

St Peter and St Paul,
Flitwick Parish Church



Safeguarding Sunday
Holy Communion Service

WELCOME

We are delighted you have joined us this morning.

At St Peter & St Paul's, we believe God welcomes everyone, with no exception, so no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, your age, stage of life or background, we celebrate you being here with us.

There is something very special about gathering together to worship, learn and enjoy being 'church' as one community – a place where each one of us is valued. Each week we celebrate Holy Communion, which is the very heart of Christian worship. Together we learn more about God, journeying closer to Him, and through each encounter we can be transformed.

Why is Safeguarding important?

Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith. We are all made unique and in the image of God. Jesus came that we might "have life and have it in abundance" (John 10.10). 'Safeguarding' means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches, and to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults. It is the work we undertake to prevent abuse from occurring, and seeking to protect those who are at risk.

What is Safeguarding Sunday?

Safeguarding Sunday is a chance to focus on what it means to be a safe church, to remind us that a safe church is everyone's responsibility and to thank and pray for all those working in safeguarding.

If there is anything you need during or after the service, please ask the people who welcomed you as you arrived or one of the ministry team.

Children & Young People

We embrace the presence of children in our services.

Your child is very welcome to stay in church with you for the service or for those children aged 3+, our Sunday Groups run weekly with games, stories, crafts and prayer.

All volunteer leaders are DBS checked and follow all our safeguarding procedures.



Church Notices



Gathering – *coming together as a community to worship*

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**



Opening Hymn

The choir, servers and priest will join the service whilst this hymn is sung.



Lighting of Candle for our Children and Young People

The candle is lit by one of our children or young people, after which we pray for them as they leave for their groups, re-joining us for communion later.



Welcome



Opening Responses – *preparing ourselves for worship*

When we are happy,
When we are full of joy and laughter

All **God welcomes us.**

When we are angry,
when people let us down and make us sad

All **God welcomes us.**

When we are tired,
when we need to stop and curl up and rest
All **God welcomes us.**

God of welcome,
God whose door is always open
All **We are glad to meet you here.**



Confession – *seeking forgiveness*

Confession is introduced with these or other appropriate words.

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**



Absolution – *being forgiven*

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**



Gloria – *singing our praise to God*

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***



Collect – *the prayer for the day*

Dear God,
help us to be a church that
loves, welcomes and protects,
listens, learns and serves,
repents, restores and transforms,
values, cares and believes.
God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer.
Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray,
In Jesus' name.

All **Amen.**



Bible Reading – *listening to the word of God*

At the end the reader says:

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm or Gradual Hymn

*The choir leads us as we join in with singing or saying the refrain of the psalm,
as found in your service sheet. Alternatively, a hymn may be sung.*



Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you O Christ.**



Sermon – *exploring the theme of the readings*



Prayers – *praying for the world, our community, the Church and ourselves*

Into the dark places of our world
Where people are frightened and hungry
All **God bring light, bring love.**

Into places where people are violent
Into places where people are fighting
All **God bring light, bring love.**

Into the places where we feel unsafe
Into situations that hurt us and scare us
All **God bring light, bring love.**

Further prayers may be shared.

At the end:

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**



Creed – *declaring what we believe*

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**



The Peace – *sharing the peace of God with one another*

The priest introduces the Peace.

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a sign of peace with those around us in any way we feel comfortable.



Livestream Blessing

As we say goodbye to those joining us from their homes, God's blessing is offered.



Hymn

During this hymn, the altar is prepared and the bread and wine are brought up to the altar, along with the collection. The collection is blessed.

Prayer over the Gifts – *thanking God for all he has given us*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
Through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given, and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
Through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Eucharistic Prayer – *remembering what Jesus did for us*

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**



Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

The priest may say an appropriate Preface (additional words)

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing/saying:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:**
 Christ is risen:
 Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins
of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St Peter, St Paul, St Alban
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
For ever and ever.

All **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Breaking of the Bread – *as Jesus did at the Last Supper*

As the Priest breaks the bread, they say:

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

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

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**



Giving of Communion – *invitation to receive bread and wine*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come to the altar as we take communion.

Please come forward when invited, to share bread and wine (raise your hands to receive) or to have a prayer of blessing (keep your hands at your side).

*If you would like to find out more about receiving communion,
please speak to a member of our ministry team after the service.*

Children and young people will re-join us during communion and will come to the altar with their group leaders.



Hymn

After the choir have received communion, they will sing the communion hymn, please join in with them if you are able.

Choir Piece

Prayer after Communion – *thanking God*

The priest says the Post Communion Prayer for the day.

All respond

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**



Final Hymn



Blessing – *receiving God's blessing*

The priest uses this or another suitable blessing

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.

All **Amen.**



Dismissal – *sent out to be Christ's light in the world*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

An invitation....



**If you are new here, please introduce yourself to us,
we would love to meet you.**



After every service, there is great coffee and tea and warm
conversation (often cake too!) ...
please come through to the hall and join us.

Need someone to talk to?

It is important to us that all who attend Flitwick Church feel able to speak to us about their thoughts, experiences and concerns regarding safeguarding. If today's service has affected you in any way, or if you have a safeguarding concern you wish to raise, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Vicar.

Our Safeguarding Policy can be found on the noticeboard in the corridor leading to the Chapter House. You will also find the contact details of the Vicar and the current Parish Safeguarding Officer here.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." (Proverbs 31:8)

Contact us

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Flitwick Parish Church



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