



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

The 17th Sunday after Trinity
27th September 2026

Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their
rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us
to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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 Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32

18 The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Philippians 2.1-13

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. .../

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear
and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to
work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21.23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to
him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and
who gave you this authority?’ ²⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if
you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.
²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they
argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did
you not believe him?”’ ²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd;
for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he
said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and
work in the vineyard today.”’ ²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind
and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go,
sir”; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The
first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going
into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of
righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes
believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Post Communion

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BCP Sunday 27th September - The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 184

This 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; 10a.m. Eucharist; 1pm Baptism;
4pm Pet Service

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 4th October – Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 8.7-18; 2 Corinthians 9.6-15; Luke 12.16-30

St Lawrence - Trinity 18: Isaiah 5.1-7; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46

BCP Sunday 8th October - The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 185

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

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP Eucharist; 10a.m. Harvest Eucharist;
4p.m. Harvest Choral Evensong

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. Non-Eucharistic Family Harvest Service

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

Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday

Canon Graham's Open Office is NOT available this Monday 28th Sept. 2026

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Expressions of Interest. You are warmly invited to consider joining a group from this parish as we look towards a Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the English home of Mary. We are gathering expressions of interest at this early stage. No dates have yet been fixed, but we are suggesting:

Summer 2027 (July–August) or Early September 2027

A Friday to Monday long weekend is envisaged, allowing pilgrims to take part in the traditional walk from the Slipper Chapel to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, together with time for prayer, worship, and gentle fellowship. Accommodation may be arranged as part of a longer stay in Norfolk, or simply as a weekend break in a local B&B or Airbnb. If you would like to know more or would consider joining the group, please express your interest to: Christopher Wise - lordwise@outlook.com or Canon Graham - vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Congratulations to **Revd. Katie McClure** who is to be installed as an **Honorary Canon** in Gloucester Cathedral on Monday 28th September at the Cathedral Evensong.

Pet Service - join us at **Holy Trinity TODAY at 4pm**, to thank God for our pets and all animals. Please bring your pet along if you can do safely (water and poo bags provided!), or a photo of them. Teddies are also very welcome!

The confirmation get-togethers have started but it's not too late to join. 12 years and above, no upper age limit. We are meeting in the Parish Forum on Sundays. The next meeting will be **TONIGHT at 5.30p.m. - 6.30p.m.**

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

The **Harvest Supper** is in the Parish Hall on **this Saturday 3rd October**. Tickets (£5 Adult, £3 Children). Prizes for the raffle would be appreciated on the evening.

Mothers' Union: Our next meeting is on **Wednesday October 7th at 2.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Watermoor. Our guest speakers are Peter & Kathie Cottey. Their illustrated talk is entitled "Iceland & Norway". All welcome.

Immerse yourselves in the rich cultural heritage of Andalusia, with vocals, guitar and dance at its best with **Flamenco from Spain** performing in the **Parish Church** on **Friday 9th October at 7pm**. Tickets from flamencofromspain.com

The **Friends of the Parish Church** are pleased to announce that **Colonel Robert Dixon**, formerly Commanding Officer of the Gloucestershire Regiment, will be speaking of '**The Glosters at the Battle of Imjin River and the Korean War**' in the **Parish Church** on **Friday 16th October**. The doors will be open at **6.30pm** for the 7pm talk. Tickets are available online or from the Church Shop (£15, including a glass of wine). **Friends** may pick their **free** ticket from the Shop. *Michael Gledhill, Chairman*

This year's **All Souls** service takes place in the **Parish Church** at **4pm** on **Sunday November 1st**. There are signup sheets in each church until Monday 5th October. Please add names of anyone you would like to be remembered at that service.

Arise Africa Campaign. Last year at least 4,491 Christians in sub-Saharan Africa were martyred for their faith. There is a tide of violent persecution that is threatening the future of the African church. Read more in October Parish Magazine and please sign the petition at the back of Holy Trinity and St John Baptist churches. *Pam Barnes.*

Give Love in a Box this year -Teams4U Shoebox Appeal. Alan and Claire Jones (HTW) have agreed to coordinate this appeal for the three churches in our Parish. Leaflets can be found at all three churches and will explain in more detail what Teams4U do and what to put in a box. Please would you consider filling a box with gifts to brighten a child's life at Christmas time? Boxes are available from Alan and Claire for £1 each or you are very welcome to cover and fill one of your own. Boxes will be collected from all three churches on the first Sunday in November. Please contact Alan and Claire for further information. Tel. 07966373964

Personnel Committee Vacancy. We are seeking a volunteer to join our Personnel Committee which manages employment matters and legal requirements on behalf of the PCC. The role involves about five meetings a year, with occasional business handled via email. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Pauline Samengo-Turner or Canon Graham.

Watermoor Church of England Primary School has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor, and the PCC is looking for a volunteer to nominate for the role. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Revd Luke or Canon Graham.

From the Parish Calendar:

- Tue 29 Sep 9.30am: Organ Tuning – St John Baptist
- Thu 1 Oct 10am: Powells Harvest Service – St John Baptist
- Fri 2 & Sat 3 Oct 12noon: Beer Festival – St John Baptist
- Sat 3 Oct 9.30am: Church Cleaning – Holy Trinity
- Sat 3 Oct 2.30pm: Bell Ringing - Holy Trinity & 4pm St John Baptist