

A Collect for Trinity Sunday

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love; that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St Catherine of Sienna

Eternal God, you are a deep sea, into which the more we enter the more we find, and the more we find the more we seek.

The soul ever hungers, longing to see you with the light of your light and, as the deer yearns for the springs of water, so our souls yearn to see you in truth.

Amen

A Prayer for those struggling with life.

Lord God within us, fill our lives and all those who suffer in body or in spirit with your peace and your strength. May your spirit hover over the broken, lost, and grieving, and may they find your love in their neighbours' responses to them. Reveal your presence to all those deeply affected by Corona Virus. Help them to trust in your promises of hope and life so that despair will not overcome them.

Amen.

And finally:

Trinity Sunday means more than what we can't say. This 'more' is about what we can do, indeed must do, if we are to live as Christians.

In the Trinity, we see a pattern of relationship that speaks of how we are to be towards others and towards the world. The threeness of Trinity means community, a society of persons moving constantly out towards one another in self-giving, living and being in that perfect oneness we call by the name of 'love'.

The Very Revd Michael Sadgrove.

And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

<https://greatpaxton.co.uk>

Find out more about the Millennium Fest!

Sunday June 7th, 2020
The benefice of the Paxtons
with Diddington and Southoe
"Keeping in Touch" Edition 11
Trinity Sunday.

Celebrating with Holy Trinity Minster Church
Great Paxton.



Sometimes things do not go according to plan. This weekend was to be Great Paxton's Millennium Fest -celebrating 1,000 years of village and church history. But back in March, the organising team postponed the event to next June 2021 due to the pandemic and of course it turned out to be exactly the right decision. Although we hope the Saxon themed celebrations will be even bigger and better in June 2021, we didn't want this weekend to go by unnoticed, so this edition is devoted to Great Paxton and Trinity Sunday.

Why the church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity is unknown. Comparatively few churches were dedicated to the Holy Trinity or the Sacred Trinity before the late 12th Century – but many think the origins of Great Paxton Church go back to c 1020 – maybe earlier, maybe a bit later. The dedication came more into favour with Henry V111 who introduced the Trinity into the dedication of Ely Cathedral.

Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost or Whit Sunday and its date depends on when Easter falls. In past years, Great Paxton village people would have honoured the dedication of their church with a Feast Week full of fun, food, frolicking and no doubt attending church when required. So, why not revive Feast Week and celebrate 1,000 years of an ever-changing village community and church? I hope you enjoy this unusual edition and we wish our friends in Great Paxton every happiness and good health.

With love and prayers.

Annette. Tel: 01480 211048.



**Great Paxton Church.
A poem by John Butler
Spring 1983.**

Why do we like to gaze?
And why do we wonder?
Is it that we really can move in Time
As here by the trees we stand, look over the grass
And see it as in the days of youth
The Saxon pile?
Symbol of honesty, set in your village charm
As far from the city's grey as the roses are
And quietly next to the farm,
You speak of the days when ships along the Ouse
Brought Saxons. Now the bells in stately time
Over the willows ring. St Ives and Huntingdon
And many a quiet meadow village too
Have churches old but none as old as you.

John Butler was the son of Frank Butler who in 1920 was landlord of the Black Bull Public House in Great Paxton.

He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was a Registered Nurse. He wrote many fine poems over the following years which appeared in publications like Country Life. The above poem is one of his early works about the village he loved so much.



The ancient Celtic symbol of the Holy Trinity.

**A Sonnet on the Trinity
by Poet Priest Malcolm Guite.**

In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within.

Our Reading for today: 2 Corinthians 13 v 11-13.

These verses written by St Paul speak of God in three ways: Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Final Greetings and Benediction

Finally, brethren, farewell. Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



Great Paxton Church was the earliest established local centre for Christian mission in the 11th Century – hence it was called a minster church.

There would have been a group of priests living on site, serving the community around its centre in worship and pastoral care.

Although the words and rituals they used would be very different to those we are used to, at the centre of all their living and praying was their love of the Gospel. They preached God's presence in the lives of those around them, expressed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 1,000 years later the building and a faithful group of people maintain that tradition in new and imaginative ways. What will Great Paxton and its church look like in 3020?

