



Sunday 10th August 2025 — Trinity 8

WORSHIP TODAY

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion
4:00pm St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy **Why Valley Café**

TODAY'S READINGS

Morning: Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16; Luke 12.32-40
Continuous: Isaiah 1.1, 10-20; Psalm 50
Related: Genesis 15.1-6; Psalm 33.12-22*
Evening: Psalms 108 [116]; Isaiah 11.10 - 12.6;
2 Corinthians 1.1-22; Mark 7.24-30

COLLECT FOR TRINITY 8

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech You to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of Your laws
and the works of Your commandments;
that through Your most mighty protection,
both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

REFLECTION: Trinity 8

Richard Dawkins believes that I am an uneducated, unquestioning person.

Not just me, I might add, but anyone who claims to have a faith.

According to Dawkins, 'more highly educated people are less likely to be religious'.

Well, I went to an ordinary comprehensive school, scraped 9 'O' levels (4 A's, 3 B's, a D and an E), just about got an 'A' level and finally gained a Foundation Degree in Christian Theology at the age of 51. So, he may be right about my being uneducated.

In 'The God Delusion', Dawkins vents that 'Faith is an evil precisely because it requires no justification and brooks no argument'.

Jesus said, '*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength*'. 'All your mind' must include reason, logic, intellect.

Peter encourages us to, '*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have*'. What is your justification for believing what you believe?

And in Isaiah, God calls us to, '*Come now, let us reason together...*'.

In using our minds, our reason, logic, intellect, we constantly come up against arguments about our faith; why do I believe in God, in Jesus, in the Holy Spirit; how can I resolve the differing views of God in the Bible; how do I get to grips with the life of Jesus when there are differences between the gospel accounts; what about suffering; what is the right position on abortion; what should be our priority when voting in a political election; the list goes on.

The writer of Proverbs 27:17 says, '*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another*'. It's good to discuss, to be part of a Bible study group, to question one another, because it sharpens our minds.

I've spent the best part of 63 years being a disciple of Jesus, learning about Him and His love for me/us, learning about God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and immortal, invisible, God only wise.

So, Richard Dawkins, I may not be as educated as you are, but my faith is reasoned and argued out, and probably more questioned than your faith in Darwinian evolution.

Rev Phil

Wednesday 13th August 2025

9:30am St Peter, Bromyard Heroes Academy

Sunday 17th August 2025 - Trinity 9

9:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Morning Worship

St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Holy Communion

READINGS – Trinity 9*Morning:* Hebrews 11.29 - 12.2; Luke 12.49-56*Continuous:* Isaiah 5.1-7; Psalm 80.1-2,9-20**Related:* Jeremiah 23.23-29; Psalm 82*Evening:* Psalm 119.17-32*; Isaiah 28.9-22;

2 Corinthians 8.1-9; Matthew 20.1-16

Why Valley Café

This afternoon we are opening the **Why Valley Café** 4:00pm at Stoke Lacy Village Hall. This is a new opportunity for us to engage with the community in Stoke Cross, especially the Woodland View and Westbury estates.

VJ DAY THANKSGIVING

On Friday 15th August we will be marking the end of World War Two with a special Thanksgiving Service for VJ Day. This will be at St Peter, Bromyard, 6:30pm, and we will be joined by the Royal British Legion and other uniformed organisations.

DRAWN TO IMPERFECTION

As part of the Bromyard Art walk, St Peter's is hosting an art exhibition titled 'Drawn to Imperfection'. This is a series of portraits of Bible characters along with written reflections from their stories, and was featured on 'Songs of Praise' a couple of months ago. We need stewards during the days of the exhibition to welcome visitors. There is a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard at the back of church. Alternatively please speak to Natalie Miller if you'd be free/willing/able to help with this.

FOLK FESTIVAL SERVICE

On Sunday 14th September we will be hosting the annual Folk Festival Service at St Peter, Bromyard. This year we will have dancing from the Outside Capering Crew, and Bishop Richard will be our speaker. As usual there will be a 'scratch' band—if you'd like to dig out your old flute, guitar, violin ...!

CONFIRMATION

In the Autumn we will be running Confirmation classes in preparation for a Deanery Confirmation service on Sunday 19th October. If you would like to know more about confirmation and/or want to join the classes please speak to Rev Phil.

YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT

On Sunday 23rd November we will be holding a service of celebration for the Year of Engagement, 10:30am at St Peter, Bromyard. We will be welcoming Bishop Richard to speak at this special Deanery service.

SPIRITUAL QUESTION TIME

Bishop Richard and Dean Sarah will be visiting the Topsy Toad on 25th November for a Spiritual Question Time. This is an opportunity for people in our community to ask their questions on faith and the spiritual life.

BROMYARD FOODBANK

With the school holidays fast approaching, and many families struggling with children at home, all the following items are in great need:

Biscuits, sweets, crisps, soft drinks

Regular items in short supply:

Corned beef, dried pasta, squash, coffee, tinned tomatoes, tinned tuna

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret Hamilton-Herbert, Elizabeth & Trevor Elliott, Alan Seabrook, Carole Hughes, Jennifer & Judy, Joy Patten, Paul & Jane Newitt, Brenda & Terry Burnett, Brenda Allan

Recently bereaved: the families of Mary Watkins, Don Griffiths, Rachel 'Hartwright', Malcolm Sheail, Louise Spinks, Richard Orgee, Pauline Cooke, Josie Robins, Peter Cliff, Tony McKenna, Roly Jones, Len Davis, Leonard Thomas

Wedding Couples: Henry Henshall & Sofi Buzzard; Ryan Skyrme & Jenna Arnold; Martyn Craddock & Amberley Schuck

Baptisms: Chester Davis, Mya Cox, Anna Grydkovets

CONTACTS

Revd Philip Miller - Vicar (rest day—Monday)

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The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am-12noon 01885 483749 admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk

Parish website: <https://stpetersbromyard.org.uk/>

Find us on:

