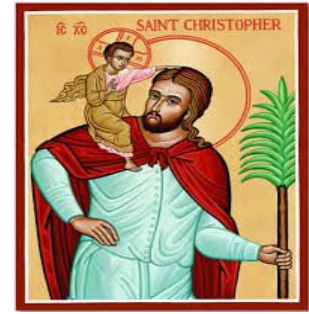




19th July 2026.



For meditation: *Grant us, O Lord, purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no passion may hinder us from knowing your will and no weakness from doing it. In your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Christ our Lord.*
St Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Today we share worship with our Anglican friends at St Christopher's, Ditteridge as they celebrate their Patronal festival. In fact it's quite a week of saintly remembrances! Tomorrow it's St Margaret's Day – a popular saint in the Middle Ages although she was later taken off the list of official canonisations! She is seen as the patron saint of safe childbirth and her feast day is remembered in many parts of Gloucestershire. On Saturday, 25th July it is St James' Day – one of the fishermen that became a disciple of Jesus he preached with John and was martyred in 43AD. By the 9th Century legend had it that he had preached in Spain and that he was buried at Compostela. This is still now a famous place of pilgrimage and the scallop shell, his symbol, became the badge of pilgrims who visited his shrine.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Abba Father, Awesome God who
Day by day looks
Out for us wherever we go, be it
Right down to the depths of despair or
Airborne on wings soaring high.
Touching Love that knows us
Intimately and holds us tightly by the hand
On our journey through life,
Never letting go, always our leading light. Amen
We are remembering the congregation at Paulton in our prayers this week.

LECTIONARY READINGS – 26th July

Genesis 29: 15 -28
Psalm 105: 1 -11, 45b
Romans 8: 26 - 39
Matthew 13: 31- 33, 44 - 52

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.
Psalm 139: 22,3

DIARY

Thursday 23rd July

Café 9.30 – 12 noon
All welcome.

Sunday 26th July

Morning Worship 11.00am
led by John Flowers
Circuit Farewell service 4.00pm
for Rev Simon and Jane will be held at
Southdown Methodist – followed by
refreshments

'O teach me your ways
and hold up my going in your paths
that my footsteps slip not.'

Your paths are well-trodden.
Along them you and your saints have carried
healing and love
to ordinary men and women where they are.
Teach me to serve them as you serve –
with patience
simplicity
reverence
and love.

Your saints never presumed to grasp at
their spiritual privileges,
or use them for their own advantage:
nor sought extraordinary grace.
They loved to follow you along ordinary
ways.
Help me to love those ways too.

Your spirit is not given that we may escape
life's friction and demands,
but so that we may live the common life
as you would have it lived –
in earth as in heaven.

Evelyn Underhill

*A saint is someone who lets the light shine
through.* Anonymous

