



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

The 11th Sunday After Trinity
16th August 2026

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your
commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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.

or God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from
seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all
price,
through our Saviour Jesus
Christ.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

56 Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

[¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' ¹³ He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' ¹⁶ Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.']

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Post Communion

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BCP Sunday 16th August - The Eleventh Sunday After Trinity

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 173

This Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist;

4p.m. Choral Evensong with Dodec

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 23rd August - The 12th Sunday After Trinity

Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

BCP Sunday 27th August - The Twelfth Sunday After Trinity

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 175

Next Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk
St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Evening Worship
Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist
St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist

Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday
Canon Graham's Open Office is NOT available this Monday 17th August 2026

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Apology to all due to 'vague wording' regarding **St. Lawrence's Lunch** on **9th August** last. I wish to submit an apology to all concerned as the wording did not give a relevant time. I was of the opinion that 'afternoon' would be 3 pm. I was also informed that Watermoor parishioners were miffed too as some flyers did not reach their houses whereas some street received two. So, on behalf of both Trinity and Saint John Baptist - I wish to send our sincere apologies to those who missed out and hope for future that 'time and content' are correct.

Pauline Samengo-Turner, Church Warden SJB.

The next **prayer meeting** to pray for **Cirencester** will be on **Wednesday 19th August** at **2.30pm** in the **Parish Forum**. The theme for this month will be praying for all education in Cirencester. Please come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

Cirencester International Organ Festival: This week's recital is by **Matthias Maierhofer** (Freiburger Münster) on **Friday 21st August 7.30pm**.

MU Corporate Communion is on **Thursday August 27th at noon** in the **Parish Church**.

A number of **Tower Open Days** are planned in the Parish Church over the next two months. The next being on **Saturday 29th August** from **10am** until **4pm**.

Sunday 30th August - No Evening Worship at St John Baptist - but you are welcome to come and support **Thomas Hawkes** who will be giving an organ recital at **Westminster Abbey** at 5pm.

For any who might be considering **confirmation**, Canon Graham will be running an introductory course that prepares candidates for **Confirmation** in the **Church of England**. The course is designed around those who are seeking to deepen their faith, and in a friendly way attempts to address questions around 'believing and belonging'. **Monday 7th September** at **7.30p.m.** meeting at the Vicarage 41 Rendcomb Drive.

Cirencester Hospital is holding a **Family Fun Day** on **Saturday 12th September**, from **2:00pm** to **4:00pm**. Raffle tickets are on sale now from the hospital.

Save the date: The **Harvest Supper** in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 3rd October**.

The **Cirencester History Festival** is back by popular demand and will be taking place from **October 23rd** until **November 1st**.

The **coffee morning** with Di & Janet raised **£225.00** for the **Family Haven in Gloucester**.

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

We are supporting the annual **Ride+Stride** event on **Saturday 12th September** to raise funds for the **Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)** and to support the fabric of our churches. Canon Graham, John Lawrence and Mark Dennis will be cycling to visit local churches, and others are very welcome to participate too. GHCT has helped the PCC in the past, most recently with a grant toward the St John Baptist Project. We would be very grateful for your donations, as well as any sharing and promotion of our JustGiving page: <https://justgiving.com/page/cirenparish-rideandstride2026>.

Cirencester Beer Festival 2026 will be hosted by the **PCC** and **Cirencester & District Roundtable** at **St John Baptist** on **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd October**. All proceeds will support the ongoing work of the church and the local charitable activity of the Round Table. Further details about sponsorship of the beers and ciders to follow. Meanwhile further information is available from Bill O'Connell (07834 363486 or villagevicar@hotmail.co.uk) or Peter Ewart (07748 760519 or peter@ewart.uk.com).

From the Parish Calendar:

- Tue 18 Aug 10am: Community Art Event (175 yrs) – Holy Trinity
- Tue 18 Aug 5pm: Choral Scholars Evensong – St John Baptist
- Tue 18 Aug 7pm: Wedding Rehearsal – St John Baptist
- Wed 19 Aug 10.30am: Funeral (Jane Taggart) – St John Baptist
- Thu 20 Aug 1pm: Wedding (Rob Cooper & Molly Wilcox) – St John Baptist
- Fri 21 Aug 5pm: Wedding Rehearsal – Holy Trinity
- Fri 21 Aug 7.30pm: Organ Festival: Matthias Maierhofer (Freiburger Münster) – SJB
- Sat 22 Aug 12.30pm: Wedding (Daniel Leech & Lucy Miller) – Holy Trinity

Contact Details:

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Rev'd Luke 07850 270719; email: revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk
Parish Office 01285 659317; email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Canon Graham is on annual leave from August 10th - 26th. Enquiries please to Revd Luke Falvey

Monday to Saturday:

St John Baptist: Morning Prayer: Daily at 9am (not Saturday)

Midday Eucharist: Daily at noon (Saturday at 10am)

Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5pm

Little Angels: Mondays at 9.30am

Holy Trinity: Eucharist: Wednesdays at 7pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am

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