

# OUR FAMILY SERVICE

WE ARE ALL ONE IN JESUS CHRIST AND CHILDREN OF THE SAME  
HEAVENLY FATHER

FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH  
AT 10.00 AM

## Welcome!

You are very welcome to Saint Mary's, the Parish Church of West Moors. Built in 1896, worship has been offered here by local people since the village began to grow in size and population after that time. Church is the family of God in Jesus.

This is a service of Holy Communion, where we come together as Christians to celebrate the common life we share in Jesus Christ. Christ is at the centre of our community and as we commemorate his life, death and resurrection. We share bread and wine in remembrance of him according to his command. As the bread and wine is consecrated and shared we celebrate the real presence of Christ in our midst as he promised. Indeed, the priest might declare at the beginning of the Communion Prayer, "The Lord is here" and we respond, "His Spirit is with us".

Holy Communion is also known as Eucharist, from the Greek word meaning 'Thanksgiving' - we give thanks for the life, hope and joy we share in Jesus Christ. The Catholic term for Communion is 'Mass', from the Latin word 'Missa' used at the end of Communion when a minister sends us out as missionaries with the missive (message) of Good News (Gospel) to share with others. We also share in Christ's peace that unifies us and take it out into the world as we go on His Way.

During the service we sing words of praise and worship. We listen to the Bible as it is read in public and a minister having previously read and prayerfully reflected on the reading, offers an interpretation (a sermon). Often the reading is from one of the four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. These are accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus. They are not intended as complete

histories or comprehensive accounts; they were written to enable us to deepen our faith and know more about the will of God. Christians read and study the bible all their lives. Also we are called into relationship with God through our prayers. Jesus spent much time in prayer and when asked taught his close friends, the Disciples, to pray the prayer we always use, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..." Other prayers are also offered on our behalf by the minister and a member of the church. We believe that God hears and answers prayer according to his holy will.

Early in the service we recognise that the world has not remained as God created it; we have each rebelled against God by doing things which are wrong and selfish (we have sinned and fallen short of God's ideal). Being sorry, we try to call this to mind. Then with the intention of trying again, we are assured by the minister, of God's forgiveness for all those who are sincere in their regret and future intention. We believe that the faith we share in and through Christ has set us free from the hurt and damage of sin, allowing us to present ourselves righteously before God.

We declare our faith in God the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Church of England is part of the universal church raised up by Jesus in the Holy Spirit and we believe that Baptism (Christening) marks our entry into the Christian faith through the church. Communicants should thus be baptised, but if you are not please still come with everyone else and receive a personal blessing.

## **We gather to worship**

*As we gather for worship the music group helps us to focus on God's presence. Please feel free to join in. Words are on the screen and/or in the song book.*

## **We sing**

*Please stand if you are able*

## **We welcome you**

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **We share the news**

*Please sit*

*The theme for the service is introduced. Some announcements may be given.*

*There may be a children's item at this time, or later instead of the talk.*

## **We say sorry**

*We spend a moment in quiet as we remember the wrong things we have done against God and against other people. We may use these words to help us express our regret.*

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The minister declares that God forgives you. All respond*

**Amen.**

## **We pray**

*The minister introduces the Collect, a special prayer that sets the theme for our worship, by saying "Let us pray", and after a short silence, prays the Collect. All please respond:*

**Amen.**

## **We sing**

*Please stand*

*The song before the reading of the Gospel is traditionally called 'The Gradual'.*

## **We listen**

*Please sit*

*A Gospel reading is read. Sometimes it may be presented as a drama. The words are normally projected on the screen.*

*At the beginning of the reading the reader may say*

A reading from the Gospel of Saint. N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **We learn more...**

*Normally someone will offer an explanation of the Bible reading. We listen while its meaning and relevance for us today, is made clear and we learn about the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. We study the bible to enable us to better understand God and his will and purpose for our lives.*

## **We believe**

*Please stand*

*We say these words together, or the minister might introduce a song that speaks of our faith.*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

## **We pray**

*Please sit, or kneel*

*The minister or member(s) of the congregation lead us in prayer. We pray to Our Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord and in the power of The Holy Spirit.*

*At the end of each part of the prayers this (or another response) may be used.*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers:*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

## We share Christ's peace

*We stand and the minister introduces the Peace, we might sing, or use words like these:*

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

*Alternative words may be used, ending with*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We greet each other with the peace of Christ.*

## We sing

*This time is called 'The Offertory'. A collection is taken to help support the ministry and mission of the Church. We give our time, gifts and monies to serve others in Jesus' name.*

*At this time bread and wine are brought by the people and placed on the table. These will be consecrated (blessed) by the Priest and offered back to us as a sign of the eternal covenant (promise) of God's presence and care for us.*

## The Eucharist

*We remember Jesus as we share a thanksgiving meal together just as he asked, and we celebrate his spiritual presence in our midst. We remember how Jesus gave his life for all so that we might be reconciled to God. The bread represents Jesus' body, but we could also link it to the 'Daily bread' that Jesus said we should ask of God the Father. The blood represents Jesus' blood which was shed, his life and love poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins. We still use the term lifeblood—the spirit of God was embodied in the Son, Jesus Christ.*

*'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' John 3:16*

# God blesses the bread and the wine

*Please stand*

The Lord be with you. *Or*  
**And also with you.**

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.  
**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.  
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel or sit*

## **We pray the Lord's Prayer together**

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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **We break the bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **We share**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Normally the children are brought to the Priest first—Jesus always gave them priority! Baptised adults, together with children who have been admitted to communion are welcome to receive communion in the Church of England. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are most welcome to come up with everyone else, bringing the children to receive a personal blessing. If you carry this order of service the Priest will know you want a blessing. As you receive communion, (first bread, then wine) please respond*

**Amen.**

*During the distribution songs of praise and worship may be sung.*

*Silence is kept. Please kneel or sit*

## **We pray, giving thanks**

*The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.*

*At the end all say this prayer together*

**Faithful God,  
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,  
made us members of the body of Christ  
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:  
we thank you that in this Eucharist  
you renew your promises within us,  
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,  
and send us out as disciples of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **God blesses us**

*This or an alternative blessing is used*

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you,  
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **We sing**

*A final song of praise or thanksgiving...*

## **We are sent out**

Go in the peace of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Thank-you for coming***

*Please stay and have some time together. Refreshments are served.*

*We repeat this 'Family Service' on the first Sunday of every month. On all other Sundays we provide a Sunday School (COSMICS) for our children. Parents and children start and finish worship in church together, but the children go out to the annex during most of the service.*