confess, I always overpack. Not just clothes, but plans, books, craft items, four cross stitch patterns, colouring pens, notebooks... all "just in case" items. I like to be prepared for every eventuality. Malcolm my husband, on the other hand, is a little more laid back. He trusts the journey will unfold, and that we'll find what we need along the way. I admire that. It reminds me of Abraham and Sarah, setting out not knowing where they were going, but trusting the One who called them.

Faith, Scripture tells us, is a kind of travelling light. It's not about having every detail sorted—it's about trusting that God goes ahead of us. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, little flock." That's not just comfort—it's invitation. To let go of fear. To loosen our grip on what we think we need. To receive the kingdom with open hands.

And speaking of packing... I still have boxes from our house move four years ago. Sealed, stacked, untouched. Richard our former Rector recently shared that he too is wading through boxes from his own move. It made me wonder: if a box has been closed for four years, do I really need the contents? What am I holding onto, physically or spiritually, that no longer serves me?

Hebrews speaks of people who lived as strangers and pilgrims, longing for a better country—a heavenly one. They didn't cling to what was behind them. They moved forward in faith, trusting that God was preparing something new. That's not just about geography—it's about posture. About living with hearts open to possibility, not weighed down by clutter, fear, or regret... I'm talking to myself here re the clutter!

So as we journey through August—whether we're travelling far or staying close to home—perhaps we can ask ourselves:

- What am I carrying that I don't need?
- What treasures am I storing up, and where is my heart resting?
- What might it look like to travel with faith as my compass, not my suitcase?

Let's walk together, not weighed down but lifted up—by hope, by trust, and by the joy of a God who delights in giving us the kingdom.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercessions

Let us pray to the God of promise, who calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.

Faithful God,

You are the one who calls us into unknown places, just as you called Abraham and Sarah. Strengthen your Church to be ever-watchful, ever-trusting, and ever-ready for your kingdom. May we be people of faith who live not for this world only, but for the city you have prepared for us.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace,

We pray for a world that longs for a better country — a place of justice, mercy, and healing. Be with those who lead the nations; stir them to seek peace, protect the vulnerable, and resist greed and violence. May your kingdom come in every place where darkness reigns.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate Father,

We remember those in our own communities and lives who are anxious, afraid, or waiting in hope. We pray especially for [**name those in need**], and for all who long for healing of body, mind, or spirit. May they know that it is your good pleasure to give them the kingdom — a gift not earned, but given in love.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God,

We thank you for those who have walked the journey of faith before us — not having received the fullness of the promise, yet trusting in your word. We remember those who have died, especially [**name the recently departed**], and those whose anniversaries fall at this time. Gather them into your heavenly city, where you are not ashamed to be called their God.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit,

Keep us watchful and ready — lamps lit, hearts open, treasures stored in heaven. Make us faithful stewards of all you entrust to us, that when the Master comes, we may be found awake and joyful at his appearing.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In a moment of silence, we bring our own prayers to God...

(pause)

Merciful father accept these prayers for the Sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

Closing prayer

Lord, go with us.
Help us to seek your treasure.
Help us to look for all you're doing right now.
Help us – by our example as much as by our words –
to share your treasure and your life-giving story
with the people we meet this week.
Amen.

May God keep us in all our days.
May Christ shield us in all our ways.
May the Spirit bring us healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us
and pour upon us blessing and light.
Amen.

We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.